



## NEWSLETTER

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Washington DC is a city with many special treasures; one special treasure is the Cherry Blossoms that are now in full peak. My wife and I had the great pleasure of a walk last night (3/24/2016) enjoying the sunset over the Tidal Basin and Jefferson Memorial with the cherry trees in full bloom. Please enjoy the wonderful pictures below:



Another special treasure is Drott Lodge. Think about the great variety of activities we have had so far this year and will have in the next few months. We just had a wonderful pea soup and plättar dinner with a visit to the Årsunda Viking Village and fantastic Viking decorations to go with the presentation. In January we had a great cultural presentation about the Princess Märtha of Norway. Our knowledgeable Marit Knollmueller gave an inspiring presentation in February about Swedish women in cinema including Garbo, Bergman and Ekberg. A well-attended Swedish Movie Night followed in early March. On March 28<sup>th</sup> we met and watched some of the best Swedish hockey players: Bäckström, Johansson and Burakovsky playing with the Capitals. Yet to come, on April 10<sup>th</sup> we will have The Hövding – the Swedish invisible inflatable bicycle helmet – a presentation of the latest state-of-the art fashion bicycle helmet by Dr. Robert Dyer, Professor Emeritus, George Washington University. Finally, for the first time ever within Drott Lodge, and for many years in Washington DC, we will celebrate a real Swedish Valborgsmässoafton (Walpurgis Night) on April

30. We plan to have a real Valborg bonfire which is part of a Swedish tradition dating back to the early 18th century. There will be a speech to the Spring, hopefully by the Swedish Ambassador or the Deputy Ambassador, singing and music welcoming the spring and, of course, games for the children. We will celebrate this together with SWEA, the Swedish Women's Educational Association.

There are certainly many more great events planned for later in the year. So I am sure you agree with me. Drott Lodge is a special treasure – so please spread the news. Let's grow our membership by welcoming more members that have Sweden and Scandinavia in their hearts.

In truth and unity,

Arne Dunhem  
Chairman

## **APRIL COMING EVENTS**

### **“Welcome Spring – Goodbye Winter”**

**Valborgsmässoafton – April 30, 4 pm – 8 pm.**

On **April 30** Drott Lodge and SWEA DC will arrange a celebration of Valborgsmässoafton (Walpurgis Night) with bonfire. There will be Swedish musicians playing spring-inspired music accompanied by choral singing. A senior representative from the Swedish Embassy may present the “Welcome Spring – Goodbye Winter” Speech. All are welcome to this free event! This is the evening when Swedes traditionally go out singing and joining others to watch bonfires in their communities to celebrate the coming of the spring. Students wear their white student caps – so please bring your student cap along if you have one. The celebration will start at **4 pm** with



children's games to include fun races for young and old. Please bring your own picnic food and BYOB and, if you so wish, marshmallows and makings for s'mores over the fire. Bring folding chairs/beach chairs or blankets since no seating will be provided. The celebration will be on the grounds of a large private residence in McLean, Virginia with ample parking close-by. RSVP by April 20th to Marit Knollmueller of Drott Lodge at [mknollmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:mknollmueller@yahoo.com) or to Pia Jensen of SWEA at [sweadcprogram@gmail.com](mailto:sweadcprogram@gmail.com) and they will then provide specific address information. Please tell Marit or Pia how many adults and children you plan to bring. Please join us for this delightful spring event.

**NOTE: This Valborgsmässoafton event is a substitute for the mid-May business meeting.**

**April 10, Drott Lodge Meeting, 2:30 pm, Undercroft of St. James' Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD**

The meeting will include a Draping of the Charter to recognize the passing of David Lundberg and Riley Bostrom, who are sadly missed. Also, we will vote on applicants for membership.

The cultural part of this meeting will be a presentation by Dr. Robert (Bob) Dyer on the "airbag for cyclists" being manufactured by Hövding Severige AB since 2011. It consists of a collar around the cyclist's neck that inflates to become an airbag when it senses an impending accident. At present it is being marketed for recreational and commuter bicycling rather than competitive, trail or mountain biking or for young riders. The company has been redesigning its product to increase sales and Dr. Dyer hopes to use the Drott session as a sort of "focus group" to evaluate the success of those efforts (a chance to give your opinions without answering the phone). It should be an interesting session!

Dr. Dyer is an Emeritus Professor of Marketing at George Washington University who continues to teach on-line courses, writing case studies and journal articles that focus on consumer safety issues and Nordic companies. His journal articles are mainly in the field of marketing and

public policy issues. For ten years Dr. Dyer was the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at GWU's Business School and led faculty efforts to create the Executive MBA, the Professional MBA, and the Global MBA Programs. He has been a guest professor in France, Ireland, Egypt, Sweden (Gothenburg University), and Portugal; has had consulting assignments for several government agencies; and has recently written several articles published in Nordstjernen.

**Saturday, April 16, noon, Visit to Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA**

Member Rod Rydlun will be our knowledgeable guide. Port City is the largest and longest-operating artisanal brewery in the DC area. This is a very popular destination with the younger set and can become crowded, so it helps to be there when it opens at noon. For \$12, there will be an opportunity to join a tour that includes a 30-minute walk through the facility with a "grain to glass" look at how beer is made and a flight of six beers (5 oz. each) served individually. You'll get your first 5 oz. pour at the beginning of the tour plus five tickets to be redeemed when you're ready. You can purchase the tour/tasting when you arrive. There is no charge to visit the brewery on your own with access to the Tasting Room and Beer Garden. Contact Rod Rydlun at [RRydlun@hotmail.com](mailto:RRydlun@hotmail.com) or call him at 301-461-1052 to let him know you will be attending, or for more information.

**\$\$ REMINDER:** If you have not paid your 2016 dues and don't know how much you owe, call Carol Whitley at 202-686-6214 or send an email to [carol4600@verizon.net](mailto:carol4600@verizon.net).

## YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED...



Our pea soup dinner featured a very well-done presentation by Karin Weeden on the Årsunda Viking Village in Norrland, the area where Karin grew up. It was accompanied by opportunities for runic writing, viking costumes, and much-anticipated plättar.





The Capitals Hockey Team not only won on Swedish Heritage Night but the three impressive Swedes on the team appeared afterwards to answer questions from their enthusiastic Swedish audience. A great evening!



Below, left to right:

Niklaus Bäckström,  
Marcus Johansson,  
André Burakovsky



## **ALSO OF INTEREST**

**April 7, NOVA -“Vikings Unearthed” #4310, 8 - 10 PM**, Through stunning CGI recreations and careful investigation of archeological evidence, "Vikings Unearthed" unravels the secrets of these intrepid adventurers. New evidence is coming to light that these pioneering people may have ventured even farther than we had suspected. Various television channels depending upon your provider.

**April 18, Passengers on the USS Transport Ship “ American Legion”**, a presentation by Drott Lodge member Susan Remmert, whose mother came to the US at the start of WWII onboard this USS transport ship, along with several well-known passengers. St. John's Church Wisconsin Ave & Bradley Blvd., Chevy Chase, MD, 8 pm

**May 14 to 22, “The Pelican”, a 1907 August Strindberg drama**, presented by the Arcturus Theater Company, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1313 New York Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20005, within two blocks of the McPherson Square Metro stop. The play was regarded as subversive at the time because of its straightforward way of showing how some parents may damage their children’s psyches. Tickets at <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=arctc>  
Show website: <http://www.arcturustheater.org/pelican.html>

## **EDITOR’S NOTE**

Please send your submissions for the May newsletter to editor Linda Smith no later than April 17: [leslieandlinda2@comcast.net](mailto:leslieandlinda2@comcast.net) or call 301-467-8477.

Drott Lodge Website: [www.drott-lodge.org](http://www.drott-lodge.org)  
Drott Lodge Voicemail: 202-558-0175