



**VIKING HALL 349-1613**  
**www.sofnalaska.com**

**May**  
**2018**  
**mai**



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mother's Day Brunch.....	2
Sunshine Report .....	2
Norsk Samtalegruppe .....	2
Syttende Mai is Here!.....	3
Fabulous Fish Dinner.....	4
Everything Norwegian.....	5
Brothers Snusgood .....	5
Kikkan and Friends .....	6
Bernt Balchen Artwork.....	6
Ditt og Datt.....	7

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

### Sildesalaten (Herring Salad) Month!

Now if that is not a strange enough title to get you thinking - man our President has gone nuts! With some of you slyly saying, “That’s what we get for having Dane as our president!”

But let me show you what sildesalaten looks like in all of its forms:

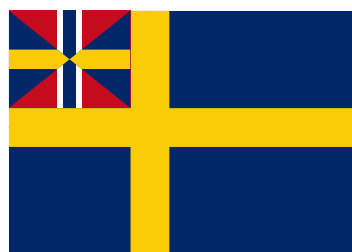
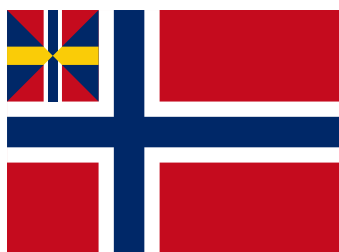
And so, as we join to celebrate Norway’s Consitution Day this May 17th (first at the parkstrip on the 17th for the traditional parade, and then again on Sunday the 20th at Viking Hall to take a meal together and to recognize membership awards and scholarship recipients), let me explain what all of the above means.



As many of you likely know, the constitution was signed on May 17th 1814 declaring Norway as an independent kingdom from Sweden. Sweden had assumed authority over Norway in the signing of the Treaty of Kiel in January of that year, resulting from Norway having been being on the losing side of the Napoleonic wars. Norway did not wish to be under Swedish rule, but the declaration of independence would take many more decades to play out as Sweden

marshalled troops in July and with superior military forces had the upper hand.

One month later, the Convention of Moss cease fire agreement was reached beginning the union with Sweden.



The above two flags represented the union of these two countries under one Swedish king from this day forward. The Norwegian version of the flag was at first popular in Norway as a sign of Norway's equal status in the union. In Sweden, however, it was always seen by some people as a desecration of their flag, and one of its adversaries called it the "herring salad" because of its resemblance to a popular dish on the Scandinavian smörgåsbord (picture at the top). The two flags came to be popularly known under this name in both countries during their brief period of use.

When Norway finally gained full independence in 1905 (and offered Prince Carl of Denmark to become their first modern-day king as King Haakon VII), the “herring salad” was dropped from the upper corner of the flag and presto – you have the modern day Norwegian flag!

Enjoy this month’s celebrations with fellow lodge members and don’t forget to enjoy some herring at the lodge dinner on the 20th while raising a glass to the flag - SKÅL!

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

# Mother's Day Brunch

## Sons of Norway

Sunday, May 13th 10am to 1:30pm

### *The Menu includes:*

Walter's sourdough pancakes,  
Nuna's apple cinnamon syrup,  
ham, reindeer sausage, eggs,  
mixed fruit, ...and  
Juice, Coffee, Tea &  
Champagne for Adults



### *Brunch Prices:*

Adults: \$12  
Ages 12-16: \$8  
Ages 5 -11: \$5  
Children under 5 are Free!

## SUNSHINE REPORT

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

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

*"Gratulerer  
med dagen!"*

Judith Bagley  
Margaret Edwards  
Reidun Hansen  
David Haugen  
Gordon Homme  
Darrell Korman  
Marianne Storms  
Gerald Swanson

*"Happy  
Birthday!"*

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)

## NORSK SAMTALEGRUPPE

### Norwegian Conversation Group

Practice your Norwegian  
language skills this  
summer

No experience necessary  
All levels welcome



Saturdays - 10:30 am  
May 19 - August 11, 2018  
SteamDot Cafe  
10950 O'Malley Centre Drive

For more information  
[christieak@gmail.com](mailto:christieak@gmail.com)



## **Meet us for the SYTTENDE MAI PARADE**

### **Thursday, May 17 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

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

A short presentation by Ted Birkedal, Bernt Balchen Lodge immediate past president, will precede the parade, and hotdogs and ice cream will follow.

We encourage you to wear your bunads or Norwegian sweaters and red and blue ribbons as we carry Norwegian flags and the Bernt Balchen Lodge banner around the block.

We will have flags on hand – or bring your own.

We encourage all ages to share favorite 17 Mai memories.

*We will meet downtown near the Delaney Park Rose Garden in the open space west of "N" Street on the north side of the Rose Garden between 9th and 10th Avenues.*

***This event takes place rain or shine! For more information,  
or to help out contact John Olnes at 562-2794.***

---

## **Join us for the Syttende Mai Potluck Celebration at Viking Hall**

**Sunday, May 20th Viking Hall 5:00 pm Cost: \$5.00 per person**

Bring a side dish, dessert, or salad. Sons of Norway will supply a meat dish.

Also, this year's Scholarship Award recipients will be announced at the potluck.

If you would like to help or have any questions please contact the Lodge at 349-1613



---

## FABULOUS FISH DINNER

---



*Tusen Takk - to all the volunteers who made the Norwegian Fish Dinner a Success!*

*Viking cutout courtesy of Gold Rush Liquor.*

## EVERYTHING NORWEGIAN

*Kjære alle sammen! Dear Sons of Norway Officers and Members,*

My name is Tanja Karen Eie and I have lived in the Finger Lakes Region of New York for 24 years (currently splitting my time between in Ithaca, NY and Oslo). I am a Norwegian-American, first generation in my family to be born and raised in the USA, and I speak, read and write native Norwegian, as a result of being brought up bilingual, having lived in Norway for a time, and my annual visits to Norway. BOTH of my parents were born and raised in Norway...Flekkefjord and Mandal, respectively, and luckily for me, I am one of few people who have been able to retain dual citizenship with Norway and the United States.

In addition, I have a Master of Science degree in Education and Bachelor of Arts in History, with certification to teach grades 7-12 social studies and history. I have also taught Norwegian, not only to the local community with private lessons, but also globally, using modern technology with Skype classrooms and interactive online courses. Not only do I teach Norwegian, but also courses in Viking and Medieval Norse Studies, to include the Icelandic sagas.

I am contacting you, because I recently created and launched an exciting new website and blog that is ALL ABOUT NORWAY! It includes information and services that I offer to educators, students, road scholars and the general public who want to either just connect to their Scandinavian roots, learn Norwegian, travel and study abroad, or want to learn more about the history of Norway and the culture, customs and traditions of Norwegians.

I am reaching out to all Son's of Norway Lodges within the US and Norway (this is a huge task, because there are so many!), as well as colleges and universities, to ask if everyone could please post and distribute my website to help promote awareness of this opportunity?

There have been numerous inquiries from students, especially, about the Norwegian language and why it isn't offered at their university or college (at least in the New York area), even as an Independent Study. The Language Resource Center Coordinator at Cornell University reached out to me several months ago concerning this matter, which is what prompted me to create a website and make this language and other information more accessible to students, faculty and the public. As a result, I have been their "go to person" and have had many referrals.

*I would be most grateful if you would, please, assist in this effort as well, by passing along my information and website to your members, or anyone you feel might be interested. I think it is very important to keep our wonderful language, culture and history alive! So, please, check it out, feel free to subscribe and even share on social media. Tusen hjertelig takk!*

Med vennlig hilsen, Tanja Karen Eie

For everything you need to know about Norway in one place, from its history, language, travel and traditions, to studying abroad and living and working in Norway.

**SEE LINKS:**

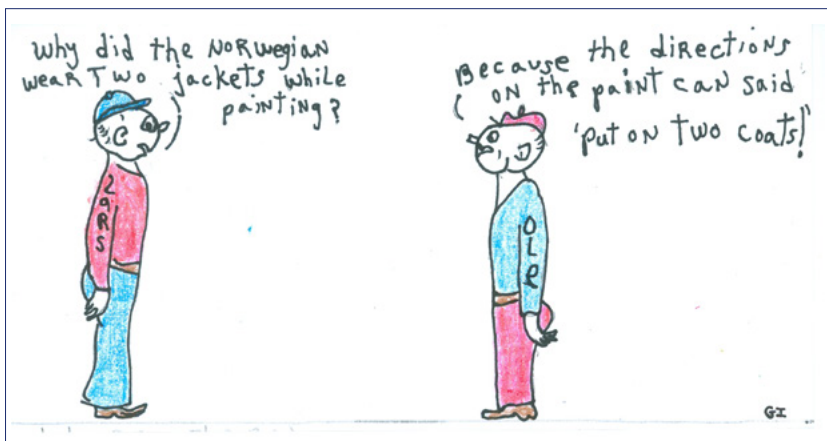
**Website:** <https://everythingnorwegian.com>

**Email:** [tanja@everythingnorwegian.com](mailto:tanja@everythingnorwegian.com)

**Phone:** (607) 621-8884



### The Brothers Snusgood! by Galen Instenness



This was first published in the Sitka Pioneers' Home newsletter, *The Prospector*. Gordon Severson was given permission by the artist, Galen Instenness to republish in our *Flyer*.

Thanks to Skye Workman for helping to get us the art and information. And thanks to Galen for this humorous take on "being Norwegian".

*We hope to see more from Galen in the future!*



## SKI FOR LIGHT FRIENDS

Olympic Cross-Country Skiing Gold Medalist Kikkan Randall with Kevin Whitley, Charlie Rogge and John Olnes at Kincaid Park in Anchorage, Alaska. With John as guide, blind skiers Kevin and Charlie enjoyed many cross-country skiing outings this past winter.

Kevin, Charlie and John are all Ski for Light veterans and Kevin and John recently attended the 2018 Ski for Light International week held at the Tahoe Donner Cross-Country Ski Center near Truckee, California.

Ski for Light is an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization that was founded in 1975. It was created by a group of Norwegian-Americans who were familiar with a program in Norway, the Ridderrenn, and its success in teaching blind/visually-impaired and mobility-impaired people the Norwegian national sport of cross-country skiing.



Each year Ski for Light sends a "team" of two guides and two skiers to Beitostølen, Norway, for Ridderrenn week and Kevin (2018) and John (2006) have both had the privilege of being selected. After attending his first Ridderrenn, Kevin Whitley affirms, "I'll definitely be back!"

Ski for Light is a Sons of Norway outreach program in which Sons of Norway International and Local lodges generously give financial and volunteer support each year. *Photo courtesy of Pete Mjos and Cynthia Olnes*

## BERNT BALCHEN ARTWORK - AN OPPORTUNITY

Fellow members - a unique opportunity has been presented to our lodge to acquire a painting that Bernt Balchen himself painted in the early 1950's. The painting is of Bob Reeve, founder of Reeve Airlines back in the 1950's and the painting is from that same timeframe. The painting is being sold and has been offered to our lodge given the connection we have to Bernt Balchen.



While we are a small not-for-profit, the opportunity to have such an historical treasure related to both our lodge namesake as well as a bit of Alaska history is compelling. The artwork has been appraised and there are already plans to take it to auction this summer. The current owner is willing to offer it to our lodge for \$500 plus the cost of shipping, estimated at \$200, for a total cost of \$700. The work is nicely framed and ready to hang. Attached is a picture of the painting itself - it shows Bob Reeve with an airplane on a glacier.

*In order to fund the purchase of the work for our lodge, we are going to try mini-crowd funding ask from our lodge members to see if people are willing to chip in \$10-20 each (or even more if you like!) and see if we can raise enough to make this happen. I really think we can do this and we have three upcoming events at which to collect your donations for this wonderful opportunity. We will accept cash or checks (made out to Sons of Norway with a notation that it is for the Bernt Balchen artwork purchase).*

Contact President Tom Falskow if you have any questions (lise@gci.net). In the meantime, your wallets and checkbooks out and the next three events and let's see if we can bring this great piece of history to our lodge!

## DITT og DATT!

### **The Great Pillowcase Caper**



District 2 is looking for people to help out with a special project for the three District Language and Heritage Youth Camps.

From Sally Dwyer, D2 Counselor: "For the past 2 years we have cheerfully provided a fun and hand-made pillowcase gift for each kid camper & staff member that attended our 3 Heritage camps. As you may remember, 243 gorgeous pillowcases were made by YOU and turned in at the 2016 convention, but now we need more, lots more to continue this program.

23 lodges participated the last time and we are hoping for ALL D2 lodges to donate at least one at the next collection.

Where??? - the convention in Lynnwood in 2018. Each one takes about 20 minutes to make. The real fun comes shopping for the cool, crazy, sweet, and fun coordinating fabrics.

We ask that you roll and tie each completed pillowcase and attach a note of encouragement or thank you to the camper who will eventually receive your gift."

FREE Connecting Threads Magic Pillowcase Pattern:

[https://www.connectingthreads.com/Patterns/Magic\\_Pillowcase\\_Pattern\\_\\_D910010D.HTML](https://www.connectingthreads.com/Patterns/Magic_Pillowcase_Pattern__D910010D.HTML)

Contact Cultural Director Christie Ericson at 907-602-0673 or [christieak@gmail.com](mailto:christieak@gmail.com) for further information.

You can deliver pillowcases to Christie or drop them off at Viking Hall by May 29 and she will transport them to the District Two Convention.

### **Ekte Geitost Alert!**

Formagio's Artisan Cheese at 3555 Arctic Blvd. is now selling Ekte Geitost cheese.

They are sold out as of April 24th, but expect another order to come in in a week or two.

Formagio's is in a outlying building in little shopping mall at the corner of 36th and Arctic.

So get ready to feed your brunost habit. *Ted Birkedal*



### **Spring Clean-up at Viking Hall**

Please join us on Saturday, May 12th between 10 am and noon with outdoor clean-up around Viking Hall. Bring shovels, rakes and gloves to help spruce up our lodge in preparation for May Lodge activities.

Two events coming up in May at Viking Hall are the Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 13 and the Syttende Mai Celebration on Sunday, May 20.

Contact John Olnes at 562-2794 if you have questions.



### **Norske Klasse - See You Next Fall!**

May 6th was the end of this year's Norwegian Language and Culture Class.

We will return next year, tentatively scheduled for the first Sunday in October; we'll keep you posted!

We meet on most Sundays, from 6:30 to 8:00.

Our fantastic teachers, Lillian Anderson and Christie Ericson are innovative, informative and fun!

The relaxing and welcoming atmosphere lends towards better understanding and confidence to test oneself. At the end of every class is a special treat, usually from Lillian's kitchen.

For the last class we had a potluck of all good and tasty Norwegian foods. If you are interested in a conversation group see

page 2 of this *Flyer*.





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

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Anchorage, Alaska  
PERMIT 505

## EVENTS FOR MAY

<b>1st Tuesday</b>	<b>10th Thursday</b>	<b>13th Sunday</b>	<b>15th Tuesday</b>	<b>17th Thursday</b>	<b>20th Sunday</b>
10:00 am to Noon	7:00 pm	10:00 am - 1:30 pm	10:00 am to Noon	6:00 pm	5:00 pm
<u>Needle Crafts &amp; Rosemaling</u>	<u>Board/Membership Meeting</u>	<u>Mother's Day Brunch</u>	<u>Needle Crafts &amp; Rosemaling</u>	<u>Syttende Mai Parade</u>	<u>Syttende Mai Celebration</u>

## EVENTS FARTHER AWAY...

## MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

**30th  
Wednesday**  
District 2 Convention Lynnwood, WA



**See Full Information on Page 2!**

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 May 20th to: [sonancak@gmail.com](mailto:sonancak@gmail.com) Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **The Flyer**