



# *Drott Lov*

Vasa Order of America  
Washington, D.C.



# DROTT LODGE NEWSLETTER

WWW.DROTT-LODGE.ORG

## June 2020

Summer is finally here. Last weekend, I was sitting on the back porch of our cabin in the country side, enjoying some afternoon fika. A change in scenery for a couple of days is a great way to reset your focus. Listening to the birds sing, I was reflecting on the past three months. I have been practicing social distancing, while still enjoying small outings to local trails and parks. Spending time in nature is important to me and my family. It gives us a chance to clear our minds from the daily stress and manage the new normal.

Our traditional Valborg celebration was hosted as a Zoom meeting this year. It was fun and uplifting to sing and toast together, and to see some familiar faces again. If you missed this meeting, you will have an opportunity to meet up this coming Sunday at 4pm when Drott is hosting a virtual Midsummer celebration. You must rsvp by 6 pm on Friday June 19 in order to participate. See information below.

Midsummer is one of the biggest celebrations in Sweden. I have added some links to YouTube, where you can see how Swedes prepare for Midsummer. I understand they do not have captions in English, but you can still appreciate the beautiful scenery, traditional Swedish costumes and music. The videos are 5 minutes long each and are fun to watch.

The picture above is from Fjällbacka on the Swedish West Coast. It's a beautiful fishing town famously visited by Ingrid Bergman during summer months. It's also the town where Camilla Läckberg's murder mystery books take place.

I hope you and your families are all doing well. Take good care of yourselves and your loved ones.

In truth and Unity,

Karin Weeden  
Chairman  
Drott Lodge 168

**Coming Event**  
**Drott Lodge Virtual Midsummer Celebration**  
**June 21 @ 4 pm**



As you all know, we had to cancel our traditional outdoor Midsummer celebration. We are moving the celebration into your homes via Zoom.

Participants are encouraged to wear a Midsummer flower wreath or something similar, made from anything you can find at home. Swedish flags and blue/yellow decorations are also nice. And if you want to go all out, you can decorate your own maypole.

Just like our normal Midsummer celebration, please enjoy a Swedish summer picnic in your home. Don't forget to bring out your snaps/drink for the toast.

We are excited to welcome Scandinavian musicians and singers. You can sing along at home with the lyrics we will provide.

There will be other activities we can do together as you participate from home.

**How to register**

You already received an e-mail invitation. You can register there or register via this link:

[http://www.memberplanet.com/events/vasadrottlodge168/2020online\\_midsummer\\_celebration](http://www.memberplanet.com/events/vasadrottlodge168/2020online_midsummer_celebration)

**Only pre-registered participants can join the Zoom event** You will sign-up by clicking on the "Yes" RSVP button. **Last chance to sign up is 6 pm on Friday June 19th.** After that we will close and you are no longer able to RSVP.

### Technical information

For this Zoom meeting, you can use your computer (laptop or desktop), your iPad or other tablet, your iPhone or Android smartphone. You will later this week receive by email instructions how to join the Midsummer celebration online using the so called Zoom video conference. The preference is that your computer has a built-in camera and microphone and that you use them during the Zoom, so other participants can see you. However, this is not necessary if you don't have them or you don't wish to use them. You can still enjoy watching and hearing the celebration without camera and microphone, if you so wish.

If you have some comments or questions about this event, please feel free to send an email to Julie Olson:  
julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com

Welcome to join the 2020 Midsummer with Drott Lodge on Sunday June 21st, 2020 at 4 pm!

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## Past Event Virtual Valborg Celebration

60 members and guests met on Thursday April 29 to celebrate Valborg. Karin Weeden welcomed all participants and explained how Valborg is celebrated in Sweden. Families and friends go to the local bonfire, grill hot dogs and play games. The four largest universities Gothenburg, Uppsala, Linköping, and Lund sponsor their own celebrations. They take place in the days leading up to Valborg and they involve eating, drinking, and friendly competitive games between the various fraternal organizations. There are also parades. Many of our meeting participants wore their Swedish studentmössa (student cap).

We then welcomed the Swedish Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter. She spoke of Valborg and spring. She also gave us an overview of how the Embassy had to close their doors to visitors and only offer



Leksand Webpage

<https://www.leksand.se/medborgare/uppleva-och-gora/evenemang/vara-evenemang/midsommar/>

OR

1. Introduction

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJZKXOxZSTo&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJZKXOxZSTo&feature=emb_logo)

2. History of May pole

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=3&v=7kX7Co3zteo&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=7kX7Co3zteo&feature=emb_logo)

3. Traditional Costume. Teenager learn history of costumes, try them on, and perform modern dance to folk music.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=2&v=rrnv30nC3fs&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=rrnv30nC3fs&feature=emb_logo)

4. Children make their own maypole.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QsIKLySJ8o&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QsIKLySJ8o&feature=emb_title)

5. Church boat and crew

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtUYBv8xQdA>

6. Music teacher and students play traditional songs.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=27&v=Gcch2GyieQs&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=27&v=Gcch2GyieQs&feature=emb_logo)

7. Decorate around town with birch tree branches and flowers. Locals spend 1 week decorating.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=2&v=JB18q5Ksl44&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=JB18q5Ksl44&feature=emb_logo)

8. Leksand's folk music group – since 1948.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=3&v=3eQ8FzJn0VM&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=3eQ8FzJn0VM&feature=emb_logo)

9. Pick 7 different kinds of flowers –not available yet, go to Leksand webpage

10. Happy Midsummer – Glad midsommar! – not available yet, go to Leksand webpage

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**Live Virtual Midsummer Celebration in Sweden  
Friday June 19.**

The Facebook live stream, organized by **Visit Sweden**, will have local

Swedish hosts from all over the country guide viewers through Midsummer traditions like making flower wreaths and dancing around the maypole.

Just follow Visit Sweden on facebook and you can join them:

[https://www.facebook.com/VisitSwedenUS/?brand\\_redir=49607452291](https://www.facebook.com/VisitSwedenUS/?brand_redir=49607452291)

The online virtual schedule is as follows (all times are Eastern time):

5:00 AM — Flower wreath-making in Skåne

7:00 AM — Midsummer lunch in West Sweden

9:00 AM — Dancing around the Midsummer pole in Dalarna

1:00 PM — Flower picking and evening dip in Roslagen

6:00 PM — Midnight sun and skiing in Swedish Lapland

Midsummer is a celebration of the summer solstice, the welcoming of the hot season, and the longest day of the year.

## Glad midsommar!

## Happy Midsummer!





## Next Newsletter

Next Newsletter will be distributed mid July 2020. Please provide any inputs to the Newsletter before July 10th, 2020 to Karin Weeden at Karin Weeden at [pk\\_weeden@msn.com](mailto:pk_weeden@msn.com).

If you have questions or concerns, please send an email to Carol Whitley at [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net) or Karin Weeden at [pk\\_weeden@msn.com](mailto:pk_weeden@msn.com).

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