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# BIRKA BANNER- May & June



Stockholm, Sweden

*Bi-Monthly Newsletter of  
Birka Lodge #732, Vasa Order of America*

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*MAY-JUNE 2008*

## *Chairman's Message*

Greetings to all! The **April 25th** Installation of Officers was well attended. The following dignitaries attended: District Master, Dawn Briggs and Grand Lodge Deputy Marian Parco. Thank you to our District Deputy/Vice District Master Larry Stidsen, who conducted the Installation ceremonies along with his installing team from Nordic Lodge Leif Kristiansson, PGLD/PDM and Siw Kristiansson, past District Deputy to Birka Lodge. Also attending from the district lodge were Michael Bagnulo, District Trustee; Shirley French, PDM/District Cultural Leader; Linda Boylan, District Auditor; Marilyn Seaburg, District Chaplain; and Ken Briggs. Past District officer.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with food donations as well as setting up the hall and our Kitchen coordinators, Roz Blomgren and Andrea Swanson. Delicious refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. We certainly have some great cooks at Birka Lodge! Also thank you to Judy Tanzer for preparing the beautiful gift baskets given to our guests.

The beautiful April basket that was raffled at the installation was won by District Master, Dawn Briggs. Thank you to Gus and Roz Blomgren, who have donated these lovely baskets at the meeting. Please come and take a chance on winning one of these great baskets.

Before the summer break, mark the following upcoming events on your calendars: At the **May 23rd** meeting, we will have a brief Memorial Service, to remember our departed members who have died this year. Following the meeting, we will have a May basket auction. Proceeds will be given to the Hamilton Food Pantry. Please bring a decorated Basket/gift etc., with spring theme, contents can be funny or serious and can be as creative and interesting as you choose. Use your imagination! Our auctioneer will be Roz Blomgren.

The final meeting before the summer break will be **June 27th**. There will be a Midsummer theme and cultural program. Cultural Leader, Ann-Marie Breuer will be presenting a Swedish cooking video, "Midsommar in Sweden". The traditional strawberry and peach Shortcake dessert will be provided by the Refreshment Committee. There will also be a raffle basket by Gus and Roz Blomgren. Please plan on

attending.

Plans are being made for a summer Outing to be held in late August. Additional information with date, cost and location will be discussed. There will be a sign up sheet at both the May and June meetings or you may contact me directly if you are interested in going.

The next Activities committee Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 7th, at 3:00 p.m.** at the home of Mike and Andrea Swanson. All officers and members are invited to attend.

I will be selling tickets for the district fundraiser the "20 Week Raffle". The ticket price is \$20.00. Weekly drawings start on **6/14/08** and end on **10/25/08**. Weekly drawing prizes: 1st place=\$50.00, 2nd place = \$30.00, and the 3rd place = \$20.00. If you win one week, your name is put back in for an equal chance to win again for the remaining 20 weeks. The main drawings will be at the Harvest Festival on **10/25/08**. The winnings will be as follows; 1st place; \$500; 2nd place; \$300; and the 3rd place \$200.00. Winners need not be present. Please see me at the May and June meetings if you would like to purchase a ticket.

**Annual dues of \$20.00 for 2008 are now due.** Please mail your dues to: Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Lane, Boxford MA 01921, tel. 978-887-3917, payable to: Birka Lodge No. 732.

**Reminder:** Please notify the Corresponding Secretary, Judy Tanzer, 3 Anthony Road, Hamilton, MA 01982. Tel. 978-468-7407, of any address changes. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing many of you at these- upcoming meetings in May and June. Come and support your lodge and officers. The new program booklets for 2008-2009 will be available at the lodge meetings.

As a reminder, please check Birka's website. The website's address can be found on the front page of the newsletter. The website is maintained by Richard Lilja. Thank you, Richard, for all you do.

As a reminder, **we are still in need of a Recording Secretary.** Please consider this important office. If interested please contact me.

In closing, I would like to thank the lodge for re-electing me as your Chairman for the coming year. Thank you to all the past officers and to those who have taken an office for the coming year. Your presence is requested to give encouragement to your officers and make more secure the future of our Order.

Best wishes for a healthy and safe summer. Glad Midsommar! Happy summer!

In truth and unity,  
Linda Christianson, PDM Chairman

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## ***Happy Birthday!***

### ***MAY***

1 William Guidara	22 Linda Reidlinger
13 Richard Lilja	17 Linda Christianson
25 Al Reidlinger	26 Helena Blomqvist
26 Ray Sanford	

### ***JUNE***

3 Alan Clough	12 Judy Tanzer
7 Ellen Birchander-Blaszak	28 Ellen Glover
8 Janet Dawe	30 Linnea Christianson

### ***JULY***

1 Leonard Franson	11 Kauren Rasmussen
3 Nancy Hayward	13 Pamela Petronzio
8 Amy Tanzer	14 June Guidara
10 Paul Bergman	15 Nancy Olsson
11 Audrey DiPillo	24 William Ghen
29 Sandra DiPillo	

### ***AUGUST***

6 Phylis Askildsen	17 Gordon Hayward
7 Kirsten Anderson	20 Janet Muller
11 Denise Esperson	24 Lara Collins
16 Polly Berggren	26 Milton Leitner
17 Matilda Halloran	26 Ambia O. Smith

## **REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES**

### **MAY 23rd- "May Basket Auction"**

Linnea & Linda Christianson, Co-Chair

Sue & Mike Bagnulo

Linda Boylan

Lois & Ed Johnson

Ellen & Ron Sandberg

Andrea & Mike Swanson

Judy Tanzer

### **JUNE 27th - "Midsommar Strawberry Fest"**

Karin Caves, Co-Chair

Matilda Halloran, Co-Chair

Eva Ghika

Nancy & Gordon Hayward

## PERSONALS

*Gunvor Breuer* is recuperating at home after lengthy hospital and rehab. stays.

*Maggie Starrack* had total hip surgery at Anna Jaques Hospital on April 9th and is doing well. She says hello to everyone.

*Linda Flanagan's* mother passed away on May 2nd.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 23 - 7:30 pm** - May Basket Auction

**June 27 - 7:30 p.m.** - Midsommar Strawberry Festival

**August 10** - Vasa Day, SAC Park, Shrewsbury

**August 23** - Summer Outing From Salem, MA via boat to Boston and back

**September 26 - 7:30 pm** - Harvest Auction "Spitsbergen, Land of the Midnight Sun"  
Video by Ed and Lois Johnson

## LODGE OFFICERS INSTALLED IN APRIL, 2008

Installing District officers were District Deputy, Larry Stidsen and his team of Siw Kristianson and Dawn Briggs.

Chairman	Linda Christianson, PDM
Vice Chairman	Gus Blomgren
Recording Secretary	OPEN
Corresponding Secretary	Judy Tanzer
Financial Secretary	Linda Boylan
Treasurer	Michael Swanson
Chaplain	Andrea Swanson
Master of Ceremonies	Denise Esperson
Asst. Mast. of Ceremonies	Susan Bagnulo
Inner Guard	Michael Bagnulo
Outer Guard	William Ghen
Cultural Leader	Ann-Marie Breuer,PC
Past Chairman	Al Riedlinger, PDM

Trustees	Michael Swanson '09
	Ed Johnson '10
	Susan Bagnulo '11

Auditors	Janet Dawe '09
	Richard Lilja, '10
	Pamela Petronzio '11

Appointed Positions

Musician	Bob Landoni
Newsletter Editor	Lois Johnson
Membership Chairman	Linda Christianson, PC
Dist. & Vasa Star Corresp.	Lois Johnson
Librarian	Jane Atherton



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### **Abigail St Hilaire**

**Abigail** is a transfer member from Three Crown Lodge in Lynn and also a cousin of Audrey Dipillo of Birka Lodge. Her grandparents, the Gustavson's, were very instrumental in chartering Skansen Lodge in Waltham. Her Mormor (maternal grandmother) came from Skane and her Morfar (maternal grandfather) came from Goteborg. She and her husband Aaron Butt, graduated from Gordon College. She is now pursuing a PHD in Gerontology from UMass/Boston. Her husband is a carpenter.

## RINKEBY SWEDISH

Guzz, keff, ey, len, jallaa - how often haven't the people of Stockholm heard these words used on the street or the radio? For many, these words seem like an ugly language, a kind of youth slang that shouldn't be spoken.

Rinkeby Swedish is a type of Swedish usually used by groups of youth who live in immigrant suburbs. The language is a combination of words and expressions from different languages like Turkish, Arabic, Greek, Kurdish and Stockholm slang. It has its own rules and its own intonations.

Those speaking Rinkeby Swedish are primarily youth who live in the suburbs built during the period between **1965-1974**. The general impression is that it is immigrants who can't speak Swedish well who speak Rinkeby Swedish. It has been shown that many youth with Swedish parents who speak Rinkeby Swedish, while they also speak "good" Swedish. Rinkeby Swedish is not only an immigrant language, but also a way for youth who are living in immigrant suburbs to express and define themselves.

Swe-mail

### ***THANKS LINNEA, ELLEN & KARL***

Long time officers, Linnea Christianson, Ellen Sandberg and Karl Seaburg have retired after serving Birka Lodge for a total of 25 years as Financial and Corresponding Secretaries and Treasurer.



**LINNEA CHRISTIANSON**, a 55 year member of VASA and a Charter member of Birka Lodge #732 served as Corresponding Secretary for 8 years. She was formerly a member of Filgi Lodge of Somerville which later dissolved.

Linnea has served the Lodge as a District Auditor and served as a delegate at conventions many times. Her late husband, Richard, was a charter member and served as a Guard, Trustee and Auditor.

**ELLEN SANDBERG** joined VASA in 1994 and has been a member of Birka for 10 years and served as Financial Secretary for the past 7 years. Her husband, Ron, is also a Birka member and has served as a Guard.

Ellen is an accomplished artist in both oil and watercolor. She hand makes Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls and also crochets afghans. She loves to read, especially mystery novels by Lilian Jackson-Braum.

**KARL SEABURG** has been a member of VASA and Birka Lodge since 1985 and has served the Lodge as Treasurer for more than 10 years, serving under different chairmen.

Karl has been making a yearly drive to Crown Bakery in Worcester to pick up the annual Jul Fair baked goods for the past 20 years. He serves the District as an Outer Guard. He is an active athlete going to the GE gym almost daily. He is also an avid big band fan. His wife, Marilyn, has been very active with both Lodge and District positions.

We will miss the expertise of Ellen, Linnea and Karl. Thank you for your services.

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS - APRIL 2008



**Larry Stidsen, Deputy installs Linda Christianson for her 6th term as Chairman of Birka Lodge #732**



**Birka Lodge Officers -2008**

**Mike and Susan Bagnulo, Denise Esperson, Andrea, and Mike Swanson, Judy Tanzer, Linda Christianson, Gus Blomgren and Linda Boylan.**