



DROTT LODGE NEWSLETTER
WWW.DROTT-LODGE.ORG

December 2021

The holiday season is here and we have already lit two of the Adventcandles. Keeping with family tradition, we went out and cut down a tree at a local tree farm. I baked Swedish cookies and this year I decided to make Rosettes. They were surprisingly easy to make and tasted delicious. Dipped in a sugar and cinnamon mix, they were crispy and light. Who can eat just one?

Our next event is on Sunday December 19 at 2:30 pm. We will meetup in Alexandria for a little glögg and fellowship and then walk around in Old Town Alexandria. Please see the invitation below. I encourage you to sign up for this event and join us for some holidayatmosphere.

I wish good health and happiness to you and yours.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

God jul och gott nytt år!

In Truth and Unity,

Karin Weeden Chairman Drott Lodge 168

**Upcoming Drott Lodge Event Sunday December
19, 2021 @ 2:30 pm
Gathering in Windmill Hill Park, Alexandria VA**

Get Your Glögg Ready!

On Sunday Dec 19, we will meet up for our first ever outdoor holiday get-together. We'll meet in Windmill Hill Park at 2:30pm and sing some Christmas songs, eat cookies and drink glögg together.

Please bring something to share.

You can park along the street near the park. We hope to stay for a couple of hours and then go to nearby Old Town Alexandria and enjoy the beautiful Christmas displays. Maybe you want to join other members and eat dinner at one of the restaurants.

Here is a link to the sign up sheet: _____

<https://mp.gg/dnview> . _____

Windmill Hill Park
501 South Union Street Alexandria VA

If you register, we'll know to expect you at this event. We will send out contact information to all who register. We hope for good weather and will keep you posted if there is a chance of cancellation.

Swedish Christmas Gift Rhymes

The origin of today's Swedish Christmas gift rhymes comes from the fact that in the past they gave fun gifts on Christmas Eve. The gift was a "silly gift" – perhaps a piece of wood or a straw figure – and the gift was thrown through the door when someone opened after knocking. There was a note with a verse attached, explaining why the person in question would get the present.

A good Christmas rhyme is clever and hints at what's in the package without revealing the contents. Here is an example of an easy Christmas gift rhyme:

You know I always hate when you are running
late.
So here is something that you need, oh yes indeed.

Can you guess what's hiding in that Christmas present? The correct answer is a watch. We all have cell phones now, but back in the day, this was a good rhyme to have.

In the days before Christmas Eve, it is common for panels on Swedish Radio stations and TV channels to hold rhyme workshops and help their listeners and viewers with customized Christmas rhymes. Call into the show, tell them what you bought, and the panel will, in an entertaining way, suggest rhymes; good, bad, or sometimes not so proper. For many Swedes, this is the best source for a rhyme for your presents and the shows are very entertaining. Nowadays, you'll also find websites with lots of generic rhymes for all types of presents.

So is this something all Swedes do? Probably not, but believe it or not, my family did this when I was growing up. We strived at coming up with hard-to-guess rhymes. On Christmas Eve, we would distribute the presents

one at a time, wait for the person to read the rhyme, guess what was in there, and then open up the present. Needless to say, this went on for hours.

My sister and brother's family still honor this tradition and cannot believe my family here in the US is allowed to open presents without the proper Christmas rhyme challenge!

By Karin Weeden

Swedish Christmas in the Pandemic

A traditional Swedish Christmas Eve has always been a wonderful part of my life. Last year, I wrote about our Christmas Eve preparations and celebration and how, as a child, I would accompany my mother, Mildred Hanson, on our search throughout the local area for a real Swedish ham, sausages, cheese, etc. They had to be Swedish!

My mother was the matriarch of the family and Christmas Eve was her domain. About 20 years ago, she and my father, Henry, moved to a much smaller apartment in an assisted living complex. While lovely, it was not large enough to host the celebration, so this responsibility was handed to me.

I happily accepted my new role. However, being a practical person, I made some changes. "Mom", I said. "We will have a ham, but it might not be Swedish. Same goes for the sausages and cheese. And no lutefisk!" No changes were made concerning the herring and meatballs. These items had to be Swedish, but I could locate them fairly easily along with the crisp bread. The limpa (Swedish rye), pepparkaka, and glögg I made myself.

For the past 20 years, most Christmas Eve celebrations have been held at our house with a few notable exceptions. One year we planned a December trip to South Africa and spent a delightful Christmas Eve floating on the Zambezi River. Another year we were in the Austrian Alps – again lovely. Then came the Pandemic. Like many of you I'm sure, last year we had a very small gathering of only the very close family members in our bubble. This year, with all family members vaccinated (except the baby) and many also boosted, we hope to resume our traditional Christmas Eve celebration as close as possible. In November, I read about the supply issues due to the Pandemic and started preparations early. The limpa was baked and put in the freezer. The aquavit was purchased. Then I made a trip down to IKEA for the herring and meatballs. No herring! No meatballs! I was told maybe in six weeks. Maybe. I put out an urgent message to the family

– Be on the lookout for meatballs and herring! A few weeks passed, and I was able to find some herring at the Norwegian bazaar (yay!). I made another trip to IKEA and found two more jars of herring. The last two on the shelf. But still no meatballs. Several family members attempted to make the meatballs, unfortunately without great success. (I think we need another, better recipe.) Then, my sister-in-law Betsy, sent me a photo of bags of Swedish meatballs she had found in Richmond, VA with the message "Should I buy these?" Absolutely! Christmas Eve has been saved.

I still have much to do in preparation, but my daughters have been learning the traditions, are eager to help, and do more and more of the cooking. I look forward to handing over all the Christmas responsibilities to them in the near future. I also realize that supply chain issues are relatively unimportant in the big picture of Covid.

Hopefully, next year we will all be able to return to a more normal Christmas. Stay well. Stay Safe. God Jul!

By Ingrid Butler

Past Event October 15-17, 2021

Pennsylvania District No 9 Convention

Drott Lodge hosted the 2021 District Convention in historic Frederick MD. As many of you know, this event takes as much planning and work as a bazaar or two. On Friday afternoon, Drott members helped with the setup of the conference rooms, breakout session rooms, minibazaar and fika room, and the registration area. Under the guidance of then District Master Julie Olson and her detailed spreadsheets, we managed to get everything ready for the next day. Flags, tables and chairs, backdrops, baked goods, registration lists, programs, flower arrangements, gift baskets, water bottles and hand sanitizers, projectors, extension cords, microphones are some of the things the great Drott Lodge team handled in a few hours time.

After checking in late Friday afternoon, the guests enjoyed a beautiful evening out on the patio in the theme of ABBA. Familiar songs were playing all evening and we enjoyed appetizers and drinks in company of other District members. We danced and were treated to a challenging ABBA song lyrics crossword puzzle courtesy of Pete Olson.

Saturday started with the morning business meeting. The three lodges shared what they have been doing these past 3 years since the last convention. A slide show with pictures and live commentary showed how much had happened in District No 9 despite the challenge of the pandemic. There were reports from scholarship winners, greetings from members who could not attend in person, and many members commented on how wonderful it was to meet in person again. During the breaks, guests enjoyed fika - coffee and homemade cinnamon rolls and Swedish cookies provided by Eva Dunhem and Karin Weeden.

Guests were also able to do some early holiday shopping at the Drott Lodge mini bazaar. Everything from Kosta Boda crystal bowls to Swedish dish cloths were available for sale and very much appreciated.

On Saturday afternoon, we attended two sessions; rosemaling by Tina Keune, folk dance with Washington Folk Dance Group, or genealogy by Janet Johnson. The 90 minute sessions were informative and hands-on. The instructors shared their expert knowledge in subjects we were familiar with, or sparked an interest in something that we can continue to practice at home. The Saturday evening banquet included a dance exhibit by Washington folkdancers, fiddle music by Paul Carlson, a silent auction, and a raffle for the District.

Sunday morning started with a very touching memorial for all departed District members. Against a backdrop of Northern lights landscape, as each name was read, a crystal pendant was added to lighted birch trees, one for each lodge. The District choir sang 3 Swedish hymns in Swedish, as well as in English.

Our new District Master Bo Carlsson and other officers were sworn in during the Sunday business session. Grand Master Art Björkner gave a speech and welcomed all to the 2022 Grand Convention in Philadelphia.

In the early afternoon, we said goodbye to new friends and many we have known for years. A successful event had come to an end. Exhausted, but very excited from the weekend's activities, we packed up, and left Frederick MD.

ABBA night:



Banquet:





Business meetings:





Memorial:



Upcoming Nordic Events

ASA Jul and Lucia
Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 2 pm - 5:30 PM
St. John's Episcopal Church
6701 Wisconsin Ave
Chevy Chase MD

Flyer with more information:
[ASA Julfest Dec 18 2021.pdf](#)

Sign Up here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/asa-christmas-village-julfest-dec-18th-from-2-pm-530-pm-tickets-210686387657>

14th Annual Nordic Christmas Service -Nordisk julbön

Friday, December 24, 2021 at 2:30 pm

The Swedish Lutheran Church of Washington DC
The Norwegian Church Service in Washington DC
The Finnish Lutheran Church of Washington DC
The Danish Church in Washington DC
The Icelandic Church Abroad

Here are the links for the program : _____

[Julbon2021.pdf](#)

Membership Dues

A large number of members have not yet paid 2021 dues. And several have not yet paid dues for 2020. Dues for regular members in 2021 is \$40 and \$25.75 for Youth Members and Life Members. If anyone has a hardship and is unable to pay, you may contact Carol Whitley at carol4600@verizon.net.

Next Newsletter

Next Newsletter will be distributed in January 2022. Please provide any inputs to the Newsletter before January 5, 2022 to 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.

VASA Drott Lodge 168
c/o Carol Whitley, Membership Secretary
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