



## **NEWSLETTER**

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### **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

While there will be cold, dark, crisp winter nights ahead, many of us will brighten the evenings with candlelight, play our favorite julmusik, and drink a steaming mug of spiced glögg. December brings a certain magic to each household, remembrances of the most cherished family traditions, and (despite the hectic schedules of our modern lives) quality time with our loved ones. I've already started dusting off my boxes of holiday decorations, digging out the straw Julbocken, my grandmother's very old and delicate Lucia crown, and hanging Scandinavian Christmas stars from the windows.

Of all the treasured Swedish holidays and festivals, St. Lucia is likely considered the most popular, the most anticipated, and the most beloved – not only within the Scandinavian community, but amongst other cultures as well. The time-honored traditions are simple yet captivating, and the Lucia pageants always seem to touch our hearts. It's no surprise that we receive more inquiries and interest in St. Lucia than any other of our monthly activities. Our Lodge's Lucia festival is steeped in tradition and prominently features our members' children and grandchildren throughout the celebration. I hope each of you can participate with us in this most cherished event.

In Truth & Unity,

Julie Lynn Olson

Tack så mycket to all of our members, family, friends, and neighbors who came out to support our annual bazaar! Hosting the bazaar the day after Halloween presented several challenges, but we orchestrated another

successful event thanks to so many of our dedicated members! A very special note of appreciation to each of our section leads (Margaret and Gerry Schueman, Carol Whitley, Joann Moretti, and Linda Smith) for endless hours of preparation and planning.

## COMING EVENTS

### **Drott Lodge St. Lucia Pageant and Jul Fest, Sunday, December 14, 4:30 pm**

The Lodge is preparing for our lovely Lucia Pageant scheduled on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. We would like to request those members that have children or grandchildren interested in participating in this wonderful celebration to contact Julie Olson ([Julie.Lynn.Olson@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.Lynn.Olson@gmail.com) or 571/224-6044) in order for us to plan the event. Younger children



dress all in red and play the role of tomtar (elves). Lucia, her attendants, and star boys each wear white gowns. Please include the following details for each child in your email or phone message: name, gender, age of each child, whether they have their own white gown or need a gown provided. If a gown is needed, please provide measurements from shoulder to ankle. **All children will need to arrive at St. James' Parish Hall between 3:45 and 4:00 pm.** One adult from each family group must also be available to help with the dressing and assist with rehearsal.

In addition, our **Lodge's holiday adult choir** will also be performing during the festivities and welcomes any members or family members who would like to join us! Please contact Arne Dunhem at [adunhem@arielway.com](mailto:adunhem@arielway.com) or 703/847-0940 if you would be interested in singing the traditional Swedish holiday songs with the choir. Rehearsal will be held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 7 pm (with a snow/rain date of December 2). Songs will be performed in Swedish and English and the lyrics can be provided via email before the rehearsal.

*Följ med oss. Det är dags för oss att verkligen njuta av den rika tradition som vår svenska kultur erbjuder. Come join us! It is time for us to truly enjoy the rich tradition of our Swedish culture – with our annual Lucia Pageant followed by a festive holiday party that includes dancing around the Christmas tree, a Julbord, craft activities for children, and a visit from the famous Jultomten with his bag of gifts for all the young ones. There will also be a mini-bazaar for your shopping enjoyment.*

### **Julbord**

Drott Lodge will provide beverages, meatballs, and herring. Attendees are asked to bring a side or a sweet in an amount sufficient to serve their own family/friends group, plus four others. Those with the last name beginning with letters A to M are asked to bring a side dish; those beginning with N to Z are asked to bring something sweet (dessert, cookies, etc...)

### **RSVP – General Attendees**

Please RSVP for our Pageant & Jul Fest to help us anticipate how many chairs and tables to set up – RSVP to Carol Whitley at [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net) or by calling (202) 669-2476 by **Wednesday, December 10**. Please include the total number of people in your group, including the age and gender of any children. Our annual Lucia pageant is a day of merriment for all – all of our pageant participants, members, family, friends, and volunteers make that happen. We are looking forward to a wonderful celebration!

# RECENT DROTT EVENTS



Our **Annual Bazaar** with Swedish Sandwiches, Princess Cakes, Swedish traditional music, and lovely Jul gifts was a great formula to start off the season!



# **VASA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2015**

## **Youth Scholarships to Swedish Language Camp**

1) We recently received a notice from the Vasa Grand Lodge announcing the availability of five Scholarships in 2015 to Concordia Language Camp near Bimidji, MN. The scholarships will pay the basic tuition (around \$1,925) for a two-week 2015 Summer Program and will reimburse travel expenses up to \$600. Applicants must be between 12 and 18 years of age as of April 1, 2015. The applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent must be a member in good standing of the Vasa Order of America for at least two years prior to April 2015. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than February 10.

2) **In addition to the five scholarships being awarded by the Grand Lodge, District Lodge Pennsylvania 9 will award one scholarship.** It is for the same two-week camp experience and will also pay for the full basic tuition, but the limit on reimbursable travel expenses will be \$300. Completed applications must be completed by February 12.

**This program is not a boring session of classroom Swedish lessons! It's a total immersion environment involving summer camp favorites such as camping, canoeing, swimming, and sailing mixed with authentic Swedish activities. Visit their website at [www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org](http://www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org) to see what they offer!**

## **Vasa Adult Scholarships**

District Lodge Pennsylvania 9 is also offering a ***Scandinavian Cultural Opportunity for Learning Scholarship***. The Scholarship is in the amount of up to \$1,500 and is available to District 9 members who are in good standing for at least one year. It is directed to those who wish to participate in a worthwhile Scandinavian educational or cultural activity in the U.S.,

Sweden, or other Scandinavian destination. For example, you might want to consider spending some time at the National Archives to help them add new materials to their collection.

**Applications for all the Grand Lodge and District 9 Scholarships are available electronically in a separate document accompanying this newsletter, through the Drott Lodge Website at [www.drott-lodge.org](http://www.drott-lodge.org), or by leaving a voice message for Drott Lodge at (202) 558-0175. Contact Carol Whitley at [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net) or by calling (202) 669-2476 to request a Lodge statement verifying your eligibility, which you will need to include with your application. Reservations at Concordia will be made by the Lodge when the scholarships have been awarded.**

### **The Vasa Order of America National Archives**

*Submitted by Drott Membership Chairman, Carol Whitley*

Likely all of our members know that the Vasa Order has a National Archives located in Bishop Hill, IL. And maybe most of us know that a small portion of our annual dues goes to helping support our National Archives, which was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1984. But perhaps many of us are not aware of the extensiveness of its collections and of its mission to build as complete a history as possible of Swedish emigrants to America and their descendants.

Some of us knew very little about our genealogy when we joined Drott Lodge; some of us are Swedish-born and know a lot or a moderate amount about our Swedish forbears. Other members came to us because they learned about our existence through a genealogy research group. When we joined Drott, we completed applications that merely included a box to check about our ancestry. But Our National Archives wants to know much more about us than this.

The Archives has its own "Genealogy Information" form on which members provide data on the place and date of birth of children, parents, and grandparents, with similar information for our spouses. If you've not provided this information in the past, you are encouraged to do so. You are also encouraged to visit the National Archives website (<http://www.vasaarchives.com>), read about its collections, and view videos and gain access when it becomes available to its ever-growing digital library.

Our National Archives is more than you would think. Get to know it. Contact Carol Whitley if you do not have internet service and she will send you the Archives Genealogy Form if you wish to complete it.

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **An Invitation from Colorado**

Long-time Lodge member **Siv Verschuur**, who joined the Lodge in 1983 and moved with her husband to Estes Park, Colorado in 1993, reports that she loves reading our newsletter and that she very much misses participating in Lodge activities. So much so, that she called to say that they have a lovely home, have an extra bedroom, and would welcome Lodge members to come for a visit. She and her husband also would love to have conversations with Lodge members or exchange correspondence, in Swedish or in English. She and her husband miss having conversations in Swedish and would love the opportunity to practice. So here's an opportunity – for those heading west, for those learning Swedish, for those who are Swedish-born and would enjoy chatting or writing to a member reaching out for a little Swedish contact. Her telephone number is 970-586-5835. She asks that if you call and leave a message that you identify yourself as a Swedish Lodge member from the Washington area, so that she will know you are not a solicitor, etc.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Tuesday, December 2, **MUSIC: The Echo Drift - World Premiere Preview of a New Opera**, House of Sweden, 2900 K St., NW, Washington, DC, Doors 6:30 pm, Show 7:30 pm. A surrealist mystery Indie opera by Elle Kunnos de Voss and Mikael Karlsson, performed by Metropolitan Opera soprano Amy Shoremount-Obra and backed up by a chamber ensemble and live electronics in a 6-channel surround system. The Opera is a mischievous take on perspectives of time, free will, and our time's neurotic strive to break societal expectations in the quest for self expression. Contact the Embassy to register.

Saturday, December 6, **Swedish Christmas Bazaar, House of Sweden**, 2900 K St, NW, Washington, DC, hosted by the Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA) and sponsored by the Embassy of Sweden and the House of Sweden. There will be a Swedish café and Swedish items for sale. A Lucia procession with traditional Swedish Holiday songs begins at 5 pm. Drott Lodge will be among the vendors.

Saturday, December 13, 5 -9 pm, **ASA Scandinavian Christmas Festival**, St James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD. The Lucia Pageant begins at 5 pm in the Sanctuary. Bazaar sales begin at 5:30 in the Parish Hall. Drott Lodge will be among the vendors. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 2-12, \$20 max per family. There will be refreshments, a visit by Santa, dancing around the tree, and a performance by the Nordic Dancers.

Saturday, December 20, 7 - 10 pm, **Scandinavian Dance , Greenbelt, MD**, Scandia DC sponsors a 3rd Saturday Holiday Dance Party this month with fiddlers Andrea Hoag, and Loretta Kelley and the Scandia DC Spelmannslag. No partners necessary. Dancing starts at 7, no teaching this month, but there will be short talk-throughs of most dances. Wear a

costume if you have one, bring finger food to share if you can, but most important, bring yourself. Greenbelt Community Center Dance Studio (wood floor) at 15 Crescent Rd.; \$10; Inclement weather call [310.474.0646](tel:310.474.0646). Info: [linda@scandiadc.org](mailto:linda@scandiadc.org), [www.scandiadc.org](http://www.scandiadc.org), [202-333-2826](tel:202-333-2826).

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Submissions for the January issue of the newsletter will be due to Linda Smith no later than December 28.

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