



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

## **Event/Meeting Reminder**

**January 28, 2024**

**Exciting Events Coming Up**

### **Dear Drott Lodge Members and Friends**

**There are two exciting Drott Lodge events coming up in February**

1) Norse Mythology of the Viking world, short Business Meeting,  
and celebration of "The Day of the Semlor"

Sunday February 4th, 2024, at 2 pm, at St. Mark Presbyterian Church,  
10701 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda, MD 20852

2) Virtual showing of the "Lucky Strike" movie after a presentation by Bob  
Dyer and Arne Dunhem

Saturday February 17th, at 3 pm (Zoom)

## **Our Cultural Presentation**

**February 4, 2024**

**By Dr Lilla Kopár, an Associate Professor of English**

### **“Gods and Myths of the Viking World: An Introduction to Norse Mythology”**

“Gods and Myths of the Viking World: An Introduction to Norse Mythology”

The fascinating stories of the Norse gods have long captured the imagination of people from the medieval period to modern days. Odin, Thor, Loki, and their companions inspired the world of Tolkien, the operas of Wagner, movies of the Marvel universe, and more. But what do we actually know about these deities, their cults, and the myths and legends that brought them to life? This richly illustrated talk will provide an overview of Norse mythology and the religious practices of the Viking world, with the help of literary sources and the material evidence of art and archeology. We will discuss the history of the world from its creation to the dramatic events of Ragnarök, meet the main deities of the Norse universe, and explore aspects of lived religion through rituals and religious objects.



BIO:

Dr Lilla Kopár is Associate Professor of English, Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Director of the Center for Medieval and

Byzantine Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Her research focuses on the visual culture of early medieval England, in particular on stone sculpture, on the iconography of myth and heroic legend, on visual storytelling, and on inscribed objects in early medieval northern Europe. Her publications include *Gods and Settlers: The Iconography of Norse Mythology in Anglo-Scandinavian Sculpture* (2012) and articles on early medieval art and iconography of the British Isles, Scandinavia, and Greenland, on English and Scandinavian literary connections, and on runic inscriptions. She is also involved in digital humanities and serves as co-director of the NEH-funded *Project Andvari: A Digital Portal to the Visual World of Early Medieval Northern Europe* and of the *Andvari Iconography Thesaurus* project.

**You are welcome to click to register for the February 4th meeting here:**

[\*\*Registration for February 4th meeting\*\*](#)

## **Celebration of Semlan's Dag**

### **Fat Tuesday - the Day of the Semla**

#### **Our Celebration February 4, 2024**

Round, stodgy and spilling over with whipped cream on all sides, but always irresistible. The Swedish Semla is so popular it has its own day – Fat Tuesday.

Have you ever tried a Swedish semla? It's a sweet cardamon wheat bun filled with almond paste and whipped cream, lightly dusted with powdered sugar, and sometimes served in warm milk. What's not to love?

The beloved semla is a seasonal treat, and it's celebrated with the consumption of at least one semla on the day before the start of Lent, called Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday (next up on February 13, 2024). The Swedes crave their semlor (plural) so much that many bakeries and cafés start making them just after New Year's Eve, and many don't stop serving them until Easter is over.

We will also have the Swedish big traditional celebration event - Celebration of Semlan's Dag on February 4th. Semlor have been baked with love by Eva Dunhem and will be prepared at the meeting by Linda Cline.





**VASA PA DISTRICT #9 PRESENTS A SPECIAL ZOOM PROGRAM  
“LUCKY STRIKE”**

You are cordially invited to attend a special Zoom presentation on

**February 17, 2024 at**

**3:00 – 4:00 pm EST**

*“Lucky Strike” - the story of Young American Airmen and Soldiers*

*who spent time interned in Sweden during World War II*

*Presentation by Robert Dyer and Arne Dunhem*

*Private Viewing of “Lucky Strike,” courtesy of Jan-Olof Nilsson*

**Register at:**

<https://vasa-districtno9.org/event-5515543>

or SCAN THE QR CODE below

*The zoom link will be forwarded to you on 2/15/24*



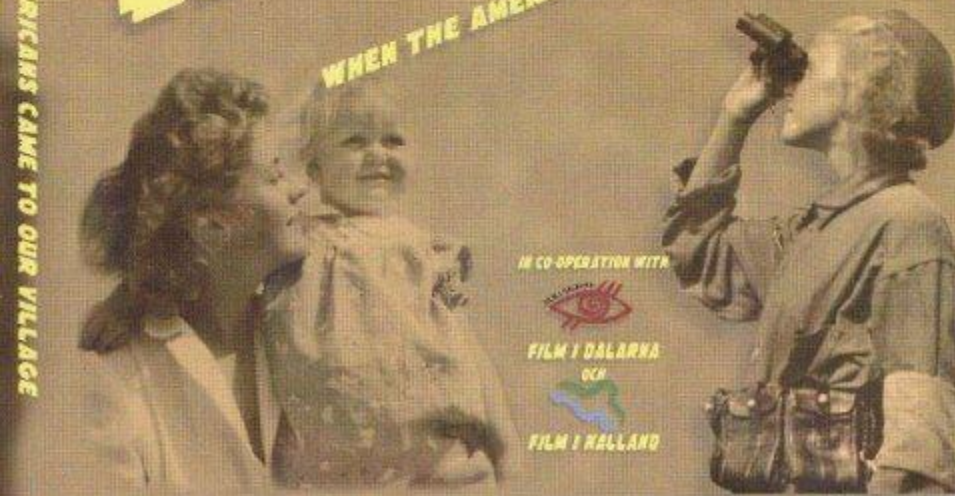
**LUCKY STRIKE**



A FILM BY  
JAN-OLOF NILSSON

# LUCKY STRIKE

WHEN THE AMERICANS CAME TO OUR VILLAGE



IN CO-OPERATION WITH



FILM I DALARNA

OCF



FILM I HALLAND



**Image: B 17 (Liberator) World War II bomber in Flight (Public Domain, U.S. Air Force)**

This special program features commentary by **Bob Dyer** describing the history of events on a little-known historical occurrence in the annals of Swedish and American history: Sweden's role in hosting thousands of U.S. airmen during World War II. When the aviators had to make forced landings of their "flying fortress" aircraft after bombing runs in Germany, many American airmen ended up interned in Sweden, where they recuperated from injuries; some spent many months in Sweden.

Bob will also interview **Arne Dunhem** whose father was one of the young Swedes who during the war were mechanics at one of the airfields where U.S. airmen landed or even crash-landed during WWII. Arne will present photos and information from his father's airfield museum called Ljungbyhed in Southern Sweden. He will also show official records about an airman and his crash-landing and internment at the Ljungbyhed airfield.

The program features a private showing of "Lucky Strike" (Video Viewing Courtesy of its creator, **Jan-Olof Nilsson**, Swedish author, copyright 2017).

During World War II tens of thousands of young American airmen were sent to Great Britain to participate in bombing runs over Germany to aid

in the liberation of Nazi occupied Europe. After being hit by German anti-aircraft guns or fighter planes, and without any possibility of returning to their home base, many of the crews tried to save themselves by flying to a country in the North that was out of the war's way. That country was Sweden. Many of the airmen died on this journey when their aircrafts crashed into the cold waters of the Baltic Sea, but more than 1,200 Americans succeeded in reaching the security of Swedish shores.

Their arrival in Sweden caused sensation. To some Swedes, these young Americans seemed to speak like movie stars from American films. The aviators gave Swedish children chewing gum and taught the Swedish girls to dance the jitterbug. After they recovered from injuries, they played their own distinctively American sports, such as baseball and American football. They also had chances to canoe on lakes and do cross-country skiing. Friendships were formed between the American airmen and Swedes. In some cases, romance and bonds of love were fashioned that led to marriage and children. Some Swedish brides accompanied their aviators to America.

Other young airmen died of their injuries in Sweden, and, of these, many were buried in Sweden.

Robert Dyer is a Professor Emeritus from The George Washington University. He is a board member of the Swedish American Cultural Union in Washington, D.C. Arne Dunhem is the current Chairman of Drott Lodge #168, the VASA chapter in Washington, D. C. He worked, before retirement, over many years as a senior executive of several high-tech companies in the U.S. and Europe to include companies for satellite communications, telephone services and semiconductor development.

*We request that you pre-register for the Zoom presentation by clicking on the registration link below OR scanning the QR Code above.*

*The Zoom link will be forwarded to you on 2/15/24.*

<https://vasa-districtno9.org/event-5515543>



## **Special Message From District #9 (Drott Lodge, Nobel-Monitor and Sven-Erie Lodge**

Hälsningar!

PA District #9 is committed to ReEnergizing and ReBuilding our Local Lodges, our District, and ultimately, Vasa Order of America.

Since October 2022, we have established a Working Group - ReEnergize & ReBuild - to perpetuate the noble heritage of our forefathers and to foster Nordic cultural activities.

In addition to retention and recruitment of members, supporting advanced technology to modernize the public face of our District and Lodges, one of our goals is to develop activities that could be shared by the three Lodges in District #9.

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# **DROTT LODGE #168**

## **VASA ORDER OF AMERICA**

**A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization**

**Instituted 1910**

**Washington, D.C.**

**Meeting Location: St. Mark Presbyterian Church,  
10701 Old Georgetown Road,  
North Bethesda, MD 20852**

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