



# Drott Lodge

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

**Newsletter May 2023**



**Walpurgis April 29, 2023**

### **Warm greetings!**

A beautiful spring day appeared just in time for our Valborg celebration, and an enjoyable time was had by all! Having said goodbye to April, we now look to all that May has to offer. Did you know that the second Wednesday is Root Canal Appreciation Day? Well, now you do!

For us, the second Saturday this year is the Manassas Viking Festival. Drott Lodge will have a presence at the Harris Pavilion in Historic Old Town Manassas. Thanks to Deanna Medlin's leather crafting skills, attendees will be able to create their own leather wristbands and key fobs with their choice of embossed runes. Also, Karin Weeden has sourced some very nice Swedish gift items that we will offer for sale. If you visit the festival—and we hope you will—do stop at the Drott Lodge tables!

On a somber note, at our lodge membership meeting on May 21 we will hold our first Draping of the Charter since pre-Covid days. In doing so, we will

warmly remember eight members we have lost. We look forward to seeing their family members who are able to join us.

Following the meeting, our program will feature a presentation by Swedish author Maria Bouroncle about her book, *It Came to Me on a Whim*. Then there will be kaffe and fikabröd, of course.

In Generosity, Truth, and Unity,

Kathy Olson

Chairman

Drott Lodge #168

[Find Us on Facebook](#)

[Visit Us on Our Webpage](#)

**Upcoming Event**  
**May 13, 2023, 10 AM - 5 PM**  
**Manassas Viking Festival**



**Looking for Volunteers for our Tables on May 13, 2023**

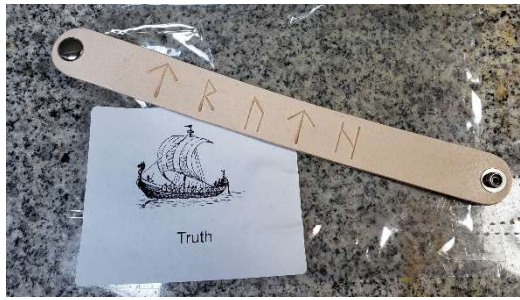
Drott Lodge will once again join the Manassas Viking Festival. We will have our regular space under the pavilion. Come on out and help our lodge and spend some time walking around looking at what other vendors have to offer. It's a great family event with many people in Viking time costumes.

This year, in addition to selling Swedish imported gifts, we will have an interactive table where customers can make their own leather bracelets and fobs. See pictures below. This is very exciting, and we **really need as many volunteers as possible to help with this fundraising effort.**

Please contact us at [Drott.Lodge.168@gmail](mailto:Drott.Lodge.168@gmail.com) if you are able to help out. Many hands make light work!



Leather fob/key holder - buy it premade or DIY at the festival



Leather bracelet - buy it premade or DIY at the festival.

## **Upcoming Event**

**May 21, 2023 @ 2 PM**

**Saint Mark Presbyterian Church**

**Drott Lodge Business Meeting**

**Cultural Presentation by Maria Bouroncle**

We will meet on Sunday May 21 at 2 PM for a business meeting, including draping of the charter in honor of members who have passed away.

This will be our last business meeting before the summer break. We are looking forward to seeing you there. We will be serving fika. You can read more about the cultural program below.

### ***It Came to Me on a Whim***

How can good people commit horrendous crimes? Maria Bouroncle's book *It Came to Me on a Whim* tells the story of a deeply hidden family secret. The book was published in English in 2022 and is currently used in the Scandinavian Crime Literature course at UCLA.

Our May program features Maria Bouroncle, a Swedish author who set about to answer that question. Bouroncle was originally an economist by profession who spent over 25 years in the field of international development before publishing her first novel in 2018. *It Came to Me on a Whim: The Story of Ingeborg Andersson, Child Murderess* tells the story of Maria's great aunt, who killed her three children in 1929. Her riveting real-life story has been translated into several languages.

Maria was born in 1965 in Gothenburg, but she has lived in Washington, DC



since 2002. After the success of her first book, Maria decided to follow her passion and pursue writing professionally. In 2022, the independent sequel, *The Girl with a Name Tag: A Finnish War Child in Sweden*, was published in Swedish.

In 2021 and 2022, Carl Eneroth's film "The Child Murderess of Vesene," based on Maria's book about Ingeborg, won the prize for Best Short Documentary in Budapest, London, Miami and New Jersey. The documentary will take us to unsettling locations, including the murder scene, the courthouse where Ingeborg was sentenced, and the cemetery where her children are buried. Relatives tell the chilling story of Ingeborg and her family.

We are fortunate to have Maria as our guest speaker. She will tell us a bit about her genealogical research and how she discovered the story of her great aunt, and then we will view the 16-minute documentary.

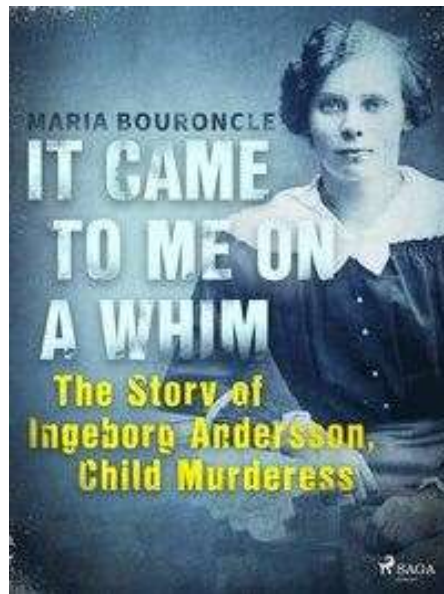
Maria will offer her books for sale. The cost is \$15, and she will autograph books for us. Only cash or Venmo, Zelle or PayPal will be accepted as payment since she will be leaving the next day to fly to Sweden and will be unable to cash checks there.

This will be a meeting you won't want to miss!

[www.mariabouroncle.com/home](http://www.mariabouroncle.com/home)



Maria Bouroncle, author of *It Came to Me on a Whim*



**This Cultural Presentation follows the Business meeting on Sunday May 21.**

[Sign up for Maria Bouroncle Presentation](#)

## **Past Event**

### **Business Meeting**

### **Swedish Crafts**

We met on Sunday April 16, 2023. During the business meeting, we initiated one new member. It was a fun afternoon with fellow members and many visitors. There were three excellent craft programs to choose from: Wheat weaving, Dala horse painting, and Buck weaving. Not only did we learn to do something crafty, but we also had time to chat with others.

A huge thank you goes out to the members of the Cultural Committee for arranging the fun activities of the day. As always, we are grateful to all who help set up the hall, and Joann and the folks who helped out in the kitchen and prepared the fika!

**Here are some pictures from April 16:**



Julie Olson, Past District Master, new member Beth Johnson, and Drott Lodge Chair Kathy Olson.



# Buck Weaving Table







**Dala Horse Painting Table**









### Wheat Weaving Table







## Past Event

### Walpurgis Celebration in Woodbine, MD

Norman's Farm at Woodbine, MD, was a lovely spot for Saturday's gathering of area Swedes and our friends. After a cloudy and cool start to the day, Saint Walpurga made sure the sun and blue sky arrived in time for our Valborg celebration.

It was

a fun day with something for everyone—games, Swedish songs, camaraderie among old and new friends, and evening fireworks. Importantly, our bonfire was successful in scaring off any fabled witches that may have wanted to crash our party!

We from Drott Lodge missed sharing the day with more members and hope that we can add some ABBA spirit and song to next year's Valborg celebration.















## **2023 DROTT LODGE EVENT CALENDAR**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>May 13</b>      | <b>Manassas Viking Festival, Manassas VA</b>  |
| <b>May 21</b>      | <b>It Came to Me on a Whim - Presentation by Maria Bouroncle</b>                      |
| <b>Jun 25</b>      | <b>Midsummer in Carderock Park, MD</b>  |
| <b>Jul and Aug</b> | <b>Fika at localities in MD and VA to keep communication and camaraderie flowing!</b> |
| <b>Sep 10</b>      | <b>Crayfish Supper &amp; Longship Presentation</b>                                    |
| <b>Oct 14</b>      | <b>Ride the Longship and Celebrate Leif Erikson<br/>(rain date Oct 21)</b>            |
| <b>Nov 11</b>      | <b>Annual Genealogy Conference</b>  |
| <b>Dec</b>         | <b>Lucia Celebration</b>  |



## **Other Scandinavian Activities in Our Area**

### **Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)**

**Thursday, May 11, 2023**

**12:00 noon ET Luncheon-Lecture Program**

**Presentation by Her Excellency Ambassador of Sweden to the United States Karin Olofsdotter.**

Please RSVP to [sacu2022@gmail.com](mailto:sacu2022@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience.

(Mark your subject line as "May 2023 Swedish Ambassador")

The luncheon takes place at the [Residence Inn, 650 Quincy Street, Ballston/Arlington](#). Garage Parking at the hotel is free to SACU attendees.

More details here: [SACU Meeting May 11.pdf](#)

**Saturday June 10, 2023**

**11:00 am EDT**

Tour, Carl Milles' Fountain of Faith, Falls Church, Virginia, guided by Dr. Karin Alexis, Art Historian

Please RSVP with subject line: "June 2023 Milles" (Formal Announcement is forthcoming)

### **House of Sweden**

**Open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays 12-5 pm**



## **Free admission**

You can go see the exhibits and visit the roof top.

## **Events:**

**May 10, 2023, 7:30 PM**

### **Rooftop Film Screening: The Emigrants**

This is an outdoor screening on the rooftop of House of Sweden. Please plan on bringing a blanket or weather appropriate clothing. Chairs and popcorn will be provided. Feel free to bring your own beverages (*no alcohol is allowed*).

*7:30 pm - Doors open*

*8:00 pm - Film begins on the rooftop.*

About the film:

The story of Kristina Nilsson, a mother who leaves a poverty-stricken Sweden with her family in the 1850s and sets out on a long, dangerous journey, hoping to find a better life for herself and her children in America. Based on Vilhelm Moberg's much-loved classic.

*Running time: 2h 30 min*

[Sign up for The Emigrants](#)

## **EU Open House - Welcome to Sweden**

**Saturday, May 13**

**10 AM to 4 PM**

Normally, you would have to cross an ocean to visit Europe, on May 13 you just have to cross the street as #EUOpenHouse is coming up! Stop by House of Sweden to experience Sweden's beloved culture, food, music, and more!

No reservations required.

## **Traversing the Baltic Sea**

Viking Ships, the Vasa Vessel, and Modern-Day Cruises

Monday, May 15, 2023

doors open 6:30 pm, talk starts at 7:00 pm

The Baltic Sea has long been one of the world's busiest seas, traveled by

Vikings and cruise ships alike. Thousands of wrecks and other remains lie on sea beds to this day. This constitutes a unique underwater cultural heritage that continues to fascinate researchers and diving maritime archaeologists. What can scientists teach us about the regal ship Vasa from the 17th century and what role did women play in shipbuilding?

Sophie Nyman, Director of Design and Content at the Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums, share new discoveries on the bottom of the Baltic Sea and reflect on current opportunities and challenges at the Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums.

[Sign up for Traversing the Baltic Sea](#)

## **EXHIBITIONS**

### **A view from the side - until August 27, 2023**

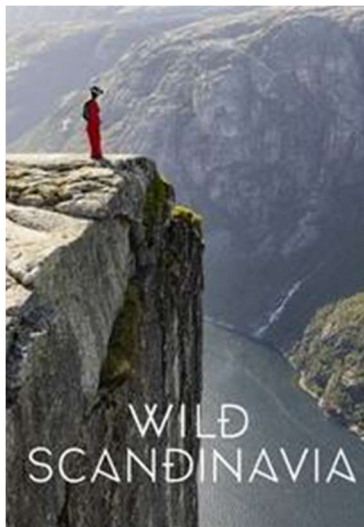
Lars Tunbjörk (1956 – 2015) is one of Sweden's most internationally renowned photographers. His photos display warmth and humor and a deep fascination with feelings of loneliness and the longing for meaning. His images encourage the viewer to pause and think, and they evoke a range of emotions, including happiness, recognition, sadness, and anger. Tunbjörk had his big breakthrough in 1993 with "Landet utom sig," his photo project about Sweden that received the most attention over the years. Following his sudden passing in 2015, the Tunbjörk Foundation was established to preserve the entirety of Tunbjörk's body of work.

### **Pioneer the Possible: Accelerating the Green Transition**

We know climate change can feel overwhelming and tempting to avoid. But the immense shift to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and mitigate the looming climate crisis requires everyone's attention.

Sweden plans to be carbon neutral by 2045. Through broad commitment — from government officials, major companies, and Swedish citizens — a wide range of solutions are being developed. From renewable energy to sustainable industries, Swedes are creating hope for the future.

Join Sweden in pioneering the possible and putting all the pieces of the green transition together.



## Wild Scandinavia on PBS This Month

Immerse yourself in these breath-taking Scandinavian landscapes beautiful fjords, magical forests, and volcanic and arctic extremes. Watch as surprising wildlife stories, myths, and modernity are all woven into this icy natural world.

Life on the Edge May 10

Heartlands May 17

Fire and Ice May 24

8 PM on WETA PBS and WETA Metro or stream on the PBS App.

Here's a link to a preview: [Wild Scandinavia Preview](#)

## Genealogy News





## Genealogy Research

May 7, 2023

1:30 pm

**The Swedish Genealogical Group of DC, Maryland, and Virginia** will meet at 1:30pm, in person and via Zoom. Learn how to find your Swedish Roots with the help of others searching for their family in Sweden.

Contact [JanetJohnson30254@gmail.com](mailto:JanetJohnson30254@gmail.com) to participate or for more information.

### Member Birthdays in May



May 3<sup>rd</sup> Larry Larson

May 12<sup>th</sup> Marianne Enger

May 12<sup>th</sup> Annette "Anja" Monsour

May 22<sup>nd</sup> Gunnel Hamilton

May 22<sup>nd</sup> Ken Hamilton

***Happy Birthday!! Grattis på födelsedagen!***

## Membership Fees for 2023

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

Life Members and Youth Members still at \$25.75.

Please contact **Laura Rhodes** at [rhodesland@aol.com](mailto:rhodesland@aol.com) if you have any questions.

## Membership Fees for 2023 are Past Due

This is your gentle reminder to please go in to Memberplanet and make your payment by credit card. You can also pay by check and mail it in.

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 **Laura Rhodes** at [rhodesland@aol.com](mailto:rhodesland@aol.com).

The next newsletter will be sent out in June. Please send in your stories and news to [PK weeden@msn.com](mailto:PK_weeden@msn.com) by May 25, 2023.

# DROTT LODGE #168

## VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

Instituted 1910

Washington, D.C.