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January / February

WINTER

2024

VINTER

januar / februar

Greetings Lodge Members!

Happy New Year Everyone/Godt nytt år alle sammen!

We just ended a great year filled with events, classes, and new activities. One of our goals last year was to look for ways to build family and youth involvement with the lodge and I'm happy to report we were successful.

Thank you so much to Brittney, Sarah, and Annette, our newly formed youth team, for bringing cooking and crafting activities back, and to Marti, our Friluftsliv tour guide, for organizing outings that focus on youth.

What a nice surprise it was to receive a shout-out from International President Ron Stubbings in his Viking Magazine message: "During this cozy time of year, you could emulate Bernt Balchen 2-046 in Anchorage, AK, and go on a friluftsliv hike or take time for a crafting day."

Communication is key to growing an active lodge. We have embraced social media through the efforts of Christie our cultural director.

Facebook posts and Instagram gain us lots of public interest in our activities and membership. Publicity chairs (Tim & Ruth & Marcus) send out timely eBlasts and website updates with event reminders and information on pop-up activities.

As you look over the enclosed calendar please pick an event you'd like to volunteer with and let the chair know. As we head into 2024 my New Year's resolution for our lodge is keep it up! We are so fortunate to have active members that keep our lodge vibrant. Here's to another great year for Bernt Balchen Lodge!

*Med Vennlig Hilsen,
Linda Bustamante, President*



What a great way to start the New Year! Thank you Jacob Mathiesen for refurbishing Viking Hall's office!



**Only 10 books
(50 tickets) left!**

SONS OF NORWAY SUPER BOWL PARTY @ VIKING HALL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH

WATCH THE GAME ON BIG SCREEN TV

DOORS OPEN @ 2 PM

RAFFLE DRAWING HELD DURING GAME ONLY 300 TICKETS SOLD - 20 WINNERS!

TOP PRIZE OF \$1,000!!

Come and Enjoy Snacks, Liquid Refreshment and Good Company

VIKING HALL 907-349-1613 8141 Briarwood Street • Anchorage, AK 99518



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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BerntBalchen

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

Sons of Norway International: <https://www.sofn.com>

Submit Articles:

newsletter@sofnalaska.com Attn: The Flyer

**Submission deadline for our
March/April 2024 issue is February 20th**

2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

Please take time to look at the 2024 Calendar of Events which came as an insert with the January/February newsletter. The calendar lists events by month as well as 2024 Sons of Norway Officers and Viking Hall Board members. Viking Hall Inc. is a building association formed to manage and maintain the lodge building fondly known as Viking Hall. The Viking Hall board is comprised of the Bernt Balchen lodge president and treasurer along with up to six directors, all Sons of Norway members, which serve 3-year terms.

The lodge held most of the traditional events in 2023. These included the Super Bowl Party, Norwegian Fish Dinner, Mother's Day Brunch, Syttende Mai Parade and Celebration, Faar-i-Kaal and Lutefisk Dinners, and the Lucia Family Christmas Party. The fall indoor/outdoor Nordic Market featured vendors, a café, bake sale, silent auction, book sale, and knitted items raising just over \$20,000. In total, these events netted close to \$28,500. The lodge portion of membership dues brought in \$4,200.

A District 2, Zone 6 seminar was held in April at the Fairbanks Arctic Viking Lodge. Our lodge contributed a total of \$575 toward travel expenses for the three members that attended. Along with awarding \$1,750 in scholarships, a \$400 donation was made to Ski for Light. Ski for Light is an all-volunteer Sons of Norway outreach program whose mission is to enhance the quality of life and independence of visually or mobility-impaired adults through a program of cross-country skiing.

As mentioned earlier Viking Hall Inc. pays all building associated expenses. The total expenses for 2023 were \$36,350. The big ticket items for the year were \$17,000 for utilities and snow removal and \$8,700 for building and liability insurance. To cover these expenses the lodge contributes \$12,500 annually with rental income funding the remainder. The lodge is fortunate to have a long-term tenant renting a portion of the downstairs.

Bernt Balchen Lodge and Viking Hall Inc. were both able to add to their reserve funds at year-end. Thank you to all lodge members who helped make this possible as we look forward to 2024.

Cynthia Olnes, Treasurer

SUNSHINE REPORT

"Gratulerer med dagen!"



"Happy Birthday!"

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Margie Ellen Hall | David P Pederson |
| James Johnson | Ken Privratsky |
| Marit M Kristiansen | Evelyn C Rush |
| Peter Mjos | Susan F Soby |
| Shirley A Moe | Allen Ray Thompson |

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Gayle A Bjorn-Roli
- Stephen W Indahl
- Michael A Morrison

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine

Contact Anna Bryant at:

anna_bryant@hotmail.com

Remembering

John T. Jensen recently passed away on January 3rd. He was 84 years old and very proud of his Norwegian ancestry.

Information regarding his Memorial Services.

January 13, 11:00 am.

John's funeral mass and reception

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
2901 Huffman Rd, Anchorage

January 20, 5:00 -7:00 pm

John's celebration of life and reception with personal stories and sharing.

Carpenters Hall
407 Denali Street, Anchorage

A full obituary will be published this week in the Anchorage Daily News.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

Don't miss out on this opportunity! The Scholarship Application is Due by April 30, 2024

Bernt Balchen Lodge 2-046 awards Language and Heritage, and Higher Education Scholarships of up to \$1,000. 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.

TO REQUEST A SCHOLARSHIP PACKET

Send an email to sonancak@gmail.com – Attn: Scholarship Committee or, call: 907-349-1613, and leave a message.

DISTRICT 2 SCHOLARSHIPS

There are 2 scholarships available from District 2: Washington - Oregon - Idaho - Alaska.

The Carl Saltveit Scholarship is awarded to attend the International Summer School at the University of Oslo. To be eligible, you must be a member in District 2 and have completed 1 full year (4 quarters) of college. No age restriction on this scholarship.

The Sofie Olson Scholarship is awarded to 3 campers attending the District 2 Youth Camps. Normally 1 scholarship is awarded for each of the 3 camps.

For more detailed information please go to:

https://www.sonsofnorway2.com/

SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

- Astrid G. Cates - Due 2/15
King Olav V for Norwegian Citizens - Due 1/15
King Olav V Norwegian-American Heritage - Due 1/15
Myrtle Beinhauer Fund - Due 2/15
Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial - Due 2/15
Orel and Marie Winjum Memorial - Due 2/15
Dan and Betty Rude Scholarship - Due 2/15
Bernt Anker Scholarship - Due 2/15
Sissel & Roger Espeland Memorial Scholarship Fund - Due 2/15
Elaine Nelson - Due 2/15

For more information go to:

https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/

STRIKKEKAFÉ



Happy Winter! To all our fellow knitters and makers out there, we are looking forward to seeing you again soon. Strikkekafe is going strong!

Please bring your finished projects for Show and Tell! It will be so fun to see what everyone has been up to.

Strikkekafe means 'knitting cafe' and is popular all over Norway for those who enjoy handcrafts, it's not just for knitters! This is a time to gather with your projects and enjoy the company of others. It is a great way to meet other members, get inspiration, share your skills, or get a little help.



Strikkekafe meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Check the E-BLAST for notifications or contact: Christie 602-0673 or Anita 301-4215.

NEW! Rosemaling Lessons

The lodge will now be offering a Rosemaling class the same evenings as Strikkekafe at the Lodge (every other Wednesday).



Amanda Saxton has offered to teach this class. If you are interested, email the lodge at sonancak@gmail.com and then Amanda will reach out with more information.

Norwegian Conversation Group
Saturdays ~ 10-11 am via Zoom
All levels welcome
Contact Christie Ericson to register christieak@gmail.com

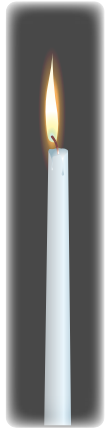
Sons of Norway Lucia 2023



Lucia, Paige Robertson

Santa Lucia, or Saint Lucy's Day, is the church feast day dedicated to Saint Lucy and is observed on December 13. Its modern day celebration is generally associated with Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland. Santa Lucia comes as a young woman with lights and sweets, marking the return of longer daylight to winter darkness. It is one of the few saint days observed in Scandinavia. At our program at the lodge, a procession is headed by one girl wearing a crown of candles (or lights), while others follow in the procession with girls holding a single candle and boys holding a star.

Children learn and sing Norwegian and Swedish songs, often accompanied by harp and piano. Families are treated to a talent show, singing around the Christmas tree, and enjoy authentic Scandinavian rice pudding, open-faced sandwiches, and desserts. Santa Claus makes a special appearance at this event and hands out goodies to all attending children.



All Photos courtesy of Anita Persson

Sons of Norway Lucia 2023



Lucia, Paige Robertson and her family!



Former Lucias!

*Night comes with heavy steps
through our land, calling.*

*Sunlight, the earth forgets;
shadows are falling.*

*However dark the night, rising
with candles bright,*

Santa Lucia! Santa Lucia! 🎵



All Photos courtesy of Anita Persson

2024 Friluftsliv Schedule

January, February, March!



Sunday January 21 *Wooden Ski Classic*

Join forces with the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage and help facilitate the annual Wooden Ski Classic. For more details go to Nordic Ski Association Anchorage, AMH race number 3 (<https://anchoragenordicski.com/races/amh-anchorage-cup/#tab-id-3>)

When: Sunday, January 21 (First race starts at noon, but come early to prep)

Where: Kincaid park meet in the waxing bunker.

Help needed:

- Make waffles for all the racers, (contact Linda Bustamante),
- Pine tar skis (contact (Martin Hansen)
- Join the dancing Troll Patrol under each bridge (contact Marti Pausback) 907-351-2378).
- Help with race timing and stadium set up and take down:
Go to sign up Genius [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4FABAB2AA2FC1-46146560-kincaid#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4FABAB2AA2FC1-46146560-kincaid#/)
- You also may want to race so bring your wooden skis and race.
- Wear your best Nordic wool.

For more information on how you can help go to page 7.

Sunday February 18 (tentative) *Laskiainen Day (National Sledding day) with the Suomi Finland Club*

Join us and celebrate sliding.

What: Finland, our Scandinavian neighbor, Celebrates sledding before Lent on Laskiainen. It is a time to eat pea soup and cardamom bread with whip cream and slide down hills.

When: Sunday February 18 - Noon

Where: Abbott loop Community Park Sledding hill

Bring: Helmets, kids, sleds and your whole family.



Sunday March 17 *Fourth Annual Jaysen Mathieson Memorial Kubb Tournament*

When: Sunday March 17 from 2:00-4:00

Where: The Service Stadium behind the Little Gym.

Bring: Snacks to share, your kids and the whole family. Be ready to compete for the coveted trophy. Prepare to laugh and join in community fun.



WOODEN SKI CLASSIC

Our lodge is sponsoring the Kincaid Classic and Wooden Ski on Sunday, January 21. This is a great way to share our heritage and have fun. This is a Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage (NSAA) AMH Cup Race. NSAA does all the technical work. They get the permits, groom and mark the race course, and do the timing. As sponsors, we provide Race Support volunteers. We have many fun Race Support opportunities.

Race Support:

There are twenty-four volunteer slots to be filled helping the NSAA put on the race. The AMH Cup Race Series is on the NSAA website. At the bottom of the race page there is a link to volunteers. The Kincaid Classic and Wooden Ski Classic is AMH Cup Race # 3.

We can sign-up for duties on the NSAA AMH Cup Race page. The volunteer sheet is at the bottom of the page.

Or, use this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4FABAB2AA2FC1-46146560-kincaid#/>

You can also text Martin Hansen at (907) 980-5333 and he will help you choose a slot and help you sign up. Martin will call you back. *He guarantees that you can do it and it will be fun.* Editor's note: He is right, it is a blast!

In addition to race support, our lodge volunteers pine tar skis, serve wonderful waffles; and our happy dancing trolls cheer on the skiers.



Pine Tarring Skis: 8:30 - 10:30 AM on race day at the Kincaid wax bunker. All supplies and equipment are provided. To sign up contact Martin Hansen at bikeskifish@gmail.com or text (907) 980-5333

Waffles: We make delicious waffles and serve them apres ski. If you'd like to help out, please email Linda at sonacak@gmail.com



Dancing Trolls: What would winter be without trolls? This year our trolls are happy trolls! If you'd like to join the happy trolls, contact Marti Pausback by text at (907) 351-2378.

Suggestions? Questions? I am here to help!

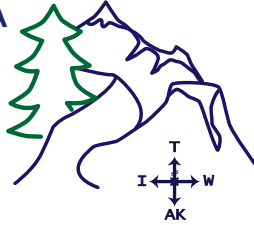
Text Martin Hansen at (907) 980-5333.



CLASSIFIEDS FOR VIKINGS

INTO THE WOODS ALASKA

After School Programs
Inservice & School Break Days
Courses for Home School
Mountain Bike Training
(All ages)




For information, and to sign up:

<https://intothewoodsalaska.com/>



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Attention:

Classifieds for Vikings