



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

NEWSLETTER

www.drott-lodge.org

December 2013

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Sisters and Brothers,

A most sincere *tack så mycket* to all of our members, family, friends and neighbors for volunteering at this year's annual Swedish Bazaar. You answered our call for assistance and the outcome was evident in our success! Emails and phone calls relaying compliments and praise are still coming in weeks later. It truly takes a Viking Village to coordinate and execute this massive effort. To each of you that baked, designed, labeled, served, poured, played, or cleaned, you have the full gratitude of your Lodge – and we thank you!



Our Nation's Capital is bustling with holiday cheer and most of us are frantically checking off items on shopping lists, attending work parties or choir rehearsals, and searching for the energy to write endless Christmas cards for family and friends. I invite you to slow down and spend one evening with the Lodge, amidst the glow of candlelight, the scent of cardamom, and the sound of the most familiar Swedish holiday tune, "Sankta Lucia", which elicits cherished holiday memories for many of us. Our Lucia pageant features Lodge members, children, and grandchildren, and I am repeatedly told that, while not comprised of professional singers, it is in fact the most beautiful and touching Lucia celebration in town. We always welcome member participation in the pageant and I hope each of you is able to attend the beautiful celebration and enjoy one of our most beloved holiday events.

In truth and unity,

Julie L. Olson

SPECIAL | 2013 Swedish Bazaar Pictures



The Lodge extends its most sincere appreciation to Bob Rainey and Ruth Bird for their extremely generous donations to our 2013 Bazaar.



More pictures from the 2013 Swedish Bazaar can be found at:
www.picasaweb.google.com/drott.lodge.168

Drott Lodge St. Lucia Pageant and Jul Fest

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.

Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

St. James' Episcopal Church Hall • 11815 Seven Locks Road,
Potomac, MD



2013 Lucia, Kara Fagerstrom

- If you have children or grandchildren that would like to participate in the Lucia Pageant, please send an email to the Lodge Chairman, Julie Olson, at julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com and copy (Cc) Carol Whitley at carol4600@verizon.net. You may also call Julie at (571) 244-6044 or Carol at (202) 669-2476. We kindly ask that you call or email by **Wednesday, December 4, 2013**.
- Younger children dress all in red and take the role of tomtar (elves); Lucia, her attendants, and star boys each wear white gowns. When you contact Julie or Carol, please let them know the name, gender, and age of each child, whether they have their own white gowns, or provide their measurements (shoulder to the ankle) if a Lodge gown is needed. Please include your phone number and email in your communication.
- Children participating in the Lucia pageant *must* arrive at St. James' Church Hall by **3:00 p.m.** One adult from each family group must also be available to help with the dressing and assist with rehearsal.



Details continue on Page 5...

Lucia Pageant - Adult Chorus

Our adult chorus helps lead the Christmas songs during the Lucia program. Songs are sung in Swedish and English with many of the singers wearing traditional Swedish national or regional attire.

If you are interested in joining the Adult Chorus this year, please contact **Arne Dunhem at adunhem@arielway.com or by phone at (703) 847-0940**. Lyrics can be sent via e-mail in advance of the program.

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 – **Please RSVP to Carol Whitley at carol4600@verizon.net or by calling (202) 669-2476 by Friday, December 6, 2013**. 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.

About Lucia in Sweden

St. Lucy/Lucia is one of the few saints celebrated by the overwhelmingly Lutheran Nordic peoples. The St. Lucy's Day celebrations retain many indigenous Germanic pagan, pre-Christian midwinter elements. Some of the practices associated with the day predate the adoption of Christianity in Scandinavia, and like much of Scandinavian folklore and even religiosity, is centered on the annual struggle between light and darkness.

The Nordic observation of St. Lucy is first attested in the Middle Ages, and continued after the Protestant Reformation in the 1520s and 1530s, although modern celebration is only about 200 years old. It is likely that tradition owes its popularity in the Nordic countries to the extreme change in daylight hours between the seasons in this region .

The pre-Christian holiday of Yule, of *jól*, was the most important holiday in Scandinavia and Northern Europe. Originally the observance of the winter solstice, and the rebirth of the sun, it brought about many practices that remain in the Advent and Christmas celebrations today. The Yule season was a time for feasting, drinking, gift giving, and gatherings, but also the season of awareness and fear of the forces of the dark.

Source:
en.wikipedia.com/wiki/Saint_Lucy's_day#Sweden

LODGE NEWS

Thank you NBC4 Washington and meteorologists/anchors Doug Kammerer and Chuck Bell! This year marked 20 years NBC4 has announced the Swedish Bazaar during their evening broadcasts before this much-anticipated event. Our gratitude extends to Gerry & Margaret Schueman for reaching out to the station annually to coordinate the announcement and delivering samples of our baked goods and open-faced sandwiches to be shown on air.

Thank you Don Beyer Motors, Inc. and their General Sales Manager, Danny Kreps, of Don Beyer Volvo of Falls Church, for providing a top-of-the-line show vehicle to display in front of the hall and one free weekend rental for the bazaar raffle.

NEW imported Swedish gifts have just arrived for our mini-bazaar at the Drott Lodge Lucia Pageant on December 8th. Excellent opportunity to find the perfect stocking stuffer or last minute gifts you might need!

Have you visited our website lately? If no, we encourage you to visit www.drott-lodge.org and check out our *NEW* website! Lodge member Eric Randolph undertook the project in mid-November to update and transition the site to a new design. The website is now consistent with the branding that began earlier this year, which carried over to many of the flyers, labels, and posters used during this year's bazaar. Some of the new features include: a message from our Chairman, Julie Olson; a detailed calendar of Lodge events and programs; the ability to archive past editions of our Newsletter; online contact forms that will email us directly about membership and general inquiries; and the homepage includes access to our Facebook albums with our most recent photos.

UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS & PROGRAMS

December 8 – St. Lucia Pageant, Jul Fest, and mini-Bazaar

Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. Drott Lodge will hold its annual St. Lucia Pageant, Jul Fest and mini-bazaar at St. James' Episcopal Church Hall, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, Maryland. Please see pages 4 & 5 for more details.

Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up and/or takedown at Lucia. If your availability permits to help with either set-up (around 1:30 p.m.) or takedown immediately following the program, please contact Carol Whitley at carol4600@verizon.net or call (202) 669-2476.

January 12 - 2014 Drott Lodge Election of Officers & Business Meeting

On January 12th Drott Lodge No. 168 will convene at 2:00 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church Hall, 11815 Seven Locks Road Potomac, Maryland, for a regular business meeting that will include the election and installation of Officers and Board Members for 2014. Further information will be published in the January 2014 Newsletter and on our website at www.drott-lodge.org/calendar-events/.

OTHER EVENTS

SWEA Washington, D.C. will host their annual Swedish Christmas Bazaar on **Saturday, December 7, 2013** from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at House of Sweden 2900 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. The bazaar will feature Swedish arts & crafts, crystal, textiles, artwork, books, decorations, and much more! Enjoy Swedish Christmas carols performed by the Sankta Lucia procession. The café will offer home baked goods and Swedish sandwiches. Free Admission. For more information visit www.swea.org.

Drott Lodge will have a booth at the SWEA Bazaar. Please contact Joann Moretti if you are interested in volunteering - joann.moretti@gmail.com.

American Scandinavian Association of the National Capital Area, Inc. (ASA) will host their annual Scandinavian Christmas Festival on **Saturday, December 14, 2013** from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, Potomac, Maryland. Lucia pageant begins at 5:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary with refreshments and bazaar immediately following in the church hall. \$7.00 adult, \$3 ages 2-12, free under 2 (\$20 max per family). For more information please visit www.scandinavian-dc.org or contact Gerry Schueman at gerry@schueman.com or call (703) 734-0319.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Submissions for the January Newsletter are due **December 22.**



God jul och gott nytt år
*Merry Christmas and
 Happy New Year*

Drott Lodge Officer Contact Information

Chairman	Julie L. Olson	(571) 224-6044	julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com
Vice-Chairman	Arne Dunhem	(703) 624-8042	adunhem@arielway.com
Recording Sec.	Linda E. Smith	(240) 912-7120	leslieandlinda@comcast.net
Treasurer	Marianne Diaz	(301) 371-7273	marinick1@comcast.net
Asst. Treasurer	Dennis P. Roy	(703) 273-4387	leroy1996@hotmail.com
Financial Sec.	Carol Whitley	(202) 686-6214	carol4600@verizon.net
Asst. Financial Sec.	Betty Johnson	(410) 634-8917	bmj7q@uvawise.edu
Cultural Leader	Bob Rainey	(301) 257-3643	bobrainey1@msn.com
Historian	Eva Dunhem	(703) 847-0940	edunhem@verizon.net
Chaplain	Martha Wolf		

Past Chairman	Margaret Schueman	(703) 734-0319	margaret@schueman.com
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Executive Board

Larilyn André	Gerry Schueman	Joann Moretti
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Newsletter Editor

Linda E. Smith	leslieandlinda@comcast.net	(240) 912-7120
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Webmaster

Eric T. Randolph	eric@randolphUS.com	(202) 558-0175
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