

VIKING HALL 349-1613
www.sofnalaska.com

**September
October
2013
september
oktober**



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Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge President's Message

For the first time since 1985 I will be heading to Norway in September to renew my connections to that country. First, I will be going to France where I will have the opportunity of retracing the river routes that were once followed by my Viking ancestors. In southwestern France we will be exploring the Gironde, Dordogne, Vézères, and Lot River Valleys—all popular targets for raiding and plunder by the Vikings. We will also visit the Loire River Valley, another favorite destination for early Scandinavians—“tourists”. Paris on the Seine River will be our last stop; a city that was repeatedly besieged and sacked by the Vikings back in the day. All in all, it might be seen as a real “Viking

Holiday”. However, in this case, the French will be the ones doing the plundering (of my wallet), but admittedly, in exchange for some great food, wine, history, and scenery.

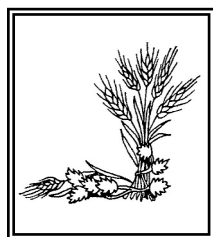
After Paris, we will head to Stavanger, Norway, my home town. Here I will join up with my brother for a week and re-connect to the Stavanger of my early childhood. I plan to visit the Archeology Museum along with a number of archeological sites (many from the Viking Age) that surround Stavanger. Rogaland, the province of which Stavanger is the capital, has the highest density of recorded prehistoric sites in Europe. I will also be spending time with relatives and my old childhood friend, Rune.

After Stavanger, Rune and his wife, Marianne, will drive us through southern Norway with a stop in Arendal to “besøke” the Norwegian relatives of my wife. Then it will be on to Oslo with a prime destination being the Viking Ship Museum.

So, I will miss the Får-i-kål Dinner on September 21 and the first lefse-making session, September 13-15, while I re-trace my Viking roots, but I am sure I will have some får-i-kål and lefse in Norway to make up for it. While I am gone, Tom Falskow, Vice President of Bernt Balchen Lodge, will pick up the gavel and provide able leadership in my absence.

Until October, fraternally yours,

Terje “Ted” Birkedal



Får-i-kål Dinner Saturday, September 21 Cocktails at 5:30 pm Dinner at 6 pm

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!!

Adults—\$22
Ages 12-16—\$10
Ages 5-11—\$5
Under 5yrs—Free



For reservations call Viking Hall @ 349-1613



17TH ANNUAL Scandinavian Bazaar



October 12, 2013 | 10am - 4pm

Viking Hall | 8141 Briarwood Street

**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 many Scandinavian/Nordic items and more.

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

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



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 9:30am and 2pm on October 12. 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.



**We are now
accepting
donated**

**Scandinavian/Nordic items
for the Silent Auction to be
held during the**

**Scandinavian Bazaar
October 12th**

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!



Velkommen Café

Join the action in the *Velkommen Café* at the Scandinavian Bazaar on October 12, 2013. 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 12th please call Gayle at 243-7946 or 441-9358.

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 & 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-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 into balls; roll and cook lefse; 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 lefse making stations and return griddles, cooking and rolling boards, etc. to the storage area; 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, Anna Decker 694-2051 or Ted Birkedal 349-9996, to let them know how you would like to help.



Lefse Making Sessions this Fall

Lefse Making for Bazaar: September 13-15, Friday-Sunday / October 4-6, Friday-Sunday

Lefse Making for Lutefisk Dinner: November 8-10, Friday-Sunday

***There will be a Youth Lefse Making Session from noon to 5pm on Sunday, November 10.*

Parents should call Anna Decker at 694-2051 to reserve a spot for their children.

Friday 3-6 pm / Saturday 9 am-6 pm / Sunday 9 am-6 pm



Thursday, September 5th

Full Board Meeting

7 pm

Thursday, September 12th

End of Summer Potluck/Program

6:30 pm

Business Meeting

7:30 pm

Thursday, October 10th

Potluck/Program

6:30 pm

Business Meeting

New Member Welcome/Nominating Committee Report

7:30 pm

Board Meeting & Business Meeting Open to All



Sons of Norway Super Bowl Raffle 2014

Ticket sales for the Sons of Norway 2014 Super Bowl Raffle are now underway. The raffle is the primary source of funds for the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge #2-046 Language/Heritage/Higher Education Scholarships. The intent is to provide scholarships every year for deserving applicants and to continue to develop a fund for the future.

The Raffle will again have 20 winners with a top prize of \$1,000. Only 300 tickets are sold so the chance to win is very generous, one in fifteen. Tickets are selling for \$25 each or a special deal of 5-for-\$100. Your ticket also entitles you to a free Lapskaus (Norwegian stew) dinner during the showing of the Super Bowl XLVIII game on a gigantic six-foot screen at Viking Hall on February 2, 2014.

If you would like to help sell tickets for this worthwhile event or purchase a ticket please contact a member of the committee—John Olnes (562-2794), Sandra Hanson (243-2132), Jane Moe (274-1357) or Wayne Johnson 248-3030. Tickets can also be purchased at the Viking Hall office (349-1613) during business hours (9am-1pm, Tue-Fri). Tickets will also be available during upcoming lodge events.

Raffle Committee—John Olnes, Jane Moe, Sandra Hanson and Wayne Johnson

Upcoming Programs for Monthly Meetings

Preceding each of our monthly business meetings is a program often accompanied with a potluck dinner. Realizing that your personal itinerary may be overflowing we would like to encourage you to attend the program, the business meeting or both as your schedule permits. Following are the monthly programs that have been arranged for the rest of 2013.

September 12 - "Message: How the SON Fraternal, Financial and Foundation Work Together." Len Carlson, FIC, CLU, Director of Agencies, Sons of Norway. Mr. Carlson will be visiting us from Minneapolis.

October 10 - "Introduction to Curling" A prelude to the Lodges "Learning to Curl" at the Anchorage Curling Club. Michael Anderson, Skip of the Lodges Curling Team.

November 14 - "How Norway Develops its Energy; A Model for Alaska?" Ira Perman, Institute of the North Board Member

December 12 - "Homesteading and Other History of Portage, AK" This will include a video of Paul Roseland's Homestead.

Sons of Norway Sports Medal Program

Sons of Norway emphasizes the importance of healthful activities to prolong and to improve the quality of your life. The Sports Medal Program, which originated in Norway, is a means to promote these activities. No matter your age or present physical condition, the Sports Medal Program offers a fitness plan for you. The program is great because the goals are accomplished at your own pace.

The Sports Medal Program currently offers five categories: Gangmerke (walking), Skimerke (skiing), Sykkemerke (biking), Idrettsmerke (sports/fitness) and Svømmemerke (swimming). Each of these has a log that you can keep track of your participation.

As you reach each objective, you will be awarded different levels of sports medals. The first medal level is Bronze, followed by Silver, Gold, and Enamel. Decide your own pace and decide if you wish to pursue one medal or all 20!

If you are interested in this program go to the Sons of Norway International website or feel free to contact Merlin (mhamre@acsalaska.net). You can either download a log for your activities from the website or pick one up at the lodge. When you complete the requirements for a medal turn in a copy of your log to Merlin and he will order your medal.

If you are interested in pursuing the Gangmerke (walking) medals, you may wish to discuss this with our Lodge President Ted Birkedal. He is active in the Alaska Outdoors Club which offers weekly hikes at various skill levels.

Sunshine Report



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

"Happy Birthday"
"Gratulerer med dagen!"

Grethe Berge
Anna Browning
Carol Hall
Ronald Flugum
Sandra Hanson
Richard Johnson
Kjell Kristiansen
Marianne Lang
Norma Link
Louise Maakestad
Ronald Martinson
Annelise Moss
Stuart Nerland
John Olnes
Dale Rosheim
Fred Walatka

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



Fra Biblioteket

Henning Mankell just keeps on putting out more great novels, this time with a new heroine, judge Birgitta Roslin, who sets out to find the killer of an entire hamlet in northern Sweden. Like Mankell's well-known detective Kurt Wallander, Birgitta will not take no for an answer when she is rebuffed by the police. As she follows what few clues are left at the crime scene, she discovers a storyline that criss-crosses the globe both in modern times and back a century to find where the motivation behind this crime lies. *The Man from Beijing* is a powerful novel that demonstrates Mankell's ability to continually find new and exciting tales to keep us up all night reading just one more chapter. Check it out from the lodge library!

Our lodge library is full of exciting stories, some true and some fiction, so please make time to check it out during your next visit to Viking Hall. The library is generally open during office hours and at lodge meetings or events. I am always on the lookout for more folks to assist with making our library better, so please contact me if you would like to assist. We will hold a used book sale again this year as part of the Scandinavian Bazaar in October, so if you have any gently used books you would like to donate, please let me know. Best to contact me at lise@gci.net or by phone at 222-5320.

Happy reading!

Tom Falskow, Lodge Librarian



Let's keep those chips flying!
Join The Last Frontier Woodcarvers
at Viking Hall



WOODCARVING

Saturday, October 19th
9am - 4pm

\$20 covers wood, tools to use, carving instructions, choice of project and a great lunch.

Projects:

- ♦ **Spoons**
- ♦ **Diamond willow**
- ♦ **Woodburning**
- ♦ **Chip carving**
- ♦ **Cottonwood bark house & face**
- ♦ **Relief carving (bird)**
- ♦ **Wolf/feather relief**
- ♦ **Stylized bird in the round**
- ♦ **Celtic knot or small chain**
- ♦ **Chainsaw carving (must have own chainsaw)**

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.



Kaffeslabberas

Thursday, September 19th & Thursday, October 17th
11:30 - 1:30 @ Viking Hall

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.



LUTEFISK & LEFSE DINNER

(AND THOSE TASTY MEATBALLS TOO!)



One Night Only!
Saturday, November 16th – Two seatings

4 pm - 6:30 pm – First seating
7 pm - 10 pm – Second seating

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

Dinner Prices:

Adults \$25 (non-members \$30)
Ages 12-16—\$12 Ages 5-11—\$5
Under 5yrs—Free

Call Viking Hall at 349-1613 for Reservations

Lutefisk and Lefse Brigade needs your help!!!

It is that time of year again when 300 or more happy guests will fill themselves with lutefisk and lefse at our annual dinner in November. In order to serve a crowd of this size, we could use some assistance in preparing for and serving at this event. It is a FUN way to get involved with your lodge and meet some great people. Lefse rolling is one way to help out and that will take place on November 8-10. We will also make meatballs that weekend and if you have never tried a meatball in a lefse, you don't know what you are missing out on! Preparations for the dinner will be on Friday November 15th and then lots more activities to assist with on the 16th itself. If you are interested in helping out with any of these activities, please drop me a note at lise@gci.net or give me a call at 222-5320.

Tusen Takk!

Tom Falskow, Co-chair Lutefisk Dinner

Marit Kristiansen Receives a Bridge Builder's "Excellence in Community Service Award"

Bridge Builders of Anchorage was founded in 1996 by the Mayor to celebrate the city's diverse inhabitants and make Anchorage a city without prejudice. Each year individuals and groups are selected by their respective communities to receive the Bridge Builder's "Excellence in Community Service Award" at the annual Bridge Builder's Unity Gala in August.

This year the Board of Bernt Balchen Lodge unanimously recommended Marit Kristiansen for the award because of her long-term service on behalf of the Norwegian-American community. A summary of her nomination is provided below.

Marit Kristiansen is the Norwegian community's nominee for the Bridge Builder's Excellence in Community Service Award. Marit came to the United States as a young immigrant from northern Norway. She has served as an outstanding leader in the Anchorage Norwegian community since 1968.



Marit is a people person whose infectious passion and organizational skills constantly inspire others to do their best. Her interest in cultural exchanges led to her long-time involvement on Anchorage's Sister Cities Commission as well as the Winter Cities Commission. Over the years she has held many important posts in Sons of Norway, a fraternal organization dedicated to the celebration of Norwegian culture and heritage.

In 2012 Marit Kristiansen was elected President of Sons of Norway International. As President, Marit serves as the voice of some 60,000 Sons of Norway members. She is, without doubt, the Anchorage Norwegian community's foremost cultural ambassador.

Marit received her award from Mayor Sullivan and his wife Lynette on the night of August 17, at this year's Unity Gala at the Dena'ina Center. Nearly 500 people from over twenty-six different ethnic communities attended the Gala. Marit's close family members and several board members were in attendance to represent Norwegian Americans and celebrate Marit's well-deserved award. Marit wore her beautiful bunad as did a few of the other Bernt Balchen Lodge members. We are so proud of her!

Congratulerer Marit!

Norwegian Language & Culture Classes Fall 2013 through Spring 2014



Norwegian language classes will be offered during the Fall of 2013 and the Spring of 2014 at Sons of Norway's Viking Hall at 8141 Briarwood Street. **The classes begin September 8, 2013**, and will run until late May 2014. The classes will be taught on Sunday evenings.

Intermediate Beginning Norwegian and Culture: This class is for those students who have completed Beginning Norwegian I or have some basic knowledge of spoken Norwegian. It will be taught at 6 PM on Sunday. Complete beginners are welcome but are encouraged to take the "catch-up" class described below.

A "catch-up" class will be offered at 5:30 PM each Sunday for those who need to "catch up" on their Norwegian or otherwise would like some extra help with the language in order to profit from the main class.

The yearly fee for each class is \$20 which goes to Sons of Norway, Bernt Balchen Lodge. These classes do not carry academic credit. They are offered so that members of Sons of Norway can re-connect with the Norwegian language for travel or just for fun. However, you do not have to be a member of Sons of Norway to sign up. Also, attendance at every class is encouraged, but not mandatory. Ages ten and up are welcome.

To sign up send an email to sonancak@gmail.com or contact Viking Hall via phone between 9 am and 1 pm, Tuesday through Friday at (907) 349-1613. Please give your name and the class for which you wish to sign up for. You may also sign up for the classes by arriving at Viking Hall on September 8, the start of classes, and sign up then. Payment will be collected upon your arrival at class.

Rosemaling Classes with Anna Decker meet twice a month on Tuesdays, 7-9 pm. Classes are open to all experience levels and new individuals are always welcome to attend. Contact Anna at 694-2051 for more information. Class dates for September and October: **September 10th & 24th / October 8th & 22nd**



Cultural Night—November 1st

For Cultural Night on November 1st we will be treated to ten personal true oral stories on the theme of "Living or Living with Scandinavian" hosted by Tim Andrew. As can be seen by "The Moth" Radio Hour or Pod Cast, Anchorage's "Arctic Entries" (good luck in getting tickets) and a host of other efforts, story telling has become a national phenomena. Can Scandinavians tell stories? Invite your friends and come and see.

Open faced sandwiches, maybe a soup and maybe a dessert will be served. If interested in assisting with this (no skills required) and/or demonstrating the requisite culinary skills please contact Merlin (mhamre@acsalaska.net).

Sons of Norway Cultural Skills Program

The Sons of Norway's Cultural Skills Program provides a framework for learning about traditional and contemporary Norwegian culture. Each unit consists of three levels of skill-specific activities to guide you as you learn. You can complete the units on your own, through your lodge or through a special class or group. For each level, you'll complete activities and earn a pins in recognition of your accomplishments.

The Cultural Skill Units are:

1. Traditional Norwegian Cooking (Rev. 1/12)

- Level 1--Your Favorites
- Level 2--Baked Goods and Desserts
- Level 3--Meat or Fish Dishes

2. Literature (Rev. 5/12)

- Level 1 -- A Survey of Norwegian Literature
- Level 2 -- Fiction, Poetry and Drama
- Level 3 -- Nonfiction

3. Collecting Norwegian and North American Stamps (Rev. 10/12)

- Part 1 -- Commemorative Stamps
- Part 2 -- Definitive Stamps
- Part 3 -- Special Stamps

4. Norwegian Rosemaling

- Level 1--Basic Strokes, Flower Form, and Scroll
- Level 2--Completed Design
- Level 3--Create an Original Design



5. Genealogy--Family History

- Level 1--Complete people 1-7 on a four-generation ancestor chart
- Level 2--Complete four more people on the ancestor, family group chart and document
- Level 3--Complete all information for 15 people on the charts--document and write an essay

6. Knitting (Rev. 3/12)

- Part 1--The Basics
- Part 2--Knitting in the Round with Two Colors
- Part 3--Knitting in the Norwegian Way

7. Norwegian Language and Culture

- Level 1--The Basics of Norwegian Language
- Level 2--A Sampling of Norwegian Culture
- Level 3--A Topic from Norwegian Language or Norwegian Culture

8. Hardanger Embroidery (Rev. 10/11)

- Level 2--The Basics
- Level 2--Increasing Your Skills
- Level 3--Creating an Heirloom



9. Figure Carving

- Level 1--The Basics
- Level 2--Complete a Detailed Carving
- Level 3--Complete an Original Carving

10. Weaving

- Track I
 - Level 1--The Basics-Make a Sampler
 - Level 2--Inkle or Card Weaving or Rigid Heddle—Complete a Project
 - Level 3--Create an Original Design
- Track II--Floor or Table Loom Weaving
 - Level 1--Produce a Sampler
 - Level 2--Make a Finished Project
 - Level 3--Create an Original Design

11. Ornamental Woodcarving

- Level 1--The Basics
- Level 2--Flatskurd
- Level 3--Carve the Acanthus

12. Chip Carving

- Level 1--The Basics
- Level 2--Carve Borders
- Level 3--Carve Rosettes



13. Folk Dancing

- Level 1--Easy Dances
- Level 2--Intermediate Dances
- Level 3--Advanced Dances

14. Music and Musicians of Norway

- Level 1--Folk Music: Roots of Norwegian Music
- Level 2--The Nineteenth Century: Edvard Grieg & Contemporaries
- Level 3--The Twentieth Century: Composers, Performers,

Booklets describing the different units are available at the Sons of Norway International website, for viewing at Viking Hall or by emailing Merlin (mhamre@acsalaska.net).

If you are interested or know of someone that would be willing to serve as a facilitator/mentor or if you would like to pursue any of these units please contact Merlin.

SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION

Most of you have heard a mention here and there about "Foundation" but may not be aware of what the Sons of Norway Foundation is or what it does for lodges and members.

The Mission Statement: "The Sons of Norway Foundation awards scholarships and grants to promote the heritage and culture of Norway and provide assistance to our members, lodges and their communities."

Local Lodge Partnership Grants are matching fund grants to a maximum of \$1,000. Our lodge has received this grant when Elfrida Nord came to present a program on her travels in Norway.

General Heritage and Culture Grants go to individuals, groups or organization that promote the heritage and culture of traditional or modern Norway with awards of up to \$3,000. It can be community festivals, cultural exchanges or projects, etc.

Helping Hands to Children Grants are matching funds grants for lodges for educational and heritage programming for youth. We have also received one of these grants.

Foundation Scholarships include six different scholarships available to Sons of Norway members. They are for post secondary education, chemistry, physical or chemical, electrical or mechanical engineering, study

in Norway or other locations abroad. We are very fortunate to have these opportunities available to us as Sons of Norway members.

Foundation promotes cross-cultural exchanges between the US and Norway, works to preserve Norwegian heritage for future generations and provides Sons of Norway members aid following natural disasters – as in floods and hurricanes.

Fundraising, obviously, is very important to the Foundation. There will be an on-line auction to benefit Foundation starting in October (Foundation month), lodges may have special events to raise funds and individuals are encouraged and welcomed to donate to the SON Foundation.

And – we have the piggy that is at our meetings and come of our events. Any money in the piggy is sent to Foundation in October.

Bernt Balchen Lodge is serving TEA AT TWO on Sunday, September 8th at 2 pm. Make your reservations with the Viking Hall office (349-1613) so you will have a place at the table for tea. This is our fundraiser for Foundation for 2013. Please join us!

Mickey Andrew, Foundation Director

Bridge Builders of Anchorage and Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge: A Growing Relationship

Under the leadership of Mickey Andrew, Anna Decker, and Merlin Hamre Bernt Balchen Lodge has been forging a closer relationship with Bridge Builders of Anchorage over the years. Bridge Builders was founded by the Mayor in 1996 in order to make Anchorage "the first city without prejudice." Several years ago we started out our involvement by manning a booth the Bridge Builder's "Meet the World" event at the Anchorage Museum.

This year at the urging of Merlin Hamre, Cultural Director, we have gradually begun to increase our involvement with Bridge Builders. This year a few of us; Cindy McDowell, Merlin Hamre, and Ted Birkedal; marched in the Bridge Builders section of the Fourth of July Parade. Merlin carried the American flag and Cindy and Ted marched with the Bernt Balchen Lodge Banner. We got many positive remarks from the parade audience. People love Norway! The Bridge Builders section of the parade (nearly a block long) is extremely colorful, and well-received. Next year we hope that more folks from the lodge will join us in this parade dressed in either their bunads or Norwegian sweaters. It is a good way to build our recognition in the community and show our support for the Bridge Builder's mission.

We also participated for the first time in helping with the Bridge Builder's Unity Gala. Merlin and Ted served as the

"Cultural Ambassadors" for Norwegian Americans on the planning team. The Gala recognizes leading members of Anchorage's diverse ethnic and cultural communities with a "Excellence in Community Service Award". This year we nominated Marit Kristiansen for this award which she received from Mayor Sullivan on August 17 (see separate article on Marit Kristiansen's award).

Merlin also brought the Bridge Builders "brand" to the level of the neighborhood and won the Bernt Balchen Lodge Board's support for a letter of welcome to the leaders, Sam Obeidi and Lamin Jobarteh, of the Islamic Community Center who are overseeing the building of a Masjid (small mosque) at the north end of Briarwood within a block of Viking Hall. We have formally invited Sam and Lamin and other leaders of their community to come as our guests to the Får-i-kål dinner. They will also be speaking at one of our Business Meeting programs this fall. They are both extremely appreciative of our "velkommen" to the Briarwood "neighborhood" as are former Mayor Rick Mystrom and the others leaders of Bridge Builders.

Our Board believes that future active involvement with Bridge Builders gives Bernt Balchen Lodge and Norwegian Americans positive and increased recognition in Anchorage and underscores our commitment to doing good in the community.



TEA AT TWO

**JOIN US FOR TEA
AT VIKING HALL**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th
2 PM**

**BRING YOUR MOTHER,
AUNTS, DAUGHTERS,
NIECES, FRIENDS,
NEIGHBORS AND EVEN
THE GUYS IN YOUR LIFE**

AND

**ENJOY TEA WITH
SCONES, JAM & CREAM
AND OTHER SAVORY AND
SWEET TREATS**

**ADULTS \$15
CHILDREN 9 YRS &
UNDER \$7**

**RESERVATIONS NEEDED
TO ASSURE YOUR PLACE
AT THE TEA TABLE**

Call Viking Hall @ 349-1613

*Proceeds go to the Sons of
Norway Foundation*

2013 Kaare Birkeland Scholarship

The Kaare Birkeland Scholarship for 2013 was awarded to Kelly E. Hughes. Kelly is a graduate of Service High School. She is now a senior at the University of Alaska Anchorage planning to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in 2014. Her chosen major is in International Studies and French. With the assistance of the scholarship (which provides up to \$10,000 in support) she will be attending the University of Stavanger in Stavanger, Norway in 2013/2014. Many members of Bernt Balchen Lodge had a chance to meet Kelly and her parents at the Syttende Mai Celebration dinner held this year on May 19. We wish her great success in her studies at the University of Stavanger.

Representatives of Bernt Balchen Lodge, the Anchorage Elks, and the University of Alaska Anchorage all cooperate in the selection of the candidates for the Kaare Birkeland Scholarship.



Thank you to the many Lodge members and guests who came to the "Amazing Summer Pig Roast" on August 13. An equally big thanks to the many members and friends who volunteered their help with the cooking, serving and clean-up.

Tusen Takk!!

Wayne Johnson & Dave Fauske, Co-chairs

Be a Part of Sons of Norway Lucia 2013

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.

Upcoming dates to remember:

Rehearsal - Sunday, November 17 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rehearsal - Sunday, December 8 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Program - Sunday, December 15 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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.

Terry Gryting 696-6199

Lucia Committee Acting 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:

1. Parents (or grandparents) must be members in good standing of the Sons of Norway.
2. The girl's parents (or grandparents) must have been members for at least the past three consecutive years.
3. In order to be eligible to be the Lucia, the girl must have participated in the last three consecutive Lucia Festivals.
4. The person chosen to be Lucia must be unmarried, and be between the ages of 15 and 19.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The Lucia's name will be announced in the November Newsletter.
8. The Lucia Committee will be in charge of the Lucia Festival. The parent/grandparents are responsible for the two (2) Lucia practices and will work in cooperation with the Committee to plan and make arrangements for the Festival.
9. 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.



Sons of Norway
8141 Briarwood St.
Anchorage, AK 99518

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September Events

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 5 Thursday | 7 pm |
| 8 Sunday | 2 pm |
| 12 Thursday | 6:30 pm 7:30 pm |
| 13 Friday | 3-6 pm |
| 14 Saturday / 15 Sunday | 9 am - 6 pm |
| 19 Thursday | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm |
| 21 Saturday | 5:30 pm |

Full Board Meeting, all welcome
TEA AT TWO, Foundation Fundraiser, pg. 6
End of Summer Potluck & Program
Business Meeting, pg.3
Lefse Making for Bazaar, pg. 3
Lefse Making
Kaffeslabberas, pg. 4
Faar-i-Kaal Dinner, pg. 1

October Events

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 4 Friday | 3-6 pm |
| 5 Saturday / 6 Sunday | 9 am - 6 pm |
| 10 Thursday | 6:30 pm 7:30 pm |
| 12 Saturday | 10 am - 4 pm |
| 17 Thursday | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm |
| 19 Saturday | 9 am - 4 pm |

Lefse Making for Bazaar, pg. 3
Lefse Making
Potluck & Program
Business Meeting, New Member Welcome, pg. 3
Scandinavian Bazaar, pg. 2
Kaffeslabberas, pg. 4
Woodcarving, pg. 4

Weekly & Biweekly Events

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|---|
| Sundays | 6 pm | Intermediate Beginning Norwegian and Culture, pg. 5 |
| Tuesdays Sept 10 & 24 / Oct 8 & 22 | 7-9 pm | Rosemaling with Anna Decker, pg. 5 |

*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 sonanacak@gmail.com or call Cynthia at 562-2794 with newsletter questions*

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.