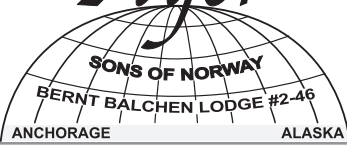
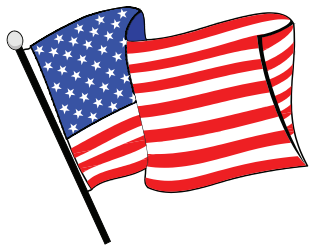


# The Flyer



VIKING HALL 349-1613  
www.sofnalaska.com

Summer  
2014  
sommer



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## SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Community Partnerships

Bernt Balchen Lodge is continuing and deepening its partnership with Bridge Builders of Anchorage. Bridge Builders of Anchorage was started by Mayor Rick Mystrom in 1996. The mission of Bridge Builders is “to ‘build a community of friends’ among all racial and cultural groups in Anchorage.” The purpose of this award-winning program is to help create a friendlier, safer city and by making connections among the many diverse groups that contribute to Anchorage’s current population. Three of our members, Lauren Brion, Merlin Hamre and myself, are now on the Board of Directors of Bridge Builders and most recently Bernt Balchen Lodge Board voted to allow Bridge Builders to hold their board and committee meetings at Viking Hall free of charge as a community service.

Our lodge first became involved with Bridge Builders of Anchorage many years ago when we began sending members to man a Norwegian station at the popular “Meet the World” event at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, a celebration of Anchorage’s cultural diversity sponsored by Bridge Builders. Last year we participated in two more Bridge Builders’ events, the Fourth of July Parade and the Unity Gala. We plan to participate in both these events again in the summer of 2014.

We would like to see more member involvement in the Fourth of July Parade this year. It is a good way to showcase Sons of Norway to the people of Anchorage. There are thousands of spectators along the parade route and they give us positive shout-outs when they see our lodge banner coming down the parade route. We march in tandem with Bridge Builders of Anchorage of the parade consistently organizers. It is a pedestrian walk and wave. If you have put on a Norwegian sweater or these still come and join us in the PM, July 4<sup>th</sup> at the southeast corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and G Streets near the Conoco-Phillips Building prior to the formation of the Bridge Builders section of the parade. Come, it will be a lot of fun.



We will also participate in the Bridge Builders’ Unity Gala which is scheduled for the evening of August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This colorful event at the Dena’ina Center allows the various cultural groups around the city to honor deserving members who will represent their respective groups at the Gala. Last year, Marit Kristiansen, President, Sons of Norway International, was selected as our honoree and she received a well-earned award for her life-time service to the Norwegian American community and the city of Anchorage. This year we will select another deserving member of our lodge to represent us at the Gala. We have a table reserved at the Gala for our honoree and other lodge members who are interested in attending. Again, participation in this event gives Sons of Norway increased visibility and standing the Anchorage community.

It is important to note that this year the Mayor of Anchorage has selected the Unity Gala to officially mark the beginning of the Anchorage Centennial Celebration. He has also given substantial Centennial staff, logistics, and monetary support to Bridge Builders to make this the best Gala possible and tell the story of the different groups that have helped to make Anchorage what it is today. The history of Anchorage is the history of many peoples and Norwegian Americans and other Scandinavians are an important part of that history.

Have a good summer!

*Fraternally yours,  
Terje “Ted” Birkedal*

## Viking Hall News

Regular annual maintenance jobs and reports are being taken care of by Ingrid Braastad and others. Wayne Johnson has volunteered to sandblast the rust on the new stairs, then paint them. Gene Moe has volunteered again, to seal the entryway. Ted planted the barrels, with Cynthia's help. John will check the roof. He mentioned that the two sinks in the men's room will be replaced. There were suggestions on backing up our computers more efficiently. These things will be taken care of over the summer.



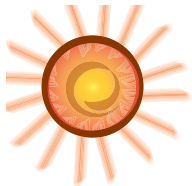
There are many members to thank. Ed Swearingen for chairing the previous meeting. Jim Bysheim-replacing the buzzing transformer in an emergency light in the main hall; Gene and Shirley Moe-cleaning Briarwood Street and the South side flowers along the building; Gene for cleaning bricks and installing the LAST of the new bricks-Hooray! Ted for cleaning 80th Street; John and Cynthia -thoroughly cleaning the Dance Floor and sealing it with three coats of sealer, as well as cleaning the marks off the laminate adjacent to the carpeting; Ron Flugam - watering twice weekly the South side and the barrels, for having gotten the music stands and having the piano tuned and doing our monthly reports; Cynthia for updating the 2014 list of rentals and major cleaning in the men's room prior to a recent rental; closings over the past couple months by Ron, Ted, John, Merlin and Chuck.

As you can see, we do have numerous hard working/volunteering SON's (some over-worked) members in our Lodge. Please, we always need help, read again the summers jobs, and give a call to volunteer, so I can add your name to our 'Thanks' as the months go by.

You will be very much appreciated!

*Sincerely,*

*Sandra Hanson, Viking Hall President*



## Sunshine Report

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

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)

**"Happy Birthday!"**

### JUNE

Kathryn N. Aarseth  
Martha L Andrew  
Dagrun Brotherston  
Sylvi Dix  
Mrs. Donald L. Marson  
**Thordis B. Nelson**  
**95 years!!!**  
Charles R. Rush  
Colleen Markley Rutledge  
Cecile Mitchell

### JULY

Marilyn L. Freitag  
Shirley Jean Iverson  
**John L. Maakestad**  
**96 years!!!**  
Marvin B Olson  
Paul Roseland  
Donald P. Schulz

### AUGUST

Margaret Benson  
Steinar R. Hansen  
Sigurd M. Langnes  
Donald O. Saur  
Ann Strother  
E. Frances Vadia

**"Gratulerer med dagen!"**

# FLAT-PLANE CARVING

## *Meet Harley Refsal at the "Pig Roast Dinner" August 19*

Once again Harley Refsal will be teaching Scandinavian-style flat-plane carving in Anchorage. Harley was a professor of Scandinavian Folk Art and Scandinavian studies at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa retiring just a year ago.

Refsal was born and raised on a farm near Hoffman, Minnesota, homesteaded by his Norwegian-immigrant grandparents.

He began working in wood as a young boy. Primarily self-taught, Harley began winning awards in regional and national carving exhibitions by the late 1970s.

He began researching the history of Scandinavian flat-plane carving where he discovered that most of the artists who had worked in this style during the height of it's popularity, in the early decades of the 20th century, in both Scandinavia and America had died. Flat-plane carving had faded to near-extinction.

Since the 1980s, Harley who speaks fluent Norwegian, has shared his knowledge of, and skills in, Scandinavian flat-plane carving with woodcarvers in classes and presentations in the United States and Scandinavia.

In 1996, Harley was decorated by the King of Norway, receiving the St. Olav's Medal for his contributions to Norwegian folk art.

You can meet and chat with Harley at the "pig roast dinner" on August 19. He still spends 6 weeks in Norway each summer where he teaches the Norwegian language.

*Cindy McDowell*



# Syttende Mai!



# Syttende Mai!



*Photos Courtesy  
of Glenn Soby*



## Bridge Builders Unity Gala

*August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014*

*6:30 PM*

*The Dena'ina Center*



Please support your Norwegian-American 2014 Honoree at the Bridge Builders' Unity Gala. In 2013 our Honoree was Marit Kristiansen, President of Sons of Norway International. We have reserved a table for the Honoree, his or her family and guests, and Sons of Norway Board Members. However, we encourage you to purchase additional tickets for \$60 per person and fill another table or two with more Norwegian-Americans. The more the merrier. The tickets cover dinner and all the festivities and entertainment. This year the Mayor has selected the Bridge Builders' Gala to inaugurate the Anchorage Centennial Celebration so it should be a landmark event.

If you are interested in attending please contact Ted Birkedal at (907) 351-6095 or via email at [tedbirkedal@gmail.com](mailto:tedbirkedal@gmail.com). We ask that attendee's wear bunads or Norwegian sweaters, if they have them, to identify themselves as part of the Norwegian-American community. However, this attire is not required to attend.

## *Mother's Day Brunch*

*They say it takes a village to raise a child. It also takes lots of lodge members to put on a successful event at Viking Hall. And they came out in force to help put on a very successful brunch on Mother's Day. We served about 125 people this year.*

Mange tusen takk to those who gave of their time and energy:

Set-Up – Shirley & Gene Moe, Jane Moe Newby, Cynthia Olnes, Ted Birkedal.

Nuna's Apple Syrup – Sandra Johnson

Fruit Cups – Ed Swearingen – yes, he spends hours cutting and prepping all that fruit!

Eggs – Wally Smith, Steinar Hansen

Meat – Merlin Hamre

Pancakes – Karlin Swearingen

Mimosas – John Olnes

Dining Room – Sandra Hanson, Ashley Brusven, Ian & Emma Clark, Eric Andrew

Cashiers – Anna Decker, Ingrid Brastad spelling

Clean-Up – Ed & Karlin Swearingen, John & Cynthia Olnes, Ted Birkedal, Merlin Hamre, Sandra Hanson, Steinar Hansen, Tom Falskow

*Mickey Andrew, Chair*

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

### PIG ROAST

@

### Viking Hall

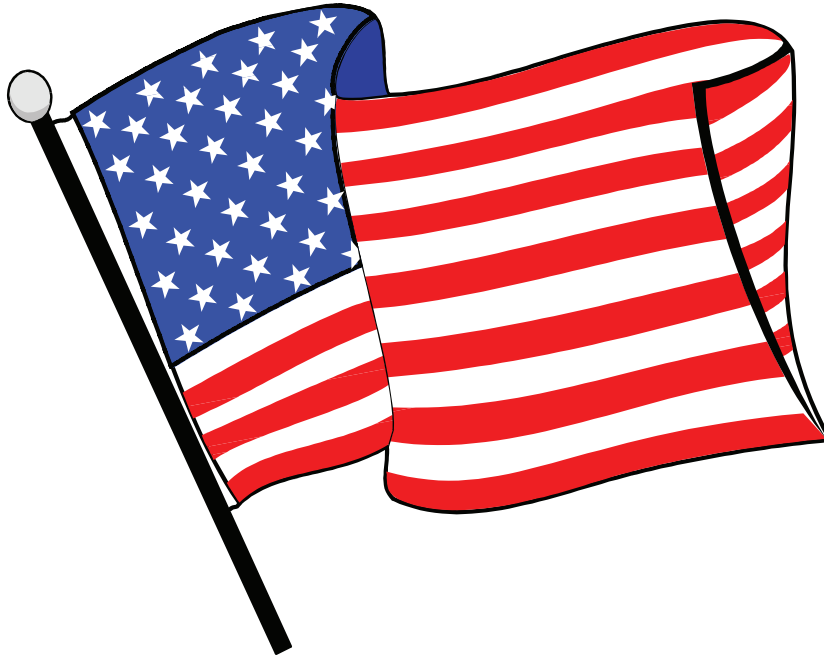
### August 19th

*starting at 5:00 pm*

*Look  
for the  
Reminder  
Postcard*



## Fourth of July Parade



**HURRAH! HURRAH! HURRAH!**

*Come join your fellow Sons of Norway members* in the Bridge Builders section of the Anchorage Fourth of July Parade. Wear your bunad or Norwegian sweater if you have one, but if not, come anyway and meet your fellow Bernt Balchen Lodge members 10:00 AM, July 4<sup>th</sup>, at the southeast corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and G Streets near the Conoco-Phillips Building. After assembling with the rest of the Bridge Builders groups we will proceed to form up in our assigned places for the parade. You need not do anything but walk and wave. We will carry the American flag and our large lodge banner. It's like Syttende Mai, but much bigger and with thousands of spectators. Come be part of the parade and proudly represent your Scandinavian-American heritage for all Anchorage to see.

Bring the kids too, big or small, short or tall!

If you are interested in participating please contact Ted Birkedal at (907) 351-6095 or via email at [tedbirkedal@gmail.com](mailto:tedbirkedal@gmail.com).



Sons of Norway  
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907-349-1613

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PERMIT 505

## SUMMER EVENTS

### JUNE

12 Thursday 7:30 pm Business Meeting

### JULY

4 Friday 10:00 am July 4th Parade

### AUGUST

19 Tuesday 5:00 pm Pig Roast Dinner

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