



**VIKING HALL 349-1613**  
**www.sofnalaska.com**

**Summer**  
**2019**  
**sommer**



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Membership News**  
Page 2
- Sunshine Report**  
Page 2
- Consul's Corner**  
Page 3
- Ditt og Datt**  
Page 3
- Syttende Mai!**  
Pages 4, 5
- Mother's Day**  
Pages 6, 7

**LIKHETER**

Likheter – that’s Norwegian for “similarities”. And now that summer seems to have finally arrived here in Alaska, I can think of many similarities between our life here and what goes on over there in Norway. Top of my mind is the fact that in summer we love to get outside and explore the natural beauty that surrounds us. We love to hike, boat, fish and partake in all sorts of activities so long as we can spend time outside while we have great weather and lots of sunlight. There is a reason why we do not hold events during the summer months as no one wants to be inside cooking when we have such little precious time to get outside and enjoy our brief summer.



Our only scheduled event in July is the 4th of July parade, so be on the lookout for more info in the eBlast as to where to meet and at what time. We plan again to walk with the Bridge Builders community of nations downtown around the parkstrip, so consider joining in for a bit of fun waving to the crowds. We will reconvene at the end of the summer for our Fish Boil on August 18th. And this year is a very special Fish Boil as we will also be celebrating our lodge’s 75th anniversary! Our lodge was founded in August 1944 and we plan to celebrate the occasion with a bit of added fun, including some special dignitaries along with a special feature from one of our local breweries. Again, stay tuned with our eBlast news for further details.

Norway, like Alaska, is also a major tourism destination with thousands upon thousands of folks descending on our small corners of the world to take in the extraordinary landscapes that we call home. As a result, a lot of Norwegians (and Alaskans) retreat to their waterside or mountain cabins in the summer to both enjoy the time outside and also to escape the crowd of tourists that suddenly invade our hometown! That being said, we understand how important tourism is and we love to share this special place with others, so we also welcome our summer visitors heartily.

I am personally looking forward to my own outdoor adventures this summer, including a road-trip to America’s largest national park, the Wrangell-St. Elias N.P. where I will visit the Kennicott copper mine near McCarthy. And yet another similarity with Norway where mining was also a prominent industry in towns like Kongsberger and Roros which are popular tourist destinations in Norway today. I expect I might find a Norwegian name or two when going through the mine history as we know that many of the miners came from Europe to seek their fortunes.

In closing, I would like to congratulate our three scholarship winners this year, Christie, Ben and Jessica and wish them well on their further life experiences. Christie and Ben are both headed to Norway, and you never know what could happen when you leave... Case in point, members Tara and Soren Orley’s daughter Andrea was a recipient of scholarship funds several years ago and not only did she go to Stavanger Norway to study, she ended up staying there, getting married and is now enjoying life with her husband and son Henrik - photo is of the three of them celebrating 17th of May in Bergen.

Enjoy the brief and wonderful summer days and get outside like every good Norwegian does in summertime! See you all again soon at the 75th Anniversary Fish Boil!

*Fraternally yours, Tom Falskow*  
*President, Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge*



# SUNSHINE REPORT



## JUNE • JULY • AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

*Greetings are sent to our members celebrating a birthday who are at least 75 years young!*

### JUNE

Colleen Markley Rutledge

Martha L. Andrew

John T. Jensen

Wayne C. Johnson

H. Lee Pederson

Sandra L. Johnson

Sigrun C. Robertson

Andrew L. Monsen

Denis M. Allen



### JULY

Marvin B. Olson

Marilyn L. Freitag

Monte K. Weaver

Shirley Marie Luedke

Pauline Schallock

Shirley Jean Iverson

Alice L. Sears

Caroline K. Saur

Marilyn B. Lee

Sigrid S. Bryant

### AUGUST

Steinar R. Hansen

Margaret Benson

Nicholas M. Derenoff

Sigurd M Langnes

Donald O. Saur

Diane Thomas

Pia Pirkko Meyer

Diane R. Pederson

Kathryn A. Morgenthaler

Diann K. Sewald

*“Happy Birthday!”*

*“Gratulerer med dagen!”*

*If you know someone who needs a little sunshine*

Call **696-0725 (cell - 862-1143)**

or email Cindy McDowell:

[ccmcd38@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmcd38@hotmail.com)

## ==== MEMBERSHIP NEWS! ====

Membership in Sons of Norway is about

### *ENRICHMENT*

Since the beginning, Sons of Norway has maintained its dedication to the personal and financial well-being of its members.

More than a century later, that devotion remains at the heart of the organization and fuels a collective passion for personal and cultural enrichment.

### *Welcome to our New Members*

Amy Anderson

Cheryle James

Kathy Strandlie

Nicole Swenson

William Michael Stanton

Destin Greeley

Happy Anderson

Matthew North Courtice

Northcutt Jovanni Garcia

Jamey Garcia Courtice

Margie and Eric Hall

*We are 356 Strong!*

*A BIG Thank You to current members for paying your dues!*

Find out what is happening in our lodge

You can see our *Flyer* in "full color" on our Website:

<http://www.sofnalaska.com>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BerntBalchen](http://www.facebook.com/BerntBalchen)

Instagram: [@sonsofnorwayanchorage](https://www.instagram.com/sonsofnorwayanchorage)



# Consul's Corner

Information and Opportunities for Norwegian Alaskans



## Norwegian Consulate's New Location

The Norwegian Consulate has moved to a new location. The new location is 737 5th Avenue, Suite 210, Anchorage, AK 99501, between Glacier Brewhouse and Orso.

## Norwegian Citizens can vote in Alaska

If you are a Norwegian Citizen residing in Alaska or passing through on vacation and are interested in voting, please contact me. The Norwegian consular office receives ballots for elections in Norway and I currently have ballots for the upcoming municipal and county council elections. Ballots may be cast between 1 July and 30 August.



## Job Opportunity in Oslo

The U.S. Embassy in Oslo, Norway is hiring! They are looking for a Commercial Specialist to be part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Responsibilities include organizing and administering U.S. Department of Commerce programs to facilitate the marketing and export of U.S. products and services. Ability to read and write in Norwegian is required. Applications are due on 7/10/2019. For more information and to apply for this or other U.S. Department of State jobs, go to the U.S. Department of State website at [www.state.gov/job-seekers](http://www.state.gov/job-seekers).

Lise Kristiansen Falskow • Royal Norwegian Honorary Consul, Alaska • Telephone: +1 (907) 440-5473

## DITT og DATT!

### Host Family Needed

AFS International Programs is looking for a host family for 16 year old Tale from Norway for a year. Tale is from a big family; she's the youngest of four siblings. Her friends describe her as kind, outgoing, and funny. She's responsible, too, and after she had to take a break from her favorite hobby, cheerleading, she started coaching gymnastics. She's thrilled to have the adventure of living in the United States, getting to know her hosts, and improving her English!

If you are interested in hosting Tale please contact Sara Huff at [shuff@afsusa.org](mailto:shuff@afsusa.org) or 1.800.AFS.INFO



### Independence Day!



Bernt Balchen Lodge will be joining Bridge Builders for the annual parade in Anchorage.

Let's meet at 10:00 am by the Conoco Building - 700 G Street and 8th Avenue.

Wear Nordic attire if you have it and bring an American flag to wave and to celebrate that we are proud to be Americans!

### Our Street

Did you know that the Lodge adopted Briarwood Street?



As part of the adoption program we are responsible for at least three cleanings of the area adjacent to Briarwood Street between Abbot and E 80th during the non-snow months each year.

For the last 16 years this has been taken care of by the Moe's and they are now looking to hand off this responsibility. Do you have time to rally a group to go pick up trash 3 times over the non-snow months? You can take this on alone or as a couple or can use the eblast and The Flyer to advertise your selected dates and times and invite all members to join you. If you are interested in learning more please contact Viking Hall at 349-1613 for more information.

### Lost and Found

Do you recognize these items? If so, please call 349-1613, or drop by the lodge at 8141 Briarwood Street.



# SYTTENDE MAI!



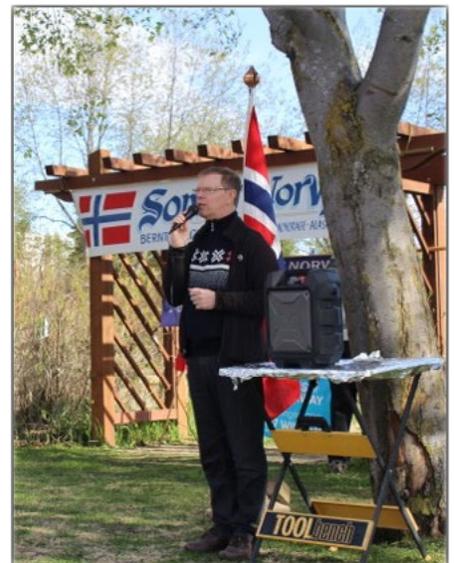
*Thanks to all who came to celebrate Norway's Constitution Day!*

*A very special thanks to all the helpers who made the parade and the lodge celebration a success.*

*Photos courtesy of Christie Ericson.*



# CELEBRATION!





# MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH



Once again past presidents were well represented in the group helping with the Mother's Day Brunch – thank you Wally Smith, Steinar Hansen, Sandra Hanson and Tom Falskow. Some of you may not know that current lodge president, Tom Falskow, also held the position 2006-2007. This year Ed Swearingen was out of town, however his daughter-in-law Christin stepped in and did a wonderful job preparing the fruit cups. Ed's son Karlin kept up the tradition of preparing and cooking Walter Kjera's pancake recipe.

A huge thank you goes out to our young members who helped with greeting and serving – Jessica and Leo Zimmer, Ben and Alice Michaelson, and Henry Pausback.

The assistance of lodge youth is key to the success of this event and I am pleased that each year several step forward to help. If your child or grandchild is interested in helping next year please let us know. The servers typically work one or two hour shifts.

There was a good turnout for the event and those attending enjoyed time with family, the cheery atmosphere, and a traditional breakfast that continues to include the pancake and syrup recipes of Walter and Nuna Kjera.

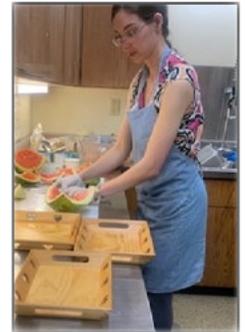
Tusen takk to all the others that were part of putting on this event –Tina Watts, Beverly Smith, Randy Arduser, Sandra Johnson, Cynthia Olnes, David Michaelson and Amanda Saxton – and to everyone who attended.

*John Olnes, Event chair*





# MOTHER'S DAY MEMORIES



*Photos courtesy of Amanda Saxton*



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

Non-Profit Organization  
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 Anchorage, Alaska  
 PERMIT 505

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.

*Please consider  
 helping those  
 who are less  
 fortunate.*



## EVENTS FOR SUMMER

### July 4th Parade

**Thursday, July 4th at 10:00 am**

### DOWNTOWN

(Contact Merlin Hamre for more information)

### 75th

### Anniversary Celebration at the Fish Boil

(Organization Date of Lodge - 8/11/44)

**Sunday, August 18th at 4:00 pm**

(Contact Merlin Hamre for more information)

### Unity Gala - Bridge Builders

**Saturday, August 24 from 5:30 to 9:30 pm**

**Hotel Captain Cook**

## EARLY WARNING



Anchorage Sister Cities are  
 hosting a combined celebration to  
 commemorate 50 years with both  
 Tromsø, Norway and Chitose, Japan.



This event will be held at the University of Alaska,  
 Anchorage on October 19th from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Stay tuned for more details and think about  
 how *you* may be able to help!

*Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956,  
 Sister Cities International is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3)  
 nonprofit which serves as the national membership  
 organization for individual sister cities, counties, and  
 states across the United States.*

Did you know you can view  
*The Flyer* in living color?

<http://www.sofnalaska.com/newsletter>

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

Please send articles or event information  
 for the next Newsletter by August 20th to:

[sonacak@gmail.com](mailto:sonacak@gmail.com) Attention - Ruth Subject Line - The Flyer