

Norwegian and Finnish	
Delegation Visit	2-3
Blast from the Past	4
Sunshine Report	4
Superbowl Raffle	4
Friluftsliv Fun	5



Norsk Language Class	6
Ski for Light, Help needed	7
Lucia Celebration	8
Lutefisk Dinner Thanks	9
Nordic Market (aka Bazaar)	10-11
In Remembrance	12-14

November / December 2021 november / desember

SONS OF NORWAY BERNT BALCHEN LODGE – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings Lodge members and friends! The season of thankfulness is upon us and with it comes a great time to recognize the things, people, and aspects of life we appreciate. Our lodge has been busy this fall with the Faar-I-kaal and Lutefisk dinners; a wonderful visit from Norway’s Ambassador Krutnes; the annual Nordic Market; lefse making; and the monthly strikkekafe and friluftsliv outings. All of these very successful activities took a lot of coordination and time from event chairs and help from volunteers. There are many Norwegian words to express thanks to the members that do so much - hjertelig takk (thank you very much) and takk for hjelpen (thanks for the help). But the one that you all deserve from the bottom of our hearts is TUSEN TAKK (thousand thanks) we couldn’t have done it without you!



Helping out is something we do pretty good here at Bernt Blachen lodge. We are all volunteers here at the lodge and our success depends greatly on everyone pitching in and helping out with what interests you most. Please think about getting more involved with the lodge and volunteering at our next event. Many of our lodge members long time friendships were forged helping out in the kitchen (usually rolling lefse)!

Congratulation to this year’s Lucia, Brooke Robertson! Brooke has been participating in the Lucia pageant since she was 4 years old. This year’s festival will be held outdoors with a candle parade and sledding on December 12th. Stay tuned for more details via EBlast. To help with planning purposes, please contact Jennifer Robertson if your children can participate (907-952-2058).

In closing, I want to recognize the loss of one of our cherished members – Anna Decker. Anna served as a past president of our lodge and will always be remembered for her beautiful rosemaling. She taught many of us how to rosemale wooden pieces that we proudly display in our homes and she painted the lodge’s lectern and designs around the hall’s interior walls. Also known as the Queen of Lefse she spent years in the kitchen teaching us how to roll lefse, followed up with hours of volunteering at numerous events all with her good nature and beautiful smile. Our deepest condolences are extended to her family, and to families and friends of members that we have lost this fall. See the memorials on pages 12- 14.

Fraternally yours, Linda Bustamante, President, Bernt Balchen Lodge

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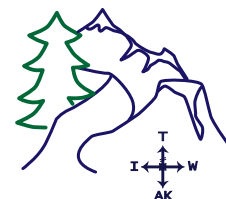
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Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @kicksledalaska

INTO THE WOODS ALASKA

After school programs for elementary age children are currently at Inlet View, Chugach Optional and Rilke Schule.



Early Summer Camp sign up starts on November 26th.

Discounts available for early registration.

For information, and to sign up: <https://intothewoodsalaska.com/>

OUR VISIT WITH THE NORWEGIAN AND FINNISH DELEGATIONS



Anniken Krutnes is Norway's first female Ambassador to the United States. Along with the Norwegian Delegation we were also honored to meet the Finnish Delegation. She and Finnish Consul General Okko-Pekka Salmimies were in town to participate in the "Ambassadors Unplugged" program on Thursday, September 16th at the Anchorage Museum.



While here, they enjoyed coffee, and pastries from the Flying Dutchman, hiked Alyeska, and enjoyed Faar-i-kaal dinner with members of Bernt Balchen Lodge.

Thanks for the visit, and come back soon!

Photos from the Norwegian and Finnish Delegation Visit *Continued on Page 3*

FUN, FRILUFTSLIV AND FAAR-I-KAAL

Photos from the Norwegian and Finnish Delegation Visit *Continued from Page 2*



It takes a dedicated group to prepare for events like these. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort. Special thanks to Lise Kristiansen, Honorary Consul, Norwegian Consulate, Alaska; Anita Persson, Consul Assistant, Norwegian Consulate, Alaska; and Linda Bustemante, President of Bernt Balchen Lodge, for coordinating the events.

BLAST FROM THE PAST!



 **SUNSHINE REPORT** 

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Arnold Link | Gale A Olson |
| Gene A. Moe | James H. Hansen |
| Al NMN Pedersen | Orvetta Rae Elde |
| Glenn R. Soby | Judith Thompson |

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Eva Bilet | Wallace A Smith |
| John L Barstad | Carl J Pearson |
| Anstice M. Tibor | |

If you know someone who needs a little sunshine

**Call 696-0725 (cell - 862-1143) or email Cindy McDowell:
ccmcd38@hotmail.com**

Cindy is retiring from her Sunshine duties and we need someone to carry on this important lodge tradition.

The duties are light, the reward great! Contact Cindy to find out how to bring Sunshine to our members!



**2022
SUPER BOWL RAFFLE
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**

We still have tickets for the Sons of Norway 2022 Super Bowl Raffle! This is the primary source of funds for the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge No. 2-046 Language/ Heritage/Higher Education Scholarships.

Sons of Norway indoor gathering opportunities are limited from now until the Super Bowl game on February 13, 2022. That is why we are urging you to reach out to any one of our committee members, John—907-748-0704, Sandra—907-243-2132, Jane—907-227-2735, or Wayne—907-748-0098, to request raffle tickets. Please give one of us a call and we will arrange getting tickets to you. Tickets are also available through the Viking Hall office at 907-349-1613 (please leave a message).

You can also send us an email at: sonacak@gmail.com

The raffle is the primary source of funds for the Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge No. 2-046 Language/Heritage/Higher Education Scholarships. 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 during the airing of Super Bowl LVI on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

Friluftsliv Fun

September: it was a wonderful day to climb the North Face trail up to the viewing area by the 7 Glaciers Restaurant. The tram ride down was much faster!



October: We had a beautiful Friluftsliv on the Turnagain trail inlet view hike. Lovely crunchy yellow leaves, sunshine and inlet vistas.



November: The sky was clear for a walk on the Denali view trail. The Friluftsliv folk were decked out in beautiful Norwegian knits.



UPCOMING FRILUFTSLIV EVENTS

Friluftsliv happens once a month. Usually on Sunday's at 2:00. Mark your calendar to join us outside to enjoy each other's company, share some Nordic snacks and explore beautiful Anchorage places. We will go rain or snow. There is never bad weather, only bad clothing. **These events usually last 2-3 hours.**

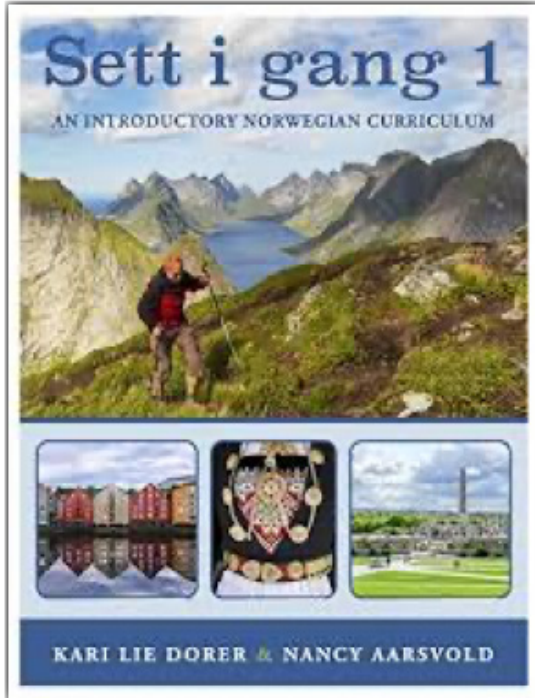
December: This special Friluftsliv will be the Lucia Celebration to be held Sunday, December 12th - 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Pavillion at Abbott Loop Community Park (8101 Elmore). See Page 8.

The Pavillion has been rented all day, so bring your favorite winter sports gear - skis, sleds, kicksleds, snow shoes - and get out and play, before or after the official ceremony! *And, stay tuned for a possible second Friluftsliv towards the end of December.*

NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE & CONVERSATION GROUP

NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE SELF-STUDY GROUP

NOVEMBER 6, 2021 – MAY 2, 2022



We are trying out something a little different with the Norwegian Language and Culture Class for 2021/22. We will not be offering an in-person class or a Zoom class on Sunday evenings this year due to schedule conflicts. Instead, we are organizing a self-study group for students to work through the textbook independently at their own pace.

We will be using the Sett i gang textbooks which are designed for self-study learners and students in the first year of university courses or the first two years of community education and high school classes. The textbooks also come with free access to the Sett i gang website (<https://settigang.com/>), where the authors have provided additional resources. Students should acquire one of the following textbooks according to their language level:

Beginning students:

Sett i gang 1: An Introductory Norwegian Curriculum (Second Edition) by Kari Lie Dorer & Nancy Aarsvold. It is available through Amazon in either the print (\$59.99) or Kindle (\$39.99) editions. ISBN: 1530276004

Intermediate students:

Sett i gang 2: An Introductory Norwegian Curriculum (Second Edition) by Kari Lie Dorer & Nancy Aarsvold. It is available through Amazon in either the print (\$59.99) or Kindle (\$39.99) editions. ISBN: 1540745716

NORSK SAMTALEGRUPPE/NORWEGIAN CONVERSATION GROUP

SATURDAY MORNINGS VIA ZOOM, 10-11AM AK TIME

In addition to the independent self-study group, we will be resuming our Norwegian Conversation Group on Saturday mornings via Zoom.

Students working their way through the textbooks are encouraged to attend and ask any questions they might have. Native Norwegian speaker, Lillian Anderson, originally from Kristiansand, Norway, will be on hand to answer any questions. The goal is to have students practice what they've learned from the text, no matter what level they are at. If you just want to come and listen, that's fine, too! Native Norwegian speakers are also invited to come and help us practice.

We'll also be setting up a shared Google Doc where participants can add questions that they have about the textbook or about the Norwegian language in general.

If you are interested in joining this self-study group or the conversation group, contact Christie Ericson at christieak@gmail.com or 907-602-0673.

NORSK SAMTALEGRUPPE

Norwegian Conversation Group

Practice your Norwegian language skills. No experience necessary. All levels welcome.

Starting November 6th Saturdays ~ 10-11 am via Zoom

Contact Christie Ericson for login information: christieak@gmail.com 907-602-0673

THANK YOU - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



SKI FOR LIGHT, INC.

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October 26, 2021

Dear Sons of Norway Friends,

Since 1975, Sons of Norway lodges and members have enthusiastically supported Ski for Light, enabling thousands of visually- and mobility-impaired skiers, sighted guides, and volunteers to join together to experience the exhilaration of cross-country skiing and the rejuvenating benefits of being physically active outdoors.

We are currently planning our 47th annual Ski for Light International Week, which will be held January 30-February 6, 2022, in Granby, Colorado. There is keen interest in the event as skiers and guides are eager to grab their skis and explore the beautiful trails at Snow Mountain Ranch. For more information about the event, please visit our website at <http://www.sfl.org/>.

Thank you for your past donations, and I hope you can contribute again this year. Your support enables us to stage the annual SFL International Week, to keep event fees affordable, and to provide the opportunities for sharing and learning that are unique to Ski for Light.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed envelope. Or, if you prefer, you can donate on-line on the SFL website, by following the link under the "Donate to Ski for Light" heading.

<https://www.sfl.org/donate/>

← Click NOW to Donate

Thank you for your commitment to Ski for Light. It invigorates our efforts to enhance the quality of participants' lives through the shared experience of cross-country skiing.

Fraternally Yours,

Tim McCorcle
President

LUCIA CELEBRATION

Brooke is the daughter of lodge members Christoffer and Jennifer Robertson and sister to Paige. Granddaughter to Claud and Linda Garrett and lodge member Sigrun Robertson. She started in Lucia program when she was 4 years old. She is now 17 and a senior at Socratic Focus.

Brooke's passions include: cats, writing, poetry, video games, speleology (study of caves) and cryptobiology (Study of mythological creatures and cryptids). She lives with three cats. Her cat is named Loki after the Norse god of trickery. Her love for writing not only includes poetry, but fantasy and science fiction. While cryptobiology has been an interest since she was little, she recently discovered speleology and has become very interested, very quickly.

She looks forward to attending university to discover her future career. She's toured APU and is looking forward to touring UAA before settling on a university.

She is very honored to be this year's Lucia.



2021 Lucia - Brooke Robertson



A seasoned Lucia participant, Brooke is third from the left.

IMPORTANT DATES

Lucia Practice

Sunday, December 5th - 4:00 pm at Viking Hall

Lucia Celebration

Sunday, December 12th - 2:00 to 4:00 pm
The Pavillion at Abbott Loop Community Park
(8101 Elmore)

This year's Lucia will be a bit different.

Since it will be outside there will be warm drinks, and the usual candle light procession, but this time with robes over coats and snow boots!

This is a beautiful park with outdoor fun for all ages.

The event will be from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on the 12th, but Sons of Norway has rented the Pavillion for the whole day!

Brooke's grandmother, Sigrun Robertson will tell the story of Lucia.

There will be singing, gift bags to hand out, and the opportunity to have the Lucia Celebration the "Friluftsliv Way".

If you wish to help out, please contact Jennifer Robertson at: jrobertson@gci.net or 907-952-2058

LUTEFISK DINNER THANK YOU



This year's Take-Out Lutfisk Dinner (with those tasty meatballs!) was a huge success! We served 130 take-out meals at our event on Saturday, November 6 totaling nearly 200 pounds of lutfisk and over 700 meatballs! Everyone was masked and practiced our food service hand-hygiene to ensure we all stayed healthy while providing this opportunity for us to enjoy this long-standing lodge tradition.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event run smoothly, from planning the online ordering to procuring the food and supplies to preparing and serving the meals as well as clean up.

Special thanks to: John & Cynthia Olnes and the lefse baking crew for all their efforts, Sig Restad who provided the Valley-grown potatoes and veggies for the lefse and the meal, Patrick McCormick's crew of Patrick, Anne, Pia Meyer and Karin Wanamaker for rolling and baking over 700 meatballs (!), Wayne Johnson and Patrick McCormick for preparing the lovely lutfisk and Wayne for cooking it to perfection, Linda Bustamante and Tina Watts for their guidance and

coordinating the serving team, and of course all those who helped with confirmation calls, veggie prep, and worked at the event: Anne Adasiak-Andrew, Linda Bustamante, Christie Ericson, Janel Ireton, Wayne Johnson, Ruth Kvernplassen, Pia Meyer, David Michaelson, Lisa Nelson, Anita Persson and Tina Watts. We couldn't have done this without you!

Do you have suggestions for how we might improve our event for the future?

Please let us know by sending us an email: tandrew.ak@gmail.com

Mange takk, Tim Andrew & Patrick McCormick
Lutfisk Dinner Co-chairs



NORDIC MARKET

*It takes a dedicated group to host an event like the Nordic Market!
All the hard work made this one of the most successful markets to date.*

*A very special Tusen Takk to the Chairs of this event:
Charlene Howe, Anita Persson, and Gayle Mathiesen.*

*Another Tusen Takk to the many volunteers
who helped to make this happen.*



NORDIC MARKET



In Remembrance

Anna Decker

October 23, 1940 - November 8, 2021

Anna Decker, 81 died November 8, 2021 at home.

Anna was born October 23, 1940 in Petersburg, Alaska. She went to nursing school in Wyoming and returned to Alaska with her husband and 2 children in 1972 and added her third child in 1974.

She was a Registered Nurse with the Civil Service working at Elmendorf AFB and Alaska Native Medical Center, retiring in 2000. She was an active member of the Sons of Norway, Eastern Star and Pioneers of Alaska. She loved to paint in the Traditional Norwegian style and taught others the same.

Her love of travel was immense and she spent many summers traveling across the country and up and down the Alcan Highway enough times that we lost count!

Anna is preceded in death by her husband Dale Decker, her parents Per and Lovise Sather, sisters, Oline Gruening and Patricia Thomassen. She is survived by her 3 children, Kirsten Bowers, Kirk Decker and Karen Schaf. 5 Grandchildren; Jennifer, Aubrey, Mackenzie, CJ and Karson and 3 great grandchildren; Charlotte, Jaxson and Luke and her brother Per Sather Jr. of La Grande, Oregon.

Anna was Past President of Sons of Norway, Bernt Balchen Lodge.

A celebration of life will be held on December 4, 2021 from 12 to 4:00 pm at the Sons of Norway Viking Hall located at 8141 Briarwood St. Anchorage Alaska 99518.

You are welcome to share your thoughts, memories, and RSVP for the celebration of life at: <https://everloved.com/life-of/anna-decker>.



Kjell Kristiansen

September 7, 1929 - October 21, 2021

Kjell Kristiansen was an adventurer who came to America looking for opportunities and a place where he could create his own path. He met the joy of his life, Marit Helgesen, in Seattle, Wash., and convinced her that Alaska was the place to be. In Alaska, he worked hard with Marit by his side, building a business and raising their family. Kjell enjoyed music, dancing and being outside in nature. You could often find him cross-country skiing or walking on the Coastal Trail. Kjell was proud of his Norwegian heritage and would often travel back to the family farm in Mandal, Norway, to be with his siblings and place of childhood memories.

Kjell was born to Thom and Cecilie Askeland Kristiansen in Stavanger, Norway. He attended Stavanger Tekniske Skole, earning an engineering Degree. He served in the Norwegian Army and Merchant Marine. Kjell came to Alaska in 1965, working in construction, contracting and real estate.

He is survived by Marit, his wife of 58 years; daughters, Kari Kristiansen (John Darnall) and Lise Kristiansen (fiance Anthony Torres); grandchildren, Marianne Kristiansen, Leif Darnall, Erik Falskow and Espen Falskow; and sister, Magnhild Donnum in Oslo, Norway; and Tom Falskow. Kjell was laid to rest at Anchorage Memorial Cemetery in a private service.

Kjell was preceded in death by his parents; and his brothers, Ernst and Rolf Kristiansen.

The family would like to thank Aspen Creek Senior Living for their compassion and care. Donations may be made in his memory to the Salvation Army or Sons of Norway Bernt Balchen Lodge, 8141 Briarwood, Anchorage, AK 99507.

Vi lyser Fred over hans minne.

To see full obituaries please go to: <https://obituaries.adn.com/>

In Remembrance



Jaysen Mathiesen

August 17, 1960 - September 16, 2021

Jaysen Mathiesen left this world to be with his Savior on Sept. 16, 2021. He passed with family at his side from rapid onset pneumonia. Jaysen was born in Sioux Falls, S.D. to Elwin & Shirley Mathiesen on Aug. 17, 1960. They moved to Vancouver, Wash. where he was active in high school football, church youth group, and climbing the Pacific NW mountains.

In 1983, following graduation with an engineering degree from Oregon State University, he set his sights on working in Alaska and pursuing a girl who caught his eye at college. He was persistent in his endeavors and Sept. 28, 1984 Jaysen married Gayle Brodahl and their adventure together began. Outings of skiing, white-water rafting, snow machining and piloting his boat to and from

Seattle gave the family many stories and memories.

Jaysen was a talented general contractor. He started Cornerstone Construction in 1993, building quality projects throughout Alaska. After 20 years, Jaysen then started M-Alaska Construction where he relished a new chapter working alongside his family. He was an innovative man who earned numerous awards for his work, though he consistently kept his faith and his family as priority.

Jaysen was unpretentious, quietly giving time and resources to the community, Christian churches, and schools. Family was greatly important in Jaysen's life. He was notorious for his big surprises, his humor, and his detailed planning of extended family trips. From the Alaskan wilds to the open seas, from alpine cabins to the beaches of Thailand, Jaysen's adventurous spirit lifted the entire family.

Memorials may be sent to Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission.

Jaysen leaves behind his wife, Gayle; sons, Jacob and Christian; and many loving extended family members.

Douglas Iverson

September 26, 1934 - September 9, 2021

Douglas LeRoy Iverson, 86, passed away at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage, Alaska, on Sept. 9, 2021 after complications from a stroke he had in July.

Douglas was born in Englevale, N.D., on Sept. 26, 1934, to James Clair and Fern Iverson. He moved to Alaska in September 1947, where he met Shirley (Gilman) Iverson at Anchorage High School in 1954, and made her his wife on Feb. 11, 1956. Doug's first job in Anchorage was Gilman's Bakery Inc. where he worked from 1956-1966, during that time he was also employed at Oklahoma State University where he attended from 1957-1958. He then went onto work for National Bank of Alaska starting in 1970. His final position was in Auditing Department as Vice President and Internal Security Officer. He retired in 1997, after working there for 27 years.

Central Lutheran Church has been the family church since 1947, where he was confirmed. Doug and his wife Shirley were the 2013 King & Queen Regents from the Pioneers of Alaska for Fur Rondy - a very special honor. Doug was a life member of Pioneer of Alaska, Anchorage Elks, Alaska Peace Officer Assoc., and Mt. McKinley Lions Club, he also loved tinkering in the garage with small fixes and projects.

Doug will be remembered by so many people that he worked with, and he was well-thought-of by all of them. But he will be mostly remembered and missed by his family, especially his wife Shirley of 65 years. They loved to travel; she was his copilot on trips and thru their life together. As Shirley likes to say about him to everyone, "He is a really good guy."

Survivors include his wife, Shirley Iverson of Anchorage; son, Donald G. (Christy) Iverson of Washington; daughter, Jill (Ed) Partin of North Carolina; grandchildren, Nathan (Kelly) Iverson of Pennsylvania, Jennifer Iverson of Washington, Donald B. Iverson of Ohio, Jessica Iverson of Washington, Kristin Partin of South Carolina and John Partin of North Carolina; brother, Larry (Sylvia) Iverson of California; sister, Francie Duty of Texas; nieces, Debbie Larsh, Paula (Rick) Brault, Melissa Larsh all of Alaska and Amanda Duty of Arizona; nephews, Erin (Kelli) Iverson of Alaska, Darrel Duty and Jonathan Duty both of Arizona; great-granddaughters, Kaia Iverson and Athena Iverson, both of Pennsylvania; and great-grandson, August Iverson of Pennsylvania.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James Clair and Fern Iverson; sister, Marilyn Larsh; and grandson, Donald G. Iverson Jr.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Central Lutheran Church Women's Guild, 1420 Cordova Street, Anchorage, AK 99501.



To see full obituaries please go to: <https://obituaries.adn.com/>

In Remembrance



James T Tibor

December 15, 1938 - August 31, 2021

Jim was born in Dickinson, ND to Thomas and Minnie Tibor. The family moved to American Falls, ID in 1939 and Jim attended school there and graduated high school in 1957. He graduated from Idaho State University with a major in Engineering Management in 1962.

He came to Alaska in 1963 to work for the Alaska Department of Highways on the Parks Highway bridge over the Susitna River. He weathered the 1964 earthquake at the bridge project and then was assigned to road recovery projects on Kodiak Island. He worked for GHEMM Company Construction in Fairbanks beginning in 1966 until 1973. He then was hired by University of Alaska Anchorage Facilities Planning and Construction and transferred to Anchorage in 1973. He managed many projects including the construction of the Consortium Library, Fine Arts building, student housing, and a number of projects at Valdez and Homer. He retired in 1998 as Acting Associate Vice-Chancellor of Facilities and Campus Services.

He was proud that out of all his high school classmates, he was the only one that had farmed with a team of horses. While single, he traveled extensively to Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. He married Anstice Munroe at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Fairbanks on December 21, 1968. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his two sons. Anstice and he loved dancing and travel. He was a member of St. Patrick's Parish, the Sons of Norway, and the Czech Society. He is survived by his wife, Anstice; son Tom and Onni, grandchildren Gavin and Giselle; son Mike and Alexis, granddaughters Maggie and Emily; daughter Suzie, grandchildren Lilly and Matthias; sisters Pat Calanni, Karen and Hamp Jenkins; and brothers John and Loretta Tibor, and Jerry and Jane Tibor.

To see full obituaries please go to: <https://obituaries.adn.com/>

*Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am in a thousand winds that blow,
I am the softly falling snow.
I am the gentle showers of rain,
I am the fields of ripening grain.
I am in the morning hush,
I am in the graceful rush*

*Of beautiful birds in circling flight,
I am the starshine of the night.
I am in the flowers that bloom,
I am in a quiet room.
I am in the birds that sing,
I am in each lovely thing.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there. I do not die. -Mary Elizabeth Frye*

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 for The Flyer: kvern66@gmail.com Attn: The Flyer