

BIRKA BANNER

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

MARCH - APRIL 2012

Chairman's Message

Greetings to all Birka Members. Daylight saving time has arrived with an extra hour of sunlight each day. Spring is not far behind! Our January and February meetings were well attended and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the Refreshment Committees for January and February for the delicious food we enjoyed.

The **March 23rd** meeting will be our annual Pask (Easter celebration). The Kitchen Committee, chaired by Ann-Marie Breuer, will be providing refreshments. There will be an **Easter bonnet/ hat contest** as part of our Easter meeting. A prize will be awarded. Looking forward to seeing your best creations! Please plan on attending to support your lodge and officers. The cultural program is being planned for the evening. We will be initiating two new members. We are in need of refreshments following the installation in April and help to set up the hall. If you did not sign the Refreshment List at the February meeting, please give me a call. Donations of food – sandwiches, sweets, etc. are welcome. My phone number is: 781-933-4949. Thank you. Your help is appreciated.

The **April 27th** meeting will be installation of officers. The installation ceremonies will be conducted by Grand Lodge Deputy/District Deputy Dawn Briggs and her team from Nordic Lodge in Worcester. There will also be other guests from the District Executive Board. Please plan on attending to support your lodge officers and to welcome guests from the District. We will also be having a special raffle. Please come and enjoy Vasa fellowship and refreshments.

The Activities Committee met on February 12th and planned the upcoming lodge events for 2012/2013. Thank you to Ann-Marie Breuer for hosting the meeting.

The next Activities Committee meeting will be held on April 15th at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Andrea and Mike Swanson in Rowley.

Thank you to Ann-Marie for providing the cultural programs for the January and February meetings.

Reminder: Sick Benefit Fund

If you have been a Vasa member for five years or more and have paid your dues, you are entitled to receive assistance with medical expenses from the Grand Lodge. Each member is entitled to receive up to \$3,000. If you would like an application, please contact Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer.

Please notify the Recording Secretary, Mrs. Judy Tanzer, 3 Anthony Road, So. Hamilton, MA 01982, telephone no. 978-468-7407, of any address changes. Thank you.

Annual dues of \$25 for 2012 is now due. Please mail your dues to: Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Lane, Boxford, MA 01921, payable to: Birka Lodge No. 732.

Reminder: Please consider this your dues notice for 2012. Dues are due in January. It would be great if all dues were paid by March 2012.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **March 23rd** Easter meeting and the **April 27th** meeting and installation of officers. Please mark the dates on your 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!

....'round the Lodge....

MARCH

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

APRIL

2 Pathrick Olsson	15 Helen Riddle
12 Sheila Sunman	17 Michael Bagnulo
13 Christine Lovgren	28 Helen Pestana
14 Janet Lundstrom	29 Norbert Pestana
15 Carin Liu	

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

March 23 Påsk - Easter Celebration

Ann-Marie Breuer, Chair
Sue & Mike Bagnulo
Matilda Halloran
Carol & Bob Landoni
Chris Lovgren
Inga-Lill Olsson
Helen Riddle

April 27 Installation of Officers

Everyone's on the Committee this month! Call Linda Christianson, 781-933-4949, to let her know what you are bringing. Come early and help with the set-up of tables, chairs, etc. and also the clean-up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 23 - 7:30 pm Påsk (Easter) Celebration
April 15 - 2:30 pm Activities Committee Meeting
Andrea and Mike Swanson home
April 27 - 7:30 pm Installation of Officers
Dawn Briggs, District Deputy

"BANNER" by mail or e-mail?

Check out our web-site to see if you like the Banner in this format. One advantage is that the web pictures are in color. Let us know if you want it sent by e-mail.

A Stambandet concert will be held at the Morgensolen Lodge, 20 Washington St., Beverly on Saturday, March 17th at 1:00 pm. Stambandet is an a cappella group that features folk music of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Denmark. Admission free, bring canned item for local food pantry.

Don't forget to wear your Easter bonnet for the March 23rd meeting.

We are happy to hear that Bob and Edith Sanborn are back in their home after their serious fire last year. Hope all is well.

Eva Bergesen, member of Norumbega, Sons of Norway passed away in January. She was very active in selling Norwegian jewelry.

Ed and Lois Johnson, active members of Birka Lodge for the past 10 years, will be leaving the area during the summer to relocate closer to their daughter in northern New Jersey. This will mean we will be looking for a Banner newsletter editor - anyone interested? Very interesting job, always meeting new people. Call us or Linda Christianson if you are interested in taking over the job.

What does Bill Ghen do when he's not guarding the door at Lodge meetings??



He's cutting, splitting and very neatly stacking wood on his property in Beverly, to keep his house warm. He says he'll be burning about 3 cords this winter, and has at least 3 more drying for next year.

Charter Member, Bill Ghen, has been an active Birka Member since its incorporation in 1984. Earlier, he was an active member of Spiran Lodge in Rockport (of which he is still a member) since 1977.

Bill and his late wife, Edythe, became actively involved in the Scandinavian Dancers, who made more than 80 appearances in the N.E. states as well as New York and New Jersey.

Vasaloppet

Vasaloppet is an annual long distance (90 km) cross-country ski race (ski marathon) held on the first Sunday of March in northwestern Dalarna, Sweden, between the village of Salen and Town of Mora. It is the oldest, one of the longest and in popular consideration, the biggest cross-country race in the world. In the 80th race, held in March, 2004, some 15,000 skiers competed in the main event. More than 40,000 participated in one of the seven different races held during the first week of March.

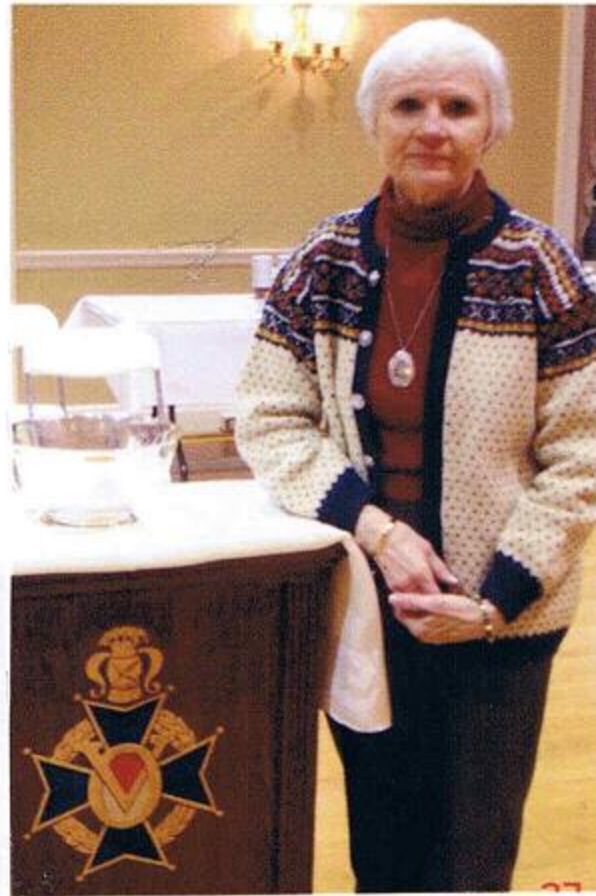
In 1922, a Swedish newspaper publisher came up with an idea of holding a ski race to commemorate the founding of modern Sweden. Back in 1522, Sweden was ruled by Denmark but a Swedish nobleman named Gustav Vasa was attempting to lead his fellow countrymen in revolt against the Danes. Gustav told the people around Mora of a Danish massacre of Swedes in Stockholm, but his story was not believed and his attempts to raise an army failed. With Danish troops after him, Gustav Vasa fled on skis to Norway. But soon afterward, his fellow countrymen heard that Gustav was telling the truth and they sent two skiers to catch Gustav and have him returned to Mora. They caught up with him in Salen, Sweden and Gustav then successfully led the revolt against Danish rule. Since 1922 the Swedish Vasaloppet has commemorated that event with the 90 km ski race from Salen to Mora. Gustav Vasa was crowned king of Sweden in 1523



Today there are four Vasaloppet races- in Sweden, USA, Japan and China. They have formed an International Vasaloppet Skiing Exchange designed to promote not only the four races, but to foster a better understanding of different cultures. Every three years an International Skiing Conference and cultural exchange is held in one of the countries.

The USA Vasaloppet races begin in the lovely, small town of Mora, Minnesota. If you have Swedish roots, you will feel especially welcome when you drive by the civic symbol- the world's largest Dala horse. Vasaloppet, at Mora, Minnesota has made large strides since its inception 40 years ago.

LINDA CHRISTIANSON TO SERVE 10TH TERM



Linda Christianson will begin her 10th term as Chairman of Birka Lodge 732 in April.

In 1979 Linda joined Spiran Lodge, VOA, Rockport, MA at the encouragement of her parents, Dick and Linnea Christianson, both longtime members of Flygia Lodge, VOA, in Arlington for over 50 years. During her years at Spiran Lodge, Linda held

several lodge offices as well as being a member of Var Glad Dancers.

Linda is a charter member of Birka Lodge and transferred her membership soon after Birka Lodge was instituted in 1984. She has served three previous terms as Chairman; 1986-1988, 1990-1992, 1997-1998. In addition, Linda has served as District Master of Mass. District No.2 from 1987-1988 and was Grand Lodge Deputy for Mass. District No.2 from 1994-1998. Linda was also a member of the Birka Scandinavian Dancers and has held several lodge offices as well as currently serving as Chairman. Outside of her Vasa activities, Linda serves on the Board of Directors of the Scandinavian Charitable Society of Greater Boston in West Newton and most recently visited family and friends in Sweden during the summer of 2011.

We are all very proud of you, Linda.

SWEDISH ALMOND CAKE

Spray pan ** with Pam or Cooking spray

Beat well: 1 1/4 cups sugar, 1 egg, 1 1/2 teaspoons pure almond extract, 2/3 cup of milk

Add: 1 1/4 cups of flour, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

1 stick melted margarine or butter

Mix Well

Bake at 350 for 40 - 50 minutes. Edges must be golden brown. Cool in pan before removing. Cake will break if removed too soon.

Sprinkle with confectionary sugar.

Variation: before pouring batter into the pan, sprinkle sliced almonds on the bottom.

** A special pan is needed to bake this cake. Pan available at Scandinavian Specialty stores.

Thanks to Marilyn Seaburg



Gold medal for Sweden...

Congrats to a team of fighters! Sweden took home the gold medal in the finals against Russia in Kazakhstan.

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Birka Lodge #732
Vasa Order of America

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FIRST CLASS

