



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



Gannarve Gotland

**Drott Lodge Newsletter
September 2022**

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168

Welcome back!

Where did the summer go? I hope you made some time to visit with family, friends, or just enjoy reading a good book. We all look forward to the summer and then it seems it is over too quickly.

I was very fortunate to receive the Pennsylvania District Adult Scholarship. It enabled me to travel to Sweden this summer and discover places I had never seen before. It took me to Haparanda in the north (on the border to Finland), Gotland - Sweden's largest Island, and also the mountains in Dalarna. I visited three national parks and many nature reserves. The picture above is from Gotland. It is the Gannarve Ship, a burial monument from the Late Bronze Age (1100-500 B.C.).

I also visited the village where my dad grew up in northern Sweden. I met Evert Nilsson (88 years old), a second cousin of mine. He had wonderful stories to tell about my dad's family, many pictures to show, and he is now my friend on Facebook! I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to reconnect with the Rydberg/Nilsson families. I walked the trails and roads where my dad and his siblings played as children. I will cherish this trip for a long time.

I am very excited about our Fall programs. In September we will listen to a presentation about Nordic Arts by Drott Lodge member Dr. Karin Alexis Frenze. In October we will have an opportunity to be creative as we will be making a tomte or a Dala horse. In November we will host a Vasa-wide Genealogy conference. There will be four expert genealogy speakers to show us how to find our roots. Sign up today! You can read more about the programs below.

We will have our September and October meetings in Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda MD. This is a new location. The old venue is not available as in the past and the board has been busy looking for an alternative location to have our meetings in MD or VA.

See you all at the September meeting!

In Truth and Unity,

**Karin Weeden
Past Chairman
Drott Lodge No. 168**

**Journey to Sweden through Masterpieces of
Swedish Art**

Sunday, September 11, 2022 @ 2:30 PM

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

10701 Old Georgetown Road

North Bethesda MD



Anshelm Schultzberg

Dr. Karin Alexis Frenze, Ph.D., an art and architectural historian, will speak on Swedish art at the September 2022 meeting. Her focus will be Swedish and related art in Washington, D.C., particularly in the collection of the Embassy of Sweden.

This well-illustrated lecture will revolve around the beautiful works of art (almost all are Swedish) that were exhibited in the spacious halls and salons of the former residence of the ambassador (the elegant Spanish Revival domicile designed by Arthur B. Heaton and completed in 1923, known for its breath-taking grounds on Nebraska Avenue, in N.W. Washington, D.C.). Many of these works will be on view at the House of Sweden in the future.

This talk places the diversified art collection of the embassy, from traditional portraits and extraordinary landscapes to modern painting and sculpture, into an historical framework of Swedish art and culture, interweaving them with pivotal works of Swedish art and events in Swedish culture, and making comparisons with other well-known art works.

Among the artists discussed will be some older masters (Johan Tobias

Sergel) and great artists of the 19th and 20th centuries, such as Anders Zorn, Alfred Wahlberg, Anshelm Schultzberg, Bruno Liljefors, and Prins Eugen, and sculptor Carl Milles, as well as some modern artists, including Ulla Wachtmeister and Ulf Wahlberg.



Anders Zorn

Karin Alexis Frenze has lectured on European and American art and architecture at the Smithsonian Associates for many years and coordinated its History of Western Art Certificate Program (a series of illustrated lecture courses covering European art and architecture from ancient to modern times, and American contributions) from 1989 to 2011. She lectured on European art and architecture at the Foreign Service Institute in Advanced Area Studies for 25 years. Dr. Alexis formerly worked at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art.

Karin, a long-time member and former board member of Drott Lodge, currently serves on the board of the Swedish American Cultural Union and The Swedish School and was formerly on the board of the American Scandinavian Association of the National Capital Area.

Karin dedicates this lecture to two inspirational Swedish women: first to her Swedish-born mother, May-Britt Ingegard Lennerup Alexis, a devoted member of Drott Lodge who died in 2021; and to Ingrid Beach, a cultural leader in the Swedish community and a great lover of Swedish art.

The meeting starts at 2:30 PM. Please show up early to help out. We

will start setup at 1:30 PM.

Time for Creativity!
October 16, 2022 at 2PM @ 2:30 PM
Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
10701 Old Georgetown Road
North Bethesda MD

Our October meeting will give members an opportunity to get their creativity revved up for the holidays. There will be three choices for your consideration. The cost per kit is \$5.00 and there will be additional kits for purchase.

Wooden Dala Horse Ornaments

Ashley Mullinax will take us through the painting of wooden Dala horses. Paints and brushes will be provided in your kit, along with 2 wooden Dala horses to embellish with your own touches.



Felt Dala Horses

This craft features a bit of easy embroidery as we create a Dala horse from felt. Your kit includes all the materials necessary to create a horse, complete with options for hanging (ribbon, cord, etc.) on your Christmas tree. This workshop will be led by Kristen Leedom.



Felt Tomte

Janet Johnson gives her creative touch to the creation of a small tomte, ready to display for the holidays. Everyone needs a tomte – but a handmade one is the best!



**Saturday November 12, 2022
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Virtual Swedish Genealogy Conference**



Join VASA Drott Lodge #168 on Saturday, November 12, 2022 for a day of research at its Virtual Swedish Genealogy Conference. Our presenters are all experts in the field of Swedish genealogy.

Kathy Cuff (Archivist-Manager for the Vasa Order of America National Archive and Museum in Bishop Hill, IL) will discuss VASA Archives: Records and Sources in Bishop Hill.

Kathy Meade (the North American representative for Arkiv Digital AD AB) will present Researching in the Swedish Church Books Using ArkivDigital.

Geoff Fröberg Morris (author of the book, A Practical Guide to Swedish Church Records for Genealogy and Family History) will answer the 5 research questions of What, Who, When, Where, and How to use estate inventories (Bouppteckning) effectively.

Bob Johnson (a professional genealogist who has recently participated in the writing of Genealogy at a Glance: Swedish Genealogy Research and Husförhörslängder, Swedish Household Examination Records: Framing the Solutions to Your Swedish Ancestry Puzzles) will discuss Swedish Maps for Genealogical Research, an introduction to digitized historic map collections and property descriptions covering most farms and villages from the 1600s to the 1900s available at the Swedish National Archives (Riksarkivet) and the Swedish Land Registry (Lantmäteriet).

With a grant from the Grand Lodge, Drott is now opening registration up to **All Vasa Order of America Members** in Good Standing for the price of \$ 35.00.

Registration:

Vasa Members \$35.00

General Public \$50.00

Sign up here:<http://www.memberplanet.com/events/vasadrottlodge168/swedishgenealogyconference>**More information about the program and the speakers:**[Genealogy Conference.pdf](#)

Other Scandinavian Events in Our Area

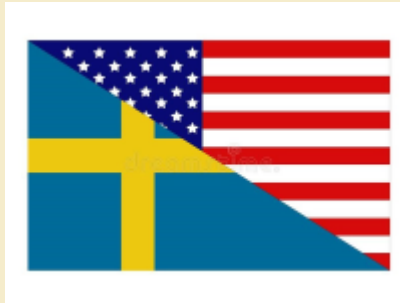
The Swedish Genealogy Group of MD

The Swedish Genealogy group of Maryland, DC and Virginia will meet via zoom and in person (Hybrid meeting) on Sunday September 18th at 1:30pm. If you're interested in attending, please contact JanetJohnson30254@gmail.com for details and Zoom invite.

The Nordic Dancers

The Nordic Dancers of Washington, DC, resume in-person sessions on Wednesday, September 7, at 7:30 at Highland View Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland and will meet regularly on Wednesdays through May 24. Come any Wednesday and learn traditional dances of Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and Norway. Music is provided by fiddler, Paul Carlson. Newcomers are welcome; no prior dance experience is necessary. Proof of vaccination and good-quality masks are required. To verify the meeting room and to check on any possible changes due to conditions relating to COVID, call 301-864-1596 or send a message to NordicDancers@aol.com. For more information, visit their website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/nordicdancersdc/>



Swedish American Cultural Union

(SACU)

Sweden's Long and Tortuous Road to NATO Membership.

Virtual Program - Free

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

12:30 PM EST

**SPEAKER: Lennart Lundh, Journalist and Communications
Consultant**



As a member of NATO, Sweden enters a new era in its defense and national security policy. Although non-aligned and never at war since the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1814, the idea of a NATO

membership was discussed on and off for decades, but always lacked enough support in the Parliament. What changed that was Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine, another non-aligned European country. During the presentation Lennart will touch on what Sweden brings to the NATO table in terms of defense capabilities. Some of the roadblocks hindering Sweden's decisions that had to be overcome will be highlighted. He will also explore how Sweden and Finland became strong partners in examining and then applying for NATO membership. Notably, this partnership was advanced by the countries' prime ministers (both female).

Please **RSVP** to Robert Dyer at rfdyer@gmail.com and **let him know you are a member of Drott Lodge.**

Here is the Zoom link for the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88993539913?pwd=bDFsOGppakpKVUIzVm4wTm4yWDdhUT09>.

More information on SACU:

[Swedish American Cultural Union.pdf](#)

Past Event
Traditional Midsummer Celebration
Carderock Park Pavilion MD



Drott Lodge Membership Awards

After so many months (or years) of social distancing, at long last we were able to host a great celebration back at Carderock Park for joint Midsommar. A beautiful summer day with sunshine and low humidity made the day more enjoyable than any in recent memory. With several local Scandinavian groups, including our friends at ASA and Finlandia Foundation, our group was large enough to fill the park, fill the pavilion and surrounding space with picnickers, decorate a beautiful maypole, complete several lively rounds of children games (many of our adults joined in as well!), Kubb game, and of course – dancing around the maypole to live music from our fiddlers.

After the main celebrations, and cupcake decorations, Drott Lodge presented 10,25, and 30 years of membership pins to those present who had become eligible. No one from the classes of 40 years, 50 years, or 55 years of membership were present. This fall, Carol Whitley will be undertaking the task of delivering or mailing pins to all pin awardees.

A total of 24 members qualified for 10-year pins, ten for 25-year pins, eight for 30-year pins, and six for 40-year pins. Of special note is that three members will be receiving pins for 50 years: Anna Belle Antonson, Siv Blanck, and Ruth Lewis. And, Marianne Diaz will receive a pin acknowledging 55 years of membership. She joined as a child, of course. Karin Weeden was presented with her Past Chairman pin, as well as with her pin for 25 years of membership.

Here are some pictures from the event:

The May pole was beautiful



Traditional dance around the May pole





Games for kids and adults







Picnic and mingle





Music provided by Kerstin and her fellow fiddlers



Past Event
Grand Lodge Convention
Philadelphia, PA
Drott's ABBApalooza – Now a Traveling Show



Thank you for the Music!

Twelve members of Drott Lodge (with additional support from husbands)

and toddlers) made the trek to the birthplace of our nation for this year's Vasa Grand Lodge Convention (a first for most of us). It was an amazing experience to participate in the convention and our lodge was delighted to execute our fourth ABBApalooza! Disco Balls, Dancing, Singing, Videos, and yes – costumes! We had bell bottoms, cat dresses, tinfoil wraps, and even the new ABBAtar motion capture suit.

Awards were given for best costume, crossword winner, and of course Dancing Queen. We were also delighted to discover that one of our Vasa members in attendance (District 19) dated Bjorn in high school -and they lived just a few blocks away from one another!!

Costume Winners from Drott include Carol Whitley and Ashley Mullinax, and Crossword Winner was Eva Dunhem!

For our efforts and creativity in executing one of the most entertaining activities of the convention, our entire group received a thank you note from the Grand Master, now Past Grand Master, Art Bjorkner. He thanked our entire dedicated group in presenting the fabulous ABBApalooza and stated, "We have had nothing but compliments on the special evening of music, dancing, video and entertainment! Your decorations with strobe lighting really set the mood! Nancy and I and our 2022 Committee are grateful for your offer to bring ABBA to Vasa and we want you to know your efforts have been appreciated! Our thanks to you all!"

New Location* New Location* New Location

Please note that we will no longer meet at the St. James location. In September and October we will meet at **Saint Mark Presbyterian Church**, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda MD. Here are directions:

[Saint Mark Directions.png](#)

Unpaid Membership Fees for 2022 are now Delinquent

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 credit card payment.

You can also send in a check. Please contact Carol Whitley at carol4600@verizon.net.

Keep Your Memberplanet Account Up to Date

It is important that you update Memberplanet if you have new contact information, such as if you have moved or have a new phone number.

Newsletter Deadline September 25

The next newsletter will be distributed in October. Do you have something you want to share with us? Did you go on a trip? Please send in your story and a picture or two.

All submissions are due to pk_weeden@msn.com by **September 25, 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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