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



Newsletter November 2021

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Where did this year go? Thanksgiving is just a week away. Time to start baking for the holidays again!

Our Cultural Committee and other members stayed busy planning and organizing events. We were able to have some in-person events in addition to our Zoom events. Here is a summary of what we have done since June:

- A few of us attended the Midsummer picnic on June 20 in Carderock Park. We had a great collaboration with American Scandinavian Association (ASA). It was nice to see each other again and catch up.
- In September we spent a wonderful day visiting two vineyards in Northern Virginia. The picture above is from that trip.
- In October we successfully hosted the 2021 Pennsylvania District No 9 Convention in Frederick, MD. I enjoyed meeting fellow Vasa members from other lodges, some of whom I had only met in Zoom meetings prior to this. We will have more coverage on this event in the next newsletter.

We hope to meet again in December for a casual Sunday afternoon outing in Alexandria, VA. Until St. James is available for gatherings, we are stuck having Zoom meetings or finding other places to meet.

Lastly, we are looking for members to join the Drott Lodge board. Please see our announcement below.

Stay healthy!

In Truth and Unity,

Karin Weeden
Chairman
Drott Lodge 168

2022 DL Board Members Needed

We are looking for members to join the Drott Lodge board for 2022. With restrictions being lifted, we anticipate an active year ahead and are interested in those individuals looking to get more involved. We need your enthusiasm and creativity!

Important vacancies for which we specifically need to identify candidates include the following:

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Treasurer
Recording Secretary
Asst. Recording Secretary

These are each vital roles in the operation of our Lodge and each position must be filled.

Please reach out to Julie Olson at julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com and Tanya Cantrell at tcswede@earthlink.net and let them know if you are interested.

Upcoming Drott Lodge Event Holiday Gathering in the Park

We are not able to meet at St. James yet. Instead of having a Zoom meeting in December, we are planning to casually gather in a park in Old Town Alexandria, VA, followed by a stroll around Old Town, enjoying the holiday atmosphere. We are looking at possible dates. More information to come.

Other Holiday Events in the DC Metro Area

ASA is having a Jul and Lucia event on December 18, 2021, from 2 pm - 5:30 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6701 Wisconsin Ave, Chevy Chase MD.
\$ 25 family or \$ 15 individual.

Lucia * Jultomte * Crafts * Glögg * Washington Spelmanslag

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

Please sign up at this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/asa-christmas-village-julfest-dec-18th-from-2-pm-530-pm-tickets-210686387657>

Past Event Vineyard Bus Trip September 18, 2021

Drott Lodge No 168 members and friends had a wonderful Saturday, September 18th with lovely weather and a fantastic Wine Tour bus trip of 868 Winery in Purcellville, VA and Twin Oaks Winery in Bluemont, VA. Janet Johnson greeted those of us who met at the Maryland ICC with fika, bottled water, Janet's great coffee cake and gift bags of masks, hand sanitizer and hand wipes, and then bus driver Kevin (his first day on the job but Metro driver experienced) whisked us to the Tysons parking area for the second pick up. With all on board and others driving on their own, we were off to the Virginia countryside.

The first stop was the lovely 868 Winery, named after it's highest point. We were given a very interesting tour of the building where the grapes were pressed and stored and an overview of the different type of oak or steel barrels and wine produced with samples provided. We then had a nice picnic with Panera lunches on the beautiful 868 Winery grounds with more wine tasting.

We were then off to Twin Oaks Winery with a lovely view at the top of a vista, toured the smaller family-run vineyard and its storage holding area, and then had a wine tasting in their cafe with cheese/meat/crackers platter. The group then headed back to the DC area with door prizes awarded (including a lovely white orchid and a bottle of 868 Winery wine). It was a lovely day of fellowship, learning about wine making, wine tasting, picnicking and enjoying the beautiful Virginia

countryside.

Thank you to our Cultural Committee for an excellent event.

by Carol Carnahan

*****Past Event*****
Midsummer Picnic
Saturday June 20, 2021 at 4 pm
Carderock Park

Midsummer celebrated once again in person!

After over a year of no in-person get-togethers since March 2020 due to Covid-19, Drott Lodge was determined that we would hold a midsummer celebration at the usual location, Carderock Park. Originally scheduled for Saturday June 19, when the weather didn't cooperate, we switched at the last minute to our rain date, the next day, Sunday the 20th.

Members of ASA were a big presence at the picnic, led by new president Christina Lazdins, and they brought many beautiful flowers to help decorate the Maypole. And even though we missed the fiddle playing of Paul Carlson (he was booked the last two weekends in June) to lead the Maypole procession, there was a variety of recorded Swedish folk music to accompany the marching and fun dancing.

It was so nice to see a number of the younger generation participating in the dancing and field games. Everyone who came likely seized the opportunity to return to a little normality. And boy did it feel good!

by Susan Remmert

Donation Received

In June, Drott Lodge received the sad news that we had lost longtime member May-Britt Alexis. She was Swedish-born and so proud of her Swedish heritage. She greatly enjoyed the traditions and friendships in Drott Lodge. For this reason, she wished to give the lodge a gift of \$1,000.

May-Britt wanted this legacy to be used for cultural purposes, either to help support, for example, musical programs, to help cover the expenses related to the Lucia/Jul program, or other traditional Swedish celebrations that are in-person. She would be happy to have her legacy used to help cover the costs of traditional Swedish foods and baked goods, from salmon and herring to Princess Cakes and delicious pastries for one or more of the traditional Swedish celebrations.

Drott Lodge is extremely grateful for this generous gift. We will make sure it is spent according to May-Britt's wishes. Tusen tack!

Pictures from Drott Lodge Vineyard Trip



Winetasting room at 868 Winery



Listening to our guide.



The grapes were ready to be picked.



Waiting for the tour to start.



Finding out how they make the wine. This is where it happens.



Lots of wine stored in here.



We sampled these three wines while having lunch in the park.



Twin Oaks Winery - waiting for the tour to start



Our tour guide & owner was very knowledgeable.



View of the winery and VA mountains in the background.



Guarding the grapes.

Pictures from the Midsummer Picnic



An ASA daughter and a Drott daughter enjoying the day together.



Dance around the pole and finish with "the Rocket"



The Kubb game was a hit.



Drott members having a picnic together.



More dancing around the Maypole.



In Memoriam
May-Britt Ingegard Alexis



In grief, we convey the sad news that Swedish-born May-Britt Ingegard Alexis, a long-time member of Drott Lodge, has died at the age of 97 and a half years old. "Maj-Britt" was a girl from Skåne, who never learned to swim, but made many trips across the Atlantic Ocean, and eventually made the United States her adopted country, becoming "May-Britt," with a "y" instead of a "j."

Maj-Britt was born on October 4th in the year 1923 at the family farm called Fjärkulla in northern Skåne, not far from the border to the wooded lands of Småland. She was baptized Ingegard Maj-Britt Svensson at the local parish church, Löshults, where her family, including parents and siblings are buried. Maj-Britt fondly remembered growing up on the farm, noting how fortunate they were during the Depression, because they always had ample food. She remembered cold winters and long horse-drawn carriage rides to church. Heated bricks were used to warm feet on these journeys. Educated in the small community of Hökön where she was the only brunette in the early years of school, she was an excellent student who loved history. She was also a very athletic girl who played soccer as well as the boys, and enjoyed gymnastics. She moved away from home at the age of 14 years old to study, and lived with relatives in a town in the southern region of Skåne. From this time onward, she would support herself. Always close to her siblings, she and her brothers and sisters changed their name from Svensson (because there were so many Svenssons), to Lennerup, a name with a distinctively Skånsk character.

Maj-Britt's dream to venture to America came true when she was in her early twenties during the post war period. However, after two years, she had to return to Sweden to help take care of her sick mother. As a means to be near her family in Sweden, but also remain connected with America, she took a job on the Swedish-American Line, Svenska Amerika Linien. Within a period of about 11 months, Maj-Britt made six trips between Gothenburg and New York. She always kept her official Svenska Amerika Linien pin.

Working on the great ocean-liners that crossed the Atlantic was a very exciting adventure for a young person. She long remembered the violent storms at sea, the rocky movements, and the great waves sweeping over the decks. Virtually all of the employees and most of the passengers were Swedish, so Swedish was the common language used on board. It was a uniquely Swedish experience with Swedish people, food and customs on a floating world taking Swedes back and forth between their homeland and the new world.

Maj-Britt moved back to the United States, first living with relatives in Illinois and then in Chicago. She worked very hard as a television model, but mainly focused on her career as a skin care expert. Eventually she moved to the nation's capital. She became a citizen of the United States in 1953 (becoming May-Britt with a "y"). She was successful in her work in skin care. Among her clients were four wives of American presidents: Mrs. Eisenhower, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Carter. She thought they were all very nice ladies.

As a parent, she was an excellent role model who emphasized hard work, perseverance, faith, and education, saying that education was the one thing that no one can take away from you. Once achieved, it is always yours

Throughout her life in America May-Britt remained active in the Swedish community, particularly Drott Lodge of the Vasa Order of America. Her influence and emphasis on her Swedish roots are exemplified by her granddaughter and namesake, who is Maj-Britt with the Swedish "j," after her grandmother, the girl from northern Skåne.

Submitted by her daughter, Karin Alexis Frenze

The next newsletter will be distributed in December. All submissions due by December 1, 2021.

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