



# Nordkapen

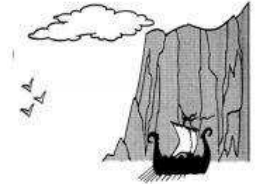
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

The North Cape 71° 10' 21" North Latitude – The Top of Europe

A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway

Organized August 10, 1929 – The first Sons of Norway Lodge in Michigan

<http://www.detroitnorwegians.com>



September 2017

Volume 87 Issue 5

## NORDKAP CALENDAR

**September 10 – Steak and Corn Roast, 1 p.m., the Swedish Club**

**October 22 – Lodge meeting, 4 p.m., the Swedish Club**

**November 11 – Scandinavian Market, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., the Finnish Center**

**November 19 -- Lodge meeting, 4 p.m., the Swedish Club**

**December 10 – Christmas Party, 2 p.m., Western Golf & Country Club**

### 2017 Officers

**President:** Louise Giles

**Vice President:** Mark Eelnurme

**Treasurer:** Marge Sorensen

**Secretary:** Mary Morehead

**Financial &**

**Membership Secretary:**  
Carol Jehle

**Editor:** Bob Giles

**Foundation & Scholarship**

**Director:**

Natalie Flessland Vaal

**Cultural Director:**

Carmen Collins

**Youth Director:**

Heather Vingsness

**Sports & Recreation**

**Director:**

Merete Stenersen

**Counselor:** Geir Gronstad

**Contact us:**

[Nordkap@detroitnorwegians.com](mailto:Nordkap@detroitnorwegians.com)

**Photos by Bob Giles, unless otherwise indicated.**

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## **Editor's Note:**

*With this issue, we're making some important formatting changes in Nordkapen newsletter. The changes are to help you get the information you need about your lodge more quickly and easily. We hope you like the new look and lighter touch.*

*Most of all, we'd like your feedback. Please e-mail us at [Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com](mailto:Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com) and tell us what you think, or give me your thoughts at our next meeting.*

**Tusen takk,  
Bob Giles**



## SUNSHINE UPDATES

As Nordkapen was going to press, the marriage of Heather Vingsness and Jarrod Brown was scheduled for September 2. Congratulations to Heather and Jarrod!

The Honorary Consul of Norway to Michigan Dennis Flessland and wife Jan celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations, Dennis and Jan, and best wishes for many more happy years together!



## GRATULERER MED DAGEN!

### September Birthdays:

Janice Capler, Marsha Gilman, Connie Hart, Anne Kristine Kilen, Karen Schmidt, Clara Shepard, Eli Anita Steyskal, Haley Vingsness, Heather Vingsness, Paul Wiekierak

## **Steak and Corn Roast Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Nordkap hosts** its annual steak and corn roast as part of the Swedish Club's monthly brunch program.

**Nordkap volunteers report** at 9:30 a.m. at the Swedish Club 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills.

**Dinner served at 1 p.m.** -- \$15 for adults, \$7.50 for children.

**This team-building endeavor is fun!** Let "Grillmaster" Bob Giles know if you can help at 248-302-2222 or bobgiles@newcarnews.tv.

**Replaces Nordkap's regular September meeting.**



*Bob Giles and Dennis Flessland prepare steaks for last year's roast.*

## **For October: Discover Famous Norse Explorers**

**Some of the world's greatest explorers were Norwegian!**

**Come to Norkap's October 22 gathering** and learn about three of them: Leif Erikson (whom our whole country celebrates in October), Fridtjof Nansen, and Roald Amundsen. Cultural Director Carmen Collins will lead us in exploring their fascinating lives.

**First, we'll enjoy a dinner of pasties**—that delicious hot meat pie that



*Beef pasty (Cooking Channel photo)*

miners could carry in their pockets in the U.P. or in Cornwall, England, where the tasty dish began.

**Social time 4 p.m., dinner 4:30** (donation: at least \$5).

**Location:** The Swedish Club at 22398 Ruth St. in Farmington Hills.



## ***Nordkap “Trolls” for Members at Scottish Highland Games***

**Nordkap joined with the Swedish Club** at the Scottish Highland Games in August to spread the word about our clubs and possibly recruit new members.

**The reasoning was that Scotland was always a good place for the Vikings to plunder....er, visit,** so a Scottish festival could be a good place for us to find new members. Many Scots are now finding family roots that trace back to Scandinavia, and they want to learn about the lands their ancestors came from.

**But first, they go to the Highland Games.** The Highland Games were sponsored by the St. Andrew’s Society of Detroit and held at Greenmead Historic Park in Livonia on August 5. The day-long event featured all things Scottish—red-haired men in kilts, bagpipe bands, lads and lassies showing their Highland dancing skills, tugs-of-war, athletes competing in sports like throwing cabers (a.k.a. telephone poles), Celtic rock bands, and such Scottish delicacies as shortbread and haggis.

**Swedish Club President Dan Nelson led us** in creating a diversion from all things Scottish. Our special attraction was a booth lined with colorful photos and Scandinavian flags and the Swedes’ giant Viking Helmet float. But the true show-stopper was Dan, himself, presiding in his Viking costume.

**We had scores of festival-goers stopping by** to express their interest and thanking us for being there. Some bought

Detroit Norwegian T-shirts and books about Norway’s “Hidden Heroes” of World War II. Many took our literature—including membership applications--and left their contact information.

**Tusen takk to the handful of volunteers** who staffed our booth and conversed endlessly with visitors! Nordkap’s volunteers were Geir and Lori Gronstad, their daughter Sonja, and Bob and Louise Giles. The Swedes were represented by Dan Nelson, Joyce Wagoner, Kathy Strettar, and Lee Wilson.



*“Viking” Dan Nelson presides at Scandinavian booth with Louise Giles, left, & Kathy Strettar.*



*Photo Page: Nordkap's Midsummer Celebration*





## **FROM THE ARCHIVES: Third in a Series by Geir Gronstad**

This article is from Norse Civic News, November 1969

### **LEIF ERIKSON DAY CELEBRATION**

**Two hundred people gathered** at the Rosedale Park Community Center on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, for a buffet dinner and dance sponsored by Nordkap and Midnight Sun Lodges of Sons of Norway to celebrate Leif Erikson Day.

**The festivities got underway** as Mr. Clarence Marzolf welcomed the people and promptly handed the reins over to the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Rolf Goxem. The program started with the singing of the two national anthems, "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Ja, Vi Elsker", to the accompaniment of Mrs. Marion McRae at the piano. Mr. Goxem then read a short statement made by former Vice President Hubert Humphrey, commemorating Leif Erikson Day, and following this he injected a bit of humor into the program by relating several stories which he always handles very capably.

**The Royal Norwegian Consul. Hon. William Henry Caswell**, was called upon to read the proclamation by Governor William G. Milliken and a resolution from Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh reaffirming October 9<sup>th</sup> as Leif Erikson Day. After Consul Caswell's presentation, the Master of Ceremonies made note of the fact that October 10<sup>th</sup> was Mr. Caswell's birthday and everybody showed their high esteem for him by standing and singing "Happy Birthday".

**The speaker for the occasion was Mr. Dennis Sorheim of Minneapolis, Minnesota**, Director of Fraternal Affairs of the Supreme Lodge, Sons of Norway. Besides interesting reflections about the life and explorations of Leif Erikson, Mr. Sorheim related new hopes and plans in the future of the Sons of Norway Lodges. His address was interesting and well received.

**Mr. Goxem called upon Thad Aardal**, Chairman, for a few closing remarks. He introduced the hard-working Committee consisting of Mrs. Mae Marzolf, Mr. and Mrs. Einar Nelson, and Mr. and Mrs. Granville McMains.

**Dancing to the music of Pete Bengtsson** brought the successful affair to a conclusion.

### **From Norwegian American Weekly, October 2014**

**On May 1, 1963, then Senator Hubert H. Humphrey** entered into the Congressional Record a joint resolution to authorize the President of the United States to Proclaim October 9 of each year as Leif Erikson Day. In the resolution, Senator Humphrey stated in part, "The Norse expeditions, and particularly the discovery of North America by Leif Erikson, can no longer be regarded as myths. The sources have been examined and studied too carefully for that. The time is long overdue for the recognition of Leif Erikson's role in the discovery of the New World."

On September 3, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bill proclaiming October 9 annually as Leif Erikson Day, and in that year, he signed the first annual federal Leif Erikson Day Proclamation.



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## **Remembering Thad Aardal: April 11, 1927 - June 19, 2017**

**Thad Aardal was a member of Nordkap Lodge, Sons of Norway, for 55 years.** And for many of us for so many of those years, he was Nordkap Lodge. He was the dependable, constant figure who was always there, the person who would step up and take responsibility. He and his wife Audrey were two of those stalwart Norwegians who anchored the Scandinavian Festivals on the Detroit Riverfront back in the 70s. The work they did, the amazing food and entertainment they provided gave joy to thousands. And they earned the returns that have helped keep our lodge going to this day. Thad stepped up to serve as lodge president four different times, and for each term, he served not just for one but for multiple years. **(Continued next page)**



**(Aardal family photo)**

***(Thad Aardal: Continued from previous page)***

**Many of us have come to think of him as our elder statesman**—the tall, gentle, self-effacing leader who was the mainstay of our lodge, the friendly face who always took time to shake your hand and ask about your family, your parents, your kids, or grandkids.

**But before he became our leader**, he was a fresh-faced young man. When World War II was on, he enlisted in the Navy right out of high school and took advanced training to become a Seabee – the elite construction battalion that built and maintained Naval bases around the world. Thad's unit was awaiting transport to the island of Formosa, which they were to occupy after the land invasion of Japan. But that risky land invasion of Japan never happened. The atomic bombs that were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima made that trip unnecessary. Instead, Thad's unit was reassigned to the remote Aleutian Islands of Alaska. The Navy had an important submarine base there on Adak Island. Thad's Seabee unit maintained that base, where 10,000 U.S. servicemen were stationed.

All of this was back in the mid-1940s. Thad was still just a teenager and Alaska still a very remote territory. Alaska wouldn't become the 49<sup>th</sup> state of the union until almost 15 years later in **1959**. So assignment to a backwater island in such a cold and remote territory was a pretty daunting experience for a young man. But that was Thad Aardal—always moving forward to accept the challenge, quietly doing his job, and not thinking that was anything unusual. But he was special.

**Thad was a standout member of the Greatest Generation. He was a true Son of Norway.**

*Thad is survived by daughter Debbie (Russ) Simms and sons Randy (late wife Linda) and Rick (Gary). Debbie, Russ, and Rick are all Nordkap members. He is also survived by grandchildren Justin (Colleen) Simms and Jeff (Megan) Simms as well as great-grandchildren, Benjamin, Jamison, and Izabelle.*

## ***2017 Nordkap Scholarships to Honor Thad Aardal and Gladys Brinson***

**A healthy scholarship fund**—helped by the generous memorial gifts of many donors-- made it possible for Nordkap to award scholarships of \$750 each to five deserving students.

**Gifts received** by the Nordkap Scholarship Fund in memory of departed Nordkap members Thad Aardal and Gladys Brinson totaled over \$2,000. Included in the total were the two \$75 contributions Nordkap made in memory of Thad and Gladys. An additional \$800 was contributed in response to the letter from Scholarship Chair Natalie Vaal requesting donations from Nordkap members.

**These generous contributions inspired the scholarship committee, headed by Natalie, to recommend that this year's class of scholarships be named the Thad Aardal and Gladys Brinson Awards.** The recommendation was accepted by the Nordkap Board at its August meeting.

Recipients of the awards, their chosen colleges, and areas of study are:

- **Elizabeth "Lolly" Duus** - University of Michigan, Theatre Performance
- **Christiana "Chrissy" Hart** - Yale University, Economics
- **Erik Sorensen** - Kettering University, Computer Science
- **Ian Sorensen** - Michigan State University, Computer Science
- **Jeffery Lee Stinson** - Western Michigan University, Marketing

Members of Natalie's scholarship committee include Dennis Flessland and Bob and Louise Giles. The committee offers its heartfelt thanks to the families of Thad and Gladys for directing memorial gifts to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

## ***A Letter from Nordkap's President: Changes Are Coming***

**Dear Fellow Nordkap Members:**

**I hope you had a wonderful summer as I did!**

Many of our members made trips to Norway this year. Bob and I were fortunate to include five days in Oslo in our summer travels. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming lodge meeting in October, when we might exchange travel tales.

**Now, as we look ahead to the remainder of the year, I want to remind you of an important change coming.** As you may have read in your August edition of the Viking Magazine, the Sons of Norway is proceeding with a simplified dues structure for U.S. members.



***Bob and Louise Giles on the roof of the Oslo Opera House.***

**Why is it called “simplified?”** As International President Jon Tehven wrote in the Viking, the Sons of Norway has historically allowed each district and lodge to set their own membership rates. This resulted in more than 385 dues structures! The complexity caused confusion in answering the simple question, “How much does it cost to join?” Understandably, it was a hindrance to new member recruitment. So Sons of Norway delegates at the 2016 International Convention approved uniform dues rates for all U.S. lodges, effective January 1, 2018.

**U.S. dues are set at \$60 for an individual and \$95 for a family.** (Lodges in Norway and Canada will be addressed in phase 2 of the simplification process at a future date.) A family membership includes all those family members living under one roof. Unge Venner members (those 16 to 23 years of age) whose primary mailing address is still the family residence will be included. Unge Venner members no longer living at home will pay the standard individual dues rate.

Existing Life and Golden members will keep their status with the current discount rate. Life members are those who were 65 years old or older and who had been members for 30 years or more before the end of 1998, when Life memberships were discontinued. Golden memberships replaced Life members as of January 1, 1999, and are based on the same requirements of being 65 years of age or older with 30 years of membership.

**You will find more complete information** in the Member Resources section of the Sons of Norway website at [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com). You will first need to click on “Log In” in the upper right hand corner, enter your information, and click on “Member Resources” on the upper right.

**The benefits of belonging to the Sons of Norway have never been better**—wonderful cultural and heritage offerings, outstanding scholarship and volunteer opportunities, stable financial products, and the warm fellowship of our lodge. We hope the simplified dues structure will make this experience even more appealing!

**Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards),**  
***Louise Giles***



### ***Please Update Your Information***

**All members are asked keep their membership information up-to-date.** This is important to the efficient operations of your lodge AND crucial to your receiving Viking Magazine in a timely manner.

**There are three ways you can update your information:**

- 1. Go to [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com).** Log In to your portal. Click “Edit” to update your email information or mailing address.
- 2. Call** Sons of Norway International at (612) 821-4614.
- 3. Email [address@sofn.com](mailto:address@sofn.com).**

### ***Donations Needed for Nordkap Silent Auction***

**It's not too early** to start thinking about donating items to our silent auction. Each year, the silent auction is a big hit at our Christmas party. Items with a Nordic theme—or made in Norway—are very popular with bidders.

**All auction proceeds go to the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.** With five scholarships awarded this year, the fund will need extra support for next year's students. Please bring your items to donate to our October or November meetings.

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**c/o Bob Giles**

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