

VIKING HALL 349-1613
www.sofnalaska.com

September
October
2014
september
oktober



Inside this issue:

Scandinavian Bazaar!.....	2
Lucia 2014	3
Foundation Scholarships.....	4
Wood Carving	5
Sunshine Report.....	5
Language & Culture Class Update.....	5
Lutefisk & Lefse Dinner.....	6
Arctic Stories with Gene Moe	6
Former Mayor Mystrom	6
Lefse Making!!!	7

SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Community Service Recognized

On August 23, 2014 Eva Bilet of Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge received an Excellence in Community Service Award at the Bridge Builders' Unity Gala at the Dena'ina Center. This year the Unity Gala was co-sponsored by the Municipality of Anchorage and marked the official start of the Anchorage Centennial Celebration.

Eva Bilet received the award in recognition of her long service to both the Norwegian-American community and her decades of volunteer work on behalf of the City of Anchorage. We are very proud of her for she is a very deserving recipient of the Excellence in Community Service Award.

Eva Bilet and her late husband, Tor, a noted resistance fighter, for Norway in World War II, first came to Anchorage, Alaska in 1952. The memories of World War II were still fresh in their minds upon their arrival. Tor had risked his life as a weapons instructor for the Norwegian resistance. Eva's father, who was an officer in the Norwegian military, had been sent to a POW camp in Germany for the duration of the war. Eva, herself, had to go into hiding for a time to avoid conscription into forced agricultural labor for the Germans. Ironically, when Eva and Tor landed in 1952 in Anchorage they were startled to see armed military security guards with bayonets on their rifles waiting on the tarmac. The sight frightened them both in light of their war experiences. Both Tor and Eva did not realize that their plane had landed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, not a civilian airport.

Somewhat homesick, Eva and Tor returned to Norway in 1954, but their enchantment with Alaska brought them back permanently in 1958. She joined Sons of Norway soon after settling back in Alaska in 1958 and immediately took an active leadership role in Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge from that day forward. She was elected President of Bernt Balchen Lodge in 1960 and served ten terms in the office of President between 1960 and 1994. During her Presidency she forged the character of the lodge in its formative years and increased membership in the lodge from 50 to over 350 by recruiting members from all Scandinavian nationalities. As General Director for all the Sons of Norway lodges in Alaska from 1972 to 1976 she fostered cooperation and communication throughout the wider Norwegian-American community in Alaska. And it was in large part due to her hard work and determination that Viking Hall was completed in 1981 as a permanent home for Sons of Norway in Anchorage.



Eva Bilet with her Excellence in Community Service Award and Mayor Dan Sullivan at the 2014 Unity Gala

President's Message continues on Page 7



Cocktails 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:00 pm

Adults - \$22

Ages

12 - 16 - \$10

5 - 11 - \$5

Under 5 - FREE

This traditional lamb and cabbage dinner (pronounced "fore-ee-kole") only comes around once a year and is always a crowd pleaser.

So bring the family and enjoy this wonderful Norwegian comfort food!!



Music & Dancing with
The Polka Buzz

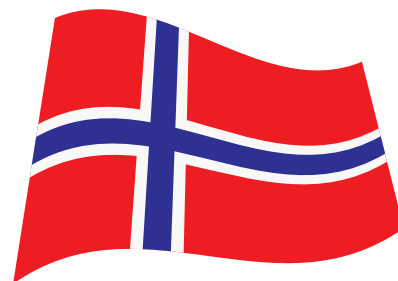


FOR RESERVATIONS CALL VIKING HALL @ 349-1613

18th Annual Scandinavian Bazaar

October 11, 2014 ☀ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Viking Hall 8141 Briarwood Street



There will be many Scandinavian items for sale including top quality hand made:

Jewelry	Woodcarvings	Scarves	Books	Tye dyes
Knives	Rosemaling	Clothing	Silk florals	Beadwork
Artwork	Table linens	Sweaters	Jams	Children's furniture
Blankets	Knitted hats	Christmas decorations	Soaps	<i>And much more!</i>

Please join us for a cultural experience!

We will have demonstrations for rosemaling and amazing food including the popular lefse, pølse, krumkake and waffles for sale.

Our Kitchen will be serving the best lunch in town. Delicious traditional soups and open-faced sandwiches.

The Bake Sale table features Lefse and a huge variety of homemade cookies, cakes and breads.

The Silent Auction will have Scandinavian/Nordic items and more.

ATTENTION ALL BAKERS!



Fundraising for our Lodge

The Scandinavian Bazaar is fast approaching and Bernt Balchen Lodge is hoping you will join us for a fabulous day of great food, handcrafts, silent auction and other Scandinavian items for sale. This event is the most important fundraiser of the year for us and we are hoping to make this year our biggest yet.

Let's all pitch in...

If we all do a little, it will make a BIG difference!

The Bake Sale table is always a big hit with all of the wonderful lefse, cardamom bread and other homemade goodies for sale, but we need more members to donate to bring it to its full potential.

Please bring your favorite cookies, cakes and breads for the Bazaar bake sale to Viking Hall between 9:30 am and 2 pm on October 11th. Please have items packaged and ready to sell. We will have labels and can help with pricing.

Call Anita (336-3013) or Gayle (243-7946) with questions or if you'd like to help in the kitchen.

Velkommen Café

Join the action in the Velkommen Café at the Scandinavian Bazaar on October 11, 2014. Sign up for a spot on the kitchen team where you can stir the soups as the "Stove Meister," serve the popular Pølse (reindeer hotdog wrapped in lefse), or learn from the experts how to prepare our delightful open face sandwiches.

To be part of the "Best Lunch in Town" on October 11th please call Gayle at 243-7946 or 441-9358.



We are now accepting donated Scandinavian/Nordic items for the Silent Auction to be held during the Scandinavian Bazaar October 11th.



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

Please call Anita at 336-3013 for more information or bring your items to the Viking Hall office.

Thank you for your support!

Be a part of Sons of Norway Lucia 2014

The Lucia Committee welcomes all lodge members to our upcoming Lucia Christmas program in December. 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, girls holding a single candle and boys holding a star.

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, often accompanied by harp and piano. Families are treated to a talent show, sing 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.



The head of the procession is selected each year by the Committee. Please contact a committee member if your daughter is interested and appears to fulfill the selection criteria found separately in this newsletter.

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

Carol Kalander 746-4800
Lucia Committee Chair

Lucia Selection Criteria

Every year during December, Bernt Balchen Lodge sponsors the Lucia Celebration. These are the criteria we use each year to choose the Lucia:

- Parents (or grandparents) must be members in good standing of the Sons of Norway.
- The girl's parents (or grandparents) must have been members for at least the past three consecutive years.
- In order to be eligible to be the Lucia, the girl must have participated in the last three consecutive Lucia Festivals.
- The person chosen to be Lucia must be unmarried, and be between the ages of 15 and 19.
- If she has met the preceding qualifications, the Lucia is chosen based on ranking in High School (a senior would be chosen over a junior) and age (the oldest eligible girl). In some circumstances, a combination of these criteria may need to be taken into consideration.
- If more than one girl qualifies to be Lucia based on the criteria immediately above, selection of the Lucia from the eligible girls will be made at the Lodge's October meeting.
- The Lucia's name will be announced in the November Newsletter.
- The Lucia Committee will be in charge of the Lucia Festival. The parent/grandparent s are responsible for the two (2) Lucia practices and will work in cooperation with the Committee to plan and make arrangements for the Festival.
- The Lucia is encouraged to participate in the next year's Lucia Festival as Mother Elf. Any deviations from the above will be reviewed by the Lucia Committee.

Upcoming dates to remember:

Rehearsal: Sunday, November 16th
1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rehearsal: Sunday, December 7th
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Program: Sunday, December 14th
3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2014 Scholarship Recipients

Sons of Norway Foundation

Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship

Ellen Ahlness & University of Minnesota, Mankato	\$3,000	Elvesvingen 1-582
Parker Lund & University of Montana, Missoula	\$3,000	Normanden 4-425

Astrid Cates Scholarship

D 1 – Hanna Hindt & University of Wisconsin, Madison	\$1,000	Nordskogen 1-626
D 2 – Lauren Kuhn & Harvard School of Dental Medicine	\$1,000	Grays Harbor 2-004
D 3 – Kristin Fawcett	\$1,000	Washington 3-888
D 4 – Bjorn Strand & North Dakota State University	\$1,000	Kringen 4-025
D 5 – Connor Rood & Grand Valley State University	\$1,000	Sognefjord 5-523
D 6 – Abigail Strand	\$1,000	Stein Fjell 6-114

Carl M Salveit Scholarship

Hannah Graves (International Summer School for D 2 members)	\$3,890	Oslo 2-004
--	---------	------------

Oslo Summer School Scholarship

Katelyn Johnson (International Summer School)	\$1,500	Thor 4-067
Kjerstin Engebretsen (International Summer School)	\$1,500	Henrik Ibsen 4-565

King Olav V Norwegian-American Scholarship

Membership is not required

Norwegian student

Aleksander Mekiassen Kolbu & Columbia University	\$1,300	
--	---------	--

American students

Anna Gibson	\$1,300	
Laila Simon & St Olaf College	\$1,000	Grieg 2-015
Christina Melander (International Summer School)	\$1,000	
Johanna Weissing & University of Wisconsin, Madison	\$1,000	
Colin Connors & University of Wisconsin, Madison	\$1,000	
Erin Futterer & Eastman School of Music	\$1,000	
Phillip Gollner	\$1,000	

Nancy Lorriane Jensen Memorial Scholarship

Daisy Bower & Carthage College	\$18,285	Storelva 1-655
Fiona Majeau & Stanford University	\$ 7,115	Cascade 2-087
Danielle Russell & Appalachian State University	\$ 5,064	Central 5-000

Lund Fund Scholarship

Mikayla Borud (International Summer School)	\$ 1,500	Kringen 4-025
Bonney Melton (Telemark University College)	\$ 1,500	Norden 2-002

Ski For Light – Bjarne Eikevik scholarship	\$ 1,000	
---	----------	--

Draxten Funds	\$10,004	
----------------------	----------	--

Evenson for D 4	\$ 1,851	
------------------------	----------	--

TOTAL	\$72,509	
--------------	-----------------	--

Congratulations to all the recipients!

WOOD CARVING

LET'S KEEP THOSE CHIPS FLYING!!!

Join The Last Frontier Woodcarvers at Viking Hall for a day of Woodcarving.

**Saturday, October 18th
from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

\$20.00 covers wood, tools to use, carving instructions, choice of project and a great lunch.

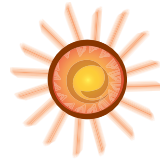
Projects:

Double Hearts, Harley Chicken, Kolrosing, Dahl horse, fish in an egg, woodburning, bear relief, cottonwood bark face, spoons and cottonwood bark house.

Reserve your spot now as seating is limited!

**For more information or to sign up
give Cindy a call - 696-0725.**

You can also leave your name and phone number at the Viking Hall office - 349-1613



Sunshine Report

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

SEPTEMBER

Congratulations to Annelise Moss on turning 91!!

Grethe S. Berge
Ronald A. Flugum
Sandra S. Hanson
Kjell T. Kristiansen
Marianne G. Lang
Norma Link
Louise K. Maakestad
Fred W. Walatka
LeRoy Iverson

OCTOBER

Carol Hall
Richard (Pete) Johnson
Ronald D. Martinson
Stuart Nerland
John A. Olnes
Dale Rosheim
Anna K. Browning

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine, please call Cindy McDowell 696-0725 (cell - 862-1143)

Or, email at ccmcd38@hotmail.com

"Happy Birthday!"

"Gratulerer med dagen!"

Status of Norwegian Language and Culture Class Fall 2014 through Spring 2015

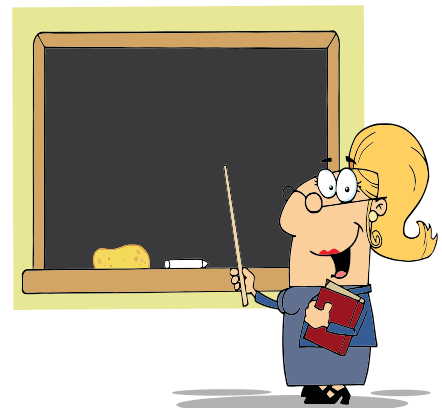
We have not found anyone to take the place of Isabel MacCay to serve as the teacher of a Norwegian language class for the Fall 2014/Spring 2015 season.

Some students last year were interested in meeting anyway and holding group-self sessions in order to continue to make progress in their Norwegian language skills.

If you are interested in participating in group self-learning sessions, please contact Ted Birkedal at (907) 351-6095 via email at tedbirkedal@gmail.com by September 15, 2014.

Volunteer Norwegian Teacher Needed for Fall 2014/ Spring 2015

Bernt Balchen Lodge is searching for a person proficient in the Norwegian language to serve once a week as a volunteer teacher of Intermediate Beginning and/or Beginning Norwegian and Culture. The classes are usually taught at Viking Hall from 7:00 Pm to 8:00 PM on Sundays. The number of students in the past has varied between ten and twenty. If you are interested in teaching the class or know of someone that might be interested in teaching the class please contact Ted Birkedal at (907) 351-6095 or via email at tedbirkedal@gmail.com



ONE NIGHT ONLY!

LUTEFISK & LEFSE DINNER

(AND THOSE TASTY MEATBALLS TOO!)

Saturday, November 15th

With two seatings

First seating: 4:00 to 6:30

Second seating: 7:00 to 10:00

Be sure to make reservations for the
Dinnertime of your choice *before*
the seats are all taken!

Live music at the 7:00 pm seating

DINNER PRICES:

Adults \$25
(non-members \$30)

Ages 12-16 \$12

Ages 5-11 \$5

Ages 4 and under free



Make your reservation today by calling
Viking Hall at 349-1613



SEE GENE MOE LIVE

SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 7:30 P.M.

For those interested in seeing Gene Moe Live at "Arctic Entries", He will be among 7 story tellers presenting a true, 7 minute story on the theme of:

Where the Wild Things Are:

Stories of Strange Encounters, the Animal Kingdom,
and the Road Less Traveled.

(In other words he will be talking about how he killed a brown bear with a knife.)

Discovery Theatre Anchorage, AK.

Tickets available Tuesday, September 2nd,
through CenterTix - <http://alaskapac.centertix.net>

Tickets are \$12.00 and limited to four tickets per buyer.

If you wish to attend please buy your tickets early!

If you miss it, his presentation will be available about a week after
the show at the **Arctic Entries website** - <http://arcticentries.com/>

SAVE the DATE

OCTOBER 9TH BUSINESS MEETING

Come to the October 9, 2014
Sons of Norway Business Meeting.

Former Mayor Rick Mystrom
will give a talk on

*'The 1990 Anchorage Olympic Bid -
A Historical Perspective'*

COME JOIN THE LEFSE MAKING CREW THIS FALL

There will be lefse-making sessions in September, October, and November in order to have plenty for the Scandinavian Bazaar and the Lutefisk and Lefse Dinner.



For those new to lefse making, there are several steps between raw potatoes, flour, and salt and a package of ready-to-sell lefse at the Bazaar. For those not interested in "rolling" there are other ways to help with this important Lodge event. The typical 3-day lefse-making session, Friday through Sunday, consists of the following activities:

Friday: Wash, boil, peel, and rice potatoes; set up lefse making stations (griddles, cooking and rolling boards, rollers, etc.); set up cooling, sorting, and packaging areas.

Saturday: Mix potato and flour loaves; shape in balls, roll and cook lefse; boil, wash, boil, peel, and rice potatoes; sort and package lefse; clean up work stations.

Sunday: Mix potato and flour loaves; shape into balls; roll and cook lefse; sort and package lefse; break down the lefse making stations and return griddles, cooking and rolling boards, etc. to the storage area; and clean up work stations.

Even a couple of hours of your time helps make the day fly by so please contact one of the lefse making committee Co-chairs, Ashley Brusven 350-3328 or Ted Birkedal 351-6095, to let them know you would like to help.

Lefse-Making Sessions this Fall

Lefse Making for Bazaar: September 12-14, Friday-Sunday/ October 3-5 Friday-Sunday

Lefse Making for Lutefisk Dinner: November 7-9, Friday-Sunday

*** If there is sufficient interest we will be a Youth Lefse Making Session from Noon to 5 pm on Sunday, November 9th. Parents should call Ted Birkedal at 351-6095 to reserve a spot for their children. (Note: If we have few calls we will cancel this special lefse making session)*

Lefse Making Hours: Friday 3-6 pm/ Saturday 9-6 pm/Sunday 9-6 pm

Eva Bilet *President's Message continued from Page 1*

When she was first President, lodge meetings and events were often held in the accordion shop of one of the members.

In 1975 she was charged by Bob Atwood, the Norwegian Consul in Alaska, with responsibility of hosting King Olav's visit to Anchorage. While in Anchorage the King came for lunch at Eva's and Tor's house and after noting the quantity of King crab and King salmon being served made the self-effacing joke "that there are a lot of Kings here." King Olav was so impressed with Eva's gracious hospitality during his visit that he awarded her with his coveted "King Olav's Medal" for her service. Later she was invited to meet personally with the King in his palace when she went to Norway in 1976. This was a great honor which she certainly deserved and it underscores Eva Bilet's role as one of Bernt Balchen Lodge's best public representatives.

It should also be noted that Eva was primary mentor to Marit Kristiansen, another illustrious lodge member, who has risen through the ranks to become the President of Sons of Norway International, an organization with over 60,000 members. Marit, who credits much of her success to Eva's Bilet's wise advice and guidance, said that Eva "was a force to be reckoned with". Eva is a doer and expects others to be doers as well. Her motto is "Just do it". In light of her determination and practical philosophy it is not surprising that she was born in Trondheim in the Norwegian province of Trondelag. The people of Trondelag, called "Tronders", are known as the most stubborn of all Norwegians, a people who as a nation pride themselves for their stubbornness.



Eva Bilet among the beloved birch trees in her yard.

Eva Bilet was also a pioneer member of Anchorage's Sister Cities Commission on which she served for six years. A frequent volunteer on behalf of the municipality, she chaired Anchorage's United Nations Day Celebration and worked for many years as a representative on behalf of the Alaska Convention and Visitor's Bureau. No one has done more for Sons of Norway in Alaska or been a better citizen of her adopted Anchorage than Eva Bilet.

Eva still lives in the handsome and sturdy house that Tor built years ago in what was then a wooded and remote part of Anchorage. Today it is part of modern suburban Anchorage. She no longer holds a formal office, but Eva Bilet's wise counsel is still frequently sought and heeded, both by current officers of Bernt Balchen Lodge and Marit Kristiansen, the President of Sons of Norway International.

Fraternally yours, Terje "Ted" Birkedal

FROM EVA TO BERNT BALCHEN LODGE

I am deeply honored that the lodge selected me as their recipient of the "Excellence in Community Service Award for the Bridge Builders, Anchorage 2014."

A simple "Thank You" doesn't seem enough, but believe me, it comes from my heart. It is such a great honor. Thank you Bernt Balchen Lodge and Bridge Builders Anchorage.

Eva Bilet



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

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Anchorage, Alaska
PERMIT 505

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

4	Thursday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Full Board Meeting
9	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class
11	Thursday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	End of Summer Potluck/Program
		7:30 - 9:30 pm	Business Meeting
12	Friday	3:00 - 6:00 pm	Lefse Making for Bazaar
13	Saturday	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Lefse Making for Bazaar
14	Sunday	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Lefse Making for Bazaar
16	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Needle Crafts
20	Saturday	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Får-i-kål Dinner
23	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class

OCTOBER

3	Friday	3:00 - 6:00 pm	Lefse Making for Bazaar
4	Saturday	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Lefse Making for Bazaar
5	Sunday	9:00 am - 6:00 pm	Lefse Making for Bazaar
7	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Needle Crafts
9	Thursday	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Potluck/Program
		7:30 - 9:30 pm	Business Meeting
11	Saturday	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Scandinavian Bazaar
14	Tuesday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Rosemaling Class
18	Saturday	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Woodcarving Seminar
21	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Needle Crafts
25	Saturday	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Cultural & Heritage Evening
28	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 October 15th to: sonancak@gmail.com Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **The Flyer**