



## NEWSLETTER

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### DROTT COMING EVENTS

#### Pea Soup Dinner in My Hometown

March 9, 2:30 pm, St. James Episcopal Church  
11815 Seven Locks Rd, Potomac MD

#### Drott's Annual Pea Soup and Plättar Dinner, also known as "Ärtsoppa och Pannkakor"

Come join us on March 9<sup>th</sup> for one of our Lodge's most popular events!

Pea soup and pancakes is still a traditional Thursday night dinner in Sweden. Drott's version of this customary meal includes pea soup with knäckebröd, cheese, and ham, followed by plättar for dessert (served with syrup or jam). The cost of the meal is \$6 for Drott members, \$9 for guests, \$3 for children 6 to 12, and free for those under 6. Beverages are included. Donations of cheese are welcomed.



Last year we dined aboard the *Gripsholm*, the Swedish American Line's ocean liner, which departed from Göteborg and Sweden to New York, and we heard reminiscences from members about their journeys to the new country. This year we will return to the homeland and come back to Göteborg and Sweden and enjoy today's life there. We will dine at a busy but nice restaurant in Göteborg and will learn from members Eva and Arne Dunhem about pea soup dinners and life in Eva's hometown of Göteborg. Eva has plenty of memories and stories to tell about what you can experience when you "come back to Göteborg."

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For planning purposes it is important that we have a good estimate of how many people will attend. We want to be sure to have enough food and beverages for everyone and that we have enough tables and chairs set up in advance. These are the same issues that an invitation to a meal at your friend's house would present. Call Carol Whitley at 202-669-2476 or email to [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net) and let her know that you will be coming, how many will be in your party, and whether you can help with set-up, warming and serving the food, or clean-up.

We have pea soup makers but need more people to make plättar. Please let Carol know if you would be able to make some plättar.

**TIP FOR THE PEA SOUP MAKERS:** The soup comes out much better if the peas are soaked for three nights instead of just one as suggested on the Lars pea package labels. The soaking peas should be refrigerated and the water should be changed daily.

We'll have a Spring Mini-Bazaar with imported goods for sale. We will also collect canned goods, dried pasta, or other non-perishable items for our food drive. Travel kits, such as those given by airlines, are also useful.

**"March 27th at 7:30 pm - Drott Lodge visit to Don Beyer Volvo, Falls Church, VA.**

We will have a special presentation of the history of the Swedish Volvo, description of the manufacturing and a showing of the latest models of Volvo cars. Location: 1231 W Broad St, Falls Church, VA 22046. Please call or email Arne Dunhem 703-847-0940 [adunhem@arielway.com](mailto:adunhem@arielway.com) for additional information.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE**

### **OUR Year of Giving**

As enthusiasm and participation in our Lodge increases, membership initiatives grow, allowing our Lodge to flourish and providing an opportunity

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to recognize and express appreciation to the individuals and organizations that strengthen our community. Many of our members have requested that we increase our outreach programs and emphasize volunteer efforts. At February's meeting, our Special Goals Committee recommended four organizations as recipients of our Lodge's annual donation to the community. Our membership was overwhelmingly supportive of the nominations, but with a renewed emphasis on generosity this year (one of Vasa's primary virtues), we will also contribute our time, energy and compassion in addition to solely providing a monetary donation. Our most ambitious undertaking will take place in late July. Members of the lodge will prepare, cook, and serve up to 80 meals for the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As a host of their Sunday Supper, we will be able to help not only the children, but also families traveling with them to NIH for scheduled treatments and tests. The Lodge also approved a small donation to the Capital Area Food Bank. In conjunction with this monetary contribution, we are holding a food drive during our Pea Soup event and ask members to bring several canned food items for this effort.

In addition to these community outreach programs, our members voted to provide two donations to local Swedish organizations that include the Swedish School for Language and Culture and the Swedish Song Group. Drott Lodge #168 will be helping to sponsor the group's "Visafton" (or song evening) on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Adelphi Mill. Visiting musicians and singers from Uppland, Sweden as well as local talent will play the accordion, nyckelharpa, and the fiddle. Our Lodge is excited to be involved with this festive evening, rich in Swedish culture, that will include dancing, singing, and dinner.

It is evident from the programs described above that our membership places a high value on community outreach. We are fortunate to have the ability to sponsor these events – and hope the impacts of our efforts are strengthened by member participation.

In Truth & Unity,

Julie L. Olson

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## **RECENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Drott Welcomes New Members at February Meeting**

Eight new members were welcomed into the Drott family at our February meeting. They are Virginia Cain of Potomac, John Norquist of Fairfax, Linda and Peter Olson of Jenks, OK (Chair Julie's parents), Catherine Peterson of Alexandria (Julie's cousin), Maxine Randolph of Athens, PA (Vice Chair Eric's mom), and Wendy, Keith, and Kevin Shoemaker of Reston. This is a great start to our "Year of Membership." Let's keep working together to grow our Lodge in numbers and participation.



Shown above( left to right) are the Shoemaker family, Kevin, Wendy, and Keith; Cathie Peterson, and John Norquist.

### **Meeting Presentation: Finding Family Farms in Sweden**

Donna Clarke presented an information-packed program about her trip to Sweden which was partially supported by the 2013 District 9 Cultural Scholarship Award. Her presentation focused on how we all can locate our family farms in Sweden. She identified many of her family farms in

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Kronobergs län, and spent most of a week in July visiting several of them. Volunteers from the local historical society guided Donna and her sister on two different days to various locations. They found other farms on their own. At one farm, Håramon, currently owned by the wife of the person guiding her that day, they were served *fika*. Donna's great-great-grandfather once owned this farm and died there in 1863 when her great-grandmother Anna Jonsdotter was a teenager. Six years later, Anna married and left for the U.S. within days of her wedding.



Another farm, Ekenäs, was owned by Donna's great-great-grandfather and his descendants for several decades. This farm contains a fireplace big enough to hold two stoves and heat the living room on the other side. These farm houses are now used as summer houses and are filled with items from the 19th and early 20th Centuries.



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## **VASA NEWS**

### **District 9 Biennial Meeting in Gettysburg — September 26-28**

So that the District Officers may be responsive to the concerns of the members, District Master Margaret Schueman has asked that members send her any issues that you believe should be discussed at the Convention.

The District is making a special effort to encourage attendance not only by Local Lodge Delegates but other Lodge members and friends as well. This will be a special opportunity to meet the newly elected Grand Lodge Officers and to learn from them first-hand the coming changes in the Order that will affect the Local Lodges. In addition, as most of you are aware, Gettysburg is a very special place, worthy of a visit even without a Convention.

For those arriving Friday, you may tour the Battlefield (sign up early if you want a tour) and visit the new Seminary Ridge Museum. Friday dinner will be held at the historic Dobbin House Tavern (with prior Convention Reservation). Convention activities begin on Saturday. All attendees may be seated at the Saturday afternoon session. For those attending this session and staying at the Convention Hotel on both Friday and Saturday nights, attendance at the Saturday night banquet is free. Convention activities end at noon on Sunday.

For those who did not receive the Convention Package by email, there will be copies available at the March 9 meeting.

This would be a great opportunity see Gettysburg and a rare opportunity to meet Lodge members from the other three District 9 Lodges: Erie, Cleveland, and Philadelphia. Give it some serious consideration.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Don't forget to pay your dues! They are due by the end of March.** For most members, dues are \$30. For Life members and those younger than age 25, dues are \$20.40. However, we encourage anyone financially able to pay the full amount to please do so.

Make checks payable to: Drott Lodge #168. Send to Carol Whitley, 4600 Connecticut Ave. NW, Apt 819, Washington, DC 20008-5707. You may pay by credit card only at the March 9 meeting.

### **Has your email address changed?**

If you have a new email address or would like to change the email address where communications from the Lodge are sent, please send us an email at [drott-lodge@drott-lodge.org](mailto:drott-lodge@drott-lodge.org) with your new or updated email address. Please include: 1) "New Email" in the subject line, and 2) your full name and new email address in the body. Thank you!

Please remember to like us on Facebook, too! You can find our page at <http://on.fb.me/1bUHfBP>. Our Facebook page is the quickest way to stay up-to-date with Lodge news, announcements, and photos, in addition to finding news and items of interest from Scandinavia. Liking our Facebook page will also help us promote Drott Lodge and Vasa Order of America to a broader electronic audience.

## OTHER EVENTS

**New Exhibits at the House of Sweden**, through June, Saturdays 11am -4 pm, Sundays noon to 5 pm.

**Facing the Climate**, artistic reflections on climate change;

**Von Echstedtedtska Garden**, a legendary Värmland Rocco Dream; and

**Future is a Long Story**, stories of a glorious past and future, produced by glass artist Ingalena Klenell for the Värmland Museum Partners.

**March 8, 7 pm Adolphe Sax Bicentennial, Classical Saxophone Concert**, Lyceum, Oldtown Alexandria, Tickets \$17 online, \$20 at the door. [info@classicalsaxophonist.com](mailto:info@classicalsaxophonist.com)

**March 15, 7-10 PM, Scandia DC 3rd Saturday Dance**, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Drive, Greenbelt, MD. Teaching: 7-8 PM, Valdres Springar - a popular dance from the Hardanger fiddle region of Norway, taught by Linda Brooks and Ross Schipper. No partners necessary. This month live fiddle music will feature Loretta Kelley, our local treasure and considered to be the most accomplished American born hardanger fiddle player. There may be some recorded music. Enjoy a variety of Scandinavian couple dances led by Linda Brooks and Ross Schipper. Cost \$10. Info: call Linda or Ross at 202-333-2826 or e-mail Linda ([linda@scandiadc.org](mailto:linda@scandiadc.org)). Visit their website at: [www.scandiadc.org](http://www.scandiadc.org). If inclement weather, call 301-474-0646 for closing info.

**SAVE THE DATE: MAY 10, VISAFTON 2014** (a 2014 recipient of Drott's Special Goals Program, among other sponsors) 12th Annual celebration, at Adelphi Mill, Adelphi, MD (close to College Park). Nyckelharpa rikspelman and Zorn gold-medalist Cajsa Ekstav and accordionist Örjan Englund are coming from Sweden to play and sing. The Swedish Song Group and Washington Spelmanslag will also contribute. "All-sing", socializing, dancing, and supper. Register early. Contact Kerstin Hendrickson at [kerstinhend@gmail.com](mailto:kerstinhend@gmail.com).

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Submissions for the April Newsletter are due March 23.

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