



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



Newsletter November 2023

Warm Greetings!

Although too much weather kept Drott Lodge members from sailing like a Viking, I'm pleased to report it was smooth sailing for our 2024 planning group. It was an afternoon of "Generosity, Truth, and Unity" with 14 members producing a draft plan of meetings and cultural activities for next year. The new

leadership team will have a blueprint to modify as they see fit. The wisdom of the young Marylander, Mattie Stepanek, rings true: "Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Now it is November. We'll soon gain an hour and I suggest we all consider using it to do a good deed for Drott Lodge. We have two opportunities this month and next to help raise money--at the Icelandic Christmas Bazaar on November 11, and at the House of Sweden's Swedish Holiday Market on December 2. Volunteers are needed for these events and for the ASA/Drott Lucia Celebration on December 9. Please contact Karin Weeden with your preferred dates and times.

On short notice, the Swedish-American Plogging group cleaned up a section of the WO&D Trail on November 3. Arne Dunhem advises that the next plogging opportunity will be in mid- to late February. I leave it to him to provide information to the newsletter in advance of that date. In the meantime, if you are interested in more information about the group, contact him at adunhem@gmail.com. It's a great way to work up a fika appetite!

There's still time for you to volunteer or nominate someone for officer positions for 2024. Contact Arne or another member of the Nominating Committee (Larilyn Andre, Julie Olson, Susan Remmert).

Last, but not least, Thanksgiving will soon be here. When I reflect on my blessings, I am grateful for the friendships and camaraderie I enjoy because of Drott Lodge. To each of you, thank you! I wish you Thanksgiving moments that as are sweet as Swedish apple pie!

In Generosity, Truth, and Unity

Kathy Olson

Chairman

Drott Lodge No. 168

Vasa Order of America

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[Visit Us on Our Webpage](#)

Do You Have News to Share?

Did you take a trip to Sweden? Did you attend a Nordic event? Do you know of any upcoming events? The next newsletter will be sent out in November.

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

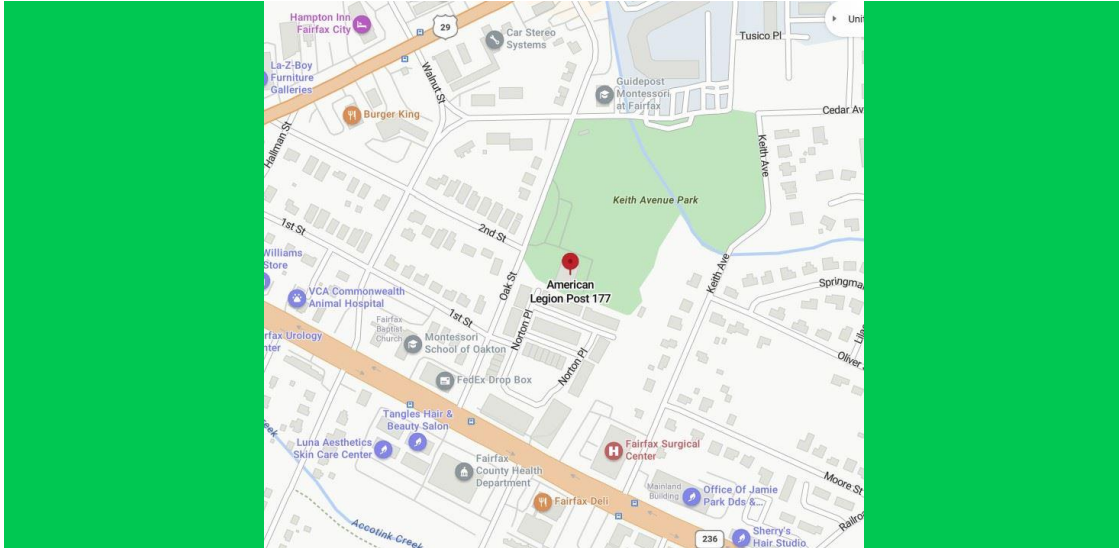


Icelandic and Swedish Christmas Bazaar

Saturday November 11, 2023, 10 am - 3 pm
American Legion Post 177
3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA

We are excited about the upcoming Christmas Bazaar, which will be held on November 11th, 2023, at the [American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, Virginia](#) from 10AM - 3PM where vendors from across the region, including Drott Lodge, will be selling Nordic-themed Christmas products.

Drott Lodge will have imported gifts and this year we are also back selling imported foods. Get your glögg, baking syrup, Leksand Crisp bread, Marabou chocolate, Ahlgren's candy cars and much more, just in time for the holidays. This place is easy to find and there is lots of parking. Come on out and see us!



Virtual Swedish Genealogy Conference

November 11, 2023

10 am - 5:30 pm



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.

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. There is still time to sign up.

\$50 for non-Vasa Members

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

All registered for this event will receive separate e-mail reminders and information regarding the zoom meeting.

Sign up ends on Nov 8, 2023!!

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

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](#)



SWEDISH HOLIDAY MARKET 2023!

Saturday December 2, 2023, 10 am - 5 pm

House of Sweden

2900 K Street NW, Washington DC 20007

Drott Lodge will have two tables at House of Sweden. We will sell imported foods and gifts. If you are available to help out, please contact Julie @ julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com.

Holiday Shoppers and Visitors will find Nordic Vendors and Artists selling their Arts & Crafts, including Holiday Ornaments, Decorations, Textiles, Swedish glass, Gifts, Books, Packaged Food, Glögg, Candy and more!

This is by far the largest one-day event taking place at House of Sweden for the year. Around 2,000 people will attend the market during the day and watch the Lucia procession following the market at 5pm.

In addition to all the vendors, they will also offer Swedish "Fika", Swedish "Glögg", Swedish Sandwich ("smörgås"/"macka") with meatballs, lax, or herring!

-Security Check & ID will be required for all attendees

A ticketed event with limited tickets -NO entry without ticket

Purchase your tickets early this year! Also, if you don't want to pay for the Eventbrite processing fees, in addition to ticket fee, you must purchase tickets prior Nov. 27

Pending ticket sales, tickets may not be available after Nov.27

[Get your HOS Swea Holiday Bazaar tickets here](#)



Lucia and Jul Celebration

December 9, 2023, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

St James Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Road Potomac, MD 20854

Join us on **Saturday, December 9, 2023**, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at **St. James Episcopal Church**, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854 for a joint Lucia and Jul celebration with American Scandinavian Association.

In the Parish Hall we will have refreshments, crafts for children, Nordic Christmas music, Nordic Dancers, dancing around the Christmas tree, and even a visit from Santa. We will also have hot dogs for sale.

The Lucia concert begins at 6:00 p.m. when a candle crowned Lucia wearing a long white gown with a pretty red sash enters the church with a train of white clad girls singing the very familiar song, Sankta Lucia.

Please sign up below. There will be no restrictions on the number of sign-ups this year, but you will need a ticket to attend. Please note the change in venue

from last year. We are back at St James where we used to have our annual bazaars.

Adults \$ 12

Children 4-14 \$ 6

Children under 3 free

WELCOME!

Get your Lucia and Jul Celebration tickets here

Small Children for the Lucia Pageant



Calling all Lucia Attendants (children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren). Please contact Julie Olson (julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com) to register for the procession/recession during this year's Lucia Pageant. We will provide outfits for all small attendants/tärnor/stjärngossar or Santa

helpers/tomtenissar. Please provide measurement (in inches from shoulder to feet) when you register, so we can find gowns with the correct length.

Looking for More Volunteers

We have three more big events this year. Two are fundraisers and the third one is our annual Lucia celebration. It is important we have enough members show up and help make the events successful. 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

In Fairfax, VA. 9 am - 12 am: Help set up and sales. 12pm - 3 pm sales and packing up.

SWEA Bazaar Dec 2

At the House of Sweden in Washington DC. This is an all-day event 10 am - 5 pm. We need members to help in the am as well as the pm.

Lucia and Julfest Dec 9

Organized together with ASA at St James' in Potomac MD. This event is only 3 hours long. We need help with setting up the hall, decorating the tree, Drott Lodge info table, serving glögg and cookies. 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

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

Card Making Session

November 19, 2023, 10am - 2 pm in Olney, MD

Are you interested in helping make cards **Saturday, November 19, from 10 am – 4 pm**? We will continue to make Christmas Cards to be mailed to all of our members in December. No experience necessary, just come and have fun. Or just show up to socialize.

We have white base cards and envelopes. You can bring any supplies/tools you think you'll need.

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 there!

Karin Weeden

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](#)



A Visit to ABBA the Museum - Walk in, Dance out!

When I visit Stockholm, I always visit Old Town. I also try to see new things. This year, I decided it was time to visit ABBA the Museum. When it opened in 2013, I thought it was silly to have a whole museum dedicated to ABBA. How interesting can that be? But then I saw it on "All for Sweden" and that changed my mind. I'm not their biggest fan, but it looked like a fun museum to visit.

Although it is located in a small building, this museum holds a massive amount of ABBA memorabilia. Each ABBA member has his/her own story, from when they started out with their individual careers in the 1960s, until when they got together as ABBA in the early 1970s. You can see replicas of the studio where Björn and Benny composed their famous ABBA music. In reality, it was a cabin out on an island in the Stockholm archipelago. You can also see amazing

pictures and films of how popular ABBA was when they toured around the world.

This is a self-guided experience. The entry fee is \$ 25, and you can add a personal audio guide for \$ 2. There are rebates for families, seniors and children, and the building is accessible. It's also an interactive experience. You can virtually try on the ABBA costumes. There are opportunities to sing ABBA songs. You can go into a studio and belt out your favorite ABBA song, while other visitors are watching from the outside the glass windows. Luckily you are not able to hear any of the singing.

My sister and I decided to perform with ABBA on stage. It's called "Become the 5th member of ABBA". We became members # 5 and # 6. We did "Dancing Queen" for about two minutes, next to holograms of Agneta, Anni-Frid (Frida), Björn, and Benny. It was a hoot! We felt great about our performance, but looking at the video afterwards, I admit it was nothing short of amateurish. We could not keep up with the choreography, but the other visitors cheered us on as we did our very best. It was a fantastic experience. It's my number one takeaway from the museum visit.

So even if you are not a big fan of ABBA's music, I would recommend a visit to ABBA the Museum. There is so much to see and learn about ABBA and their road to success. The museum is located on beautiful Djurgården, in the same area as open-air museum Skansen, amusement park Gröna Lund, and the Vasa Ship Museum. You can easily take the trolley from downtown Stockholm and be there in 15 minutes. I would say you need about two hours to make the most of your visit. And then you will do what everybody else does - walk in, dance out!

Here is a link if you want to read more: <https://abbathemuseum.com/en/>

by Karin Weeden

Pictures from my visit:



Outside you can pose as your favorite ABBA member in the ABBA poster cutouts. I decided to be Frida (yellow outfit) for the day.



You will pass through the gift shop on your way in and then again when you exit. They sell the regular mugs, posters, pens, t-shirts etc., but I thought the Agneta Blue Beret was interesting. You can buy the kit and knit it yourself!



This ABBA wall was made for photo ops. Do your best pose!



These life size ABBA dolls were amazing. It was like looking at real people.



Björn and Benny made their music in this replica cabin with a view of the Stockholm Archipelago.



I thought these funny little ABBA guys were cute.



One of the few moments my sister and I were actually in sync with A&A during the performance as 5th and 6th Member of ABBA.



And here I am with ABBA on a park beach somewhere in Stockholm.



Scandinavian Activities in Our Area

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](#) . 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:

November 9, 2023 6:30 PM

It Came to Me on a Whim - A True Crime Story About a Secret Family Tragedy

[Maria Bouroncle](#) grew up in Gothenburg, Sweden's second largest city, but has lived in Washington, DC since 2002. Bouroncle, an economist by profession, devoted more than 25 years to the field of international development before her literary debut in 2018.

It Came to Me on a Whim tells the story of her great-aunt who killed her three children at the age of twenty-seven in 1929. Through exhaustive research, she has strived to shed light on what led up to this tragedy, which had been a tightly guarded family secret for over seventy years. The book has been translated into several languages and is currently used in the Scandinavian Crime Literature course at UCLA.

In 2021, Carl Eneroth's film *The Child Murderess of Vesene*, based on Maria's book, won the prize for best short documentary in London, Miami and New Jersey. Maria's second book, the independent sequel *The Girl with a Name Tag*, was published in 2022 and chronicles the story of a Finnish war child in Sweden during the 1940s.

The conversation will be moderated by [Manil Suri](#), bestselling author and former contributing opinion writer at The New York Times. The book talk will focus on how Maria gave up her career at an international bank in Washington DC to follow her passion of writing, starting with the literary true crime story, *It Came to Me on a Whim*. The conversation will be followed by a book signing.

Doors open: 6:30 PM

Book Talk: 7:00 PM.

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

Member Birthdays



Happy Birthday!! Grattis på födelsedagen!

November:

NOV. 4TH ... AMY SWANSON

NOV. 7TH ... STEPHEN BERGQUIST

NOV. 9TH ... LISA JACOBSON

NOV. 12TH ... MARIANNE GUSTAFSON

NOV. 13TH ... DON MORRIS

NOV. 15TH ... MARGARETA STORM

NOV. 16TH ... CHRISTINE SVEVAR

NOV. 21ST ... JOANN MORETTI

NOV .23RD PAUL CARLSON

Membership Fees for 2024

You have probably already received an e-mail reminder about your 2024 membership dues. Please make your 2024 payment in Wild Apricot or send the payment to Laura as per the instructions in the e-mail.

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.

DROTT LODGE #168

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

Instituted 1910

Washington, D.C.