



VIKING HALL 349-1613  
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**2018**  
**februar**



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## SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

### Norway's Influence

You might have noticed that Norway made it into the mainstream news recently. How could a relatively small country, with a population of only 5.3 million, in a world that has over 7 billion humans, have such a global attraction? There seems to be a fascination with all things Nordic these days and how our Nordic nations could have crafted such admirable societies that the rest of the world looks up to them despite their size. Perhaps the Danish poet Piet Hein put it aptly in his grook, “Denmark seen from a foreign land looks but like a grain of sand. Denmark as we Danes conceive it is so big you won't believe it.” So what is it that our Nordic neighbors can tell us about who we are and who we aspire to be?



From the U.S. perspective, Norway and the U.S. have a very special relationship, both historically and present day. The Norwegian Embassy in Washington D.C. recently authored a publication on Norway’s impact on the American economy. Ambassador Aas writes in his opening comments, “In the later half of the 19th century hundreds of thousands of Norwegian immigrants settled across the United States. Driven by hope and adventure, almost one-third of Norway’s population made the journey across the Atlantic. Today their descendants number almost 5 million spread across this great land”. And so it is said, there are nearly as many Norwegians here in the U.S. as there are in Norway itself! The report goes on to mention how many jobs are supported by Norwegian investment in American businesses, both direct and indirect through the Norwegian sovereign wealth fund’s investment in many of our largest companies. The report shows that nearly 1 million jobs are supported through these investments. And the report also shows that here in Alaska 1,400 jobs are supported by Norwegian investment and that exports to Norway from Alaska top \$2 million annual with fish products being at the top of the list of exports.

Norway’s reach is incredible given its small size and remote location and the same could be said for Alaska, perhaps one reason why we can identify with our Arctic neighbors and foster some of the same rugged determination to thrive in the cold northern parts of this planet. Norwegians have another trait that is admirable and that is a sense of community and the desire to care and nurture the community as a whole.

Sons of Norway fosters this same principle and encourages lodges to find ways to give to the communities we live in through various forms of outreach. This month is a great example for our lodge. We are going to be present at the UAA Library Resource Fair as a way to showcase our own library collection of all things Nordic. This is also the month where we have a table at the Bridge Builders “Meet the World” event, something we have been doing now for over a decade, an event that brings together all of the various cultural groups in Anchorage to celebrate the diversity within our community, a great family event with live performances from some of the various ethnic groups in town.

Look for updates on these events in the upcoming eBlast news (if you need to sign-up for our weekly eBlast, please visit our website at [www.sofnalaska.com](http://www.sofnalaska.com)). And finally a big thank you to the members who stepped forward to help house some Norwegian students that are here for a short visit before they head out into the winter wilderness to see what it is like to live in Alaska during the cold winter months! Welcoming strangers into our homes can be a wonderful way to learn something new about the world and the communities that they come from. Likewise, they get to see a small bit of how we do things here and reflect on how we all share a common bond in finding our way through the world together.

*Fraternally yours, Tom Falskow*  
*President, Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge*



## Fra Biblioteket

Hello! I am very excited to introduce myself as the new Bernt Balchen Lodge librarian. As some of you may know, in my other life I am the Electronic Resources Librarian at UAA, so I am very happy to be able to put my library skills to work here at the Lodge. I've recently started a project to catalog the Lodge's library collection using a program called LibraryThing.

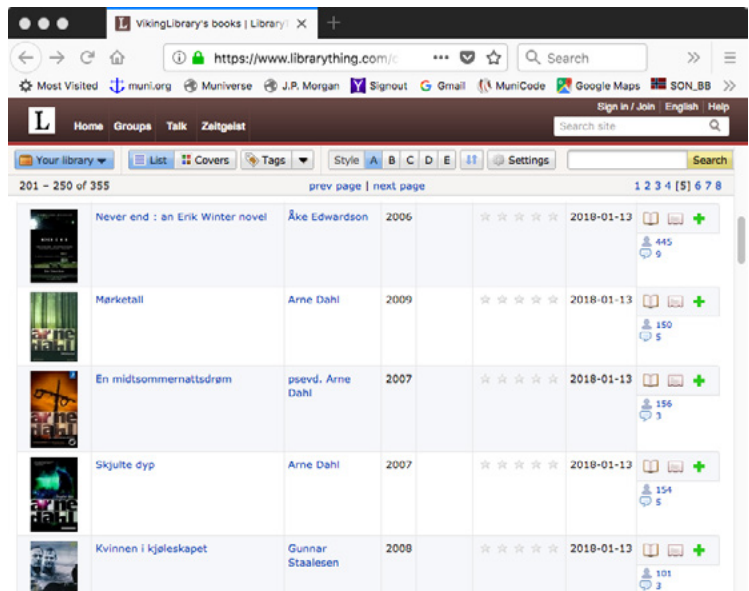
LibraryThing is a social cataloging web application that allows people to catalog and share information about their collections online. So far I've cataloged over 300 titles from our library and am finding that we have some great treasures in our collection.

I'll be scheduling a program sometime in the near future to give an overview of the catalog and still have many more books to add, but in the meantime you can get a sneak preview at the following link:

<https://www.librarything.com/catalog/VikingLibrary>

*I'm also excited to announce that Viking Library will also be participating in the first ever Anchorage Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAM) Fair to be held on Friday, February 9th from 10-2 at UAA.*

Over 20 organizations from the Anchorage area will be available to share information on their collections and answer questions. Attendees can visit with librarians, archivists, and



curators, and there will be talks and workshops on subjects ranging from book and film preservation to how to start a history research project.

For more information:

<https://consortiumlibrary.org/blogs/anchorage-lam-fair/>

*Christie Ericson, Lodge Librarian*

## SUNSHINE REPORT

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

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

*"Gratulerer med dagen!"*

**Stephen Indahl**  
**Anton Meyer**



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

## SUPER BOWL LII

*Thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets to support the Scholarship Program.*

**SOLD OUT!**



**We are happy to say that all of the tickets have now been sold.**

The raffle will again have 20 winners with a top prize of \$1000. Only 300 tickets are sold so the chance to win is very generous, one in 15.

***Come to the Super Bowl Party and join in the excitement of the drawings!***

If you are unable to make the party, not to worry, you are still eligible to collect your prize(s).



• 4TH ANNUAL •

# NORDIC LANGUAGE FAIR

FEBRUARY 17, 2018 / 7-9 PM

Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood St



Presentations / Activities  
Language resources / Scholarship info  
Traditional Nordic desserts

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**ALL AGES WELCOME**



Sponsored by Sons of Norway  
Bernt Balchen Lodge

For more information, contact Christie at  
907-349-0642 or christieak@gmail.com



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## CULTURAL CORNER

*We've had some fun cultural events recently.*

On Saturday, January 27th, we had about 30 people come to Viking Hall to watch the film, *The King's Choice* (Kongens Nei). Many attendees felt the dramatic film brought history to life and enjoyed seeing scenes they recognized from Norway.

The DVD will be donated to the Lodge and will be available for members to check out.

On Thursday, January 25th, Lillian Anderson and Christie Ericson represented Norway at Creekside Park Elementary School's Multicultural Celebration. In addition to the Norwegian display they set up, the two made waffles for attendees. The waffles were such a big hit, they could barely make them fast enough!

Lillian is the school nurse at Creekside Park, and the students loved seeing her in her bunad and have a newfound love for Norwegian waffles. (A few even tried the brunost!)

On December 1st, Mickey Andrew and Matthew Wallender made waffles at the Multicultural Night at Susitna Elementary School. They were also a big hit! It looks like the Norwegians are getting quite the good reputation at the local schools!



*Photos courtesy of Christie Ericson*

## CULTURAL AND HERITAGE NIGHT - THE KING'S CHOICE



*Photos courtesy of Ruth Kvernplassen*



The true story of three dramatic days in April 1940, where the King of Norway is presented with an unimaginable ultimatum from the German armed forces: surrender or die.

With Nazi soldiers hunting after them, the Royal Family is forced to flee the capital. To find out what happens you can rent this DVD from the Viking Library here at Bernt Balchen Lodge.

The audience was riveted from beginning to end.

*Thanks to our Cultural Director, Christie Ericson for organizing this event!*



Chuck Brodahl - 95 years young with his Viking ship cake!

Chuck's family wishes to thank all the folks who stopped by to wish him "Gratulerer med dagen!"





## WHERE WILL YOU HAVE YOUR NEXT CELEBRATION?

Viking Hall is a banquet hall centrally located in Anchorage near Dimond and Old Seward.



Many of you have been to Viking Hall to enjoy bazaars, language classes, and cultural dinners. Viking Hall is a spacious facility with a 50 x 60 foot main hall, 10 foot ceilings, and windows overlooking the Chugach Mountain Range. Decorating is part of the fun of setting-up an event and Viking Hall offers a 'Prior Day' so that families can cook, decorate, and visit whether it be a graduation, wedding, or reunion! In fact, many wedding celebrations take advantage of the 'Prior Day.' Families have a chance to create their event, personalize the decor and spend time together with friends and out-of-town guests while preparing for the big day.

Also, shopping for food, flowers, and decorations is very conveniently located within a two-mile radius of Viking Hall.

There are several advantages to holding an event at Viking Hall: We have one of the largest dance floors in Anchorage and a view of the Chugach Mountain Range; our commercial style kitchen makes it easy to self-cater, or cater an event; rectangle tables and chairs are included for all events; we have a large entry outside of the main hall to facilitate guests (handicap accessible); we have a walk-in closet (very nice for guest coats in the winter season), and we have on-site and street side parking.



Coupled with these facts is that Viking Hall events can be held until midnight! In the 'land of the midnight sun' this is a spectacular moment as the sun barely dips below the horizon in the summer.



*However, there is another advantage special to Sons of Norway - we receive a discount on member-rentals!*

Whether your event is for 50 or 150, you will find Viking Hall a great location for your venue.

Feel free to contact us at [events@sofnalaska.com](mailto:events@sofnalaska.com) or call us at Viking Hall, 907-349-1613.



*Photos for this article contributed by various lodge members.*

## DITT og DATT!

### Dinner and Visit at Viking Hall with Oytun Folkehoyskole Students



On Monday, February 5th at 6:00 pm we will host the students from Oytun Folkehoyskole for a potluck dinner at Viking Hall.

The students are here for a trip into the Alaska wilderness, starting with a visit to the village of Tokotna where they will see the Iditarod mushers come through on their way to Nome. Several of our Sons of Norway

families are hosting the students for a few nights this week while they are in Anchorage to make final preparations for their trip into the wild.

Come welcome them at this special event. The lodge is providing meatballs as a main course, so please bring along something to share like a side dish, salad, or dessert while we visit with the students and find out a bit about what they plan to do. This is a family friendly event, so bring the whole family along!



### 4th Annual Nordic Language Fair

Calling all Nordic language lovers! The 4th Annual Nordic Language Fair will be held at Viking Hall on Saturday, February 17th from 7-9 pm.

(See page 3 for a full page information sheet you can print and post).

There will be brief presentations by various speakers on the languages of the Nordic countries as well as opportunities to learn more about language resources and study opportunities in Anchorage and elsewhere. Come mingle with other language lovers, participate in fun activities (did I mention door prizes?), and try some traditional Nordic desserts.

If you have a favorite dessert you would like to contribute (we are particularly looking for traditional Norwegian, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, or Swedish treats), please contact Cultural Director Christie Ericson at [christieak@gmail.com](mailto:christieak@gmail.com) or 602-0673.



### Bernt Balchen Officers Installed

Lodge Officers were sworn in on January 11th.

If you weren't there, *and all are welcome at these monthly meetings*, you missed some great desserts!

### Cross-Country Ski Events - Sons of Norway

We have snow. Lets cross-country ski.

Wax your skis:

February 6, 8 pm, Bernt Balchen Lodge.

Wax and waxing equipment provided. Please contact me so I will know who is coming, and to answer questions.

Learn to Classic Ski.

Sunday, February 11, 12 - 1 pm Kincaid Park Jodhpur Trailhead. I will bring kick wax. Please

contact me so I know who is coming; for any updates in locations, and any other questions or concerns.

Learn to Skate Ski. Saturday, February 17, 1 - 2 pm, Kincaid Park Stadium.

Please contact me so I know who is coming; for any updates in locations, and any other questions or concerns.

Sunday, February 25 we will celebrate our lovely Cross-Country Skiing tradition.

Meet at Kincaid Park with our Nordic Skiing Association friends wearing our wool sweaters, knickers, and (if you have them) wooden skis. We will be photographed in the Kincaid stadium at 12 noon. If your Wooden Skis need pine tar contact me.

I hope to see and ski with you!

Sports Director

Jr Nordic X-C Ski Coach

Martin Hansen

(907) 980-5333 or [bikeskifish@gmail.com](mailto:bikeskifish@gmail.com)





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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 FEBRUARY

<b>4th Sunday</b> 2:00 pm <b><u>Super Bowl Party</u></b>	<b>6th Tuesday</b> 10:00 am to Noon <b><u>Needle Crafts &amp; Rosemaling</u></b>	<b>8th Thursday</b> 7:00 pm <b><u>Board/Membership Meeting</u></b>
<b>9th Friday</b> 10:00 am to 2:00 pm <b><u>Libraries, Archives &amp; Museums Resource Fair at UAA</u></b>	<b>17th Saturday</b> 7:00 pm <b><u>Nordic Language &amp; Cultural Fair</u></b>	<b>20th Tuesday</b> 10:00 am to Noon <b><u>Needle Crafts &amp; Rosemaling</u></b>
<b>24th Saturday</b> 11:00 am to 4:00 pm <b><u>Bridge Builders Meet the World at Egan Center</u></b>	<b><i>Interested in learning Norwegian Folk Dancing?</i></b> Contact Cultural Director Christie Ericson at christieak@gmail.com or 602-0673 to discuss the possibility of forming a group. <hr/> <b>Did you know you can view <i>The Flyer</i> in living color?</b> <b><u><a href="http://www.sofnalaska.com/newsletter">http://www.sofnalaska.com/newsletter</a></u></b>	

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

Please send articles or event information  
for the next Newsletter by February 20th to: [sonancak@gmail.com](mailto:sonancak@gmail.com) Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **The Flyer**