



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

NEWSLETTER
www.drott-lodge.org

FEBRUARY 2019

Heja Drott!

It was with great misfortune that a January winter storm warning came to fruition and produced 24 hours of constant snow with hazardous driving conditions. Drott Lodge was regrettably forced to cancel the January Meeting. We were disappointed to delay not only our election of new Officers for 2019, but also a special presentation by our own TV star, Ashley Mullinax. Both are now rescheduled for Sunday, February 10 along with our annual Pea Soup and Pancake Dinner. Everyone is encouraged to come for the election and for Ashley's presentation, but please be advised that an RSVP is mandatory for the Dinner!

The Nominating Committee has made a few updates to the proposed slate of Officers presented in the January Newsletter. The updated, final slate can be found on page 3. Since elections can only be held at a Drott business meeting and our Bylaws state that business meetings must be announced to all members seven days in advance, it was not possible to reschedule the formal voting to elect officers immediately following the winter storm. As a result, the Bylaw and Policy Index Committee will review our Bylaws and update them accordingly in view of Vasa Grand Lodge and District 9 requirements.

As you read through this February Newsletter, please keep the following things in mind! Dues are now due. Our new ABBApalooza will be in March, meaning the next formal business meeting following February will not be until April. April, of course, is also when we have Valborg.

RSVP now for the February 10th Pea Soup & Pancake Dinner!

Välkommen!

UPCOMING EVENTS

**ANNUAL PEA SOUP & PANCAKE DINNER
BEHIND THE SCENES OF SWEDISH REALITY TV*
BUSINESS MEETING & ELECTION OF 2019 OFFICERS***

**Sunday, February 10, Promptly at 2:30 pm
Undercroft of St. James' Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac MD**

**rescheduled from January 13*

\$10 donation for anyone over 13, \$5 for children 6 to 12, and free under 6

RSVP Required by February 6 for Pea Soup & Pancake Dinner – setup at 1:30 pm

Ärtsoppa (pea soup) is made from dried yellow peas and traditionally served on Thursdays in Sweden, followed with crepe-like Pannkakor (pancakes) filled with strawberry or raspberry jam, then folded or rolled and topped with whipped cream or sugar. Drott's pea soup Dinner includes knäckebröd (hard crisp bread), cheese, and ham, then follows tradition with the pancakes for dessert.

We need more members to arrive at 1:30 and help set up. We also need kitchen workers, food line servers and clean-up people. Drott members who have paid their dues (or pay at the dinner) will not be charged the meal donation. (Dues paid by credit card will also incur a \$1.50 service charge.) The donation for all others age 13 and over is \$10, \$5 for children ages 6 to 12, and those under age 6 are free. For food planning purposes and due to space limitations in the undercroft, it is absolutely essential that people RSVP with the number of seats needed by close of business Wednesday, February 6th to Arne Dunhem at adunhem@gmail.com or call 703-847-0940.

Drott Lodge's very own Ashley Mullinax will at last share with us her experiences as one of the American reality stars of the 2018 Swedish TV series, *Allt för Sverige*. Ashley will screen her favorite clips from the series and give behind the scenes insight into what *really* goes on while filming reality TV. The entire series can be viewed on YouTube. The English title is *Great Swedish Adventure*.

As indicated in the January newsletter, the business meeting following the cultural presentation will focus on the election/installation of Drott Lodge Officers for 2019 as well as our upcoming events for the year. Events include ABBApalooza, Valborgsmässoafton, the Midsommar Picnic, the Crayfish Party, our Annual Bazaar and the Sankta Lucia Procession/Julfest.

Our Nominating Committee offers the following updated slate of candidates for Officers for 2019. Nominating Committee Chair Larilyn André can be reached at 703-659-5128 or larilynandre@gmail.com for further comments and additional nominations, for either yourself or another member, which can also be made at the February meeting.

Proposed Candidates

Chair: Arne Dunhem

Vice Chair: Larilyn André

Recording Secretary: Lisa Jacobson

Asst. Recording Secretary: Allison Bennett

Treasurer: Eva Dunhem

Asst. Treasurer: Marianne Diaz

Membership/Financial Secretary: Carol Whitley

Asst. Membership Secretary: Katrin Shoemaker

Historian: nomination open

Webmaster: Susan Remmert

Newsletter Editor: Jeffrey de Hart

Chaplin: Amy Stenlund

Cultural Committee: Marit Knollmueller, Susan Remmert,
Janet Johnson, Laura Rhodes, Rod Rydlun

Trustee: Julie Olson

Auditor: Peter Olson

The following committees are forming and have room for additional members:

- Cultural Planning Committee – suggests cultural activities for the coming year
- Policy Index and By-laws Committee – sets out guidance for lodge operations
- Special Goals Committee – identifies/recommends worthy causes donations

ABBAPALOOZA

Saturday, March 23, 7:00 pm
Parish Hall at St. James' Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac MD

On April 27, 2013 we shared an unforgettable evening of ABBA music, dancing and a singalong to *Mamma Mia!* the movie while enjoying refreshments amidst a 70s disco theme. You definitely don't want to miss our ABBApalooza "revival" so, once again, root through your closet and find something to participate in the 70s costume contest. Maybe come as your favorite ABBA member – Agnetha, Frida, Björn or Benny – or even in your favorite go-go boots with flowers adorning your hair. Details forthcoming but in the meantime be sure to save the date!



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DUES ARE DUE

It is time for all members to pay 2019 Drott Lodge dues, which are \$50 per year for regular members. As part of the dues structure approved in 2015, paid-up Drott members will not be charged the usual “meal” fee for the Pea Soup and Pancake Dinner or the September Welcome Back Crayfish Party. Please note that dues paid by credit card will incur an additional \$1.50 service charge.

Life Members and Youth Members (ages 14-24) are required to pay only the total amount of the annual assessment that Drott must pay out for each member to the Grand and District Lodges. For 2019, this amount is \$25.75. Life Member status is granted in the year following a member’s 75th birthday provided the member has been in good standing for ten or more years.

We do not know for sure, but “Life Membership” is something that may be unique to Drott Lodge. Effective in 1977, Drott established this category with the primary benefit being that Life Members were excused from paying membership dues and assessments. In its reinvention decisions in 1997, the Lodge decided to modify the benefits of the Life Membership category to oblige new Life Members (*i.e.*, those becoming Life Members on or after January 1, 1998) to pay annual membership dues in an amount equal to the total of the District/Grand Lodge assessments in effect for that year.

We have Life Members who continue to pay the full dues amount, some very active and some we have not seen in years. They do this because they know that by paying only the reduced amount, they are not giving anything to help support Drott operations. Some members add a little extra to the minimum required. Our hope is that those who choose to pay the minimum due would then contribute by paying fees associated with any of our meal functions.

Checks should be made payable to “Drott Lodge #168” and sent to the Financial Secretary, Carol Whitley, at 4600 Connecticut Avenue NW, Apt. 819, Washington DC 20008-5707. We will accept dues by credit card as an option from members who are present at a meeting; a convenience fee of \$1.50 per membership will be added to each credit card payment. Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit card payments by mail, phone, or email.

Some members are in arrears. Check with Carol if you are unsure whether you need to pay for one or for two years.

OTHER NEWS

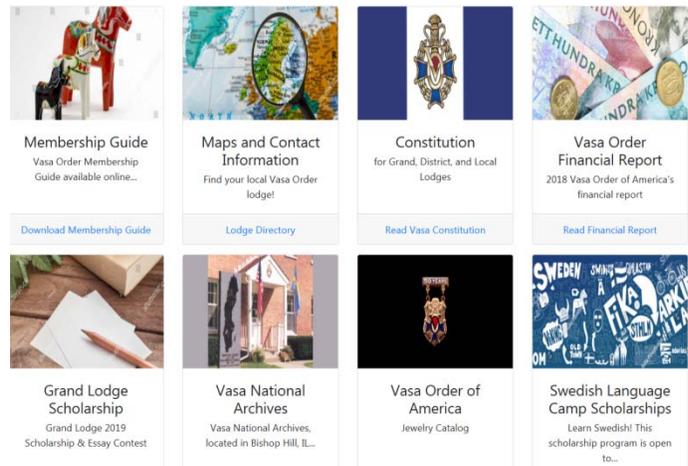
SWEDISH SPEAKERS PARTICIPATE IN ASA NORDIC LANGUAGE MEETUP



On January 12 there were eight Swedish speakers at the House of Sweden who participated in the first ASA Nordic Language Meetup, including our very own Amy Stenlund. Participants spoke four Scandinavian languages, the only language missing being Finnish. There were five Norwegian speakers, four Danish and one Icelandic. Two ASA members rounded out the twenty participants.

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

The Grand Lodge of Vasa launched a new website several months ago. The old one was a bit antiquated in terms of what internet users have come to expect of a website. The organization of the website was not optimal and content was often out of date. Delete your old bookmark for www.vasaorder.net and replace it with the brand new website address, which is www.vasaorder.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

BALTIC NEIGHBORS: ESTONIA AND SWEDEN AND THE TIES THAT BIND



ASA Meeting, February 11, 2019, 8:00 pm
St. John's Church, Wisconsin Avenue & Bradley Boulevard, Chevy Chase, Maryland

Karl Altou has conducted extensive advocacy on behalf of the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian central organizations in the United States since 1997 via JBANC, the Joint Baltic American National Committee, including the period of NATO accession for these Baltic countries and the Magnitsky sanctions campaign against human rights violators in Russia. Karl has addressed the Baltic parliaments and the U.S. Congress on the work of the Baltic-American communities.

TRANSATLANTIC DREAMING: SWEDEN AND THE U.S. SINCE 1850

February 12, 2019

Swedish American Cultural Union Luncheon

\$35 fee for non-members

SACU's February speaker is Dr. Dag Blanck, Professor of North American Studies at Uppsala University. He will discuss how Swedes view the U.S. and how Americans view Sweden, historically and today. This important perspective examines the relationship between both countries and the degree to which Sweden might be becoming "Americanized." Reservations/cancellations are required by 12 noon on Friday, February 8. No-shows and late cancellations will be required to pay SACU for the meal. Email or call Nils Bruzelius at nils.bruzelius@gmail.com or 202-544-0062 with your name, telephone number, names of guests, and menu selections: (1) salmon arugula salad, (2) New York strip steak with bleu cheese salad or (3) vegetarian arugula salad. Coffee and dessert are included. Check preferred; cash also accepted.

CHESS

January 25 through February 16 (Fridays through Sundays)

Bowie Playhouse, 16500 Whitemarsh Park Drive, Bowie, Maryland 20715

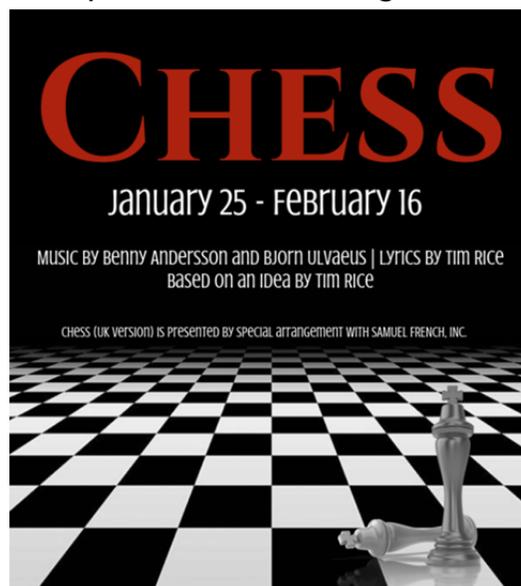
Ticket \$22; seniors 60+ and full time students \$19, children under 12 \$12

410-757-5700 or 301-832-4819 / <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=stars>



Chess is a Broadway musical by ABBA's Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus with Sir Tim Rice. It has gone through many incarnations in Swedish and Off-Broadway productions, as well as West End

revivals, concert versions and countless independent productions throughout the USA. By using the game of chess as a metaphor, the musical casts a complicated, compelling Cold War tale with East-West political intrigue that is proving to be as relevant today as it was when it premiered in 1986 on London's West End. The score includes the international hits "One Night In Bangkok," "I Know Him So Well," "Heaven Help My Heart," "Someone Else's Story" and the showstopper "Nobody's Side." The Bowie Playhouse seats 150 and this production, billed as the "UK Version," is presented by 2nd Star Productions under the direction of Mickey Lund. It runs over two hours with a fifteen minute intermission.



SCANDIA DC THIRD SATURDAY DANCE PARTY

Saturday, February 16, 7 pm to 10 pm

Greenbelt Community Center Dance Studio

15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD

Scandinavian couple dancing the third Saturday of the month. No partners necessary. Wear a costume if you like, bring finger food to share if you can. Most importantly, bring yourself. Open Dancing 8 to 10. Cost \$10. For information, call Linda or Ross at 202-333-2826 or send an e-mail to linda@scandiadc.org or visit www.scandiadc.org. If inclement weather, call 301-474-0646.

SVENSKA SÅNGGRUPPEN (SSG)

Wednesday, February 20, 7 pm

7294 Mandan Road, Greenbelt, Maryland

Anyone interested in singing in Swedish is welcome to attend, learn and practice Swedish ballads, hymns, and/or folk songs. The annual season runs through May, with no summer meetings. SSG performs for Swedish events and ceremonies at the Embassy of Sweden, the Swedish Church in Washington, DC, the Northern Virginia SCANFEST regional folk festival, and more. Please bring something to share for the snack table! For more information contact Eva Hartzell at eva.c.hartzell@gmail.com.



EXTRABBAGANZA!

ABBA DANCE PARTY

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 7:00-10:00 pm

American Swedish Historical Museum

1900 Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA

Tickets \$35 americanswedish.org/events

The oldest Swedish-American museum in the USA, situated on part of a historic 17th-century land grant originally provided by Queen Christina of Sweden, hosts a DJ party that includes food, a cash bar and a costume contest. Release your inner Dancing Queen!

MARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please send your input for the next issue of the newsletter to Jeffrey de Hart at jeffrey.dehart@telia.com by February 22.