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September / October

AUTUMN

2024

HØST

september / oktober

Greetings Lodge Members!

Hej All! Congratulations to Bernt Balchen Lodge on our 80th anniversary! Our lodge was founded on August 11, 1944 with seventy-one members.

Today, with over 400 members, our lodge continues doing a great job promoting the heritage and culture of Norway. We have kept traditional Scandinavian cuisine alive



A certificate of appreciation signed by all attendees was presented to Sandra Johnson thanking her and Wayne for bringing this fun event from Wisconsin to our lodge in 2005!

with our annual Faar-I-Kaal, Lutefisk, and Norwegian Fish dinners. We continue to offer Norwegian language classes, Strikkekafe (knitting), rosemaling, friluftsliv outings, and Lekegruppe (youth activities). The lodge library has a tremendous amount of books about Norse culture, mythology and videos that members are welcome to check out.

What a great time was had at the Fish Boil dinner. A large crowd attended and it was so much fun to see members back in Viking Hall all after a long summer break. Now it's time to gear up for the many activities and events coming up! This month we will be rolling as much lefse as possible for the Nordic Market since one of the first items to sell out is our prized lefse. No experience needed just come on down to the hall and we'll get you started.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help plan and staff upcoming events. This is the best way to get involved with the lodge, build friendships and truly experience our wonderful Scandinavian culture.

Watch for more information and reminders of lodge activities through eBlasts, Facebook, or the website.

*Med Vennlig Hilsen,
 Linda Bustamante, President*



Jacob Mathiesen the Boil Master and crew! Robert, Blake, Jacob & Craig

FAAR-I-KAAL DINNER – OCTOBER 19TH!

SAVE THE DATE



Please join us as we enjoy Norway's national dish!

This delicious autumn meal features tender lamb and cabbage, boiled potatoes, carrots, fresh rolls and is topped off with apple cake for dessert. The menu will also offer kid-friendly options, so bring the whole family!

Doors Open: 5:30 PM / Dinner Service: 6:00 PM

Please call the lodge for reservations at (907) 349-1613.

(Dinner prices will be determined after lamb has been ordered)

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

LEFSE, LEFSE, LEFSE

The indoor/outdoor Nordic Market will be held on September 28th so lefse making for the bake sale starts in mid-September. Sessions are scheduled for Friday-Sunday, September 13-15 and September 20-22.

The 3-day lefse making session has potato preparation and set-up on Friday (3-6 pm) with lefse-rolling and packaging on Saturday (9 am-6 pm) and Sunday (9 am-6 pm).



This is a huge fundraiser for the Lodge so we hope to see you on any of the dates/times listed above.

Contact Cynthia at 907-748-6301 or send an email to sonancak@gmail if you would like more information or to let us know what time/dates you can help. Or, if you find you have a couple hours to help out – drop by the Hall!

Lefse making for the Lutefisk Dinner is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, November 1-2. The hours differ for this session with preparation and set-up on Friday (5:30-8 pm) and lefse-rolling and packaging on Saturday (9 am-6 pm).



SUPER BOWL RAFFLE 2025 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER



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. In May 2024 three scholarships were awarded. Tucker Lien and Luna Olnes were recipients of the Higher Education scholarship, and Hanna Persson received a Language and Heritage scholarship. Details on how to apply for either of these scholarships will be in the lodge newsletter coming out in January 2025.

The Raffle will again have 20 winners with a top prize of \$1,000. Only 300 tickets are sold so the chance to win is very generous, one in fifteen. Tickets are selling for \$25 each or a special deal of 5-for-\$100. The drawing will be held at the Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 9, 2025, during the airing of Super Bowl LIX (need not be present to win).

Raffle ticket sales kick off during our annual Nordic Market on Saturday, September 28. Raffle tickets will also be available at upcoming Lodge events and through the office (leave a phone message at 907-349-1613 or email sonancak@gmail.com). Give a call or send an email and we will arrange getting tickets to you.

Finally, the raffle committee is hopeful lodge members will assist with ticket sales. Please contact the office or speak to a long time raffle committee member (John, Jane, Sandra or Wayne) during an event if you can help out. Thank you!



“Gratulerer med dagen!”

SUNSHINE REPORT



“Happy Birthday!”

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

JUNE

- Michael E Ellingboe
- Terje G Birkedal
- Denis M Allen
- Andrea L Monsen
- Sigrun C Robertson
- Sandra L Johnson
- Wayne C Johnson
- Colleen M Rutledge
- Esteline Moe

JULY

- David G Hanson
- Carol Ericson
- Sigrid S Bryant
- Marilyn B Lee
- Alice L Sears
- Shirley Jean Iverson
- Shirley Marie Luedke
- Marilyn L Freitag

AUGUST

- Kathryn A Morgenthaler
- Diane R Pederson
- Joan Hately
- Diane Thomas
- Eunice Vrem

SEPTEMBER

- Linda Wahl
- Sandra L Christopherson
- Timothy D Benintendi
- Dottie C Hill
- Beverly J Smith
- John Stabb
- David Nord
- Kaare P Elde
- Connie F Thompson
- Sandra S Hanson
- Marianne G Lang
- Norma Link

OCTOBER

- Dinah Ann Martin
- Gust K Wahl
- Lori Kincaid
- John A Olnes

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

CULTURAL CORNER

Our members continue to exhibit their amazing Norwegian cultural skills. Earlier this summer two people from our lodge submitted items to the Folk Art Competition at the Sons of Norway District 2 Convention in Coeur d'Alene, IA. Anita Persson won a First Place award for her knitted child's Marius sweater and hat. Christie Ericson won a First Place award and Best of Class award for her Selbu mittens, as well as a Second Place award for another pair of Selbu mittens. It was great to meet the Cultural Directors from Tordenskjold (Spokane) and Harald Haarfager (Coeur d'Alene) Lodges and we hope to plan some classes together soon.



Congratulations also to members Heidi Hill (Literature, levels 2 & 3; Cooking, levels 2 & 3; Knitting, levels 1 & 2) and Amanda Saxton (Rosemaling, levels 2 & 3) for completing multiple Cultural Skills units. This makes a total of 16 Cultural Skills pins awarded to our lodge members! Way to go!



After a summer hiatus, our other cultural groups will also be starting back up soon. The Norwegian conversation group will begin meeting on Zoom on August 31. Our Strikkekafe knitting group and Rosemaling classes will start in person at Viking Hall on September 11. For more information, see the notices elsewhere in this issue.

And remember, it's not too early to get started on making folk art for the 2026 Convention! If you're interested in learning more about the Sons of Norway Cultural Skills program or any of the other cultural programs that the Bernt Balchen Lodge offers, contact Cultural Director/Librarian Christie Ericson, 907-602-0673 or christieak@gmail.com

COMING TO YOUR OCTOBER 10TH BOARD MEETING!

A Presentation from Charlene Howe and Galye Mathiesen

Enjoy a brief pictorial presentation on October 10 of a week spent on Hurtigruten's MS Trollfjord sailing along Norway's scenic coast starting in Svalbard, Norway. Check out the map showing the far-north location of Svalbard – only 400 miles away from the North Pole where there are more polar bears than people!

Do YOU know where Svalbard is?



STRIKKEKAFÉ



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

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 all 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.



Rosemaling Lessons

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

Amanda Saxton will be teaching 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



FRA BIBLIOTEKET



Tusen takk to everyone who has donated books to the Bernt Balchen Lodge Viking Library! We continue to add a great selection of Norwegian and Scandinavian-related titles to our collection, thanks to all of you!

In this issue, however, I'd like to highlight some of the historical books we have in our collection, particularly those related to our namesake, Colonel Bernt Balchen. Born on October 23, 1899 near Kristiansand, Balchen was a Norwegian pioneer polar aviator, navigator, aircraft mechanical engineer, and military leader. He later obtained dual Norwegian-American citizenship, served in the U.S. Air Force, and was eventually stationed for a time in Anchorage.

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Balchen's birth, a perfect time to celebrate his many notable achievements.

For further reading, check out these titles by or about Balchen which can be found in the lodge library:



Bernt Balchen: Polar Aviator by Carroll V. Glines (1999).

An extensive biography of Balchen by a retired Air Force colonel.



Come north with me: An autobiography by Bernt Balchen (1958).

"This book is high adventure written by the guy who lived it." [Amazon review]



Hitch your wagon: The story of Bernt Balchen by Clayton Knight and Robert Durham (1950).

An account of Balchen's life and the heroic part he played in WWII in the U.S. Army Air Force



The next fifty years of flight, as visualized by Bernt Balchen and told to Erik Bergaust (1954).

Details the futuristic vision of aviation by Balchen, as told to aviation journalist and flyer Erik Bergaust.



Poles apart: The Admiral Richard E. Byrd and Colonel Bernt Balchen odyssey by Bess Balchen (2004).

An account of the conflict between Balchen and Richard Byrd, written by Balchen's second wife.

Watch for the November/December Flyer where you can read more about Balchen's amazing life in an article from the October 1999 issue of Viking magazine (reprinted with permission) And stay tuned for more opportunities to celebrate!

Excerpt from Viking Magazine:

Every era has its heroic explorers. At the turn of the last century, it was polar explorers who were among the most famous and admired. Norwegians Fridtjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen were in the forefront of these explorations, and virtually every man, woman, and child in Norway followed their accomplishments.

Bernt Balchen was born in 1899 in Tveit, Norway. His uncle, Oluf Dietrichson, had crossed Greenland on skis with Nansen in 1888. Amundsen was a family friend who Balchen met in 1912, the year after Amundsen became the first person to reach the South Pole. Balchen says in his autobiography that when Amundsen asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, he answered "I want to be an explorer and go on an expedition with you."

Balchen did become an explorer and participate in one of Amundsen's expeditions. But aircraft—not ships or skis—were his means of exploration.

Library Hours: While the lodge library does not have regular hours, it is generally open during lodge events or by appointment. Contact Librarian Christie Ericson at 602-0673 or christieak@gmail.com for further information.

Browse or search the online library catalog: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/VikingLibrary>

We are also still taking donations of new or gently-used books. Any donations that we can't use will be sold in our book sale at the annual Nordic Market, with the funds raised going to purchase more books for the library.



Please join us at our 28th Annual Sons of Norway

NORDIC MARKET

September 28, 2024 | 10 am – 4 pm Viking Hall 8141 Briarwood Street

The 28th annual Nordic Market will be held both indoors and outdoors featuring Scandinavian cultural demonstrations including traditional rosemaling, and Norwegian knitting.

There will be many top-quality Scandinavian items for sale, including:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| New & Vintage Norwegian Sweaters | Finnish Kicksleds & Accessories | Handcrafted bird feeders |
| Wooden Gifts & Cribbage Boards | Authors to autograph their Books | Fur-Bearded Gnomes |
| Nordic-themed Door Hangers | Stained Glass and Fused Glass | Handcrafted Pillows & Recycled Art |
| Embossed Prints | Swedish Cardamom Buns & Dishcloths | Alaska Wildflowers Pressed on Glass |
| Handcrafted Jewelry | Nordic Home Goods & Food Gifts | Handsewn bowl cozies |
| Norwegian Hygge Candles | Handcrafted Wooden Items | Handwoven Textiles Finnish/
Ukrainian/Russian handicrafts |
| Quilted, Felted & Knit Items | Laser Engraved Art, Maps, Puzzles | Lobben Boots |
| Scandinavian & Alaskan Enamel Mugs | Hand-dyed Silk Scarves | Fresh Roasted Coffee |
| | Alaskan Wild Berry Jams & Jellies | |



The Nordic Café will be serving delicious food throughout the day offering a variety of Scandinavian Foods including Meatballs on a Stick and Polse (Reindeer dog wrapped in lefse). Waffles hot off the iron and Hot Autumn Cider will also be served.

Fresh Lefse and Prepackaged Pastries will be available at the Outdoor Bakery.

Our popular Scandinavian Silent Auction will be open until 3:00 pm.

Join the Crew!

The Nordic Market is a great day at the Lodge! Let us know that you want to be a part of the Nordic Cafe crew. Join us as we prepare and sell delicious food in a fun and friendly kitchen. We welcome all ages and will find a job that just suits your talents.

The Cafe is a popular stop at the Nordic Market. We serve Scandinavian-inspired food with a fresh twist - including Meatballs-on-a-Stick with a lingonberry side, Polse wrapped in lefse, Northern Soups, Chowders ... and don't forget the sweets like Rice Porridge, Waffles, Krumkake and fresh Oslo Kringle baked hourly. Mmmm !

The Market is our Lodge's main fund raiser. Many helping hands make the day a success.

Please send a text or call Gayle Mathiesen today at (907) 441-9358 so we can plug you into an opening in the Cafe.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS AND BAKED GOODS NEEDED FOR THE NORDIC MARKET!

We are still accepting donated Scandinavian/Nordic items for the Silent Auction, to be held during the Nordic Market on September 28th.

Gently used sweaters or bunads, candle holders, linens, knitwear, artwork, Christmas decorations and rosemaling are all items that have done well in previous years.

Contact the Lodge by phone message at 907-349-1613 or by email at sonan cak@gmail.com. We will arrange a time for you to either drop off your items, or we will pick them up.

Thank you for your support!



Bakers, if you would like to donate homemade cookies, cakes or breads, please bring them to the Nordic Market on Saturday, September 28th between 9 am and 2 pm.



All items must be packaged and ready to sell.

We will have labels there if you need them and can help with the pricing. This is the largest annual fund-raiser for our lodge, please help us make it a success!

Hint - Chocolate is VERY popular!

For more information call Anita @ 301-4215



Consul's Corner

Information and Opportunities for Norwegian Alaskans



Lise Kristiansen • Norwegian Honorary Consul, Alaska • Telephone: +1 (907) 440-5473
737 W. 5th Ave., Suite 210 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 www.norway.org



Norwegian Honorary Consul's and Embassy Staff at the Norwegian Embassy in Washington D.C.

The 27 honorary consuls for the U.S. region regularly meet at the Norwegian Embassy in Washington D.C. for updates and training. This year's meetings included presentations from the Embassy, Innovation Norway, Norwegian Energy Partners (NORWEP), the Norwegian Seafood Council, Invest in Norway, Norwegian Seaman's Church, NorCham, and the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce. At this meeting, we reviewed bilateral strategies and priorities, went into depth about the Norway-U.S. relationship with Ambassador Krutnes, and discussed ways that honorary consuls and partnering organizations could support one another. We also heard about plans for Norway's upcoming 2025 bicentennial.

Sjømannskirken – The Norwegian Seamen's Churches are commissioned by the Norwegian Parliament to serve Norwegians abroad. Twenty-eight churches around the world serve over 80 countries. When in Washington D.C. these past few years, I had the pleasure of meeting Pastor Jofrid Landa who works for the Seaman's Church in New York.

The Norwegian Seaman's Church offers comfort to local and travelling Norwegians with religious services and conversations for people during their time of need. I talked with Jofrid about our dear member, Eva Bilet who is now 98 years old and asked Jofrid to please let me know when her work brought her to Alaska so that she could possibly sit and talk with Eva. Jofrid remembered these conversations and called me in April with the great news that she was in Alaska for a day to meet with some students and she had a couple of hours available. Jofrid said she would be delighted to meet with Eva and went to visit her for a heartfelt conversation that ended with the Lord's Prayer which they said in Norwegian.

If you are someone or know of a person in need of services from the Seamen's Church, feel free to reach out to me and I will help facilitate a meeting for you.



Former Sons of Norway President and St. Olav Medal Recipient, Eva Bilet, and Jofrid Landa, Studentprest at Sjømannskirka.



Anniken Huitfeldt and Lise Kristiansen outside of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo Norway.

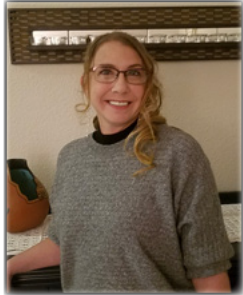
Anniken Huitfeldt - Our Next Norwegian Ambassador to the United States

I had the pleasure of meeting our soon to be Norwegian Ambassador to the United States, Anniken Huitfeldt, in Oslo, Norway, last week. Anniken is a Norwegian historian and politician who most recently served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Parliament. Prior to that she has served in Parliament as Minister of Children and Equality, Minister of Culture, and Minister of Labor and Social Inclusion. Anniken will be the first Parliamentarian to serve as Norwegian Ambassador to the U.S. During our visit in Oslo, I invited Anniken Huitfeldt to come to Alaska in December 2024, and she gladly accepted the invitation. Stay tuned for more information of her upcoming visit and opportunity to meet our new Norwegian Ambassador to the United States.

In Remembrance

Cara Michelle Turner June 9, 1979 - February 11, 2024

Cara Michelle (Dahl) Turner graced the world at her birth on June 9th, 1979, in Anchorage Alaska, born to Marc Dahl and Tammy Maggard. Cara graduated from East High School in 1997 and was selected as the outstanding gymnast during her junior year for the State of Alaska. Cara had a radiant smile and contagious laughter that illuminated every space she entered.



Cara married Jon Turner on September 4, 2011, and they embraced military destinations traveling across the United States, cherishing encounters with zoo animals and Disney Theme Park visits. Cara also joyfully taught children’s gymnastics, sharing her passion with the next generation.

Cara had a profound love for animals and opened her heart and home to many pets that needed love and a new home. Cara was a devoted reader, a skilled writer, and a budding artist. She found joy in the creative expression of her thoughts and emotions.

Cara treasured her family above all else. Her boundless love and devotion to her loved ones was unwavering. She found fulfillment in their presence, cherishing every moment shared.

On February 11, 2024, surrounded by the warmth and love of her family, Cara peacefully transitioned into eternity, leaving behind an enduring legacy of love and kindness. Cara requested to her mother Tammy that instead of flowers she would prefer donations be made to the Alaska Zoo. Tammy had a bench and plaque made in her honor and it is now placed at the Zoo. Thank you to all who made a memorial donation to the Zoo in Cara’s honor.



When Cara was 2 years old, and in the hospital, a nurse brought her a stuffed animal. This was something she remembered and after her Terminal Cancer diagnosis 2 years ago, she began collecting stuffed animals that would be donated to the Children’s Hospital.

Cara also began collecting yarn and books, with the wish that these items be donated to the Sons of Norway Lodge. Cara loved being able to attend with her grandparents, and help with any doings at the Sons of Norway Lodge.

Cara is survived by her husband Jon Turner, father Marc Dahl, and mother Tammy Maggard, sister Natalie Oberlender, nephews Ethan, Ayden, and Landen Oberlender. Grandparents Glenn and Susan Soby, many aunts, uncles, cousins, their children, and extended family who shared her love.

Friluftsliv Events

2024/2025

Sons of Norway Anchorage has celebrated Friluftsliv monthly for the past 5 years. Friluftsliv events began during the pandemic and provided a way for us to gather and enjoy Anchorage’s beautiful outdoors and recognize the important Nordic value of being outside.

There is an exciting opportunity to team up with Marti to continue these events.

Give her a call if you are interested in becoming a part of the Friluftsliv team and help host or plan monthly Friluftsliv activities (907-351-2378)

This fall SON’s Friluftsliv will join community wide Anchorage events.

Starting in September we will join the Bonny Sosa Tuesday night run. Many of our SON’s families can be found here participating by running and walking in parks around Anchorage. *The Tuesday night run goes through October.*

Put on your sneakers and join the fun. More information can be found at:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/TuesdayNightRaces.aspx>

In 2025 we plan to host The Wooden Ski classic, The Annual Winter Kubb tournament and a Spring Bird Watch.

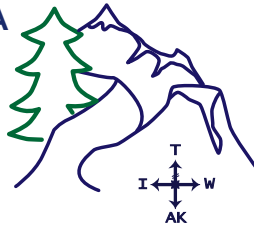
Stay tuned for dates and times in 2025.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR VIKINGS



INTO THE WOODS ALASKA

After School Programs
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 (All ages)




For information, and to sign up:

<https://intothewoodsalaska.com/>



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

kvern66@gmail.com

Attention:

Classifieds for Vikings



Our neighbors need us.

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.

Sons of Norway 8141 Briarwood Street



Anchorage, AK 99518 907-349-1613