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## Newsletter March 2023

**Dear Member,**

Spring is just around the proverbial corner! The evidence is seen popping up from the soil, heard in the chirping and singing of returning birds, and felt in the increasing warmth of the sun. Then, there's the springing forward of our clocks on March 12—the day of our next Drott Lodge meeting.

Meanwhile, your executive board has been busy springing forward to prepare the transition from Memberplanet to Wild Apricot as our new website and member management platform. Your officers are working to develop various portions of the new platform—the website, membership database, newsletter,

event registration and payment capabilities. Benefits will accrue to all of us, and to our budget since the cost of Wild Apricot is being paid by PA District Lodge #9 for at least two full years. We are enormously grateful for generous technical help of Pat Bellingham of Svea Lodge #296, and our own Arne Dunhem, both of whom are officers of PA District Lodge #9.

When we “go live” with Wild Apricot in the next couple of weeks, you will receive an invitation to register your membership in Wild Apricot. We encourage you to quickly take advantage of this invitation in order to receive all the benefits of the new system. Please keep in mind that there may be some bumps along the way, as there often are in learning a new application. So, we also ask you to think of another kind of “spring”—the physical one—and remain flexible as we tweak and fix any kinks that may arise.

Now, please spring forward and check out all the other updates in this newsletter.

In truth and unity,

Kathy Olson

Chair, Drott Lodge No. 168

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## **Annual Peasoup and Plättar Dinner**

**National Parks of Sweden  
Presentation**

**March 12, 2023**

**2 PM - 5PM**

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**Saint Mark Presbyterian Church**



**10701 Old Georgetown Rd**

**North Bethesda MD 20852**

Come join us on Sunday March 12 for our annual peasoup and plättar dinner. We are looking forward to finally resuming this traditional event where we enjoy Swedish pea soup, plättar, and fellowship. Drott will provide knäckebröd (hard crisp bread), jam, cheese, and ham. Please feel free to bring a dessert of your choice.

We appreciate if members arrive at 1:30 pm and help with the setup. We also need kitchen workers and help with cleanup after the dinner and meeting.

There is no charge for Drott Lodge Members who have paid their 2023 dues (or you can pay your membership dues at the meeting).

**Please sign up by March 10th** for Pea Soup & Plättar Dinner. Here is the link:

[\*\*CLICK HERE FOR PEA SOUP AND PLÄTTAR SIGNUP\*\*](#)

## **National Parks of Sweden**

**Pictures from Fulufjället National Park**

Drott Lodge's next meeting will be held on March 12 at 2:30 p.m. and will feature a presentation by member Karin Weeden entitled "National Parks of Sweden." Karin will share her recent exploration of Sweden's wonderful parks. She first went to the **Haparanda Archipelago National Park** in the north in

Sweden near the border of Finland. Karin also went to the largest island called Sandskär, a two-hour boat trip from the mainland. There she stayed in a cabin in the fishing village and walked the trails. Fun fact: there are moose on the island, too!

She then went to **Gotland Sand Island NP**, 40 km north of Gotland, the largest island in Sweden, located in the Baltic Sea. She took a ship to the island and stayed in a cabin on the northwest side. Smaller boats departed from the north point of Gotland Island to Gotland Sand Island. Fun fact: Gotland Sand Island does not have a harbor; each beach is an entry point where the tour boat can go up on the beach. There is no passenger transportation on the island. If you stay there, be prepared to hike up to 10 km to the campsite!

The last park Karin visited was **Fulufjället (Fulu Mountain) NP** that straddles the Swedish-Norwegian border. The mountain rises in the landscape as a plateau that has steep sides and is flat on top. Most visitors come to see Sweden's tallest waterfall Njupeskar and Old Tjikko - the oldest tree in the world. Fun fact: there are no reindeer on the mountain. Each park that Karin visited was special in its own way. Come and see which one would be your favorite!







Karin was awarded the Adult Scholarship in 2020 but had to delay the trip twice due to the Covid pandemic, finally going in July of 2022 for two weeks. In addition to the national parks, she visited family members in the north (the genealogy part of the scholarship). Her presentation will include a bit about visiting second cousins on her father's side of the family.

After this long-anticipated trip, Karin will bring these beautiful parks to us through a 45-minute presentation with time for questions at the conclusion.

**If you are interested in applying for the District Scholarship 2024:**

The Adult scholarship is awarded to an adult member, age 21 or over, and not in school, in a local lodge in DL Pennsylvania No. 9. It is offered every two years, in an even year with the next opportunity being in 2024.

The adult scholarship should have significant educational content. It might, for example, be researching the motivations of why people of a certain area

(including relatives) emigrated; investigating the historic background and development of a region in Sweden; developing skills in genealogical research (including resources available at the VOA National Archives); learning traditional music or dances, or other topics of interest. Specifically working at the VOA National Archives for two weeks on a project is encouraged.

An important dimension in evaluating adult scholarship applications will be how the local lodge and district will benefit from the project/activity. The Adult Scholarship award will be up to \$3,000 and the receipted amount will be paid based on the Scholarship Chairman for DL PA No. 9 receiving receipts for project expenditures.”

The 2024 Adult Scholarship application will be available in December, 2023. Source District Lodge website.

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## Upcoming Program

April 16, 2023

### Swedish Crafts

Three artists will lead small group workshops on Swedish Wheat Weaving, Swedish Huck Needlework, and Dalmålning (Swedish traditional folk painting). Come and express your creativity and your Swedish heritage.

**Christina Keune**, a professional heritage artist since 1983, has demonstrated and lectured about rosemailing and dalmålning at numerous craft and ethnic festivals and at classes in the Washington, D. C. area, New Jersey, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

**Deb Kempton**, a local needlework artist and instructor will teach the classic and unique form of needle weaving known as Swedish Huck Weaving. A member and volunteer with Nelly's Needlers of Woodlawn Plantation and an avid



Dalmålning



Huck Weaving



Wheat Weaving

needle artist she brings her expertise to Drott Lodge for this event.

**Mary Dix**, Master Weaver of Lottsburg, VA is a well-known wheat artist brings the ancient art of wheat weaving to life. These ancient designs are historically based, from around the world, wherever long stem grains are grown. These are the patterns of life. She has lectured and demonstrated throughout the Mid-Atlantic as well as at the *Renaissance Faire*, in Maryland and Virginia.

All registered attendees will receive all the supplies to create your Swedish work of art. Some special notes: those doing Swedish Huck Weaving may want to bring a magnifying glass or "readers" for fine work. Those attendees who will be painting, may want to bring an apron or smock. And those who plan to Weave Wheat may want to bring hand lotion.

\$ 5.00 for members

\$ 7.50 for non-members

Additional kits are available for purchase when you sign up.

[Sign up here for the Craft Event in April](#)

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**Upcoming Program**

**May 21, 2023**

## **It Came to Me on a Whim**

### **Presentation by Maria Bouroncle**



Our May meeting will feature a presentation by Swedish author Maria Bouroncle. An economist by profession, she spent over 25 years in the field of international development before publishing her first novel in 2018. *It Came to Me on a Whim* has been translated into English, Dutch and Finnish, and is currently used on the Scandinavian Crime Literature course at UCLA. She lives in Washington, DC.

Maria's book tells the story of her great-aunt who killed her three children at the age of twenty-seven in 1929. Through exhaustive research, she has strived to shed light on what led up to this tragedy, which had been a tightly guarded family secret for over seventy years.

At the event, Maria will also show film director Carl Eneroth's short documentary "The Child Murderess in Vesene", based on her book. It was the winner of "Best Short Documentary" in London, New Jersey and Miami in 2021.

About the Book:

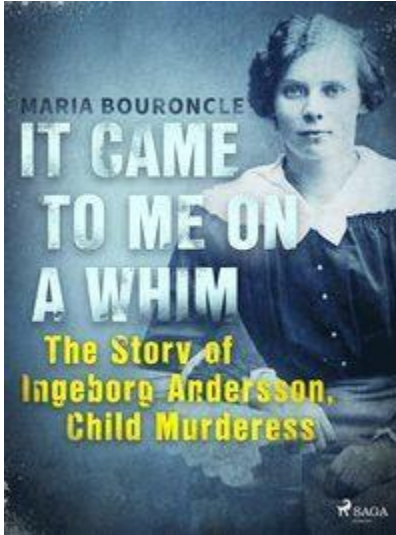
"Suddenly it struck him: the windows had not fogged up as they usually did in the winter when she hung up the laundry indoors. There was a sour smell, and the house was unusually quiet.

'Where are the children?' he asked, receiving no answer.

A compelling and horrifying tale that will grip true-crime fans as Bouroncle's extensive research and tireless investigation slowly sheds light on her family's tightly guarded family secret.



For more information: [www.mariabouroncle.com/home](http://www.mariabouroncle.com/home)



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## Past Event

### Movie - A Man Called Ove

Following a short business meeting on Sunday February 12, 2023, members from the lodge watched the Swedish movie A Man Called Ove. They enjoyed popcorn with butter, candy, and camaraderie.

Our members really liked the movie:

"I don't think there was a dry eye at the end of the movie."

"As much as I enjoy Tom Hanks, the original movie is far better."

An English-language film adaptation called A Man Called Otto was recently released, with Tom Hanks starring and producing. You may want to go and check it out.

Thank you to the members of the Cultural Committee for planning this event and making it happen.



## 2023 DROTT LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

<b>Mar 12</b>	Pea Soup and Plättar Dinner - National Parks of Sweden
<b>Apr 16</b>	Nordic Crafts
<b>Apr 29 or 30</b>	Walpurgis Celebration with ASA
<b>May 21</b>	It Came to Me on a Whim - Presentation by Maria Bouroncle
<b>Jun</b>	Midsummer in Carderock Park, MD
<b>Jul and Aug</b>	Fika at localities in MD and VA to keep communication and camaraderie flowing!
<b>Sep 10</b>	Crayfish Supper & Longship Presentation
<b>Oct 14</b>	Ride the Longship and Celebrate Leif Erikson (rain date Oct 21)
<b>Nov 11</b>	Annual Genealogy Conference
<b>Dec</b>	Lucia Celebration



## **Other Scandinavian Activities in Our Area**

### **Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)**

**March 8, 2023, at 12:00 pm**

#### **Lucky Strike Lunch-Lecture Program in Arlington, Virginia**

Lucky Strike is the story of Young American Airmen and Soldiers who spent time in Sweden during World War II after their planes had crashed.

Interview with Dennis Malette (conducted by Robert Dyer)

Exhibition Tables

Private Viewing of "Lucky Strike," courtesy of Jan-Olof Nilsson

Cost of lunch and program is \$ 35. Here is more information:

[Lucky Strike - Swedish American Cultural Union.pdf](#)

Please RSVP to [sacu2022@gmail.com](mailto:sacu2022@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience.

**Wednesday, April 19, 2023**

**12:00 noon ET Luncheon-Lecture Program**

## **Masterpieces of Swedish Film presented by Todd Hitchcock**

Detailed announcement is forthcoming. Please RSVP to [sacu2022@gmail.com](mailto:sacu2022@gmail.com)

(Mark your subject line as "April 2023 Swedish Film")

**Thursday, May 11, 2023**

**12:00 noon ET Luncheon-Lecture Program**

**Presentation by Her Excellency Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter**

### **Väsen Live - Modern Swedish Folk Music Duo**

**March 23, 2023**

**Jammin Java**

**Vienna, VA**

Väsen-Duo, Mikael Marin and Olov Johansson have, after 37 years of interaction and touring, refined their sound and their stage presence to the extent that today they are unique in their kind. With their playful and perfect interplay, they seem to defy the laws of physics in what appears to be a telepathic communication.

The music is intense and full of humour. They create their very own musical language which in its appeal is as modern as it is ancient. With the foundation firmly rooted in the traditional music of Uppland, they have always looked curiously at new musical goals.

They will be touring in the US this spring.

Here is more information: <https://vasen.se/vasen-live/>

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**Genealogy News**





**Sunday, March 5**

**Genealogy Research**

**1:30 pm**

The **Maryland, Virginia and DC Swedish Genealogy Group** will meet in person and virtually on March 5 at 1:30pm. Contact **Janet Johnson** at [janetjohnson30254@gmail.com](mailto:janetjohnson30254@gmail.com) to receive an invite for this meeting.

**Saturday, March 25**

**Finding the Home Parish of Your Swedish Ancestor (Programs)**

**10:00 am CST to 12:00 pm CST**

On March 25 Janet Johnson will be presenting to the Minnesota Swedish Genealogy Society. The fee to the society for non-members is \$10. Registration opens on March 1, 2023. Go to this link if you would like to attend virtually:

[Sign up here for Janet's presentation.](#)

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## Member Birthdays in March

2<sup>nd</sup> Katrin Shoemaker

4<sup>th</sup> Susan Remmert

5<sup>th</sup> Leigh Abraham

14<sup>th</sup> Ulla-Britt Henderson

26<sup>th</sup> Karin Alexis Frenze

*Happy Birthday!! Grattis på födelsedagen!*

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## Membership Fees for 2023 are Due.

This is your gentle reminder to please go in to memberplanet and make your payment by credit card. You can also pay by check and mail it in.

- Regular annual membership fees due are \$50.00.
- Life Members and Youth Members still at \$25.75.

Please go to **Memberplanet** and make your payment by credit card (select credit card option \$ 50 plus processing fee). You can also send in a check. Please contact **Laura Rhodes** at [rhodesland@aol.com](mailto:rhodesland@aol.com).

The next newsletter will be sent out in April. Please send in your stories and news to [PK\\_weeden@msn.com](mailto:PK_weeden@msn.com) by Mar 25, 2023. Please include **Newsletter** in the subject.

# DROTT LODGE #168

## VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

Instituted 1910

Washington, D.C.