

BIRKA BANNER

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

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2009

Chairman's Message

Greetings to all and welcome back from your summer vacations. I hope everyone enjoyed their vacations to travel, visit, relax and return refreshed. It is hard to believe that summer is over and it is time to plan the fall activities at Birka Lodge. I hope everyone survived the rainy days we had during the summer months.

I would like to thank the members of the June Refreshment Committee, Karin Caves, Matilda Halloran and Eva Ghika. Delicious strawberry and peach shortcake was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to all who helped with the July 19th Ipswich event. The weather was perfect and Birka's location was great. Visitors had the opportunity to sample Swedish soda as well as coffee bread and mazarin purchased at Crown Bakery. Thank you to Denise Esperson, Mike and Sue Bagnulo, Linda Boylan, Ann-Marie Breuer, Judy Tanzer, Richard and Rut Johnson, Marylou and Ernie Geiser, Eva Ghika, and Sheila and Richard Sunman.

The first meeting for the fall will be held on **September 25th** at 7:30 p.m. The program will be a presentation on "The Viking Longboat" by Birka member, Amy Hawkes, daughter of Birka's Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer and daughter-in-law to members Mary Anne and Charles Hawkes. Amy is a Medieval Studies Major and has just returned to the New England area after doctoral studies at the University of Toronto, Canada. An evening you won't want to miss! A great time to fellowship with Birka members and learn about the Viking Longboat history.

We will also have a brief report from Birka's three delegates to the District Convention held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Fitchburg, MA. Birka's delegates are: Susan Bagnulo, Richard Lilja and Mike Swanson. Also attending: PDM/PGLD Linda Christianson, District Trustee, Mike Bagnulo, District Auditor, Linda Boylan, District Chaplain, Marilyn Seaburg, Assistant District Secretary, Judy Tanzer, District Outer Guard, Karl Seaburg.

Sadly, at the September meeting will be draping the charter in memory of member Ron Sandberg, who died suddenly in late August. You may remember Ron who held the office of Guard for several years and volunteered at the Jul Fair. Ron is survived by his wife Ellen, our former Financial Secretary, his three children, grandchildren and great grandchild. He is also the brother of Birka member, Jane Atherton. Long may his memory live among us.

The **October 23rd meeting** is our annual Halloween/Hexan's Potluck Supper at **6:30 p.m.** Everyone attending is asked to bring a main dish, salad or dessert. If your dish needs to be heated in the oven, please arrive between 6:00-6:15 p.m. We would like to begin at 6:30 p.m. The lodge will provide coffee and cold drinks. This has been a very successful event and we have some great cooks at the lodge. Dessert will be served following the meeting. **Costumes are encouraged.** Use your imagination. Children are welcome and prizes for children's costumes will be awarded. Come in costume for the Potluck! Who knows who or what you'll meet! At the September and October meetings, the sign up sheet for volunteers for the Christmas Fair, **November 28th** at the **Community House** will be available. As always we will need help with set up the night before, clean up, publicity, booth help, etc. We will also need donations for grabs, home baked goods, etc. This is Birka Lodge's major fund raising event of the year and the support and help of all lodge members is needed to make this year's Christmas Fair as successful as in past years.

The Activities Committee met on Sunday, August 30 at 4:00 p.m. at the home of Linda Boylan. I encourage all officers and members to attend upcoming Activities Committee meetings to help plan our Christmas Fair and upcoming events. The next Activities Committee meeting will be held on Sunday, October 4th at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Inga-Lill Olsson in Georgetown.

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 the **September 25th meeting and the October 23rd Potluck Supper.** Please mark the dates! Come and support your lodge and it's officers. Happy Autumn! Welcome back!

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 truth and unity,

Linda Christianson, PDM, Chairman

Happy Birthday!

SEPTEMBER

2 Edith Sanborn	13 Charles Hawkes
4 Michael Swanson	14 Karin Caves
7 Warren Johnson	22 Nancy Sanford
10 Miriam Hooper	26 Susan Bagnulo
11 Lois Johnson	

OCTOBER

2 Vera Bjorkander	20 Carolyn Bartlett
4 Eddie Thurnquist	20 Joseph Birch
5 Rut Johnson	20 Barbara Lewis
7 Vincent Ghika	21 Ed Johnson
15 Paul French	25 Karen Roman
17 Anita Adams	30 Robert Lewis

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

September 25- Meeting

Pamela Petronzio, Chair
Mary Ann & Charles Hawkes
Denise Esperson
Linda Flanagan
Bill Chen
Richard Lilja
Joan Sullivan
Ron & Andrea Holmgren

October 23 - Hexan's Potluck Supper

Janet Muller, Chair
Eva Ghika
Carolyn Bartlett
Janet Dawe
Linda Boylan
Gus Blomgren
Diane Grady

Schedule of Upcoming Events

September 25 - 7:30 pm meeting

Speaker, Amy Tanzer Hawkes
"The Viking Longboat"

October 4 - 3 pm - Activities Mtg. - Inga-Lill Olsson

October 23 - 6:15 p.m. - Halloween Potluck Supper

November 28 - Christmas Jul Fair

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

Our members are continuing to do lots of travelling. Mike and Andrea Swanson just returned after driving 2,000 miles through Germany to Paris visiting friends and World War II monuments. Very interesting.

Judy and Bill Tanzer will be attending a two week Gelatin Mfg. Co business conference in Rome the first two weeks of October.

June and Sharon Guidara will be travelling through Norway and Sweden in September. Lucky them.

Ed and Lois Johnson will spend 14 days cruising the Eastern Mediterranean Sea from Rome to Istanbul to Athens in October.

Helen Riddle is recuperating nicely after her May heart attack.

Gus Blomgren and family continue to have problems in their home - thus delaying their moving dates. We miss you and Roz and the boys. Stay healthy.

Jane Atherton is home recuperating from a broken ankle.

Ron Sandberg, husband of former Recording Secretary, Ellen Sandberg and a former Outer Guard, suffered a massive stroke and passed away at the end of August. Ellen would appreciate hearing from you.

Be sure not to miss out on Birka member Amy Tanzer Hawkes presentation on the "Viking Longboat" at our meeting on Sept. 25th. Amy is Judy Tanzer's daughter and daughter-in-law of Mary Ann and Charles Hawkes, all Birka members. She received her Masters in Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto and has completed 4 out of 5 years working on her PHD at the University. She is now working as the Museum Outreach Co-Ordinator at the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum and Arctic Studies Center at Bowdoin College. Mike Swanson will bring to the meeting his model longboat that he has been making.

INTERNATIONAL IPSWICH

Birka participated in celebrating Ipswich's 375 years on Sunday, July 19th at the River Walk. Downtown Ipswich was filled with food, music and dance and lots of Swedish coffee bread from Crown Bakery. Thanks to Denise Esperson and the Birka group for their great participation.

WELCOME ABOARD



Four new members were added to our membership roster this spring including a sister and brother. Ann Taylor from Newbury and her brother Richard Sunman, also of Newbury. Richard's wife, Sheila, who also joined, is greatly into cooking and food preparation. Yum, lucky for us. Also joining was Diane Grady of Marblehead.

GENLINE

In 1993 a project was begun in the town of Duved in the Swedish county of Jämtland. Its purpose was to look at the possibilities of digitalizing Sweden's historical church records and make them available to the general public via the most up to date information technology, and hence the birth of our company Genline AB in 1995.

Birth, marriage, and death records between 1898 and 1920 have now been added to Genline for the following counties: Gävleborg, Jönköping, Kalmar, Kristianstad, Kronoborg, Malmöhus, Skaraborg, Stockholm, Södermanland, Uppsala, Värmland, Västmanland, Örebro and Östergötland.

Mark your calendars! SwedGen 2009 will occur in our area in October 2009. Have you hit a brick wall in your Swedish research or don't know where to begin? A group of Swedish genealogists will be visiting the United States in October to teach and assist Swedish-Americans how to find their roots and how to do Swedish research. The following places and dates have been confirmed:

Saturday, October 3rd in Worcester
Wednesday, October 7, in Berlin, Ct

One of our members, June Guidara, has been trying for several years to verify her grandfather's birth in Skåne. In March she received the monthly newsletter

from Genline, with a link to a new web site containing birth, marriage and death records of Skåne, Blekinge and Halland. With the first name of her grandfather, his parents and a date range of two years, she hit *submit* and immediately got his birth record.

ANN-MARIE BREUER RETIRES



Our congratulations to Ann-Marie on her recent retirement from the Massachusetts Land Court in Boston after serving that prestigious body for 40 years. After starting her career as a law clerk to Justice Silverio in 1969 she continued as a Title Examiner and for the past 10 years she held the position of Deputy Recorder of the Land Court.

Ann-Marie has the ability to speak, read and write Swedish. She is a member of the Vasa Order of America, a Swedish-American Fraternal organization.

She has held the offices of Secretary, Chaplain, Cultural Leader, Vice Chairman and Chairman of Birka Lodge #732. She has also served as Executive Board Member, District Deputy and Vice District Master at the District Lodge level.

Congratulations, Ann-Marie, we are proud of you.

RECIPE FOR A HOME

Half a cup of friendship and a cup of thoughtfulness creamed together with a pinch of powdered tenderness, very lightly beaten in a bowl of loyalty, with a cup of faith and one of hope and one of charity.

Be sure to add a spoonful each of gaiety that sings, and also the ability to laugh at little things. Moisten with the sudden tears of heartfelt sympathy. Bake in a good natured pan and serve repeatedly.



Denise Esperson and the Birka crew help celebrate Ipswich's 375 years.



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Birka Lodge #732
Vasa Order of America

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FIRST CLASS

