



Birka Banner

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2013

Birka Lodge 732, Vasa Order of America

The Birka Banner is a bi-monthly newsletter, published by Birka Lodge 732, Vasa Order of America, and on the web at www.birka732.com.

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Chairperson's Message

Greetings and Happy New Year 2013 to all Birka Members! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and New Year celebration with family and friends. Now that the holidays are over, it is time to begin our lodge meetings and activities for 2013.

Our first lodge meeting will be **Friday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m.** A cultural program will be presented by Cultural Leader, PC, Ann-Marie Breuer. Please plan on attending. The Kitchen Committee, chaired by Judy Tanzer will provide refreshments. A small amount of food from our Deli Table at the Jul Fair will be available for purchase. The annual report to the District Lodge will also be presented.

Sadly, at the January meeting we will be draping the charter in memory of our dear member, Ed Johnson, who passed away on January 3, 2013, of pneumonia. Ed and Lois had moved to New Jersey from Beverly this past summer to be closer to their daughter, Sally and her family. Ed and Lois had served the lodge as the editors of the Birka Banner. Lois' new address is: 521 Arbor View, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444, if you would like to send her a card.

The **February 22nd meeting will feature a cultural program about Iceland.** The Kitchen Committee, chaired by Linda Boylan will be serving refreshments following the meeting. Please come to enjoy Vasa fellowship and refreshments.

At the **November 16th** 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. Thank you to the officers for being willing to serve and support the lodge.

Our **Christmas Fair on November 24** was a great success! My thanks and appreciation goes out to all who participated and helped out both on Saturday and Friday night during the set up. These events cannot happen without the **help** and **cooperation** of everyone. The Christmas Fair is our largest fund raising event of the year, and I'm so very grateful to all of you for coming and being part of its success. 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 detailed report of the profits at the January meeting. The Lucia procession again this year highlighted a great group of children. The children did a superb job and looked adorable as they sang and processed to the stage. Thank you to our soloist Pamela Morris for her leadership and singing of the procession and also to pianist Katie Fickenwirth of Ipswich. I'd also like to thank Bob Landoni, Mark French, Dan Murphy and Warren Johnson for providing festive holiday music during the fair.

On Saturday evening, **January 5, the Knutball, King Knut's farewell to Yule,** was held. Our King Knut, Bob Landoni, made his appearance and brought a wonderful message for all 32 guests. We all had a wonderful time. Thank you to Ann-Marie Breuer for making the table centerpieces and contacting the caterer. The buffet was delicious. The raffle donation was \$130, which will help with the expenses. Thank you to all.

On Sunday afternoon, **January 13,** our annual **Tree Plundering Party** was held. Thank you to everyone who brought food, children and themselves! It was a great time and a wonderful group of 40 children and adults enjoyed the festivities. Thank you to Mike and Sue Bagnulo, Judy Tanzer, Mary Anne Hawkes, Ann-Marie Breuer, Joanne MacDonald, Carol Landoni, Mike and Andrea Swanson, Gus and Roz Blomgren, and other helpers. Thank you also to Bob Landoni for providing the music for dancing around the tree; to Ann-Marie for teaching the game dances and reading wonderful stories for the children; and to Mike for playing Tomten.

Please note: The next Activities Committee meeting will be **Sunday, February 3, at 2:30 p.m.** at the home of Marlys Mahajan, 26 Appaloosa Lane, Hamilton. For directions, call Marlys at (978) 468-4423. The **Auditors** will also be meeting 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.

I would also 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.

Reminder: All annual dues of \$25 are due in January. See page 2 for details. It would be great if all dues were paid by April, 2013.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **January 25th and February 22nd** meetings. Please mark the dates on your new 2013 calendars! Your presence gives encouragement to your officers and makes more secure the future of our Order.

In truth and unity,
Linda Christianson

Hearty Birka Birthday Wishes

to these members . . .

. . . in January

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

. . . in February

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

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

Skane Night

January 25

Judy Tanzer, chair
Gus Blomgren
Denise Esperson,
Mary Anne Hawkes
Michael, Andrea Swanson
Anne Delacy

February 22

Linda Boylan, chair
Audrey DiPillo
Milton Leitner
Marlys Mahajan
Pam Petronzio
Marilyn Seaburg



NOTICE OF ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues of \$25 for 2013 are now due.

Please mail them to:

Linda Boylan
12 Upton Lane
Boxford, MA 01921

Checks should be made payable to: Birka Lodge
No. 732. **Dues are due in January.** Timeliness in
paying your dues is greatly appreciated.

Future Events

January

22 Skane Night, 7:30 p.m.

February

3 Activity Meeting, 2:30 p.m., at Marlys Mahajan's home,
22 Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

. . . 'round the Lodge



Our Lucia for the Jul Marknad this year was Cora Lundgren from Fairfax, Virginia. Cora, the daughter of Marya and Scott Lundgren, has been part of our Lucia processions since 2004. Scott is a cousin of member, Janet Muller. Cora's brother Eric joined in as a star boy. It was great to see Cora and Eric at the Lodge this holiday.

Please notify Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer, 3 Anthony Road, Hamilton, MA 01982 (Tel: 978-468-7407) of any address changes. We appreciate your help in keeping the membership rolls up to date.

Jul Marknad Fun for All

The Christmas Fair was a great success. The Lucia procession with its wonderful music and costumed children was the highlight of the day. Visitors found wonderful bakery items, Dahla horses, linens and other Scandinavian items to bring home for their Christmas holidays. We and our visitor also enjoyed the wonderful sandwiches, lingonberry ice cream, and Glogg served at the event. Thank you to all who made the day such a big success.

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## Goodbye to Christmas with King Knut

King Knut's Day is celebrated on January 13 in Sweden, but Birka Lodge's celebration arrived a bit earlier, on January 5. In Sweden it marks the end of the holiday season.

Inga-Lill Olsson and William MacDonald were crowned Queen and King of the Festivities by our own King Knut, Bob Landoni. Music for the Grand March and the dancing that followed was provided by Warren Johnson, Dan Murphy, Bob Landoni and Mark French.



Photo courtesy of Carol and Bob Landoni.  
Lucia photo courtesy of Richard Lilja.

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## Tree Plundering Ends Birka Lodge's Holiday Season

Children and adults alike had a fun time at the tree plundering on January 13. Bob Landoni provided music for dancing around the Christmas tree, and Anne-Marie Breuer read a story about Sweden to the children.

At the Tree Plundering Joanne MacDonald won the giant karameller (basket of candies) donated by Gus and Roz Blomgren.

Thank you to all who helped with this very special event for the children.



Photo courtesy of Andrea and Michael Swanson.



**The Birka Banner Newsletter**  
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*Birka Lodge 732 VOA*

c/o Marlys Mahajan  
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