



VIKING HALL 349-1613
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October
2017
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SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Lagertha's Inspiration: Viking Women Warriors of the North

In the late nineteenth century a rich, high-status Viking-Era grave was excavated by Swedish archeologists at Birka, west of Stockholm, Sweden. Birka was one of the major towns and trading centers in Scandinavia during the Viking Age. The grave goods included, a sword, an axe, a spear, a battle knife, several armor-piercing arrows, and the remains of two shields. Also, buried with the inhabitant of the grave were two horses. Until 2014 the grave was thought to be that of a man, but a forensic study of the skeleton in 2014 suggested that the buried person was a woman. This hypothesis was confirmed by a DNA study in 2017 and the story went viral in newspapers and social media around the world. Had this woman been a “shield maiden” and war leader like the fictional “Lagertha” in the popular TV show *The Vikings*? Also, a hot scholarly debate has arisen over the meaning of the battle-related artifacts in the woman’s grave. Are they really her weapons or just ritual or heirloom items? Was there once a man in the grave whose skeleton mysteriously disappeared or disintegrated long before the archeologists began their excavations?

As it turns out this find is not all that unusual in Scandinavia. Very similar Viking-Era graves of women have been excavated in Nordre Kjølén, Aunvoll, and Solør, Norway. Like the Swedish woman at Birka each of these Norwegian women were buried with a sword, an axe, a spear, arrows, and a shield. In addition, the woman from Solør was buried with a horse with a fine bridle. Another grave from Kaupang, Norway, contained a woman seated in a small boat with an axe and a shield boss. Still another high-status grave in Rogaland, Norway, turned up a woman buried with a sword at her side. Many other high-status burials throughout Scandinavia have revealed Viking Age women with buried weapons; most particularly axes, knives and arrowheads.

Archeologists have also found numerous brooches and small figurines from the Viking Period showing women carrying both spears and weapons. Similarly, the Oseberg Tapestry that was found in the famous Oseberg Viking Ship burial in Norway, displays women marching with spears. Interestingly, the Oseberg Viking Ship burial only contained the remains of two women; one around 50 and another around 80 years old. One of these women, most likely the older, is thought to have been Queen Asa Haraldsdottir of the sagas who is said to have had her husband murdered so she

President’s Message continues on Page 2



SCANDINAVIAN BAZAAR

Viking Hall

October 7, 2017

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

8141 Briarwood St.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE!

We will have demonstrations for rosemaling, and amazing food, including the popular lefse, krumkake and waffles for sale!

Our Kitchen will be serving the best lunch in town.

Delicious traditional soups and open-faced sandwiches.

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

Jewelry	Rosemaling	Scarves
Artwork	Table linens	Clothing
Woodcarvings	Pillows	Christmas decorations

And much more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 349-1613

Women Warriors

President's Message continues from Page 1



Hervor, daughter of Heidrek, dying at the *Battle of the Goths and Huns*, a painting by Peter Nicolai Arbo. Public Domain

could take over his kingdom which was once situated in the vicinity of Oslo. Neither of the women from the Oseberg ship burial were found with weapons, but archeologists believe the ship grave had been looted soon after the burial, for there was none of the usual jewelry, gold, or silver that would have been expected with such a high-status burial.

There are also clues in early Medieval literature about female warriors in the Viking age. For example Saxo Grammaticus, a 12th century Danish historian, mentions in his book *Gesta Danorum* (History of the Danes) that there were once women in Denmark who purposely dressed in men's clothing and actively practiced the martial arts. Saxo Grammaticus even gives the names of three of such warrior women; they were Hetha, Visne, and Veborg; all of who fought for King Harald Wartooth of Denmark in the 8th century at the Battle of Bråvella against no other than Sigurd Hring, the father of Ragnar Lodbrok,

the legendary hero of the TV show *The Vikings* and the first husband of Lagertha, the shield maiden of legend.

There is still more historical evidence for Viking warrior women. Interestingly, Archbishop Wulfstan of York, who actually lived during the close of the Viking age, wrote a homily that made reference to the "W lcyrgē" or "Choosers of the Slain" and an early English word that closely resembles the old Norsk "Valkyrur" ("Valkyries"). Also, the 13th century Icelandic *Saga of Hervör and Heidreks* tells the story of Hervör, a legendary Swedish aristocratic woman warrior who fought with her dead father's famous sword and died on the battlefield. And the *Laxdala Saga* contains the story of a woman who wears men's clothes and attacks her estranged husband with a sword. There is also a famous Arab traveler and writer, Ibn Fadlan, who meets a woman who presides over the iconic flaming ship funeral of a Rus (Swedish Viking) chieftain. She is described as the "Angel of Death", a term very close to the word "Valkyrie" which means "Chooser of the Dead". Moreover the 11th century Greek historian, Johannes Skylitzes, mentions that the Greeks were astounded to find dead female warriors among the Rus who died during the 10th century Siege of Dorostolon in Bulgaria. William of Jumi ges, a French historian of the 11th century, similarly wrote that the Viking raiding armies that attacked France included women warriors.

Rusla, nicknamed the "Red Maiden" for her bloodthirsty ways, is one of the most famous Viking women warriors. She and her sister Stikla are mentioned in both Danish and Irish Medieval accounts. Together, they harried the seas and coasts of Britain, Denmark, and Ireland and fought as mercenaries for the Viking King of Dublin at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 against King Brian Boru of Ireland. Eventually, her Viking brother, who hated her, captured her in a sea fight and cruelly had her beaten to death with the ship's oars.

It should not be surprising that some Scandinavian women of the Viking Age entered the warrior's profession. Women enjoyed relatively high economic and social status in Viking society and many were leaders even if they were not warriors. This leadership role goes back at least to the Iron Age which preceded the Viking Age in Scandinavia. For example, one of the largest grave mounds in Rogaland, in southwestern Norway, called Krosshaug, contained a woman who had been buried with fine jewelry and other rich grave goods around 450 AD. She was no doubt politically powerful for her mound was raised on the highest ridge in Jaeren, one of Norway's most productive agricultural districts. Norwegian archeologists believe this ridge and the adjacent farms served as the center of for political and religious power in the Jaeren region from the 5th century through the post-Medieval Era. It was here that the people of Jaeren held their annual assemblies or "tings" in olden times. Archeologists therefore judge that she had been a chieftain of considerable power and influence at the time of her death. Another woman who exemplifies the power and leadership role of early Scandinavian women is Aud the Deep Minded who lived in the 9th century, at the very heart of the Viking Age. After her husband, Olaf the White, the King of Dublin, died in battle she led a large retinue of men and women to western Iceland where she was one of the first high-born settlers and served as a well-regarded and beloved chieftain for the rest of her life. The author of the 12th century *Laxdala Saga* described her as "a paragon among women".

Viking women warriors may not have been common but both archeological evidence and historical sources suggest they did exist and that they enjoyed a welcome place in Viking Age society and warfare. This should not be seen as that unusual in a warlike society where women could be clearly aspire to economic and political power and successfully become chieftains and leaders of men. Some of these leading women apparently chose to become war leaders as well, and by their courage and example motivated both men and other women to follow them into battle.

Terje "Ted" Birkedal

President, Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge

Lutefisk and Lefse Dinner is Coming Soon!

This dinner is one of the lodge's biggest fundraising events, helping to keep our wonderful Viking Hall in great shape and allowing us to continue providing great events for our members and friends.

Please consider helping out this year. It is a great way to not only show support for the lodge, but also to get to know other members and friends and find out just how much fun we have behind the scenes in making events like this possible.

The dinner itself this year is on Saturday November 11th with two seatings: 4 - 6 pm or 7 - 10 pm. We ask that reservations be made for the dinner as we have limited seating and this is the most popular event of the year. Call the lodge at 349-1613 to make a reservation for the seating of your choice.

Pricing: Adults \$25 (non-members \$30); ages 12-16 \$12
Ages 5-11 \$6; 4 and under free.

In terms of helping out, there are various days and times where we could use your assistance:

Friday November 3rd – *preparation for lefse rolling 3 - 6 pm – help boil potatoes and set things up for the two days of rolling.*

Saturday November 4th – *roll lefse from 9 am - 6 pm (even a couple of hours of your time would be a great help)*

Sunday November 5th – *roll lefse from 9 am - 6 pm and note that from noon onward we welcome the youth of the lodge to come and assist and learn from the lefse rolling masters just how easy it is to roll some lefse.*

Sunday November 5th – *meatball rolling from 1 - 4 pm*

Friday November 10th – *preparation for the dinner (veggies, sauces, dinning room, etc) starting at 10 am until done (usually around 8 pm)*

Saturday November 11th – **THE BIG EVENT** – *help with first seating from 3-6pm or second seating from 6 - 9 pm or cleanup from 9 pm onward.*

Let me know by e-mail at lise@gci.net if you are willing to assist with any of the above areas, or give me a call at 222-5320 if you have questions.

Tusen takk!

Tom Falskow, Co-chair Lutefisk dinner 2016

2018 Slate of Lodge Officers for Bernt Balchen Lodge

President - Tom Falskow

Vice President & Membership Secretary - Linda Bustamante

Treasurer - Carol Carlson

Counselor - Martha Andrew

Secretary - Anita Persson

Marshal -

Assistant Marshal -

Trustee - Amanda Saxton

Auditor -

Auditor -

Co-Social Director - Ted Birkedal

Co-Social Director - Merlin Hamre

Cultural Director - Christie Ericson

Foundation Director - Marit Kristiansen

Sports Director - Martin Hansen

Sunshine Chair - Cindy McDowell

Newsletter Chair - Ruth Kvernplassen

Co-Publicity Chair - Charlotte MacCay

Co-Publicity Chair -

Librarian -

Anyone wishing to fill vacant roles or run against any of the listed candidates please contact a member of the nominating committee, Linda Bustamante, Tom Falskow or Marit Kristiansen.

Elections are held at the November meeting which is Thursday, November 9th at 7 pm.



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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

"Happy Birthday!"



Anna Decker

Carol Hall

Torulf Hofseth

John Olnes

"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



Membership Dues News

Sons of Norway International delegates voted at the 2014 and 2016 International Lodge Meetings to proceed with a simplified dues structure for U.S. members. *These changes come into effect on January 1, 2018.* Sons of Norway is simplifying the dues structure to maintain consistency throughout the U.S. and making it easier for lodges to sign up new members and to discuss the dues with others outside of their lodges and districts.

What does this change mean for members of Bernt Balchen 2-46? It means that for any member that has renewal of dues after January 1, 2018, the new rates will be effective as follows:

Individual members will pay \$60 a year (note this is \$1 higher than our previous \$59 individual rate)

Family members will pay \$95 a year. Family membership covers the primary member plus all qualified family members, including spouses. This is an overall reduction of \$18 for any previous primary members whose spouses were also members.

Family membership now covers the primary member, their spouse and any other qualified family members like qualifying Heritage and Unge Venner members.

Heritage and Life members see no changes – both of these member categories remain free of charge.

Unge Venner members (ages 16-23) remain free so long as they share an address with a family member.

Golden Members (30+ years of membership and 65+ years of age) pay reduced annual rates of \$42 for an individual and \$78 for family memberships

Another change beginning with all 2018 renewals, members in U.S. lodges will have the option to pay their dues by automatic monthly withdrawal from their U.S. banks. Annual payment by check or credit card will continue to be available both online and through the mail along with ability to call the Sons International office as well to renew using the 1-800-945-8851.

If there are any questions regarding your membership, please contact Membership Secretary Tom Falskow at lise@gci.net or 222-5320.

Fra Biblioteket:



Vikings are in vogue these days. Amazon Prime has a series that is now in *Season 4, Vikings*, following the brutal life of Ragnar Lothbrok and his people, days of fighting amongst the various factions within Scandinavia as well as the years of expansion outside of the borders as they venture to places far off. Even kids movies are getting a dose of viking times, *Frozen* features characters named Sven and Olaf and *How to Train your Dragon* is also very Nordic in theme.

And in case you missed it, National Geographic did a front cover article on Vikings in their March issue this year which is now available in our library. National Geographic of course is well-known for maps and this issue does not disappoint. While most people are quite familiar with the Viking wanderings to the west, England, Scotland, Ireland, Normandy and onward to Iceland, Greenland and ultimately into Canada; what I found most fascinating was how far east the Vikings also traveled, going well into Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and even further into Turkey, Azerbaijan and Iran. By the year 1000 A.D. they had settlements all over the map with recorded attacks as far south as Morocco and over into Uzbekistan to the east.

Making this all possible was their keen ability to build and sail the their Viking ships. Catch up on a bit of your history this month and explore the world of the Vikings. We have many books on the topic in the lodge library - great for school projects as well!

Tom Falskow, Lodge Librarian

WOODCARVING TIME!

Don't miss out!

It's October, which means another carving seminar and I do not want to hear how *"you are sorry you missed it"!!* Get off that easy chair and spend a day having a great time carving. There will be 10 classes offered on **October 14** and you get to pick the one that suits you the best. Remember you can only take one class per seminar.

The cost is only \$25.00 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 participation. There is an age limit.

You may register for a class at the Wood shop in the Northway Mall

10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday; Saturday and Sunday from noon until 5:00 pm.

At that time you will be able to see samples of what projects are being offered. Register and pay for your class at that time to guarantee your spot in the class. Class size is limited. Remember....this is all put on by volunteers from the Last Frontier Woodcarvers.

For more information contact Cindy at 696-0725 or 862-1143.

FAAR-I-KAAL FUN!

Food, Fun and Fellowship. That is what we do best!



*Photos
by
Glenn Soby*



ATTENTION ALL BAKERS!!!



The 21st annual Christmas Bazaar is
Saturday the 7th, and the
Bake Sale table needs your help!

*If you would like to donate homemade cookies, cakes or breads,
please bring them to the bazaar on
Saturday, October 7th between 9 am and 2 pm.*

All items must be packaged and ready to sell.

We will have labels there if you need them and can help with the pricing.

This is the largest annual fund-raiser for our lodge, please help us
make it a success!

For more information call Anita @ 301-4215

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

October 12th, 6:00 pm at Viking Hall



Cultural Director Christie Ericson will give a presentation on her experience at the International Summer School in Oslo, Norway this past summer. A recipient of the 2017 Sons of Norway District 2 Carl M. Saltveit scholarship, as well as a Bernt Balchen Lodge scholarship, Christie spent

6 weeks studying Intermediate Norwegian at the University of Oslo. Come hear about the highlights of her trip, including traveling around the country, meeting Norwegian relatives for the first time, and seeing some familiar faces from Alaska!

Scandinavian Band Weaving Study Group

This free study group is hosted by Lorri (Haugan) Wright.

We are following an online yahoo group focused on Scandinavian band weaving led by Susan Foulkes. Susan will be demonstrating the use of the small hand-held heddles that are used for the creation of the Scandinavian bands. We will meet at Viking hall, and other locations, on a weekly basis for 4 weeks. Attendees will follow along with the instruction provided on line, purchase the necessary equipment and yarn from the online resource, and have a go at each of the band styles.

We will meet as a group and work through any questions or issues in our weekly meeting and provide support and encouragement. The on-line portion of the workshop will be spread over three weeks and will be open to anyone who has joined the Yahoo group, Braids and Bands. (Free to sign-up)

All the patterns will have 13 pattern threads.

- The first week will look at bands from Norway and Sweden. The online demonstration will start on 15th October.
- The second week will cover Finland, Russia and Sámi weaving. The online demonstration will start on 22nd of October.
- The third week will look at bands from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The online demonstration will start on 29th of October.

Our study group will meet as follows:

- Supply List will be provided via e-mail as soon as it is available.
- October 29th, 1-3 pm in the Library at Viking Hall. Your host will provide a demonstration of the method to warp the heddles, as well as details of the recommended yarns and tools needed. This will be a very basic introduction to what is needed for the continuing study group.
- Each participant will purchase their equipment as needed via an on-line resource. Stoorstarka.com is the recommended source as they specialize in Sami cultural tools. They have a variety of heddles, a Gehpa (weaving shuttle), and some wool yarns available for purchase. A heddle and the shuttle cost approximately \$50.
- November 5th, 1-3 pm in the Library at Viking Hall. We will begin weaving the Norwegian and Swedish styles of bands.
- November 12th, 1-3 pm in the Library at Viking Hall. We will begin weaving the Finnish, Russian, and Sami styles of bands.
- November 18th, 10 am – noon in the Library at Viking Hall. We will begin weaving the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian styles of bands.

If you are interested in participating, please send an e-mail to lorrihome@live.com or call (907) 360-0276. I will send the supply list, and provide updates as needed.

Bridge Builders Honors for Terje Birkedal

This award recognizes the continued efforts of Terje or Ted as we affectionately know him, in nourishing his beloved Norwegian heritage. Under his leadership the Sons of Norway, Bernt Balchen Lodge # 2-46 has offered community wide classes in Norwegian language and community as well as continuing events that celebrate traditions, such as the lutefisk

dinner, Santa Lucia celebration, Christmas brunch and most recently the fish boil. Ted has exemplified what it means to be a bridge builder by inviting the Muslim community to build their mosque just down the street from the Lodge. A friendship has been forged and strengthened

by mutual respect. Ted's work is embedded in the Bridge Builders of Anchorage's mission and vision. The inscription on the award reads: *"In recognition and in honor of your steadfast leadership and commitment to the tenets of Bridge Builders of Anchorage."*



Passages

Gunars Cukurs passed away on August 4th.

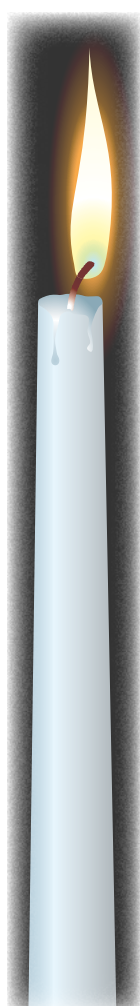
Take time to reach out to those who have lost a loved one.
Just a few kind words can make a big difference.

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
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Lucia Rehearsal #2 - Sunday, December 3, 2017
4:00. - 5:00 p.m.

Lucia Christmas Celebration - Sunday, December 10, 2017
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_ankvist@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.



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

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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.

EVENTS FOR OCTOBER!

EARLY WARNING!

3rd

Tuesday

10:00 am

Needle Crafts and
Rosemaling

7th

Saturday

10:00 am - 4 pm

Scandinavian Bazaar

12th

Thursday

Special Presentation at 6:00 pm

7:00 pm

Board/Membership Meeting
& New Member Welcome

14th

Saturday

9:00 am - 4 pm

Woodcarving Seminar

17th

Tuesday

10:00 am

Needle Crafts and
Rosemaling

LEFSE MAKING - SIGN UP NOW
for Lutefisk and Lefse Dinner

NOVEMBER 3rd, 4th, 5th

Friday 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Saturday, Sunday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

(No experience necessary, just the willingness to learn!)

Welcome New Members!

Liv A Froholm

Amy J Nicolaisen

Super Bowl Raffle - 2018 Scholarship Fund-raiser



It's that time of year again! Ticket sales for the Sons of Norway 2018 Super Bowl Raffle are now underway. The raffle is the primary source of funds for the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge No. 2-046 Language/ Heritage/Higher Education Scholarships.

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 51 game on a big-screen TV at Viking Hall on Sunday, February 4, 2018.

To purchase raffle tickets please contact the Lodge at: 349-1613 Tickets will also be available during Lodge events and at the Viking Hall office.

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 20th to: sonancak@gmail.com Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **The Flyer**