



VIKING HALL 349-1613  
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**March  
2014  
mars**

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## Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge President's Message – Bridge Builders

Over the past several years; thanks to the leadership of Mickey Andrew, Ana Decker, and Merlin Hamre; Bernt Balchen Lodge has been building a relationship with Bridge Builders of Anchorage. This city-wide organization was established by Mayor Rick Mystrom in 1996 to “build a community of friends among all racial groups and cultural groups and make Anchorage the first city without prejudice.”

On February 22, 2014 we again told the story of Norway, its history and culture, to the many visitors to “Meet the World in Anchorage” which was held at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center. This annual event, sponsored by Bridge Builders of Anchorage, offers us a great opportunity to let people know of Norway, Scandinavia in general, and the many people of Scandinavian descent who live and work in Anchorage. (*See more about this event on page 7.*)

Last year, we nominated Marit Kristiansen, President of Sons of Norway International and a member of our local Bernt Balchen Lodge as our Norwegian community nominee for an award at the annual Bridge Builders Gala in August of 2013. No one has done more to represent the Scandinavian community in Anchorage than Marit and she was more than deserving of the recognition she received at the festive Gala awards ceremony at the Dena'ina Center.



their parking lot for overflow parking during the Scandinavian Bazaar and for the Lutefisk and Lefse Dinner.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we had a small contingent of lodge members carry our lodge banner and the American flag in the Anchorage Fourth of July Parade as a part of the Bridge Builders section of the parade. We got good cheers of recognition from the crowds lining the streets. People love Norway.

I would like to see more lodge members join us in 2014 Fourth of July Parade to show our continued support for Bridge Builders and demonstrate our lodge's commitment and involvement in the wider Anchorage community. Please contact me at (907) 351-6095 or via email at [tedbirkedal@gmail.com](mailto:tedbirkedal@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating. It's a lot of fun.



Lately we have reached out to the Islamic Muslim Community which is building a Masjid or place of worship one block north of Viking Hall. We formally welcomed them to the neighborhood, and representatives from the Islamic community attended our Faar-I-Kaal Dinner in 2013 and gave us the gift of a beautiful photograph of a moose that now graces the east end of our hall. We have also extended our welcome to the Korean Open Door Presbyterian Church that is immediately across the street from Viking Hall. We have been rewarded by being generously allowed to use

*Fraternally yours,  
Terje "Ted" Birkedal*

## Viking Hall News

Viking Board voted to re-new the Dry Dock annual contract at the same rate as last year.

Discussion and evaluation of the 2013 Rental Rates took place. Adjustments were made and items clarified. M/S/C on several segments; updated chart will be e-mailed for approval.

Further discussion on the security system. Ed recommended that we change to individual numbers, in order to better track usage.

Carpet cleaning is needed. Suggestions of companies to use was asked for – if – the person who has done it for several years has retired. Stanley Steamer was suggested.

We are inviting the Son's Trustees to join us at the Viking Board Meetings.

Thanks for closings to Ted, Ron and John, to Ed and John for continually doing jobs as needed, for Cynthia for charts and Super Bowl paperwork; for Jane for being the Super Bowl 'treasurer' and all Super Bowl committee members – those who pitched in and helped at the Event! This includes, but is not limited to Marit, Steinar and, certainly to Wayne and Sandra Johnson for the major preparation of the Lapskaus and other goodies, and to John and Cynthia for decorating and set-up of all needed equipment. And let's not forget those who sold the tickets!

*Sandra S Hanson, Viking Hall President*



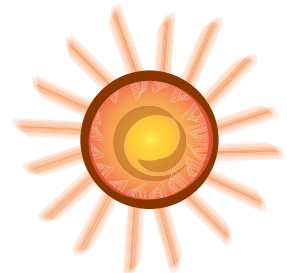
## Lodge Inventory

The trustees will soon be inventorying the lodges possessions (counting forks, pans, equipment, etc.).

It would be greatly appreciated if you have any of items belonging to the lodge that they be returned to Viking Hall. Conversely if you have any personal items at Viking Hall, it would be appreciated if you take them home or see that they are conspicuously labeled.

Your assistance will insure the accuracy of the effort.

## Sunshine Report



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

Dwight Hovland Sr.  
Phillip J. Ramstad  
Sigmund H. Restad  
Wayne M Rockne  
Gordon J. Severson  
Frederick L.  
Steinhauser  
Robert W. Stinson  
Gladys E. Wood

***"Happy Birthday!"***

***"Gratulerer med dagen!"***

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine, please call

Cindy McDowell 696-0725 (cell - 862-1143)

Or, email at [ccmcd38@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmcd38@hotmail.com)

## WOODCARVING SEMINAR



The Last Frontier Woodcarvers are offering another day of woodcarving *Saturday, March 8, 9 am - 4 pm* at the Viking Hall, for all those who would like to try their hand at this skill. There will be 10 classes offered from which you pick the one that would suit you the best.

Cost is \$20.00 per person which includes the wood, tools to use for the day, carving instructions, choice of project and a great lunch. A parent must attend with any child participating. There is an age limit.

The class projects were available for viewing at "*Artistry in Wood*" in the Northway Mall, *February 19 - March 2*. There were many visitors to the exhibit and a nice article about the event was featured in the Anchorage Daily News.

### KOLROSING

One class in the Carving Seminar on March 8th will be decorating a spoon using the Kolrosing method. Kolrosing is a very old method of giving fine line surface decoration to wood. Kolrosing is an old Scandinavian tradition, dating back to Viking times and was most often used to decorate utilitarian objects, such as spoons, small bowls or boxes.

In Viking times, the designs were more geometric or "Celtic" in origin. These types of designs are very effective and popular today. In the Telemark area of Norway, you will find designs which show the influence of rosemaling when they use the flower, leaf and vine forms.



For more information and to sign up for a fun day of carving, contact Cindy McDowell at 696-0725 or 862-1143.

This is a SONS event.

## Speed Skating



As you may know Norway has a history of illustrious speed skaters. Okay, this Olympics wasn't spectacular for the Norwegian skaters. Let's face it, the 2014 Olympics was not exactly spectacular

for skaters from many countries with the obvious exception of the Netherlands.

Anyway, you have the opportunity to try this Olympic Sport in Anchorage. Cuddy Park near the Loussac Public Library is home to one of six regulation size 400-m speed skating ovals in the United States. The

others include indoor, refrigerated tracks in Salt Lake City, UT and Milwaukee, WI and outdoor, refrigerated tracks at Lake Placid, Roseville, MN; and Butte, MT.

The oval can be accessed by going east on 40th Avenue from A Street. 40th Avenue ends in a cul de sac parking area adjacent to the oval.

Speed skates are not required to skate on the oval but if you want to try out a pair, rentals are available from Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking (AMH). They have both fixed heel, and clap skates, in all sizes. They also rent 'nordic skates' for those who want to try them on their Nordic ski boots.

### For more information:

<http://www.anchorageskates.org/> or  
<http://www.alaskaspeedskating.com/longtrack.html>.

## Cultural and Heritage Event



On March 22 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm we will have demonstrations of a number of crafts including constructing bent wood boxes,

rosemaling, hardanger embroidery, spinning yarn, jewelry making, fly rod construction, etc. This will be a chance for you to appreciate the craftsmanship as well as establishing contacts to develop or enhance your enjoyment of one of these activities.

Scandinavian soups will be available for sustenance.

The event will close with a Scandinavian Quiz Bowl. See if you can match the Scandinavian knowledge of the participating teams and test your knowledge on the audience quiz.



## Events *not* entered by Norway in the 2014 Olympics

You likely enjoyed the successes that Norway enjoyed in the 2014 Olympics, but did you wonder about any events that Norway did not have any participants. Not surprisingly Norway had participants in every event for the sports of cross country skiing, Nordic combined, ski jumping, biathlon and alpine skiing.

Norway had no participants in any event for the sports of bobsled, skeleton and short track skating.

Additionally, Norway had no participants in the listed events: Ice Hockey - Women's; Curling - Women's; Luge - Women's, Two Man & Relay; Figure Skating - Team, Men's, Pairs & Ice Dance; Snowboard - Men's Half Pipe, Parallel Giant Slalom & Parallel Slalom, and Women's Half Pipe; Freestyle Skiing - Men's Moguls & Aerials and Women's Aerials, Half Pipe & Slope Style; and Long Track Speed Skating - Women's 500-m.



# SUPER BOWL RAFFLE 2014



**THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO  
SUPPORTED THE SCHOLARSHIP  
FUND BY PURCHASING RAFFLE  
TICKETS!**

The enthusiastic crowd attending the Sons of Norway Super Bowl Party enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow sports fans and wonderful food. Wayne Johnson was out of town the day of the party but he made sure we had his delicious Lapskaus stew to enjoy. Wayne, with prep help from lodge youth member Christian Mathiesen and John & Cynthia Olnes, prepared the stew earlier for the event. Thanks also to Wayne for getting all the crowd pleasing snack foods. Thanks to Jane Moe Newby for keeping tabs on the money, selling tickets, notifying winners and complying with official gaming requirements. Once again a special thanks to Sandra Hanson for her efforts selling tickets.

We congratulate all winners and especially the big winner Shirley Iverson. Our thanks to those who helped make this event happen – Jane Moe Newby, Sandra Hanson, John & Cynthia Olnes, Wayne & Sandra Johnson, Steinar Hansen, Ted Birkedal, Marit Kristiansen, Glenn Soby, Ed Larson, Merlin Hamre, and Shirley Iverson.

*Without the help of these wonderful volunteers this event wouldn't be possible.*

## HERE ARE THE 2014 WINNERS!

DRAWN	WON	
#1	\$200	Laurie Zimmer
#7	\$50	Shirley Iverson
#13	\$100	Karl Moe
#45	\$50	Natasha Anderson
#66	\$25	Ralph Morehouse
#75	\$50	Merlin Hamre
#90	\$100	Marvin Olson
#105	\$25	John Phelps
#121	\$50	Jerry Hansen
#150	\$200	Shirley Moe
#165	\$25	Pete Hjellen
#180	\$25	Pete Hjellen
#195	\$100	Charlotte MacCay
#210	\$50	Susan Soby
#225	\$25	Anna Bryant
#240	\$100	Laurie Waters
#250	\$25	Kimber Amundson
#270	\$50	Laurie Zimmer
#299	\$250	Leif Darnall
#300	\$1000	Shirley Iverson

## March Book Review



Fra Biblioteket:

We have had several fantastic donations to the lodge library these past few months and I would like to feature some of them in the upcoming newsletters to let our members know what new items they have access to in our library.

This month I am featuring a relatively newly published work called *Kings of Norway* by Anders Kvåle Rue and donated by Mickey Andrew. The book is a great resource for those wanting to learn more on Norway's rich history of monarchs, all the back to the year 875 and up through the present king, Harald V.

There are two unique features of this publication. For one, each of the short histories of fifty-seven kings (and one queen from 1388-1412) are presented in both Norwegian and English. In addition, a three CD set that can be checked out alongside the book contains readings of each story in Norwegian by the author himself.

For those learning Norwegian or interesting in hearing the spoken Norwegian and then following along in Norwegian or English, it is a fantastic resource.

One of the CD's contains readings of the stories in English as well, so you can challenge yourself both ways with this book, or simply use the English version as "spoken book" for times when you just want to sit and listen to a story or two.

One other major highlight of this work is the quality illustrations of each of the Kings made by the author. Anders aim was to create likenesses of all of the Norwegian monarchs making them appear as realistic as if they had been photographed.

He traveled throughout Norway, Sweden and Denmark visiting castles, museums and libraries to find historical references for all of his drawings. Each portrait gives life to the time and character of the monarch being portrayed in a way that is both entertaining and informative.

This book would be an excellent source for our school-age members if they were looking for a book to use in a book report, history or art project.

Thank you Mickey for this great addition to our lodge library! Come check it out soon – you will not be disappointed.

*Tom Falskow, Lodge Librarian*

## Are you interested in being a Bernt Balchen Lodge Delegate to the District 2 Convention?

The 2014 District 2 Convention will be held June 4 - 8, 2014 in Eugene, Oregon hosted by the Sonja Lodge (No 2-038). If you are interested in attending contact Ted or Merlin or attend the March meeting when we will select our five delegates. The lodge will assist in defraying a portion of the costs.

The Alaska delegates to the District 2 Convention will choose the States delegates to the 2014 International Convention being held August 21 - 23, 2014 in Jacksonville, FL.



## Meet the World!



The Bernt Balchen Lodge was again a participant in Meet the World. Meet the World is a celebration of Anchorage's cultural diversity hosted by Bridge Builders at the Anchorage Museum. We had a table displaying Norwegian arts as well as information about Norway.

Special thanks to Steinar Hansen for allowing us to display his bent wood box and Pia Meyer who provided us with numerous items to display. Also in deserving kudos are Shirley and Jane Moe, Karen Ruud and Sandra Hanson for hosting the table and stamping the passports of those attending the show.

The Norwegian Embassy kindly provided us with very nice quality booklets titled "Norway Today" to hand out at the event.

If you or someone you know would like one they are available for the taking on the ledge in front of the office at Viking Hall.



**Sons of Norway**  
**8141 Briarwood St.**  
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**907-349-1613**

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## **MARCH EVENTS**

4	Tuesday	10:00 am - Noon	Needle Crafts
8	Saturday	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Woodcarving
11	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class
13	Thursday	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Potluck/Program Business Meeting
18	Tuesday	10:00 am - Noon	Needle Crafts
22	Saturday	3:00 - 7:00 pm	Cutural & Heritage Evening
25	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class

### **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 20th to: [sonancak@gmail.com](mailto:sonancak@gmail.com) Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **Newsletter**