



Drott Lodge

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

Newsletter June 2023



Summer Greetings!

Midsummer? Or Midsommar? However we spell it, our annual Swedish “welcome summer” celebration is the next Drott Lodge big event. Along with our lodge, this year’s fest will be cohosted by ASA, SWEA DC, and Finlandia Foundation NCC. Planning for a fun time for all is underway. So, please put June 25 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Carderock Park on your calendar. More details follow later in this newsletter.

Our annual post-summer break “welcome back” lodge meeting and dinner will be on September 10, and will include a program on Viking longboats. The presentation by Len Lesduk will precede the October 14 opportunity to ride and help crew his Viking longboat at Leonardtown, MD. More information is included below.

Also on our fall calendar are other activities to note. All lead up to a new year of activities in 2024. That also means a new team of leaders to be elected in January. To prepare for that, I have appointed Arne Dunhem as the new Nominating Committee Chair. In addition to his many years in a range of Drott Lodge leadership roles, he is Vice District Master and the leader of the District effort to strengthen and grow all district lodges. Joining Arne on the committee so far are Larilyn André, Julie Olson, and Susan Remmert. Are you interested

in joining this team to help position Drott Lodge for a strong future? If so, please contact Arne or me by June 30. Finally, as I wrote in a previous newsletter, many hands make light work. Please consider volunteering to help with meetings and events as you are able and available.

I look forward to seeing you on June 25!

In Generosity, Truth, and Unity,
Kathy Olson
Chairman
Drott Lodge #168

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Upcoming Event
June 25, 2023, 3 PM - 6 PM
58th Annual Midsommar Celebration
Carderock Park, MD



Drott Lodge will once again celebrate Midsommar in Carderock Park, MD. We are joined by American Scandinavian Association (ASA), Finlandia Foundation NNC, and Swedish Women's Educational Association DC (SWEA). We have reserved the large pavilion as in the past. Come on out and celebrate this

special Swedish tradition. It's a great family event, so bring your kids and grandkids. We will have games for everyone. Bring your own picnic and drinks. We will provide additional water. If you want to sit outside the pavilion, don't forget to bring a chair. And don't forget bug spray.

Here is the flyer and directions:

[Midsommar Picnic Flyer 2023 v3.pdf](#)

Setup starts at 1 PM.

Please contact us at Drott.Lodge.168@gmail if you are able to help out. Many hands make light work!

*****Past Event*****

**Drott Lodge Business Meeting
Cultural Presentation by Maria Bouroncle**

Our business meeting on Sunday May 21 was very special as we draped the charter in honor of nine members who have passed away. This is the first time since the pandemic that we have had this ceremony. Chaplain Gunnel Hamilton and Vice Chair Karin Weeden draped the charter. Secretary Carol Whitley, Vice Secretary Linda Cline, and member Tim Holland read obituaries of the deceased members. It was very touching to hear about the members' lives and accomplishments. Many were longtime members while some had joined more recently. Chairman Kathy Olson then declared a moment of silence in honor of our departed brothers and sisters.



Gunnel Hamilton and Karin Weeden



Carol Whitley read obituaries



We sang Happy Birthday to Kenneth and Gunnel Hamilton.



Drott members and officers

The business meeting was followed by the cultural program "It Came to Me on a Whim" presented by Swedish author Maria Bouroncle. A huge thank you to Cultural Chair Janet Johnson for saving the day when the lodge projector refused to cooperate. Janet went back to her house and retrieved her own projector, just in time for Maria to show the documentary that accompanied her presentation.

Author Maria Bouroncle spoke to the lodge about how she came to 'switch careers' and write her first book, "It Came to Me on a Whim". The book tells how she learned, as an adult, that an ancestor, her Swedish great aunt Ingeborg, killed all three of her young children. To say that this was shocking to learn is an understatement. Maria had spent summers in her childhood in the country at a relative's home and found the female relative living with them quite pleasant!

After her talk, Maria showed a short documentary by Charles Eneroth, "The Child Murderess in Vesene". In the film, Maria visits the house in which Ingeborg Andersson, her husband and children lived, and hears other townspeople share what they had heard about the horrible event. In the end, Maria's investigation into the buried family secret turned out to be a positive thing for others as well, because it shed light on what had only been speculated upon. In our modern era, Ingeborg would likely have benefited from mental health care. Instead, an impulsive act of depression led to tragedy and changed lives forever.

After the program, Maria signed books for those who purchased them.

By Susan Remmert



Maria Bouroncle's presentation



Tim, Carol, Susan and Dee listening to the presentation



Kris Leedom and Maria Bouroncle



Joann Moretti, Maria Bouroncle and Susan Remmert



Books available by Maria Bouroncle

Past Event Manassas Viking Festival

Drott Lodge had a successful fundraising event at the 2023 Manassas Viking Festival. New this year was the leather crafting. Drott members helped customers make their own leather wristlets and key rings with Rune lettering of their choice. We sold out of all wristlets before the event was over! Member Deanna Medlin came up with the idea for this fun activity. Having done this with the Boy Scouts in the past, she helped train our volunteers so they could assist during the festival. She also supervised a session of creating premade bracelets a few weeks before the event. Thank you, Dee. Drott also sold Imported Gifts and had an information table. Thank you to all who came out to help at this event!



Drott Lodge set up under the pavilion



People of all aged wanted to make their own wristlets



Vikings visit our tables



Drott information table Carol Whitley and Joann Moretti



Drott Chairman Kathy Olson and Deanna Medlin at leather activity table

2023 DROTT LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

Jun 25	Midsummer in Carderock Park, MD
Jul and Aug	Fika at localities in MD and VA to keep communication and camaraderie flowing! Greeting Card Making sessions
Sep 10	Welcome Back Smorgasbord & Longship Presentation
Oct 14	Ride the Longship and Celebrate Leif Erikson (rain date Oct 21)
Nov 11	Annual Genealogy Conference Icelandic and Swedish Bazaar, Fairfax VA
Dec 2	SWEA Bazaar at House of Sweden
Dec 9	Lucia Celebration (Drott Lodge and ASA)

Scandinavian Events this Summer

Are you planning a road trip this summer? Haven't decided where to go yet? Maybe you want to skip the beach and go to a fun Scandinavian event instead. Here are two events outside our area that you may want to consider. Kathy Olson can vouch that the Scandinavian Folk Festival in Jamestown, NY is worth the drive. Many Drott members have attended ScanFest at Budd Lake, NJ in the past and it's always been a fun, festive event. Take a look at the links provided below.



2023 Scandinavian Folk Festival
Northwest Arena - Downtown Jamestown, NY
July 15 & 16th, 2023

[Link to Scandinavian Folk Festival](#)



37th SCANDINAVIAN FEST

Vasa Park, Budd Lake, NJ

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 - 10 am - 5:30 pm Rain or Shine
Sunday of Labor Day Weekend

[Link to Scan Fest Information](#)



Scandinavian Activities in Our Area

Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)

Saturday June 10, 2023

11:00 am EDT

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

Members and friends of the Swedish American Cultural Union are cordially invited to a private outdoor tour of "The Fountain of Faith," a large statuary fountain by the internationally renowned Swedish-born sculptor, Carl Milles. This work, considered Milles' last great work, is located in Falls Church, Virginia.

Please RSVP by June 7, 2023 with subject line: "June 2023 Milles". here is more information about the event, parking etc.

[SACU June 10.pdf](#)



House of Sweden

Open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays 12-5 pm. Admission is free. You can go see the exhibits and visit the roof top.

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 (CO2) 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.



House of Sweden

Sweden's National Day

Sunday June 4, 2023

11:00am - 1:00pm (ET)

Free, but need to sign up to receive ticket. See blue link below.

2023 is a year of celebration for Sweden as it is turning 500 years old! Ahead of Sweden's National Day on June 6, join for a celebration at the House of Sweden this Sunday June 4, 2023.

Come have strawberry cake and coffee, walk through the current exhibitions, enjoy music by Spelmanslaget & Svenska Sånggruppen, as well as the company of fellow Swedes!

Remarks will be made by Karin Olofsdotter, Sweden's Ambassador to the United States.

About Sweden's National Day:

Since 1983, Sweden has celebrated its National Day on June 6. It is the date when Gustav Vasa was elected King of Sweden in 1523. This laid the foundation of Sweden as an independent state, and on the same date a new, important constitution was adopted in 1809.

Welcome! Välkommen!

[Sign Up here for House of Sweden June 4 Celebration](#)



Sweden is celebrating 500 years.

Sweden National day 6 June is coming up soon. The tradition of celebrating this date began in 1916 in honor of the election of King Gustav Vasa on 6 June 1523, as this is considered the foundation of modern Sweden. This summer Sweden is celebrating 500 years. The event signifies the end of the Danish-ruled Kalmar Union, so in a sense it is a marking of Swedish independence. I found an interesting video about the Swedish National Day, that I think is very informative and I would like to share with you. You also will get the opportunity to learn some Swedish words at the end. Click on the yellow link below!

[Swedish National Day](#)

If you are interested there are more stories of Gustav Vasa on the internet. The folklore is that Gustav Vasa was a good skier. When the Danish king Kristian II was going to get rid of Gustav Vasa, he sent out some of his men to go after him. Gustav Vasa then fled to Dalarna and when the Danes were approaching Dalarna Gustav Vasa and his men fled on skis to the mountains. The Danes did not do well on skis, and they had to return home in an uncommitted matter.

By Gunnel Hamilton

Genealogy News

Genealogy Research

Sunday June 4, 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.



Swedish-American Genealogist Article Recognition

It all started when Drott Lodge member Tim Holland brought an interesting puzzle to the DC/VA/Maryland Swedish Genealogy Group relating to his great grandmother. Janet Johnson took on the challenge of finding the origins of Ida Charlotta Lind Sall both here in America as well as her connection to Sweden. Janet had an article published in the Swedish-American Genealogist entitled "Determination of the Parents for Ida C. Sall." As Ida Sall's great-grandson, Tim Holland was particularly swept away by this article and Janet's research behind it. We join Tim in congratulation Janet on this great piece of work! Thank you, Tim, for bringing this to our attention.

You can read the article here:

[SAG2022-2IdaSallJohnson.pdf](#)

Member Birthdays in June



June 1st Viola Larson
June 12th Eva Hansson
June 14th Julie Olson
June 17th Siv Blanck
26th Anita McDonough
June 28th Christine Riddough
June 29th Victoria Bergstrom

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 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 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.

This is the last newsletter before our summer break. The next newsletter will be sent out in September. Please send in your stories and news to PK_weeden@msn.com by August 25, 2023.

DROTT LODGE #168

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

Instituted 1910
Washington, D.C.