



Drott Lodge

Vasa Order of America
Washington, D.C.



DROTT LODGE NEWSLETTER

WWW.DROTT-LODGE.ORG

April 2020

Our March cultural program introduced us to Pelle Svanslös. Here in the US he is known as Pelle/Peter No-Tail. Pelle Svanslös is a

timeless character. The stories about him and the other cats are centered around kindness, honesty, and equality of everyone.

April is here and most of us are experiencing the strangest spring of our lives. We are all staying in our homes, waiting for the Coronavirus pandemic to be over. It is amazing how we have adapted to the new normal. Just two months ago, who had ever heard of social distancing or flattening the curve? Now the stay at home orders are restricting students to take classes online, telework ready adults have to work from home, and we walk around our neighborhoods keeping a six foot distance to anyone around us. In my family, we plan the grocery shopping for 6 am on Saturday mornings. The family dog gets more walks than ever. Stores and businesses are closed and so many people have lost their jobs and income. Families have lost their loved ones.

We are all waiting for the light at the end of the tunnel. No one knows how long it will be. Meanwhile, we will focus on things that bring positive energy, to help keep us strong during this trying time. I know we will one day look back at year 2020 as the year we came together and reevaluated what is important in our lives.

Take good care of yourselves and your loved ones.

In truth and Unity,

Karin Weeden
Chairman
Drott Lodge 168

Pea soup and Plättar Dinner

In March we enjoyed our annual Pea soup and Plättar dinner. Thank you to all who helped out at the event, set up tables, decorated, or worked in the kitchen. We also appreciate all who made the Pea soup and Plättar. Everybody did a great job. We had plenty of soup and plättar. We also served ham, cheese and Swedish crisp bread, rye bread, and a nice variety of jams. Several members brought delicious deserts.

Laura and Arne led us in singing some traditional songs and we had several opportunities to toast "skål"! It was a wonderful afternoon for us to get together as a group, and as it turns out, the last one for many months to come.

Pelle No-Tail Cat The Cat Who Dares to be Nice



Marit Knollmueller is our current Drott Lodge Historian, past Drott Lodge Cultural Leader, and current Vasa Order of America District 9 Cultural Leader. In March she introduced us to the beloved Swedish literary character Pelle Svanslös, also know as Pelle/Peter No-Tail. He is the hero of a children's book series by Gösta Knutsson.

Marit showed a preview of the newly released animated Pelle Svanslös movie. Some of us were already familiar with this extremely nice and friendly cat. The presentation was filled with facts and observations about the author Gösta Knutsson, Pelle's evolving humanization over the years, and some highlights from the Pelle books. Pelle overcame living without a tail by sticking to his motto 'Dare to be Nice'. Nice always wins in Pelle's world.

Marit was very knowledgeable of the city of Uppsala, as she had spent some time in the city where Pelle adventures take place. She showed us pictures of the new Pelle Svanslös themed children's play park and the Pelle City Walk that is available for tourists to explore in Uppsala.

We also had a raffle for three Pelle books. Thank you Marit for an engaging and interesting program!



Marit Knollmueller and Pelle Svanslös.

Arne Dunhem Awarded Past Chairman Pin

During our March Pea Soup celebration, Drott Lodge officially recognized Past Chairman, Arne Dunhem, for his unwavering dedication to Vasa and his commitment to expand participation in our activities by broader members of the DC are Scandinavian community. After serving as Cultural Leader, Arne served as Drott Lodge #168 Chairman for four consecutive years (and was also nominated as a Pennsylvania District #9 Executive Board Member).

To fulfill his goal of increased participation in our activities and programs, Arne encouraged, invited and challenged members of ASA, the Swedish Song Group, the Swedish School for Children, the Swedish School, Spelmanslag, and SWEA to join us for our long-standing events (such as Midsommar) and new events, including "ABBApalooza: Here We Go Again."

He gave us the rich history and relayed the authentic meaning Swedes associate with the Crayfish Festival. He introduced activities many of us had never heard of before (St. Knut's Day where we literally threw out the Christmas tree and had children "fishing" for gifts over an ocean curtain).

One of his most significant accomplishments was initiating and popularizing DCs only Walpurgis (Valborg) Night. This bonfire event has drawn enormous crowds from all Scandinavians in the area, repeated attendance by the Swedish Ambassador, fiddlers, children's games, face painting, and even a few video highlights on the popular Swedish reality TV show, "Allt för Sverige".

Arne, your energy and dedication have invigorated us and we are forever grateful.

With our deepest appreciation,
Your Sisters and Brothers of Drott Lodge #168



District No 9 Master Julie Olson presented Arne Dunhem with the Past Chairman pin.

Pictures From the Pea Soup and Plättar Dinner



Delicious Pea soup





Plättar



Members enjoying their meals.



MEMBERPLANET NEWS

MemberPlanet is the software platform that Drott Lodge is using for reaching our Members with emails and various event notifications, Discussion Groups, Member Directory, Photo Album, etc. There are many other features with MemberPlanet that we have not yet started to use among all our Members.

Below you will find Drott Lodge YouTube videos describing the key features and capabilities of the Drott Lodge MemberPlanet system. Please click on the links and view them.

JOINING DROTT LODGE MEMBERPLANET

We encourage as many Members as possible to be part of MemberPlanet. If you have not already created your personal account with MemberPlanet, you will a few days after you have received this Newsletter, get an email from our Chairman Karin Weeden inviting you to “Join” Drott Lodge MemberPlanet i.e. to set up your personal account. Please review the email and then “Join” us by clicking on the big red “Get started” button on the bottom of the

email.

You can also view a Drott Lodge YouTube video below on how to set up a new personal account with Drott Lodge MemberPlanet.

If you have any questions on how to join, you may send an email to Arne Dunhem at adunhem@gmail.com .

Welcome to MemberPlanet!

DROTT LODGE DISCUSSION GROUPS ON MEMBERPLANET

One feature of the MemberPlanet is Discussion Groups – a way for our Members to post comments, thoughts, ideas, questions and other topics to all our Members. It's like the traditional poster board, but with the difference that ours is not public, it's only for our Members using a password, and it is fully electronic. Members can enter comments on various topics or they can create new topics that they believe can be of value for all of us.

We believe that with the current COVID-19 emergency, with many of us required to stay-at-home, the use of Discussion Groups can give our Members a chance to stay in touch with other Members. So please try it out. Stay active! Join the discussions! Give your comments!

Currently, there are the following ten Discussion Groups:

- Drott Lodge Book Club
- Drott Lodge Baking Group
- Genealogy Discussion Group
- Swedish History Discussion Group
- Travel Discussion Group
- Amateur's Home Brewing Group
- Swedish Movies and other Swedish Entertainment
- Drott Lodge Meeting Activities and Topics
- Computers, How to Use Them or Other Computer Questions
- Antique Automobiles

Maybe you want to add some other topics? Please let us know.

HOW TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION GROUPS

So, how do you sign-up for the Discussion Groups? You need to have “Joined” Drott Lodge’s MemberPlanet. You do that by creating your own personal password protected account. If you have not already created your personal account, you will receive an email from Drott Lodge inviting you to “Join” i.e. to set up your account. You need to create your own new password for your account. There is a Drott Lodge YouTube video below describing how to set up an account.

If you already have a personal MemberPlanet account but have forgot your password, no problems. It’s very easy to create your new password. There is another Drott Lodge YouTube below describing how to do it.

Below is also another Drott Lodge YouTube video that gives an introduction to the Drott Lodge Discussion Groups feature on MemberPlanet.

CAN I USE MY SMARTPHONE WITH MEMBERPLANET?

Yes, you certainly can. It’s very easy to download the App for either an iPhone or an Android smartphone like e.g. Samsung.

Below, there is a video describing for the Drott Lodge Members how to create a personal MemberPlanet Account on Smartphone, either an iPhone or an Android smartphone.

DROTT LODGE YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Drott Lodge has produced several YouTube videos for its Members describing our MemberPlanet and how to setup a personal account. The right to these videos is with Drott Lodge.

You can click on the titles below for the different YouTube videos and the YouTube videos will come up automatically; you may have to click on the white-on-black/red “play-arrow” to make it start. There is on the lower right of the video a small “square” symbol which you can click to maximize and make the video fill your entire screen. These videos will play on any type of computer; desktop or laptop and on any smartphone like iPhone or Samsung etc.

[Drott Lodge – Introduction to the Drott Lodge MemberPlanet:](#)

This is an introductory video describing the key features and capabilities of the Drott Lodge MemberPlanet system.

<https://youtu.be/VVVLPUsfBDs>

[Drott Lodge – Setting up A New Account With Drott Lodge MemberPlanet.](#)

This video describes how to set up a new personal account with Drott Lodge MemberPlanet for both new and existing Members that have received an invitation to do so by email.

<https://youtu.be/7p2atLvT6cU>

[Drott Lodge – Introduction to the Drott Lodge Discussion Groups.](#)

This video gives an introduction to the Drott Lodge Discussion Groups feature on MemberPlanet. It provides all the basics how to enter the discussion groups and how to enter a comment.

<https://youtu.be/Wy0BbsqdFKw>

[Drott Lodge – How To Reset Your Password For Your MemberPlanet Account.](#)

This video describes how you can reset or enter your new password for your personal account with the Drott Lodge MemberPlanet if you have forgot the old password.

<https://youtu.be/bC6HOeCuD9E>

[Drott Lodge – Creating Personal MemberPlanet Account on Smartphone.](#) This video describes for the Drott Lodge Members how to create a personal MemberPlanet Account on Smartphone, either an iPhone or an Android smartphone.

<https://youtu.be/TLHoCVsxf4o>

**Erik Jacobson Awarded Grand Lodge
Scholarship**



Member Erik Jacobson, son of Lisa and Kyle and younger brother to Anders, was recently notified that he had been awarded a Vasa Grand Lodge College Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is renewable for three more years on the basis of Erik's providing the Grand Lodge with proof each year of his satisfactory academic progress. This should not present a problem for Erik, who has exceptionally high grades, took numerous AP classes, and has high ACT and SAT scores. His many extracurricular activities include band, jazz band, cross country and track.

Erik has been accepted at Cornell University, McGill University, and the University of Virginia. He plans to study urban planning.

A student at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, Va, Erik, like teenagers all across America, will sadly not be able to enjoy a high school graduation ceremony or senior prom and other end-of high school activities because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Let's hope the school comes up with some creative on-line way to celebrate its graduates with a virtual graduation.

If Erik looks a bit familiar to you, you may remember him working with his dad as the beverage servers in the café line at last year's bazaar.

Congratulations to Erik from his Sisters and Brothers at Drott Lodge.

Glad påsk! Happy Easter!



Traditional påskris – branches with colorful eggs.





Victoria – Our favorite påskkärring (Easter witch)

Postponed Spring Events

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Traditional Nordic Crafts event as well as the May bus trip. If you had already signed up and paid, you should have received a refund by now. Please contact us if you have not. Both events have been postponed and will take place in the Spring of 2021.

The Manassas Viking Festival scheduled for May 9 was also cancelled. We will update the calendar in Facebook and on our webpage when we have more information regarding new cancellations.

New members

In March we welcomed to the Lodge two new members, Kristina Anderson, who was born in Oregon and lives in Washington DC, and Linda Cline, who was born in Malmö and lives in Germantown MD. Välkomna!

Next Newsletter

Next Newsletter will be distributed mid May 2020. Please provide any inputs to the Newsletter before May 10th, 2020 to Karin Weeden at Karin Weeden at pk_weeden@msn.com.

If you have questions or concerns, please send an email to Carol Whitley at carol4600@verizon.net or Karin Weeden at pk_weeden@msn.com.

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