



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

**Newsletter February 29, 2024  
Sail Swedish American Line  
Join Annual Pea Soup and Pancake Dinner  
New Member Initiation**

**Dear Drott Lodge Members and Friends**

**What an exciting meeting we had on February 4th!**

**And what an exciting next meeting coming up on March 10th!**

On February 4th we got to hear about the Vikings "Gods and Myths of the Viking World: An Introduction to Norse Mythology" and then we had the big Swedish traditional event - Celebration of Semlan's Dag which was on Fat Tuesday, February 13th.

But, at the next meeting we will do something totally different. We will all 'sail' on the historic Swedish American Line from Gothenburg to New York. We will have a very special decoration of our meeting room for the sailing. It will be a celebration of the great big Swedish steam ships of a bygone era. Several of our members sailed with some of the ships, or they have family and friends that sailed on them. It will be exciting to hear them tell some of their stories.

And then what many of us have been waiting a long time for - the Annual Drott Lodge Pea Soup Dinner. We will enjoy traditional Pea Soup with pancakes and

plattar. We will also have the Swedish 'punsch' and we will of course sing to the punsch. Just like the Swede's have done for hundreds of years.

During the meeting, we will also have the welcoming VASA ceremony to initiate new members.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Come. Enjoy!

Arne Dunhem

Chairman





### **Set Sail With Swedish American Line**

Set sail with us aboard the Swedish American Line (SAL) on a journey back to the old country.

We'll hear enchanting stories from those who journeyed across the Atlantic, view the fleet, and see images of the Veranda deck, dinning rooms, lounges, smoking rooms, libraries, and state rooms.

After embarkation, the Captain will invite all passengers to enjoy Sweden's traditional Thursday pea soup dinner (pea soup, ham, cheese, wasa crisp bread, and a special dessert of Swedish Pancakes) with fellow Drott Lodge passengers, celebrate, toast, sing traditional songs, and take a turn around the dance floor with the Foxtrot! (We will enjoy a teaching session from Chris Kalke, Director of the Nordic Dancers of Washington, D.C.)

Date: Sunday, March 10

Time: 2 pm - 5 pm **(Please note time change over night)**

Location: Saint Mark, Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Rd, North Bethesda, MD

**Please Register here: Pea Soup Dinner and Member Initiation**

## **Seeking Travelers On SAL**

Do you have family that sailed on the Swedish American Line (SAL) during the 1900's? Do you know their stories? Can you share the stories? Do you have some photos you can share? It would be so great for us all to hear the stories and see some photos.

We will bring a poster board and can display whatever you wish to share.

### **Passenger ships**

Stockholm

SS Drottningholm

SS Kungsholm

MS Borgholm

MS Gripsholm (1925)

MS Kungsholm (1928)

Drott Lodge Member, Kris Leedom has been researching her great aunts/uncles who came to America on ships ... some on ships operated by the Swedish American Line. She will show us some of her research at the meeting. This is one story that Kris Leedom told: "I have records and photos of my father's father's (farfar) family. Most of his mother's side stayed in Sweden except his mother and her sister. All of my grandfather's siblings eventually joined him in the United States."

Would be wonderful to hear more stories.

## **Real Life Stories From Travelers and Crew on SAL**

[Click here to read "A Letter from Ruth Hemingstam", as published in the Weekly Swedish Magazine ICA Kuriren in October 1957. Presented by her son Lars Hemingstam in Bretton Woods, NH.](#)

[Click here to read the Story of Kjell Smitterberg, Commander of Gripsholm, Kungsholm and Lindberg Explorer](#)

[Click here to read a Story About Life as a Crew Member on Kungsholm 1968](#)

### **Swedish American Line on YouTube**

Click below for a wonderful YouTube video about the Swedish American Line - Swedish Transatlantic Ocean Liners.

[YouTube: Swedish American Line - Swedish Transatlantic Ocean Liners.](#)

### **Kid's Corner**

This month's Kid's Corner on March 10th will include a pirate theme, making treasure maps, and searching for loot!

### **Drott Lodge At Kennedy Center**

Drott Lodge makes an encore visit to the Kennedy Center – following our last outing to enjoy their Nordic Cool program in 2013.

On 28 February, members embraced the Arts at The Reach's River Pavilion and spent an evening under the stars..... gazing upon an immersive experience of the Northern Lights in a 360-degree dome, enjoying a multimedia experience, an immersive film, and accompaniment by pianist Roman Zavada.

Our group enjoyed a dinner at Kennedy Center Cafe following this special viewing of the Northern Lights.







## **Our Meeting February 4th, 2024**

### **Celebration of Semlan's Dag “Gods and Myths of the Viking World: An Introduction to Norse Mythology”**

We celebrated the Swedish big traditional event - Celebration of Semlan's Dag which is on Fat Tuesday, February 13th. Semlor were baked with love by Eva Dunhem and were prepared at the meeting by Linda Cline with assistance from Larilyn Andre and Margaret Schueman.

Our cultural presentation was a presentation by Dr Lilla Kopár, an Associate Professor of English at Catholic University, on “Gods and Myths of the Viking World: An Introduction to Norse Mythology”.

We heard the fascinating stories of the Norse gods that 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. Below are some pictures from the meeting.







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## **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).

**[Note dead-line for both Scholarships is Saturday, March 16, 2024](#)**

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

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

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

## **DROTT LODGE 2024 EVENT CALENDAR**

- Mar. 10 Pea Soup & Pancakes & Plättar Dinner, Sail on the Swedish-America Line (SAL)
- April 14 Virtual Wild Apricot (Web-portal) Tutorial
- 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
- Nov. 16 Swedish Music Gala - Honoring Late Member Maj-Britt Alexis
- Dec. 7 House of Sweden (HOS) Bazaar
- Dec. 14 Lucia & Jul Fest

### **Member News and Submissions**

#### **A Hike of a Life Time - Arne and Eva Dunhem Special Adventure**

Here a contribution written by Pat Bellingham of our sister lodge Swea in Erie, PA, about Arne and Eva's special adventure - hiking the Camino de Santiago.

They hiked about 350 miles in September - October 2023. Pat describes the history of Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile long hiking trail in Northern Spain starting in Southern France. She describes why many pilgrims have hiked this trail for over 1,000 miles.

You can read about it and watch many picture by clicking on the link below.

[Hike of A Life Time - Arne and Eva Dunhem](#)



## Scandinavian Activities in Our Area

### SWEDISH AMERICAN CULTURAL UNION

#### *Upcoming Events:*

1. **Tuesday, March 19, 2024: 12:00 noon EST Luncheon-Lecture Program,**

**“Congressional Friends of the Sweden Caucus of the U.S. Congress,”** a presentation by United States Congressman, **Representative Don Beyer**, 8<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia, Chair of the Swedish Caucus of the U.S. Congress, and former Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein

**Please RSVP to [sacu2022@gmail.com](mailto:sacu2022@gmail.com)** at your earliest convenience and by March 13, 2024. Space is limited.

**Please Mark your subject line as “March 2024 Rep. Don Beyer,” and please indicate if you are a member or non-member of SACU.**

**\$35.00 for members; \$38.00 for non-members.**

2. **Mark your Calendars for April 25, 2024: 12:00 noon EST: “Swedish Jazz,”** presentation and musical performance with Swedish-born Anders Lundegard and Drott Lodge member; Luncheon program, Announcement to follow.

\$35.00 members; \$40.00 non-members.

**RSVP to [sacu22@gmail.com](mailto:sacu22@gmail.com); Mark your subject line as “April 2024 Swedish Jazz,” and indicate if you are a member or non-member of SACU.**

**Both luncheon programs take place at the Residence Inn, Arlington, 650 North Quincy Street, Ballston/Arlington.**

### House of Sweden Concert

**March 27, 2024 6:00 PM**

### Lena Johnsson Trio in Concert

Lena Johnsson's ability to balance a deep knowledge of traditional Swedish folk music with innovative artistic sensibilities, sparking joy of life and a charisma of a rock-star have made her one of Scandinavia's most visionary musicians. She has created a unique style inspired by traditional Swedish music as well as rock, pop and American old-time and bluegrass traditions. Together with guitarist Erik Ronstrom and bassist Krydda Sundstrom they create a virtuosic yet playful trio.

Doors: 6 PM

Concert: 6.30 PM

Government issued photo ID is required to enter House of Sweden.

**Taste of Iceland Washington, D.C.**  
**March 8-9, 2024 (inspiredbyiceland.com)**

Taste of Iceland - Full-on Icelandic Culture Festival  
Taste of Iceland is on tour and making its first stop in D.C. on March 8-9. During the two-day festival, Washingtonians can transport themselves to Iceland through a series of events inspired by and in celebration of Icelandic culture through food, crime fiction, music, design, books, and more. Taste of Iceland will host two-day events with local businesses in Washington, D.C., and official partners, including Brasserie Beck, Eaton DC, Songbyrd, and Wild Days.

**Nordic Dancers of Washington, D.C.**

Wednesdays 7:30 pm

Highland View Elementary School  
Silver Spring, MD

The Nordic Dancers of Washington, D.C., resumed in September 2023 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 and Drott Lodge member 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.com). 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).

**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](mailto: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.**