

VIKING HALL 349-1613
www.sofnalaska.com

December 2013 desember



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Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge President's Message — Volunteering

Almost everything we do in the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge depends on the volunteer efforts of our members. The lefse gets made by volunteers, the lutefisk is cooked by volunteers, the decorations for events in Viking Hall are done by volunteers, volunteers clean up after events, and volunteers even close up after our rentals. There would be no St. Lucia Family Christmas, no Scandinavian Christmas Brunch, no Synttende Mai Celebration, and no Lutefisk and Lefse Dinner without volunteers. Simply put, there would be no Bernt Balchen Lodge without volunteers.

We would like to extend an invitation to all our members to join the current pool of

volunteers that help keep the Lodge vibrant. To assist both you and the current Lodge Officers we have included a Sons of Norway Volunteer Survey form in this issue of The Flyer. If you are interested in volunteering at the Lodge please fill it out and get it back to me. Some of you already filled out the Sons of Norway Volunteer Survey at the Lutefisk and Lefse Dinner, but I would like to hear from every member who has an interest in stepping up to the plate and volunteer. You can mail the form back to me, President, Bernt Balchen Lodge, 8141 Briarwood Street, Anchorage, AK 99518 or simply drop it off at the Viking Hall Office between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM, Tuesday through Friday. If you are good at scanning on your printer, fill out the

Survey, scan it and post it to me (tedbirkedal@gmail.com) attached to an email. We would like to receive your completed forms by January 31, 2014.

The submitted survey forms will give us a better picture of the skills and interests of our members along with a better sense who out there might be willing and able to help with events and activities at Bernt Balchen Lodge. It will give us a better overall grasp on who among our membership has the right skill-set for an activity and who we might call in the future to get assistance in putting on an event.

Please take the time to fill out the Sons of Norway Volunteer Survey and get it back to me. Don't hesitate, act now. Volunteering can be fun!

Terje "Ted" Birkedal



God Jul!

Scandinavian Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 8th – 12pm to 3pm

Viking Hall



Please join us for a traditional Scandinavian family Christmas brunch with pickled herring, Jansson's Frestelse, cucumber salad, meatballs, rutabagas, cured ham, potato sausage, low bush cranberries, lefse, cardamom bread, riskrem with red sauce for dessert and many other holiday delicacies.

There will be a beautiful display of Scandinavian holiday decorations as well.

Adults: \$20.⁰⁰	Ages 12 – 16: \$10.⁰⁰
Ages 5 – 11: \$5.⁰⁰	Ages 4 & under: FREE

Advance reservations required, 349-1613

We are looking for donations of 2013 salmon for this event. If you would like to donate salmon or volunteer your time with a wonderful group of folks in the kitchen on Dec. 7th or 8th, please call Anita @ 336-3013.

Be a Part of Sons of Norway Lucia 2013

All lodge members are cordially invited to attend our upcoming Lucia Christmas program on December 15 at Viking Hall. Children ages 4-18 who have parents or grandparents that are members of Sons of Norway are welcome to participate in the Lucia program and talent show at the event.

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. In traditional celebrations, Saint Lucy or 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. In some forms, including the program at the Bernt Balchen lodge, a procession is headed by one girl wearing a crown of candles (or lights), while others follow in the procession, each holding a single candle. Erika Childers will serve as the 2013 Lucia and lead the procession.

The Lucia tradition at the Bernt Balchen Lodge celebrates our Scandinavian heritage through music, food, and language. It is one of the most popular events at the lodge. Children learn and sing Norwegian and Swedish songs, accompanied by harp and piano. Families are treated to a talent show, the Lucia procession and elf dance, singing around the Christmas tree, and 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.

The Lucia Family Christmas party will take place on Sunday, December 15, from 3 to 6 p.m. Please come to Viking Hall and enjoy this festive event.

The cost of the event is as follows:

Adults - \$12; Ages 5 to 18 - \$5; Ages 4 and under - free; Family maximum (parents and children) - \$30.

This event has become a tradition in many local Scandinavian families and we hope that you will make time for the Lucia party on your calendar this year, too.

Terry Gryting – 696-6199
Lucia Committee Chair



WE HAD A GOOD TIME!

After six years, Kaffeslabberas is closing. We served lunch on the third Thursday of each month with homemade soup and open faced sandwiches, lots of good conversation and desserts.

Some of the crew would like to move on to other things and we had no one respond to our request for volunteers to continue Kaffeslabberas (3 - 5 hours per month) so we must say farewell for now.

Thank you to all those who helped and, most of all, to those who joined us for lunch over the years.



The Kaffeslabberas Ladies

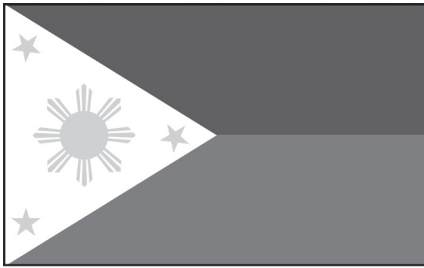
Hip Hip Hurray!



Sons of Norway Verbose Viking Team Wins the Biz Bee Spelling Bee

Each year the Alaska Literacy Program puts on an annual spelling bee, the Biz Bee. The Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge has helped to sponsor this event for the past several years and sent a team to compete in the event. On October 29, 2013 the Verbose Vikings of Bernt Balchen Lodge won the Biz Bee at the Dena'ina Center in the face of thirteen tough competitors. Our congratulations go to Tim Andrew, Nancy Clark, and Terry Gryting; who made up 2013 the Verbose Vikings team. What an awesome performance!

Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge Helps the Victims of Typhoon Haiyan



Through its work with the Bridge Builders of Anchorage over the years Bernt Balchen Lodge has built a strong relationship with the many Filipino-Americans who support Bridge Builders. At the November 14, 2013 Business Meeting, upon the recommendation of the Bernt Balchen Board, the membership voted to donate \$200.00 to Catholic Relief Services to help the people of the Philippines recover from the recent devastating storm that ravaged their country.

We chose Catholic Relief Services because that charity was recommended to us by Elsa Sargento, one the leaders of the local Filipino-American community and it was also on the list of recommended Typhoon Haiyan charities listed by Sons of Norway International. We all hope that the Philippine people will enjoy a speedy recovery from the tragic effects of the storm.

It is interesting to note that 28,000 people of Filipino descent live in Norway and 35,000 Filipinos work on Norwegian ships around the world. According to Norwegian public television, many Filipino-Norwegians are now actively engaged in organizing help for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. In addition, the country of Norway has

contributed nearly \$35,000,000 to the relief efforts in the Philippines.

Please note Elsa Sargento's nice words of appreciation for our gift. She is one of our major partners in Bridgebuilders and is a Filipino American.

Terje "Ted" Birkedal

Thank you so much for your generosity. Your donation will be a tremendous help to the Haiyan typhoon victims. I salute members of Bernt Balchen Lodge of Anchorage and Sons of Norway International.

*Sincere thanks,
Elsa*

An Abdication and an Ascendancy



After a reign of 10 plus years, the Queen of Lefse has abdicated her throne. As you know Queen Anna Decker has ruled over the lodges lefse making with an iron but benevolent hand. Under her guidance nearly round, unholy and scrumptious lefse was produced to be sold at the Annual Bazaar and enjoyed at the Lutefisk Dinner and Christmas Brunch. She taught many a novice how to salute with the lefse saber and roll in formation. Please thank her highness for her many years of service to the lodge. Wish her well but don't say goodbye, as she will still be available to guide us through the royal protocols. In the last act of her reign on November 8, 9 & 10 seventy-five dozen (900) lefse were rolled, baked and packaged for the Lutefisk Dinner, Christmas Brunch and St. Lucia Celebration. In addition Prince Aaron DeRoest, Princes Lisa Bur and Princes Oona Reeves were introduced to the royal tradition.

It is pleasure to announce the royal ascendancy of Ashley Brusven to the crown. The Lefse Honor Guard is in the midst of planning her coronation. Please heed the new Queen of Lefse's call when she beckons you to the royal service.



King Ted Birkedal remains as our governing lefse patriarch.



Tuesdays at Ten

Inviting you to a gathering of those interested in Needle Crafts:

hardanger embroidery, darning, crocheting, needle felting, norweave embroidery, counted cross stitch and more.....

Bring a project to work on. All levels of expertise welcome!

Starts:

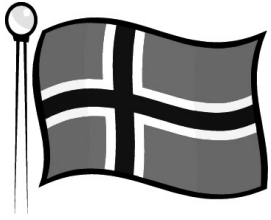
Tuesday, January 7th 2014
10:00 a.m. to Noon, Viking Hall.

First and third Tuesday of the month (excluding June, July, August).

For more information contact Beverly Smith, 346-3659.

January	7th & 21st
February	4th & 18th
March	4th & 18th
April	1st & 15th
May	6th & 20th
September	16th
October	7th & 21st
November	4th & 18th
December	2nd & 16th

Cultural and Heritage Night



On November 1st we were treated to displays of great talents of our lodge members and others of the Anchorage Community. Marilyn Lee displayed exquisite mastery of the electric knife and Jim Bysheim

was production extraordinaire in the kitchen. The aesthetic acumen of Beth Bysheim, Marit Kristiansen, Mickey Andrews, Ingrid Braastad and Susan Soby produced visual as well as culinary delights. The event was aptly chronicled by Glenn Soby (look at the bulletin board). Set up and cleanup were facilitated by John & Cynthia Olnes, Glenn Soby, Ron Wayne & Sandra Johnson.

The story tellers Kelda Barstad, Beverly J Griffin, Tom Falskow, Theresa Smith, Anna Bryant, Lauren Brion, Rick Mystrom and Britta Helm provided a thoroughly entertaining evening. Special thanks goes to Tim Andrew, who as host/moderator proved to be a cohesive and deft facilitator of the program.

Our guests from the Story Board of Arctic Entries, encouraged submission of stories to their monthly program. If anyone is going to present at one of their upcoming shows please let us know so your interested fellow lodge members may attend the event.

If you have a story or storyteller to recommend, keep them in mind as the program will likely reinvent itself next year.

Cultural and Heritage Consideration

Your insights, suggestions and volunteerism would be appreciated for the following:

“Cooking with Kids”

This event would consist of demonstrations (some participation projects) for making pickled pigs feet, cinnamon buns and anything in between. The rule is that each demonstration and project lead will have to involve an adult and kid. For the adults the “kid” that you work with cannot be you own child, grandchild, niece or nephew.

“Craft Networking Evening and Scandinavian Show”

Whether it is making bent wood boxes, needle craft, carving, jewelry making, weaving, knitting, rosemaling or any other craft we would appreciate demonstrations/displays of your work. This will allow us to appreciate the skills and expertise that exists in our lodge/community as well as the opportunity to network if you would like to acquire or gain more expertise in a given craft.

“Fish Dinner”

The menu will continue to evolve for this event. Your input and efforts will be appreciated.

“Meet the World in Anchorage” will be at the Anchorage Museum Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Help will be needed to design and set up a display about Norway, take shifts to be present at the booth (in traditional clothing if you have it), and take down and return the display to the lodge. This provides us an opportunity to educate the community about Norway as well as recruit new members. I would especially would like help on the day of the event as it often is scheduled at the same time as my favorite event of Fur Rondy, the dog pull.

Please contact me at mhamre@acsalaska.net with your interests and comments. *Merlin*

Calling all Scandinavian Bards

Do you write poetry, verse or jingles? Did your great-grandmother, grandfather, aunt or father compose a verse or two? Do you have a child or grand-child that is a budding poet? Do you know about poetry created by any current members, former members or members of the greater Anchorage Scandinavian Community?

If you can answer yes to any of the above, your efforts would be appreciated if you could bring copies of the work to the office at Viking Hall, along with your or the poet's contact information. Please DO NOT bring the only copy you have to leave at the

office. This is an effort to recognize our lodge's talents. Future considerations include a poetry readings, creating a lodge anthology and including these efforts in future newsletters or programs for lodge activities.

(Hint: Volunteers wanted!)

Please use the upcoming Holidays or other events to make inquires of poetry or encourage submission of poetry from family or friends. We want to read and hear “The Voices of Our Lodge”.



Are You a Potential Reality Show Star?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Are you a descendant of Norway? (Have some Norwegian blood in your veins)
- Have you NEVER traveled to Norway?
- Are you a U.S. citizen?
- Will you be at least 18 years old as of Feb. 16, 2014?

If you answered "Yes" to all these questions, congratulations you survived the first cut.

Norway's #1 Emmy Award-winning reality TV series, "The Great Norwegian Adventure", is looking for new contestants. O'Connor Casting Team is looking for fun, outgoing and adventurous Americans with Norwegian ancestry -- even a little bit is enough to qualify. Chosen participants will travel to Norway to compete in good-natured, exciting and extreme cultural challenges to discover their rich and fascinating roots while trying to win a reunion with their long lost Norwegian relatives and a cash prize of \$50,000.00.

This may be the show for you! Go to <http://oconnorcasting.tv/index.php/norway/> for more info and to apply online.

You can email any questions to castingnorway@gmail.com. A video is required but if you look at past entries it was accomplished with a phone. Also, being from Alaska may be a plus!

Application & video submission deadline is January 5, 2014.

Remember Bernt Balchen will be behind you all the way!



Magnus Carlsen made Chess Look Sexy – Now He's World Champion

Fans hope historic win by player likened to Harry Potter will help the game recapture its former status

(headline from "the guardian")

The 22 year old Sven Magnus Øen Carlsen of Norway defeated Viswanathan Anand of India to win the 2013 World Chess Championship. Viswanathan Anand is India's first Chess Grand Master and won the World Chess Championship in 2000, 2007, 2008, 2010 & 2012. It was held from November 9 to 22 in Chennai, India. Carlsen won the match 6½–3½ after ten of the twelve scheduled games to become the 16th undisputed world chess champion. Carlsen earned the right to be the challenger by winning the 2013 Candidates Tournament that took place in London, from March 15 to April 1.

Carlsen became a grandmaster at the age of 13 years, 148 days, making him at that time the second youngest grandmaster in history, although he has since become the third youngest. On 1 January 2010, at the age of 19 years, 32 days, he became the youngest chess player in history to be ranked world No. 1. He was also the first player from a Western nation to reach the top of the FIDE rating list since Bobby Fischer in 1971. Carlsen also holds the record for the highest FIDE rating with an Elo rating of 2872 his current rating is 2870 still leaving him ranked as No. 1. The former record score was Garry Kasparov's 2851 from July 1999.

Repeat Women's Team Handball World Champion in 2013??

The Norwegian Women's Handball Team has been a dominating force in recent years. They have won Olympic Gold Medals in 2008 in Beijing and 2012 in London. They are the most successful team in the European Championships, having won five golds, two silvers, and one bronze out of nine tournaments and they were winners of the last World Championship held in 2011. Will they be able to repeat the feat.

The Knockout Round Begins December 16 and will include the top four teams of each of the 4 groups from the Group Stage.

The World Championships will be played in Serbia from December 7 to 22. The championship will be played on December 22 at 17:15 Serbian time or 07:15 Alaskan. If Norway makes it to the championship, we would like to hear from anyone willing to host viewing of the game or if a Sports Bar could arrange for early morning Rowdy Norwegians to view the game. If technically possible?



The Norway team is in Group C and in the Group Stage. Their schedule is:

Date	Opponent	Time(Serbia)	Time(AK)
12/7	Spain	20:15	10:15
12/9	Argentina	20:15	10:15
12/10	Paraguay	20:15	10:15
12/12	Angola	20:15	10:15
12/13	Poland	20:15	10:15

SONS OF NORWAY VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Most members join Sons of Norway to learn more about our heritage and culture. Opportunities are made available via many events planned by Bernt Balchen Lodge for the enjoyment of the membership. Those events and most of the lodge activities are possible only because of the volunteer efforts of our members.

Many members have not had the pleasure of volunteering in our lodge so we would like to give you that opportunity. To help you and the officers of the lodge, we ask that you please complete this survey and let us know where you might like best to help.

SPECIAL SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Check any that apply.

No, you don't have to be an expert!

- Crafts, Adult, Kids, Teens
- Child care
- Baking
- Cooking
- Organizing
- Computer skills (General)
- Webmaster skills
- Facebook skills
- Newsletter/Publishing Skills
- Dishwashing
- Kitchen Help
- Bartending
- Dining Room Help
- Publicity
- Office skills
- Norwegian Language skills
- Genealogy
- Literature
- Norse Mythology
- Sports
- Indoor Games
- Playing a musical instrument
- Singing
- Dancing
- Acting
- Knitting
- Embroidery
- Crochet
- Hardanger
- Rosemaling
- Story Telling
- Potato Peeling
- Lefse Making
- Meatball Making
- Construction
- Electrical
- Painting
- Gardening
- Cleaning
- Closing after Viking Hall rentals
- Other _____

CLASSES

We try to offer classes at our lodge. Would you:

- Be interested in taking a class?
In what? _____
- Be interested in teaching a class?
In what? _____
- Be interested in assisting with a class?
In what? _____
- I would like to see a class in:

TIME – Important to all of us. What time can you give?

- A little bit of time here and there
- A little bit on a regular schedule
- Occasional larger chunks of time
- Only during these months

TELL US, PLEASE

- I would definitely like to volunteer. Call me.
- I'm curious, call me to see if I might be interested helping with an event.
- I'd like to know more about becoming a lodge officer

Please give us your name, phone number and email address so we can contact you.

Thank you for completing our survey!

Drop off your completed form at Viking Hall or send via mail to President, Bernt Balchen Lodge, 8141 Briarwood Street, Anchorage, AK 99518.

Please let us hear from you no later than January 31, 2013.



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

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DECEMBER EVENTS

1	Sunday	12:00 (<i>Noon</i>)	Wooden Ski Classic
8	Sunday	12:00 (<i>Noon</i>) - 3:00 p.m.	God Jul Brunch! (page 1)
8	Sunday	4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Santa Lucia Practice (page 2)
10	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Rosemallings
12	Thursday	6:30 - 7:30 p.m. 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Cookie Exchange Business Meeting
15	Sunday	4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Santa Lucia Program (page 2)

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 15th to: sonancak@gmail.com Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **Newsletter**