



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

NEWSLETTER

www.drott-lodge.org

info@drott-lodge.org

202-669-2476 – Carol Whitley

MAY 2019

Hello [First Name]

The Charter was draped at our April meeting in memory of our dear, devoted sisters who sadly passed: Ruth Bird, Karla Dirst, Betty Johnson, Karin McCabe and Bernice Ann Munsey. We were fortunate to have Karla's granddaughter Ashley Mullinax attend with her husband Jason Zwickl to honor Karla.



This year's Valborgsmässoafton (Walpurgis Eve) picnic and bonfire was a big hit. Please enjoy the photos on the following page including Swedish Ambassador to the USA Karin Olofsdotter giving a Valborg speech, Paul Carlson playing the fiddle, Svenska Sånggruppen (SSG) singing Valborg songs, and perhaps our biggest and best bonfire yet!



We are also pleased as punch to announce the arrival of Drott's newest princess to admire and enjoy. Marit Knollmueller & John Rodman's baby Madeline Rose arrived on May 9 at 20.5 inches long and 9 lbs 6 oz.

Please also note two important items that require your attention. If you have not yet paid your 2019 Drott Lodge dues, please remember to do so immediately! Also, read the important message from District Master Julie Olson on pages 7-8.

Join us for brief business meeting in May and a cultural presentation by the Nordic Dancers, whose motto is "If you can walk, you can dance!" And be sure to sign up for our Midsommar Picnic co-sponsored with ASA to enjoy raising and dancing around the

Midsommarstång (Maypole) in June!

Välkommen!



VALBORGSMÄSSOAFTON



**STAY CONNECTED WITH DROTT LODGE
REGISTER YOUR ACCOUNT IN OUR MEMBERPLANET SYSTEM**

OR UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION HERE:

<https://mp.gg/qdg9t>

MemberPlanet will provide our Members with several great benefits some of which are:

- Secure Member Personal Access
- Member Newsletters
- Rapid Email Broadcast and Notices, including Text Messaging, when accepted
- Interactive and Searchable Member Directory
- Event Planning and Invitations
- Payments for Events and Activities
- Membership Dues Payments
- Member Surveys
- Discussion Groups and Forums
- Digital Member e-Cards
- Document Storage, like Newsletters, Bylaws, etc.
- Planning and Direct Communications with Event Volunteers
- Photo Album for the Member
- Email Campaigns for Reaching-Out to New Potential Members

If you have not already created an account in our MemberPlanet system, this gives you the opportunity to do it now. Please fill in your information to include your first and last name, your email address and a password of your choosing. If you already have an account you need only enter your email and your chosen password. If you have forgotten your password, no problems. You can easily follow the instructions to create your new password.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**NORDIC COMMUNITY DANCERS
DROTT LODGE BUSINESS MEETING**

Sunday, May 19, 2:30 pm

Undercroft of St. James' Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac MD

The Nordic Dancers present folk and social dancing via an "interactive" workshop that offers a chance to try your hand - and dancing feet! - at dances that have held communities together in the old Nordic countries and as the Nordic diaspora landed on our shores. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes (but not rubber soles) to dance. Otherwise, enjoy as a spectator!



This cultural event will be followed by a brief Drott Lodge business meeting, our last until the end of summer.

GLAD MIDSOMMAR!



Saturday, June 29, 3 pm to 6 pm
Carderock Recreation Area
Pavilion Potomac, Maryland

Midsummer is the most celebrated holiday in Sweden after Christmas! Join us for Drott Lodge's final event prior to our summer hiatus. It is the 55th Annual Swedish Midsommar Picnic with some assistance from SWEA and the American Scandinavian

Association.

Fun activities include decorating the Midsommarstång (maypole) then a procession and dancing to live music. There are children's games with prizes and a potluck dinner. Bring a generous "ready to serve" dish (enough for all to share) based on the first letter of your surname: A–H desserts and I–Z entrees, salads or sides/vegetables. (If you bring watermelon, please cut into serving sized pieces beforehand.) Bring your own plates/utensils, refreshments, appetizers and beer and wine, which can only be consumed in plastic cups in the Pavilion.

There are no trash cans in the park, so be prepared to carry in and carry out. Don't forget lawnchairs, picnic blankets and, of course, greens and flowers for the decoration of the Midsommarstång! Donations of \$5 per person (non-members) are requested in advance to cover renting the Pavilion and to pay the musicians. (\$3 for Drott Lodge, SWEA and ASA Members.) However, more generous donations are appreciated. Please make advance credit card payment by clicking on the following button:

[PAY NOW](#)

EVENTS OF INTEREST

MARTY'S SHADOW (SKUGGAN AV MART)

Film Screening & Book Talk

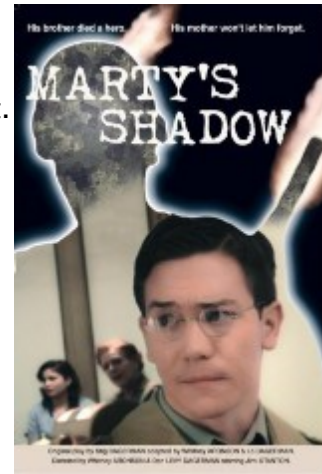
Friday, May 10, 7 pm to 9:30 pm

Alliance Française de Washington DC

2142 Wyoming Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20008

In partnership with the Embassy of Sweden, Alliance Française of Washington, DC presents a film screening of Marty's Shadow, based on Stig Dagerman's 1948 play Skuggan av Mart. It is a Hitchcock-like exploration of Gabriel and his descent into self-delusion and violence while he tries to prove his masculinity. Set in 1947 France, Gabriel's older brother is a dead war hero and their mother bullies her "unmanly and cowardly" son. The screening is followed by a talk with Lo Dagerman (Stig's daughter) and Nancy Pick, authors of The Writer and Refugee, a psychological and historical look at the play.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/digging-deep-into-the-shadows-film-screening-book-talk-tickets-59136170879>



MANASSAS VIKING FESTIVAL

**Saturday, May 11, 10 am – 5 pm, rain or shine
Harris Pavilion & Manassas Museum Front Lawn
Old Town Manassas, Virginia**

manassasvikingfest@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/manassasvikingfest>

Drott Lodge will be selling imported Swedish gift items so please stop by! If you have time, maybe relieve the Drott Lodge sellers on duty so that they too can walk around and enjoy a little of the festival. Dress as a Viking and step back in time to enjoy this fun family friendly event and learn about Scandinavian history. There will be a "Wife Carrying Race," an "Althing" (the first form of a modern-day parliament) and "Val-Howl-A Hall," a Viking breed dog show, including Icelandic Sheepdog, Norwegian Buhund, Swedish Valhund (a rugged cattle dog) and the Norrbottenspets (small hunting dogs from Sweden and Finland).

Reenactment groups will set up a Viking village and demonstrate daily life during the Viking era, including a shield wall and how people lived a thousand years ago. The "Norseman" Viking ship will be back and there will be music, dancing, educational programs and Viking era related vendors. The event is free and uses vendor fees, donations, sponsorships for support. They also have a fundraiser for contributions on their facebook page at the link above. Over 4,000 attended in its first year.



EUROPEAN UNION OPEN HOUSE DAY

Saturday, May 11, 10 am to 4 pm Embassy of Sweden

2900 K Street, NW

Washington, DC 20007

www.swedenabroad.com/washington

The House of Sweden opens its doors as one of twenty-eight EU Member Countries for an Open House and a day of family fun filled with activities and Swedish culture including Swedish treats, giveaways and competitions.

SVENSKA SÅNGGRUPPEN (SSG)

Wednesday, May 15, 7 pm

7294 Mandan Road, Greenbelt, Maryland

Anyone interested in singing in Swedish is welcome to attend, learn and practice Swedish ballads, hymns, and/or folk songs. The annual season runs through May, with no summer meetings. SSG performed at the Drott Lodge's Valborg! Please bring something to share for the snack table! For more information contact Eva Hartzell at eva.c.hartzell@gmail.com.

A TRIBUTE TO BIRGIT NILSSON

The American Wagner Project

Friday, May 17, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

House of Sweden

2900 K Street, NW

Washington DC, 20007



The Wagner Society pays tribute to Swedish dramatic soprano Birgit Nilsson with a concert featuring Amber Opheim, Jon Janacek and Hunter Enoch. Selections from Tannhäuser and Lohengrin will be performed and a reception follows catered by Chef Mikko. Tickets are \$100. Wagner Society Members \$60.

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/WagnerSocietyofWashingtonDC/AWPconcert.html>

SCANDIA DC THIRD SATURDAY DANCE PARTY

Saturday, May 18, 7 – 10 pm

Greenbelt Community Center Dance Studio

15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD

Scandinavian couple dancing the third Saturday of the month. No partners necessary.

Wear a costume if you like, bring finger food to share if you can. Teaching 7–8, open dancing 8 to 10. Cost \$10. For information, call Linda or Ross at 202–333–2826, email linda@scandiadc.org or visit www.scandiadc.org. In inclement weather, call 301–474–0646.

FIFTH ASA NORDIC LANGUAGE MEETUP

Sunday, May 19, 1:30 to 3 pm

Kennedy Center Café

<https://www.meetup.com/Nordic-Language-Meetup/>

Join the monthly group of passionate and curious linguists to learn and practice your Swedish. Smaller discussion groups are formed to speak Swedish, Icelandic, Danish, Finnish and Norwegian. Everyone is welcome, no language skills required, although you must specify a Nordic language of interest to join!

VI ÄR BÄST! (WE ARE THE BEST!)

Sunday, June 16, 2 pm

House of Sweden

2900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20007

Three girls in 1980s Stockholm decide to form a punk band, despite not having any instruments and



being told by everyone that punk is dead. This is a critically acclaimed film from 2013



that offers a tender tribute to the bittersweet tumult of adolescence.

Drama/Music. No age limit. 102 minutes. Director: Lukas Moodysson. Adapted from the novel *Never Goodnight* by Moodysson's wife Coco.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-screening-we-are-the-best-tickets-59529864427?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

HOUSE OF SWEDEN EXHIBITIONS

Saturdays & Sundays, 12 – 5 pm, through May

2900 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20007

Free admission/guide available

Siri Berg: Statements – Born in Stockholm in 1921, Siri Berg is a New York resident and offer visually unexpected abstract painting. *Urban Challenges* – Swedish solutions to absorb the impact of the growing urban environment and leave smart, creative and inclusive cities. *Children In The City: Little Library & Funky Town* – Books, puzzles and games encourage children to start dialogue to make cities more accessible. An interactive game allows kids to be city planners and to understand how important the creation of a friendly and human city is.

JUNE NEWSLETTER

Please send input for the next issue of the newsletter to Jeffrey de Hart at jeffrey.dehart@telia.com by May 24.

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT MASTER JULIE OLSON

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Grand Lodge Executive Board (GLEB) recently completed a meeting in Rhode Island. One of its tasks from the Grand Lodge convention was to develop an Anti-Harassment Policy for the Order. I have received the attached from our District's GL representative and have been asked to share it with each of our District's Local Lodges. Our Vasa Constitution requires that members be of good moral character and each of us took an oath during our initiation to "...strive to preserve the noble qualities of our people; to discourage envy, slander, and everything that tends to degrade and humiliate." The following policy from VASA reminds us that each member is entitled to be treated fairly and with respect.

Thank you,

Julie Olson
District Master
(Pennsylvania, District #9)

HARASSMENT POLICY

Vasa Order of America is committed to equal opportunity for all qualified persons. We recognize and appreciate each member's work and contribution to our success. We believe that our members are entitled to be treated fairly and with respect. We provide equal treatment in all aspects of the organization to all members and to all applicants. We provide equal opportunity and equal treatment for individuals with disabilities and, if needed, we will make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunities for qualified disabled individuals.

The Order will not allow prohibited discrimination, which includes recommending, taking or permitting any adverse action with regard to membership. The Order prohibits retaliation against any member who complains in a reasonable manner about prohibited discrimination or harassment.

We expect all members to respect the professional dignity of fellow members and to treat fellow members in a courteous and professional manner. We will not tolerate any form of harassment of our members. Harassment under our policy includes any hostile, intimidating, threatening, offensive, insulting, demeaning, profane or vulgar words or conduct alluding to a person's race, color, sex, national origin, citizenship, religion, age or disability.

Discrimination or retaliation against or harassment of our members is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action, which may include termination of membership.

Sexual Harassment

We maintain a professional organization that is free from sexual harassment. We want to ensure that all members fully understand unacceptable conduct can give rise to

“sexual harassment.” Any verbal or physical conduct that reasonably could be deemed to be unwelcome or offensive, whether committed by a member or any other person including a prospective member or visitor is prohibited.

Complaint Procedure

You must promptly report any incident of harassment, discrimination, retaliation, or any other violation of our Harassment Policy directly to your local Lodge Chairperson, District Master or Grand Master as appropriate. All of our members and Officers have a responsibility to prevent harassment and to stop it if it occurs. However, to ensure that we can promptly investigate and, if appropriate, take prompt and effective action you must notify. If for any reason you do not believe the above can fairly receive and address your complaint, you must report any incident of harassment or other violation of our Harassment Policy directly to the Grand Lodge Secretary.

To assert a complaint, the member will be required to prepare a written report detailing the alleged harassment, discrimination, retaliation or other violation of our policy, and identify any witnesses. You will be required to sign and date the report. We will thoroughly investigate all complaints. To the extent practicable, the investigation will be confidential with due regard for the sensitive nature of such complaints. If, after completing our investigation, we determine that a complaint is valid, we will take prompt and effective corrective action to stop the harassment and prevent it from recurring. If appropriate, we will take disciplinary action against the person or persons engaging in such conduct. Depending on the severity of the violation of our policy, appropriate discipline may result in discharge from the organization.

We encourage you to come forward if you have a complaint. We assure you that no adverse action will be taken or allowed against any member who in good faith reports harassment, discrimination, retaliation or any other violation of our Harassment Policy under our "complaint procedure."

VASA Drott Lodge 168
c/o St. James Episcopal Church
Potomac, MD 20854

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