



## **COMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, April 8, Drott Lodge April Meeting, 2:30 pm, Undercroft of St. James' Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD**

We will begin the meeting with a presentation by Dr. Robert F. Dyer, Professor Emeritus of Marketing at the George Washington University. Bob's topic will be "Sports Activities and Programs in Sweden: Who Comes After Borg, Sorenstam, and Zlatan?" The session will look at trends in Swedish sports participation including: Which sports in Sweden are gaining popularity and which are losing (and why). How does a country with a small population like Sweden continue to produce such large numbers of world class athletes in numerous sports? Is there any connection between Swedish nationals' traits or characteristics (e.g. fair-play) and how they play their sports activities? The session will also cover major differences between the U.S., Sweden and Norway with respect to world sporting dominance. Finally, the results of a poll of readers provided by Dagens Nyheter newspaper will be used to look at profiles of Sweden's Top Ten All-Time Athletes.

Bob has written a number of articles and case studies on sports trends in Sweden. His last presentation to Drott Lodge covered "Hovding: The Airbag for Bike Riders." He has travelled to Sweden every year for the past two decades with each visit involving a few activities as a participant or spectator in sports such as XC skiing, sailing, soccer matches, tennis, golf, distance running, bicycling, fishing, car racing, and equestrian programs.

A business meeting will follow the presentation. It will include a Draping of the Charter in memory of four Drott members who have passed on. Information about each is included later in the Newsletter.

**Saturday, April 28, Valborgsmässoafton, 4 pm – 8 pm**

Drott Lodge will again celebrate our traditional Swedish Valborgsmässoafton (Walpurgis Night) with a bonfire, spring-inspired singing and music. A senior representative from the Swedish Embassy will present the “Welcome Spring – Goodbye Winter” Speech. This is the evening when Swedes traditionally go out singing and joining others to watch bonfires in their communities to celebrate the coming of the spring. Students wear their white student caps – so please bring your student cap along if you have one. The celebration will start at **4 pm** with children’s games to include fun races for young and old. Please bring your own picnic food and BYOB and, if you so wish, marshmallows and makings for s’mores over the fire. The wonderful pizza oven will be heated up, so bring along pizza toppings. You will need folding chairs/beach chairs or blankets since no seating will be provided. Like last year, the celebration will be in a large private residence and private park in McLean, Virginia with ample parking close-by. RSVP as soon as possible, but no later than April 20<sup>th</sup> to Arne Dunhem (in English) with email: [arnedrottlodge@gmail.com](mailto:arnedrottlodge@gmail.com) or Larilyn Andre (in Swedish) with email: [info@drott-lodge.org](mailto:info@drott-lodge.org). You will then receive specific address information. Please tell Arne or Larilyn how many adults and children you plan to bring. Please join us for this delightful spring event.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, May 12, Manassas Viking Festival, Old Town Manassas, VA.**

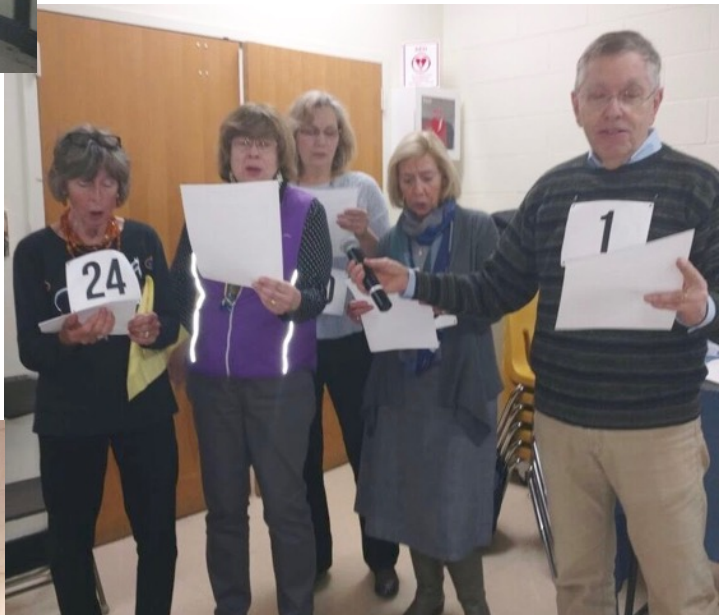
Drott Lodge plans to participate in this all-Scandinavian event with a sales and information table, members in costume, and members who participate in the Nordic Dance Group. This event is the area’s first Viking Festival and it is expected to include multiple vendors, musicians, crafts, foods, several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

## IN CASE YOU MISSED THE LAST MEETING



Our speaker Gunnel Hamilton was a joy to listen to; she so clearly enjoyed her racing experiences. She also showed a fascinating video of an early Vasaloppet.

Our group of Swedish speakers treated us to authentic versions of songs to celebrate the Vasaloppet.



The debut appearance at the Lodge of Victoria, age 5 months, daughter of District Chairman Julie Olson and husband Eric Bosavage.

## IN MEMORY

Drott member **Verna B. Finly** passed away in March 2017 in Springfield VA at the age of 95. The daughter of Swedish missionaries, Verna was born in Seoul, Korea in 1921. The family moved back to their native Sweden when Verna was age 9. Verna had 3 sisters: Mildred, Gunver and Margaret. Just after the close of World War II, Verna married Colonel Albert W. Finly and moved to Detroit, Michigan, where they raised four sons: Jon, Steven, Michael and Gary. Verna was a renowned puppet-maker, costumer, designer and entertainer. Verna's comforting demeanor and sharp wit will forever remain in the hearts of her family and friends. She was, and will always be, a true inspiration to us all. Verna is survived by her sister, Margaret, and sons Steven, Michael and Gary and their families. Like a true Swede, her ashes were cast into the sea in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Member **Alva Viola Nelson** passed away on February 1, 2018, in Potomac Falls, VA at the age of 95. Alva was born September 15, 1922 to Nils and Gerd Rytters in Levene Parish, Skaraborg Province, Sweden. She went to nursing school in Sweden and came to the U.S. in the 1940s to work for the Swedish Ambassador's family in Washington, DC. In 1947, she joined Drott Lodge where she met her husband Henry. They settled in McLean where they lived for 25 years and raised their family. While in McLean, Alva was a member of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Alva became an American citizen in 1975. After Henry's retirement they moved to Massanutten, VA then back to Potomac Falls in the Washington area 12 years later. Alva then became a member of the Community Lutheran Church. She contributed many handmade and baked items for church bazaars, and was known for her needlepoint, crewel, knitting and sewing. She also loved flowers and gardening, was a wonderful cook, and kept the Swedish traditions in the family with her Swedish dishes and pastry.

Alva is survived by her loving husband Henry with whom she shared 68 years of marriage. She also is survived by their 5 children- Jan, Barbara, Anita, Gary, and David, eleven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two sisters and a brother who lived in Sweden. Alva is buried in National Memorial Park, Falls Church, VA.

**Ruth (Ruthie) Gotberg** passed away on January 27, 2017 in The Villages, FL, at the age of 81. Ruthie was born on August 16, 1935 in Highland Park, Michigan. She and her husband Russ came to the Washington area in 2004. They joined Drott Lodge in February 1989. Ruthie was a retired secretary. She was also an accomplished painter who worked in the painting of china, Swedish Rosmaling, and other decorative art items. She leaves behind Russ, her beloved husband of 60 years, sons Stephen, Glenn, and Douglas, sister Dee Ofiesh, brother Jim Porter, and seven granddaughters.

**Erland Magnusson**, a Drott member since 2007, passed away on December 15, 2017 at the age of 83 after battling multiple medical problems. Erland was born in Fjärås, Halland Province, Sweden and graduated from Chalmers University in Gothenburg with a degree in electrical engineering. He married his wife Ann in 1960 and began his career in Gothenburg. Six years later, Erland, Ann, daughter Lillian, and son Ragnar moved to Seattle, WA where Erland worked for Boeing. In 1969, he was hired by Comsat and the family moved to Los Angeles, CA. While there he specialized in satellite control and was involved in the rescue mission of Intelsat Satellite 603.

Erland was very much involved with various Swedish organizations. He joined VASA while living in California. In the Washington area he was President of ASA from 1988-1990 and 2000-2002, and became a member of Nordic Dancers, Svenska Sånggruppen (Swedish Song Group), SACU, Sweden House, the Swedish Church and US Friends of Chalmers. Erland is preceded in death by his wife Ann who died on November 2, 2017. He is survived by his daughter Lillian Richardson of Alexandria VA and son Ragnar Magnusson of Falls Church VA. A memorial service will be held for Erland and Ann on March 31 at their home in McLean, VA.

## **COMING EVENTS**

**House of Sweden Exhibits: Still Life by Karin Broos, The Creative Nation: Swedish Music and Innovation; A Never-Ending Whispering Conversation-The Fanny and Alexander Process, and Ingmar Bergman Moods: Costumes and Images;** House of Sweden, Washington, DC, Saturdays & Sundays until June 24, noon-5 pm,

**April 19-22, “ After the Rehearsal & Persona,” Part of the Bergman 100 Celebration, presented by Toneelgroep, Amsterdam, Directed by Ivo van Hove,** Kennedy Center Eisenhower Theatre, Washington, DC, Two Bergman screenplays reimagined for the stage.

**August 12, ABBA Concert,** Wolf Trap, Vienna VA

## **NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

A new Drott Lodge Membership List has been completed and mailed via the Post Office. If you haven't received yours, please contact Gerry Schueman at [gerry@schueman.com](mailto:gerry@schueman.com) or 703-734-0319 so that he can send you a copy.

For those of you who receive our communications by email, if at some point you discover that you have not received the item you expected, we suggest that you look in your junk mail. We have found that some items sent through a listserv may be considered junk mail by your service provider. You can change this designation by going into your mail program.

Input for the May Newsletter will be due by April 22 to :  
Newsletter Editor Linda Smith  
[leslieandlinda2@comcast.net](mailto:leslieandlinda2@comcast.net)