

# Nordkapen

**NORDKAP LODGE 5-378**

**SONS OF NORWAY**

The North Cape 71° 10'21" North Latitude The Top of Europe  
A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway  
Organized 10 August 1929 - The First Lodge in Michigan  
**DetroitNorwegians.com**



**Next Meeting**  
**Sunday, November 18, 2012**  
**4:00 pm**

**Swedish Club**

**22398 Ruth Street**  
**Farmington Hills**  
**248-478-2563**

## fra Presidenten

We are looking forward to see young members of all ages at our Nov 18 meeting. Maybe you can create memories similar to those mentioned below....

### *Childhood memories; Celebrating Jul in the 70/80s*

Grandma's farm was about two hour's drive away. The weekend before Christmas, we would stuff the car full of presents for relatives and head up to see Grandma and to find the Christmas tree.

This was before the age of i-pods/pads and portable DVD-players. Us kids in the backseat would spend the time wisely by writing down license plate numbers, hair-pulling, story-telling, biting, eating, fist-fighting – but also singing Christmas carols, such as *Musevisa, Du Gronne Glitrende Tre Goddag* - the way we had learned them at school and enhanced with new words during recess.

Mom would often say that the two hour travel to Grandma's house felt like 6 months in human years. The selection process for the Christmas tree was a lengthy one. Grandma's farm included a forest. The golden rule seemed to be that the search for the perfect tree must last one hour – or more – even though Mom would usually spot the tree within minutes yet Dad had to survey the whole property before finally accepting Mom's tree allowing for short, pointed comments in -20 degree weather.

While civil war was brewing in the forest, Grandma would be busy in the kitchen – adding to the *sju slaga* – seven kinds of Christmas cookies. Her specialty was the *smultering* (donut), but my favorite was the *sirupsnipp*. I had – and still have – quite a reputation with this diamond-shaped cookie with a blanched almond in the middle. Evidently, one year I had been left alone with a tin of *sirupsnipp*. Soon, the tin was empty and I was not – followed by a tremendous bellyache.

Same procedure as every year in the kitchen, another story that was repeated with kind memories was of my grandfather who while adhering to the condition that only broken cookies could be consumed before Christmas, would be shaking the tins periodically to enhance the odds of a late night advent's treat.

The tree was put on top of the car and the journey home was intensified by pockets full of broken *fattimenn* and *krumkaker* – and bellyaches. Mom had earmuffs that she only used during these car trips. The ideal Christmas tree would be about 7 feet tall, however since we had one of those home-made “Christmas tree foot” (*juletrefoot*), the tree would be about one foot shorter before it would stand straight. The branches should be few and far apart “so we can see the ornaments.” Not that we had many ornaments. Over the year, Mom's fragile glass ornaments would be fewer and fewer, while the collection of school-made decorations – such as the weaved Christmas basket (*julekurv*) – would multiply. The baskets and streamers were usually red/white, but later multicolored as skills with the scissors caught up with childish creativity.

The tree was decorated by *Lille Julaften* (Dec 23), except that year when the tree was left outside overnight when the neighbor cat decided to mark his territory. We then had to get a new tree. Which made Mom look another year older.

—Geir Gronstad

## Nordkap Officers

President, Geir Gronstad 248-302-5196  
Vice President, Louise Giles 248-398-5976  
Secretary, Jennifer Vingsness 734-427-2485  
Financial & Membership Secretary, Carol Jehle 248-626-2148  
Treasurer & Editor, Marge Sorensen 313-563-2280

*The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote  
and to preserve the heritage and  
culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship  
with other Nordic Countries, and to  
provide quality insurance and financial  
products to our members.*

**\*\*Please continue to bring items for the silent auction to the November meeting and to the Christmas party.**

**\*\*SAVE THE DATE: The Christmas party is Sunday, December 9.  
Watch your mail for details!**

**Editor's note:** From now on, I will be using a new program to create our *Nordkapen*. As you can see from this issue, I am still learning how to use the new program. I hope the next issue will have a more familiar format