



VIKING HALL 349-1613
www.sofnalaska.com

May
2013
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Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge President's Message

Recently I have been reading about the history of Sons of Norway so as to fill in some of the big gaps in my knowledge about the origins and purpose of our fraternal order. One thing I found interesting was how Sons of Norway got its name. It was apparently inspired by a popular Norwegian nationalistic song from the early nineteenth century which begins "Sønner af Norge, det ældgamle Rige (Sons of Norway, that ancient realm [or kingdom])". This song was enthusiastically sung at the second meeting of the founders in 1895 right after they voted to adopt "Sons of Norway" (originally "Sønner af Norge") as the name of their brand new order.

Another interesting fact about the founding of Sons of Norway is the fact that the majority of its founding members were "Trønders", Norwegians borne in Trøndelag, the region that surrounds the town of Trondheim in north central

Norway. Trønders have a reputation among other Norwegians for their organizational skills and their love of order. So, it seems only fitting that the Trønders were the majority players in the successful founding of Sons of Norway in Minneapolis, Minnesota, some 118 years ago.

In its first decade of existence Sons of Norway flourished and dozens of new lodges formed across the nation, from Brooklyn to Seattle. This success was in part attributable to the organizational and recruiting talents of the original founders, but there was another important element that attracted Norwegians and people of Norwegian descent to the order and led to its early robust success. It sought out and honored the common man. Moreover, its leaders were selected from the pool of common folks in Sons of Norway, considered the "lodestones" of the order, not the "big shots". In 1905, a respected Lutheran pastor was asked why Sons of Norway had done so well over the past decade. He

answered with double emphasis, "It is democratic! It is democratic!" What he meant is that each member had a vote and a say in the business of Sons of Norway no matter his social status outside the lodge. Sons of Norway leaders were chosen for their ability to serve, not their wealth or political power. Everyone shared an equal standing as members of their respective lodges.

This is still true today. As a member of Bernt Balchen Lodge you have an opportunity to make your voice heard and vote on important lodge matters. I invite you to exercise that right at our monthly Business Meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Join us in the ancient Norse tradition of democracy, a tradition that runs deep in Norwegian history and society. Like the Vikings of old who met at the "Things (assemblies)", join us at Viking Hall for the monthly lodge "Thing."

Fraternally,

Ted "Terje" Birkedal

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Mother's Day Brunch at Viking Hall



Sunday, May 12th
10 am to 2 pm

The menu includes walter's sourdough pancakes,
Nuna's apple cinnamon syrup, ham,
reindeer sausage, eggs, mixed fruit,
juice, coffee, tea & Mimosas for the adults.

Adults \$10, ages 12-16 \$6, ages 5-11 \$4, under 5ys free

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Please join us at Viking Hall
for

SYTTENDE MAI CELEBRATION

Celebrating Norway's Constitution Day

**Sunday, May 19th
3:00 pm**

Potluck Luncheon

*Bring your favorite side dish or dessert
and enjoy time with friends!*

Meats will be provided by the Lodge

Join us to recognize lodge members
receiving anniversary pins and 2013
scholarship recipients

Adults—\$5

Please contact Ted Birkedal to assist or ask
questions—tedbirkedal@gmail.com / 351-6095

Not the Same Newsletter

You may have noticed a few more
quirks than expected when reading
this newsletter. Cynthia Olnes is on
vacation and I am flailing with unfam-
iliar software and limited editing
skills.

Needless to say I am hoping that Cyn-
thia and John are having a wonderful
vacation and that we all will give them
a warm welcome back to Alaska.

Merlin



Syttende Mai Parade

Friday, May 17

6pm - 8pm

Join us in celebration of Norway's
Constitution Day for a traditional
parade on May 17.

We encourage you to wear your bunads
or Norwegian sweaters and red and blue
ribbons as we carry Norwegian Flags and
the Bernt Balchen Lodge banner around
the block. We will have flags on
hand—or bring your own.

We'd all very much appreciate having
some of our lodge's talented musicians
accompany us as we march
around the block as well!

A short program of speakers will
precede the parade and hotdogs
and ice cream will follow.

We encourage all ages to share special
talents or favorite 17 Mai memories.

**We will meet under the giant flag pole on
"I" Street between 9th and 10th Avenues.**

The event will take place rain or shine!

If you would like to help, participate or have
questions contact Ted Birkedal, 351-6095.



DO YOU KAFFESLABBERAS????

Do you enjoy having lunch with friends?

Why don't you join us at Viking Hall on the third
Thursday of the month for Kaffeslabberas. Most of
our diners arrive about 11:30 or so for lunch and stay
to chat. We serve homemade soup (\$4) and open-
face sandwiches (\$4). Coffee, tea and dessert (lots of
dessert) are included.

If you are retired, on vacation or just available for
lunch from 11:30-1:00, Viking Hall is the place to be.

You, too, can kaffeslabberas!

Sunshine Report



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

"Happy Birthday"
"Gratulerer med dagen!"

Margaret Edwards
Reidun Hansen
Donald Hanson
Gordon Homme
Darrell Korman
Gerald Swanson

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine, please call Cindy McDowell 696-0725 (cell-862-1143) or email at ccmcd38@hotmail.com.

WELCOME

New Member!

Douglas Iverson

Carve Your Name in Stone!



If you would like to commemorate an event in your life and "cast it in stone" an inscribed brick can be permanently placed at the base of the hall flagpoles. The inscription can be up to two lines with 20 characters (including spaces) on each line.

Each brick is \$100 with the proceeds going toward the Building Maintenance and Improvement Fund.

Order forms can be obtained at the Viking Hall office or at any Lodge event.

Norwegian Language and Culture Classes

Isabel MacCay's Norwegian Language Class for this session will **end on Sunday, May 26**. This fun educational experience not only provides language instruction, but sometimes also include special events such as learning Norwegian songs, how to dance the Norwegian polka, and other traditional and current cultural lessons. Ages 10 and up are welcome!

An Intermediate Beginning Norwegian Class will be offered in the fall. It is expected the class will follow a similar format where beginners may come early for a half-hour of introductory level instruction; then all students will meet one-hour for the full class. The exact starting dates and times will be announced when they are known.



Rosemaling Classes

The word rosemaling is used to describe a form of decorative flower painting that originated in Norway in the 1700s. **Rosemaling classes with Anna Decker (694-2051) meet twice a month on Tuesdays. Class dates for May: May 7 & 21 from 7-9 pm.** Classes are open to all experience levels and new individuals are always welcome to attend.

Note: There will be no classes during the summer months. Classes resume in September.



Thursday, May 9th

Program
6:30 pm

Business Meeting
7:30 pm

Thursday, June 13th

Business Meeting
7:30 pm

Business Meetings Open to All



Kaffeslabberas

Thursday, May 16th
11:30 - 1:30 @ Viking Hall

The best place in town for lunch!

Come and enjoy the wonderful soups and sandwiches at a very reasonable price. Please call ahead to Viking Hall @ 349-1613, but we always welcome drop-ins.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Mother's Day will be here before you know it on May 12th!

And we will have our annual Mother's Day Brunch at Viking Hall from 10 am to 2 pm.

The brunch is hosted by your lodge past presidents but needs a few extra hands to make it a success.

We can use a few kind souls to help with clean-up. A number of the past presidents are getting up there in years so

the extra help is greatly appreciated.

If any of you middle or high school students need any community service hours (or even if you don't), we'd love your help in the dining room.

Join us for our brunch and celebrate the arrival of spring too.

Kind volunteers for setting up, clean-up or dining room help can give me a call or email: 563 -8006 or 1stuffda@gci.net.

Thanks,

Mickey

NORWEGIAN GENEALOGY for BEGINNERS

Linda Sharp, SON member and expert on Norwegian genealogical searches, will be offering a free Norwegian genealogy workshop for beginners. This will allow you to develop skills to trace your ancestors both in the United States and Norway.

When Thursday May 2nd, 2013 at 7:00 pm

Where: Viking Hall

New Acquisitions to the Library

Thank to the Generosity of our membership the following titles are now available in our library.

Bern Balchen Polar Aviator, Carroll V. Glines
Given by Anton Meyer

Hitler's Pre-Emptive War. The Battle for Norway, 1940.
Henrik O. Lunde

The Vaagso Raid Joseph H. Devins, Jr
Given by Ted Birkedal

History of the Norwegian Settlements: A translated and expanded version of the 1908 De Norske Settlementers Historie and the 1930 Den Siste Folkevandring Sagastubber fra Nybyggerlivet i Amerika
By Hjalmar Rued Holand.

Translated by Malcolm Rosholt and Helmer M. Blegen

Deb Nelson Courley Presents Kings of Norway Anders Kvale Rue. (A book and CD combination consisting of 58 stories told in English and Norwegian)

The Four Volume Series of The Master of Hestviken:

- I. The Axe
- II. The Snake Pit
- III. In the Wilderness
- IV. The Son Avenger

Sigrid Undset The Nobel winning author of Kristien Lavransdatter.

Appreciate if the donor of the above tomes could be identified.

COOKBOOKS

Authentic Norwegian Cooking
Astrid Karlsen Scott

The Norwegian Kitchen, Editor

Kjell E. Innli (Recipes: The Association of Norwegian Chefs)

The Cooking of Scandinavia
Dale Brown

Norwegian Recipes. Old Time Favorites. Norma Wangsness

Scandinavian Smorgasbord Recipes. Edited by Karen Berg Douglas

Please feel free to check out. We would especially appreciate if anyone would be willing to write a reviews of these or other books that we accumulate for our library.

Attention BerntBalchen Officers and Members!!!

What: District 2 Zone Seminar

Where: Viking Hall, Anchorage, Alaska

When: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Saturday, June 15, 2013

Why: To better acquaint lodge officers and members about what Sons of Norway is up to in today's world. The theme is "Planting Seeds".

Who: Lodge Officers and members (This seminar serves South Central Alaska so Sons of Norway members from Kodiak and Fairbanks have been invited to join us)

What About Lunch? Lunch is provided free of charge! Yes, where else can you get knowledge plus a free lunch.

Who is Presenting? Mark Agerter, President, District 2 and Curtis Watkins, District 2 Zone Director

How Do You Sign Up? Call Curtis Watkins, Zone Director, at (907) 474-2884 or email him at cwatkins58@yahoo.com.

Do not delay, call or email today!



Norwegian Exchange Students



During the April Business Meeting we had an excellent presentation by Dwight Hunter about the STS Foundation which is a non profit corporation dedicated to intercultural student exchange. He was accompanied by one of the exchange students from Norway who is attending Chugiak H.S. this year.

For the next academic year 2013/14 STS will have three students from Norway coming to Alaska they include a:

- *Girl 17 years old, activities dancing, hiking, readings and skiing*
- *Girl 15 years old, activities fashion, friends and shopping*
- *Girl 17 years old, activities cooking, running and track*

Host families may include those with as well as those without children (yes empty nesters are included) and single parent households.

If you or if you know of someone who would be interested in hosting these or other exchange students, please visit the STS website (www.stsfoundation.org) or contact Dwight Hunter

(907) 440-4461

E-Mail: dwhunter@acsalaska.net



What do this sculpture and stamp honor?

TEA ANYONE?????

The Vikings settled in Jorvik (York)
And taught the Brits a thing or two.

And, in turn, they learned to have a
nice tea

In the afternoon.

Watch for a tea at Viking Hall in the
Fall.

Bring a mother or daughter, aunt or
cousin,

Friend or neighbor, or even a guy or
two.

Proceeds will go to the Sons of Nor-
way Foundation

SONS Supporting Our Schools Community Service

Our Lodge is supporting three schools by sharing the LABELS FOR EDUCATION coupons that are on many grocery and other products., as well as BOX-TOPS FOR EDUCATION coupons. Look for these on a wide variety of items. Watch for specially marked items that say they have these LABELS OR COUPONS. Many, but not all of: KLEENEX, BETTY CROCKER, AVERY OFFICE SUPPLIES, PROGRESSO SOUPS and so many more products contain these.

They cost nothing, but a few seconds of your time for each one you save and bring to the Hall. There is a box on the Bar. Both types can go in this box. They will be sorted and shared with the schools. The schools benefit in many ways from your help. A number of special projects are funded by these.

These projects are part of our community outreach service programs.

The Wooden Ski Classic Returns

Thanks to the efforts of Martin Hansen the Wooden Ski Classic has been resurrected for 2013.

A partnership has been formed between the Sons of Norway and the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage (NSAA). The NSAA will bring their expertise in setting up race courses, conducting races as well as event liability coverage. The SON is expected to provide volunteer support, cultural themes, costume judging, Norwegian refreshments and nourishments and other contributions. Please dig out those wooden skis, bamboo poles, pine tar and period wool cloths (or at least as many of the items that you have for the race.

When: December 1, 2013

Where: Kincaid Park

Events: Children and Adult Courses.

Volunteers are welcome and needed.

If interested or if you have any inquires contact:

Race Organizer: Martin Hansen
bikeskifish@gmail.com
(907) 980-5333

A special thanks to Chris Tomson for his former efforts in running the event.

Viking Hall News

Kaare Birkeland Exchange Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee composed of Leslie Tuovinen, UAA Interim Director, Office of International Affairs; David Racki, UAA International Student Advisor; Soren Orley and Sandra Hanson, Trustees representing the Bernt Balchan Lodge for the Kaare Birkeland Norwegian Exchange Scholarship are pleased to announce the awardee for 2013/2014 academic year is Kelley E. Hughes.

Ms Hughes is a Junior at the University of Alaska Anchorage majoring in International Studies and French. She will be attending her Senior Year at Stavanger University College in Stavanger, Norway.

The purpose of the Kaare Birkeland Norwegian/USA Exchange Scholarship is to provide scholarships to full time students enrolled at the University of Alaska, Anchorage or Stavanger University in Stavanger, Norway.

Awards are made in alternate years to:

- ♦ a student enrolled at Stavanger University who for the year of the award attends the University of Alaska, Anchorage
- ♦ A student enrolled at the University of Alaska, Anchorage who for the year of the award attends Stavanger University

Applicants attending UAA must have a 3.0 or greater GPA, complete a UAA Study Abroad Application and write a one page essay on "How will study abroad for an academic year at the University of Stavanger in Norway benefit you personally and meet your educational and professional goals?"

VIKING BOARD NEWS 4-2013

Ed Swearingen noticed a water spot by the Rose-maling on the South side. A watch will be kept on it as the spring thawing progresses. It may have been there from before the new roof.

Ed also noted that the railing on the south side of the outside stairway beneath the canopy is broken. It will be repaired this summer. A big thank you to Ed for his awareness to these situations and for the repairs he made in Dry Dock.

The snow that was pushed up against the north side of Viking Hall is to be removed by the Owners of the Apartment Building to the north of Viking Hall.

Kudus to Mickey for taking the required course by the Health Department and passing the test with flying colors. The Lodge must have one member that has achieved this certification. Due to Mickey's success we are now set for the next five years. Many thanks to Mickey.

Ted is checking on the hours of usage of our projector's bulb. A decision will be made on when we need to purchase a back up bulb. It will also be put on the annual checklist so we stay aware of the need to have a replacement.

Thanks to Chuck Dunnigan for closings.

Sandra S. Hanson

Viking Hall President



Obverse



Reverse



Obverse



Reverse



Sons of Norway
8141 Briarwood St.
Anchorage, AK 99518

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May Events

2 Thursday	7:00 pm	Norwegian Genealogy pg. 4
7 Tuesday	7-9 pm	Rosemaling with Anna Decker, pg. 3
9 Thursday	6:30 pm /7:30 pm	Program / Business Meeting, pg. 3
12 Sunday	10am - 2pm	Mother's Day Brunch, pg. 1, 4
16 Thursday	11:30-1:30	Kaffeslabberas, pg. 3
17 Friday	6-8 pm	Syttende Mai Parade Downtown Delaney Park Strip - 10th & I, pg. 2
19 Sunday	3 pm	Syttende Mai Celebration, pg. 2
21 Tuesday	7-9 pm	Rosemaling with Anna Decker

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.

June Events

13 Thursday	7:30 pm	Business Meeting, pg. 3
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Weekly Events

Sundays	5:30	Norwegian Language Class—Introductory Instruction
Last Class May 26th	6-7 pm	Norwegian Language Class, pg. 3

*All events take place at Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood St., unless otherwise noted.
Please send articles or event information to sonancak@gmail.com*