



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

USEDVANLIG



Usedvanlig – that’s Norwegian for “extraordinary” and Norway seems to have a remarkable number of extraordinary people, both past and present. How is it that such a small country could have some of the most remarkable people in history that have done such extraordinary things. If you have not already, please read last month’s fantastic article on Bernt Balchen by past-president Terje “Ted” Birkedal to find out more about our lodge namesake and how extraordinary his life was. Amazing how closely connected his life was to the Arctic and to Alaska along with his home country of Norway.

Another notable Norwegian is Helge Ingstad, a Norwegian explorer who together with his wife proved that the western discovery of America was by none other than Leif Erickson 500 years prior to Christopher Columbus. Ingstad spent time in Alaska living among the natives of Anaktuvik Pass and was so endeared by their people that they named a local mountain after him. He gave a talk at our lodge in the late 1980’s discussing his work and discoveries (we have a recording of this lecture thanks to past president Eva Bilet).

The extraordinary Norwegian contributions to the world with connections to Alaska continue to the present day. Take the brother-sister cross country skiers Erik and Sadie Bjornsen who are on the US Ski team, having trained with the Alaska Pacific Nordic ski team, and are Olympians to boot. And our own lodge has some extraordinary figures, including Espen Haugen, who just recently completed a bike ride from Cape Town, South Africa to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro to raise awareness about physically disabled children in Northern Uganda. For a relatively small country in our world to have impacts on a global scale and connections to our even smaller Alaska community is truly extraordinary. And Norway’s extraordinary connections to Alaska continue to run deep. This month we welcome three Norwegian mushers to Iditarod 2019 (and one Swede) to see if they can prevail in bringing home the winning dog sled team.

In the still of the remaining winter days, consider how extraordinary it is that you are part of a community of people that have a great history to share and many stories left to tell. Part of the fun of our small 300+ member community at Bernt Balchen lodge is coming together and sharing a bit of who we are and what role we have had in creating the community in which we live. Your stories might not be quite as extraordinary as the folks highlighted above, but I can guarantee that if you share some time and stories with your fellow lodge members, something extraordinary will happen! Join us at Hygge time this coming month!

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

MOVIE NIGHT! THE 12TH MAN

Do you remember when movie night meant getting together with others in your small community? Maybe it was at a church, school or library. That is what it is like to attend movie night at Viking Hall.

We are a community!

*This was a riveting film from start to finish.
Tusen Takk to Christie Ericson, our Cultural Director for making this happen.*



SUNSHINE REPORT

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

"Happy Birthday!"



"Gratulerer med dagen!"

Janice Blanchard
Phillip Ramstad
Sigmund Restad

Theresa Rosso
Gordon Severson
Frederick Steinhauser

Robert Stinson

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine

Call 696-0725 (cell - 862-1143)

or email Cindy McDowell:

ccmcd38@hotmail.com

==== MEMBERSHIP NEWS! ====

Membership in Sons of Norway is about **ENRICHMENT**

Since the beginning, Sons of Norway has maintained its dedication to the personal and financial well-being of its members. More than a century later, that devotion remains at the heart of the organization and fuels a collective passion for personal and cultural enrichment.

Welcome New Members

Brian Hove
Robert Watkins
Astrid Watkins
Peter Johnson

Dorris Kempen
Dennis Kempen
David Kempen
Deborah Kempen

A BIG Thank You to current members for paying your dues!

Find out what is happening in our lodge

You can see our *Flyer* in "full color" on our Website:

<http://www.sofn-alaska.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BerntBalchen

Instagram: [@sonsofnorwayanchorage](https://www.instagram.com/sonsofnorwayanchorage)

IDITAROD FOR NORWEGIANS

On March 2nd, Bernt Balchen Lodge members came out to cheer the mushers running the Iditarod. The corner of 15th and Cordova by Central Lutheran Church was a happening place. There are four Scandinavians mushing this year, Niklas Wikstrand (from Nes, Norway), Joar Leifseth Ulsom (from Mo I Rana, Norway), Mats Pettersson (from Kiruna, Sweden) and Martin Apayaug Reitan (from Narjordet, Norway and Kaktovik).



MEET THE WORLD



Once again, Sons of Norway, Bernt Balchen Lodge participated in this yearly event that brings together many cultural groups in Anchorage.

This event was sponsored by Bridge Builders.



SCARF IN A DAY!

On Saturday, February 16th, members of the Anchorage Spinners & Weavers Guild held a day long weaving workshop at Viking Hall. Looms and supplies were provided by the Guild and by the end of the day, all 17 attendees had a completed scarf to take home. Thanks to Bernt Balchen Lodge member Lorri Wright for organizing the workshop!



5TH ANNUAL NORDIC LANGUAGE FAIR

It is hard to believe that the Nordic Language Fair has been going for 5 years! The speakers were knowledgeable and engaging.

Many thanks to Christie Ericson for organizing this event, and to all the speakers for giving their time and knowledge to this fun and informative evening.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND - SUPER BOWL RAFFLE 2019

The enthusiastic crowd attending the Sons of Norway Super Bowl Party enjoyed the game and the refreshments. The game was again shown on two screens – the 70" HDTV and the 100" Projector Screen. Wayne Johnson, along with a few helpers, prepared the Lapskaus stew on Saturday and that evening Wayne and Sandra left to visit family in Arizona. A huge thanks goes out to Jim Greeley who stepped in on Sunday to man the ovens and prepare the dumplings. Jim, and Merlin Hamre who also bartended, served the stew. A special thanks also to Sandra Hanson who traveled from warm country to help with the event. Marit Kristiansen kept us on the up-and-up recording the "official record of drawing" while Jane Moe Newby handled the paperwork associated with notifying raffle winners.

Here are the 2019 winners!

#1	\$200	Marti Barnard	#165	\$25	Sandra Johnson
#7	\$50	Steinar Hansen	#180	\$25	Doris Falconer
#13	\$100	Shirley Moe	#195	\$100	John Jensen
#45	\$50	Pat Barber	#210	\$50	Amanda Saxton
#66	\$25	David Waddell	#225	\$25	Espen Falskow
#75	\$50	Wally Smith	#240	\$100	Lee & Diane Pederson
#90	\$100	Lynn Ann Eng	#250	\$25	Marvin Olson
#105	\$25	Lynn Ann Eng	#270	\$50	Christie Ericson
#121	\$50	Jeanne Ostnes	#299	\$250	Blake Howe
#150	\$200	Boyd Berg	#300	\$1,000	Anna Bryant

Thank you to all those who supported our Lodge Scholarship Fund by purchasing raffle tickets. The Super Bowl Raffle is the primary source of funds for the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge No. 2-046 Language/Heritage/Higher Education Scholarships.

Without all those who pitched in to help with ticket sales, food preparation, and set-up and clean-up this event could not take place. Tusen Takk

SONS OF NORWAY – SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY**2019 District 2, Zone 6 Seminar****Saturday, March 16, 2019****Registration at 8:30 AM****Meeting 9:00-4:00 PM (Lunch Included)****8141 Briarwood St. Viking Hall
Anchorage, AK****Some Topics included are:**

- ~Successful Programs & Fundraisers
- ~Communications/Newsletters
- ~Camps and Scholarships
- ~Financial Benefits
- ~Foundation and Tubfrim
- ~International Board News
- ~Lodge Reports & Volunteer Hours
- ~Membership Recruitment & Retention



Bring your questions and your success stories. Working together makes us all stronger. We have ideas and news you'll want to hear!

**Lodge officers and members are encouraged to attend. Make your reservations early.
Call~Christie at 907-602-0673 or email ~ christieak@gmail.com**

This Seminar is open to all members.

Zone Seminars don't happen in Alaska as frequently as in the other District 2 states, so this is a great opportunity to get to know the District and International officers, who will be attending. There is a lot of information about the Sons of Norway and this is a great way to share ideas and learn more about our wonderful organization.



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 MARCH

5th
Tuesday

10:00 am to Noon

Needle Crafts

13th
Wednesday

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Strikkekafe

14th
Thursday

6:30 pm

Potluck Social

7:30 pm

Viking Council/Board Meeting
New Member Welcome

19th
Tuesday

10:00 am to Noon

Needle Crafts

22nd - 24th
Friday - Sunday

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Introduction to Tapestry
Weaving Workshop



27th
Wednesday

7:00 to 9:00 pm

Strikkekafe



NO NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Sunday, March 10th & Sunday, March 17th

Thank you!

EARLY WARNING!!

Norwegian Fish Dinner

Saturday, April 13th

5:30 pm at Viking Hall

(Contact Merlin Hamre if you would like to help.)

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

Please send articles or event information

for the next Newsletter by March 20th to:

sonancak@gmail.com

Attention - **Ruth**

Subject Line - **The Flyer**