



NEWSLETTER

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COMING EVENTS

March 12, Drott Lodge Pea Soup and Pancakes Dinner, Set-up 1:30, Dinner 2:30 pm, Undercroft of St. James' Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD

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 pancakes for dessert (served with jam and whipped cream).

So that everyone will have a chair to sit on and a table to sit at, it is critical that each party contact Carol Whitley in advance at 202-669-2476 or carol4600@verizon.net to reserve the number of spaces you expect to need.



In addition, we need more people to arrive at 1:30 to help set up. We also need more kitchen workers, food line servers and clean-up people. Drott members who have paid their dues (or pay them at the dinner) will not be charged the "meal" fee. The donation for all others age 13 and over is \$10, \$5 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for those under age 6.



Our theme and program that will accompany the dinner will be **Vasaloppet** (the “Vasa-race”). It is an annual long distance cross-country ski race held on the first Sunday of March. The 90 km (56 miles) course starts in the village of **Sälen/Berga** and ends in the town of Mora in northwestern Dalarna, Sweden. It is the oldest and longest cross-country ski race in the world, as well as the one with the highest number of participants (15,800 participants).

We have a “racing star”, Gunnel Hamilton, a Drott Lodge friend who lives in Alexandria, VA, and who will talk about her participation in the Vasaloppet. She has many times skied Tjejvasan (“the Girls-Vasa”) and the Kortvasan (“the short-Vasa”), both about 20 miles long. She has also skied both halves of the real Vasaloppet course, from the beginning in Sälen/Berga to the middle Evertsberg (47 km, 29 miles) and from Evertsberg to Mora (43 km, 28 miles), although not on the same day. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about this iconic event. Perhaps you will even be inspired to try it yourself!



If you are in the market for a very cute special-occasion gift, Joann Moretti still has a few of these gnomes that were available at the Drott Bazaar, \$10 each. Contact Joann Moretti at joann.moretti@hotmail.com or 301-438-1940 to place your order. They will be available for pickup at the Pea Soup Dinner or other arrangements can be made.



DUES ARE DUE

If you haven't paid your 2018 dues yet, they are due to Carol Whitley by March 31. If you are coming to the Pea Soup Dinner, you may pay them by credit card at the meeting. Otherwise, please mail your check, payable to "Drott Lodge #168", to Carol Whitley, 4600 Connecticut Ave., NW, Apt. 819, Washington, DC 20008-5707. Dues for most members are \$50. Dues for Youth and Life Members are \$25.75.

SAVE THESE DATES

April 8

Drott meeting, Bob Dyer will present a program on Swedish Sporting Heroes. There will also be a business meeting that includes voting on and initiating several new members, a well as a Draping of the Charter in memory of two of our members, Verna Finly and Erland Magnuson, who have passed on.

April 28

Valborgmässoafton (Walpurgis Night), picnic & bonfire to welcome spring. Drott Lodge again will arrange the very popular and traditional celebration of Valborgmässoafton (Walpurgis Night) with bonfire, spring-inspired singing and music, games for the children, and a BYO picnic. There will be Swedish musicians playing. A senior representative from the Swedish Embassy will present the “Welcome Spring – Goodbye Winter” Speech. More than 250 people joined the event last year. All are welcome to this free celebration.



With all these activities going on we will need many volunteers to assure that it runs smoothly and safely. Please contact Arne Dunhem at adunhem@gmail.com to help out.

May 12

Manassas Viking Festival, Old Town Manassas, VA. Drott Lodge plans to participate in this all-Scandinavian event with a sales and information table, members in costume, and members who participate in the Nordic Dance Group. This event is the area’s first Viking Festival and it is expected to include multiple vendors, musicians, crafts, foods, several reenactment groups, Icelandic sheep, a Fjord horse, possibly other horses, and falcons Move over, Scanfest!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Drott Cultural Leader Marit Knollmueller presented yet another facet of interesting Swedish history at the February Drott meeting. She focused on Skansen, the fascinating living history museum in Stockholm that dates from the late 1800s. Skansen served as an early role model for many such museums that are now seen in other countries and other locations in Sweden.



MEMBER NEWS

George Nord, Grand Master of the Vasa Order from 1990-1994, passed away in Connecticut on February 17 at the age of 91. See his obituary at <http://flynnfuneral.com/obituary/george-nord>.

OTHER EVENTS

March 7, 6:30 pm, **Talk with Swedish Author Lars Kepler**, for “*The Sandman - A Joona Linna Novel*”, an international best seller. State Books: The Apollo, 600 H St., NE, Washington, DC. Meet the authors at 6:30 pm.

FROM THE EDITOR

The Lodge is always interested in new program ideas for our meetings, special events, or excursions. Let us know what sounds interesting to you.

Please send your input for the April issue of the Drott Newsletter to leslieandlinda2@comcast.net or Linda Smith, 13121 Brandon Way Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2101.

Linda Smith, Editor