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March / April / May

SPRING

2024

VÅR

mars / april / mai

### Greetings Lodge Members!

In Norway when you're having an enjoyable time it's common to say Vi Ha Det Morro! I think that expression applies when talking about activities going on with our lodge, and isn't it great that we're also learning along the way. We are fortunate to have a talented group of members with many interests that keep our lodge flourishing.

Speaking of talent, congratulations to Christie Ericson for her knitting story in the latest Viking Magazine. If you're inspired to take up knitting join the classes down at Viking Hall. And tusen takk to Marit Kristiansen for suggesting we contact well-known accordionist Toby Hanson to play for our lodge. He just confirmed he will play at the Syttende Mai celebration. This special day will now be celebrated with a parade, hotdogs, ice cream, Kubb, and polka music!

We're doing our best to make sure members know about all of our upcoming events and activities. By now you've received a flyer in the mail with updates and last minute pop-up activities will continue to come via e-Blast. Extra hands are always needed so please jump in and volunteer. Hope to see you at the many events just around the corner – du skal ha det morro!



Check out our newly remodeled library!

Viking Hall has recently seen some remodeling, cleaning and organizing from top to bottom! A lot of elbow grease over many days went into this endeavor led by Gayle & Jacob Mathiesen. Big thanks to them and all the helpers: Anita, Ruth, Christie, John and Cynthia, Linda and Tina.

Med Vennlig Hilsen,  
Linda Bustamante, President

# CLASSIFIEDS FOR VIKINGS

## AD SIZE:

2 x 3.5 inches  
(business card size)  
\$10.00 per issue.

Email a scan or digital image of your business card; or contact the Flyer Editor to discuss other options to:

[kvern66@gmail.com](mailto:kvern66@gmail.com)

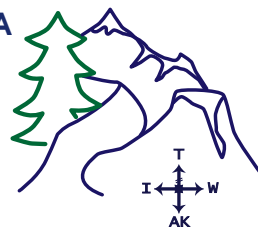
## Attention:

Classifieds for Vikings



## INTO THE WOODS ALASKA

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Inservice & School Break Days  
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Mountain Bike Training  
(All ages)



For information, and to sign up:

<https://intothewoodsalaska.com/>



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EARLY CALL FOR LUCIA VOLUNTEERS



If you have attended a Lucia Celebration in December you can appreciate the details that go into hosting this amazing event!



We are looking for folks to join the Lucia Committee. It takes a small army to make this a successful celebration.

Would you like to help? We would love to have you, and it will be a wonderful experience.

Contact Jennifer Robertson: Phone: 907-952-2058 or Email: JKGRobertson@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2024 has been an exciting time for membership. Bernt Balchen Lodge has officially reached 400 members! This could not have been made possible without you and your commitment to our local Scandinavian community.

We've recently had many members reach significant milestones in their length of membership. 5 year to 40+ year members are being recognized with special pins this season! Didn't receive a pin this year? Make sure to stay up on your membership to ensure your very own pin at your next milestone year!

Follow this link to renew or sign up a friend or family member: https://www.sofn.com/join\_or\_renew/

Have any questions? Please reach out! I look forward to talking with you.

Hurra Hurra Hurra! New Members!

Hanna Persson - Membership Secretary (907)744-0808 hannarpersson@gmail.com

- Andrew Castning, Allison Biastock, Chris Hansen-Cook, Mark Leaf, Melissa Peterson, William Sobolesky, Calisa Castning, Kells Ferguson, Holly Himler, Kirsten McGlohn, Anna Sobolesky, Chris Tomsen, Steve Bainbridge, Ryan Garner, Elizabeth Hoettels, Ryan McGlohn, Karen Sobolesky, Jan Tomsen



SUNSHINE REPORT



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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Leslie M Hageland, Gabrielle R Ledoux, Louann A Peterson, Phillip J Ramstad, Sigmund H Restad 95 Years!, Gordon J Severson 94 Years!, William Sobolesky

"Gratulerer med dagen!"

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Ruta Cukurs, Richard Dunning, Loretta Hodson, Delores A Lambert, James H Larsen, Lillian Marvin, Craig O Ronning, Arni S Thomson

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine Contact Anna Bryant at: anna\_bryant@hotmail.com

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- Sonja Ann Arduser, Darrell E Korman, Judith A Bagley, Mark Leaf, Margaret J Edwards, Donna L Libal, Martin John Hansen, Joan W Nunn, David W Haugen, James S Strandberg, Gordon D Homme, Mimzy Wellberg, Eric Johnson

"Happy Birthday!"

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



Website: https://www.sofnalaska.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/BerntBalchen

Instagram: @sonsofnorwayanchorage Sons of Norway International: https://www.sofn.com

Submit Articles: newsletter@sofnalaska.com Attn: The Flyer

# Mother's Day Brunch

**Viking Hall**

**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to 1:30 pm**



*Thanks Mom!*

**The menu includes:**

Walter's sourdough pancakes, Nuna's apple cinnamon syrup, ham, reindeer sausage, eggs, mixed fruit and beverages.

Adults - \$20  
Ages 12 to 16 - \$10  
Ages 5 to 11 - \$5  
Under 5 years FREE

*We hope you can join us!*

**Help Needed!**

The Mother's Day Brunch committee is hoping some of our Lodge Youth are available to help with serving between 10:00 am and 1:30 pm.

We are looking at 2-hour shifts, however even an hour would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact John Olnes (907-748-0704) to find out more, or leave a message at the Viking Hall office (907-349-1613) to let the committee know what times you are available to help; or email [sonancak@gmail.com](mailto:sonancak@gmail.com) to let us know the time you are available to help. This is an excellent opportunity for Lodge youth to be part of a Lodge event.

## STRIKKEKAFÉ



Yes, it is really Spring! 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.

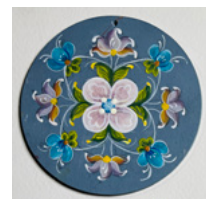


Strikkekafe meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

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

## NEW! Rosemaling Lessons

The lodge is 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](mailto: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](mailto:christieak@gmail.com)



NORWEGIAN FISH DINNER!



Saturday, April 20th

Appetizers at 5:30 pm Dinner at 6:00 pm

Limited Seating –

Be sure to make your reservation before the seats are all taken!

Adults \$35 Ages 12-16 \$15 Ages 6-11 \$5

Reservations required by Friday, April 19th

Make your reservation by phone or email:

Phone Message - 907-349-1613 Email - sonacak@gmail.com

Provide: Name, Phone # and number of Adults & Children

Help Needed!

No experience necessary

If you can help out Friday or Saturday for the amazing fish dinner on April 20th please contact:

Tina: 907-947-4303 or Merlin: 907-575-6420

Duties: Including but are not limited to:

Prep on Friday, serving, and clean up after the event.



# Spring Painting and Planting Lekegruppe Event

Saturday, May 4th 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Viking Hall, 8141 Briarwood Street in Anchorage

Come join our lekegruppe event to welcome spring! Children will be able to paint either a garden gnome or planting pot. We will have soil, a variety of flower and herb seeds, and Scandinavian treats of rice cream with berry sauce, and red, white, and blue berry skewers.

Our space is limited to 30 children, so please **RSVP** to Lodge Youth Co-director, Brittany Francis by **Wednesday, May 1st.**

[brittanyandrew@gmail.com](mailto:brittanyandrew@gmail.com)

907-748-6232





## Meet us for the SYTTENDE MAI PARADE & CELEBRATION

Friday, May 17 6:00 pm

Join us in celebration of Norway's Constitution Day for a traditional parade on Friday, May 17th at 6:00 pm in downtown Anchorage.

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

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.

A short program will precede the parade and hot dogs and ice cream will follow.

This year we will have the accomplished accordionist Toby Hanson as our musical guest!

We encourage all ages to share favorite 17 Mai memories.



If you missed the March Friluftsliv Kubb games there will be another chance to join the fun on May 17. "Viking Chess" or Kubb is an outdoor game where the goal is to knock down the opposing team's Kubb blocks and win by knocking down the king. Each teammate gets a turn to throw a baton at the other team's blocks.

The plan is to set up a Kubb game in the open area west of the Rose Garden after the parade.

**This event takes place rain or shine!**

*If you would like to help or have questions please contact John Olnes at 907-748-0704.*



2024 Friluftsliv

May

**Sunday May 26 Bird Watching at Westchester Lagoon**

Join members of the Anchorage Audubon Society and Martin Hansen for spring birdwatching. High tide is 9:14 am, and as the tide goes out the birds leave the lagoon.

**When:** Sunday March 26 at 9:00 am

**Where:** Westchester Lagoon

**Bring:** Binoculars and your bird identification knowledge!

**Ski Season Recap!**

**Wooden Ski Classic, Ski for Women and Ski for Light!**

**Tusen takk to all who helped at the Wooden Ski Classic!**

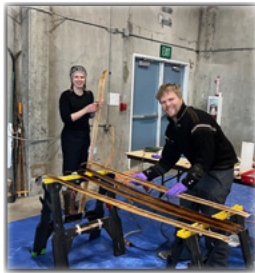
We needed 200 waffles and we had them, thanks to: Marit, Alisa, Christie, Tina, Ruth, Annette, Linda.



Terrible Trolls

Working at the table and helping with set up included: Gayle, Patrick, Hanna, Ruth, Annette.

Jacob and Bill were pine tarring skis and other duties as assigned!



Jacob pinetarring wood ski's for racers.

**Team Norway ties for 2nd Place in the Ski for Women!**



"Gnomes among the birch trees" - Gayle, Marti, & Heidi

**Ski for Light Thank you**



Every year, our Lodge donates to the *Ski for a Light*.

This amazing event pairs skiers and other volunteers with visually and mobility-impaired adults who want to enjoy the sport of skiing.

Tim Andrew (while on vacation) came to our rescue and sent out an eBlast about the event and need for volunteers :)

Martin & Marti took care of the awards, set-up, troll patrol, and race coordination.

**Kubb!**

**4th Annual Jaysen Mathiesen Kubb Tournament**



Viking Chess requires a little setup!



The gang of vikings!



The winning team - Stykk Av!

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND SUPER BOWL PARTY & RAFFLE 2024**

An enthusiastic crowd was on hand for the Sons of Norway Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 11. Linda Bustamante and crew stepped in to make the Lapskaus which was enjoyed by all, along with other snacks and beverages.

The game was shown on three big TV screens—one being the HDTV in the kitchen. Marit Kristiansen kept us on the up-and-up recording the “official record of drawing” and, along with Luna Olnes, announced winners with the ringing of the cowbell. Jane Moe Newby handled the paperwork associated with notifying raffle winners. Thank you also to Christie Ericson, John Olnes, Tina Watts and Cynthia Olnes for helping with the drawing and refreshments. Congratulations to the big winner—Christie Ericson!

#1 \$200 Christie Ericson	#105 \$25 Brita Mjos	#225 \$25 David Nord
#7 \$50 Ryan Garner	#121 \$50 Amanda Hagan	#240 \$100 Hal & Linda Courtice
#13 \$100 David Hanson	#150 \$200 Karen Sobolesky	#250 \$25 Marianne Kristiansen
#45 \$50 Ryan Garner	#165 \$25 Leo Zimmer	#270 \$50 Jack Olnes
#66 \$25 Mildred Hugonet	#180 \$25 Tina Watts	#299 \$250 Debbie Tideman
#75 \$50 Sandra Christopherson	#195 \$100 Wally Smith	#300 \$1,000 Christie Ericson
#90 \$100 Jon Andrew	#210 \$50 Wally Smith	

**Thank you** to raffle winners David Hanson, David Nord and Wally Smith for donating their winnings back to the scholarship fund and to all who purchased raffle tickets. The 2024 scholarship recipients will be announced at the Syttende Mai celebration.

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.

*Tusen Takk from the Raffle Committee—Wayne Johnson, John Olnes, Sandra Hanson and Jane Moe Newby*

**SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE**

**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](mailto:sonancak@gmail.com) – Attn: Scholarship Committee or, call: 907-349-1613, and leave a message.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP AT VIKING HALL**

Please join us on Saturday, May 4th between 1:00 and 3:00 pm for outdoor clean-up around Viking Hall and street clean-up along Briarwood and East 80th. Bring shovels, rakes, and gloves. We have a few trash grabbers/pickers but bring your own if you have one.

Sons of Norway has participated in the Adopt-a-Road program for many years! Organizations or individuals that participate in Adopt-a-Road agree to perform a minimum of three cleanings of the area adjacent to the roadway during the non-snow months. Although we haven't officially “adopted” East 80th Avenue we include a portion of this road as part of the clean-up.



Everyone is welcome to help with this Lodge undertaking, so if you find yourself with some free time please stop by and pick-the-litter!

**Please call John Olnes at 907-748-0704 if you have questions.**

# In Remembrance

**John Lawrence "Johnny" Hall January 1, 1928 - January 1, 2024**

John Lawrence "Johnny" Hall, 96, of Girdwood, Alaska, passed away at home surrounded by family and loved ones on Jan. 1, 2024. Born on January 1, 1928, in Muncy, Pa., Johnny was a loving and kind individual who brought happiness to everyone he encountered, including all of the earth's creatures.

John is survived by his daughters, Lisa C. Hall, Heather Carol Hall and Amy Eriksson (Kurt); sons, Arvid Hall (Kari) and Eric Hall (Marjorie); grandchildren, Austen Eriksson, Karsten Hall and Kendal Hall; nephews, Dale Markowitz (Cathy), Bryce Hall (Jeanne) and Karl Hefty (Yelena); and niece, Andrea Hefty and beloved family.

Johnny was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 66 years, Carol Anita Vig Hall; grandson, Anton Christopher Eriksson; sisters, Margaret Markowitz, Rita Hall and Dorothy Whitmire; and brother, Egbert "Sonny" Pennington Hall III.

John was alumni to Muncy High School, class of 1945, Pennsylvania State College; Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry class of 1951 and Yale Masters of Forestry class of 1952.

In April 1945, Johnny joined the Army and served in Darmstadt, Germany. John's career included working for the Alaska Road Commission in Chistochina, Alaska, in 1950, The Wilderness Society, the Forest Service as District Ranger and Special Assistant to the Regional Forester in Alaska and the Joint State-Federal Land Use Planning Commission in the 1970s and was the President and Owner of Taiga Resource Consultants.

John enjoyed gardening, forestry sciences, downhill skiing, fishing for trout and salmon, moose and deer hunting, avalanche forecasting, bird watching and Hawaii.

Contributions in Johnny's memory can be made to Challenge Alaska, Alaska Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.



**Aud B. Severson April 4, 1933 - January 30, 2024**



Aud Bergliot (Storhaug) Severson, 90, passed away suddenly, unexpectedly and peacefully, on January 30, 2024, at the Anchorage Pioneer Home, where she had resided for the past year. She was born in Bergen, Norway, on April 4, 1933, to Olver Storhaug and Alvilda (Leganger) Storhaug. Aud graduated from Tailor Trade School in Bergen and worked at Modell Klaer as a tailor, making and modeling ladies coats before her marriage. She was a Norwegian Youth Medal winning skier.

Aud was married to Gordon J. Severson on February 14, 1954, at Laksevag Lutheran Church in Bergen. Valentine's Day 2024 would have been their 70th wedding anniversary. She came to the U.S. in April 1954, visiting Gordon's parents in Wisconsin en route to Alaska, first in Anchorage and then Nome. To this union were born son Marshall Gordon and daughter Louise Audrey. Aud was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in Fairbanks, Alaska, on Jan. 17, 1958. They lived in Fairbanks 1957-1965, except for two years

in France and Germany in 1962-1963, when Gordon was recalled to active duty from the U.S. Army Reserve. Aud served as President of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 11 in Fairbanks from 1961-1962.

Anchorage has been home since 1965. Aud graduated from Anchorage Beauty College in October 1966 and worked as a hairdresser for 30 years. She was owner and operator of Aud's Styling Salon in the Arctic Business Park from 1984 until retiring in 1996.

Aud is a longtime member of Pioneers of Alaska Women's Igloo 4; American Legion Auxiliary Jack Henry Unit 1; VFW Auxiliary 1685; Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge; and St. Mark Lutheran Church. She is survived by husband, Gordon; sister, Grethe Storhaug; several nieces, nephews and cousins in Norway; son, Marshall (Margaret) Severson; daughter, Louise (Kim) Eshenower; granddaughter, Alison Eshenower (Aaron Williamson); grandson, Elliot Severson; granddaughter, Daria Severson; great-granddaughters, Aliyah Banta and Audrey Williamson; and great-grandson, Ash Gordon Williamson, all of Alaska. She was predeceased by granddaughter Adrien Eshenower. A Celebration of Aud's Life will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 3230 Lake Otis Parkway, on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 3 p.m., followed by a reception. The family wishes to thank the staff at the Anchorage Pioneer Home, JBER Hospital and the first responders who cared for her so well. The service will be livestreamed and posted at <https://www.facebook.com/SaintMarkAnchorage/>.



# In Remembrance

**John T. Jensen June 17, 1939 - January 3, 2024**



John T. Jensen, 84, died on January 3, 2024, due to complications from leukemia. John was born on June 17, 1939, in Hawthorne, Nevada, to Verna and Louis Jensen. On December 18, 1965, he married Charlotte Jensen, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Anchorage, Alaska.

John attended kindergarten in San Diego, California, before moving to Montana with his parents and brother, Duane. They purchased the Holland Lake Lodge in Montana in 1947. A fire burned the picturesque log lodge to the ground the day before guests were scheduled to arrive.

Following the loss of the lodge, John's family lived in John Day, Oregon, before moving to Craig, Nebraska, near his father's family farm. John's mother was hired as the elementary school teacher in Alaska and John's father was hired as the special assistant.

In 1949, John, his brother, parents and pet dog Tugger traveled north to the small Athabaskan village of Tanacross, Alaska. In John's manuscript about his life, he wrote: "In Tanacross the northern lights hung in the sky like beautiful green sheets rippling in the breeze. I remember sound carried so well when it was 60 below. We used to go out and play when it warmed up to 20 below. Living close to the land is still important to many Alaskans and, as we become more urbanized, it appears many of us are looking back to see where we have been."

John's mother, Verna accepted a teaching job at Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska where John graduated from Sitka High School in 1958. John attended the University of New Mexico Military Institute, the University of Idaho (B.A.), Colorado State (M.A.) and the University of Colorado (Ed.S.).

In 1963 John moved to Anchorage where he built the family home, met his wife Charlotte and raised two children, Kay and Mike. In 1964, he accepted a job with the Anchorage School District where he worked primarily as an Industrial Arts Teacher for 31 years. He owned a commercial setnet site on the Combine Flats of the Nushagak River, and operated the site with his son Mike from 1987 to 1999. John was an avid sport fisherman and captured the grandeur of our state over the years. John enjoyed reading, travel and painting. In his 70s, he discovered ballroom dancing. John was a "do-it-your-selfer" and a jack-of-all-trades. He could fix just about anything. His son Mike learned many skills while holding a flashlight for his dad over the years.

John was a member of Pioneers of Alaska, Anchorage Igloo #15, Sons of Norway and the Anchorage Federation of Teachers #1175. He was a Fur Rondy Board Member for 10 years and volunteered with the Charlotte Jensen Native Arts Market since 1995. He made many friendships over the years with Alaska Natives who traveled to the event from all over the state.

John is survived by his partner, Kay Gatlin; children, Mike and Kay; and grandchildren, Lauren, Elias and Rainey. John was preceded in death by his parents, Verna and Louis; brother, Duane (1968); and wife, Charlotte (2010.)

John had a rare blood type and donated 18 gallons of blood over his lifetime. John's final wishes: "Give blood - Be a donor." Please donate in his name. He also requested the consideration of monetary donations to the Blood Bank of Alaska, Dollars for Dogs, the Anchorage Public Library and the Nature Conservancy.

**Gene Axel Moe November 10, 1930 - January 24, 2024**

Gene left this world peacefully at age 93. His wife Shirley, of 70 years, was by his side.

He came to Alaska from McGregor, Minnesota, after graduation in 1948. He served in the Korean War with the U.S. Army and represented his country proudly. After his service he returned to Alaska followed shortly by his wife Shirley. Gene was always a focused, hard worker. In 1959, Gene, with his brothers by his side, started his union concrete finishing business M & M Contractors.

Gene was an avid outdoorsman. He loved being outside enjoying the adventures and beauty of Alaska. He had many tales of these adventures. The most notorious of these was his killing of a Kodiak brown bear with a four inch Buck knife.

Church and community were important parts of his life. Gene was a founding member of Baxter Road Bible Church. He was a member of Sons of Norway and a vital part in the construction of Viking Hall.

Gene and Shirley had four children: Karl (Vicki) Moe, Jane Moe Newby, Heidi (Tony) Coop and Eric Moe. He is also survived by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday April 27, 2024 at 2:00 pm at Baxter Road Bible Church, 3600 Baxter Rd., Anchorage, AK.

