

BIRKA BANNER

Bi-Monthly Newsletter, Birka Lodge #732, Vasa Order of America
www.birka732.com

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2011

Chairman's Message

Greetings and Happy New Year 2011 to all Birka Members! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and new year celebrations with family and friends. Now that the holidays are over it is time to begin our lodge meetings/ activities for 2011 and planning for the District Convention in September 2011.

Our first lodge meeting will be **Friday, January 28th at 7:30 p.m.** A program on the province of Skåne will be presented by Cultural Leader, PC, Ann-Marie Breuer. Please plan on attending. Refreshments will be provided by the Kitchen Committee, chaired by Judy Tanzer. There will also be a **"mini" after Christmas Fair sale** with candles, linens, napkins and other paper goods, imported Swedish Christmas ornaments and a small amount of food from our Deli Table. This is a great opportunity to purchase some items if you were not able to be at the fair or were too busy working at the fair to shop.

Sadly, at the January meeting we will be draping the charter in memory of Ann Taylor. Ann passed away suddenly in December. She is the sister of Richard Sunman and sister-in-law of Sheila Sunman of Newbury. Long may her memory live among us.

The **February 25th meeting will have a Gotland Theme.** The Kitchen Committee, chaired by Linda Boylan, will be serving refreshments following the meeting. Please come to enjoy Vasa fellowship and refreshments.

The **March 25th meeting will be our annual Pask (Easter celebration).** The Kitchen Committee, chaired by Ann-Marie Breuer, will be providing refreshments. Please plan on attending to support your lodge and officers. The cultural program is being planned for the evening.

At the **November 19th** meeting, Nomination and Election of Officers was held. A motion was made to accept the slate of officers presented. All nominated officers agreed and the nominations were closed. I would like to thank the officers for being willing to serve in your current office and support the lodge.

Our **Christmas Fair on November 27th** was a great success! My thanks and appreciation is extended to all who participated and helped in any way both that day and Friday night during the set up. These events cannot happen without the **help and cooperation** of everyone. I certainly could not do this alone! The Christmas Fair is our largest fund raising event of the year and I am so very grateful to all of you for coming and being part of the success of this event. Many, many thanks to all. It is an event that is a service to the community and many non-Scandinavians look forward to the fair every year. Our Treasurer, Mike Swanson, will have a more detailed report of the profits at the January meeting. The Lucia procession again this year was wonderful with a great group of children. The children did a superb job and looked adorable as they sang and processed to the stage. Our Lucia was, Sonja Williams from Wilmington. Sonja has been participating in the Lucia procession since 2001. Her sister, Sarah, was Lucia in 2006. She is the granddaughter of Birka members, Nancy and Gordon Hayward. Thank you to our, soloist, Pamela Morris for her leadership and singing during the Lucia procession and also to pianist, Helen Van Denhausen of Ipswich. I would also like to thank musicians, Warren Johnson, Bob Landoni, Mark French, Dan Murphy, Richard Johnson and Ernie Geiser for providing festive holiday music during the fair.

On Sunday afternoon, **January 9th** our annual **Tree Plundering Party** was held. Thank you to everyone who brought food, children and themselves! It was a great time and the children as well as the adults had a great time. Thank you to Mike and Sue Bagnulo, Judy Tanzer, Mary Anne Hawkes, Ann-Marie Breuer, Inga-Lill Olsson, Sharon Smith, Mike Swanson, Linda Boylan and other helpers. Thank you also to Linda Boylan for taking the reservations; to Bob Landoni for providing the music for dancing around the tree; to Ann-Marie Breuer for teaching the game dances and reading wonderful stories for the children; to Mike Bagnulo(Tomten). Thank you to all!

Please note: The next Activities Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 30th at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Lois and Ed Johnson in Beverly.** The **Auditors** will also be meeting on **January 30th** at 3:00 p.m. with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary to audit the financial books of the lodge. The activities for the spring will be planned. Please contact me if you plan on attending.

There will also be a **Convention Committee Meeting on Sunday, February 13th at 3:00 p.m at the home of Denise Esperson in Ipswich.** We will begin plans for the Program Book and other activities as we prepare for the convention in September. I invite any interested lodge members to participate. Your help is needed and appreciated. Please see me if you have any questions.

Before closing I would like to thank the members of the November Refreshment Committee, chaired by Andrea and Mike Swanson, for the delicious refreshments that we all enjoyed that evening.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **January 28th, February 25th and March 25th** meetings. Please mark the dates on your new 2011 calendars! Your presence is requested to give encouragement to your officers and make more secure the future of our Order.

In truth and unity,

Linda Christianson, PDM, Chairman

Happy Birthday!

JANUARY

5	Melissa Starrak	17	Barbara Kanerva
10	Abigail Butt	22	Gerard Tobiason
14	Janet Bloom	25	Ann-Marie Breuer
14	Sharon Smith	31	Carol Whynott

FEBRUARY

1	Joan Sullivan	12	Elizabeth Sandberg
6	Robert Blomgren	15	Eva Ghika
11	Inga-Lill Olsson	19	Thommy Ilmrud

MARCH

1	Ethel Johnson	14	Ellen Sandberg
2	Robert Sanborn	15	James Jensen
4	Ellen Dennis	19	Mathz Olsson
7	Linda Flanagan	22	Kristine DiPillo
10	Carol Landoni	27	Marilyn Kelly
11	Miriam Lane	31	Daniel Guidara
13	Karole Johns		

REFRESHMENT COMITTEES

January 28 - Meeting - Skåne Night

Judy Tanzer, Chair	978-468-7407
Edith & Bob Sanborn	978-475-6698
Mike & Andrea Swanson	978-948-2106
Denise Esperson	978-356-7810
Charles & Mary Anne Hawkes	978-468-3708
Linda Flanagan	781-721-7761

February 25 - Meeting - Götland

Linda Boylan, Chair	978-887-3917
Marilyn Seaburg	978-682-2282
Audrey DiPillo	781-944-4994
Milton Leitner	978-851-7656
Joan Sullivan	781-933-4383
Matilda Halloran	978-834-0148

March 25 - "Påsk" - Easter Celebration

Ann-Marie Breuer, Chair	978-468-0108
Ann-Marie Anderson	617-803-7887
Sue & Mike Bagnulo	978-532-1128
Matilda Halloran	978-834-0148
Carol & Bob Landoni	978-283-0357
Chris Lovgren	508-655-1438
Inga-Lill Olsson	978-352-5807
Helen Riddle	978-468-1238

Schedule of upcoming events

- January 28 - Lodge Meeting - 7:30 pm "Skåne Night"
January 30 - Activities Cte. & Auditors Mtg. 3:00 pm
Lois & Ed Johnson's, Beverly
February 13 - Activities & Convention Ctes. 3:00 pm
Denise Esperson's, Ipswich
February 25 - Lodge Meeting - 7:30pm "Gotland"
March 25 - Lodge Meeting - 7:30 pm "Pask"
April 22 - Lodge Meeting - 7:30 pm
Installation of Lodge Officers

....'round the lodge....

Annual dues of \$20 for 2011 are now due. Please mail to Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Ln., Boxford, MA 01921, payable to Birka Lodge No 732. Reminder: Please consider this your dues notice for 2011. Dues are due in January. It would be great if all dues were paid by March 2011.

Please notify Judy Tanzer, Recording Secretary, at 978-468-7407 of any address changes.

Coffee bread from Crown Bakery was sold out by noon after customers stood four deep waiting to buy the delicious breads at the Jul Fair. A large share of the gifty items were mostly gone. Mike Bagnulo did his usual good job as St Nick, having fun at the same time. Our thanks to Linda Christianson for her efforts in presenting the Santa Lucia procession. The children are so well behaved.

Bill Ghen spent the Christmas holidays travelling with friends in Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and Holland.

Gus Blomgren is recuperating at home after a recent hospitalization. Take care, Gus.

Bob and Edith Sanborn of Andover were engulfed in a major fire in their garage and home recently. They are living elsewhere while repairs are being made.

Charlie Hawkes is doing well and was even sighted at the grocery store recently.

Andrea Swanson's Mom is recuperating nicely at a local rehab facility after hip-replacement surgery the day after Christmas.

Best wishes to Bill and Judy Tanzer. Bill's Dad, who lives in Rochester, has been ill since the holidays.

More news regarding the Convention in April issue.

SANTA LUCIA 2010



Sonja Williams

Sonja Williams, age 12, daughter of Sharon Williams and granddaughter of longtime Birka members Nancy and Gordon Hayward, all of North Reading, became Santa Lucia during the annual Jul Fest held at the lodge on November 27th. Her sister Sarah was Lucia in 2006. Sonja is in the 6th grade at the Abundant Life Christian School in Wilmington. She loves ballet, swimming, hand bell choir and is an avid reader.

The festival of Santa Lucia begins before dawn on the 13th of December. Throughout Sweden the oldest daughter in each household comes to her sleeping parents dressed in a long white gown tied with a red sash and wearing a crown of lingonberry leaves set with seven lighted candles. She carries a tray of steaming hot coffee and Lussekatör. The procession includes her sisters and brothers, also holding lighted candles. Awakened by the lights and singing, the parents rise and eat.

SCANDINAVIAN LIVING CENTER

The Scandinavian Living Center at 206 Waltham Street in Newton, Massachusetts is a welcoming place for everyone. It is a non-profit organization. The concept in building structure, style and color are based on research done in scandinavia. The residents can live independently with dignity and a caring group of devoted staff. There are forty apartments with several open spaces outside of the apartments for the residents to enjoy.

The cultural branch is supported by the Scandinavian Charitable Society of Greater Boston which sponsors concerts, lectures, authors and a children's Hans Christian Anderson celebration to name a few. The SCSGB also supports the Living Center. There have been golf tournaments with dinner and an auction. All events are open to the public and the residents

There are two libraries, a scandinavian library with books written in Swedish, Danish and Norwegian including newspapers and also a library with books written in English. The dining room is well appointed and well served. There is a chapel where religious services are held and where residents can go for quiet and meditation. All religions share the chapel.

Areas open to the public are the Nordic Hall, Kaffestugan and the Presidents Room. The Kaffestugan is open on Saturdays from 11 AM to 3 PM. Delicious open face sandwiches are served together with pastries and drinks. Items from the Crown Bakery and the Danish Pastry House are available for purchase. The Kaffestugan area is also used by the residents, where they can play board games, cards, work crossword puzzles or read the daily newspaper. The Nordic Hall is used extensively by the residents and the public. It can be rented and often is. Many of the greater Boston scandinavian clubs meet at the Scandinavian Living Center. A group of women from SWEA come once a month and serve the residents lunch and visit with them.



The Scandinavian Living Center is rated as an assisted living facility in the upper five out of Ten Best Assisted Living Facilities in Massachusetts. It is a gratifying place to visit. Even though it is a distance for most of us, you would likely enjoy it. Come to the Kaffestuga or one of the many special events. All nationalities and religions are welcome as potential residents. For more information, you may visit the website at www.slcenter.org

Contributed by Marilyn Seaburg

JUL FAIR 2010



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Vasa Order of America

Lois Johnson, Editor
51 Pickman Rd.
Beverly, MA 01915

FIRST CLASS

