



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



Newsletter October 2023

Warm Greetings!

What a lovely welcome back celebration we enjoyed in September! Still with me are the wonderful aromas and tastes of our traditional smörgåsbord fare, and the images of festive decorations in honor of King Carl XVI Gustaf's

Golden Jubilee. It was a special time to welcome three new Drott Lodge initiates — Emma Hedman, Eric Peterson, and Carl Patrick Zilliacus. To round out the afternoon, there was the interesting and informative presentation on Viking longships by our guest speaker, Leonard Leshuk.

It often seems like our events and programs come together almost magically. That's because, a core group of dedicated Drott Lodge members consistently show up and lend their hands to seamlessly fill a range of roles. I believe the "magic" is actually the Vasa virtue of unity guiding the work. As presented in the initiation ceremony, "... unity is the outstanding Vasa virtue that binds and holds our Order together."

Planning for another year of interesting and fun activities in 2024 is underway. On October 29, between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m., a team of lodge members will meet to review the calendar of meetings and cultural activities, identify resources needed for success, and collaborate on implementation plans. We will meet at the Mary Riley Styles Public Library, Falls Church. If you want to help plan, please join the group. Just let me know by email (kgolson@pm.me) by October 6, and I will send you more details. We promise an afternoon of fun camaraderie!

In the last newsletter, I promised more information about joining the Swedish-American Plogging Group for a plogging date in October. The group will meet to clean up a section of the Washington and Old Dominion (WO&D) Trail. Watch for a special announcement newsletter for more details in another week or so.

Also, if you are interested in an officer position for 2024, please be sure to contact Nominating Committee Chair Arne Dunhem at adunhem@gmail.com.

Do read on to learn what else is planned for October, and for the rest of 2023!

In Generosity, Truth, and Unity,

Kathy Olson

Chairman

Drott Lodge No. 168

Vasa Order of America

[Find Us on Facebook](#)

[Visit Us on Our Webpage](#)

Upcoming Event

October 14, 2023 starting at 10 AM

Longship Excursion



Welcome Aboard!

Drott Lodge will set sail on the **Longship Sea Raven**

on October 14, 2023

We will gather at **10 am** to prepare the *Sae Hrafn (Sea Raven)* for our “voyage” and to hear a brief **mandatory** orientation on safety measures. The ship is an authentic reconstruction of a Viking-era vessel.

Information and directions have been sent out directly to all who registered for this event.

We look forward to this trip and hope the weather will be nice. If not, we have a rain date of Oct 21, 2023.



Upcoming Event
November 11, 2023

Virtual Genealogy Conference

Drott Lodge No 168; Vasa Order of America is hosting its second Virtual Swedish Genealogy Conference on November 11, 2023; 10 am - 5:30 pm.

Have you always wondered where your Swedish ancestors came from, but have never taken the time to look it up? Or maybe you already know a lot about your ancestors, but you are stuck and need some help on where to look. This is a great opportunity for beginners and more advanced genealogy researchers alike. We have four wonderful speakers again this year, so please come and join us on November 11.

\$50 for non-Vasa Members

\$35 for all members of Vasa Order of America.

Sign up today!

[Sign up here for the Virtual Genealogy Conference.](#)

A brief introduction of the speakers:

Kathy Meade is the North American representative for ArkivDigital, a Swedish company that offers online access to newly photographed color images of Swedish church books and other historical records. Her topic: **“Searching for your Swedish Ancestor By Name in ArkivDigital.”**

Geoff Fröberg Morris is the author of *A Practical Guide to Swedish Church Records for Genealogy and Family History*. He has been doing Swedish genealogical research for over 35 years. **His presentation is entitled “Finding the Father Unknown.”**

Jill Morelli CG, CGL is a writer, lecturer and co-founder of the online Applied Genealogy Institute, providing practicum-based educational opportunities for intermediate and advanced genealogists. **Jill will present: “Using Mantal Tax Records to Solve Difficult Problems.”**

Jill Seaholm is the head of Genealogical Services at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center. She holds a B.A. degree in Scandinavian studies from Augustana College, Rock Island, IL. **Jill’s presentation is**

entitled “Resources at the Swenson Center and finding Swedish-American Church Records available online at Ancestry”

More information about the speakers on this flyer:

[Drott Lodge Swedish Genealogy Conference - Copy.jpg](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you to all who have already signed up to volunteer at our Fall/Winter events. We are still looking for more volunteers. You can sign up for one event or more. Maybe you can help a couple of hours or stay half a day? We are grateful for any help you can provide. Here are the events we need help with:

- **Icelandic and Swedish Bazaar Nov 11** (sales and setup) in Fairfax, VA
- **SWEA Bazaar Dec 2** (sales and setup) at the House of Sweden in Washington DC.
- **Lucia and Julfest Dec 9** with ASA (decorate the hall, fika servers, Drott Lodge information table etc.) at St James' in Potomac MD.

Please contact Julie at julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com.

2023 DROTT LODGE EVENT CALENDAR

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)

Card Making Session

October 7, 2023, 10am - 4 pm in Olney, MD

Who is interested in helping make cards this coming **Saturday, October 7, from 10 am – 4 pm?** We will continue to make Christmas Cards to be mailed to all of our members in December. As in the past, no experience necessary, just come and have fun.

You can bring any supplies/tools you think you'll need. If you have extra scrapbook paper that you are willing to donate, please feel free to do so. We have all the white base cards and envelopes.

Please confirm if you can come, so I can prepare the workspace. Light lunch and/or fika will be provided. I will have water and coffee/tea for all.

We will meet at my house in Olney, MD. Please RSVP at pk_weeden@msn.com for more information.
Hope to see you on Saturday!

Karin Weeden

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

Sep 8, 2023 SWEA Kräftskiva

On Friday September 8, 2023, fellow Swedish organization SWEA DC hosted a Kräftskiva, a traditional Swedish crayfish celebration, in Arlington, VA. In attendance from Drott Lodge were Larilyn Andre, Eva Hansson and Karin Weeden. They had a great time eating lots of crayfish, singing traditional snapsvisor (drinking songs), and chatting with the other 50 participants. Eva was the lucky winner of a beautiful Kosta Boda crystal bowl. A good time was had by all!







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

Smörgåsbord and King Carl XVI Gustaf Celebration Sep 10, 2023

We had a business meeting where we were happy to initiate three new members. We reviewed the remaining events and programs for 2023. We will participate in two bazaars, host the virtual Genealogy conference, and members will sail the longship. We will also collaborate with ASA for the Lucia and Jul festival. It will take place at St. James this year and Drott Lodge's small children will once again be invited to join the Lucia parade. We also did a quick overview of potential programs and events for 2024. A planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 29, 2023. All members are welcome to attend.

We went all out celebrating Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf's 50 years on the throne. Julie Olson and her decorating team did an outstanding job transforming the room to a royal banquet hall! The smörgåsbord was generously filled with meatballs, salmon, three kinds of herring, Jansson's Temptation, delicious salads and side dishes. Everybody really came through bringing in something special for the table. On the desert side we had lots of

cookies, delicious cakes, fruit platter and much more. Larilyn Andre led us in toasting Carl XVI Gustaf and Sweden. Skål!

A huge THANK YOU to all who contributed to this fantastic feast. It was the most festive event in years and all in attendance were so excited to be there. We appreciate all who stayed and cleaned up. And as always, we could not have done it without the hard-working kitchen team.



New members Carl Peterson, Emma Hedman, and Carl Patrick Zilliacus:
Welcome to Drott Lodge!











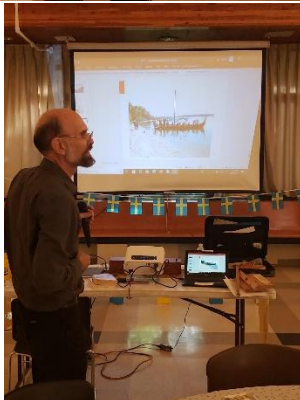


*****Past Cultural Event*****

Longship Presentation

Dr Len Leshuk of the Longship Company in Southern MD was introduced by Kris Leedom of the Cultural Committee. We then listened to Dr. Leshuk's presentation on Viking longships. This was an excellent way to prepare us a little for the actual hands-on experience coming up on October 14th. We learned about long ship building techniques, types of lumber used for the ships, where the Vikings sailed, and much more. The presentation was followed by a short Q and A session.

Thank you to the members of the Cultural Committee for providing this event.



Comparative Sizes of Viking Ships

MAJOR WARSHIP

Second longest Viking ship known from archaeological remains - Roskilde 2. Historical accounts indicate that ships up to 50% longer existed. Made from Irish oak near Dublin, probably in 1002 AD/CE. Intentionally sunk to block Roskilde fjord, Denmark, circa 1070 AD/CE.
 Length 95 feet (29 meters), Beam 12.5 feet (3.8 meters)
 60 oars - 70-80 total crew

A Danish-built reconstruction, *Havhingsten fra Glendalough* (Sea Stallion from Glendalough), sailed Denmark-Ireland-Denmark in 2007-2008

KNARR

Typical knarr (cargo ship) used in the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea
 Ships of this type would have been used for voyages to North America circa 1000 AD/CE.
 Length 58 feet (18 meters), Beam 17 feet (5 meters)
 4 - 6 masts - rigged mainly in ports, otherwise used sail
 5-10 crew. Could carry as many as 35 - 40 passengers or
 up to 300 tons of cargo, including even livestock

COSTAL RAIDING SHIP

Based on Skuldelev 5 and Ralswiek-Rügen 7 archaeological finds
 Length 40 feet (12 meters), Beam 9.5 feet (3 meters)
 12 oars - 14-20 total crew

Longship Company's *Sax Hrafn* (Sea Raven)

SMALL UTILITY CRAFT

Clackham Factory Boat
 Length 21 feet (6.3 m), Beam 5 feet (1.5 m)
 4 oars, 1-6 crew/passengers

Longship Company's *Gyrfalcon*

9 /



Scandinavian Activities in Our Area

Swedish American Cultural Union (SACU)

Residence Inn, Arlington

650 North Quincy Street, Arlington (Ballston), Virginia

Wednesday Oct 18, 2023

12:00 am EDT

Speakers:

Hedvig Lunderquist, Psychologist and Singer, and David Lunderquist, Musician, and Head of Communication, Culture and Public Diplomacy at the Swedish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Together, Hedvig and David will speak about Swedish musical traditions and perform a few songs.

Cost: \$ 35 incl lunch buffet.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to: sacu2022@gmail.com

Here is more information: [SACU Sep 13 2023.pdf](#)

Nordic Dancers of Washington, DC

Wednesdays 7:30 pm

Highland View ES

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](http://NordicDancerDC) . To verify the meeting room and check for updated COVID protocols, call 301-864-1596 or send a message to NordicDancers@aol.com.



House of Sweden

House of Sweden is once again open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays 12:00-5:00pm. Free admission and guide on-site. Welcome!

EXHIBITIONS:

Pioneer the Possible: Accelerating the Green Transition

House of Sweden, Washington, DC

On display until March 2024

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, they're developing a wide range of solutions. From renewable energy to sustainable industries, they're creating hope for the future.

I Am Not Blonde

By Renowned Swedish Artist Julia Peirone
House of Sweden, Washington, DC
Opening to the public on September 16, 2023

The Swedish photographer Julia Peirone's visual world is dominated by girls and young women. Through her work, Peirone explores young girls' search for identity in a world influenced by social media. Peirone's photographs capture the frustration that many young women feel with today's beauty standards and demands that society imposes on them.

Event:

October 4, 2023, 6:30 PM

Book Talk with Marit Kapla

Award-winning Swedish author and journalist Marit Kapla grew up in Osebol in Värmland. In 2019, she published her debut book *Osebol* about the village residents, the community and their stories. *Osebol* was awarded Sweden's prestigious August Prize and her book has been translated into four languages, including English. In 2022, Marit published her second book *Kärlek på svenska* ("Love in Swedish"), which chronicles the stories of 31 individuals in Sweden and their experiences with love. Currently, Marit is writing her first play, which is based on interviews that she gathered during her 400km (250 miles) long walk from her home village Osebol to the city of Gothenburg where she currently resides.

The conversation will be moderated by Cultural Counselor Helene Larsson Pousette, and will focus on Marit's literary process, her books *Osebol* and *Kärlek på svenska*, as well as her ongoing manuscript project.

For more information, go to this website: [House of Sweden Events](#)

Member Birthdays



Happy Birthday!! Grattis på födelsedagen!

October:

1st Anna Belle Antonson

6th Laura Rhodes

8th Catherine Peterson

11th John Bergstrom

14th Berit Dewell

21st Keith Shoemaker

24th Alison Bennett

Member Anniversary

Member Eric Peterson and his wife Carla will celebrate 50 years of marriage in October. Happy anniversary!



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 your 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 November. Please send in your stories and news to PK_weeden@msn.com by October 25, 2023.

DROTT LODGE #168

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

Instituted 1910

Washington, D.C.