



VIKING HALL 349-1613
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March
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Inside this issue:

<i>Viking Hall News</i>	2
<i>Superbowl Recap</i>	2
<i>Woodcarving</i>	2
<i>Nordic Language Fair</i>	3
<i>Scholarships</i>	4
<i>Scholarship Story</i>	5
<i>Scandinavian Iditarod</i>	5
<i>Ski for Light</i>	6
<i>Anchorage Folk Festival</i>	7
<i>Fish Dinner and Tribute</i>	7
<i>Potato Bash</i>	7
<i>Fairbanks Lodge</i>	7



SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Embrace the Spirit of the Cooperative Viking!

In popular culture Vikings are presented as an unruly and cantankerous bunch that had a penchant for wearing horns on their helmets. Well, the wearing of horned helmets is a myth invented in nineteenth century German operas. No Viking worth his salt would have put two large horns on his helmet; those protruding horns would have served as tempting sword or axe magnets and would have resulted in more than a large number knocked-off helmets and big headaches on the battlefield. Similarly our conception of Vikings as always cranky and quarrelsome is also a myth. Yes, there were cranky and quarrelsome Vikings, but they were the exceptions that proved the rule.



Because of the myth of the “cranky Viking” many of Scandinavian heritage today wonder what happened in the last one thousand years to turn modern Scandinavians into exemplars of cooperation and social responsibility. Where did that come from, eating potatoes? Oddly enough the cooperative spirit seems to have always been there, at least from the time of the Vikings and perhaps even much earlier.

We have particularly good evidence of the cooperative character of Viking society from the tiny Faroe Islands which were first settled by Vikings from Norway over 1100 years ago. Archaeologists working to uncover the prehistory of the islands expected to find geological evidence of erosion over the centuries. This is because the Faroese have been heavily dependent on animal husbandry for more than a thousand years and the archaeologists initially predicted they would find evidence of erosion from repeated episodes of overgrazing, a common problem on small island groups. They found none. Thomas McGovern, one of the archaeologists explains why. He says he and his colleagues believe a strong social and political commitment to cooperation in setting and enforcing grazing limits from the outset saved the Faroese from would have been one or more ecological disasters.

Other evidence of cooperation in the Viking Age comes from the Icelandic Sagas. These were first written down in the thirteenth century, but the stories are about the Viking times some 200 to 300 years earlier. Most of these sagas have a similar arch or trajectory in the direction of the story. In the beginning one or more “cranky Vikings” break the peace over a land dispute, grazing rights, or a woman. Then the tale generally moves toward resolution through the cooperative actions of the wider society that bring back the peace and mend the social fabric. Though the sagas seem to feature both violent and quarrelsome people they are actually history-based morality plays about the cooperative restoration of public order following the disruptions brought on by the “cranky Vikings”. The “good guys” in the stories are those who support and help their neighbors; the villains are the “cranky Vikings”.

And there is no better evidence of the Vikings’ ability to cooperate with each other than the Viking Ship. It took 30 or more men working in unison to row these vessels properly. Slaves did not row Viking ships; free independent men did (and perhaps some women as well). Without careful coordination and cooperation no Viking ship would have made it out of the harbors of Scandinavia.

And like our ancestors of old it takes all of us working together to have a prosperous and successful lodge. So when called upon by the lodge, remember your Viking heritage and put your oar in the water in cooperation with your fraternal brothers and sisters and pull your weight as a member of Sons of Norway. Don’t be a “cranky Viking”.

Fraternally yours, Terje “Ted” Birkedal
President, Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge

LAST FRONTIER WOODCARVERS

Mark your calendar on March 14th!! The Last Frontier Woodcarvers will be offering another woodcarving seminar from 9 am - 4 pm at the Viking Hall. There will be 12 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 under the age of 17.

Classes offered are: bark houses, five point braid, flower relief, bark faces, Kolrosing, bark spoons, Dahl horse, woodburning, bear relief, Viking, sleeping rabbit and chainsaw (must have own chainsaw and chaps and depends on weather).

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.



Sons of Norway Secretary, Ashley Walker enjoying a previous Woodcarving seminar.

Viking Hall News



The 2015 Dry Dock Contract was delivered to Dry Dock., with the same information and rental as 2014. Miscellaneous office details were taken care of. Items on the Annual Maintenance Check List were covered.

Building Maintenance: John Olnes made plumbing repairs to the kitchen hand-washing sink. Ed Swearingen and Jim Bysheim did several electrical jobs: installed a new light fixture and outlets in Dry Dock and replaced lights and spots lights with dimmable LED bulbs in the Hall, which necessitated replacement of light switches rated for the LED lighting. Ed Larson repaired the leaking plumbing of the Dry

Dock kitchen sink. Cynthia Olnes did the clean-up of that leak in the hallway downstairs. Special thanks to all, for these very vital jobs!

Ed Swearingen and Cynthia set up the new TV, which got initiated at the Super Bowl Party. Too bad, if you missed the fun!

Thanks to Cynthia, also, for closing after an event.

Please Note: *Viking Hall Board Meetings are always open to any Sons of Norway members.*

Sandra S Hanson, Viking Hall President

SUPERBOWL FUN

Thanks to all of you who supported our Lodge Scholarship Fund by purchasing raffle tickets!

The enthusiastic crowd attending the Sons of Norway Super Bowl Party enjoyed a great game and wonderful food. Wayne Johnson's Lapskaus stew was once again a hit. Special thanks to Jane Moe Newby for keeping tabs on the money, notifying winners and complying with official gaming requirements.

We congratulate all winners and especially the big winner Robert Weimer. Our thanks to those who helped with ticket sales, food preparation, and event set-up and clean-up—Jane Moe Newby, Sandra Hanson, John Olnes, Wayne Johnson, Ed Swearingen, Cynthia Olnes, Shirley Iverson, Dave Fauske, Ted Birkedal, Merlin Hamre, Chris Tomsen, Robert Denholm, Amanda Saxton and Glenn Jacob.

Once again a special thanks to Sandra Hanson for her efforts selling tickets.



Here are the 2015 winners!

Drawn Won			Drawn Won		
#1	\$200	Frank Pieper	#165	\$25	Wayne Rockne
#7	\$50	David Fauske	#180	\$25	Wayne Rockne
#13	\$100	Ray Lee	#195	\$100	Marti Barnard
#45	\$50	David Lane	#210	\$50	Pat McCormick
#66	\$25	John Phelps	#225	\$25	Amanda Hagan
#75	\$50	Boyd Berg	#240	\$100	Jerry Hansen
#90	\$100	Anna Bryant	#250	\$25	Collin Szymanski
#105	\$25	E. E. Collias	#270	\$50	Collin Szymanski
#121	\$50	Amanda Hagan	#299	\$250	John Phelps
#150	\$200	Ed Swearingen	#300	\$1000	Robert Weimer

Nordic Language Fair



Finnish baby meets Icelandic baby



Icelandic speaker Anna Bjartmarsdottir



Honorary Finnish Consul and president of Anchorage Suomi-Finland Club Hanna Eklund



Sanne Berrig speaks about the Danish language

On February 14, language lovers of all ages attended a Nordic Language fair held at Viking Hall. This event, which was free and open to the public, featured presentations by native speakers on languages spoken in the Nordic countries. Our own Bernt Balchen Lodge Norwegian teacher, Lillian Anderson, gave an overview of the Norwegian language. Native speaker Sanne Berrig presented on the Danish language and honorary Danish Consul Grant Callow also attended. UAA librarian and native Icelandic speaker Anna Bjartmarsdottir spoke on both the Icelandic and Swedish languages. Honorary Finnish Consul and president of the Anchorage Suomi-Finland Club Hanna Eklund spoke about Finnish, which is not linguistically related to the Scandinavian languages.



Honorary Danish Consul Grant Callow with Danish speaker Sanne Berrig

In addition to the presentations, there were language and culturally related activities for all ages. Attendees had the opportunity to make traditional Norwegian woven paper hearts, learn vocabulary, songs, and games, peruse children's books, and even play with Legos (which are a Danish invention). Members of the Nordik Language Klub, a UAA student club open to the public, also participated in the fair and provided information about their activities, which include learning Norwegian and Icelandic. Scholarship information was also provided by the UAA Office of International and Intercultural Affairs. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet this semester's Kaare Birkeland scholarship recipient from Norway, Isabell Kolstad Håvardsholm. (*Read more about Isabell on page 5*)

There were also traditional Nordic desserts to sample such as toscakaka (Swedish Almond Cake), pönnukökur (Icelandic pancakes), æbleskiver (spherical Danish pancakes), and vafler (Norwegian waffles). And of course, we couldn't leave out the lefse!

Everyone had a great time learning about the similarities and differences of the

languages spoken in the Nordic countries and getting to meet the native speakers. There is a great deal of interest in Nordic languages in this city and several people asked when we were going to have another fair!

*Cultural Director,
Christie Ericson*



Norwegian speaker Lillian Anderson



UAA Nordik Language Klub president Alyxandra Shroy and Kaare Birkeland scholarship recipient Isabell Kolstad Håvardsholm chat with Danish speaker Sanne Berrig

For more information:

Anchorage Suomi-Finland Club: <http://www.finnclub.com/>

UAA Nordik Language Klub: <http://www.thenlk.org/>

University of the Arctic north2north exchange program:
<https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/oia/studyabroad/uarcticn2n.cfm>

Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge Scholarships

The 2015 scholarship applications for both the Language and Heritage Scholarship and the Higher Education Scholarship are available at the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge

(Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood Street, Anchorage, 9 am -1 pm, Tuesday-Friday).

The *Language and Heritage Scholarship* is available for persons of any age who are interested in attending or participating in Norwegian language or heritage programs.

The *Higher Education Scholarship* is available for persons entering a school of learning beyond the high school level.

Application deadlines are once again April 15. Scholarship recipients will be chosen by April 30th and announced at the 17th of May Celebration.

If you have any questions concerning the application process and procedures, please contact Beverly Griffin at (907) 349-1176 or by email at threeegs@alaskan.com.

Please mail or drop off application packets to:

Sons of Norway
Attn: Scholarship Committee
8141 Briarwood St
Anchorage, AK 99518

Several other scholarships are also offered by the Sons of Norway Foundation and District 2. Go to www.sofn.com/foundation and www.sonsofnorway2.com to get a full description for each scholarship and application details.

Application Requirements for Language and Heritage Scholarship

1. Name, date of birth, and address
2. Name of program to be attended
3. Membership in Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046, or a relation to a member of Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046
4. Essay describing your involvement in Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046 and what the Sons of Norway has meant to you
5. Essay of "Why I want to attend a Language/Heritage Program"

Application Requirements for the Higher Education Scholarship

1. Name, date of birth, and address
2. Name of High School with transcript included
3. Date of graduation or expected graduation
4. Membership in Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046, or a relation to a member of Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046
5. Extra-curricular activities and honors
6. Essay describing your involvement in Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046 and what the Sons of Norway has meant to you
7. Essay of "Why I should receive a Higher Education Scholarship"

Scholarships: A Story from Stavanger



All my life, I have dreamt of going to Alaska. I have dreamt of the northern lights playing in sky and the big and beautiful mountains. I have dreamt about the beautiful nature and wildlife since I saw "White Fang" when I was a little girl. When I grew up, I got myself an Alaskan Husky, my own White Fang, as a part of my Alaskan dream.

Never in a million years did I believe my dream would come true, until I saw the Kaare Birkeland scholarship, which is a scholarship for students who wants to exchange between Stavanger and Anchorage.

My name is Isabell Håvardsholm and I am born and raised in Stavanger, a big city on the west coast of Norway. I study at UiS (University of Stavanger) and my major is Early Childhood Education. I have worked in the same kindergarten for 8 years and I cannot imagine doing something else. I love to work with children, and I believe it is important to spend a lot of time outdoors with my students. Everything you can teach them inside a classroom, you can teach them outdoors.

Since I fulfilled my dream of going to Alaska, I have to chase my next dream. I want to have my own kindergarten. I hope to learn as much as possible of the Alaskan culture so I can include it in my kindergarten.

Thank you so much for the opportunity and make my dream come true. It is an amazing feeling just to be here.

*Best wishes
Isabell Håvardsholm*



Scandinavian Connections of Iditarod Mushers



Although not as many racers as last year, Scandanavia is well represented in this years Iditarod.

Yvonne Dabakk was born in Germany but now claims Oslo as her home. She became infatuated with mushing while doing graduate work toward her doctorate in physics at the University Centre in Svalbard. She is currently at the University of Alaska,

Fairbanks doing post doctoral research. This is her second Iditarod. All her dogs are Siberian Huskies that were brought from Norway.

Joar Leifseth Ulsom is from Mo i Rana, Norway. This is his third Iditarod. He is one of five mushers to place top-10 in their first two Iditarod starts. He holds the record having the fastest time ever, of a rookie running the Iditarod.

Thomas Waerner is from Torpa, Norway. He born in England and raised in Norway. He has extgensive racing experience in Norway but this is his first Iditarod. He is in a team with Robert Sørli, (past Iditarod winner).

Mats Pettersson is from Kiruna, Sweden. This is his second Iditarod, he finished 29th as a rookie in 2014. He obtained a couple of dogs from Jeff King to start his kennel.

Lisbeth Norris is from Willow. She has studied in Norway and spent a winter there mushing dogs.

SKI FOR LIGHT 2015



This past January lodge members Heather Hall and John Olnes attended the 40th Ski for Light International event held in Granby, Colorado. The following article originally appeared on the Ski for Light, Inc. Facebook page as a tribute to 2015 Ski for Light participant, Teresa, and her guide John Olnes. It is reprinted here with permission from author David Fisichella. David's story captures the essence of why Heather and John return each year as Ski for Light guides.

"This is why I'm a Ski for Light Guide"

by David Fisichella

Ski-For-Light (SFL) is an organization that for one week each year pairs blind and mobility impaired individuals with guides to share the experience of Nordic skiing.

I have been a guide for twenty of SFL's forty year history. When people ask me what makes the program special I have always had a difficult time finding a short description that describes the friendships, challenges, and personal growth each week delivers. Sometimes it is easier to relate a story of a particular event which encompasses the SFL spirit. This past week in Granby Colorado generated one such event.

SFL week culminates with a contest that allows skiers to choose to compete in either a 10 km race or a 5 km predicted time rally. Race day dawned colder under overcast skies and moderate snow, in contrast to the bright sun and warm temperatures we experienced for most of the week. I was assisting Tim, the Race Coordinator, in the timing shack and everything was going well despite the slower conditions brought on by the accumulation of new snow.

Two hours after the start all but one of the one hundred and three skier pairs had crossed the finish line. The last pair was skiing the 5 km course and was nowhere to be seen. We sent someone out with a phone to locate them and report where they were on the course. By now conditions had deteriorated and the wind was considerably stronger.

The call came in. The guide and skier were only at the 3km mark on the 5 km course. They would be out for at least another hour. Tim and I conferred and considered sending a snow machine out for them as exhaustion and cold could become a dangerous combination. When presented with this option the skier was adamant – she wanted to finish on her own. We agreed we'd keep the course open as long as possible.

Almost all of the two hundred and fifty people at the finish area had long since gone back to the hotel, but a few dozen remained, searching the top of the slope in the distance for any sign of the last pair. Forty five minutes later two heads became two bodies as they crested the last hill before the finish. Spectators ran and skied towards them, forming a moving cheering section around the skier and her guide. Cow bells rang and words of encouragement were continuously shouted. Every few feet someone would call out the distance to the finish line the skier could not see.

The last one hundred yards took fifteen minutes, each step propelling the skier only a few inches. It was obvious she and her guide were cold and both physically and emotionally drained. Wind was blowing snow across their path and pushing like a cold hand trying to impede their progress. Every few feet she would wobble and catch herself just before falling over. If she fell over now I doubt she would have had the energy to get back up.

The skier crossed the finish to the clanging of bells, cheers and hugs. Both she and her guide, and many of us watching, had tears in our eyes. This woman was no athlete. Most people could have walked around that course in a fraction of the time, but this person pushed herself beyond her limits, and to his credit so did her guide.

What will this experience mean for her days, months, or years in the future? I can't know that, but I'm sure that her life will be changed for the better, if not in a profound, at least in some small way. The same can be said of her guide and each of us who was witness to her resolve to finish.

This is why I'm a Ski-For-Light guide.

Note: Ski for Light is a Sons of Norway outreach program. Each year the Sons of Norway Foundation, Districts, and individual Lodges generously support this all-volunteer organization. For more information about Ski for Light please visit their website at www.sfl.org.

Anchorage Folk Festival

If you missed the Anchorage Folk Festival, you missed talented performances of fellow lodge members. Hanna Persson and Annie Margeson danced the first Sunday with the Irish Dance Academy of Alaska. Lloyd and Sevrin Persson appeared with the Alaska City Folk Arts Saturday afternoon of the second Saturday and the following afternoon with The AS Band. The AS Band also includes Stefan and Otterson. The last Saturday evening had an appearance by Bootleg Brown. Alaska's best bluegrass band ... in their price range. Featuring our own Chuck Dunnagan, along with Suzanne Little, David Mannheimer, Paul Paslay, Lowell Webb.



Watching The California Honeydrops, the guest band for the first weekend had a familiar looking face joining them for some pieces. An email to Tom Falskow confirmed that it was Erik that joined the band playing his tenor saxophone.

Please take the opportunities both at and outside of the lodge to enjoy the diverse talents of our lodge.

Potato Bash



On February 11th the Potato Bash sponsored by the UAF Cooperative Extension Service in Anchorage was held at Viking Hall. You may know Leslie Shallcross for her excellence in lefse rolling. Professionally

she is a Health, Home and Family Development Specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service and was the organizer of the event. The Potato Bash allowed you to taste and rate several different potato varieties grown or being developed to be grown in Alaska. Information provided during the event included nutrition and growing facts, potato trivia, potato songs, cooking tips and answers to all your potato questions. The event ended with a meal with ever course containing.

For those of you that are interested, Leslie also teaches food preservation classes at Viking Hall.

If you would like to take these or similar classes from the Extension Service visit them on the web at:

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/>

Or visit their office at:

1675 C Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: 907-786-6300

Fish Dinner and Tribute

The fish dinner will be April 18th. Please come join us for food and fellowship. Also this year we will have a musical program which will include Bootleg Brown (Chuck Dunigan's Group) and display other lodge talents.

The program will be in tribute to Paul Roseland. If you have pictures, clippings or stories about Paul (especially as the pertain to music) please email hamrem Merlin@gmail.com.



Spotlight on:

**Arctic Viking Lodge #2-117
Fairbanks**

See what other lodges are up to!

Saturday, March 7 @ 11:00

Fastelavn @ Chena Lakes

Saturday, March 14 @ 11:00

Sewing and craft fun

Saturday, March 14 @ 3:00

Cultural presentation at 3:00. Membership meeting at 4:00, followed by a potluck dinner.

Tuesday, March 17 @ 5:30

Monthly Dinner - St. Patrick's Day theme (RSVP required)

<http://sonsofnorway117.yolasite.com>



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

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EVENTS

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.



MARCH

3	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Needle Crafts & Rosemaling Class
12	Thursday	7:00 pm	Board/Membership Meeting New Member Welcome
14	Saturday	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Woodcarving Seminar
17	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Needle Crafts & Rosemaling Class

All events take place at Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood St., unless otherwise noted.

Please send articles or event information

for the next Newsletter by March 20th to: sonancak@gmail.com Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **The Flyer**