

VIKING HALL 349-1613
www.sofnalaska.com

March
April
2020
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april



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SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

VÅREN KOMMER

“Våren kommer og snøen smelter” – that’s spring is coming and the snow is melting, or is it!? Looking out my window today, looks like snow is still coming down. Good news for those of us that did not yet get enough skiing done this season. But for those of you looking for warmer days and spring flowers, I’m afraid you have to settle for lighter and longer days for a bit longer. In the



meantime, we can try to keep you busy at the lodge with our upcoming activities. Our March Viking Counsel (member meeting) will be our spring new member welcome. It will be a potluck social starting at 6:30 followed by a SHORT meeting and then more fun at Hygge Time. And for everyone that is here for cultural events, we have needle crafts, skrikkekafe and language classes ongoing. And as we head into April, the ever popular gourmet fish dinner where our chef extraordinaire, Merlin, will treat us to an amazing selection of foods again this year.

Once we head into May, perhaps we will start to feel like we have finally entered spring? And this May will be when the District convention takes place in Portland, Oregon. We have room for six delegates this year and are still looking for one or two more, so if you are interested, please let me know. Anyone wanting to be elected for the international convention, which is in Norway this year, will need to attend the district convention first. This will be an important convention for our lodge as we get ready to host the 2022 district convention right here in Anchorage! We are still working to bring Cycling Without Age to Anchorage this spring. If you’ve not already heard about this, check out the info at <https://cyclingwithoutage.org/> and the TED talk at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6Ti4qUa-OU> We think this will be a tremendous opportunity for our community and for those of you on the sporting side of things, you can help out by becoming a pilot for the bikes! So enjoy the final days/weeks/months?? of winter as we look forward to smelting all of that snø and moving toward varmere grader (warmer temps).

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

Please join us at Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood Street



Two seatings occur at 5:45 and 6:20 pm in order to allow the kitchen & serving staff time to pace delivery of freshly cooked main entrees to diners.

Forretter (Appelizers) at 5:30 pm Dinner at 5:45 and 6:20 pm

Adults - \$30 Ages 12-18 - \$15 Ages 6-11 - \$5 Under 5 yrs - Free

Call Viking Hall - 349-1613 for Reservations

To help organizers with planning and to ensure your seat – please call by Friday, April 3rd

See page 5 for information about the Silent Auction

Local Scholarship Deadline Approaches!

Applications must be submitted by April 30th

Scholarship applications for both the Language and Heritage Scholarship and the Higher Education Scholarship are available at the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge (Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood Street, Anchorage, 9am -1pm, Tuesday-Friday).

We can email a printable application to you if you contact us with your email address. Please make sure the completed application packets arrive at the lodge on or before the April 30th due date.

Sons of Norway
Attn: Scholarship Committee
8141 Briarwood St
Anchorage, AK 99518

The Language and Heritage Scholarship is available for persons of any age who are interested in attending or participating in Norwegian language or heritage programs.

The Higher Education Scholarship is available for persons entering a school of learning beyond the high school level.

Scholarship recipients will be announced at the 17th of May Celebration. If you have any questions concerning the application process and procedures, please contact Amanda Saxton at 349-1613 or by email at sonancak@gmail.com

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Language and Heritage Scholarship

1. Name, date of birth, and address
2. Name of program to be attended
3. Membership in Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046, or a relation to a member of Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046
4. Essay describing your involvement in Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046 and what the Sons of Norway has meant to you
5. Essay of "Why I want to attend a Language/Heritage Program"

Higher Education Scholarship

1. Name, date of birth, and address
2. Name of High School with transcript included
3. Date of graduation or expected graduation
4. Membership in Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046, or a relation to a member of Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046
5. Extra-curricular activities and honors
6. Essay describing your involvement in Sons of Norway Lodge #2-046 and what the Sons of Norway has meant to you
7. Essay of "Why I should receive a Higher Education Scholarship"



SUNSHINE REPORT



MARCH & APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

MARCH

Sigmund H. Restad
Frederick L. Steinhauser
Gordon J. Severson
Phillip J. Ramstad
Janice C. Blanchard
Valanne Glooschenko
Leslie M. Hageland

"Happy Birthday!"



"Gratulerer med dagen!"

APRIL

Louann A. Peterson
Donna M. Luiten
Aud B Severson
Loretta Hodson
Leif H. Strand
Ruta Cukurs
Delores A. Lambert
Arni S. Thomson

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

== MEMBERSHIP NEWS! ==

Sons of Norway continues to maintain its dedication to the personal and financial well-being of its members.

For 125 years that devotion is the heart and soul of the organization and fuels a collective passion for personal and cultural enrichment.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Tracy Walstrom Briggs	Chris E Tomsen
Chad Briggs	Jan Erica Tomsen
Marilyn F Levy	Vera M Tomsen
Kyle Q Kjerstad	Kaitlyn Morse

Find out what is happening in our lodge

Website: <http://www.sofnalaska.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BerntBalchen

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

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



6TH ANNUAL NORDIC LANGUAGE FAIR



On February 8th we held the 6th Annual Nordic Language Fair at Viking Hall. The theme this year was “Children’s Music” and we had a great time learning about children’s music in the Nordic Countries. Our Nordic speakers gave brief presentations about the languages spoken in their respective countries and then taught the audience a favorite children’s song. Attendees also had the opportunity to talk with the speakers, learn about language resources, sample traditional Nordic desserts, and play a language game to win door prizes. Some of the songs we learned were: Råven raskar över isen/The fox runs across the ice (Swedish); Ihahaa/Neigh (Finnish); Jeg gik mig over sø og land/I traveled over land and sea (Danish); Bjørnen sover/The bear is sleeping (Norwegian), and Litli tónlistarmaðurinn/Little musician (Icelandic). All of these songs can be found on YouTube if you like to hear them.



I’d like to thank our speakers for their fantastic presentations: Michael Ulmgren (Swedish), who participated for the first time this year, Anna Bjartmarsdóttir (Icelandic), Lillian Anderson (Norwegian), Hanna Eklund (Finnish), and Tom Falskow (Danish). Also, mange tusen takk to Ruth Kvernplassen for making waffles and to Cynthia Olnes for help with setting up.

Christie Ericson, Cultural Director/Librarian



Photos courtesy of Christie Ericson



STRIKKEKAFE - 125 Scarves for 125 Years!

To celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Sons of Norway, Strikkekafe has pledged to make 125 scarves to donate to charity by the end of 2020. If you’d like to help out, feel free to join us at Strikkekafe, or knit on your own and drop off your finished items. Crocheted and loom knitted items are also welcome. If you’d prefer to make hats or mittens, we’d love those, too! We’d also welcome donations of yarn.

This is a great chance to learn how to knit, and here are a few simple patterns for beginners:

Easy Garter Stitch Knit Scarf - <https://www.bhg.com/crafts/knitting/wearables/easy-garter-stitch-knit-scarf/>

Super Easy Squishy Scarf - <http://acommentfromthepeanutgallery.blogspot.com/2010/12/super-easy-squishy-scarf.html>

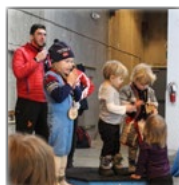
Strikkekafe means ‘knitting café’ and is popular all over Norway for those who enjoy handcrafts - it’s not just for knitters! Coffee and tea will be served; feel free to bring a treat to share. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, January-May and September-December 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Meeting dates are posted on the calendar.

Contacts: Christie 602-0673 or Anita 301-4215

Kincaid Classic with Wooden Ski Race

This was as "old school" as you can get! Folk strapped on wood skis, wore their best wool clothing, and came out to play in the beauty of Kincaid Park. It was chilly out and one had to be on the lookout for a scary troll woman, but the fun and sun warmed all who participated. The Vafler, cooked to perfection by many wonderful volunteers was enjoyed by all skiers. Everyone had a special medal created by the woodworkers, who also engraved names into them right there.

Thanks to all the volunteers, friends, fans and skiers who participated. We can't wait until next year!



Photos courtesy of Christie Ericson

SKI FOR LIGHT 2020

The 45th annual Ski for Light (SFL) International week was held February 8-16 in Casper, Wyoming, with the cross-country skiing taking place on nearby Casper Mountain. Local Sons of Norway members attending were Robert Denholm and John and Cynthia Olnes. Summing up the week event chair Judy Dixon wrote, "We certainly did face some challenges with transportation and weather but the Ski for Light spirit was strong."

Ski for Light has long relied on Sons of Norway for volunteers and financial support and has received enthusiastic support from the Sons of Norway leadership. International President Ron Stubbings attended the 2020 event and joined in the week's activities. Ron stepped in to help wherever needed. To name a few of the "hats" Ron wore during the week—he helped load buses, greeted and helped guests to dinner, and assisted in the information room. One day, when transportation issues kept many skiers at the hotel, Ron stepped in to assist the restaurant waitresses by handing out menus and delivering orders.

Ski for Light, Inc. is an all-volunteer not-for-profit corporation 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 the success that program had enjoyed over the years in teaching blind/visually-impaired and mobility-impaired people the Norwegian national sport of cross-country skiing. Please visit the Ski for Light website at sfl.org for more information.

SKI FOR LIGHT 2021 EVENT

The 2021 Ski for Light International Week will be held in Granby, Colorado, from Sunday January 24 through Sunday January 31, 2021. The ski area will be Snow Mountain Ranch, the site of eleven previous Ski for Light events held from 1992 to most recently 2019. Additional information, including costs and online applications, will be available starting July, 2020, at the SFL website sfl.org.



5th ANNUAL SPRING SILENT AUCTION

Proceeds go to the Convention Delegate Fund
Saturday, April 4th at the Fish and Seafood Feast

This year delegates from our lodge will be attending the District 2 and International Sons of Norway conventions. Each delegate pays for travel, lodging and registration expenses. Our lodge has traditionally offered a stipend to delegates in order to assist with a portion of the convention costs.



The Silent Auction will be held from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. during the Norwegian Fish Dinner on Saturday, April 4th. Wood crafted items will again be featured and we hope to have a fine selection of Scandinavian/Nordic items as well.

Please consider donating any gently used Scandinavian/Nordic items for the auction. Bring your donations to Viking Hall (open 9 am-1 pm, Tuesday - Friday) or call Cynthia at 562-2794 for more information or to arrange a drop-off time outside of office hours.

Thank You in advance for your support!



LOST & FOUND

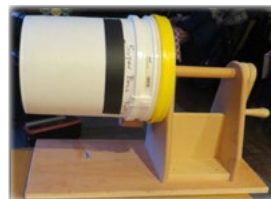


Contact the Lodge at 349-1613 if you recognize these items.

SUPER BOWL PARTY AT VIKING HALL!

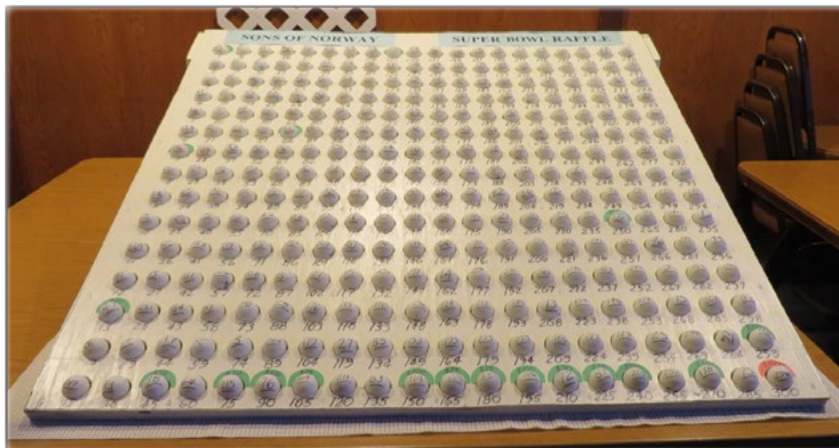
Scholarship Fund, Super Bowl Raffle 2020

The enthusiastic crowd attending the Sons of Norway Super Bowl Party enjoyed the game and the refreshments. The game was shown on four big screens—one being the new 55" HDTV in the kitchen. Wayne Johnson's Lapskaus stew was again a big hit. 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. Congratulations to the big winner - Jim Greeley!



Here are the 2020 winners!

#1	\$200	Marvin Olson
#7	\$50	Aase Haugen
#13	\$100	Shirley Iverson
#45	\$50	Marcus Biastock
#66	\$25	John Jensen
#75	\$50	Tom Falskow
#90	\$100	Kelda Barstad
#105	\$25	Mike Ellingboe
#121	\$50	Roger Graff
#150	\$200	Lisa Sealy
#165	\$25	Lynn Ann Eng
#180	\$25	Amanda Saxton
#195	\$100	Aud Severson
#210	\$50	Marilyn Lee
#225	\$25	Marvin Olson
#240	\$100	Boyd Morgenthaler
#250	\$25	Wally Smith
#270	\$50	Sheila Harris
#299	\$250	Aud Severson
#300	\$1,000	Jim Greeley



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

Photos courtesy of Ruth Kvernplassen

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY OFFER FROM SONS OF NORWAY!



Celebrate 125 Years With an Extra 1.25% First Year Bonus Rate!

In honor of our 125th anniversary, we are offering an extra 1.25% interest rate bonus on your first year when you purchase an annuity from us! This is a limited-time offer, so don't delay. Deadline is June 1, 2020!

With an annuity from Sons of Norway, you can count on predictability and safety for a portion of your portfolio - your principal and earned interest are never subject to market risk.

Annuities can be a great addition to an overall retirement plan, but it's an important decision that you should consider carefully. I can help you evaluate your options based on your unique goals and circumstances.

Please reach out to me now for a free consultation.

Sincerely,

Glenn Jacob, FIC Email: glenn.jacob@mtaonline.net Phone: 907-354-6105

Glenn is a proud member of Bernt Balchen Lodge, and also happens to be our Financial Benefits Counselor. You can see him at many lodge functions, especially at the monthly Viking Council meetings.

Call him to set up your free consultation!



Consul's Corner

Information and Opportunities for Norwegian Alaskans



DUAL CITIZENSHIP UPDATE

As of Monday, February 3, 2020, you may register your application to regain your Norwegian citizenship through the SpN (the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration online application portal). Information and citizenship application can be found at: www.udi.no.

Due to an overwhelming number of online applications from around the world, the website has been crashing and there is no estimate on how long the processing time will be. We have been asked to pass on the following information, "Until further notice, it will not be possible to make an appointment to submit your application and supporting documents at a Norwegian consulate or embassy. This service will be made available as soon as the necessary technical solution permits."

When applying to regain your Norwegian Citizenship, you cannot skip any of the required documents including attaching a criminal record certificate from the Norwegian Police. You must first apply for the criminal record certificate before you apply to re-acquire your Norwegian Citizenship.

You can find information about how to apply for a criminal record certificate on the Norwegian Police website (politiet.no). If you live in Norway you can apply for this certificate online. If you live outside of Norway, you must apply by mail.

STUDYING IN NORWAY?

Foreign Exchange Student to Norway? Folkehøgskole? University Studies in Norway? You no longer need to fly to San Francisco to verify your Student VISA documents. After you have completed all of the required documents for San Francisco (found at www.norway.no), call me for an appointment and we can do the final processing here in Anchorage.



Honorary Consul, Lise Kristiansen Falskow, helping Alaskan kids renew their Norwegian Passports. Such a joy to hold 5 month old, Freya. I look forward to watching these viking kids grow.



Lise Kristiansen Falskow with former Bernt Balchen member, Karin Berentsen, who now lives in Oslo.

PASSPORTS AND PERSONAL NUMBERS?

Norwegian passports and personal numbers can be processed in my office for all children under the age of 12. Older children and adults must travel to a Consulate General Office, Embassy in Washington D.C., or Norway, where there is a biometrics machine, to renew passports. After you have completed all of the required documents for San Francisco (found at www.norway.no), call me for an appointment and we can do the final processing here in Anchorage if you are under the age of 12.

ARCTIC CONFERENCES IN NORWAY

The two main Arctic Conferences in Norway are Arctic Frontiers, held in Tromsø in January (www.arcticfrontiers.no), and High North Dialogue, held in Bodø in March (www.highnorthdialogue.no). Both are a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Arctic (Norway's #1 foreign policy priority) and hear directly from high level Norwegian Governmental Officials including Prime Minister Erna Solberg.



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

Non-Profit Organization
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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

**3rd
Tuesday**

10:00 am to Noon
Needle Crafts



**11th
Wednesday**
6:30 - 9:00 pm
Strikkekafe



**12th
Thursday**

6:30 pm
Potluck Social
7:30 pm

Viking Council &
New Member Welcome



**25th
Wednesday**
6:30 - 9:00 pm
Strikkekafe

EVENTS FOR APRIL



**4th
Saturday**

5:30 pm
Norwegian Fish Dinner



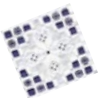
**7th
Tuesday**
10:00 am to Noon
Needle Crafts

**8th
Wednesday**
6:30 - 9:00 pm
Strikkekafe



**9th
Thursday**
7:00 pm
Viking Council

**21st
Tuesday**
10:00 am to Noon
Needle Crafts



**22nd
Wednesday**
6:30 - 9:00 pm
Strikkekafe

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

Please send articles or event information

for the next Newsletter by April 20th to: kvern66@gmail.com Attention - **Ruth** Subject Line - **The Flyer**