



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

Newsletter January 17, 2024

En God Fortsättning!

A Good Continuation!

Dear Drott Lodge Members and Friends

It's a New Year 2024

We wish you all "En God Fortsättning 2024", like the Swedes say.

New year and big changes. Drott Lodge has a new Executive Board. During the Member Business Meeting on January 7, 2024 a slate of proposed candidate Officers was presented by the Nominating Committee. All candidates were then duly elected by the Membership. So I am very pleased to present the new Executive Board here.



From top left to right: Eva Dunhem, Linda Cline, Emma Hedman, Kathy Olson (Past Chairman), Wendy Schwenk Shoemaker, Marit Knollmueller and Amy Swanson

Sitting from left: Carol Whitley, Arne Dunhem, Susan Remmert and Julie Olson.

(Not pictured, Larilyn Andre, Lisa Jacobson and Ashley Mullinax).

The New 2024 Executive Board

Here is the presentation of the new Officers and their functions:

Chairman:

Arne Dunhem

Vice Chairman:	Larilyn Andre
Recording Secretary:	Carol Whitley
Assistant Recording Secretary: proposed candidate)	Vacant (Not yet any
Membership Secretary:	Linda Cline
Assistant Membership Secretary:	Wendy Schwenk Shoemaker
Treasurer:	Susan Remmert
Assistant Treasurer:	Eva Dunhem
Chaplain:	Emma Hedman
Cultural Leader:	Julie Olson
Auditors: served one year)	Peter Olson (2023 – 2025, already Marit Knollmueller (2024 – 2026)
Trustees: already served one year)	Julie Olson (2023 – 2025, Ashley Mullinax (2024 – 2026)
Historian:	Lisa Jacobson
Newsletter Editor: proposed candidate)	Vacant (Not yet any
Website and Wild Apricot Administrator:	Amy Swanson



Next Meeting February 4th, 2024

Next Drott Lodge meeting on February 4th will have a cultural presentation of “Gods and Myths of the Viking World: An Introduction to Norse Mythology”. A presentation by Dr Lilla Kopár, an Associate Professor of English.

Celebration of Semlan's Dag

We will also have the Swedish big traditional celebration event - Celebration of Semlan's Dag which is on Fat Tuesday, February 13th. Semlor have been baked with love by Eva Dunhem and will be prepared at the meeting by Linda Cline.

“Gods and Myths of the Viking World: An Introduction to Norse Mythology”

“Gods and Myths of the Viking World: An Introduction to Norse Mythology”
The fascinating stories of the Norse gods have long captured the imagination of people from the medieval period to modern days. Odin, Thor, Loki, and their

companions inspired the world of Tolkien, the operas of Wagner, movies of the Marvel universe, and more. But what do we actually know about these deities, their cults, and the myths and legends that brought them to life? This richly illustrated talk will provide an overview of Norse mythology and the religious practices of the Viking world, with the help of literary sources and the material evidence of art and archeology. We will discuss the history of the world from its creation to the dramatic events of Ragnarök, meet the main deities of the Norse universe, and explore aspects of lived religion through rituals and religious objects.

BIO:

Dr Lilla Kopár is Associate Professor of English, Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Director of the Center for Medieval and Byzantine Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Her research focuses on the visual culture of early medieval England, in particular on stone sculpture, on the iconography of myth and heroic legend, on visual storytelling, and on inscribed objects in early medieval northern Europe. Her publications include *Gods and Settlers: The Iconography of Norse Mythology in Anglo-Scandinavian Sculpture* (2012) and articles on early medieval art and iconography of the British Isles, Scandinavia, and Greenland, on English and Scandinavian literary connections, and on runic inscriptions. She is also involved in digital humanities and serves as co-director of the NEH-funded *Project Andvari: A Digital Portal to the Visual World of Early Medieval Northern Europe* and of the *Andvari Iconography Thesaurus* project.

Thank You Kathy and Thank You To The 2023 Executive Board!

I would like to thank Kathy Olson for her tenure as the Chairman for our lodge during last year. She has with a steady hand moved us forward for a successful year 2023. Thank You Kathy.

I also want to thank all other members of the 2023 Executive Board who will not continue in the new 2024 Executive Board. Many thanks to Karin Weeden, Kenneth Hamilton, Laura Rhodes, Janet Johnson, Gunnel Hamilton, Margaret Schueman and Katie Peterson who in various positions served Drott Lodge well.

Karin has been a member since 1995 and served in several functions to include as Chairman and over many years as the coordinator for the sales of gifts during our various bazaar events. Kenneth has been our Treasurer over two years and has ensured that our finances have been well taken care off.

Laura has worked diligently as Membership Secretary with the membership database in Wild Apricot. Janet was active with the Cultural Committee. Gunnel was our Chaplain over several years. Margaret has been a member since 1981 and also our Chairman during some years. Lately she served as one of our Auditors. Katie was a Trustee for some time.

Thank you all!

Now, we look forward to our next meeting on February 4th, 2024. We would normally have our meeting on the second Sunday of the Month, but this year it would conflict with the Super Bowl 2024. But more info about the meeting will be provided below. I would encourage you all to check out our website www.drott-lodge.com and read more about the event and presenter. You can [click here to read about the February 4th, 2024 meeting](#).

I will close my introduction by providing a comment from Kathy Olson thinking about the month of February: "As I look at the long-range weather forecast, I am reminded once again of a timely Swedish proverb: "Det finns inget dåligt väder, bara dåliga kläder." (There is no bad weather, there are only bad clothes.)"

In Generosity, Truth and Unity,

Arne Dunhem

Chairman

Drott Lodge No. 168

Vasa Order of America



Karin Weeden receives a special Thank You gift for all her years of service to Drott Lodge including being Chairman over two years. It was Drott Lodge's first Gustav Vasa Award for Excellence.

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Seeking Volunteers

We are still seeking two volunteers at earliest that can fill the two positions of Assistant Recording Secretary and the Newsletter Editor.

For more information, you may contact Arne Dunhem (adunhem@gmail), Larilyn Andre or Julie Olson.

The Member Survey Is Coming!

Many members have been asking for a survey of what the members believe is important for our Lodge and about what activities we should have. We are pleased to report that a Member Survey has been prepared and will be sent to you all by email within few days. So, please stand-by! And thank you in advance for filling-it out.

Do You Have a Holiday Story to Share?

Or Other Input for Our Newsletter?

We would like to know how our members spent the holidays. Did you travel? Did you have visitors? A short story and a picture or two can be sent to us to be included in the next newsletter.

Please submit this and any other input for the February newsletter to drott.lodge.168@gmail.com by February 1st, 2024.

Christmas At The Museum

Contribution by Peter Olson.

During Christmas at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry there are two exhibits that are dear to my heart. One is the large model train layout that was opened in 1941. The other is the Christmas Tree display which started in 1942 with just a single tree, but now has grown to represent many countries around the world.

I first visited the museum in 1946 when I was six years old. The train layout had several steam trains running and wonderful scenery.

The trees were decorated by the many ethnic groups who lived in Chicago. Today there are more than 60 trees occupying the main floor of the museum. This year I took photos of the Scandinavian trees to share with the Lodge.



DROTT LODGE 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

Feb. 4 Gods and Myths of the Viking World

- Mar. 10 Pea Soup & Plättar Dinner, Sail on the Swedish-America Line (SAL)
- Apr. 27 Walpurgis bonfire and celebration
- May 19 Business Meeting & Cultural Program
- June 23 Midsommar Celebration at Carderock Park
- Sept. 8 Welcome Back Smörgåsbord
- Oct. 6 Business Meeting & Cultural Program
- Nov. 9 Icelandic Bazaar
- Dec. 7 House of Sweden (HOS) Bazaar
- Dec. 14 Lucia & Jul Fest

Contribution by Julie Olson

I'm sure most of us with children or grandchildren have enjoyed the music of Disney's Frozen. When it was released in 2013, I was delighted with the Scandinavian inspired village, wardrobe, and the references to.... Glögg, saunas, maypoles, trolls, the fjords and architecture. Arendelle and its people are based on the Scandinavia region of northern Europe

Frozen the Broadway musical was at the Kennedy Center this winter, and I was delighted to hear several new songs in the performance – including, “Hygge” sung by Oaken (and his many friends and family enjoying the sauna), Kirstoff, Anna, and Olaf.

OAKEN:
Here in Arendelle
The winters can be... well...
Let's just say it's not so very good
But even at this latitude
We'll keep a happy attitude
Until we burn our final piece of wood
See, there's a word we live by
To keep our feelings great
You don't have this word in English

*But allow me to translate
Hygge!*

*Hygge means comfortable
Hygge means cozy
Hygge means sitting by the fire with your cheeks all rosy
Hygge hygge hygge hygge hygge hygge*

From Disney's Frozen the Broadway Musical

It's a catchy tune, and very entertaining number, with the "Oaken family" running in and out of the sauna with their birch twigs (likely you can find it posted online if you do a search). I'd only been introduced to the term Hygge a few years ago, and I think it's delightful that this Scandinavian term of coziness and contentment is now captivating audiences in a hit Broadway musical.



Julie Olson's daughter Victoria at Disney's Frozen the Broadway Musical at Kennedy Center



Scandinavian Activities in Our Area

The Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)

Invitation to Attend:

February 6, 2024 12:00 PM (EST): Virtual Program

“Saami: Traditions during a Time of Change”

By Hugh Beach, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, Uppsala University, Sweden

This special program celebrates the 98th birthday of SACU founder, Ingrid Beach. Please join us to learn about the Saami and honor Ingrid.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO INGRID BEACH!

Please RSVP to sacu2022@gmail.com;

Dear Members and Friends of SACU,

On behalf of the board of SACU, it is with pleasure that we extend an invitation to you to attend “The Saami: Traditions during the Time of Change” by Hugh

Beach on February 6th, which is the Saami National Day. SACU is greatly honored to have Professor Beach as our February 2024 speaker.

Dr. Beach, a cultural anthropologist, is one of the world's leading experts on the Saami. The Saami are indigenous peoples in the far north, living in Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Russia. Historically, they have been reindeer headsmen.

This presentation will discuss Saami culture with an emphasis on current geopolitical changes and realities.

Hugh Beach is professor emeritus, Uppsala University, Sweden. He taught in the Cultural Anthropology Department of Uppsala University and also served as the departmental dean. In addition to his expertise on the Saami, Professor Beach has also worked in the area of minority interest groups from other parts of the world. He is the author of numerous books and articles.

Dr. Beach is also the son of Ingrid Beach, a founder and former president of SACU. Ingrid is a prime-mover and leader in the Swedish and Swedish-American community. This special program celebrates Ingrid's 98th birthday.

The photographs included in this invitation are of Ingrid on her visits to Saamiland/Lapland with her son Hugh.

The program will conclude with a tribute and happy birthday wishes to Ingrid.

Please come and learn more about the Saami from Hugh Beach, and help us honor and celebrate the 98th birthday of Ingrid Beach.



Ingrid Beach in Saamiland

Nordic Dancers of Washington, DC

Wednesdays 7:30 pm

Highland View Elementary School

Silver Spring, MD

The Nordic Dancers of Washington, DC, resumed in-person sessions on Wednesday, September 6, at 7:30 pm at Highland View Elementary School in Silver Spring, MD and will meet regularly on Wednesdays through May 22. Come any Wednesday and learn traditional dances of Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and Norway. Music is provided by fiddler Paul Carlson. Newcomers are welcome; no prior dance experience is necessary. Check by email for updated COVID protocols. For more information, visit the website: [Nordic Dancer DC](#) . To verify the meeting room and check for updated COVID protocols, call 301-864-1596 or send a message to NordicDancers@aol.com.

2024 District Scholarship News

Our Vasa District 9 invites members in good standing to apply for adult and youth scholarships for 2024.

The adult scholarship is valued up to \$3000 and can help defray costs of travel or other expenses associated with a program of cultural or historic worth that can be shared with the lodges. It might involve research at the Vasa Archives or involve other cultural study or research related to Swedish immigration or a relevant topic in or about Sweden or Scandinavia. See attached application for further details.

The youth scholarship, which is offered annually, is for a student aged 8-18 to attend a 2-week summer Swedish language immersion camp sponsored by Concordia College (on a picturesque lake in Bimidgi, MN). The student may be

a member of a District 9 lodge or have a parent or grandparent who has been a member in good standing for at least 2 years. The attached call for applicants and official application detail more specifics.

If you have any further questions, direct them to our District 9 Cultural Leader, Marit Knollmueller by emailing her at mrk20901@gmail.com.

[District 9 YOUTH Scholarship Announcement for 2024.pdf](#)

[District 9 YOUTH Scholarship Application 2024.pdf](#)

[Vasa District 9 Adult Scholarship Application 2024.pdf](#)

Membership Fees for 2024

Many of you have already made payment of the 2024 dues. However, some of you may have received one or two email reminders about your 2024 membership dues. Please make your 2024 payment as a credit card payment in Wild Apricot or send the payment as a check to Linda Clines as per below.

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

Life Members and Youth Members still at \$25.75.

Please contact **Linda Cline** at linda.cline@me.com if you have any **questions**.

Linda Cline, Membership Secretary

Address: 24130 Ridge Road, Germantown, MD, 20876

DROTT LODGE #168

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

Instituted 1910

Washington, D.C.

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