



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

Newsletter April 2023



Dear Drott Lodge Member,

Have you attended a Drott Lodge meeting yet this year? Our new meeting space at Saint Mark's Presbyterian Church in North Bethesda is marvelous—spacious, bright, and cheerful! We are very grateful to Alison Bennett, church elder and Drott Lodge member for facilitating our rental arrangement there.

We also are grateful to our members who consistently ensure that our programs are interesting and enjoyable, and our fikas generous and tasty. The ease with which a relatively small group of dedicated members make all this happen so smoothly belies the amount of planning and work they undertake. So much happens behind the scenes: program planning and logistics, trips to the store and storage facility for supplies, early arrival to set up the meeting space, and onsite set up of fika goodies.

Then, there's the post-meeting cleanup. Too often, the same small group of members do this, too. It's true that "many hands make light work." So, let's all muster our kan-göra anda (Swedish can-do spirit), enjoy some extra camaraderie, and make our meetings fun for everyone!

We hope you will enjoy the programs and activities that are planned, and we welcome your suggestions for future programs. Please also consider volunteering on a committee, or as an officer.

Email Drott.Lodge.168@gmail.com with your ideas.

In Generosity, Truth, and Unity,

Kathy Olson

Chairman

Drott Lodge #168

[Find Us on Facebook](#)

[Visit Us on Our Webpage](#)

**Upcoming Event
April 16, 2023 @ 2 PM - 5 PM**

Business Meeting

Swedish Crafts

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

10701 Old Georgetown Rd

North Bethesda MD 20852



Dalmålning



Huck Weaving



Wheat Weaving

Swedish Crafts

Three artists will lead small-group workshops on Swedish Wheat Weaving, Swedish Huck Needlework, and Dalmålning (Swedish traditional folk painting). Come and express your creativity and your Swedish heritage.

Christina Keune, a professional heritage artist since 1983, has demonstrated and lectured about rosemaling and dalmålning at numerous craft and ethnic festivals and at classes in the Washington, D. C. area, New Jersey, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

Deb Kempton, a local needlework artist and instructor will teach the classic and unique form of needle weaving known as Swedish Huck Weaving. A member and volunteer with Nelly's Needler's of Woodlawn Plantation and an avid needle artist she brings her expertise to Drott Lodge for this event.

Mary Dix, Master Weaver of Lottsburg, VA is a well-known wheat artist who brings the ancient art of wheat weaving to life. These ancient designs are historically based, from around the world, wherever long stem grains are grown. These are the patterns of life. She has lectured and demonstrated throughout the Mid-Atlantic as well as at the *Renaissance Faire*, in Maryland and Virginia.

All registered attendees will receive all the supplies to create your Swedish work of art. Some special notes: those doing Swedish Huck Weaving may want to bring a magnifying glass or "readers" for fine work. Those attendees who will be painting, may want to bring an apron or smock. And those who plan to Weave Wheat may want to bring hand lotion.

\$ 5.00 for members

\$ 7.50 for non-members

Additional kits are available for purchase when you sign up.

Come join us!

[Sign up here for the Craft Event in April](#)



Valborg Celebration

Saturday April 29, 2023 @ 2 PM - 6:30PM

Norman Farm

1580 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD, 21797

(rain date April 30th same time)

Drott Lodge, the American Scandinavian Association, and SWEA

are cohosting the Swedish traditional celebration of

Walpurgis Night (Valborgsmässoafton) at Normans Farm in Woodbine, MD.

We say goodbye to winter and hello to spring and summer.

This is an outdoor event with games, singing and a bonfire. Bring chairs/blanket, your own picnic, and drinks. There will be a grill available if you wish to grill a hotdog or two.

The event is free for members of Drott Lodge, ASA, and SWEA

and it is \$5/person for non-members.

Plenty of parking available. Wheelchair accessible.

Everyone must sign a Waiver of Liability upon entry to the event.

See You There!

[Sign up here for Valborg Celebration](#)



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

**MANASSAS
VIKING
FESTIVAL**

*WHEN: MAY 13, 2023
10AM-5PM*

*WHERE: MANASSAS
MUSEUM LAWN + HARRIS
PAVILION*

@manassasvikingfestival

Drott Lodge will once again join the Manassas Viking Festival. We will have our regular space under the pavilion.

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

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!

Upcoming Program

May 21, 2023

It Came to Me on a Whim

Presentation by Maria Bouroncle



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.

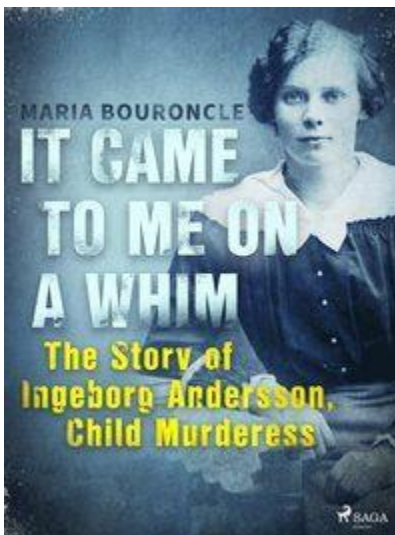
We are fortunate to have Maria as our guest speaker. She will tell us a bit about her genealogical research and how she discovered the story of her great aunt, and then we will view the 16-minute documentary.

Maria will offer her books for sale. The cost is \$15, and she will autograph books for us. Only cash or Venmo, Zell or Pay Pal 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!

For more information: www.mariabouroncle.com/home

[Sign up for Maria Bouroncle Presentation](#)



Past Event

Pea Soup and Plättar

Presentation: National Parks of Sweden

Pea soup and plättar - after a three-year break, was a very welcome celebration!! In 2020, Drott's annual pea soup dinner was the last in-person event we hosted before Covid. Joining with so many of our members in person last month was such a delightful reminder of the joys of fellowship in the lodge. A very special thank you to our pea soup and plättar makers Eva, Janet, Karin and Deanna!!! It was all delicious!



Swedish National Parks Presentation

"I learned a lot from Karin Weeden about her presentation on Sweden's National Parks, that they even had National Parks. There are a variety of them

and they are so beautiful. From Islands, Mountains to Sand Dunes, there is a park for just about anyone to visit by car or boat. It really looked like Karin and her son really enjoyed their hiking trips at the three National Parks that they chose to visit".

Deanna Medlin



2023 DROTT LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

Apr 16	Nordic Crafts
Apr 29	Walpurgis Celebration with ASA (rain date April 30)
May 21	It Came to Me on a Whim - Presentation by Maria Bouroncle
Jun 25	Midsummer in Carderock Park, MD
Jul and Aug	Fika at localities in MD and VA to keep communication and camaraderie flowing!
Sep 10	Crayfish Supper & Longship Presentation
Oct 14	Ride the Longship and Celebrate Leif Erikson (rain date Oct 21)
Nov 11	Annual Genealogy Conference
Dec	Lucia Celebration



Other Scandinavian Activities in Our Area

Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

12:00 noon ET

The Residence Inn, Arlington/Ballston

650 Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia

Luncheon-Lecture Program

Masterpieces of Swedish Film

Speaker Todd Hitchcock

Please RSVP to sacu2022@gmail.com by April 12, 2023. (Mark your subject line as "April 2023 Swedish Film"). Here is more information on Todd Hitchcock and the program: [SACU April 2023.pdf](#)

Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)

Thursday, May 11, 2023

12:00 noon ET Luncheon-Lecture Program

Presentation by Her Excellency Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter

The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc (Rockville)

Sun, Apr 23, 2023 @ 7:30PM Focus Rockville -

Tikvat Israel Congregation, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD
Sunday, April 23, 2023 FocusMusic and WFMA Presents James Keelaghan at
Focus Mount Rockville - Tikvat Israel | 2200 Baltimore Rd, Rockville, MD
20851 | 7.30pm FocusMusic encourages all attendees to protect themselves
and others through vaccination and masks. If you are not feeling well, we ask
you not to attend the event.

[Signup for Nordic Fiddlers](#)

Genealogy News



Genealogy Research

May 7, 2023

1:30 pm

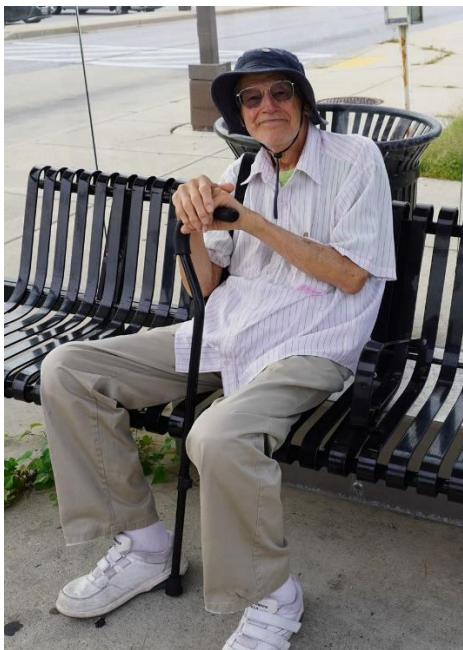
The Swedish Genealogical Group of DC, Maryland, and Virginia will meet at 1:30pm, in person and via Zoom. Learn how to find your Swedish

Roots with the help of others searching for their family in Sweden. Contact JanetJohnson30254@gmail.com to participate or for more information.

Member News

In Memoriam

Rod P. Rydlun



Drott Lodge member Rod P. Rydlun passed away at the age of 85. He became a member in 2011. He is remembered by many as an always cheerful person helping out at various events. Among many things he made pea soup, played Santa at the Lucia event, and brought his famous homebrew on many occasions. We will miss Rod as he was a positive influence in our organization. Above are two pictures, one from our Winery trip in September 2021, and the other from our Welcome Back picnic at Carderock Park in September 2020.

Please see the link below for more information on Rod and a Go Fund Me page organized by his daughter.

[Rodney P Rydlun Memorial Fund](#)

Member Birthdays in April



1st Anita Newman

8th Keith Olson

9th Mary Anne Huntington

10th. Jane Fredlund

12th Arne Dunhem

13th Elizabeth Diaz

20th Marjorie Morris

27th Dancia Langley

29th Donna Clarke

Happy Birthday!! Grattis på födelsedagen!

Members Getting Ready for Swedish Easter

Get your eggs and feathers ready, Easter is happening this week. On Thursday the Swedish witches will fly on their brooms to Blåkulla, on Saturday or Sunday, Swedish children will dress up as witches and collect candy from their neighbors.

Here are some pictures from Julie Olson, Joann Moretti and Karin Weeden getting ready to celebrate. Thank you for sending in the pictures.

HAPPY EASTER! GLAD PÅSK!





HAPPY EASTER! GLAD PÅSK!

Membership Fees for 2023 are Past Due

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.

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.

The next newsletter will be sent out in May. Please send in your stories and news to PK_weeden@msn.com by Apr 25, 2023.

DROTT LODGE #168

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

Instituted 1910

Washington, D.C.

