



## **Drott Lodge Newsletter January 2021**

### **New Year, New Beginnings**

Welcome to a new year with Drott Lodge. Since our last live meeting in March, we have spent much of our time creating Zoom events for our members. In our January meeting, we will review the programs and listen to your input. What worked, what can we do better, and what would you like to see? Think about it and let's discuss on Sunday.

**Visit us on our  
webpage:**  
[www.drott-lodge.org](http://www.drott-lodge.org)

Following the District and other lodges, the current board members have been invited to serve another year. Our membership will vote this coming Sunday to extend their terms. Please plan on attending.

We had a joint Lucia celebration with the other lodges in District 9. It was a great success and we all left the meeting feeling cheerful about the holidays. Hopefully, we get a chance to collaborate again.

Stay healthy, stay safe and let's keep our lodge moving forward in 2021.

In Truth and Unity,

Karin Weeden  
Chairman  
Drott Lodge 168

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**Upcoming Zoom Event  
January 10, 2021 2:30 PM  
Business Meeting**

## Coffee & Spring Programs Discussion

We will have a short business meeting to vote for our 2021 Board members. The majority of the current board members have graciously accepted to stay on another year. We will vote to officially extend their terms.

In lieu of a planned program, we will look for your ideas and feedback. If you have not attended a Zoom meeting and you are interested to find out what we do, please attend this Sunday. Our goal is for you to enjoy the programs and maybe have a newfound interest in all things Swedish.

Get your coffee mug ready, let's have some virtual fika together.

There is no sign up, just click on the link on Sunday.

### **Zoom Link for January 10, 2021 2:30 pm meeting:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83748436572?  
pwd=cURxWDV4TVlZQ3ZRbmQwVnNwR1Mvdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83748436572?pwd=cURxWDV4TVlZQ3ZRbmQwVnNwR1Mvdz09)

### **Business meeting Agenda:**

[Agenda January 10 2021.pdf](#)

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## Past Event

### **Pennsylvania District #9 Celebrates its First Joint Santa Lucia Program**

On December 13, 2020, Vasa Order of America - SVEA Lodge, Nobel-Monitor, Drott Lodge - and all members of Pennsylvania District #9 celebrated its first joint Santa Lucia Program, with well over 70 participants (several couples/families). The Santa Lucia festival marks the beginning of the Christmas season in Sweden and is intended to bring hope and light during the darkest time of the year — an aspiration ever so important to remember in a year such as this. In the spirit of aspiring to bring hope and light to one another's lives, our local lodges came together to celebrate our most treasured event of the year, virtually. And what a successful collaborative program it was!

Before the event went live, participants were treated to traditional Swedish holiday musical selections, accompanied by a visual masterpiece featuring a slideshow of Stockholm holiday lights.

The engaging program kicked off with an introduction by District Master, Julie Olson, who turned it over to Karin Weeden, Chairman of Drott Lodge. Karin served as the Master of Ceremonies for the celebration, narrating the history and tradition of the festival. Rolf Bergman, Past Grand Master, and Past Chairman from Nobel-Monitor, presented a wonderful recorded version of the Swedish National Anthem

by Vasa Voices. Drott Lodge's 2020 Lucia, Laura Rhodes, gave a beautiful live performance of the Swedish song "När det lider mot jul/Det strålar en stjärna", and SVEA's Lucia, Lena Donnelly, read the story of Santa Lucia.

Bo Carlsson, Past Chairman for Nobel-Monitor, read the story of Tomte, the very shy and rarely seen little Scandinavian creature. Then, the Tomte joined our virtual celebration with a magical appearance to share God Jul greetings!

The virtual celebration was a great success thanks to the collaboration of the lodges and participation of our members. And a special thank you to organizer and operator of Zoom, Arne Dunhem, Drott Lodge Past Chair.

The District Master encouraged members to carry the tradition of Santa Lucia with you as best you can and look after one another. Thank you to everyone for bringing our joint Lucia program to life during these challenging times.

by Katie Peterson



**Find us on  
Facebook**

Vasa Order of America -  
Drott Lodge 168

Drott Lodge's 2020 Lucia, Laura Rhodes



Tomten



Stockholm Slideshow



Some of the participants from District 9 Pennsylvania

## A Message from The Grand Lodge

We have received a letter from Grand Master Art Björkner, responding to questions about alternate meeting procedures during these unprecedented Covid-19 times.

[Letter from GM Art Bjorkner January 2021.pdf](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Newsletter Editor

Do you love to write and have some great Swedish stories to share? Do you like to visit Scandinavian websites and Facebook pages? Please let us know if you would like to contribute in this area. This is a fun job!

### Bazaar Review Work Group

We see all around us how businesses have to adapt to the changing times in order to be profitable and operate smoothly. Let's take some time this spring to review the bazaars of the past and look ahead to the future. What can we work on to make this event easier for us as a lodge? We all come from different backgrounds and have lots of experience to draw from.

Please consider joining a meeting or two. This is not a commitment to work for any particular area, we are simply looking for ideas that we can transform into improvements for the fall event. We have all worked at the bazaar and thought of things that could be done differently. We will have our first meeting at the end of January.

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## Drott Lodge Scholarship Opportunities

Information is provided here about scholarship opportunities for youth Members of Drott Lodge and for children and grandchildren of Members.

Our District, PA District No. 9, offers a youth scholarship every year to Sjölundén, the Swedish camp that is part of the Concordia Language Villages program in Bemidji, MN. It is available to youth Members through age 18 and to children or grandchildren of Members, with the provision that the qualifying Member has been a Member since January 1, 2019.

The District has not provided the applications yet. We expect to receive them at the end of January.

The Grand Lodge has a College Scholarship and Essay Contest each year for students attending or planning to attend institutions of higher education. Applicants for the higher education scholarships must have become a Vasa Member prior to February 15, 2020. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2021.

[Grand Lodge 2021 Scholarship and Essay Contest.pdf](#)

The Grand Lodge also offers scholarships to Sjölundén, the language camp in Minnesota described above. Applicants must be between the ages of 8 and 18 as of April 1, 2021, and the applicant or a parent or grandparent must be Vasa Members for two years as of April 1, 2021. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 10, 2021. The application will be available on the Vasa Order website until January 15, 2021.

[2021\\_Sjolunden\\_Announcement.pdf](#)

More information and all applications will be available shortly on the Drott Lodge website [www.drott-lodge.org](http://www.drott-lodge.org)

Applications for all scholarships require a letter on local lodge letterhead certifying to the applicant's eligibility according to his/her membership date or that of his/her parent or grandparent. Please contact Carol Whitley for this certification. Call her at 202-686-6214 or send an email to [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net).

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### **The Viking Woman of Birka.**

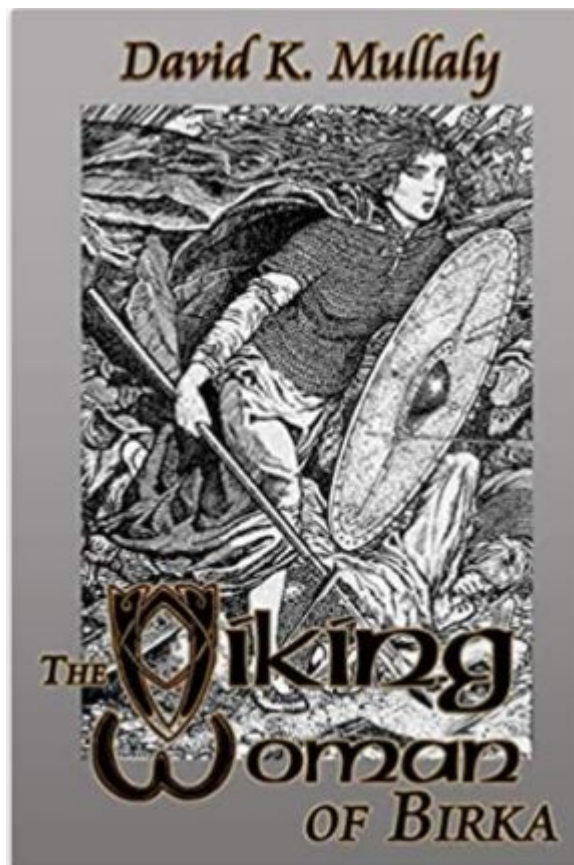
David Mullaly, author of multiple Viking era historical novels, has just released his third book, *The Viking Woman of Birka*. He was a presenter at Drott Lodge in January 2018 as well as at the Manassas Viking Festival that year sharing his own artifacts and the historical research at the basis of his first novel.

Synopsis by the author:

Asa was a young woman who avenged a personal assault, was forced to become a warrior and leader during her family's travels, and ultimately became responsible for defending Birka, one of the great Viking trade centers. This actual Norse woman made her mark during a violent time.

The novel is a riveting, but plausible reconstruction of the life of the Norse woman whose remains, found on the island of Birka Sweden over a century ago, were recently identified as female—creating a real media frenzy. Her story, which takes place 1100 years ago, reminds us that there have always been extraordinary women and men.

This is a very different kind of Viking novel!



This book is available on Amazon

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### **Genealogy Meeting**

The Maryland, Virginia and DC Swedish Genealogy Group will meet virtually on Jan 17 at 1:30pm. Contact Ken Nelson at [kenerv1@yahoo.com](mailto:kenerv1@yahoo.com) to receive an invite for the zoom meeting.

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### **Membership Dues are Due**

It has been a challenging year for everyone. With that in mind, the Drott Lodge Executive Board voted that membership dues for 2021 be reduced by \$10.

Regular annual membership fee due will be **\$40.00**

Life Members and Youth Members still at \$25.75.

Please go to Member planet and make your payment. The new options are available at the bottom of the payment page.

If anyone has a hardship and is unable to pay \$40, you may contact Carol Whitley at [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net).

### **Have you moved?**

Please update Drott if you have new contact information, such as if you have moved or have a new phone number.

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We hope you all are well! Please join us, when you can, for the virtual activities yet to come, and that wonderful day when we can see each other in person.

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

VASA Drott Lodge 168  
c/o Carol Whitley, Member Secretary, 4600 Connecticut Ave NW Apt 819  
Washington, DC 20008

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