



VIKING HALL 349-1613  
www.sofnalaska.com

January  
2012  
januar



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## Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge President's Message

Here we are, starting a brand new year and we hope our members, new and old, will join us in the events and activities that we've planned for 2012. Hopefully, the lodge calendar for 2012 is enclosed with this Flyer. If it isn't, you'll receive it next month.

The first event we have to look forward to is our Officer Installation on Thursday, January 12th at 7 pm. There will not be a meeting so please join us for the installation and the dessert reception to follow so you can greet your returning and new officers. Thank you to Steinar Hansen who will be our Installing Officer.

Cultural Director Ted's Cultural & Heritage Evenings were so much

fun that he has planned two of them for this coming year.

There will be a movie and a mystery night, a Norwegian Fish Dinner and Faar-i-Kaal. And, of course, lefse baking for the bazaar and the lutefisk dinner. And, we will offer a 5-day Kids Camp in July with fun activities for elementary age children.

We will offer a new scholarship this year in addition to the existing Academic and Heritage Scholarships. The Youth Camp Scholarship will enable a young person (age 9-16) from our lodge to attend a session of a District 2 Youth Camp in the summer. You will

hear more about that in the near future.

Our lodge depends on your participation to be viable. We have a number of new members so, if you don't recognize some folks at an event, greet them and make them welcome. We've had awesome volunteer participation at lodge activities this past year and I have no doubt that it will continue. Working in the kitchen continues to be one of the most rewarding jobs for many of us. You get to know someone well while peeling potatoes and washing dishes!

We have a great year ahead of us!

Fraternally,  
Mickey

## Øytun folkehøyskole Students Visiting Anchorage

In February another group of Øytun folkehøyskole students from Alta, Norway will be in Anchorage to prepare for an Alaskan experience in the north. For the past several years Sons of Norway families have hosted the students during their time in Anchorage and the group members are hoping to find accommodation again this year.

There are ten students coming this year, eight

men and two women. They arrive Monday, February 6th and leave Saturday, February 11th for Takotna to begin their tour. The students will need five nights housing while in Anchorage.

If you would be interested in hosting any number of students, please contact Tom Falskow at [lise@gci.net](mailto:lise@gci.net) or by phone at 222-5320.

The students will also be at Viking Hall on Thursday, February 9th, the night of our potluck and business meeting, to give a program telling us a bit about themselves and what they plan to do while here in Alaska. The potluck and program begin at 6:30 pm. Please come out and join us in making them feel welcome and to learn more about the Norwegian Folk High School experience.

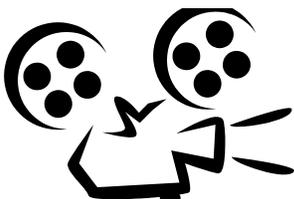


## Scandinavian Mystery Night

### Saturday, January 28

### 5:30 pm

**Dinner Prices:**  
**Adults \$10 (non-members \$12)**  
**Ages 5-12—\$5**  
**Under 5yrs— Free**



**Come see a Scandinavian mystery movie and enjoy a pølse lapskaus dinner. What could be better in midwinter than Norwegian comfort food and a movie from the northern lands.**

**Because the movie may not be appropriate for younger children we will have a showing of kid-friendly films in the Lodge library downstairs.**

**Tickets will be sold at the door, but we encourage reservations so we know how many folks to cook for.**

**Call Viking Hall at 349-1613 for reservations.**

## THANKS FOR LUCIA 2011

The Santa Lucia celebration of 2011 was a wonderful evening! A hearty thank you from Lucia Maria Hanson and her family, to the generous people who helped make the Lucia festivities so much fun.



Special thanks to Kari Kristiansen, Lucia Committee Co-Chair, for her unflagging teamwork in preparation for the big night, and to Lucia Committee members Terry Gryting, Dan Lien, Marianne Storms, Carol Kalander, Cindy McDowell, and Sheila Hanson (Co-Chair).

Our family is deeply grateful and impressed with how so many people worked together in celebration of culture and community.

Additional thanks go to Karen Nordgaard, Anne Adasiak-Andrew, Mickey Andrew, Cynthia Olnes, John Olnes, Lise Falskow, Linda Yarborough, Marilyn Lee, Marianne Kristiansen, Chris Lovett, John Lovett, Chris Robertson, Bev Griffin, Bjarne Hansen, Wally Smith, Tracy Smith, Marit Kristiansen, Karen Ruud, Aase Haugen, Season Terrell, August Terrell, Anita Persson, Hannah Coleman, Bret Clark, Marge Olson, Robert Kalander, Lloyd Persson, Patrick McCormick, Tim Andrew, Tom Falskow, Kelsey Gryting-Lien, Laurie Zimmer, Whitney Whitman, Susannah Olnes, Karen Childers, Urban Enkvist, Kjell Nordgaard, Jason Whitman, Mirna Ramsay, Marty Margeson, John Christopherson, Sandra Christopherson, Tiffiney French, the lodge youth who shared their amazing talent (Elias, ElliAnne and Elisebeth Johansen, Kiani Kalander, Espen Falskow, Christian McCormick, Maria Hanson, Beth and Annie Margeson, Severin Persson and dad Lloyd, Anya Otterson and dad Stefan, Erik Falskow and friends David Woo, Ray Haren, and Quentin Shenk, and anyone else we failed to mention.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2012! Maria, Sheila, Dave and Rose Hanson

## Fra biblioteket

This month we return to one of Norway's great modern crime fiction writers, Karin Fossum, and her novel *The Indian Bride (Elskede Poonna)*. Her favorite detective Inspector Sejer is on the trail of a killer in the town of Elvestad that brutally attacked an Indian woman who was to be the bride of

one of the town's farmers, Gunder Jormann. As the inspector begins to unravel the chain of events, he realizes that no one is completely innocent. The town café owner knows too much, one of the young girls in town wants to be the "star witness," and one of the town's bodybuilders has no outlet for his strength and

rage. *The Indian Bride* is a Washington Post best book of the year as well as a Los Angeles Times book prize winner. Check it out from our lodge library and enjoy some reading time!

Tom Falskow  
Lodge Librarian



## Viking Hall News

Sons of Norway events and general rentals, plus recent weather extremes, kept Viking Hall staff and Sons of Norway members busy during November and December. Rentals for weddings, parties and meetings for 2011 were up from last year, particularly fall rentals. We also try to help the community by offering the Hall at reduced rental rates for community service groups and organizations.

As you know the major construction project for 2011 was the roof replacement which also included new roof drains. Added insulation increased the roof height so now the building sports distinctive blue and white trim with a red cap along the parapet. Roofing work began in late August and was completed in mid-September, on time and on budget. We thank those that have responded to the lodge appeal for financial help to offset the substantial cost of this project and hope that those who are still considering making a contribution to this cause will do so.

Other 2011 projects are repair of the pavement in the lower parking lot outside the lower level

entry doors and replacement of the fluorescent lighting in the main hall with new energy efficient fixtures and bulbs. Keying all exterior doors to one master key was also completed in 2011. Wayne Johnson had already installed a Knox Box and now the Anchorage Fire Department has access to the building without having to break down doors. The "Viking Hall" letters for the east side are done and will be installed soon.

We are negotiating with Alaska USA Insurance Brokers to obtain quotes for the 2012 property and liability insurance. The annual premium (about \$7,000) will be shared between Sons of Norway and Viking Hall.

Election of 2012 Viking Hall officers was held at the December board meeting. Officers elected are president, John Olnes, vice president, Sandra Hanson, secretary, Ted Birkedal and treasurer, Ingrid Braastad.

Special thanks to Ed Swearingen for installing the new light fixtures, ballasts and bulbs in the main hall. Ed also installed new thaw wires in the roof drains. Ed continues to keep our electrical system in good shape. In addition,

Ed Larson is always ready to help with plumbing repairs. Both have helped us for many years and we cannot thank them enough.

Thanks to Cindy McDowell and Cynthia Olnes for putting up the Christmas trees and decorations. Also, thanks to the office staff—Anita and Cynthia—for doing what was needed to make this another successful year for Viking Hall.

Volunteers are always needed to close for rentals. Contact the Viking Hall office staff if you can help with this important effort. Thanks to Ted Birkedal, Anita Persson and John and Cynthia Olnes for recent closings.

If you would like to commemorate an event in your life and "cast it in stone" we would be very happy to take your order for a brick to be placed at the base of the flagpoles. Each brick is \$100 with the proceeds going toward the Maintenance and Improvement fund.

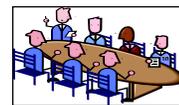
John Olnes  
Viking Hall President

## 2012 Officers, Directors and Committees

President **Mickey Andrew**  
 Vice President **Tom Falskow**  
 Counselor **Anna Decker**  
 Corresponding Secretary **Bev Griffin**  
 Recording Secretary **Marilyn Lee**  
 Membership Secretary **Merlin Hamre**  
 Treasurer **Ingrid Braastad**  
 Marshall **Sandra Hanson**  
 Assistant Marshall **Cindy McDowell**  
 Trustee 3-Years **Ed Swearingen**  
 Trustee 2-Years **Robert Kalander**  
 Trustee 1-Year **Wally Smith**  
 Inner Greeter **Beverly Smith**  
 Outer Greeter **Monique Renner**

Auditor **Patrick McCormick**  
 Auditor **David Hewko**  
 Cultural Director **Ted Birkedal**  
 Foundation Director **John Olnes**  
 Co-Publicity Directors  
**Jane Moe Newby**  
**Robyn Birkedal Reynolds**  
 Newsletter Editor **Cynthia Olnes**  
 Membership Committee  
 Chair: **Tom Falskow**  
**Merlin Hamre**  
 Librarian **Tom Falskow**  
**David Lee**  
**Merlin Hamre**  
**Cynthia Olnes**

Scholarship Committee  
 Chair: **Wally Smith (1-Year)**  
**Jane Moe Newby (2-Years)**  
**Beverly Griffin (3-Years)**  
 Lucia Committee  
 Chair: **Sheila Hanson (1-Year)**  
**Marianne Storms (2-Years)**  
**Dan Lien (3-Years)**  
**Terri Gryting (3-Years)**  
**Carol Kalander (3-Years)**  
 Program Chair **Ted Birkedal**



## Sons of Norway's Cultural Skills Program

The Cultural Skills Program is a benefit of Sons of Norway membership and is available only to members.

The Cultural Skills Program provides a framework for learning about traditional and contemporary Norwegian culture. Each unit consists of three levels of skill-specific activities to guide you as you learn. You can complete the units on your own or through your lodge or through a special class or group (if available). For each level, you'll complete a few activities, email (or mail) them in to Sons of Norway Headquarters, get feedback, and earn a pin in recognition of your accomplishments.

The Cultural Skills Program covers a wide variety of subjects, ranging from Norwegian cooking to music appreciation. Each unit is designed to provide skill-specific activities at the beginner, intermediate and

advanced levels to foster learning and advancement with each newly acquired skill.

Cultural Skills pins are awarded as you pass through the units within the program. When you complete part 1 of your first unit you'll receive a Cultural Skills pin, a skill bar, and a level 1 bar. You'll receive additional level bars when you complete parts 2 and 3 of that skill, and new skill bars when you complete level 1 of a new skill.

You can get started learning right away by downloading any of the Cultural Skills units from the "Members Login" section of [www.sonsofnorway.com](http://www.sonsofnorway.com).

Otherwise, call (800) 945-8851 or email [culturalskills@sofn.com](mailto:culturalskills@sofn.com) to order hard copies.

### Cultural Skills Units

- ◆ #1 Traditional Norwegian Cooking
- ◆ #2 Reading Norwegian and Norwegian-American Authors
- ◆ #3 Collecting Norwegian and North American Stamps
- ◆ #4 Rosemaling
- ◆ #5 Genealogy-Family History
- ◆ #6 Hand Knitting
- ◆ #7 Norwegian Language and Culture
- ◆ #8 Hardanger Embroidery
- ◆ #9 Figure Carving
- ◆ #10 Weaving
- ◆ #11 Ornamental Woodcarving
- ◆ #12 Chip Carving
- ◆ #13 Folk Dancing
- ◆ #14 Music and Musicians of Norway

### Five Units Just for Kids

- ◆ #30 Folk Dancing
- ◆ #31 Figure Carving
- ◆ #32 Hand Knitting
- ◆ #33 Norwegian and North American Stamps
- ◆ #34 Hardanger Embroidery

## Kaffeslabberas

Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> - 11:30 - 1:30 @ Viking Hall

The best place in town for lunch! Come and enjoy the wonderful soups and sandwiches at a very reasonable price. Please call ahead to Viking Hall @ 349-1613, but we always welcome drop-ins.

*a little in English...*

**Ten New Cabins Wait for You**

In the span of the past year, the Tourist Association has opened ten new cabins in the cabin net, which now consists of more than 480 cabins from north to south.

Among the new cabins are romantic small cabins perfect for couples who like to be cozy next to the fire place and large cabins for those who like to be surrounded by more people when in the mountains. The cabins are very spread out: Indre Syltevik is the northernmost new cabin and lies on the north-eastern tip of the Varanger Peninsula – actually farther east than Istanbul.

In beautiful Lofoten you now have the chance to visit Nøkksetra, northwest of Svolvær. Berit Rødstøl, DNT's communication advisor, characterized the cabin as the most romantic newly opened cabin of the year.

In Okstindene in Nordland, Hemnes Association is in the process of building Rabothytta at an altitude of 1200 meters, which will eventually be Northern Norway's highest tourist cabin. In addition to the fantastic view, the building will have modern architecture and will get its electricity from the sun and wind. This specific cabin will not be finished until 2013 but Hemnes Association has already allowed hikers to use the cabin.



*litt på norsk...*

**Ti nye hytter venter på deg**

I løpet av året har Turistforeningen åpnet ni nye hytter i sitt hyttenett, som nå inneholder mer enn 480 hytter fra sør til nord.

Blant nyhetene er romantiske små hytter perfekte for peiskos og par, og større hytter for deg som liker å omgi deg med litt mer folk når du er på fjellet. Hyttene ligger godt spredd: Indre Syltevik er den nordligste nye hytta og ligger på nordøst-spissen av Varanger-halvøya - faktisk lenger øst enn Istanbul.

I vakre Lofoten har du nå sjansen til å besøke Nøkksetra, nordvest for Svolvær. Hytta karakteriseres av DNTs kommunikasjonsrådgiver, Berit Rødstøl, som den mest romantiske nyåpningen i år.

Ved Okstindene i Nordland er Hemnes Turistforening i gang med å sette opp Rabothytta i 1200 meters høyde, det som etterhvert skal bli Nord-Norges høyestliggende turishytte. I tillegg til fantastisk utsikt vil bygget ha en svært modern arkitektur og skal få energi fra sol og vind. Selve hytta er ikke ferdig før i 2013 men det er allerede satt opp ei arbeidsbu som fjellvandrere kan bruke etter avtale med Hemnes Turistforening.

*\*Taken from VG Nett,  
http://www.vg.no/reise/artikkel.php?artid=10023304*



**Can you guess this northern Norway city?**



**Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>  
Full Board Meeting at 7 pm  
All board members and committee chairs  
are requested to attend.**

**If you are unable to be there, please let  
Mickey Andrew know @ 563-8006.**

**Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>  
Installation of Officers at 7 pm  
Dessert Reception to Follow**

Board Meeting & Installation of Officers Open to all

## Cultural Corner—Norway, the Land of Marzipan

At Christmas time Norway becomes “The Land of Marzipan.” What is marzipan you ask? It is made of sugar and ground, blanched almonds. When covered with rich chocolate this sugary concoction transforms into a heavenly chocolate bar that causes some peoples’ eyes to roll back in their heads with pleasure.

Marzipan is a gift of the Middle East where it originated; perhaps first in Persia and then it was spread by the Turks and the Arabs to the European Mediterranean where it eventually made its way to northern Europe. Some historians believe there were actually two lines of entry into Europe. One through Spain and another through Italy. The name “marzipan” is thought to derive from the Latin term, “martius panis” which means “March Bread.” Even to this day Norwegians often refer to marzipan candy bars as “marzipan brød,” meaning “marzipan bread.”

Anyway, the love of marzipan particularly took root in the Lubeck area on the south shore of the Baltic Sea. Today Lubeck, Germany is considered by many to be the capital of marzipan and the city produces great quantities of high quality marzipan. Marzipan probably entered this area in the late Middle Ages and was most likely brought to Norway’s shores by trading ships from Lubeck and other Hanseatic Cities of northern Germany. However, in those early days sugar was rare and costly so only the wealthy could enjoy the rich almond flavor of marzipan. When the nineteenth century rolled around sugar had become much cheaper and access to marzipan became within the reach of the common man. And reach he did, in Norway

as well as the other Scandinavian countries. Still a relatively expensive treat, the eating of marzipan was reserved for festive occasions, and most particularly the Christmas season. It is no accident that the traditional Norwegian wedding cake, the kransekaker, calls for a large dollop of marzipan in the recipe.



For some reason molding marzipan into special shapes has been popular since the late Middle Ages. One of the most popular shapes is that of a fat pig. These little chubby, pink marzipan pigs are thought to denote luck and good fortune and are very popular at Christmas. Many Norwegians hide an almond in one of the bowls of risengrød (rice porridge) served traditionally on Christmas Eve. Whoever, finds the almond typically wins a small roly-poly marzipan pig.

A good number of Norwegians, especially those who did not find an almond in their risengrød, will seek to get their Christmas marzipan fix from any number of chocolate covered marzipan candy bars that are sold in Norway. One of the most popular of these is the “Gullbrød” (Gold Bread) marzipan bar which is made by the Nidar Company. Like most quality marzipan confectioners Nidar does not skimp on the marzipan nor on the quality of the chocolate. So that is why when you eat one your eyes roll back in your head—you are in a marzipan/chocolate ecstasy—a Norwegian’s Christmas dream. Ja, det er fint, Ja!



God Jul og Godt Nytt år!

Terje “Ted” Birkedal, Cultural Director

### Norwegian Language & Culture Classes

**Beginning: Sunday 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM**  
**Advanced: Sunday 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

If you are interested in taking one of the classes please contact Ted Birkedal, Cultural Director, at (907) 351-6095 or via email at [ted\\_birkedal@nps.gov](mailto:ted_birkedal@nps.gov). Following a holiday break classes resume on **January 8**.

### Rosemaling Classes

The word rosemaling is used to describe a form of decorative flower painting that originated in Norway in the 1700s. Starting January rosemaling classes with Anna Decker will meet twice a month rather than weekly. **The class dates for January are the 10th and 24th, 7-9 p.m.** Classes are open to all experience levels and new individuals are always welcome to attend. Contact Anna at 694-2051 for more information.

## Tromsø Rated Top Cruise Destination by Frommer's

**Bestselling travel guide-book series, Frommer's, just rated Tromsø as the top cruise destination for 2012.**

What makes Tromsø such a popular cruise stop? Guide-book author of "Frommer's Norway," Roger Norum, calls Northern Norway a "winter (and fall, and summer, and spring) wonderland." Norum also points out that wildlife is abundant in the coastal area, with cliffs full of nesting puffins, kittiwakes and cormorants. Tromsø is also one of the best locations for viewing stunning light phenomena. "Winters in Tromsø see the magical blue season, when an iridescent cobalt blue hue engulfs everything; summers offer 24 hours of midnight sun. The remaining seasons

are ideal for experiencing the Northern lights: scientists have determined this year will offer the best conditions in half a century for viewing these stunning natural phenomena," said Norum.

For more on Tromsø (pg. 5 quiz answer), visit [www.visitromso.no/en/](http://www.visitromso.no/en/) or to check out many other great Nordic destinations, visit [www.frommers.com/destinations/norway/](http://www.frommers.com/destinations/norway/).



## Sunshine Report



Greetings are sent to the following members celebrating a birthday in January who are at least 75 years young.

"Happy Birthday"  
"Gratulerer med dagen!"

- John L. Hall**
- Charles A. Brodahl**
- Betty I. Rockne**
- Evelyn C. Rush**
- Shirley A. Moe**
- Alfred S. Augestad**
- Melvin R. Aarseth**

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine, please call Cindy McDowell 696-0725 (cell-862-1143) or email at [ccmcd38@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmcd38@hotmail.com).

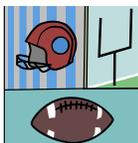
**Lutefisk for Sale**  
Frozen - 2, 3, 4 & 5 Pound Packages - \$9 per lb.  
**Lefse for Sale**  
Package of 1-dozen - \$20

## Sons of Norway Scholarship Fund Super Bowl Raffle

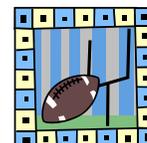
The Raffle will again have 20 winners with a top prize of \$1,000. Only 300 tickets are sold with tickets selling for \$25 each or a special deal of 5-for-\$100. The Super Bowl XLVI game will be shown on a six-foot screen at Viking Hall on February 5, 2012.

To purchase a ticket contact—John Olnes (562-2794), Sandra Hanson (243-2132), Wayne Johnson 248-3030 or Jane Moe (274-1357).

Tickets can also be purchased at the Viking Hall office or at Lodge events.



## Sons of Norway SUPER BOWL PARTY @ Viking Hall



**Watch the Game on Big Screen TV  
Sunday, February 5th**

**Doors open early for Pregame Show  
Super Bowl Game Starts @ 2pm**

**Raffle Drawing Held During Game  
Only 300 Tickets Sold - 20 Winners!**

**Top Prize of \$1,000!!**

**Come and Enjoy Lapskaus Stew, Snacks,  
Liquid Refreshment & Good Company**

No Event Charge for Ticket Holders



Sons of Norway  
8141 Briarwood St.  
Anchorage, AK 99518

907-349-1613

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**Saturday, December 31 - New Year's Eve Party**

**January Events**

<b>5 Thursday</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Full Board Meeting, all welcome</b>
<b>10 Tuesday</b>	<b>7-9 pm</b>	<b>Rosemaling with Anna Decker</b>
<b>12 Thursday</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Installation of Officers Dessert Reception</b>
<b>19 Thursday</b>	<b>11:30-1:30</b>	<b>Kaffeslabberas, pg. 4</b>
<b>24 Tuesday</b>	<b>7-9 pm</b>	<b>Rosemaling with Anna Decker</b>
<b>28 Saturday</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Scandinavian Mystery Night, pg. 2</b>

**Weekly Events**

<b>Sundays</b>	<b>5:30-6:30 pm</b>	<b>Beginning Norwegian Language and Culture</b>
	<b>7-8 pm</b>	<b>Advanced Norwegian Language and Culture</b>

**Sunday, February 5 - Super Bowl Party**

**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 the 15<sup>th</sup>  
to [sonancak@gmail.com](mailto:sonancak@gmail.com) or call Cynthia at 562-2794 with questions*