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

Drott Lodge Newsletter **January 2023**

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Happy New Year!

Reflecting on the past year, I think of how fortunate I was to visit my homeland Sweden on two different occasions. In February 2022, I visited my siblings and I went skiing. In July 2022, I was finally able to complete my District Scholarship trip that had been delayed due to COVID. I visited three fantastic National Parks and rediscovered my roots in the northern parts of Sweden. I will have a presentation on that in our March meeting. It is amazing how different it is to visit Sweden in summer vs. winter. In July, the days were so long, 20 hours of daylight. In the winter there were 6-7 hours of daytime. We don't have a very noticeable difference here in MD/VA/DC. Here the days are not that much shorter in the winter.

We finished the year in true Swedish Christmas spirit. On December 10, Drott Lodge and American Scandinavian Association co-hosted the Lucia Celebration at St John's in Bethesda. Guests watched the beautiful Lucia program and danced around the tree. There was plenty of Glögg and cookies for everyone, and Drott Lodge provided an opportunity for last minute Christmas shopping.

We are looking forward to another exciting year and hope to bring more new members to our lodge. We challenge you to attend more meetings and get more involved. We also challenge you to bring a friend or two who are interested in learning more about Sweden and Swedish culture. Maybe you know someone who went there on a trip or even lived there. Or someone who is interested in their Nordic heritage.

At our January business meeting this coming Sunday our members will elect the 2023 Drott Lodge officers. Please see

the nominations below. Please plan to attend and make your voice be heard. We are meeting at our new venue at Saint Mark.

In Truth and Unity,

Karin Weeden
Past Chairman
Drott Lodge 168

January 8, 2023, 2:30 PM
Business Meeting: Installation of 2023
Officers
Cultural Presentation: Politics of Sweden
Saint Marks
10701 Old Georgetown Road
North Bethesda, Maryland 20852

We will start with a business meeting that includes installation of the 2023 Board members. After a fika break with refreshments we will have the cultural presentation.

All members who intend to vote on Sunday, please make sure you have paid your dues for 2023 either by credit card on Memberplanet or if you previously mailed in a check. We will also take payments at the meeting (cash, check, credit card).

Here is a zoom link if you are unable to attend in person:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3395684114?pwd=eHF3UIFnZHo0d2ptUlpUbDBsWFdFQT09>

2023 Nominations:

Chairman	Kathy Olson
Vice Chairman	Karin Weeden
Financial and Membership Secretary	Laura Rhodes
Asst Financial and Membership Sec	Julie Olson
Recording Secretary	Carol Whitley
Assistant Recording Secretary	Linda Cline
Chaplain	Gunnel Hamilton
Treasurer	Kenneth Hamilton
Asst. Treasurer	Susan Remmert

Cultural Committee

Tanya Cantrell
Janet Johnson
Kristen Leedom
Ashley Mullinax
Wendy Shoemaker

Historian

Lisa Jacobson

Trustee

Katie Peterson

Auditor

Peter Olson

Auditor

Margaret Schueman

**Cultural Program
Politics of Sweden
Speaker: Wendy Shoemaker**

Wendy Shoemaker will discuss Sweden's political climate, the major parties, and the election of 2022. She will share her knowledge about how government works in Sweden and how political issues led to the rise of a far-right party and to a change of government. Besides an overview of Sweden's political parties, Wendy will also explain the results of the 2022 election and how those results led to one of the few non-socialist governments in Sweden's history.

Wendy has a BA from Mt. Holyoke College in History and German and an MS from Georgetown in International Relations. She has been following Swedish politics for many years. In addition, she worked at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm from 2001-2007 and has been back many times since. Wendy is fluent in Swedish.

**Upcoming Event
February 12, 2023, 2:30 PM
Business Meeting
Movie Night: "A Man Called Ove"**

Our February program is Movie Night. We will be watching the original "A Man Called Ove," the original version of the recent Tom Hanks movie release "A Man Called Otto" based on Frederick Backman's 2012 novel. Backman's great "trick" seems to be in presenting ornery Ove, a grumpy old man, as an initially unsympathetic character – and then peeling back the layers of how he came to be that way in a sympathetic manner. The satirical novel demonstrates Ove's universal struggles of love, loss, and grief. Please join us for the original movie. We will have popcorn and munchies for our

viewing. Wear your comfy pants and cozy sweater and settle in for a great movie. Please note that we are unable to share this activity via Zoom due to legal constraints.

Upcoming Event
March 12, 2023, 2:30 PM
National Parks of Sweden
Speaker: Karin Weeden

We will listen to Karin's experiences during her fantastic trip to the national parks of Haparanda Skärgård, Gotska Sandön and Fulufjället. Karin was the Adult District Scholarship recipient in 2020. Her trip was delayed twice during the pandemic. Meanwhile, she was able to track down relatives in her dad's native town and she also visited with them in July. Come listen to stories of nature, people and food!

2023 Calendar of Events*

January - Politics of Sweden

February - A Man Called Ove

March - National Parks of Sweden

April - Nordic Craft

April - Walpurgis Celebration

May - Hike (Swedish walking with Swedish Poles)

June - Midsummer in Carderock Park, MD

July and August - Fika at localities in MD and VA to keep communication and comraderie flowing!

September - Crayfish Supper & The Golden Jubilee of King Carl XVI Gustaf

October - Ride the Longship Boat and Celebrate Leif Erikson

November - Annual Genealogy Conference

December - Lucia Celebration

*This listing contains events that the Cultural Committee are planning. They have not all been confirmed. We will update as we receive more information.

Other Scandinavian Activities in our area



Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)

January 18, 2023, at 12:30 pm

Viking Women (Virtual Lecture)

Speaker: Maj-Britt K. Frenze, Ph.D.

SACU's January 2023 program covers the literary, mythological, and archeological evidence related to warrior women during the Viking Age. Come learn more about the facts and fictions surrounding these fascinating figures.

Maj-Britt K. Frenze holds a doctorate in Medieval Studies and specializes in the literatures of medieval England and Scandinavia. She has published numerous articles on depictions of the environment in medieval literature.

Please RSVP to sacu2022@gmail.com by **January 15, 2023**
The Zoom Link to be provided to attendees closer to the date.

Past Event

Lucia and Christmas Celebration

St John's in Bethesda

On Saturday December 10, 2022, we celebrated Lucia in Bethesda MD. Kerstin Hendricksson and her Lucia team were joined by a trio of Drott Lodge/ASA girls. It was a beautiful event in the church. Afterwards guests walked back to the parish hall for some Glögg and cookies. The children were entertained at the craft tables while the adults did some shopping at the Drott Lodge julmarknad (Christmas market). There was dancing around the tree and after that we had a visit from Santa. All the young children were able to meet him on the stage and receive a goodie bag.

This was a sold-out event. For next year we are looking for a larger venue to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who made this event possible!!!

Here are some pictures:



Lucia in church



Our cute Lucia attendants from Drott Lodge and ASA



Information table



Drott Lodge Mini Jul Bazaar



Dancing around the tree



Visit with Santa



Kids' craft table was a hit



Santa, ASA President Christina Lazdins and Karin Weeden



Happy shoppers



Our treasurer Kenneth and Santa



View of the parish hall



Santa and his helpers Ashley and Jason



Drott fiddler Carol

Scholarship Opportunities

District Lodge PA No. 9 is again offering a two-week session at the Concordia Swedish Language Camp in Minnesota for youths between the ages of 8 and 18.

[District 9 YOUTH Scholarship Application 2023.pdf](#)

The District's Adult Scholarship for Learning is available every other year and is not being offered in 2023.

The VASA Grand Lodge has a Scholarship and Essay Contest for students attending or planning to attend an institution of higher learning. Applications are available on the VASA website (vasaorder.com) until **January 15, 2023**. Applicants must have become a VASA member prior to February 15, 2022. Applications and all enclosures must be postmarked no later than February 15th to be considered.

The VASA Grand Lodge also offers scholarships for the Concordia Swedish Language Camp. They are available to children 12 to 18 years of age as of April 1, 2023. Applicant, parent/guardian, or grandparent must have been a Vasa member for at least one year prior to April 1, 2022. Go the Vasa Order website for details. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 10th.

Genealogy Meeting

The **Maryland, Virginia and DC Swedish Genealogy Group** will meet in person and virtually on Jan 15 at 1:30pm. Contact **Janet Johnson** at janetjohnson30254@gmail.com to receive an invite for this meeting.

In Memoriam Ruth D. Lewis



Ruth D. Lewis died November 11, 2022. She was 102 years old. She became a member of Drott Lodge in 1972. Born into a Swedish immigrant family in Seattle, she

graduated from the University of Washington nursing school with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1944. She relocated to Durham, North Carolina, to marry her college sweetheart, Thomas H. Lewis.

The U. S. Navy moved the family around in the US, before moving the family to Bethesda in the late 1950's.

Ruth was a member of Christ Lutheran Church and Vasa Drott Lodge, a Scandinavian and Nordic cultural organization. She was an avid bridge player.

Find the obituary here:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/ruth-lewis-obituary?id=38216498>

In Memoriam Ione J. Linke



Ione J. Linke passed away March 14, 2022 at the age of 73. Ione joined Drott Lodge in 2009.

Ione Jeanne Bloom was born to the late Harold and Lorraine Bloom of Albert City, Iowa. She received her Bachelors Degree in Home Economics and later a Masters degree at UCSF. Her family, and building a home for them, was the most important part of her life. She regularly visited her children whether they were in Maryland, Oklahoma, or Arizona. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Ione was an avid seamstress and quilter.

Find the obituary here:

<https://www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com/obituaries/ione-jeanne-linke?obId=24324785>

Members we lost in 2022

Glenna Langley

Ruth Lewis

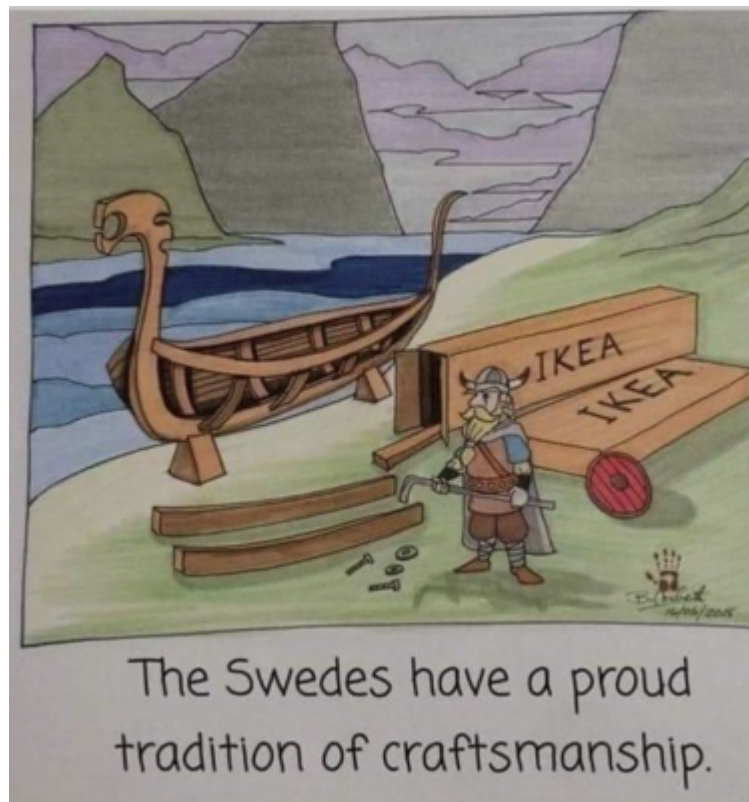
Ione Linke

Henry Nelson

Virginia Peters

If someone is missing from this list, please contact Carol Whitley and we will honor them at a later date.

Made in Sweden



Contributed by Kenneth Hamilton. Source: The Bizarro Side 2.1.

Baking During the Holidays

I like to make something special for Christmas, something that is made out of gingerbread dough. I never make the same project twice. In prior years I have made an igloo, a castle, a train, an airplane, a ski jump tower, Noah's Ark, etc.

This year I made a light house. It took about 6 hours to complete. Day One I made the dough. I let it sit 24 hours. The second day, I then drew the pieces I needed, cut them out in card board paper and did a test assembly with tape. I then

rolled out the ginger bread dough, cut out all the pieces and baked them. I made several walls, two roofs, an island as a base, and some rocks. I let the pieces cool until the next day.



Some of the baked pieces.

Day three was the fun day. I glued the pieces together with sugar that I had heated up until it got liquid (very hot). It works very fast, you only get one chance to glue one piece to another. I had to shave off some of the corners before glued to make sure they would line up.



Glued all the pieces together with sugar.

After all the pieces were assembled, I started to decorate. I had picked out candy from Candyland (country candy and fruit store here in MD) where you can buy all sorts of candy, often in bulk. I look for light candy, but also colorful and in different shapes. I whipped up some icing to fill in the ugly gaps and make it look a little wintery.



Lots of candy.

I like to make my projects colorful and fun, rather than perfect and realistic in size and scale. Also, having worked with two young boys in the past, I do not get upset if the pieces aren't glued together perfectly, or the candy looks a little crooked. It's still a lot of fun to be able to make this in 6 hours time and then just enjoy looking it!

by Karin Weeden



Finished project complete with Swedish sharks surrounding the light house island.

Membership Fees for 2023 are Due

It is that time of the year! This is your gentle reminder to please go in to Memberplanet and make you payment by credit card. You can also pay by check and mail it in. If you plan to attend the meeting this Sunday, you can pay with cash, check or credit as you enter.

Regular annual membership fees due are **\$50.00**

Life Members and Youth Members still at \$25.75.

Please go to **Member planet** and make your payment by credit card (select credit card option \$ 50 plus processing fee).

You can also send in a check. Please contact Carol Whitley at 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.

The next newsletter will be distributed in February. Do you have something you want to share with us? All submissions due by Jan 29, 2023.

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

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