

## Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish, editor/477-5450

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## Norsemen join to celebrate double anniversary

The Nordic News, an ethnic paper printed in English and published 10 times a year, is a must for anyone interested in what's happening within the Scandinavian-American community here.

The paper covers Scandinavian organizational events and activities, special features, travel bargains to Scandinavia, names and phone numbers to various Scandinavian organizations, and other news items of interest to members of the Scandinavian-American community.

The Nordic News is published by the Norse Civic Association, a non-profit organization founded in 1934 to furnish a means for the people of Nordic extraction and antecedents in Michigan to come together as a group, and to promote the exchange of knowledge between the U.S. and Scandinavia through cultural and scholarly programs, publication and membership.

Deserving and qualified students have been recipients of grants from the Norse Civic Association's Scholarship Fund, established in 1962.

**IN CELEBRATION** of the Norse Civic Association's 50th Anniversary and The Nordic News' 45th publishing year, a cocktails and hors d'oeuvres party is slated for 2 p.m. Sunday, May 20 in the Finnish Cultural Center, Farmington Hills.

The annual meeting and scholarship award ceremony will precede the main event starting at 1 p.m.

The Hon. Arthur J. Rubiner, Consul of Iceland, and president of The Norse Civic Association, will serve as master of ceremonies. The Hon. Marshall M. Fredericks, Royal Danish Consul for

Michigan, will be the main speaker. Entertainment will be provided by Hardanger violinist Ingvild Orheim; accordionist Ralph Mannisto; and The Høijakst Folkdancers, directed by Kristen Lehto and Ruth Mannisto. For reservations, contact Ebba Siomeana at 255-9705.

**DURING** the first years of its existence, the association experienced a phenomenal growth, and the participation of its civic affairs committee in municipal Detroit's advancement soon commanded public attention and gained front page notice in the daily papers.

In contrast to their idealistic aspirations, the members became aware of a realistic, somewhat desperate situation that demanded immediate action. Many of their fellow-countrymen had been overtaken by the economic stresses of the depression years.

Among the many commendable achievements of this newly conceived body, it rendered assistance to fellow Scandinavians in finding employment and overcoming economic difficulties in that trying period of American history.

The Norse Civic Association was the first organization in Detroit to observe the ancient Scandinavian custom, Midsummer Festival.

The original Midsummer Festival celebration held a more or less religious significance. In pagan times it was a festive day, observed for the purpose of worshipping the God of Light.

With the advent of Christianity it became known as St. Hans Day (John the Baptist). Since the Christian holiday also took place on Midsummer Day, the

## Consul of Iceland serves as master of ceremonies

longest day of the year, and since the heathen festival always had been held at that time, the two merged.

Through the years, however, the religious significance has been largely lost and the celebration has assumed strictly social aspects.

The first of these festivals in Detroit was held at Nankin Mills on August 18, 1935, and was one of the association's earliest ambitious social ventures. The guest of honor and speaker of the day was the late William S. Koudsen, president of General Motors Corp. The subject of his address was, "Admirable Peoples."

**FOLLOWING** a resolution passed by the Norse Civic Association's board of directors and submitted to the governor of Michigan, the late Governor Frank Murphy issued a public proclamation Sept. 13, 1937, designating Oct. 9 as Lefj Erikson Day.

Through the joint efforts of the association and the Lefj Erikson Memorial Association, and the cooperation of the state highway commissioner, the late Charles M. Ziegler, State Highway M-95 officially became "Lefj Erikson Memorial Highway" in 1951.

This highway runs north from Iron Mountain in the Upper Peninsula to Highway US-41.

With the decision to publish a monthly newspaper was reached at a meeting in the summer of 1939, and on Oct. 2 of

the same year the first edition of the Norse Civic News was presented. Starting with the 1973 September issue, the "Norse Civic News" changed its name to "The Nordic News."

"The Swans of the North" was chosen as the association's emblem. The motif for the design is derived from a poem by the contemporary Danish author, Hans Kristian Fredericksen, "Svanerne Fra Norden."

The design was originated and drawn by Danish artist, Viggo Bang, and symbolizes kinship and common destiny of the peoples of the Scandinavian countries.

The swan, ancient symbol of eternal life, in flight from east to west, represents Scandinavian immigrants to America.

**THIS YEAR'S** president of the Norse Civic Association is Arthur J. Rubiner of West Bloomfield. His vice president is Tarmo Mantala, of Farmington Hills.

Other officers from the immediate area are Joan Dally of Franklin, Susan Gujot of Redford Township and Karen Klein of Livonia.

Directors for the association who are residents of the area are Neilson Dally of Franklin; Arthur Rubiner of West Bloomfield; Ebba Siomeana from Redford Township; and Donald Strom of Southfield.



Among the colobants in Icelandic costume will be Joanna Rubiner, (seated) from West Bloomfield whose father is Icelandic Consul for Michigan and president of the Norse Civic Association, and Kristin Teivonen, wearing her grandmother's dress. Both will sing the Icelandic National Anthem and Teivonen will present the Icelandic flag in the opening ceremonies of the festival.

## Joint custody option topic for panel

By Shirlee Rose Iden  
staff writer

Joint custody is helping some parents affirm that though they may have divorced their spouses, they haven't divorced their children.

**SPACE**, a non-sectarian community service of the National Council of Jewish Women, will present a panel discussion on joint custody at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at their office, 16400 12 Mile, Southfield.

Ron Papa, and his former wife, Judy, who have joint custody of their son, will be part of the exchange. Papa says somebody broached the idea to him while he was separated from his wife more than four years ago.

"When we were divorced two years

ago, we agreed on legal joint custody," he says. "What it means for us is that we share time with Jonathan (8)."

Papa says the child has adjusted to the arrangement, but in the beginning said little. "We were sharing his time, dividing the week, and Jonathan began to show signs of disliking it," Papa says. "We needed to make an adjustment."

**PAPA** contends that joint custody is a good thing if a parent wants control over raising the child. "It's good for children because you spend more time with them, but joint custody doesn't work for everybody."

"You've still got to work together as a team though you must accept the fact the marriage is over and get over some things on which you differ."

"The child comes first and you must get rid of anger, bitterness, and sadness."

Papa believes it works, though not without cost, and is a viable option. Presently, he is a facilitator for SPACE.

Also on the panel will be George LaPlata, an Oakland Circuit Court judge who is known for his work in family litigation. Other panelists will be Philip Stahl, Southfield psychologist who has done research on joint custody, and Kenneth Lynn, an attorney who specializes in divorce and custody proceedings and is an advocate of children's rights.

David A. Kruger of Southfield is active with SPACE because of its single parent program. Divorced, he has three

children, one of whom grew up in his custody.

"**MY EX-WIFE** has full custody but we have a good working relationship with the kids," he said. Kruger, active with Fathers for Equal Rights helped lobby for the joint custody bill which went into effect two years ago.

"I believe it will work and it's what people want. Unfortunately, judiciary and legal people want to keep it a well-guarded secret. Everyone getting a divorce should ask to see the joint custody law."

Panelists will also answer questions from the audience.

For information about the workshop for which a \$4 fee is asked, call the SPACE office at 597-9390.



## Gold Award winner

Kathleen Hermann, a Farmington Hills resident and a student at Our Lady of Mercy High School, has won the Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting. A member of Girl Scout Senior Troop 3362, she took the award for excelling in leadership, community service and self-development. She is a volunteer at Providence Hospital, Southfield, and plans to attend Purdue University this fall.

## Games Club announces first tourney winners

Harrison High School's Games Club announced seven 10th graders as its winners in the Trivial Pursuit Tournament, played last week.

The team coming in for first place honors was made up of Ken Vandekerckhove, Tom Sayles and Ricky Kallabak.

Second place winners were the team of David Carr, Ann Houchins and

## Stress control taught

A four-part series of classes on stress control begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21 in Metropolitan Community Church, 15160 E. Hazelwood, Plymouth. The series is one of Dr. Arthur Weaver's "Better Living Seminars," a non-profit, health-related organization.

John Swanson, a public health spe-

cialist, will teach the 90-minute classes that continue on June 3, 5 and 7. His topics are "The growing pain," "Worry, Fear and Anxiety," and "Handling Emotions and Pressures," and "Reducing Stress."

Cost for the series is by donation only. Registrations are requested by calling 459-0894.

## Trip to England being planned

World travelers Lois and Richard Kozlow will lead a group trip to England's South Coast Sept. 6-20.

Kozlow, internationally known artist, and his wife have organized tours in the past geared to painters, but not excluding those who don't paint.

The idea for the England trip, Lois Kozlow wrote from Spain where they went for the opening of his "Bull Fight" series in Madrid, originated last year by happenstance.

"It all started when we were there (England) last year and found this wonderful natural amphitheater on the rocky Cornish Coast. Between Penzance and Land's End — it sits quietly and inconspicuously waiting for its short, but not quiet of Shakespeare companies to bring it to life."

She continued, "The backdrop is the cliffs edge which falls away to the pounding, perpetual surf — acoustically perfect — the slightest whisper carries to the steep rows of stone seats and the thought of sharing the excitement of these performances was enough to set me in motion with another trip."

She continued saying that once they found the Deyouan Hotel in Sidmouth with most rooms facing the sea, they began to plan a tour that would include "endless woodlands" and shops "in Victorian Eastbourne (Sussex) with afternoon band concerts on the esplanade — Rippling Cornish coastline with its colorful streets and old, old church — pub lunches and more something than any other part of England."

She said this two-week trip would

take people to parts of England they might never see regardless of how many times they have been there.

She wrote there would be ample time to paint for those who wish to on locations as vast as the site of the Battle of

Hastings and Land's End. The all-inclusive price is \$1,000. For additional information, call 573-4422.

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