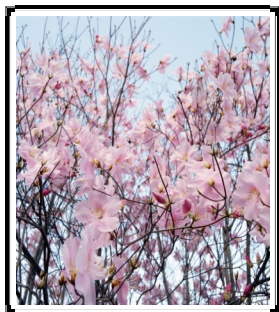


VIKING HALL 349-1613
www.sofnalaska.com

**May
2012
mai**



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Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge President's Message

What a treat it has been to have such sunny days and mild temperatures. Now if the snow would only go away.....!

Lots of comments came to me that those of you who attended the Norwegian Fish Dinner were very pleased with that wonderful meal. Merlin and his crew of helpers did an awesome job! Those of you who did not attend will want to indulge yourselves if he's willing to repeat it next year.

My thanks to John Olnes for volunteering to chair the May 17th Parade on the Park Strip. That

event has been popular for many years but doesn't happen by itself. Past chairs Dan Lien and Terri Gryting have moved to the Lucia Committee.

We have the Mother's Day Brunch and the Syttende Mai Celebration at the lodge this month as well. Lots of volunteer opportunities for all of us. If you haven't helped at an event, call the chair or the Viking Hall office if you are interested. It's a great way to learn more about our lodge and its members.

The District 2 Convention is May 23-26. Our five lodge delegates will attend as will Marit Kristiansen

(International VP) and me (Dist 2 Secretary). Convention goers will have the pleasure of another Alaska Hospitality Room put on by all 6 Alaska lodges attending, complete with Alaska foods and music (Marit). They love us!!!

As we head into the summer months, don't forget the Father's Day Picnic in June, our Kids Camp in July and the Fish Boil in August. These events won't interfere with your fishing too much and provide opportunity to meet and chat with fellow lodge members during those summer months.

Fraternally,
Mickey



Mother's Day Brunch at Viking Hall

Sunday, May 13th
10 am to 2 pm



The menu includes Walter's sourdough pancakes, Nuna's apple cinnamon syrup, ham, reindeer sausage, eggs, mixed fruit, juice, coffee and champagne.

Adults \$10, ages 12-16 \$6, ages 5-11 \$4, under 5ys free

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Please join us at Viking Hall
for



SYTTENDE MAI CELEBRATION

Celebrating Norway's Constitution Day

Sunday, May 20th
3:00 pm

Potluck Luncheon

*Bring your favorite side dish or dessert
and enjoy time with friends!*

Meats will be provided by the Lodge

Join us to recognize lodge members
receiving anniversary pins and 2012
scholarship recipients

Adults—\$5

Please contact Mickey Andrew to assist or
ask questions—1stuffda@gci.net / 563-8006



Syttende Mai Parade
Thursday, May 17
6pm - 8pm

Join us in celebration of Norway's
Constitution Day for a traditional
parade on May 17.

We encourage you to wear your bunads
or Norwegian sweaters and red and blue
ribbons as we carry Norwegian Flags and
the Bernt Balchen Lodge banner around
the block. We will have flags on
hand—or bring your own.

We'd all very much appreciate having
some of our lodge's talented musicians
accompany us as we march
around the block as well!

A short program of speakers will
precede the parade and hotdogs
and ice cream will follow.

We encourage all ages to share special
talents or favorite 17 Mai memories.

**We will meet under the giant flag pole on
"I" Street between 9th and 10th Avenues.**

The event will take place rain or shine!

If you would like to help, participate or have
questions contact John Olnes, 562-2794.



April Fish Dinner Norwegian Gourmet Meal a Hit!

Merlin Hamre, as lead Chair for the April
Fish Dinner, received rave reviews on his
selection of gourmet dishes for the meal.
His recipes came together in a savory and
tasty success. Also thanks to his fine crew of
assistants including Martha Andrew, Ingrid
Braastad, Beth Bysheim, Anna Decker,
Bev Griffin, Celeste Hamre and her friends,
Sandra Johnson, Cindy McDowell, and
Cynthia and John Olnes. In addition,
thanks to Chris Nelson who
helped with clean-up after a
long day at work.

Ted Birkedal



Syttende Mai Word Match

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 1. constitution | _____ | A. å feire |
| 2. ice cream | _____ | B. flagg |
| 3. parade | _____ | C. pølser |
| 4. patriotism | _____ | D. barnetog |
| 5. royal palace | _____ | E. is |
| 6. flag | _____ | F. patriotisme |
| 7. independent nation | _____ | G. grunnloven |
| 8. children's parade | _____ | H. slottet |
| 9. hot dogs | _____ | I. selvstendig nasjon |
| 10. celebrate | _____ | J. et tog |

Answers: 1.G, 2.E, 3.J, 4.F, 5.H, 6.B, 7.I, 8.D, 9.C, 10.A

Sunshine Report



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

"Happy Birthday"
"Gratulerer med dagen!"

Margaret Edwards
Reidun Hansen
Donald Hanson
Gordon Homme
Darrell Korman
Gerald Swanson

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

WELCOME

New Member!

Leif W. Haugen

Carve Your Name in Stone!

If you would like to commemorate an event in your life and "cast it in stone" an inscribed brick can be permanently placed at the base of the hall flagpoles. The inscription can be up to two lines with 20 characters (including spaces) on each line.

Each brick is \$100 with the proceeds going toward the Building Maintenance and Improvement Fund.

Contact the Viking Hall office at 349-1613 to order your brick.

Employment Opportunity at Viking Hall Tuesday-Friday, 9am-1pm

Viking Hall currently has a job opening for part time employment Tuesday-Friday, 9am-1pm (4 days per week/ 4 hours per day.) This position is available as a job share working every other week or one employee working every week. The position has a wide range of duties—from office work using a computer to cleaning the hall after events.

Computer software used in this position include QuickBooks and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Publisher and PowerPoint.) Previous experience using these software packages is not required.

Below is a brief job description covering the primary duties.

Bookkeeping - QuickBooks accounting software is used to account for Viking Hall receipts and disbursements. This includes payments to vendors, utilities, etc. as well as invoices and receipts related to hall rentals.

Hall Rentals - Respond to hall rental inquiries, arrange hall showings and process hall rental contracts.

Cleaning - Clean hall after events. This includes cleaning of the main hall, foyers, bathrooms and kitchen. Most cleaning is done during regular work hours. Occasionally back-to-back events require cleaning on weeknights or weekends. Keep the outdoor area tidy including sweeping and snow shoveling of sidewalk and steps.

Sons of Norway Lodge activities - There are a variety of duties involving Sons of Norway lodge activities. To name a couple—respond to inquiries about the Sons of Norway organization and pass along information to the appropriate lodge officer and take reservations for lodge socials.

Miscellaneous - Purchase office and janitorial supplies.

Contact Viking Hall board member John Olnes at 562-2794 if you are interested in this position or know someone else that may be.



Kaffeslabberas

May 17th

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.



Viking Hall News

Wedding bells will be ringing this summer and Viking Hall has several receptions booked. These rentals cover day-to-day expenses as well as help to build the reserve fund for future needs.

We are sorry to report Anita Persson will no longer be able to work in the office. Anita did a wonderful job and we will miss her. We are looking for a replacement (see the employment opportunity article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Thanks to Ed Swearingen, new ballasts and energy efficient bulbs are now installed

in all the upstairs and downstairs four-foot florescent fixtures. These fixtures now produce more light while using less energy. John and Cynthia Olnes assisted by cleaning the fixture parts and covers before they were reinstalled. Ed had previously replaced the light fixtures in the main hall. Ed also replaced or repaired light switches upstairs and downstairs. Next we will be looking at replacing the fixtures in the library. Ed does a wonderful job keeping our electrical system in good shape.

John Olnes recently repaired

sink drains in the kitchen and replaced the faucet and water shutoff valves in the mop closet utility sink downstairs. As expected, each job required more than one trip to the hardware store.

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

John Olnes
Viking Hall President

Surprising Discoveries at the Birthplace of Norway's Constitution

Norway's historic manor house and site of the May 17, 1814 signing of the constitution was just recently the site of a few remarkable new discoveries.



In an effort to restore *Eidsvollsbygningen* and its grounds to their original appearance for bicentennial festivities in 2014, the Norwegian government is funding an extensive NOK 361 million renovation of the site. Renovations ground to a halt in February when workers uncovered a well and beautifully laid brick floor while digging in the building's cellar. Con-

servationists and archaeologists have dated the flooring back to 1770, when the current building was constructed on the site of a home destroyed by fire.

Further digging in the cellar has also revealed an original natural stone floor, believed to belong to the previous home in 1686. Other items discovered include stone benches and shelves. "Until now, this cellar was used for storage, and this 'inner file' pops up. These discoveries offer a good picture of how life was for those working in the house during constitutional deliberations. Servants ran over these floors, in and out, with food and drink for the Eidsvoll men," said Erik Jondell, director of the organization in charge of the building.

Included in the village of Eidsvoll Verk, the area was originally part of Eidsvoll Iron

Works in the early 1600s. In approximately 1770, the iron works' current owner Carsten Anker built *Eidsvollsbygningen* to be one of the country's most modern and luxurious private residences, modeling it after French and Danish architecture. In 1823, *Eidsvollsbygningen* and Eidsvoll Verk were sold at auction. Less than 15 years later, the house was declared Norway's first national monument and eventually purchased by the state in 1851.

To learn more about *Eidsvollsbygningen* or to tour the house virtually, visit www.eidsvoll1814.no/

A digital museum of many of the house's historical items can also be viewed at <http://digitaltmuseum.no/info/owners/EM>

a little in English...



Barnetog – Children's parade

In contrast to many other countries which celebrate their national holidays with big military parades, Norway celebrates by showing off their pride and hope for the future, their children, in an important tradition called barnetog, the children's parade.

The barnetog is a Norwegian cultural institution connected to the celebration of Norway's Constitution Day, May 17th, or Syttende Mai. Every Syttende Mai all the country's children march in parades with small Norwegian flags in their hands and colorful banners proclaiming their school or class.

The barnetog tradition comes from the 1800s. At that time Norway was part of a political union with Sweden. Many Norwegians wanted Norway to become a completely independent country, and celebrating Syttende Mai became a kind of peaceful protest. In 1869 school principle Peter Qvam got the idea to start a child's parade. Qvam was a close friend of poet and national hero Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, and together they argued and agitated for the barnetog in newspapers and other forums.

The first barnetog was held on Syttende Mai in 1870. It consisted solely of boys and numbered 1200 strong. The idea soon became popular all over the country. The first girls joined the parade in 1889.

Around the country you can find local variations in how the holiday is celebrated. In Bergen, for example, the buekorps, a special type of scouting group, make their mark on the holiday. In Oslo, the children march past the Palace, where the royal family stand on the balcony and wave to them.

litt på norsk...



Barnetoget

Til forskjell fra mange andre land som feirer sin nasjonaldag med store militærparader, feirer Norge med å vise fram sin stolthet og framtidshåp, barna sine, med en viktig tradisjon som kalles barnetoget.

Barnetoget er en norsk kulturinstitusjon knytta opp mot den årlige feiringa av den norske grunnlovsdagen, 17. mai. Hver 17. mai går alle landets skolebarn i tog med små norske flagg i hendene og fargerike faner som presenterer skolen og klassen deres.

Barnetoget-tradisjonen stammer fra 1800-tallet. Da var Norge med i en union med Sverige. Mange nordmenn ville at Norge skulle bli fullstendig selvstendig, og 17. mai-feiring var derfor en type fredelig protest. I 1869 fikk rektor Peter Qvam ideen til barnetog. Qvam var en nær venn av dikter og nasjonalhelt Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, og sammen argumenterte og agiterte de for barnetog i avisspalter og andre fora.

Det første barnetoget gikk 17. mai 1870. Det var et rent guttetog som talte ca. 1 200 stykker. Ideen ble raskt populært over hele landet. De første jentene gikk i barnetog i 1889.

Rundt om i landet vil du finne lokale variasjoner. I Bergen setter buekorpsa, en spesiell type speidergruppe, sterkt preg på dagen. I Oslo går barnetoget forbi Slottet, der kongefamilien står på balkongen og vinker til dem.

WE HAVE SOME SHOES TO FILL!

Our web master, co-publicity director Robyn Birkedal Reynolds is leaving us for Portland, OR. She has a wonderful opportunity there so we have to say it's ok to leave us. And that means we need one or two of you out there to take her place in our lodge.

We have a very nice web site and want to continue it but we must have a web master for it. The bulk of the work is after the first of the year when we need the new officer list and the new calendar put on the site. Pictures may come in all year long for the web master.

As co-publicity directory, you would work with Jane Moe Newby in publicizing lodge events and in putting out the E-Blast every week or so to keep lodge

members informed of the happenings of the lodge.

We would like Robyn's replacements in place by Fall. However, the sooner those of you interested can speak up do so, please. Or, if you are not tremendously interested but will do it to help the lodge or to assuage any guilt you may have because you never volunteer for anything, please contact the Viking Hall office or me.

These are very important jobs in our lodge and if you can only help us until the New Year that would be appreciated too.

Call me!!

Mickey

1stuffda@gci.net / 563-8006



Thursday, May 3rd

**Board Meeting
7:00 pm**

Thursday, May 10th

**Program
7:00 pm**

**3rd Episode of "ET SKI-EVENTYR"
"The Ski Story"**

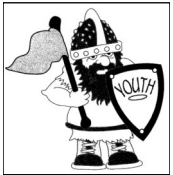
**Fun & Exciting Footage
Featuring Norwegian Ski Legends**

**Business Meeting
7:30 pm**

**Board Meeting & Business Meeting
Open to All**

KIDS CAMP

It's going to happen and I'm beginning to receive names of children who want to attend.



Mark your calendars for July 16-20, 10 am–3 pm for five days of kid-sized culture and heritage.

We still need volunteers to help with crafts (we have crafts, materials and will show you how, if need be), kitchen help for lunches and outdoor activities. A few middle schoolers might be nice to have as helpers too.

Please contact me or Viking Hall if you'd like to join the group. Give me a call at 563-8006 or email me at 1stuffda@gci.net or leave your name and phone number at Viking Hall and we will contact you.

Mickey Andrew
Camp Committee Chair



MAY 17th CELEBRATION

We will have a lodge celebration for Syttende Mai on Sunday, May 20th, at 3 pm.

It will be potluck for side dishes and desserts but the lodge will provide meat.

Please join us to recognize our lodge members and scholarship recipients. Anniversary pins will be given to 20, 25, 30 year (and on up) members as well as a few Golden Member certificates.

We had a good turnout last year; food was good, program entertaining and not long and we hope to repeat that again this year.

I can use a few volunteers to help set up, decorate and clean-up. Please contact me to let me know where you'd like to help.

Thank you!

Mickey
1stuffda@gci.net / 563-8006

Norwegian Language & Culture Classes

Isabel MacCay's Norwegian Beginners I class will end on Sunday, May 20. In fact, we have already held our last Advanced Norwegian Class.

Isabel will offer two levels of Norwegian classes next fall starting in early September (the exact date is yet to be determined.) She will teach a Beginners I class for those who have not been exposed to the language or wish to take a refresher. Also, she will offer a Beginners II for those who took Beginners I and are ready to improve their command of Norwegian. If you have not taken Beginners I, but already have some command of Norwegian you are also welcome to attend the Beginners II class.

Beginning: Sundays 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Last class prior to summer break—May 20th

The classes will be presented on Sunday, most probably in the late afternoon and early evening. We will not be offering an Advanced Norwegian class next fall.

Exact starting dates and times of day will be announced when they are known.

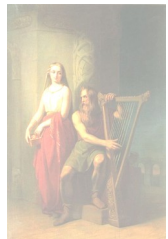
Bernt Balchen Lodge would like to thank Isabel MacCay for her popular Beginners I class this year. She has made the class a fun place to learn.

If you have any questions **please contact Ted Birkedal, Cultural Director, at 351-6095.**

Cultural Corner—Viking Love Poetry

The Vikings are often portrayed as mead-crazed savages in horned helmets. For one they did not have horns on their helmets—that is a myth created in the nineteenth century. And as I tried to point out in my piece on Egil Skallagrimson, even the toughest of the Vikings were not unthinking savages—though I cannot be sure that they did not get a little mead-crazed every now and then.

Some Vikings even composed love poetry. One of the more famous of these poets was Bjorn Arnebrandsson, an Icelander who once served as a member of the elite band of Jomsvikings and fought under Styrbjorn the Strong in Sweden. Unfortunately the love of his life was married to another man, but Bjorn remained undeterred and often risked life and limb to spend time with her. He composed the poem below before saying goodbye to his love. He had just learned that her husband, along with his supporters, was planning to waylay and kill him.



*We two would wish this day to be
the longest between the golden
forest and the dark; I sometimes
get pain from the prop of the ribbon (woman),
for this evening, tree of the arm serpent
(woman),
I shall make myself ready to drink to the
memory of my joy
which has often passed.*

Another Viking poet who is known for his love poetry is Kormak Ogmundarson; a follower of Harold Graycloak, a tenth century Norwegian king. Kormak also spent some time fighting in the British Isles. His lifelong love was named Steingerd who he first met in his youth. In the

poem below he tells of his first encounter with Steingerd.

*The bright lamps of both the
woman's cheeks (i.e. her eyes)
burned upon me over the kitchen
shutter—this gives me no cause
for merriment; and I looked at the
ankles of the finely grown woman
by the threshold—this yearning
will not die from me all my life.*



And some poems of the Vikings took even a humorous spirit in describing a beloved woman. Here Bjorn Arnegeirsson describes a pregnant woman; perhaps Oddny his wife who was nicknamed “Island Torch” because of her great beauty.

*The belly of the woman grew below
the breast, so that the tree of the
belt (woman) walked very crooked, and sore
in the womb; she had become much
too swollen.*

Bjorn Arnegeirsson fought in Russia for King Valdimar and was badly wounded. He eventually made it home to Iceland where he found Oddny had taken up with Viking rival poet who had told her that Bjorn had died in battle. Unfortunately, Bjorn was killed in a duel with his rival.

As you can see these were hard men—Viking warriors for sure—but they had soft spots in their hearts for women and even died for love every now and then.

(The above poems are quoted from *Scaldic Poetry* by E.O.G Turville-Petre, Oxford at the Clarendon Press, 1976)

Terje “Ted” Birkedal, Cultural Director

Rosemaling Classes

The word rosemaling is used to describe a form of decorative flower painting that originated in Norway in the 1700s. Rosemaling classes with Anna Decker meet twice a month on Tuesdays. Class dates for May: **May 8 & May 15, 7-9 pm**

Note: Class scheduled for May 22 is cancelled.

Classes are open to all experience levels and new individuals are always welcome to attend. Contact Anna at 694-2051 for more information.

Note: There will be no classes during the summer months. Classes resume in September.



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

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May Events

3 Thursday	7 pm	Board Meeting, all welcome
8 Tuesday	7-9 pm	Rosemaling with Anna Decker, pg. 7
10 Thursday	7 pm / 7:30 pm	Program / Business Meeting, pg. 5
13 Sunday	10am - 2pm	Mother's Day Brunch, pg. 1
17 Thursday	11:30-1:30	Kaffeslabberas, pg. 3
17 Thursday	6 pm	Syttende Mai Parade Delaney Park Strip Downtown-10th & I, pg. 2
20 Sunday	3 pm	Syttende Mai Celebration, pgs. 2 & 6
15 Tuesday	7-9 pm	Rosemaling with Anna Decker, pg. 7
22 Tuesday	7-9 pm	CANCELLED-Rosemaling with Anna Decker

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.

Our Lodge
donated
82 lbs. of
☺ food in
April!

Weekly Events

Sundays	5:30-6:30 pm	Beginning Norwegian Language and Culture
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*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 15th
to sonancak@gmail.com or call Cynthia at 562-2794 with questions*