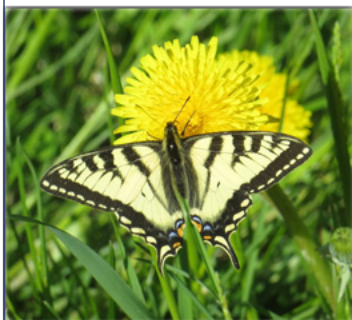


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## Summer 2018 sommer



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

D2 Convention .....	2
Sunshine Report .....	2
Mother's Day .....	3
NorthXNorth .....	3
Eve of Eidsvoll .....	5
Syttende Mai .....	5
The Tale of the Huldra .....	6
Ditt og Datt .....	6
Consul Corner .....	7

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

### Summer Time, Fun Time!

A bit late in coming, but summer in Alaska seems to have arrived at last! Given how busy (and short) our Alaska summers are, I will keep this update brief. First of all, many thanks to all of you that helped contribute to the acquisition of the Bernt Balchen artwork. We raised the amount needed to acquire this artwork and look forward to showing it off later this summer when it arrives. Wonderful that we can retain some of our lodge's namesake artwork that is also of interest from an Alaska aviation history perspective.



Summer in Norway is much like summer in Alaska, a time to get outdoors and enjoy the brief sunny days. Like Alaskans most Norwegians head to the seashore or the mountains and enjoy life on the water or hiking the hills. And of course food is always needed for any outdoor adventure! A couple of suggestions if you want to pack a Nordic snack 1) open-face sandwiches are always appropriate, preferably with ost og skinke (cheese and ham) or perhaps with brunost (brown goat cheese which I understand is now available at Fromagio's cheese shop). 2) my favorite Norwegian lunch is shrimp with mayonnaise on "loff" which is basically a French-bread style roll. Top it off with some fresh sprigs of dill and lemon and you cannot find a better summertime lunch! And of course a bottle of sommerol (summertime beer) makes it even better!

We welcome all members to join a meeting this year to find out more on what goes on behind the scenes as well as to provide feedback on what you think we do well and how we could improve and offer new and exciting things in our future.

For those looking at the calendar, we will have a spot in the 4th of July parade along with other cultural groups from Bridge Builders. Look for details in upcoming eBlast news or just come and find us on the 4th and join in the parade! And in August we will again have our Fish Boil at the lodge to wind down the summer and get kids ready for school again. In the meantime, we are maintaining a language meet-and-greet on Saturday mornings at Steam Dot coffee on O'Malley. All levels are welcome as we attempt to continue a casual Norwegian language learning opportunity before our classes start again this fall.

And for those of you with the travel bug, consider a trip to the new Nordic Museum in Ballard, Washington. It recently opened and I expect we will have a report from our Cultural Director later this year as she is already in route to visit. While in Ballard, check out Skål Beer Hall, a new addition to the craft beer scene in Seattle. Styled along the lines of a Viking long-house, there are long tables to sit together with those you know and those you will get to know once you introduce yourself in appropriate Viking style, "Hallo, I'm Thor Magne, who are you?" The hall will have a huge central fireplace and Viking helmets are encouraged. A few of us are already considering a scouting trip to check it out and provide our members with more details.

So get out and enjoy summertime! Hope to see you out and about and at any of the summertime activities you can attend.

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

### Bernt Balchen Lodge Recognized for Member Recruitment!

*Our lodge has received special recognition from Sons of Norway for reaching the 10% new member target for 2017. THANK YOU to 15 lodge members for recruiting 25 new members!*

Amanda Saxton	Kathlyn Jorgensen	Merlin Hamre
Glenn Jacob	Lillian Anderson	Ruth Kvernplassen
Jim Greeley	Lisa Nelson	Ted Birkedal
Janice Halvorson	Marit Kristiansen	Tom Falskow
Karen Atherton	Mark Hill	Wayne Johnson



*Each member will receive a recruitment pin and certificate. Our lodge received a Certificate of Honor, newly designed Sons of Norway banner, and a \$200 cash card.*

## 67TH BIENNIAL DISTRICT 2 CONVENTION

The 67th Biennial District 2 Convention was held in Lynnwood, Washington from May 30th to June 2nd, 2018. District 2 is made up of lodges in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, and the four delegates elected to represent Bernt Balchen Lodge at the convention were: Jacob Mathiesen, Ruth Kvernplassen, Christie Ericson, and Marit Kristiansen. It was the first convention for both Jacob and Ruth, the second for Christie, and the 23rd(?) for Marit! Delegates from the lodges in Kodiak, Fairbanks, Petersburg, and Juneau also attended.



During the three day long convention, the delegates conducted the District's business, including voting on bylaw changes, proposals, and resolutions.

They also reviewed reports from the officers, directors, and committees, and heard presentations about the many activities that the organization is involved in. Ruth did an excellent job serving on the Laws/Resolutions Committee, and Jacob was appointed to be a Greeter, which he did very well!

During the convention the six Zones that make up District 2 also held caucuses to elect delegates to attend the International Convention, as well as new Zone Directors. At the Zone 6 (Alaska) caucus, three delegates were elected: Marit Kristiansen and Christie Ericson, both from Bernt Balchen Lodge, and Rich Carr, President of Arctic Viking Lodge in Fairbanks. These three delegates will represent the Alaska lodges at the International Convention, which will be held in Bloomington, MN from August 15-18, 2018. Christie Ericson was also elected as the new Zone 6 Director during the caucus. During the general elections, Mickey Andrew was re-elected as the District 2 Secretary.



The convention wasn't all business though. There was beautiful craftsmanship on display in the Folk Art Exhibit and many Scandinavian gifts for sale by local vendors. The Trollhaugen Board hosted a wonderful Hawaiian-themed dinner at the Bothell Lodge on Thursday night. (Trollhaugen Lodge is a recreation facility in the Cascade Mountains that is available for all District 2 members.) On Friday night the Alaska lodges hosted the Hospitality Room, and treated attendees to a sampling of our wonderful Alaskan specialties. Marit amazed the crowd with her amazing accordion playing – definitely a highlight of the convention that everyone looks forward to!

While the convention is a lot of work, it's also a lot of fun and is a great way to meet other Sons of Norway members and learn more about our organization. The next District 2 Biennial Convention will be hosted by Grieg Lodge in Portland, OR, May 27-30, 2020. It's not too early to consider being a delegate or a visitor to the convention. Feel free to contact any of the prior delegates if you have further questions.

*Christie Ericson, Cultural Director/Librarian*

Editor's Note: The Norwegian Mittens pictured were hand-knitted by Christie Ericson and won 1st and 2nd place in their category at the Folk Art Exhibit competition! Hurrah! (Photos courtesy of Christie Ericson).

### SUNSHINE REPORT

Greetings are sent to our members celebrating a birthday who are at least 75 years young!

#### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Martha Andrew  
Dagrun Brotheston  
John Jensen  
Sandra Johnson  
Wayne Johnson  
Sigrun Robertson  
Colleen Rutledge  
Nancy Wagster  
H. Lee Rederson

*"Gratulerer  
med dagen!"*

#### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Freitag  
Shirley Iverson  
Marilyn Lee  
Shirley Luedke  
Paul Roseland  
Caroline Saur  
Alice Sears  
Marvin Olson  
Sigrid Bryant

*"Happy  
Birthday!"*

#### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Margaret Benson  
Nicholas Derenaff  
Steinar Hansen  
Sigurd Langnes  
Pia Meyer  
Donald Saur  
Diane Thomas  
E. Frances Vadla  
Diane Pederson  
Kathryn Morgenthaler



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)



## MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH



***Thanks  
Mom!***



## 2018 NORTH BY NORTH FESTIVAL



From April 26th-29th, people from all over the world gathered in Anchorage for the North by North Festival. This event brings together innovators from throughout the Arctic regions to discuss the challenges and opportunities of life in the North. The Festival was first held in Anchorage in 2017 to commemorate the transfer of the Arctic Council chairmanship from the US to Finland and to celebrate the achievements of the prior two years. Over the three days of the Festival there were a variety of TED-style presentations, innovation teams, networking opportunities, and other conversations focused on sustainable development and well-being in the circumpolar North.

Quite a large delegation came from northern Norway to participate in the Festival. As sister cities, Anchorage and Tromsø continue to develop business and academic relationships. The 11 attendees from the University of Tromsø and the University Museum also visited UAA to discuss research collaboration and student exchange opportunities. Tromsø mayor Kristin Røyymo and representatives from other northern Norwegian organizations also participated in several sessions at the Festival including Norway & the Art of Happiness. During this session, they discussed their thoughts on why Norway is consistently rated one of the world's happiest countries.

In addition to the presentations, attendees had the opportunity to sample Arctic foods prepared by Alaskan and other Nordic chefs. The event also included a Circumpolar North Film Festival, with films produced by Arctic directors. Entertainment was provided by Arctic musicians and DJs, and the event culminated in an Arctic Dance Party at Willawaw. Bernt Balchen Lodge members had the opportunity to meet with a group of the Norwegian delegation for dinner at the 49th State Brewing Company and had a great time. More information about all the events at the Festival can be found on their website: <https://nxnfestival.com/>

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*Christie Ericson, Cultural Director/Librarian*



## NORWAY ON THE EVE OF EIDSVOLL

*By Terje "Ted" Birkedal, Anchorage, Alaska*

From the Viking Age through the late Medieval Period Norway was a country of influence and power in Europe. However, in 1275 A.D. things began to change with the advent of the Little Ice Age. From 1275 A.D. to 1870 A.D. Norway was in the grip of the Little Ice Age which brought a colder and more uncertain climate to the country. Crops often failed, the seas became stormier, and even the all-important herring eventually headed south for warmer waters. To make matters even worse, plague took out two-thirds of Norway's population in 1349. By 1400 A.D. Norway had to import much of its grain and had mortgaged what was left of its economy to the German Hanseatic League. Bankrupt and politically weak, the kingdom of Norway became a subordinate nation in the greater Scandinavian Kalmar Union, which initially included Sweden, but when Sweden dropped out, Denmark became the dominant partner.

On the eve of Eidsvoll, Norway, with population of only about one million people, had become one of the poorest countries in Europe. Not only had it been wracked by repeated famines, it had suffered British blockades in the first decade of the nineteenth century that further aggravated hunger and helped to weaken whatever economy was left in the nation. Norwegian men at the beginning of the nineteenth century had shrunk to an average of only 5 ft 5 inches in height from the prior days of the Middle Ages when they averaged over 5 ft 8 inches in height. The women also were smaller than their Medieval counterparts. They shared an average height of only 5 ft compared to the average height of 5 ft 2 found in women only centuries earlier. This was a result of food stress, the lack of enough to eat.

It was around this time that Norway wisely began its love affair with the potato, once seen as an odd and foreign crop until the end of the eighteenth century. Now plagued by poor grain harvests and urged on by the "Potato Priests" Norwegians began to see the value inherent in this peculiar Peruvian root crop. It was both nutritious and grew well in Norway's cold and rocky soils. For too long Norwegians had added bark or straw to their bread dough to provide bulk, but little food value.

Under the thumb of Denmark, Norway was buffeted by the political whims of other nations. The Napoleonic Wars were particularly hard on Norway. The British blockades levied against Denmark for her alliance with Napoleon severely hampered Norway's ability to sell lumber and fish, two of its most crucial and important exports. Even if

Norwegian ships got through the blockades along Norway's coasts, they would have to pass through additional British blockades guarding all the major French ports.



Johan Christian Dahl - Alvaldnes Church

If things were not bad enough for Norway, the King of Denmark thought it would be a good idea to attack Sweden in 1808 in the midst of his troubles with Great Britain. This led to a major Swedish attack on Norway which was required to provide the fighting men on behalf of Denmark. The Norwegians managed to push the Swedes back to the border, but the war further exacerbated Norway's already severe economic problems.

In 1812 Norway experienced a major crop failure in combination with a very poor harvest of fish both for home consumption and export. The timing was terrible for in this same year British ships renewed the blockade of Norwegian shores after a temporary, agreed-upon respite. Food or goods could not easily leave or get into the country. The impact of this blockade and earlier British blockades was huge on the Norwegian lives and also the national psyche. It is no accident that one of Norway's most recited poems, if not Norway's "national poem", Terje Vigen by Henrik Ibsen, is about cruel effects of the British blockades when Norway's population had little to eat.

In the years following 1812 Sweden became an avid and valued ally of Great Britain against Napoleon. So when the successful Great Powers divided up the pie following the defeat of France, Norway became a vulnerable slice of the pie. The Crown Prince of Sweden, Bernadotte (who later, as king, took the name Karl Johan), had long seen Norway as good trade-off for Sweden's loss of Finland to earlier Russian aggression. Denmark, which had remained in Napoleon's camp to the end, lost Norway to Sweden in January of 1814 when the Treaty of Kiel was signed and Sweden got its wished-for, war-time reward of Norway.

By the eve of Eidsvoll most Norwegians had lost any feelings of loyalty for the King of Denmark. For years they had become repeated victims of the King's poor judgement in both politics and trade. As the historian John A. Yilek emphasizes in his History of Norway the overwhelming leaning of the people of Norway in the spring of 1814 was toward independence not dependence. The idea of being traded to Sweden without their consent was an anathema. It was time to rise and so they rose on May 17, 1814 in defiance of both Sweden and Greater Europe. This was a very brave thing for a little impoverished nation to do, and it is for that bravery and foresight we should always remember the heroes of Eidsvoll each 17th of May. On that day they became giants.



## THIS IS HOW WE CELEBRATE SYTTENDE MAI!

### Parades



### and Potlucks



*The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the list of successful recipients for the 2018 Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge Scholarships.*

*Winners are noted as follows:*

Higher Education Scholarships

Stella Olnes

Hanna Persson

Logan Childers

Erik Falskow

Language and Heritage Scholarship

Sevrin M. Persson

The Scholarship Committee congratulates all of the winners for this year. Remember that Sons of Norway National website also has scholarships with deadlines upcoming in the Fall. Check on-line to see if you are eligible for a SONS National scholarship.



# The Tale of the Huldra

By Terje "Ted" Birkedal



Once there was a grandfather who loved his little granddaughter with all his heart. She had red hair and he held her very dear. Whenever he had the chance he would tell her of the old times when trolls and other like creatures roamed the mountains and the woods.

She especially liked to hear about the huldra, an elusive spirit sometimes seen in the mountains and forests. The huldra was beautiful, but she had the tail of a cow hidden under her dress. If a man were to catch sight of her he would fall instantly in love. Many a man would disappear after seeing a huldra for the attraction was more than they could bear and they would eagerly join her in her mountain lair. Others, having been rejected, would wander the land babbling of women with tails. These men were thought crazy and they rarely recovered their senses.

When her grandfather told her stories about the huldra his little red-haired granddaughter's eyes would get as big and bright as silver plates. When she did finally fall asleep the huldra would often appear in her dreams. For her trolls and huldrer were realer than real. Many years later the little girl grew up, but her grandfather still loved her with all his heart and he knew she still cherished the stories he had told about the huldra. So, one day he asked a man who was clever with his hands to carve a likeness of a huldra for his

granddaughter's twenty-seventh birthday. The man worked and worked to make the huldra realer than real. Then one day he was finally done. What was to be a small figure was actually eight feet tall, it would not fit on anybody's wall. It showed a huldra coming out of her cave and waving her tail. But despite its size, the red-haired granddaughter loved it as much as she loved her story-telling, Norwegian grandpa. Snipp, snapp, snute så er eventyret ute.

*The Norwegian grandfather in this story is my older brother Audun Birkedal and his red-haired granddaughter is Katie Parr. She has a Viking ship and the phrase "Det var en gång ... (there was a time)" tattooed on her right arm. The man who carved the sculpture is Brian Johnston. And the story is realer than real. All of them live in the far northwest part of British Columbia, Canada. And some, even today, believe that there are trolls and huldrer roaming the woods up there.*



## DITT og DATT!

### Polar Libraries

Christie Ericson just had a brief article published in the Spring issue of Polar Libraries Bulletin. Yet another opportunity to promote Sons of Norway!

Link to newsletter (article starts on page 3):

<https://polarlibrariescolloquy.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/plb-2018-spr-final.pdf>

In case you're interested in learning more about the Polar Libraries Colloquy: <https://polarlibraries.org/>

You can read published articles from Christie Ericson and Ted Birkedal in the Norwegian American Weekly (America's only Norwegian Newspaper).

<http://www.norwegianamerican.com>



### Ski for Light honors

From SONs International President, Jon Tehven.

Here is a picture of Leif Andol, SON member who lives in South Dakota. At the 2018 SFL event in Truckee, he was recognized for 40 years serving as a guide. He is a member of Fjordland 1-508, Brookings, SD. He lives in Huron, SD.

I have attended 2 SFL events, presenting a check from SON. It is an incredible experience!

It is nice to know people from afar read our *Flyer*!







## Consul's Corner

Information and Opportunities for Norwegian Alaskans



### 17TH OF MAY FESTIVITIES IN PETERSBURG, ALASKA

Ambassador Kåre Aas celebrated the 17th of May in two cities this year, both with strong ties to Norway: Ballard, Washington and Petersburg, Alaska. Ambassador Aas started his tour in Ballard serving as the Grand Marshall for their



Ambassador Aas & Honorary Consul Falskow leading the parade.

parade on the 17th. The next morning, he flew to Petersburg for their Little Norway Festival, also called May Fest, which lasts all week culminating in a weekend of events. While in Petersburg, Alaska, Ambassador Aas spoke to the community and made extra time to talk with school children about Norway's foreign policy priorities, girl's education, the Arctic, NATO, peace and reconciliation, and clean oceans.



Ambassador Aas met at the airport by the Vikings who participate in many of the weekend activities.

Two members of Bernt Balchen Lodge, Linda Bustamante and Lisa Nelson, were in Petersburg, carrying the Bernt Balchen Sons of Norway banner in the parade and visiting with the Ambassador. For those who were not able to hear first hand inspiring insights from Ambassador Aas, you can follow him on Twitter and read his blogs at: <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/author/kare-r-aas>.

If you are interested in attending the Little Norway Festival in Petersburg next year, I suggest you book a hotel room now. Reservations fill up quickly with many rooms already booked for next year's festival. Little Norway festivities include a Scandinavian Style Show & Luncheon, Viking Jail, Parade, Sild (Herring) Toss, Lop the Loop Run/Walk, Strongman Style Sled Pull, all you can eat shrimp Feed, Little Norway Festival Pageant, Pancake Breakfast on the beach and more.

*Lise Kristiansen Falskow,  
Norwegian Honorary Consul*



Vikings grab Ambassador Aas to dance with the children.



Girls wearing the Petersburg Bunad.



Lisa Nelson and Linda Bustamante proudly carrying the Bernt Balchen banner in the parade.



**Sons of Norway**  
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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 SUMMER

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	
<b>14th</b> <b><u>Thursday</u></b> 7:00 pm <b><u>Board/Membership Meeting</u></b>	<b>4th</b> <b><u>Wednesday</u></b> 10:00 am - Noon <b><u>Parade with Bridge</u></b> <b><u>Builders of Anchorage</u></b>	<b>14th</b> <b><u>Tuesday</u></b> 4:00 pm <b><u>Fish Boil</u></b> <b><u>Dinner at 6:00 pm</u></b>	<b>16th</b> <b><u>Thursday</u></b> <b><u>International Convention</u></b> <b><u>Bloomington, MN</u></b>

*Dear SONS members ~*

*Oytun folkhoyskole students stopped by the lodge to thank us for the help we offered during their visit to Alaska. Now, SONS is looking for Alaska Lapel Pins or Alaska Buttons.*

*Examples of what we are looking for are pictured at right. It can be a flag pin, city pin, or any pin/button that reflects 'Alaska!' Our plan is to send some pins to the Oytun students! They are looking forward to us sending some soon.*

***Thanks!***



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

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