



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

NEWSLETTER

www.drott-lodge.org

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202-669-2476 – Carol Whitley

APRIL 2019

Heja Drott!

Tusen tack to all the helping hands at ABBAPalooza 2 – Here We Go Again! We could not have done it without everyone's help. Helpers and guests, young and old, spry in body and spry at heart, everyone got their own personal Dancing Queen groove on in their own personal way. It was a delightful, joyful evening and all of our hard work paid off. Making ABBAPalooza 2 happen in two hours was indeed a miracle, but with cooks in the kitchen, decorators in the hall and greeters at the door, it all came together quite smoothly and elegantly. The costumes were creative and inventive and special hugs to the star of the show, our own Dancing Queen Miss Victoria!

Next up is our April Drott Business Meeting on Sunday, April 14, which includes presentations on Swedish Easter Traditions, the Digital Genealogical Society of Sweden and our new accounting system. Valborgsmässoafton, our traditional Walpurgis Eve Picnic and Bonfire, follows on Saturday April 27. Please note that volunteers are needed, so please sign up and help with our Valborg Celebration.

Välkommen!





ABBAPALOOZA 2 – HERE WE GO AGAIN!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SWEDISH EASTER TRADITIONS DIGITAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION DROTT LODGE BUSINESS MEETING Sunday, April 14, 2:30 pm Undercroft of St. James' Episcopal Church 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac MD

Karin Weeden will present and discuss Swedish Easter celebration traditions, show how to make authentic Swedish decorations and give insight into how “Holy Week” compares to American traditions.

Charlotte Börjeson, a Delegate of the Vasa Order of America and a member of SwedeGen (the Swedish Ancestry Research Association), will give a thirty minute overview of Sweden's Digital Genealogical Society (D.I.S.) and online services that may connect with genealogy websites our members use. SwedeGen will also participate in the May 2020 Scandinavian Genealogy conference.

Our business meeting will include initiation, approval of member applications and the draping of the Charter in memory of five sisters who passed in recent months: Ruth Bird, Karla Dirst, Betty Johnson, Karin McCabe and Bernice Ann Munsey.

Our new Treasurer Eva Dunhem will present the QuickBooks financial program. Eva has invested countless hours updating Drott's financial reporting and operation records, including manually entering historical transactions dating back to 1945. She now has the tools to provide proper profit, loss and balance sheet information for review and discussion, and to give the Membership information to review and approve budgets. This also allows the Special Goals and the Cultural Committees to weigh charitable contribution and cultural activity proposals.

We realize that some VASA Lodges have past, distant donations as reserves and interest and dividends therefrom support their activities and charities, with annual membership dues paying for lodge operations. Sadly, if a Lodge depletes its reserves, it simply ceases to exist. It is vital that we secure Drott's future while setting sights on our immediate goals. The task is to determine how any net income we accrue from our activities supports us as a 501(c)(8) nonprofit Fraternal Beneficiary Society and how best to balance the use of our reserves for cultural activities and charities while building and retaining the reserves. We must plan for the time that Drott may one day be unable to rely on any net income. Now that we have the tools, let's join together and do this!

VALBORGSMÄSSOAFTON
Walpurgis Eve Picnic and Bonfire
Saturday, April 27, 4 - 8 pm
Private Location, McLean, Virginia

Drott Lodge's our annual Valborg Eve picnic and celebration will again be held at a large, private park residence in McLean, Virginia. Valborg is the eve when Swedes traditionally join the community to sing around the bonfire and celebrate the onset of spring. Information has been sent out privately to our Drott Lodge sister organizations that promote Nordic culture and traditions in the DC Area.

Bring your picnic food and BYOB. Folding chairs and/or blankets are highly encouraged as seating is not provided. You can bring hot dogs and s'mores for grilling by the bonfire or even the ingredients to make your own pizza in the outdoor brick oven.

There will be children and adult lawn games, Swedish music by both Washington Spelmanslag and Svenska Sånggruppen (the Swedish Song Group) and, of course, the traditional bonfire. Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter from the Embassy of Sweden will present the "Welcome Spring – Goodbye Winter" speech. In Sweden students wear white student caps, so please bring your student cap along if you have one.

Everyone is welcome to attend! It is a free event, although we request a nominal donation to help cover expenses. An RSVP is required since this is a private residential park. Please tell us how many adults and children for the games. We will send a welcome package with directions and additional information when you RSVP. Please RSVP no later than April 20th by email to Arne Dunhem (adunhem@gmail.com) or Carol Whitley (carol4600@verizon.net).

We also need volunteers to help with the following. Please contact Arne Dunhem at adunhem@gmail.com.

- Welcome desk at the parking area
- Parking attendants
- Welcome table by the "bridge" at the site
- Welcome table at the site
- Leading the children's (and grown-ups) games
- Early set-up and clean-up afterwards
- Pizza-oven attendant

**NORDIC COMMUNITY DANCES
DROTT LODGE BUSINESS MEETING
Sunday, May 19, 2:30 pm
Undercroft of St. James' Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac MD**

"If you can walk, you can dance." Join members of the Nordic Dancers for easy folk and social dancing. An interactive workshop offers the chance to try your hand (and feet) at some of the dances that have held communities together, both in the old countries and when the Nordic diaspora came to the United States. This cultural event will be followed by a brief Drott Lodge business meeting.

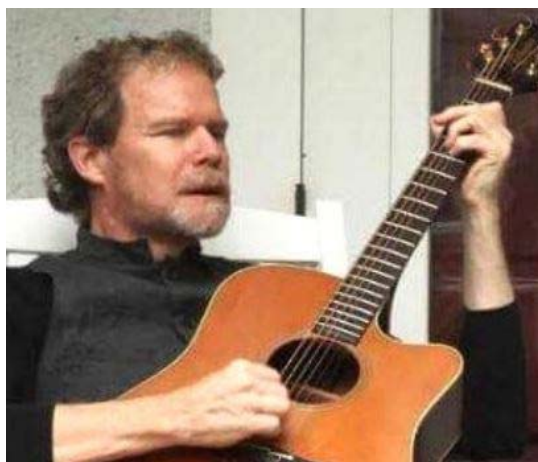
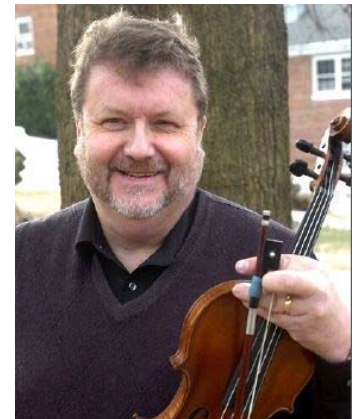
**MIDSOMMAR PICNIC
Saturday, June 29, 3:30 pm
Carderock Recreation Area Pavilion
Potomac, Maryland**

Drott Lodge will be on hiatus for the summer but we hope to see members at our annual Midsommar Picnic with Maypole Dancing!

EVENTS OF INTEREST

**FOLK TUNES FROM SWEDEN AND THE U.S.
Göran Olsson on Fiddle & Sam Morgan on Guitar
Monday, April 15, 8 pm
St. John's Church
Wisconsin Ave & Bradley Blvd, Chevy Chase, Maryland**

Göran Olsson is a traditional fiddler from Jämtland, Sweden. He is known for his light and captivating playing style. He is



one of the founders of Washington's Spelmanslag. Sam Morgan is a native of Morgantown, West Virginia and played, composed and recorded three albums with American folk music ensemble Hickory Wind in the 70s. In the 80s Sam toured as a pianist and fiddler with the country music ensemble, the Sunshine Express. He has played locally for the past twenty-five years. Contact Gerry Schueman at gerry@schueman.com.

SVENSKA SÅNGGRUPPEN (SSG)

Wednesday, April 17, 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 will perform at Drott's Valborg! Please bring something to share for the snack table! For more information contact Eva Hartzell at eva.c.hartzell@gmail.com.

SCANDIA DC THIRD SATURDAY DANCE PARTY

Saturday, April 20, 7 - 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. Teaching 7-8, open dancing 8 to 10. Cost \$10. For information, call Linda or Ross at 202-333-2826, email linda@scandiadc.org or visit www.scandiadc.org. In inclement weather, call 301-474-0646.

SWEDISH AMERICAN CULTURAL UNION LUNCHEON

A Journey through Art – Karin Lithell, Swedish Artist

Tuesday, April 25, 12 pm

Marriott Key Bridge Hotel

1401 Lee Highway, Rosslyn, Virginia

\$30 for SACU member/\$35 for non-members

Contact Nils Bruzelius at 202-544-0062

or nils.bruzelius@gmail.com

SACU is delighted to have Karin Lithell, a Swedish painter and print-maker living in the D.C. metropolitan area. She coordinates studio art workshops at the House of Sweden, serves as a docent at the National Portrait Gallery and is affiliated with the Art League at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. Karin will present a survey of her landscapes, urban views, and portraiture. She will highlight the journey on which her art has taken her as her family has



moved and lived in countries that include Sweden, Russia, and the United States.

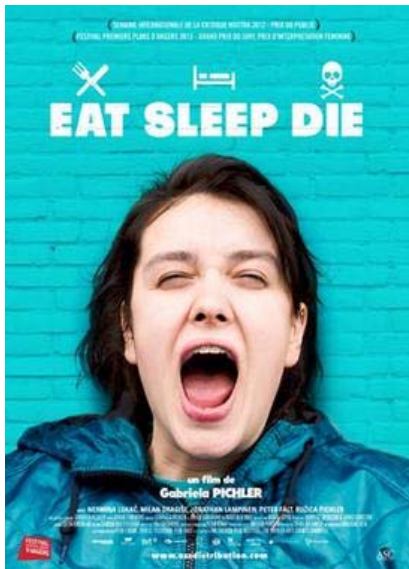
SVENSKA SKOLAN ADULT SWEDISH SUMMER SCHOOL

May 4, 11, 18, June 1, 8, 15,

Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School

7130 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

Summer School at the Swedish School starts in May. There are two levels depending on your knowledge of Swedish. The emphasis is on oral communication and includes various communicative activities. The Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School is next to George Mason High School. Visit www.theswedishschool.org or contact Ann-Catrine Skoog Ehmer at info@theswedishschool.org.



ÄTA SOVA DÖ (EAT, SLEEP, DIE)

Sunday, May 5, 2 pm

House of Sweden

2900 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007

Raša is a young Eastern European immigrant in a small town in Southern Sweden. She is faced with painful choices after being laid off from her factory job. The 2012 film follows her struggle while she takes care of her sick father. An award winning film that was selected as the Swedish entry for the 86th Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film, although it was not nominated. Comedy. No age limit. 104 minutes. Director: Gabriela Pichler. Tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-screening-eat-sleep-die-tickets-59529476266?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

MANASSAS VIKING FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 11, 10 am - 5 pm, rain or shine

Harris Pavilion & Manassas Museum Front Lawn

Old Town Manassas, Virginia

manassasvikingfest@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/manassasvikingfest>

The Manassas Viking Festival gears up for its second educational and cultural event that is open to the general public. Drott Lodge will participate again this year with a table selling Swedish gift items. The "Norseman" Viking Ship will also return and there will be dancers, musicians and much more. The event is free and uses vendor fees, donations, sponsorships for support. They also have a fundraiser for contributions on their facebook page at the link above. Over 4,000 attended in its first year.

HOUSE OF SWEDEN EXHIBITIONS

Saturdays & Sundays, 12 - 5 pm, through May

2900 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007

free admission/guide available

Siri Berg: Statements – Born in Stockholm in 1921 and a New York resident since 1939, Siri Berg's works offer visually unexpected abstract painting. *Urban Challenges* – Explores Swedish solutions to absorb the impact of a rapidly growing urban environment to leave a smart, creative and inclusive city... a legacy that following generations deserve. *Children In The City: Little Library & Funky Town* – Little Library is an inviting and ideal space with books, puzzles and games to encourage children to start a dialogue to make cities more accessible to them. Funky Town is an interactive game that allows them to be city planners and understand the complexity and how important the creation of a friendly and human city is.

VI ÄR BÄST! (WE ARE THE BEST!)

Sunday, June 16, 2 pm

House of Sweden

2900 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007

Three girls in 1980s Stockholm decide to form a punk band, despite not having any instruments and being told by everyone that punk is dead. A critically acclaimed film from 2013 that offers a tender tribute to the bittersweet tumult of adolescence. Drama/Music. No age limit. 102 minutes. Director: Lukas Moodysson. Adapted from the novel *Never Goodnight* by Moodysson's wife Coco. Tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-screening-we-are-the-best-tickets-59529864427?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>



OTHER NEWS

KARIN MCCABE

The family of Karin McCabe hosted a Celebration of Life for Karin on November 18, 2018. A video of the event is available at <https://youtu.be/Zlz1yB9VNrk>. The slide show that concluded the afternoon's activities is also available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZ4dHiGmMYo&feature=youtu.be>. A DVD was given to the Lodge by Karin's husband and can be borrowed by contacting Carol Whitley at 202-669-2476 or carol4600@verizon.net.

KARLA BODHOLDT DIRST

We are sad to report the passing of Drott Member Karla Dirst on March 19. Born Karla Bodholdt on March 5, 1934, Karla was raised in Washington D.C. and graduated from Penn State University. She joined Drott Lodge in September 2005 and participated in many Lodge activities. She particularly loved our pea soup and pancake suppers, Midsommar picnics and Valborg Eves. Karla could always be counted on as a cheerful server in the café line at our annual bazaars. In 2011 she sponsored her granddaughter, Ashley Mullinax, as a member and Ashley has been quite active as well. In 2018 Ashley was a contestant in the Swedish TV series *Allt för Sverige*. Karla was in attendance in February when Ashley presented a program about her Swedish experiences as a cast member/contestant on the show and expressed her delight in being able to trace the history of her grandmother's forebears. Karla, with her easy smile and hearty laugh, will be much missed.

LUMINARY.FM PODCAST

Luminary.fm is a podcast co-created by Erik Cederwall and Sachin Gandhi. It features kitchen table-style conversations with the world's brightest minds. A few years ago Erik, a young Swede, interned at a think tank in Washington, D.C. He contacted the American Scandinavian Association editors via info from the Swedish Embassy website looking for housing and ended up living with those editors. The podcast explores boundaries of human knowledge and helps develop deeper intuition around mental models, or synthesis, as a framework for life and decision making. Guests come from disparate fields such as art, computer science, law, physics, finance, paleontology. The common denominator is a multi-disciplinary mindset, deep curiosity, world-class output, and courage to defy conventions. Follow Erik and Sachin at @luminaryfm or check out Luminary.fm.



SWEDEN THE WORLD'S SIXTH HEALTHIEST NATION

Spain may have surpassed Italy to become the world's healthiest country in 2019, but four other European nations were among the top ten. Iceland was third, Switzerland fifth, Sweden sixth and Norway ninth. Japan was the healthiest Asian nation in fourth place. In North America, Canada placed sixteenth. The USA? Number 35, according to the Bloomberg Global Health Index.

MAY NEWSLETTER

Please send input for the next issue of the newsletter to Jeffrey de Hart at jeffrey.dehart@telia.com by April 28.