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The Flyer
SONS OF NORWAY
BERNT BALCHEN LODGE #2-46
ANCHORAGE ALASKA

November / Desember WINTER 2026 VINTER november / desember

Greetings Lodge Members

You, our members, have created a vibrant lodge.

This is the time of year to contact Linda Bustamante about our National scholarship opportunities.*

Our library is curated by Christie Ericson and is open during our dinner events! Christie and Anita host the very popular Strikkekafe on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. And, our Frulitsliv activities arranged by Marti Pausbak have included bird watching, mushroom picking, and hikes. Martin Hansen has done many bike workshops in the spring and helps to run the Wooden Classic Ski Race (that actually takes place in about February each year).

I feel a lot of gratitude for members serving on Bernt Balchen Lodge's board and committees and also for our members. Let us know your ideas and insights!

And remember, we are always looking for members to join our Sons of Norway Lodge 2-46 Board. It is a fun group who create meaningful events. We offer training and more!

This is the time of year for dinners such as Faar-i-kaal and Lutefisk (...and those tasty meatballs too!) and we look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Sincerely and Fraternally yours,
Amanda Catherine Saxton, President
Sons of Norway, Bernt Balchen Lodge

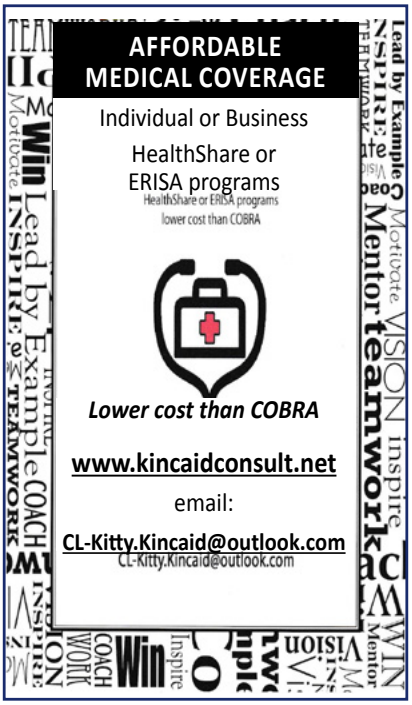
***See more information regarding upcoming scholarships; and a message from last years recipient. Pages 4,5**

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



MEET OUR 2027 BOARD!

If you are interested in the vacant positions below - in RED - let us know!

2027 Officers & Committee Chairs

SONS OF NORWAY OFFICERS

President
Amanda Saxton

Vice President - *Vacant*
Substitutes for or represents president upon request. Chairs membership committee

Secretary
Anita Persson

Treasurer
Cynthia Olnes

Counselor
John Olnes

Membership Secretary - *Vacant*
Handles all membership applications and records

Cultural Director
Christie Ericson

Foundation Director
Linda Bustamante

Sports Director
Martin Hansen

Trustee (3-year)
Marit Kristiansen

Trustee (2-year)
Jacob Mathiesen

Trustee (1-year)
John Olnes

Auditor
Patrick McCormick

Auditor
Lloyd Persson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Librarian
Christie Ericson

Newsletter Editor
Ruth Kvernplassen

Sunshine Chair
Anna Bryant



Hygge time (enjoying each other's company and sharing a light meal) is a big part of our meetings!

Our members are always welcome.

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!

SUNSHINE REPORT

"Gratulerer med dagen!" "Happy Birthday!"

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

NOVEMBER

Ralph V Bagley	Birte Eliasen	Gale A Olson
Boyd R Berg	Dale A Finlay	Glenn R Soby
Orvetta Rae Elde	Dawn Gillette	Elaine A Wilson
	Roger K Hansen	

DECEMBER

John L Barstad	Wallace A Smith
Eva Bilet is 101!	Anstice M Tibor

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



Donations for the Silent Auction held at the Nordic Market in September are accepted YEAR ROUND.

Gently used sweaters or bunads, candle holders, linens, knitwear, artwork, Christmas decorations and rosemaling are all items that have done well in previous years.

Contact the Lodge by phone message at 907-349-1613 or by email at sonancak@gmail.com. We will arrange a time for you to either drop off your items, or we will pick them up.

Thank you for your support!

LUCIA FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY 202



Svea Kastning, 12, is honored to be this year's Saint Lucia!

Svea has attended the St. Lucia program since she was 6 months old and has participated since she was 5 years old.

Svea is a 7th grader at Winterberry Charter School. She is this year's Student Council President and a dedicated member of both the XC running team and XC ski team at her school. She also skis for the APU Nordic Ski Center Devo program, enjoys cyclocross bike racing, mountain running and soccer.

When Svea is not busy with school or sports, you can find her baking fancy cakes and cookies or saying "yes" to all babysitting or pet-sitting opportunities.

Svea is the middle sister to Sylvie and Signe and daughter of Andrew and Calisa Kastning.

PRACTICE SCHEDULE

1st Practice **Sunday, November 22, 2:30 pm**

2nd Practice **Sunday, December 6, 2:30 pm**

LUCIA FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 13th - 3:00 - 6:00 pm!

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

Space is limited, please RSVP

Contact the Lodge by phone message at 907-349-1613 or by email at sonancak@gmail.com.



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.

SONS OF NORWAY SCHOLARSHIPS

Foundation Scholarships

The Sons of Norway Foundation awards scholarships to promising students each year. These scholarship funds support education to help students prepare for their career and journey in life. They also help bring our Foundation mission to fruition by promoting cultural exchanges and the importance of lifelong learning.

Sons of Norway Foundation Scholarship application season is October 1–January 15.

Scholarships are awarded in late Spring for the next academic year.

Follow link for information on all of the scholarships, applications and guidelines.

www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/

Dynamic District Two Scholarships

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

Follow the link for more information

www.sonsofnorway2.com/scholarships/

SOFIE/OLSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Deadline to apply: April 15, 2027

CARL M SALTVEIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Deadline to apply: February 15, 2027

SONS of NORWAY



STRIKKEKAFÉ

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

Strikkekafé means 'knitting café' 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.

Strikkekafé 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: 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 (every other Wednesday).

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.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



Thank you to Bernt Balchen lodge for awarding me the scholarship money to allow me to go on the incredible adventure in Norway.

As a child I enjoyed participating in the Lucia celebrations and going to the Nordic Market. My grandmother, brother and I landed in Oslo where we were able to experience the City, go to the famous harbor and learn about crucial history at the resistance museum. After a few days in Oslo I said goodbye to my Grandmother and younger brother Rory to leave on a bus to Norgesskolen. (Located in the Telemark region in the small town of Gvarv.)

At Norgesskolen we learned about the language and culture during the day from around Nine o'clock to Two. In the afternoon we would have activities like going to a creek nearby or playing capture the flag. Once, the school day was shortened and they would take a specific age group to go on a hike to a local lake where we would swim and sunbathe. Near the end of camp we took a bus ride to the bottom of a mountain called Gaustatoppen; we hiked to the top and we took lots of photos. It was one of the most amazing views I have ever seen. (On a clear day you see 1/6th of Norway.)

Norgesskolen is a spectacular experience for children ranging all the way from middle school to the end of senior year. It is a great way to learn about Norwegian culture and the language while also making friends.

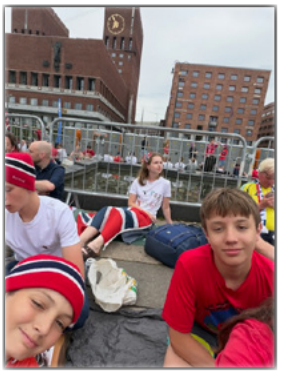
Tusen Takk, SidBjorn Kvernplassen

Bernt Balchen Lodge Scholarship Committee awarded the Language and Heritage Scholarship to SidBjorn on May 17, 2026. Bernt Balchen Lodge has two scholarships: Language and Heritage; and Higher Education.

To learn more, watch for information in upcoming issues of The Flyer.











Upcoming Friluftsliv Events

Vinter (Winter) 2026

Meet us for fresh air, good company and exploring the outdoors in Anchorage! Friluftsliv means "open-air living", and reflects the Norwegian value of spending time outdoors. Sons of Norway Friluftsliv events are held in rain, snow, and sunshine. There is never bad weather, just bad gear!

Keep your eye on lodge social media and eblasts for reminders and more details.

Events brought to you by your adventure-loving Friluftsliv Committee: Annette Iverson, Heidi Hill, Martin Hansen, Marti Pausback.

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



NOVEMBER

What: Welcome Winter Wool Walk

Where: Prospect Heights trailhead

When: **Please Note:**

This event has been rescheduled to Sunday November 29 2:00-4:00 pm

Wear your favorite Norwegian sweater!



DECEMBER

What: Dark Twinkle Light Caroling Walk

Where: Abbott Loop Community Park

When: Sunday December 20

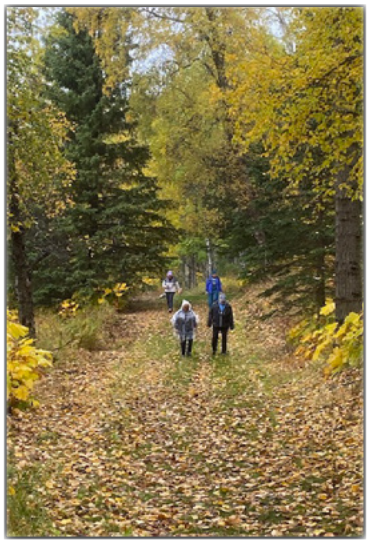
4:00-6:00 pm (note the later time)

Fun Photos From Our Adventures

September Friluftsliv Leaf Peeping







October Friluftsliv Campbell Creek Estuary







Photos courtesy of Friluftsliv Committee

NORDIC MARKET PHOTOS 2026 - YOUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS







Sara Bryan, Anita Persson and Karin Wanamaker, your hard-working Nordic Market Chairs!























All Nordic Market Photos on pages 7, 8, 9, 10 courtesy of Anita Persson

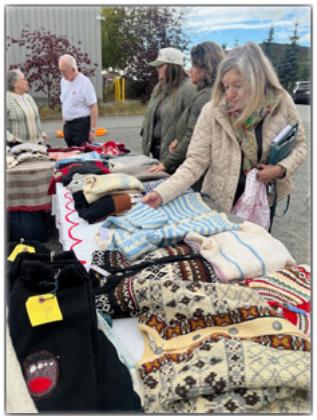




NORDIC MARKET PHOTOS 2026 - VENDORS

































NORDIC MARKET PHOTOS 2026 - VENDORS





















NORDIC MARKET PHOTOS 2026 - FOLKS


















FAAR-I-KAAL















Faar-i-kaal Photos courtesy of Ruth Kvernplassen and Anita Persson

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - WALKING SAINT OLAVSLEDIN



Tusen Takk to Diane Moxness for her presentation of a trip taken with Mike, her husband, on the historic Swedish and Norwegian pilgrimage route that follows the journey of Saint Olav.

Diane Moxness shared her experience of walking a portion of St. Olavsleden, the historic Swedish-Norwegian pilgrimage route that follows the journey of St. Olav.

In 1030, after years in exile, St. Olav Haraldsson landed in Selånger, Sweden, and led his army westward to Norway to spread Christianity and reclaim the royal crown.

Last fall, Diane and her husband, Mike, followed in St. Olav's footsteps, walking the first 160 miles of this 360-mile pilgrimage. Members thoroughly enjoyed her presentation, given on October 8th.

This ancient coast-to-coast route across Sweden and Norway culminated at Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim.



For more information on St. Olav's Way:

Pilgrim Center Website

https://pilegrimsleden.no/en/

Facebook Group

"Hiking along St. Olavsleden"

Nordic Pilgrim

Assists with arrangements

www.nordicpilgrim.com/

LUTEFISK (*AND THOSE TASTY MEATBALLS*) PREPARATION















Photos courtesy of the various Lutefisk Prep Gang



