



Drott Lodge No. 168
Vasa Order of America
Washington, D.C.

NEWSLETTER
www.drott-lodge.org

JANUARY 2019

Happy New Year to All! / Gott nytt år allihopa!

Drott Lodge is gearing up for the year and we need your help. We all recognize the Lodge is something very special and ask that you all please help spread the news. Let's grow our membership and welcome more members that have Sweden and Scandinavia in their hearts!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEHIND THE SCENES OF SWEDISH REALITY TV

Sunday, January 13, 2:30 pm

Undercroft of St. James' Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac MD

Drott Lodge's very own Ashley Mullinax was lucky enough to be chosen as one of the American reality stars of the 2018 Swedish TV series, *Allt för Sverige*. Ashley will share her experiences, favorite clips from her series and behind the scenes insights into what *really* goes on filming reality TV. The entire series can be viewed on YouTube. The English title is *Great Swedish Adventure*.

DROTT LODGE BUSINESS MEETING

ELECTION OF 2019 OFFICERS & 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 13, 2:30 pm

Undercroft of St. James' Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac MD

The business meeting following our cultural presentation will focus on the election and installation of Drott Lodge Officers for 2019. We will also discuss our upcoming events for the year. The events include the Pea Soup Dinner, Valborgsmässoafton, the Midsommar Picnic, the Crayfish Party and, of course, our year-end events: the Annual Bazaar and Sankta Lucia Procession/Julfest. Also on the agenda are other cultural presentations, including the planning of a new ABBAPALOOZA Party!

Our Nominating Committee offers the following suggested slate of candidates for Officers for 2019. We appreciate all comments and inputs received thus far. We continue to welcome comments on the proposed candidates as well as any other nominations! Please contact Nominating Committee Chair Larilyn André at 703-659-5128 or larilynandre@gmail.com. Nominations and comments can also be made at the January meeting, for either yourself or another member.

Proposed Candidates

Chair: Arne Dunhem

Vice Chair: Larilyn André

Recording Secretary: Lisa Jacobson

Asst. Recording Secretary: Allison Bennett

Treasurer: Eva Dunhem

Asst. Treasurer: Marianne Diaz

Membership/Financial Secretary: Carol Whitley

Asst. Membership Secretary: Katrin Shoemaker

Historian: Linda Smith

Webmaster: Susan Remmert

Newsletter Editor: Jeffrey de Hart

Chaplin: Ralph Anderson

Cultural Committee: Marit Knollmueller, Susan Remmert,
Janet Johnson, Laura Rhodes, Rod Rydlun

Trustee: Julie Olson

Auditor: Peter Olson

The following committees are forming and have room for additional members:

- Cultural Planning Committee – suggests cultural activities for the coming year
- Policy Index and By-laws Committee – sets out guidance for lodge operations
- Special Goals Committee – identifies/recommends worthy causes donations

DROTT'S SANKTA LUCIA & JULFEST

The Drott 2018 Lucia Pageant was a great success. A large audience enjoyed the singing and readings, the search by the tomténisse for the lost farm animal, the Christmas Goat, watching the children decorate a small tree, and the passing of the light. Most of those attending joined the Jul Party in the undercroft, enjoying conversation and delicious food.



Our lovely Lucia was Ava Sofia Birdwell, daughter of Drott member Christine Svevar and her husband Scott Birdwell. Ava was a last-minute stand-in for her younger sister Lana, who attended our bazaar and sold raffle tickets, wearing the sash that read "2018 Lucia." Alas, Lana was sick on December 9, and Ava, who was Lucia in 2016, stepped in. Mom Christine sang the "O Helga Natt" solo.

Ava is an 11th grade student at Robinson Secondary High School in Fairfax, Virginia. She excels in her school work and was also otherwise busy in 2018 as a member of the Robinson varsity volleyball team. Ava and Lana both appreciate the opportunity to participate in Scandinavian cultural events, acknowledging the work and contributions of Scandinavian ancestors in the United States, including their Swedish speaking grandparents from Finland.



SWEA'S HOLIDAY MARKET AT HOUSE OF SWEDEN



MEMBER NEWS

VIRGINIA PETERS

Lodge members were very pleased to see member Virginia Peters who came to the Lucia with her grandson Hinson Peters. Virginia is 100 years old but still lives in her own house and remains active to this day in the Girl Scouts. After singing both Happy Birthday and Ja, må hon leva to Virginia, both Hinson and Virginia were asked to make comments that were warmly received by all.



BETTY JOHNSON

Our long-time member Betty Johnson passed away peacefully the morning of December 11, 2018 at 87 years old. Betty joined Drott Lodge in December of 2000 and became an active member right from the beginning, baking for our Annual Bazaar's Baked Goods table and soon thereafter chairing that table. She served as Financial/Membership Secretary for ten years starting in 2003 and was publisher/editor of the Drott Newsletter for years. Betty was also Chair of the Committee for our 100th Anniversary Banquet in April 2010. She traveled to Sweden with family members on the group trip later that summer. Betty was a Registered Nurse, having earned a Bachelor's degree in



Nursing at the University of Minnesota, a Masters at the University of Colorado and her PhD at the University of Wisconsin. She served as Dean of the School of Nursing at the University of South Carolina, established other nursing programs and oversaw accreditation of nursing schools nationwide. Betty was interested in genealogy and loved to bake and cook. She was a winner in our meatball cook-off several years ago. Her home was filled with Swedish decorative items, many of which were donated to Drott Lodge when she moved to Lorien Healthcare in Taneytown, Maryland. Memorial arrangements were made by Myers-Durboraw Funeral Home in Taneytown. Contributions in Betty's name may be made to the University of Virginia at Wise School of Nursing, 1 College Ave., Wise, VA 24293.



BERNICE ANN WILSON MUNSEY

Bernice Ann died on November 23, 2018 at her home in Leesburg, Virginia. She was very proud of her Swedish heritage and traced her father's family back to the early 17th century. She made many trips to Sweden for family research and pleasure, and happily drove a Volvo with the Virginia tags "MORMORS". Bernice and her husband Everard (Ev) joined the Lodge together in February 1977 and Bernice was active as long as she was able. Their daughter Wanda Juraschek and granddaughter Millie Shipe were Drott Lucias, with their siblings in the processions. At one Lodge meeting, Bernice and Ev shared photos in a presentation of their memorable

Göta Canal trip. Bernice was previously President of ASA from 2002-2003. A celebration of Bernice's life will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 – her 84th birthday – at 3 pm in the Monroe Room, the Club House at Lansdowne Woods, 19375 Magnolia Grove Square, Leesburg, Virginia 20176.

RUTH MEIXNER-BIRD

We also mourn the loss of Ruth Meixner-Bird on December 22, 2018 at 89 years old. Ruth followed in her mother's footsteps when she joined Drott Lodge in 1971 as her mother was a member of the Vasa Order of America in Philadelphia, where Ruth was born. She attended meetings several times a year and helped at the Bazaar. She led



a courageous fight in recent years battling blood cancer before passing after a week in Sibley Hospital's hospice. Ruth moved to Washington, DC in the 1950s and worked at the CIA after graduating from the University of Wisconsin. She took classes in painting and art criticism at American University, then became an arts educator for three decades at AU, the Corcoran School of Design, and Montgomery College. Ruth was an award-winning abstract painter and exhibited her work in galleries throughout DC. *(Photo Courtesy of American University, Photographer Jeff Watts)*

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

SVENSKA SÅNGGRUPPEN (SSG)

Wednesday, January 16, 7 pm

7294 Mandan Road, Greenbelt, Maryland

Everyone interested in singing in Swedish is welcome to attend, learn and practice Swedish ballads, hymns, and/or folk songs. The annual season runs through May, with no summer meetings. SSG performs for Swedish events and ceremonies at the Embassy of Sweden, the Swedish Church in Washington, DC, the Northern Virginia SCANFEST regional folk festival, and more. Please bring something to share for the snack table! For more information contact Eva Hartzell at eva.c.hartzell@gmail.com.

SCANDIA DC THIRD SATURDAY DANCE PARTY

Saturday, January 19, 7 pm to 10 pm

Greenbelt Community Center Dance Studio

15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD

Scandinavian couple dancing the third Saturday of the month. No partners necessary. Wear a costume if you like, bring finger food to share if you can. Most importantly, bring yourself. Open Dancing 8 to 10. January's live music features Paul Carlson, a passionate Scandinavian music fiddler who plays music professionally and plays for the Nordic Dancers and at the Kennedy Center. Cost \$10. For information, call Linda or Ross at 202-333-2826 or send an e-mail to linda@scandiadc.org or visit www.scandiadc.org. If inclement weather, call 301-474-0646.

VIKINGS: BEYOND THE LEGEND

Through March 3, 9:30 am to 5 pm (last admission 3:30 pm)

The Franklin Institute

20th Street/Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Tickets \$35/\$31 includes general admission at fi.edu

Journey to Scandinavia in the Viking Age! Vikings engaged in invading and pillaging, yet their societies were complex and multifaceted. Skilled craftspeople, successful merchants, and hard-working farmers influenced Western Europe and beyond. Viking period people are brought to life with a wealth of unique objects, multimedia productions and interactive elements revealing the captivating story of the explorers who set sail from Scandinavia centuries ago.

SWEDISH CONCERTS/PARTIES

ARRIVAL FROM SWEDEN: THE MUSIC OF ABBA

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 8:00 pm
Rams Head On Stage, 33 West Street,
Annapolis, Maryland
Tickets from \$45.00 at Ticketfly.com

An authentic ABBA cover band performing in replicas of ABBA's original stage costumes, approved by ABBA's clothing designer. The group has performed with many fine symphonies in the world and have toured with some of ABBA's original musicians. This show is in a smoke-free, seated nightclub that offers food and beverage. More info on the band can be found at themusicofabba.com.



ROBYN

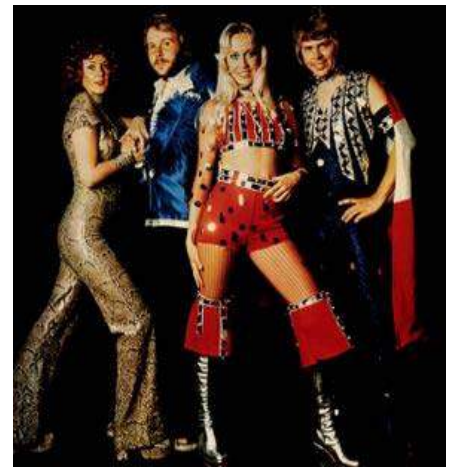
Saturday, March 9, 2019, doors 5:30/show 7 pm
The Anthem, 901 Wharf St. SW, Washington, DC
Tickets \$55-\$75 at Ticketfly.com

Prolific Swedish singer, songwriter, producer and superstar Robyn promotes "Honey" – her first album in eight years – with an American tour that includes Madison Square Garden in New York. More info on Robyn can be found at robyn.com.

EXTRABBAGANZA! ABBA DANCE PARTY

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 7:00-10:00 pm
American Swedish Historical Museum
1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA
Tickets \$35 at americanswedish.org/events

The oldest Swedish-American museum in the USA, situated on part of a historic 17th-century land grant originally provided by Queen Christina of Sweden, hosts a DJ party that includes food, a cash bar and a costume contest. Release your inner Dancing Queen!



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2019

VASA DISTRICT 9 SCHOLARSHIPS

District Youth Language Camp Scholarship to Concordia Language Villages offers a two-week session in Minnesota for youths aged 12 to 18. Applications must be postmarked by March 1. Information can be found at vasaorder.net/?lodge=D9 and clicking on News. Information about Concordia can be found on its website at ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org.

VASA GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The VASA Grande Lodge also offers a scholarship for the same Concordia experience. Applications and further details are online at vasaorder.com. Applications must be postmarked by February 10.

The 2019 Scholarship and Essay Contest is for students attending or planning to attend an institution of higher learning. Applications are available on the VASA website vasaorder.com until January 15 and completed applications must be postmarked by February 15.

ASA FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The American Scandinavian Association also provides financial support for grants and scholarships and gives preference to members of ASA or other Scandinavian organizations. Application specifications can be found at: scandinavian-dc.org/grants/.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please send your input to the next issue of the newsletter to Jeffrey de Hart at jeffrey.dehart@telia.com by January 25.