



## **NEWSLETTER**

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### **Gott Nytt År – Happy New Year**

Sisters and Brothers,

2015 is freshly behind us, and as a Lodge, we have many accomplishments to be proud of as we begin the 2016 season. We continue to see steady increases in membership – a trend I have no doubt will continue throughout 2016 and beyond. Our annual bazaar was successful, as was the event at the House of Sweden. Yet, 2015 was a year of significant change for the Lodge. We moved to a new space within St. James' and, by and large, have adapted to the limitations and noted many benefits with the move. One benefit was the ability to use the church sanctuary for our traditional Sankta Lucia program. Ellie McCabe, our Lucia, led a beautiful Lucia court in a pageant that will go down in our history books as one of the best. The program was highlighted by Ellie's magnificent solo!

Our January meeting is an important affair in the life of the Lodge. It is the time of year that we vote on new officers and update our membership on the state of the Lodge financially. I strongly encourage members to attend this meeting and to be present for the vote. I extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to Carol Whitley who graciously accepted to chair the nominating committee again this year. Our past Chairmen, Margaret Schueman and Julie Olson, and Recording Secretary Linda Smith join Carol on the committee.

Happy New Year,

Eric Randolph  
Chairman

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **DROTT LODGE JANUARY 10 MEETING**

**Undercroft of St James' Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD**

The January meeting will include a number of important business items, nominations and election of officers for 2016 and a report of Drott's current financial position. While the Nominating Committee referred to by Chairman Randolph will be presenting a slate of nominations, it is not too late for you to indicate your interest in participating as an officer, either for a specific office or as needed. If you want more information or just want to express your interest in becoming involved, contact Carol Whitley at 202-686-6214 or [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net). You may also make a nomination of yourself or another member during the meeting.

Now that our Annual Bazaar is over, we will be able to evaluate how we are doing financially and what kind of activities we would like to have in 2016. This would be a good time to make your suggestions.

Our Cultural Program will be a video presentation that member Susan Remmert recommended after seeing it herself. It is the story of Princess Märtha of Norway and the sculpture of her that was erected in front of the Norwegian Ambassador's residence in Washington DC in 2005. Princess Märtha, a Swedish-born princess (son of Prince Carl of Sweden and Princess Ingeborg of Denmark) and her husband, Crown Prince Olav, were friends of President and Mrs. Roosevelt. Märtha and her children spent several years in Washington during World War II.

## **OTHER COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST**

**January 30, Swedish Fire Festival**, Barren Ridge Vineyards, Fishersville, VA, \$85. This is a relatively new event for the winter season that includes Swedish inspired food, wine, and entertainment by the Nordic Dancers and fiddle star Paul Carlson. Visit [barrenridgevineyards.com](http://barrenridgevineyards.com) for more information.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED DROTT'S SANKTA LUCIA



Our Lucia this year was more enjoyable than ever since we were in the lovely Sanctuary with its ceremonial lighting. All our youthful participants did a wonderful job!

Our lovely Drott Lucia Ellie McCabe and her grandmother Karin McCabe preparing for Ellie's debut as Lucia.





This was a memorable event for each of the Lucia participants— Lucia, attendants, star boys and tomten, as each had his/her own important role to play.



And no Lucia event is complete without traditional songs and dances around the Julgran for the whole family, a Santa for the children, and a table of holiday dishes.

## **VASA NEWS**

### **2016 SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### **Grand Lodge**

The Grand Lodge has announced the availability of its 2016 Scholarships to Swedish Language Camp. Applicants must be between 12 and 18 years of age as of April 1, 2016. The applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent must be a member of the Vasa Order of America for at least two years prior to April 1, 2016. The Scholarship will pay basic tuition for the two-week summer program and reimburse travel expenses up to \$600 against submitted receipts. Date of camp: August 1-13, 2016 (schedule subject to change). Applications must be postmarked by February 10, 2016. The application is attached as the last page of this newsletter and is available on-line at [www.vasaorder.com](http://www.vasaorder.com).

#### **District 9**

As discussed last month, VASA District 9 also has two Scholarship Programs for 2016— the “Youth Language Camp Scholarship to Concordia Language Villages” and the “Adult Scandinavian Cultural Opportunity for Learning” Scholarship. Applications must be submitted by March 1.

Applicants for the youth scholarship must be between the ages of 12 and 18 and a member, child, or grandchild of a Vasa member in good standing for the past two years as of January 1, 2016. The scholarship will include the basic two-week camp tuition. No travel costs are included.

The intended focus for both the Grand Lodge and District 9 youth scholarships is the development/strengthening of interest in Swedish cultural heritage through a 2-week cultural immersion program at the Swedish camp in Concordia Language Village in Minnesota. We encourage you to visit the Concordia website at [ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org](http://ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org) to learn more about the range of exciting camp activities offered along with the language instruction.

For adults, the “Scandinavian Cultural Opportunity for Learning” scholarship is intended to assist members in exploring the Swedish culture and includes up to \$1,500 in reimbursable expenses. The applicant must be a Vasa member in good standing for at least the past two full years prior to January 1, 2016. If you wish to obtain an application for either District 9

Scholarship, contact Marit Knollmueller at 917-482-1899 or [mknollmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:mknollmueller@yahoo.com).

## **MEMBER NEWS**

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of member **Riley Bostrom** on November 25, 2015, at the age of 92 in East Northport NY. Riley was born in Jamestown NY, the son of Anna and Aaron Bostrom. Riley, a long-time peace activist, served in WW II in both the Coast Guard and the Army. After he was discharged he received a B.S.E. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan. He then was employed at Airborne Industries in Mineola NY where he was involved in the development of a technique to detect early uterine cancer cells. In 1971, he left the corporate world to establish a print shop to offer affordable publishing services to artists, activists and many non-profits.

Riley was a member of the War Resisters League, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, the Venceremos Brigade, the Sierra Club, and the United Farm Workers. He organized against the proliferation of nuclear arms and facilitated workshops on non-violent civil disobedience. He also led a grass roots movement that resulted in the abandonment of a fully completed nuclear power plant in Shoreham, NY. Riley and his third wife Esther were 1990 recipients of the War Resisters League 29th Annual Peace Award. In 2007, he was awarded the Howard and Agnes Sollenberger Community Action Award for his work in social justice and global affairs. Riley was also an avid reader and outdoorsman. He walked the entire Appalachian Trail, completing the final segment in his 60s.

Much loved by all his family, Riley created a devoted circle of loved ones who thought of him as a true father, grandfather, mentor and friend. He was predeceased by his first wife Hazel (nee Norquist) and daughter Becky, his brother Burdette and two sisters-in-law. He lost Esther to cancer in 2010. He is survived by his brother Larry Bostrom of Hartford CT and loving nieces.

## **NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

You might find the following discussion of New Year's celebrations in Sweden of interest.

In accordance with the Roman Calendar, the Swedish New Year begins on 1 January. In pre-industrial society, it was a part of the Christmas-time celebrations. In contrast to Christmas, however, it was mainly a festive occasion for young people. They saw in the year with food, drink and merriment. To mark the transition, and to see off the old year, they fired guns or yelled and screamed, or kicked up a row in some other way. The turn of the year was considered a magical time, when people tried to foresee the future. One way of telling your future was to mould lead in water and then interpret the figures this produced. Another was to toss shoes. If your shoe landed with the toe pointing towards the door, it meant you would move away or even die during the year.

New Year's Day was thought to be symbolic for the year as a whole. So it was important not to carry anything out of the house, as this meant discarding happiness for the rest of the year. If the sun shone on New Year's Day, a good year could be expected. Ever since 1893, when the custom began at the Skansen open-air museum in Stockholm, the country's churches have rung in the New Year at midnight.

Source: [www.swede.se](http://www.swede.se)

Your submissions for the February issue of the newsletter will be needed no later than January 24. Please send them to Linda Smith at [leslieandlinda2@comcast.net](mailto:leslieandlinda2@comcast.net) or call Linda at 301-467-8477 (cell). I will be producing the February and March newsletters from Florida.

### DROTT LODGE CONTACTS

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LODGE VOICEMAIL		202 558-0175	

# Vasa Scholarships to Swedish Language Camp

The Grand Lodge Executive Board will award Sjölundén Scholarships to qualified applicants from the U.S. and Canada.

**Eligibility:** Applicant must be between 12 and 18 years of age as of April 1, 2016. Applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent must be member of the Vasa Order of America for at least **two** years prior to April 2016.

**Requirements:** Award winner is expected to provide:  
A. evidence of health/accident insurance **and** a statement absolving the Vasa Order of America of any liability,  
B. a letter of recommendation from a current teacher and the latest records of grades,  
C. a brief essay on “WHY I SHOULD BE CHOSEN TO GO TO THE SJÖLUNDÉN SWEDISH CAMP,”  
D. a letter, bearing the **Local Lodge Seal**, verifying that applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent will be a member for at least **two** years prior to April 1, 2016,  
E. other comments that will assist in selecting the winners.

**Awards:** The Vasa Order of America will pay the basic tuition (around \$2,035) for the two-week 2016 Summer Program and will reimburse travel expenses up to \$600 against submitted receipts. All other costs will be borne by the recipient.

**Date of Camp:** August 1-13, 2016 (Schedule is subject to change). Refer to:  
<http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-languages/Swedish-language-village>

Winners will be notified and names submitted to the Language Village. – Tuition will be paid to the Village. – Winners will then make application on the web: <http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-dates-and-rates>. Language Village application must be completed and returned to them together with the evidence of insurance as requested above. – The program is a unique opportunity for young students interested in learning the Swedish Language and Culture. – Exciting language, cultural and recreational programs are offered by well-trained and highly qualified staff members. – Participants live in cabins with their own counselors who organize all activities and teach the language. – Tuition includes food, lodging, instruction and instructional material. – Villagers may bring spending money that will be converted to Swedish currency for purchases at the Village Store. – Sjölundén Language Village is located by the Turtle River near Bemidji, Minnesota. – The village is surrounded by beautiful Scandinavian looking woods and is accessible by commercial air travel.

Mail the application below, together with all information requested above, to:

**Art Bjorkner, Vice Grand Master**  
**31 Vasa Dr**  
**Hackettstown, NJ 07840**

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Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant’s date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number with Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

Address/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Vasa Member’s name: Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

LL Secretary: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** You are still eligible even if you have registered to attend Sjölundén 2016 summer but please check here \_\_\_\_ to avoid double billing. **POSTMARK DATE IS FEBRUARY 10, 2016. LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

**Good Luck!**