



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



## **Newsletter December 2023 God jul och gott nytt år!**

### **Warm December Greetings!**

As Christmas approaches, we look forward to our celebration of Lucia on December 9. Drott Lodge will join with our friends at the American Scandinavian Association to host this special holiday celebration. As I write, it looks like Saint James Episcopal Church in Potomac, MD, will be filled with joyful Swedes and other Scandinavians. Tickets are still available, so don't miss out on the bright holiday spirit, dancing, singing, and good food!

As 2023 wanes, we anticipate a new year of Swedish cultural activities. We'll begin with our first meeting of 2024 on January 7. In lieu of a specific cultural program, we plan time to enjoy the company of each other as we share in "Fika with Friends." We also will attend to the important business of electing officers for the new year.

The Nominating Committee, led by Arne Dunhem, reports that several Drott members have stepped forward as candidates for various officer positions. However, more volunteers are sought for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Cultural Leader. The outgoing board has taken steps to make these "jobs" less formidable than they may seem, so we encourage all interested in the positions to contact a member of the Nominating Committee (Arne Dunhem, Larilyn Andre, Julie Olson, Susan Remmert) regarding your interest. We who are outgoing officers also welcome your questions.

Between now and our next meeting, I wish everyone God Jul and Gott Nytt År!

**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?**

Do you know of any upcoming events? Did you take a trip to Sweden? Did you attend a Nordic event? The next newsletter will be sent out in January 2024. Please send in your stories and news to [PK\\_weeden@msn.com](mailto:PK_weeden@msn.com) by **December 31, 2023**.



## **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 Church:**

The Lucia concert begins promptly at 6:00 pm in the church. Doors open at 5:30pm. We will check for tickets at the door. Entry to church from the upper parking lot only.

### **In the Parish Hall after Lucia**

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 and waffles for sale.

Drott Lodge will be selling holiday gifts and imported food. Stop by our table and get your herring and crisp bread for your julbord, and anchovies for the Jansson's temptation. Or maybe you'd like some candy or chocolate? We have a limited supply left.

### **Parking**

There is limited parking in the front of the church and parish hall, but you can find more parking in the back behind the church. Please allow extra time to find parking. Try to carpool if possible.

### **Purchase Tickets:**

You will need a ticket to attend. Please note the change in venue from last year. We are back at **St James Episcopal Church** where we used to have our annual bazaars.

Adults               \$ 12

Children 4-14      \$ 6

Children under 3 free

Welcome! Välkomna!

**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](mailto: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 Volunteers

Only one more event this year and that is our annual Jul and Lucia celebration. It is important we have enough members show up and help make the events successful. We are grateful for any help you can provide.

### 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. And we are always looking for people to stay and help out with the clean up. 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

Please contact Julie at [julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com](mailto:julie.lynn.olson@gmail.com).

## Past Event

### Icelandic and Swedish Christmas Bazaar

Drott Lodge participated in the Icelandic Holiday Bazaar on November 11, 2023. We were busy selling to happy costumers from the time the doors opened at 10 am until they closed at 3 pm. Thank you to all our volunteers who came out and helped to make this a successful bazaar.



Susan and Eva sold imported foods



Tanya helped set up and sell imported gifts



Wendy, Tanya, Larilyn and Karin

## **Past Event**

### **Virtual Swedish Genealogy Conference**

Drott Lodge hosted its second Virtual Swedish Genealogy Conference on November 11, 2023. The event started with an introduction by Kris Leedom from the Cultural Committee. Our technical team of Arne Dunhem and Julie Olson managed the event throughout the day. It went off without any glitches.

There were four speakers during the daylong conference, and all brought something different to the participants. All sessions had Q&A to address questions that came up during the sessions.

Thank you to the Cultural Committee for all your work in planning this event.

## **Past Event**

### **SWEDISH HOLIDAY MARKET**

#### **House of Sweden**

Drott Lodge had two tables at House of Sweden on Dec 2, 2023. It was the Annual Holiday Bazaar hosted by Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA). This was a ticketed event, but that did not stop the lines from reaching all the way to K Street!

As in the past, we sold imported foods and gifts all day until the Lucia started at 5 pm. It was a steady stream of costumers, all looking for that special Nordic Christmas gift. Some wanted stocking stuffers, others needed something for their julbord (Christmas buffet).



We all enjoyed some glögg and cookies. You could also buy sandwiches and other food items from Mikko Nordic Fine Food.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who came down to the House of Sweden and helped out with various duties during Friday and Saturday. Here are some pictures:



View of the glögg table and Mikko's taken from the first floor.



Eva, Carol, Wendy, and Karin



Arne worked the Drott Lodge publicity table with some help from Julie, Joann, and Larilyn.



Eva and Kristina selling imported food.



Joann attending our displays.



Tomte table runners were very popular.



Karin and Larilyn selling imported gifts.



All packed up after a long day.



HOS Swedish Christmas tree.

## **Past Event**

### **Swedish Church Service and Lucia Celebration**

#### **Augustana Lutheran Church**

#### **Washington DC**

Swedes, their families, and friends gathered to see the annual Lucia celebration following the December regular service at Augustana Lutheran Church in Washington DC. The service started at 4 pm. The Swedish Song Group performed traditional Christmas songs and hymns during the service.

After the service concluded, Jonas Wendel of the Swedish Embassy spoke about his childhood memories of advent and Christmas, and also about Sweden's political role the world.

By 5 pm it was getting dark, and Lucia was on her way. There were 23 participants in the Lucia procession directed by Kerstin Hendriksson. The performance was beautiful in this church with wonderful acoustics and old architecture. If you have not been there for Lucia, you may want to attend next December.

Afterwards we gathered downstairs for fika sponsored by the Swedish Embassy. We had coffee, tea, saft, gingerbread cookies, and wonderful loaves of cinnamon bread. It was nice to see so many Swedes from the different local organizations gather in one place.



Swedish Song Group sang during the service.



Lucia seen from the second row. Get there early to get a good seat.



The cinnamon bread was delicious.





Fika tables downstairs.



Drott treasurer Kenneth Hamilton enjoying some fika.

### **CARDMAKING SESSIONS**

We had a couple of cardmaking sessions hosted by Karin Weeden. We made beautiful Christmas cards, ate lunch, and, of course, had some fika. Donna and Allison are our wonderful painters. The rest of us stick to cutting, gluing, and stamping.

Thank you, Allison Bennett, Donna Clark, Linda Olson, and Susan Remmert for showing up and making this fun! Here are some pictures:



Linda Olson made cards with trees and ornaments.



Karin Weeden made cards with gnomes



Susan made cards and enjoyed the fika provided by Linda.



Allison and Donna hand painted stamped cards.

## 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](mailto: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](#)



## **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](mailto:NordicDancers@aol.com).

### **Nordic Christmas**

Dec 24, 2023 @ 2:30 pm

Augustana Lutheran Church



The Swedish Lutheran Church of Washington DC  
The Norwegian Church Service in Washington DC  
The Finnish Lutheran Church Washington DC  
The Icelandic Church Abroad  
The Danish Church Abroad



Invite you to join with us to

## Celebrate a Nordic Christmas ... 16th annual!

Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 2:30 pm  
in Augustana Lutheran Church  
2100 New Hampshire Ave NW and V St NW

- ◆ The Sunday school children will light the Advent wreath.
- ◆ We will hear the familiar texts from Isaiah and St Luke.
- ◆ We will sing lots of hymns and carols, sometimes in Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Danish, *and* Icelandic! And altogether, "in the language of your choice."
- ◆ Musicians, both singers and instrumentalists, from the local Nordic community will enhance the service with their talents.
- ◆ **Swedish Church:** Sören Karlsson, 202.766.8381, [washington@svenskakyrkan.se](mailto:washington@svenskakyrkan.se)
- ◆ **Norwegian Church:** Aleksander Marthinussen, 727.403.1082, [alekma@gmail.com](mailto:alekma@gmail.com)
- ◆ **Danish Church:** Eigil Madsen, 301.770.0958, [eigelmadsen5@gmail.com](mailto:eigelmadsen5@gmail.com)
- ◆ **Icelandic Church** Embætti biskups +354 528 4000, [kirkjan@kirkjan.is](mailto:kirkjan@kirkjan.is)
- ◆ **Finnish Church:** Pastor Tiina Talvitie, 212 365 0569, [pastor@finnchurch.org](mailto:pastor@finnchurch.org)



**COME AND ENJOY!**

**FACEMASKS ARE OPTIONAL AT ALL TIMES**

**Metro:** Green Line to Cardoza.

**Parking:** V St, Vermont Ave, Florida Ave, and 16<sup>th</sup> St

**PARKING (free, covered)** is also available in the Frank D. Reeves  
Municipal Center (DC Gov) on U St NW midway between 14th and 15th Sts

*(Bring this flyer for entry to free parking or mention Swedish Church to attendant)*

***Parking support graciously provided by U Street Parking***

## But please contribute to Martha's Table

<https://marthastable.donordrive.com/campaign/JULBOEN>

Friend <https://www.facebook.com/AugustanaLutheranBroadcast/> for webcast video

To watch 2017 service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=buShA-v8G1U>



## **House of Sweden**

House of Sweden is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays 12:00-5:00pm. During the holidays you may want to check their website before you go there. 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>) 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.

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

## Member Birthdays



***Happy Birthday!! Grattis på födelsedagen!***

**December:**

**DEC. 4TH. JENSINE FROST MOYER**

**DEC. 5TH EVA DUNHEM**

DEC. 10TH CAROL WHITLEY

DEC. 18TH ERIK JACOBSON

DEC. 20TH RONALD CARLSON

DEC. 21ST KRISTINA ANDERSON

DEC. 26TH NICK DIAZ

DEC. 29TH JANET JOHNSON

DEC.30TH DAVID LAMBERT

The image shows a musical score for the Swedish birthday song "Ja må han/han/du leva". The title is centered at the top. Below it, the word "Trad" is written. The score is for piano, indicated by the word "Piano" on the left. It features a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff, and the lyrics are written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ja må han le - va ja må han le - va ja må han le - va ut i hun-dra-déer. Ja -". The score is set against a blue background.

## The Swedish Birthday Song Explained

You have heard the Swedish birthday song at our meetings for years, and maybe you are curious what the lyrics are in English. According to Wikipedia, both lyrics and melody are of unknown origin. It has a similar melody as the Dutch birthday song "Lang zal hij leven", Dutch-translated Afrikaans wedding song "Lank sal [hy/sy/hul] lewe", Dutch-translated Indonesian birthday song "Panjang Umurnya", and Romanian birthday song "Mulți ani trăiască".

We have attached a **Youtube video** below explaining the lyrics. It even includes the many times skipped second verse, and also tells you why the Swedes insist on 4 x "hurra" after the song.

[Swedish Birthday Song Explained](#)

## Membership Fees for 2024

You have probably already received one or two e-mail reminders 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](mailto:rhodesland@aol.com) if you have any questions.

God jul och gott nytt år!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New  
Year!  
Happy Holidays!

**DROTT LODGE #168**

**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA**

**A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization**

**Instituted 1910**

**Washington, D.C.**