



VIKING HALL 349-1613
www.sofnalaska.com

**November
December
2014**

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Inside this issue:

Viking Hall News..... 2

Sunshine Report..... 2

Lucia Celebration..... 3

Time to Renew, and Recruit
New Members..... 4

Wood Ski Classic..... 5

Lodge Activities..... 5

Lefse, Lefse, Lefse 6

Lutefisk and
Lefse Dinner 7

SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Get involved in your lodge!

Over the past several years I have noticed fewer and fewer members attending our Bernt Balchen Lodge's monthly Business Meetings. This drop in attendance has



happened despite the fact that we have great potluck food at many of the meetings and very interesting programs and speakers.

This is too bad because the Business Meetings offer members an opportunity to directly participate in the running of the Lodge. The business meetings provide a chance for members

to speak their minds and vote on matters that are important to the future of Bent Balchen Lodge.

I and the other current Lodge officers would like to extend an invitation to all members to attend more of our monthly Business Meetings. These are scheduled on the second Thursday of each month except in July and August. The meetings begin at 6:30 P.M. if there is to be a potluck and at 7:00 P.M. if there is no potluck.

We also invite members to attend our four annual Full Board Meetings which are held at 7:00 P.M. on the first Thursday of the month of September, November, January, and April. These are open meetings and members are more than welcome to attend.

President's Message continues on Page 7

God Jul!



Scandinavian Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 7th

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Viking Hall

Please join us for a Traditional
Scandinavian Family Christmas brunch.

Brunch fare includes pickled herring, Jansson's Frestelse, cucumber salad, meatballs, rutabagas, cured ham, potato sausage, low bush cranberries, lefse, cardamom bread, riskrem with red sauce for dessert and many other holiday delicacies.

There will be a beautiful display of Scandinavian holiday decorations as well.

Advance reservations required - call the Viking Hall office at 349-1613.

Viking Hall News

As mentioned in an e-mail to VBrd, we now have Amanda Saxton as our office manager. She may be job-sharing with Sylvia Maiellaro, so it was moved, seconded and passed that Sylvia be included in the briefing that Ed Swearingen will do on the workings of the Hall equipment including gas, heat, alarm, etc.

Merlin recommended that the Board have 2-3 years of financial records available for comparison during financial discussions.

There had been a glitch with the credit card reader. Amanda will take care of it.

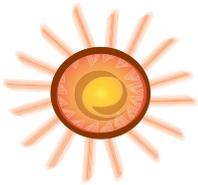
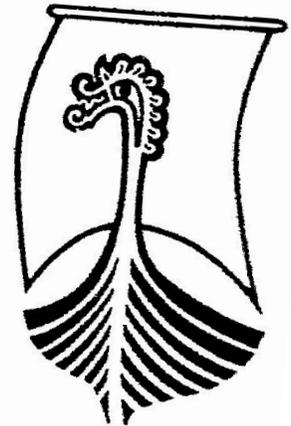
Thanks to Merlin Hamre for cleaning the office computer. It is working more efficiently now.

Amanda is very artistic and creative. During discussion about using these abilities for advertizing the Hall, it was recommended that we give her time learn the priorities – Quick Books – and other vital programs -and jobs - as rentals - and the general business of the office, before we give her additional responsibilities.

Ed S. put out information to four companies for bids on blasting and refinishing the 'emergency' stairs. He received no response, so suggested we request again very early Spring, as they are so busy now.

John Olnes checked the roof and drains for debris, all areas were clear. Ed S. continues to keep check, fixing things as necessary. Over the summer Ed S. and John replaced two sinks in the main floor men's room. They, with others, also did a fantastic job on the hillsides, on both sides of the stairway to the lower level. It is now an area of beauty. Many thanks to all involved. John also closed after an event. We could not easily survive, without the incredible volunteers we have. Please help.

Sandra S Hanson, Viking Hall President



Sunshine Report

"Gratulerer med dagen!"

*October 26th was the
50th Anniversary for
Kjell and Marit Kristiansen!
Congratulations!*

*Greetings are sent to the following members celebrating a birthday
this November and December who are at least 75 years young.*

NOVEMBER

*Congratulations Alice Lehnert
101 years old!!!!*

Arnold Link
Gene A. Moe
Gale A. Olson
Carol H. Restad
Glenn R. Soby
Aurora S. Hovland

DECEMBER

John L. Barstad
Eva Bilet
Carolyn R. Korman
Wallace A. Smith
Barbara Stinson
Anstice M. Tibor
James T. Tibor

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine, please call
Cindy McDowell 696-0725 (cell - 862-1143)

Or, email at ccmcd38@hotmail.com

"Happy Birthday!"

Be a part of Sons of Norway Lucia 2014

All lodge members are cordially invited to attend our upcoming Lucia Christmas program on December 14th at Viking Hall.

Children ages 4-18 who have parents or grandparents that are members of Sons of Norway are welcome to participate in the Lucia program and talent show at the event.

Santa Lucia or Saint Lucy's Day is the Church feast day dedicated to Saint Lucy, and is observed on December 13. Its modern day celebration is generally associated with Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland. In traditional celebrations, Saint Lucy or Santa Lucia comes as a young woman with lights and sweets, marking the return of longer daylight to winter darkness. It is one of the few saint days observed in Scandinavia. In some forms, including the program at the Bernt Balchen lodge, a procession is headed by one girl wearing a crown of candles (or lights), while others follow in the procession, each holding a single candle. Hanna Persson will serve as the 2014 Lucia and lead the procession.

The Lucia tradition at the Bernt Balchen Lodge celebrates our Scandinavian heritage through music, food, and language. It is one of the most popular events at the lodge. Children learn and sing Norwegian and Swedish songs, accompanied by harp and piano. Families are treated to a talent show, the Lucia procession and elf dance, singing around the Christmas tree, and authentic Scandinavian rice pudding, open-faced sandwiches, and desserts. Santa Claus makes a special appearance at this event and hands out goodies to all attending children.

The Lucia Family Christmas party will take place on Sunday, December 14th, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Please come to Viking Hall and enjoy this festive event.

There will be two one-hour rehearsals for the participants:

Sunday, November 16th, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 7th, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The cost of the event is as follows:

Adults - \$12; Ages 5 to 18 - \$5; Ages 4 and under - free; Family maximum (parents and children) - \$30.

This event has become a tradition in many local Scandinavian families and we hope that you will make time for the Lucia party on your calendar this year, too.

*Carol Kalander 907-355-3800
Lucia Committee Chair*

Hanna Persson, daughter of Lloyd and Anita Persson and granddaughter of Steinar and Reidun Hansen and Arne and Inger Persson (Bothell, WA), is honored to be this year's Lucia. Hanna is a sophomore at South Anchorage High School and has participated in the Lucia celebration at Bernt Balchen Lodge since she was four years old.

Hanna has always been an active member of our lodge. As a preschooler she enjoyed coming to Lekegruppe and Barnas Norsk Klubb and is now busy helping out in the kitchen with her parents who are delighted to have her there!

Hanna is very proud of her Norwegian (3/4) and Swedish (1/4) heritage. She has traveled to Norway to visit relatives two times and is looking forward to another trip next summer. She is also exploring the idea of taking a year to study in Norway after high school.

Hanna plays 1st flute in the symphonic band at school, is a member of the Arctic Wind Flute Choir, and also takes private lessons. Her biggest passion, though, has always been her love for Irish Dance. She started dancing when she was just five years old and has competed all over the country as a soloist and on multiple teams. She also participates in many local performances around town and mentors younger dancers. In her spare time, Hanna enjoys spending time with friends, listening to music, hand crafts and shopping.

In honor of her grandmother, Reidun Hansen, Hanna and her family would be so happy to see everyone dressed up in their bunads if they have one.

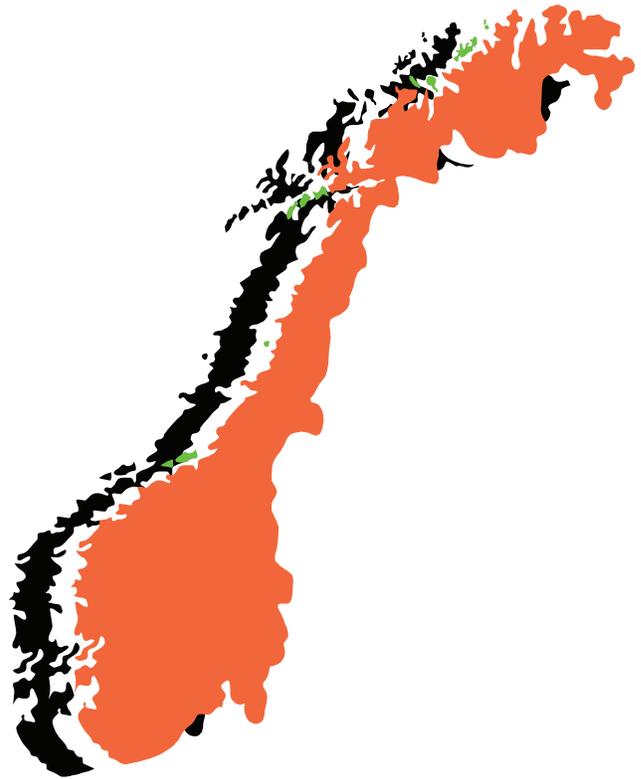


What a Great Time to join Sons of Norway!

With the arrival of fall, events at Bernt Balchen are back in full swing and it is a great time to encourage friends and family to join the fun and sign up for membership. Everyone can recruit a new member and it is quite easy to do. There are application forms just outside of the office at Viking Hall and all it takes is a pen or pencil to complete a few lines on the form, and then give the form to one of the officers or leave it at the office. There are sections of the form that the office will complete, and then it will be sent off for processing by the international office in Minnesota.

The question most of you might have is what is the cost of joining. Any new adult member that joins will pay \$57 plus a one-time \$10 application fee, so a total of \$67 for the first year. If a spouse wants to join at the same time, they should pay an additional \$52 for the spouse. There are two other categories for membership – Heritage membership (ages 0-15 years) which is free for all children/grandchildren of an active member. Unge Venner (ages 16-23 years) are also eligible for free membership so long as their parent or grandparent is an active member at the time of joining. Otherwise, Unge Venner members can join at a reduced rate of \$46.50 (\$36.50 annual dues plus the \$10 application fee) and \$30.50 for a spouse that joins at the same time.

Please spread the word at upcoming events and consider giving a membership to a family member or close friend as a gift this holiday season. Membership supports our great lodge, Viking Hall. In addition, you receive a monthly subscription to the Viking magazine and the lodge local newsletter, the Flyer as well as reduced rates to many of our lodge events. Please contact our membership secretary, Tom Falskow, if you have any questions at 222-5320 or lise@gci.net



WOODEN SKI CLASSIC

Sunday, November 30, 2014
(The Sunday after Thanksgiving)

This event is cosponsored by the Sons of Norway and the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage.

First event of the 2014-2015 AMH Anchorage Cup race series.

Event will take place at Noon on Sunday, November 30 at Russian Jack. Exact route will depend on snow availability at the time.

Wave starts with appropriate costume plus wooden skis starting first, followed by diminishing authenticity plastic skis and lycra.

Pre-registration will be online through NSAA

Anchorage Cup website. In-person registration and bib pickup will be in the Russian Jack Chalet.

Traditional Scandinavian breakfast in the Russian Jack Chalet will include prize drawings, costume judging and other fun events.

Net funds generated used for the NSAA college scholarship fund.



LODGE ACTIVITIES FOR YOU!

Norwegian Language and Culture Class



Sundays at 7:00 PM

*6:30 tutorial sessions
for beginners*

Viking Hall Library

Norwegian Language and Culture class is taught by Native-born speaker and Bernt Balchen Lodge member Lillian Anderson. The class is for beginners as well as beginning-intermediate students.

The cost of the class is a one-time donation \$20.00 to Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge

Contact Ted Birkedal at 351-6095 or via email at tedbirkedal@gmail.com if you are interested in attending the class.

Sewing, Embroidery, and Knitting

10:00 AM until Noon

*First and third Tuesdays of the
month (except summer)*



You are invited to a gathering of those interested in needle crafts: hardanger, embroidery, darning, crocheting, needle felting, norweave embroidery, counted cross stitch and more...

Bring a project to work on. All levels of expertise are welcome!

For more information call Beverly Smith (907) 346-3659

Rosemaling Classes



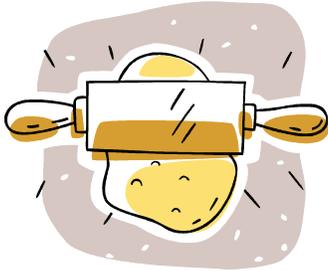
Traditional Norwegian Painting!

*Second and Fourth Tuesdays
from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.*

Classes are open to all experience levels and new individuals are always welcome to attend.

CALLING ALL LEFSE MAKERS, AND THOSE WHO WANT TO LEARN

Join us at the lefse-making sessions in November!



It is that time of year again when 300 or more happy guests will fill themselves with lutefisk and lefse at our annual dinner in November.

In order to serve a crowd of this size, we could use some assistance in preparing for and serving at this event. It is a FUN way to get involved with your lodge and meet some great people. Lefse rolling is one way to help out and that will take place on November 7th - 9th.

We will also make meatballs that weekend and if you have never tried a meatball in a lefse, you don't know what you are missing out on!

Preparations for the dinner will be on Friday Nov 14th and then lots more activities to assist with on the 15th itself. If you are interesting in helping out with any of these activities, please drop me a note at lise@gci.net or give me a call at 222-5320. Tusen Takk!

Tom Falskow – Co-chair Lutefisk Dinner

How does one make Lefse?

For those new to lefse making, there are several steps between raw potatoes, flour, and salt and that first tasty bite of lefse. For those not interested in "rolling" there are other ways to help.

The typical 3-day lefse-making session, Friday through Sunday, consists of the following activities:

Friday:

Wash, boil, peel, and rice potatoes; set up lefse making stations (griddles, cooking and rolling boards, rollers, etc.); set up cooling, sorting, and packaging areas.

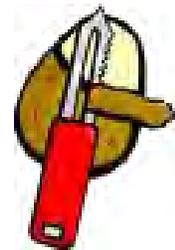
Saturday:

Mix potato and flour loaves; shape in balls, roll and cook lefse; boil, wash, boil, peel, and rice potatoes; sort and package lefse; clean up work stations.

Sunday:

Mix potato and flour loaves; shape into balls; roll and cook lefse; sort and package lefse; break down the lefse making stations and return griddles, cooking and rolling boards, etc. to the storage area; and clean up work stations.

Even a couple of hours of your time helps make the day fly by, and the end result is so delicious! So come and join the fun.



LAST REMINDER - ONE NIGHT ONLY!

LUTEFISK & LEFSE DINNER

(AND THOSE TASTY MEATBALLS TOO!)

Saturday, November 15th

With two seatings

First seating: 4:00 to 6:30

Second seating: 7:00 to 10:00

Be sure to make reservations for the
Dinnertime of your choice *before*
the seats are all taken!

Live music at the 7:00 pm seating

DINNER PRICES:

Adults \$25
(non-members \$30)

Ages 12-16 \$12

Ages 5-11 \$5

Ages 4 and under free



**Make your reservation today by calling
Viking Hall at 349-1613**

Get Involved

President's Message continued from Page 1

We also have monthly Viking Hall Board Meetings.

These are held at 7:00 P.M. on the Monday prior to the monthly Business Meeting. The Viking Hall Board specifically deals with the maintenance and improvement of Viking Hall proper, the home of Bernt Balchen Lodge. Members are also welcome to attend these meetings.

And finally I would like to urge our members to volunteer to serve as officers of the Lodge. These positions vary in their levels of responsibility and time commitment. Some positions, like that Inner Greeter or Trustee are a good starting place to learn more about Sons of Norway before seeking nomination to more demanding positions such as Treasurer or Vice President.

If you have any ideas about how to increase membership participation in the business of the Lodge, please feel free to contact me with your suggestions at (907) 351-6095 or tedbirkedal@gmail.com.

Fraternally yours,

Terje "Ted" Birkedal



Sons of Norway
8141 Briarwood St.
Anchorage, AK 99518
907-349-1613

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EVENTS

NOVEMBER

4	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Needle Crafts
6	Thursday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Full Board Meeting
7	Friday	3:00 - 6:00 pm	Lefse Making
8	Saturday	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Lefse Making
9	Sunday	9:00 am - 6:00 pm Noon - 5:00 pm	Lefse Making Youth Lefse Making
11	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class
13	Thursday	6:30 - 7:30 pm 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Potluck/Program Business Meeting (Election of 2015 Officers)
15	Saturday	4:00 pm & 7:00 pm	Lutfisk and Lefse Dinner
16	Sunday	1:30 pm	First Lucia Practice
18	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Needle Crafts
25	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class

DECEMBER

2	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Needle Crafts
7	Sunday	12:00 - 3:00 pm 4:00 pm	Scandinavian Christmas Brunch Second Lucia Practice
9	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class
11	Thursday	6:30 - 7:30 pm 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Potluck/Program Business Meeting
14	Sunday	3:00 - 6:00 pm	Lucia Family Christmas Party
16	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Needle Crafts



Food Bank Donations

Our lodge continues to donate canned goods, non-perishable foods and money to the local food bank.

Please bring your food or monetary donation in to Viking hall.

All events take place at Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood St., unless otherwise noted.

Please send articles or event information
for the next Newsletter by December 20th to: sonancak@gmail.com Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **The Flyer**