

Vasa Order of America

A Swedish - American Fraternal Organization



Drott Lodge # 168

Established 1910 - Washington, DC

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON JULIE OLSON

As we embark on our 2012 season and began the flurry of activity associated with planning the entire year of events, it became evident that the founding principles and purpose of Vasa remain steadfast within our Lodge. The dedication, time, and devotion routinely displayed by our members in order to celebrate and preserve our Nordic heritage is truly heartwarming.

As I began my first month as chairperson, I was overwhelmed with the show of support and encouragement from our members. I respect and admire the efforts of all those that have preceded me on this journey - and I am enthusiastic for the year ahead, dedicated to the growth and success of our lodge, and strongly encourage member participation in our activities.

With the annual call for membership dues in this issue, I encourage each of you to read through our entire newsletter – taking note of the many benefits associated with belonging to our lodge and reviewing our 2012 calendar of events. The Executive Board has scheduled an exciting year of activities in an effort to help the lodge flourish. The latest issue of *Washingtonian* magazine lists Scandinavia in their top trends for 2012 – and I challenge our Lodge to participate in this movement.

Join me at our upcoming meeting which includes a wonderful presentation by Carl Göran Olsson. We will have free Drott Lodge 2012 Calendar of Events magnets, a raffle with new Vasa merchandise, our Lodge's 102nd birthday celebration, and the sale of trendy new Drott Lodge lanyards for our members.

In Truth & Unity,
Julie L. Olson

FEBRUARY MEETING

Hear the Story of this Swedish -American Family

Date: Sunday, Feb 12

Time: 2:00 pm

(set-up 1:30)

Location: St. James



Carl Göran Olsson will present a joyful picture and music presentation about his family. He will tell us about the adventures of his relative who left Sweden to seek his fortune in Colorado more than 100 years ago. He is known to us as a wonderful and cheerful folk musician who appeared in our Lucia celebration with his daughter Olga and is the leader of the Nordic Magic Fiddle Group. Don't miss it!

Try your luck at a raffle for a Vasa baseball cap!

Pick up a free Drott Lodge 2012 magnetic Calendar of Events.

Pick up a package of yellow peas for making the pea soup featured at the Pea Soup and Plättar Dinner at the March 11 meeting.

Sample some Swedish goodies made with love by your fellow members the day before with the advice of our great baker Eva Dunhem. Call Eva to join the baking group on the 11th.

Bring your children to the Kids Corner to try their hands at making Swedish hearts & photo frames.

JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting was the occasion for installing Drott Officers for 2012 (listed below). They welcome your ideas for the operation of the Lodge.

OFFICE	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
CHAIRPERSON	Julie Olson	571-224-6044	julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com
VICE CHAIRPERSON	Arne Dunhem	703-847-0940	adunhem@arielway.com
RECORDING SEC.	Linda Smith	240-912-7120	leslieandlinda2@comcast.net
ASST RECORDING SEC	Carol Whitley	202-686-6214	Carol4600@verizon.net
FINANCIAL SEC	Betty M. Johnson	410-635-8917	bmj7q@uvawise.edu
ASST FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Debra Nelson	240-432-0274	j.nelson6@att.net
TREASURER	Marianne Diaz	301-371-7273	marinick1@comcast.net
CULTURAL LEADER	Arne Dunhem	703-847-0940	adunhem@arielway.com
HISTORIAN	Karin Alexis Frenze	703-560-0793	chrisfrend@aol.com
CHAPLAIN	Larilyn Andre	202-467-2644	larilynandre@gmail.com
PAST CHAIRMAN	Margaret Schueman	703-734-0319	margaret@schueman.com
CHAIR/TRUSTEES	Michael Moran	301-948-5299	gailmoran@aol.com
CHAIR/AUDITORS	Robert Widholm	301-989-0933	Rwidh@aol.com
MEMBERSHIP	Betty M. Johnson	410-654-8917	bmj7q@uvawise.edu



2012 Drott Officers and Installation Ceremony participants

Members of the January meeting were treated to a fascinating program presented by Erland Magnusson, based on his long and successful career with communications satellites. Thank you, Erland!





Vasa Order of America Drott Lodge #168

2012 Calendar

- 2/12/12 A Swedish-American Family Story
- 3/11/12 Peasoup and Plättar Dinner & Swedish Song Lesson
- 4/15/12 Nordic Dancing & Swedish Folkdräkt Fashion Show
- 5/6/12 Ice Cream Social, Traditional Games & Handicrafts
- 5/20/12 Nordic Fiddle Magic
- 6/24/12 Midsommar Picnic
- 7/28/12 John Eriksson Memorial Celebration Picnic
- 9/2/12 Scandinavian Fest (overnight bus trip to NJ)
- 10/14/12 Welcome Back Potluck
- 11/3/12 Swedish Bazaar
- 12/9/12 St. Lucia Program & Jul Celebration

Check www.drott-lodge.org for event locations and meeting times

MESSAGE FROM FINANCIAL SECRETARY BETTY JOHNSON

Dear Members of DROTT LODGE #168,

It is my responsibility as the Financial Secretary of the Lodge to remind you that - Now is the time for all good DROTT members to pay their DUES for 2012.

Thank you to seven of our dedicated members that have already paid their dues for the year! If you are not one of those seven, please send me your check. Specific information is listed below:

For most members, dues are \$25.00.

For members between 14 and 25 years old, dues are \$15.40.

Members who are 75 years or older and have been members for at least ten years and have Life Status pay only \$15.40.(Of course we are always appreciative of members who continue to pay the full membership fee of \$25.00).

Members who achieved Life Status prior to January 1998 are encouraged to pay dues, but not required.

If you have additional questions, please call me at (410) 635-8917, or email bmj7q@uvawise.edu . I look forward to hearing from you! ~ Betty

Checks can be brought to the February meeting or sent to:
BETTY M. JOHNSON
14830 OAK ORCHARD ROAD
NEW WINDSOR, MD 21776-8917

The Many Benefits of Membership

In addition to the fellowship we enjoy throughout the year and our dedication to preserve Nordic customs and traditions, your Vasa membership includes many other features:

Vasa Scholarships & Educational Fund (see page 8 for an opportunity)

Subscription to The Vasa Star magazine

Access to the Vasa Archives

Youth & children's clubs

Cultural events & activities

Drott Lodge's monthly e-Newsletter

Monthly cultural programs, speakers, and activities

Festive seasonal celebrations hosted by the Lodge

Discounted tickets to special excursions sponsored by the Lodge

Renew your membership today and continue to enjoy these many benefits!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 2, Meet the Producer of “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo,” 6-8 pm, House of Sweden, conversation with producer Søren Stærmose, US Tour of Sweden Behind the Scenes with Stærmose.

Monday, February 6, St. Olaf Choir Celebrates 100 Years, Music Center at Strathmore, Bethesda, 7:30 pm

Founded in 1912 at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN by conductor F. Melius Christiansen, the St. Olaf Choir has been consistently recognized internationally as an ensemble that sets an uncompromising standard of excellence and innovation.

Conductor Robert Shaw, one of America's greatest choral luminaries of the 20th Century, offered this praise of a St. Olaf Choir concert in 1983:

"From all the standpoints – intonation, enunciation, tonal beauty and balance, rhythmic vitality and musical style – it was absolutely first-rate ... I do not know of any college or university in the United States where choral singing of this quality goes on day-in and year-out."

Saturday, March 31, Vasa Ventures. Outing to Domku Cafe, Washington, DC

NATIONWIDE CASTING SEARCH FOR AMERICANS WITH SWEDISH ROOTS, www.greatswedishadventure.com

Meter Television is searching for Americans with Swedish ancestry for a reality TV-show. After the major success of Great Swedish Adventure-Allt för Sverige (The Swedish title of the show) season 1, they are now casting for season 2.

The Producers are coming to the U.S. to find fun, outgoing and adventurous Americans with Swedish ancestry to participate in their second season television series “Allt för Sverige.”

Americans will travel to Sweden and participate in an exciting television series. Chosen participants will compete in extreme cultural challenges to

discover their rich and fascinating roots while trying to win the grand prize: MEETING THEIR SWEDISH RELATIVES.

“Allt för Sverige” will be shot and broadcast in Sweden and potentially other countries as well. This is an incredible “once in a lifetime” opportunity for someone to discover their ancestry and experience their rich and fascinating Swedish cultural heritage.

OTHER MEMBER NEWS

SCHOLARSHIPS

The \$1000 Grand Lodge Scholarship and Essay Contest for 2012 is in progress. The applications can be downloaded and must be post marked by Feb. 15, 2012. Check it out. Perhaps you know some young people who can apply. Look at the Grand Lodge website: [www.vasaorder.net/choose/Dist PA 9/view/news](http://www.vasaorder.net/choose/Dist%20PA%209/view/news).

Are you or your children looking for a new challenge this year?

PA District #9 Scholarships are available for young people who want to go to **Concordia Summer Language Village** to learn or brush up on their Swedish or other Scandinavian language. These courses get rave reviews.

Adults can apply for the **Scandinavian Cultural Opportunity for Learning Scholarship** (maximum of \$1,500). You could go to a destination in Scandinavia or the US to explore a learning experience which could be shared with fellow members. Maybe you would enjoy becoming involved in an on-going Scandinavian activity which could then be shared with the district members. Get other members to join you!

For more information, visit www.drott-lodge.org and click on the link for Scholarships. Applications are due by March 1st. Note: young people must either be a member in good standing of Vasa or have a parent or grandparent in good standing for at least one year. The adults who apply must also be members in good standing for at least one year.

The Vasa Star is looking for a new Editor.

Marie Carlson, editor of the *Vasa Star* since 2002, has resigned her position. She has moved to Sweden and has accepted a job as a teacher for students in Swedish schools whose first language is English. The Grand Lodge is currently searching for someone to fill this important part-time position. The *Vasa Star* has recently converted to become a quarterly magazine.

Qualifications:

1. Experience in newsletter or magazine preparation
2. Attention to detail, attention to scheduling and setting deadlines
3. Able to read, write, and understand Swedish
4. Able to write English correctly and concisely
5. Able to translate English to Swedish and Swedish to English
6. Familiarity and knowledge of Vasa Order of America
7. Bookkeeping skills to handle billing and collection of fees.
8. Ability to solicit advertisers

Those who are interested in learning more may contact the Grand Secretary for additional information, the job description, stipend, and application, at vasajlg@aol.com.

Members are encouraged to apply. This would be a good opportunity to become involved and increase your publishing experience at the same time.

BIRTHDAYS

We send Happy Birthday wishes to Irene Nelson, who will turn 93 on February 7. Best wishes, Irene!

DEATH NOTICE

We are saddened to report that Lois Johnson, a long-time Drott member, died January 1 in Silver Spring, MD, at the age of 91. The Lodge Charter will be draped in her memory at the February 12 meeting.

Newsletter Editor, Linda E. Smith