

VIKING HALL 349-1613
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SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Norwegian Notes:

Three Outstanding Musicians Come Together in Alaska to Showcase Norway’s Traditional Music

She leans forward into the mike when she sings, her face framed by long, wavy blond hair. In her Sunnmøre bunad she resembles a princess from the illustrations in Asbjørnsen’s and Moe’s Norwegian Folk Tales. On her right is a tall, lean young man with a mane of swept-back brown hair wearing a vest and intently playing a traditional Hardanger fiddle; on her left is another young man; but this one is stocky with long hair that makes him look like perfect extra for a Viking movie. Though he is not swinging a sword but energetically playing a large, dark-colored accordion.

Who are they? They are three accomplished Norwegian soloists who have come together in Anchorage, Alaska, to give a performance called Norwegian Notes for the Anchorage Lutheran Concert Series on August 6, 2017. Though they have only been playing together for two and a half weeks they give the impression that have been together for a lifetime. Though usually solo performers they now complement each other with their respective skills, musicality, and open and well-choreographed collaboration. As their tour organizer, Mari Eikeland, explained, “Each brings something to the performance, so they shine together and make a musical marriage”. Prior to Anchorage the three had performed at the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. As highly knowledgeable and academically trained musicians they had also been invited to teach numerous workshops at the festival on both Norwegian folk and classical music. While in Fairbanks they also gave a lively performance for Alaskan fans of Norwegian music at the Malemute Saloon located outside Fairbanks at the historic Ester Gold Mine.

The lead singer of the newly formed group, Ann-Marita Garsed, comes from the Geirangerfjord area of Norway, but she is now based in California where she has released three independent albums. In addition to her command of traditional Norwegian folk music she is expert with the guitar and a highly regarded songwriter. She is far-traveled and has performed professionally in Europe and Australia at a number of world-renowned music festivals. She is known for the range of her voice and her charismatic stage presence.

Skogen Sällström is the lean Hardanger fiddle player mentioned at the beginning of this piece. He is from Trondheim, Norway where he earned a Master’s degree in Norwegian music from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology where he specialized in both the Hardanger fiddle and the classical violin. He is equally comfortable playing small venues in coffee shops and in large concert halls. Recently, he has performed in Chicago, Madison (Wisconsin), and Seattle.

Knut Erik Jensen is the Viking look-alike. He plays both the piano and the accordion. He, too, received his Master’s Degree from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway. Knut has performed in both Europe and North America and given over 150 recitals since 2007 in both the United States and Canada. He has been an invited guest artist for concert series at Rice University, the Kerr Cultural Center, and Steinway Galleries of Phoenix, Arizona. In 2014 he and Skogen Sällström toured Seattle, Vancouver, and Fairbanks, Alaska in their notable Arctic Memoirs Project.

President’s Message continues on Page 2

The Menu!

Lamb & Cabbage,
Boiled Potatoes,
Carrots, Fresh Rolls,
Desserts & Beverages
and MUSIC!

Adults—\$22
Ages 12 to 16—\$10.00
Ages 5 to 11—\$5 and
Under 5 years—Free

Sons of Norway

Faar-i-kaal

Saturday, September 16th

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!!

Enjoy Cocktails at 5:30 pm and Dinner at 6:00 pm

This event is held at Viking Hall. Call 349-1613 for Reservations!



Norwegian Notes

President's Message continues from Page 1

What made these three performers stand out was their willingness to share their knowledge of Norwegian music with the audience. For instance, Skogen first played the traditional tune Rotman-Knut on the Hardanger fiddle. Next, he explained that the same tune had been arranged for piano by the famous Norwegian classical composer Edvard Grieg after the tune had been written down in



Skogen Sallstrom, Ann-Marita Garsed, and Knut Erik Jensen in mid-performance at the Anchorage Lutheran Church on August 6, 2017.

Photograph courtesy of Brad Swortz

conventional musical notation by his friend Johan Halvorsen. Knut then sat down at the piano and showed the audience how different the same tune sounded in classical piano mode as translated by Grieg. Similarly, Skogen talked about the great Norwegian violinist Ole Bull who promoted the sounds of Norway across Europe and North America in the nineteenth century. Skogen then played a beautiful and haunting Ole Bull tune called Et Sterbesøk (The Seter [Mountain Farm] Visit). He played it just as Ole Bull would have played it, not on the Hardanger fiddle, but on the classical violin. The tune was clearly traditional, but the sound classical. Ann-Marita told us about the Norwegian immigrants that came to the United States during the time of both Ole Bull and Grieg and then sang a song of her own composition called Karoline. This song, sung in English, in an “Americana style” told the moving story of her great grandfather’s sister, Karoline, who had immigrated alone to the United States as a young woman.

After the concert, I was able to speak at length to Mari Eikeland, their tour organizer, and the musicians themselves about traditional Norwegian music. They emphasized that Norway’s traditional music is not simple to play or sing, it is rather immensely complex and intricate. This complexity is embodied in the Hardanger fiddle which has four top strings and 4 to 5 additional lower “drone strings” that provide sympathetic resonance and depth to the sound of the this unique Scandinavian fiddle. Unlike the classical violin, the Hardanger fiddle has a flattish, instead of a rounded bridge, which allows the fiddler to play up to three strings at a time, unlike the two that are reachable at any one time with the bow of the classical instrument. These design differences give the Hardanger fiddle a range and versatility not available to the classical violin and gives the impression you are listening to two to three instruments rather than to just one. Because it can make such eerie and ethereal sounds the Hardanger fiddle is often employed in today’s movies to set a particular mood in the audience (for example, Lord of the Rings). All stressed that this intricacy and depth is not limited to the Hardanger fiddle, it is characteristic of all aspects of traditional Norwegian music, which Mari Eikeland pointed out is known for its “rich tonalities and rhythms”. Skogen then explained what makes it unique is its heavy emphasis on the “minor scale” as opposed to the “major scale” which is the more dominant scale employed in Western European music.

It is thanks to popular mainstream Norwegian musicians such as Ole Bull, Edvard Grieg, Johan Halvorsen, and Geirr Tveitt that Norwegian traditional music gained recognition in Norway as a national treasure that should be preserved and proudly played and sung. Ole Bull invited Hardanger fiddlers to join him on stage as fellow musicians, Halvorsen wrote down the music so it could live on beyond oral tradition, and Grieg incorporated and translated traditional Norwegian music into his classical pieces and brought it world-wide attention. In the twentieth century Geirr Tveitt continued to champion this unique musical tradition by bringing it into his compositions, broadcasting it on the radio, and diligently collecting a huge number of tunes that would have been otherwise forever lost to us today.

The musicians who presented Norwegian Notes continue to bring well-deserved recognition to one of Norway’s most iconic cultural traditions through their masterful performances and teaching. They also have other projects in the making. One day in the future they hope to put together a musical that would tell the story of Norwegians in the Klondike. But for now, they have gone their separate ways to again perform as soloists only to perhaps reform in June of 2018.

If you are interested in learning more about these artistically gifted Norwegian musicians or booking them go to their websites: www.annmarita.com, www.knuterikjensen.com, and www.skogensallstrom.com (the latter still under construction). Also, search for their names on the internet and you can find them on You Tube. Look up Arctic Memoirs Project and you will get videos of Skogen Sällström and Knut Erik Jensen playing together.

Special thanks to Lisa Nelson who opened up her home to the musicians and their tour organizer and was a wonderful and welcoming host. Also, thanks to Tom Falskow for helping with food and drink.

Terje “Ted” Birkedal

President, Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge

FISH BOIL !



Fish, Fire and Fellowship! What more can we ask for?

– Photos by Christle Ericson



SUNSHINE REPORT

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Grethe Berge
Kaare Elde
Ronald Flugum
Sandra Hanson
Douglas Iverson



Kjell Kristiansen
Marianne Lang
Norma Link
Louise Maakestad
Fred Walatka

"Happy Birthday!"

"Gratulerer med dagen!"

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

Governor Walker Appoints Severson



Gordon Severson, Bernt Balchen Lodge member and husband of Golden Member Aud Severson, has been appointed by Governor Walker to serve on the Alaska Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board.

He was appointed for a 4-year term beginning July 1, 2017.

Gordon is retired from the Alaska DOT&PF, the Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Army Reserve. He is a Purple Heart veteran of the Korean War where he served with the 7th Cavalry Regiment.

Gordon is still working part-time as a bailiff at the state courthouse.

Congratulations Gordon!

Sons of Norway Lucia 2017

BE A PART OF SONS OF NORWAY LUCIA 2017

The Lucia Committee welcomes all Bernt Balchen Lodge members to our upcoming Lucia Christmas program on December 10. Children ages 4 to 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 our program at the lodge, a procession is headed by one girl wearing a crown of candles (or lights), while others follow in the procession with 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, singing around the Christmas tree, and enjoying 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 Lucia Committee. Please contact a committee member if your daughter is interested and appears to fulfill the selection criteria.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

Lucia Rehearsal #1- Sunday, November 19, 2017 from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Lucia Rehearsal #2 - Sunday, December 3, 2017 from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Lucia Christmas Celebration - Sunday, December 10, 2017 from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

VOLUNTEERING:

The Lucia Committee is seeking volunteers to serve on the committee and/or help during the Christmas program. From making sandwiches to pouring glogg to cutting spruce boughs, there are many opportunities for supporting this fun family-focused event. For more information, contact Crystal Enkvist at 907-245-0495 or crystal_enkvist@hotmail.com. Takk for hjelpen!

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.

*Karin Childers and Crystal Enkvist
Lucia Committee Acting Co-Chairs*

LUCIA SELECTION CRITERIA

Every year during December, Bernt Balchen Lodge sponsors the Lucia Christmas Program. 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 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 Christmas Program. The parents/grandparents of the Lucia are responsible for the two (2) Lucia practices and will work in cooperation with the committee to plan and make arrangements for the Christmas program.
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.

Bridge Builders Excellence in Community Service Award

Martha "Mickey" Andrew received a Bridge Builders Excellence in Community Service Award from the Governor and the First Lady at the Bridge Builders Unity Gala at the Captain Cook Hotel on August 19, 2017. Photos by Anne Adasiak-Andrew

Twenty of her friends and family were there to cheer her on. We at Bernt Balchen Lodge want to congratulate her on her well-deserved award. Below is a summary of the wording in her nomination for the award.



"Martha 'Mickey' Andrew was nominated for her contributions to the Sons of Norway and the Anchorage Norwegian-American community. Mickey was born in a Norwegian-American family in Minnesota, but came to Anchorage as a young woman in 1956. She has held numerous offices in both the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge and with the Sons of Norway District 2 (Northwest Coast states). She has served three terms as President of Bernt Balchen Lodge and is now in her sixth term as Secretary of District 2 of Sons of Norway. She has not only made improvements in the operation of Bernt Balchen Lodge, but in one way or another helped all the lodges in Sons of Norway District 2 improve their organizational and communication capabilities. Mickey has been an untiring advocate for the transmission of Norwegian heritage both at the local lodge level as well as the district level. Plus, she has helped to share knowledge of the Norwegian culture with the wider community of Anchorage both through teaching in the schools and the founding of the Scandinavian Bazaar. A community minded person, she has actively supported the Sons of Norway's partnership with Bridge Builders of Anchorage and been an unwavering champion for lodge support for the Alaska Literacy Program through the Biz Bee Spelling Bee. She is a both good citizen and an exemplary Norwegian-American."

Terje "Ted" Birkedal

President, Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge



Come Join the Lefse Making Crew this September, October, and November, 2017

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, and 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 Lefse Chair Ted Birkedal at 351-6095 or <tedbirkedal@gmail.com>, to let him know you would like to help, when you wish to help, and for how long. Our honorary "Lefse Queen" Anna Decker will also be happy take your calls at (694-2051).

Lefse-Making Sessions in September, October and November

Lefse Making for Bazaar: Friday-Sunday/September 8-10

Lefse Making for Bazaar: Friday-Sunday/September 29-October 1

Lefse Making for Lutefisk Dinner: Friday-Sunday/November 3-5

Lefse Making Hours:

Friday 3-6 pm

Saturday 9-6 pm

Sunday 9-6 pm

THE BAZAAR IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Opportunity for All Ages at the Velkommen Café



Join the smiling faces in the Velkommen Café on October 7, 2017 at the Scandinavian Bazaar. Sign up for a spot on the kitchen team to be "Stove Meister" or serve our popular polse, or learn from the experts how to prepare the delightful Scandinavian fare!

To be a part of the "Best Lunch in Town" callor text Gayle Mathiesen at 441-9358. Takk!

Donations Needed for the Bazaar!

We are now accepting donated Scandinavian/Nordic items for the Silent Auction to be held during the Scandinavian Bazaar, October 7th. And don't forget about your favorite Bake Sale donations!

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

Contact the Lodge at 349-1613 for more information. Thank you for your support!



DITT og DATT!

Greetings from Kristiansand!

I found Colonel Bernt Balchen, looking dapper as ever, in my home town! This statue was given in memory of the aviation pioneer to the city of Kristiansand by our lodge in Anchorage! King Harald V unveiled the statue by Aslaug Moi Frøyanes on October 23rd, 1999. Balchen was born on Tveit, on the outskirts of Kristiansand. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Vi sees! Lillian Anderson



Ekte Gjetost update



Ekte Gjetost is no longer available from Natural Pantry in Anchorage; they lost their distributor. So you will need to order it from Scandinavian Specialties, Willy's Products, Ingebretsens or a similar online store.



Cooking Classes!

Interested in more cooking classes at Bernt Balchen Lodge? We're planning a few classes for this year, but we've decided not to offer them every month. Look in the October Flyer for more information about upcoming classes.

Snakker du norsk? Language Classes!

The Norwegian Language and Culture Class for 2017/18 will be starting up again on Sunday, October 1st, 2017.

The class will be held on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm and will run through mid-May. Native Norwegian speaker, Lillian Anderson, originally from Kristiansand, Norway, will be teaching this fun class once again. Christie Ericson, who recently returned from taking intermediate Norwegian at the University of Oslo International Summer School will also be assisting Lillian with the class this year.

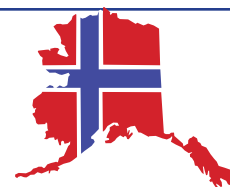
All skill levels are welcome. This year we'll be focusing more on developing conversational Norwegian skills, in addition to learning about Norwegian culture. (Please note, we will not be dividing the class into beginning/advanced students as we've done in the past.) Textbooks and other language materials will be provided free of charge. We also recommend that all students bring a Norwegian-English dictionary for use in the class. The total cost of the 8-month class will be \$20.00 for Sons of Norway members and \$40.00 for non-members (checks payable to the Sons of Norway). The class will be held at Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood Street.

If you are interested in taking the class, please call Viking Hall at (907) 349-1613. You're also welcome to show up at the first class and sign up.



Consul's Corner

Information and Opportunities for Norwegian Alaskans



I am so excited to announce a special opportunity for all Sons of Norway Members. Ambassador Aas will be back in Anchorage for one night! Come join me for a special reception hosted by Norway's Ambassador to the United States.

Sons of Norway Members are Cordially invited to a special reception hosted by

His Excellency Kåre Aas

Ambassador of Norway

at

Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge 8141 Briarwood St

Wednesday, September 27th 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Light hors d'oeuvres, wine, and Norwegian Beer will be available

Please RSVP to Amanda at the Sons of Norway Lodge at

(907) 349-1613 by September 20th

Ambassador Aas will greet guests and will say some words about "Norwegian Priorities in the Arctic"

The Norsemen Invade Netflix



If you liked Lilyhammer and Occupied (two great Norwegian TV Series with English subtitles) you're going to love The Norsemen. It debuted in Oct. 2016 and took Norway by storm. Described as a cross between Monty Python and Game of Thrones, the comedy is set in the year 790 at the start of the Viking Age when an egotistical Roman actor named Rufus is kidnapped and taken as a slave to the Viking Village of Norheim. At first, of course, the Vikings see him as insignificant, but times change.

Rufus finds a friend and admirer in the chieftain's cowardly and exploited brother. Together they steer the small village of Norheim away from raids and war toward a new, but not necessarily welcome, path of arts and culture that will turn out to be more than 1,000 years ahead of its time.

The Norsemen deals with the everyday challenges of the village: love entanglements, gender role changes, friendships, power struggles, and a bitter family dispute between two brothers. Set in an era where the strong always win, it is up to

Norheim to defend its existence as either a fierce Viking village or as a cultural capital.

According to Anders Tangen, series co-producer and Lilyhammer co-producer, The Norsemen is unique. "The series was simultaneously filmed in Norwegian and English. It is not half English and half Norwegian like Lilyhammer, but each shoot is in one language. It is not dubbed. Filming the Norwegian version almost served as a dress rehearsal for the English version," Tangen laughed.

Tangen told the Norwegian daily Dagbladet, "We hope we have set a precedent for dual filming in English and Norwegian for many programs. It makes it easier to sell series abroad and Norwegian actors are showcased worldwide." Viewers also will find that humor does not depend solely on language and will appreciate the hilarity of slapstick and cartoon-like antics, which have universal appeal.

The concept for The Norsemen, known as Vikingane in Norway, was the brainchild of Jon Iver Helgaker, co-creator and director, although he doesn't take credit for its development. "I came up with the basic idea," said Helgaker, "but the moment we (Jonas Torgersen, also co-creator and director) started discussing it, it was 'our' idea. Jonas and I think alike, enjoy the same things and, most important, dislike the same things. It took 18 months from conception to filming. It's been hectic."

Today when we think of the Vikings, we tend to see them as merely barbaric. But according to Torgersen, "When doing research we found that the Vikings actually sat down and carved harassing messages to one another that were also humorous. It gave us insight into the Viking personality and found them to be much like us. We are able to see our characters as modern people in a Viking setting and view their reactions to gruesome and illogical rules much like we would."

The Norsemen, Lillehammer, and Occupied are all available on Netflix.

Lise Kristiansen Falskow
Telephone: +1 (907) 440-5473

I am honored to have been asked to serve as the Norwegian Honorary Consul in Alaska. When information and opportunities come across my desk, I will let Norwegians in our community know about them in a regular Consul's Corner section of the Flyer.



Sons of Norway
8141 Briarwood St.
Anchorage, AK 99518
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EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER!

8th, 9th, 10th

Friday

3:00 - 6:00 pm

Saturday, Sunday

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Lefse Making for Bazaar

14th

Thursday

6:30 pm

Potluck Social

7:30 pm

Board/Membership Meeting

19th

Tuesday

10:00 am

Needle Crafts and Rosemaling

29th, 30th

& October 1st

Friday

3:00 - 6:00 pm

Saturday, Sunday

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Lefse Making for Bazaar

Welcome New Members!

Hal Ingalls

Richard Kullberg

Kristine Vangstad

Marcus Biastock

Melvin Johanson

Johanna G Marvin

Kristin Klingenstein

Linda Courtice

Ruth Courtice



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.

Please consider helping those who are less fortunate.

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 Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **The Flyer**