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November/December

WINTER

2025

VINTER

november/desember

Greetings Lodge Members

Hope you're ready for some delicious lutefisk! We've ordered 200 pounds for the lutefisk, lefse and meatball dinner. The lutefisk we dine on is quality, fresh cod caught in Alaska, salted and dried in Washington, and then shipped back to us! Get your reservations in early since this dinner frequently sells out.

Congratulations to Alice Haugen, this year's Lucia. Alice has been participating in the Lucia program since she was 4 years old. The Lucia Family Christmas Party is a popular event celebrating our Scandinavian heritage with a program, singing around the Christmas tree, and enjoying authentic Scandinavian rice pudding, open-faced sandwiches, and cookies.



Another fabulous faar-i-kaal dinner with special thanks to Chairs Lloyd & Anita Persson!

And this is the month we elect the slate of officers for 2026. I've thoroughly enjoyed my five years as president. It's been a real pleasure working with a great group of officers and committee chairs dedicated to keeping our lodge well run. Please come, show your support and vote at the November member meeting.

As you can see there's lots happening at your lodge and the more you help out the more we can all accomplish together. And we will have fun doing it!

More information on all events can be found in this newsletter with reminders sent via eBlasts or found on Facebook.



Tusen takk Dave Haugen (grandfather to this year's Lucia Alice) for donating his beautiful print of the 1825 Restauration ship. It now hangs in the entryway of Viking Hall for all to enjoy!

Fraternally yours,

*Linda Bustamante, President
Sons of Norway, Bernt Balchen Lodge*

LUTEFISK AND MEATBALL DINNER - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

The 3:00 - 5:00 pm seating is SOLD OUT and there only a few left for the 6:00 - 8:00 pm Seating

Leave a message at 907-349-1613, or email sonancak@gmail.com for Reservations



This hearty dinner will feature top quality lutefisk made fresh in Poulsbo, Washington, as well as gourmet meatballs – hand-rolled here at Viking Hall by our Master Meatball Chefs! Of course, no nordic dinner would be complete without our legendary Sons of Norway potato lefse, freshly rolled and baked just for this event! Valley-grown potatoes and carrots, cranberry sauce, and all the extras you expect from this fall-harvest feast will be also provided.

Dinner Prices: Adults \$35 Ages 12-16 \$15 Ages 5-11 \$5 Ages 4 and under are free Tusen Takkl!

VIKING HALL 907-349-1613 8141 Briarwood Street • Anchorage, AK 99518



Website: <https://www.sofnalaska.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BerntBalchen

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

Sons of Norway International: <https://www.sofn.com>

Submit Articles:

newsletter@sofnalaska.com Attn: The Flyer

**Submission deadline for our
January/February 2026 issue is December 15th**

CLASSIFIEDS FOR VIKINGS



AD SIZE:
2 x 3.5 inches
(business card size)
\$10.00 per issue.

Email a scan or digital image of your business card; or contact the Flyer Editor to discuss other options to:
kvern66@gmail.com

Attention:
Classifieds for Vikings

**AFFORDABLE
MEDICAL COVERAGE**

Individual or Business
HealthShare or
ERISA programs
HealthShare or ERISA programs
lower cost than COBRA



Lower cost than COBRA

www.kincaidconsult.net

email:
CL-Kitty.Kincaid@outlook.com
CL-Kitty.Kincaid@outlook.com

*"Gratulerer
med dagen!"*



*"Happy
Birthday!"*

SUNSHINE REPORT

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

NOVEMBER

Dawn Gillette
Glenn R Soby
Gale A Olson

Orvetta Rae Elde
Dale A Finlay
Boyd R Berg
Elaine A Wilson

Birte Eliassen
Roger K Hansen
Ralph V Bagley

DECEMBER

Eva Bilet is 100!
John L Barstad
Wallace A Smith

Anstice M Tibor
Carl J Pearson

*If you know someone who needs a little sunshine
Contact Anna Bryant at: anna_bryant@hotmail.com*

NEW MEMBERS 2025 - WELCOME!

Nora Dennison
Adeline Berry
Nora Rodvik
Marley Mace
Kirsten Robertson
Christopher Calvert
Karen Caindec
Keola Caindec
Kjell Risung
Susan Murto
Joseph J Pace
Claudia A Pace
Kathleen Gustavison
Robert Herrett

Hurra! Hurra! Hurra!



SUPER BOWL RAFFLE 2026 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER



The Super Bowl Raffle is the primary source of funds for the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge No. 2-046 Language/ Heritage/Higher Education Scholarships. In May 2025 one scholarship was awarded to Sevrin Persson, for Higher Education. Details on how to apply for either of these scholarships will be in the lodge newsletter coming out in January 2026.

The Raffle will again have 20 winners with a top prize of \$1,000. Only 300 tickets are sold so the chance to win is very generous, one in fifteen. Tickets are selling for \$25 each or a special deal of 5-for-\$100. The drawing will be held at the Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 8, 2026, during the airing of Super Bowl LX (need not be present to win).

Raffle tickets will be available at upcoming Lodge events and through the office (leave a phone message at 907-349-1613 or email sonancak@gmail.com). **Give us a call or send an email and we will arrange getting tickets to you.**

Finally, the raffle committee is hopeful lodge members will assist with ticket sales. Please contact the office or speak to a long time raffle committee member (John, Jane, Sandra or Wayne) during an event if you can help out. Thank you!

JOIN OUR BOARD IN 2026!

If you are interested in any of the positions below let us know!
Many on this list would be happy to give someone else a chance to serve, and bring fresh ideas to our lodge!

SLATE OF OFFICERS

2026 Officers & Committee Chairs

President
Amanda Saxton

Vice President
Vacant

Secretary
Anita Persson

Treasurer
Cynthia Olnes

Counselor
John Olnes

Membership Secretary
Vacant

Cultural Director
Christie Ericson

Foundation Director
Linda Bustamante

Sports Director
Martin Hansen

Trustee (3-year)
John Olnes

Trustee (2-year)
Marit Kristiansen

Trustee (1-year)
Jacob Mathiesen

Auditor
Patrick McCormick

Auditor
Lloyd Persson

Librarian
Christie Ericson

Newsletter Editor
Ruth Kvernplassen

Sunshine Chair
Anna Bryant

If you can't serve on the board, consider helping out in other ways.

Directors are often looking for ideas and assistance for activities and events. You can be a Super Volunteer!



SONS of NORWAY

Scholarships

Please follow the Link below to learn about all the scholarships that Sons of Norway International has to offer!

Some of these may have an early 2026 Deadline so don't delay!

www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/

Dynamic District Two Scholarships

Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska
Bernt Balchen Lodge is part of District 2,
Sons of Norway

Follow the link to see what's up!

www.sonsofnorway2.com/scholarships/

SOFIE/OLSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Deadline to apply: April 15, 2026

CARL M SALTVEIT
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Deadline to apply: February 15, 2026

CULTURAL CORNER

Tusen takk to Gayle Mathiesen and Amanda Saxton for organizing a Rosemaling Workshop with instructor Marilyn Hansen, October 3-5, 2025.

The three-day workshop was taught by professional rosemaler, Marilyn Hansen, from Bellevue, Washington. Marilyn is a member of the Western Rosemalers Association and teaches frequent classes throughout the Pacific Northwest. Her work has been exhibited in museums and private collections worldwide. Marilyn also happens to be a cousin of Gayle's mom, so we were glad to welcome her to our lodge!

16 students of all skill levels participated in the three full days of instruction. We learned how to make the basic C and S strokes that are the foundation of rosemaling, practiced brush control and techniques, mixed color palettes, practiced transferring and painting a design on cardboard, and eventually completed a handcrafted 8" wooden plate as our final painted class project. Some of us were skeptical about being able to complete the end product in time, but Marilyn calmly and expertly walked us successfully through the process.

We'd like to express our deep appreciation to Marilyn and also to all of the students who brought food and snacks throughout the workshop. It was an inspiring weekend and many attendees look forward to continuing their rosemaling journey through Amanda's rosemaling classes. If you're interested in learning rosemaling, join us at Viking Hall on the 2nd & 4 Wednesdays of the month from 7-9 pm.

Christie Ericson, Cultural Director



Marilyn with her art at one the District 2 Lodges in Washington State.
Anita Persson Photo



A special Tusen Takk to Joe for the music during the lunch break!



Photos provided by Christie Ericson unless otherwise noted.

FRA BIBLIOTEKET



Tusen takk to everyone who has donated books to the Bernt Balchen Lodge Viking Library! We've recently received several large book donations from generous members and are working on getting those added to our catalog. You can browse or search the catalog online to see what titles we have:

<https://www.librarything.com/catalog/VikingLibrary>

Although we weren't able to hold our annual used book sale at the Nordic Market this year, we made up for it by holding a sale during the Får-i-kål Dinner. Thank you to everyone who purchased books or made donations to help support the Library!

Library Hours

Great news! The Library will now be open the same nights as our Strikkekafé and Rosemaling groups – the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month, from 7-9pm. (Check calendar for holiday closures: <https://www.sofnalaska.com/calendar/>) The Library is also generally open during lodge events or by appointment. Lodge members are welcome to check out Library materials.

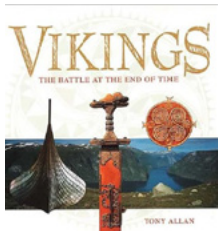
Book Donations

We are still taking donations of new or gently-used books. Any donations that we can't use will be sold in our book sale at the annual Nordic Market, with the funds raised going to purchase more books for the library. You can also donate trade credit to the Lodge Library at Title Wave—just tell them you would like the credit to go to "Sons of Norway."

Contact Librarian Christie Ericson at 602-0673 or christieak@gmail.com for further information.

Recently Added Titles

For those interested in Vikings, we've received quite a few new titles, including the following:

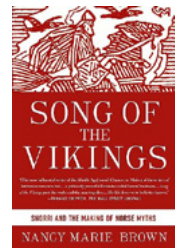


Vikings: The Battle at the End of Time by Tony Allan (2019)

A richly illustrated introduction to the Viking culture—a civilization with a vivid mythology of gods, dwarves and magic, as well as a heritage of brilliant craftsmanship.

Song of the Vikings: Snorri and the making of Norse myths by Nancy Marie Brown (2014)

A biography of the 13th century Icelandic writer and chieftain who wrote the immortal stories of Thor, Odin, Valhalla, and Ragnarök.



And to get you in the mood for the upcoming Lutefisk Dinner, we've received several new humorous titles about everyone's favorite fish! So, if you need some new lutefisk toasts or jokes, be sure to check these out!



The Lutefisk Handbook: A Humorous Look at the World's Most Misunderstood Fish by David Jones and Norman Hildrum

The Last Toast to Lutefisk! 102 Toasts, Tidbits, and Trifles for Your Next Lutefisk Dinner by Gary Legwold (1999)

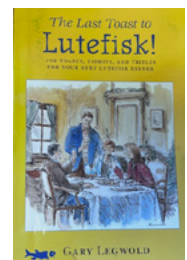
To folks who kinda like lutefisk:

Our house is kinda simple

Our table kinda plain.

This fish is kinda kooky

Our guests are kinda sane. (*From The Last Toast to Lutefisk*)



Upcoming Friluftsliv Events

Winter 2025

Come for fresh air and good company, and explore the outdoors in Anchorage and beyond. Held rain, snow or shine. There is never bad weather, just bad gear. Keep your eye on Social Media and eblasts for reminders and more details. Brought to you by your adventure loving Friluftsliv Committee:

Annette Iverson, Heidi Hill, Martin Hansen and Marti Pausback

NEW Way to CONTACT us: Please RSVP to anchorage.friluftsliv@gmail.com



Sunday November 16

**Winter Wool Walk
Prospect Heights
2:00 - 4:00 pm**



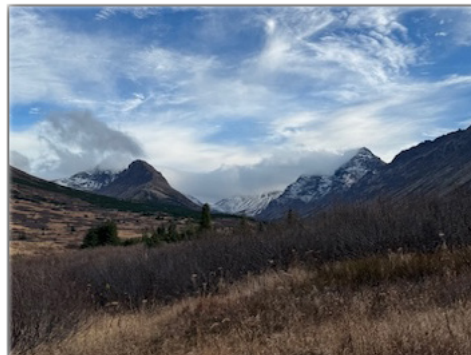
Sunday December 7

**Dark twinkle light
Walk Abbott Loop
Community Park
4:00 - 6:00 pm**

Berry Good - Arctic Valley



Wildlife Walk - Glen Alps



LUCIA FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025



Alice Haugen, 12, is thrilled to be this year's Saint Lucia!

Alice has participated in the St. Lucia program since she was 4 years old. She is a 7th grader at Northern Pacific Academy, where she excels at school and leadership opportunities. Alice is also an accomplished ballerina, dancing since she was 4 years old. She has performed with the Eugene Ballet's production of The Nutcracker Ballet for three years, this year as a party child.

Alice loves spending time with her family and friends; her rabbit, Ducky, participating in skiing, soccer, and art, and learning more about her Norwegian heritage and culture.



PRACTICE SCHEDULE: 1st Practice November 23, 2:30 pm 2nd Practice December 7, 2:30 pm

LUCIA FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY December 14th - 3:00 - 6:00!

Adults - \$15 Child (5 to 17 years) - \$5 Family Household Maximum - \$35

Space is limited, please RSVP

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. 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.

At our program at the lodge, a procession is headed by one girl wearing a crown of candles (or lights), while others follow in the procession with girls holding a single candle and boys holding a star.

Children learn and sing Norwegian and Swedish songs, often accompanied by harp and piano. Families are treated to a talent show, singing around the Christmas tree, and enjoy 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.

STRIKKEKAFÉ

Starts up on September 10th!



To all our fellow knitters and makers out there, we are looking forward to seeing you. ***Strikkekafe is going strong!***

Strikkekafe means 'knitting cafe' and is popular all over Norway for all who enjoy handcrafts, it's not just for knitters! This is a time to gather with your projects and enjoy the company of others. It is a great way to meet other members, get inspiration, share your skills, or get a little help.

Strikkekafe meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

**Check the E-BLAST for notifications or contact:
Christie 602-0673 or Anita 301-4215.**



Norwegian Conversation Group

Saturdays from 10 - 11 am via Zoom
All levels welcome

Contact Christie Ericson to register
Christieak@gmail.com

Rosemaling Lessons

The lodge is offering a Rosemaling class the same evenings as Strikkekafe at the Lodge.

Amanda Saxton will be teaching this class.

If interested, email the lodge at sonancak@gmail.com and then Amanda will reach out with more information.





NORDIC MARKET



Gayle, Sara, Anita and Karin, the 2025 Nordic Market organizers, would like to express a big Tusen Takk to all who helped make the event such a huge success! We couldn't have done it without such a great crew.

Thank you so much to all the wonderful vendors, the bakers and cooks, the kitchen and bake sale volunteers, the silent auction donors and most of all to the Bernt Balchen Lodge and Viking Hall Board members (and their families) that work so hard all year long to keep our lodge running smoothly.

We are so proud of our lodge and love to share our culture and hospitality with the Anchorage community! We're looking forward to the 30th anniversary of our Nordic Market, formerly the Scandinavian Bazaar, next year!

Tusen Takk!



Photos provided by Anita Persson and Christie Ericson



NORDIC MARKET



Photos provided by Anita Persson and Christie Ericson



NORDIC MARKET



*Photos provided by
Anita Persson and Christie Ericson*

FAAR-I-KAAL



Photos provided by Anita Persson and Christie Ericson