

BIRKA BANNER

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

MAY- JUNE 2009

Chairman's Message

Greetings to all! The April 24th 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; Glenn Schedin, District Treasurer; Michael Bagnulo, District Trustee; Shirley French, PDM/District Cultural Leader; Linda Boylan, District Auditor; Marilyn Seaburg, District Chaplain; Karl Seaburg, District Outer Guard, and Muriel Schedin, PDM.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the April Installation especially with food donations as well as setting up the hall and our Kitchen coordinators, Andrea Swanson, Judy Tanzer, Linda Boylan, Carol Landoni, Ann-Marie Breuer, Linnea Christianson, Denise Esperson and members of the Activities Committee. Delicious refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. We certainly have some great cooks at Birka Lodge! We received rave comments from our guests on the wonderful food table of sandwiches and desserts. Thank you, thank you to all! 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 me, your chairman. Thank you to Gus and Roz Blomgren, who donated the lovely basket of gardening accessories.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration on May 2nd at the Danversport Yacht Club was a great success. There were 62 who attended this wonderful milestone for Birka Lodge. Many, many thanks to the members of the Activities Committee for helping plan this wonderful event. Of the 66 original charter members of the lodge, there are 23 remaining and 12 were in attendance to receive their 25 year pins. They included: Ann-Marie Breuer, Linnea Christianson, Bill Ghen, June Guidara, Richard & Rut Johnson, Miriam Lane, Inga-Lill Olsson, Helen Riddle, Karl & Marilyn Seaburg and Linda Christianson. Also receiving her 25 year pin was Audrey DiPillo, who transferred from Skansen Lodge in Waltham and never received her 25 year pin. Gunvor Breuer, one of the founding organizers, unable to attend, was given her 25 year pin by her daughter, Ann-Marie. Also recognized for their dedicated years of service to Birka Lodge were: Bob and Carol Landoni and Alison Landoni-Wickey. They were presented with an official Vasa Order of America Honorary Member plaque by chairman, Linda Christianson. Thank you to Sue Bagulo for making the arrangements with the Danversport Yacht Club and to Linda Boylan for taking the reservations. The beautiful centerpieces on the tables were donated by Ann-Marie Breuer and the favors that everyone received were a collaboration of both Ann-Marie Breuer and Carol Landoni. Thank you, both for your generosity and creativity. Congratulations were expressed by dignitaries: Marian Parco, Grand Lodge Deputy; Dawn Briggs, District Master and Larry Stidsen, Birka's District Deputy and Vice District Master. "Happy Birthday" to Birka Lodge was sung and music for dancing was provided by Warren Johnson and his orchestra. A great celebration and wonderful time of Vasa fellowship was enjoyed by all. Now on to the next 25 years!! Thank you all.

Before the summer break, mark the following upcoming events on your calendars. You don't want to miss out on the fun and excitement! At the **May 22nd Meeting**, we will be initiating 4 new members to Birka Lodge and we will also have a brief Memorial Service to remember our departed members who have died this past year. Following the meeting, we will have a May Basket auction. Please bring a decorated Basket/Gift bag, etc. with a 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 Ann-Marie Breuer.

The final meeting before the summer break will be **June 26th**. There will be a Midsummer theme and cultural program. Cultural Leader, Ann-Marie Breuer will be presenting a program on Midsummer traditions. The traditional Strawberry and Peach Shortcake dessert will be provided by the Refreshment Committee. We will be electing delegates to the District Convention in September to be held at the Best Western Hotel in Fitchburg, MA. There will also be a raffle basket by Gus and Roz Blomgren. Please plan on attending. Plans are being made for the lodge to participate in the Ipswich 375th anniversary celebration to be held on **July 19** from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. We will need volunteers to help sell some refreshments and provide information about Birka Lodge. There will be a sign up sheet at the May and June meetings or you may contact me if you are interested in helping. Additional information will be available at the meetings.

The last Activities Committee Meeting before the summer break is scheduled for **Sunday, May 31st** at 3:00 pm. at the home of Judy Tanzer. All officers and members are invited to attend.

Annual dues of \$20 for 2009 is due. Please mail your dues to: Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Lane, Boxford, MA 01921, telephone no. 978-887-3917, payable to: Birka Lodge No. 732.

Reminder: Please notify the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Judy Tanzer, 3 Anthony Road, Hamilton, MA 01982, telephone no. 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 it's officers. The new program booklets for 2009-2010 will be available at the lodge meetings.

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

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

Happy Birthday!

MAY

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

JUNE

3	Alan Clough	28	Ellen Glover
8	Janet Dawe	30	Linnea Christianson
12	Judy Tanzer		

JULY

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

AUGUST

6	Phyllis 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 22nd - "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 26th - "Midsommar Strawberry Fest"

Karin Caves, Co-Chair
Matilda Halloran, Co-Chair
Eva Ghika
Nancy & Gordon Hayward

COMING EVENTS

July 19 - Birka Booth - 375th Anniversary of the Founding of Ipswich 1-5 PM
August 9 - Vasa Day, SAC Park, Shrewsbury
Sept. 18-20 - District #2 Convention

...round the Lodge...

Classmates from the 7th grade, Linda Boylan, Linda Flanagan and Nancy Karsberg will be taking a 10-day trip to Stockholm, Falun, Mora, Rattvik and Orebro in June. What fun they will have sharing this trip.

June and Sharon Guidara will be in Sweden and Norway in September after a postponement due to Sharon's illness in May.

We will have a Scandinavian booth at the Ipswich International Fair on Market St, Ipswich on July 19, from 1-5 p.m. complete with food, music, costumes etc. It sounds like a "not to be missed" event.

Abigail (St Hilaire) Butt, a member of Birka and a student at Gordon College, was the recipient of the Gladys and Russell Birtwistle award of the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund.

LODGE OFFICERS INSTALLED IN APRIL 2009

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

Chairman	Linda Christianson, PDM
Vice Chairman	Gus Blomgren
Recording Secretary	OPEN
Corresponding Secretary	Judy Tanzer
Financial Secretary	Linda Boylan
Treasurer	Michael Swanson
Past Chairman	Ann-Marie Breuer
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

Trustees:	Ed Johnson '10 Susan Bagnulo '11 Michael Swanson '12
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Auditors	Richard Lilja '10 Pamela Petronzio '11 Andrea Holmgren '12
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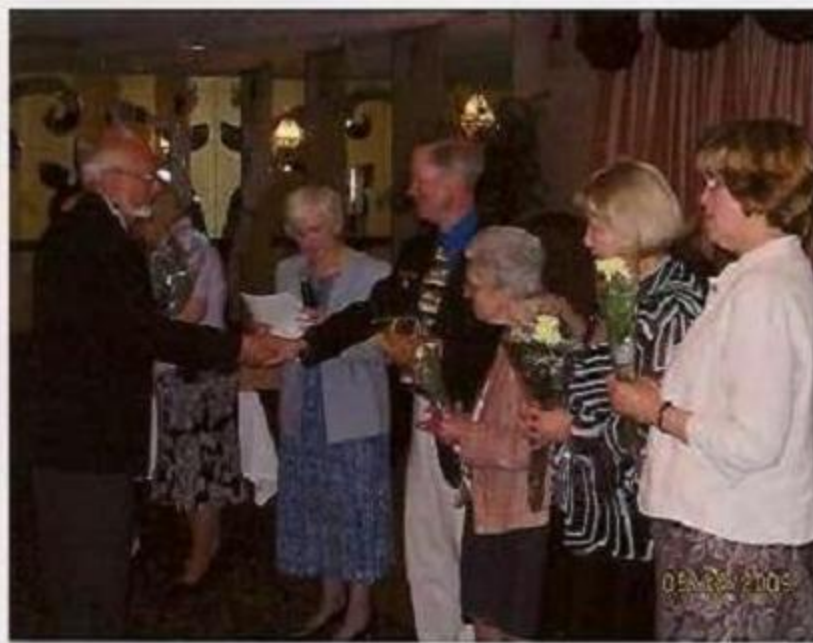
Appointed Positions

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

1984 - 2009

Birka Lodge #732 Celebrates

The 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Lodge was held at the Danversport Yacht Club on May 2nd. A grand time was had by all. We look forward to the next 25 years!



25th Annual Installation of Birka Lodge Officers - April, 2009



Lodge Officers

Seated: Susan Bagnulo, Ann-Marie Breuer, Denise Esperson,
Linda Boylan, Andrea Swanson
Standing: Mike Swanson, Judy Tanzer, Bill Ghen, Andrea Holmgren,
Linda Christianson, Gus Blomgren, Mike Bagnulo, Ed Johnson



Chairman

Larry Stidsen, District Deputy,
installs Linda Christianson for
her 7th term as Chairman

BIRKA BANNER

Birka Lodge # 732
Vasa Order of America

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

FIRST CLASS