



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



**Drott Lodge Newsletter  
May 2022**

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Dear Fellow Members,

April showers are giving way to May flowers and most of you are probably looking forward to the lazy days of summer, vacations, and spending time with family and friends, perhaps even taking a trip to the Old Country on the other side of the pond. Consider joining us for a taste of pre-summer by attending the Spring Foraging Expedition at Wheaton Regional Park this Sunday, the 22nd of May.

While studying Swedish and Psychology in Sweden in the early 80s I often ran or bicycled along fields and woods surrounding the Viking burial mounds in Uppsala. Vikings have always held a fascination for many, and the entertainment industry has capitalized on that fact. There is no shortage of dramas regarding the ruthless, savage, and brave Vikings on Netflix (my favorite is the Last Kingdom). Did you know, however, that the Vikings from what is today Sweden were mostly peaceful settlers and traders that founded the first Russian states in in what is now Russia and Ukraine? In fact, they were known as "Rus". I hope you were able to visit the Viking Festival in Manassas last Saturday, the 14th of May and learned more about who these people were, and what it was like to live during the Viking age.

As a child, my (Swedish) grandmother (Mormor) used to tell me stories about the Swedish side of my family. One such story was how during the ongoing conflict between Russia and Sweden over Finland, the Russians without prior warning raided the area where my family was living, and had to quickly hide my ancestor, a child at the time, in a haystack as the Russians advanced, later retrieving him, fleeing for their lives, and resettling to Västmanland, Sweden. We are again living in uncertain times, unfortunately, and after a period of approximately 200 years of peaceful neutrality, Sweden, like its neighbor to the East, Finland, feels threatened and compelled to join a defensive alliance directed against its historical rival to the East, Russia.

Our thoughts go out to those who live in fear or persecution, and hoping for better times, and a return to peace and harmony.

In truth and unity,

Keith R. Shoemaker  
Vice Chairman  
Drott Lodge #168

**Upcoming Drott Lodge Event  
Sunday April 22, 2022  
Wheaton Regional Park  
Drott Lodge Spring Foraging Expedition**



On Sunday, May 22nd from 3 pm - 4:30 pm, Drott Lodge will embark on a spring walk in Wheaton Regional Park\* to forage for native spring edibles: mushrooms, ramps, edible flowers, and berries. Following our foraging trip, participants will meet for fika at picnic shelter #2 at the park. Those wishing to continue their day are invited to join at the fire pit for a cozy spring fire. Bring your own marshmallows to roast!

Our Spring Foraging Walk will be led by Matt Cohen of Matt's Habitats. Matt is a landscaper who became interested in foraging after spending time working on an organic farm; he hosts between 10 - 15 walks each year in the Takoma Park and Silver Spring area in search of wild edibles such as henbit, a member of the mint family, which can add a gourmet touch to a pesto.

Please join us at 4:30 pm for fika, even if you don't go on our foraging

trip. If you are interested in a picnic supper, you may bring your own or order a boxed lunch from Panera.

Be sure to wear sturdy boots or shoes, and comfortable clothes for our walk in the woods.

**This event is free for all Drott Lodge members.**

**PLEASE REGISTER HERE TODAY:**

<http://www.memberplanet.com/events/vasadrottlodge168/drottlodgespringforagingexpedition>

\*Wheaton Regional Park offers additional recreational and educational opportunities: The “Shorefield Area” has beautiful spots for fishing and relaxing. The “Adventure Playground” includes climbing structures, swings, slides and a sand castle. Nearby “Brookside Gardens” has year-round horticulture displays, ponds, and walking trails, and the “Brookside Nature Center” offers displays of live reptiles and mammals to delight young naturalists.



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**SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE**

**Midsummer Celebration  
Carderock Park, MD  
Sunday June 19, 2022**

We have started to plan this year's Midsummer celebration. We will have more information in the next newsletter. Please plan to attend with your family and friends.

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**\*\*\*Past Event\*\*\***



## **Valborg at Norman's Farm Woodbine, MD Sunday, May 1st, 2022**

The 2022 Valborg celebration started out a little rainy. As we were setting up for the event, we watched the grey clouds get closer and closer. Typical Swedish Valborg! But that did not stop us. While we waited for the rain showers to pass through the area, we gathered under the gazebos to enjoy our picnic food and friendly conversation.

ASA president Christina Lazdins welcomed the guests. She read Spring poems by Swedish authors in Swedish as well as in English. After the rain cleared, we started the bonfire, grilled hotdogs, and learned how to bake/grill Danish bread on a stick (see picture below).

No Valborg is complete without games. Children and adults alike participated in gunny sack and wooden ski races. The teams were very competitive and gave it their very best effort. We rounded off with a long game of Kubb. The two Kubb teams were well matched and after an hour of back and forth battle, we could crown the winners.

The Farm was a beautiful place for Valborg and we hope to return to this new location next year.

**Here are some pictures from the event:**



Starting the bonfire.



ASA President Christina Lazdins reading poems.



Making Danish bread in the fire pit.



Picnic under the gazebo.



Sack race.





Ski race winners.



The long Kubb game.





Winners of the Kubb game.

**\*\*\*Past Event\*\*\***

**Manassas Viking Festival  
May 14, 2022, 10 am - 5 pm  
Old Town Manassas, VA**

The 2022 Viking Festival took place on Saturday May 14th in Manassas. We had several Drott lodge volunteers help with the set-up and sell Swedish imported gifts. We also had a table for marketing and spoke to many people who were interested in hearing more about our organization.

Participating in events like this will help us gain new members and provides funding for our wonderful programming throughout the year. A big thank you to all the helpers who showed up and worked at this event. We could not have done it without you.

If you have never been to the Viking Festival, don't miss it next year. It's fun for the whole family. People show up in Viking costumes and you, too, can be a Viking for a day!



Drott Lodge table



Writing their names in runes on real stones.



Nordic Dancers including Drott Lodge members and Paul the fiddler.



The kids loved to board the Viking ship.



Making swords.





The vendors had Viking inspired merchandise.

**\*\*\*Past Event\*\*\***  
**Vasa Museum Virtual Tour**  
**April 22, 2022**



On Saturday April 23, we were treated to a virtual tour of the Royal Ship Vasa that is located in the Vasa Museum in Stockholm. Peter Rydebjörk, Assistant Director of Museum Services, was our guide as we had a unique opportunity to tour this historic ship. Peter walked around the museum showing different views of the ship. He explained why the ship originally sank on its maiden voyage 10 August 1628, how it was raised from the bottom of Stockholm Harbor, and how they are now trying to preserve it for generations to come.

The tour lasted an hour and we were able to ask questions as we went



along.

Thank you to the Cultural Committee for arranging this interesting program.

**Grand Lodge Convention  
July 2022  
Philadelphia, PA  
ABBApalooza**



The 2022 Grand Lodge Convention in Philadelphia is less than two months away. Drott Lodge has been asked by the Grand Master himself to plan and execute ABBApalooza at the convention. They've all seen how well we can throw a party – and this is indeed a great honor!

We have an incredible amount of material to work with as we plan the festivities. To pull this off, we'll need expert assistance from members attending the convention on **Tuesday, July 5, 2022**.

Please email [adunhem@gmail.com](mailto:adunhem@gmail.com) or [Julie.Lynn.Olson@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.Lynn.Olson@gmail.com) if you plan to be in Philadelphia.

**In Memoriam**



Virginia Elizabeth Bergman Peters  
May 13, 1918 – March 27, 2022

Drott Lodge remembers longtime member Virginia Elizabeth Bergman Peters. Virginia joined our Lodge in 1983 and at almost 104 years old, she was our oldest member. Ginny was born in Minnesota, earned a BS in English, and a Masters of Arts in Anthropology. She served in WWII as a naval officer, Lt. (JG) 1943 – 1946 and then in the naval reserves from 1946 – 1951. It was in the Navy that Ginny met her husband, James Shelton Peters (Pete). Ginny had a love of history and anthropology and was an author of two books on American Indian tribes. Ginny wrote *The Florida Wars* in 1979 and *Women of the Earth Lodges* in 2000.

## Membership Fees for 2022

Regular annual membership fees due are \$50.00

Life Members and Youth Members still at \$25.75.

Please go to Member planet and make your payment.

You can also send in a check. Please contact Carol Whitley at [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net).

## Keep Your Memberplanet Account Up to Date

Please update Drott if you have new contact information, such as if you have moved or have a new phone number.

## Newsletter Deadline June 5

The next newsletter will be distributed in June. Do you have something you want to share with us?

All submissions are due to [pk\\_weeden@msn.com](mailto:pk_weeden@msn.com) by **June 5, 2022**. Please make sure to include the word **NEWSLETTER** in the subject.

VASA Drott Lodge 168  
c/o Carol Whitley, Member Secretary, 4600 Connecticut Ave NW Apt 819  
Washington, DC 20008

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