

BIRKA BANNER

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

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2010

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 90 plus warm weather we had during the summer months. I would like to thank the members of the June Refreshment Committee, Karin Caves, Matilda Halloran, Eva Ghika, Ann-Marie Breuer, and Carol Landoni. Delicious strawberry and peach shortcake was enjoyed by all. Thank you also to Eva and Vinnie Ghika for hosting a wonderful Midsommar Celebration at their home on June 19th.

The first meeting for the fall will be held on **September 24** at 7:30 p.m. The cultural program, presented by Ann-Marie Breuer, will be on Iceland and includes a video. An evening you won't want to miss! A great time to enjoy fellowship with Birka members. We will also be initiating new member Sharon Smith, who was accepted into membership at the June 25 meeting. Sharon is a friend of Treasurer, Mike Swanson.

Sadly, at the September meeting we will be draping the charter in memory of my mother, charter member, Linnea Christianson, who died on July 25th. You will remember my mother who served for many years as Corresponding Secretary and was also chairman of the bake table at the Jul Fair until this past year. She also volunteered at other lodge and district events. On behalf of my brothers, Donald and David, I would like to thank the many Birka and District Lodge members who sent cards, came to the visiting hours and attended the funeral service on July 29. She will be sorely missed. Long may her memory live among us.

The **October 22** 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! We will also be initiating another new member.

At the September and October meetings, the sign up sheet for volunteers for the Christmas Fair, on **November 27** 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 next Activities Committee meeting will be held on Sunday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Carol and Bob Landoni in Gloucester. I encourage all officers and members to attend to help plan our Christmas Fair, the District Convention next year and upcoming events. Thank you to Ann-Marie Breuer for hosting the June 13 meeting.

Reminder: Please notify Recording 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 24** meeting and the October 22 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 this 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

03 Edith Sanborn	13 Charles Hawkes
04 Michael Swanson	14 Karin Caves
07 Warren E. Johnson	22 Nancy Sanford
10 Miriam Hooper	26 Susan Bagnulo
11 Lois Johnson	

OCTOBER

02 Vera Bjorkander	20 Carolyn Bartlett
04 Eddie Thurnquist	20 Joseph Birch
05 Rut Johnson	21 Ed Johnson
07 Vincent Ghika	25 Karen Roman
15 Paul French	30 Robert Lewis
17 Anita Adams	

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

September 24- Meeting

Pamela Petronzio, Co-Chair
Audrey DiPillo, Co-Chair
Mary Ann & Charles Hawkes
Denise Esperson
Linda Flanagan
Bill Ghen
Richard Lilja
Joan Sullivan
Ron & Andrea Holmgren

October 22 - Hexan's Potluck Supper

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

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 24- 7:30 pm meeting - Iceland Video
w/ Ann-Marie Breuer
Sept. 19 - 3 pm - Activities Mtg. - Carol Landolphi
Oct. 22 - 6:30 p.m. - Halloween Potluck Supper
Nov. 27 - Christmas Jul Fair

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

What a wonderful midsommar afternoon we had at the Ghika's in Hampton, NH - perfect weather, tons of Svensk food made by Eva and our members. Even homemade lingonberry ice cream made by Ron Holmgren. Dancing around the May Pole decorated by Eva and members was a highlight. Now we'll have to get back to normal again.

Ellen Sandberg is recuperating after injuries to both legs after a fall in her kitchen. She is doing well and we hope to see her back at meetings before too long.

We had a wonderful turnout for our "Yankee Clipper" voyage out of Newburyport. Thanks to Ann-Marie Breuer for her efforts.

NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome five new members, three of which are pictured below. Also initiated were Richard and Karol Johns.



Lori Thoreson, Ernie and Marilyn Sandberg

Lori is currently living in Ipswich and is a Math teacher at the Middle School in Danvers as well as a Fitness Technician in Ipswich. Earlier she was in the catering business with her mother. She is very fortunate to have taken cooking lessons from some of the finest chefs and cookbook authors in the world. Her 19 year old son lives in California.

Ernie and Marilyn live in Haverhill with their cat Brady and are the parents of two sons and two grandchildren. Ernie is the Service Manager at Mike and Sons Oil Co. in Ipswich and is an avid Patriots fan. Marilyn is the Office Manager of an electrical contracting company. She enjoys Irish music and dance, volunteering and travel.

Anna Linnea Christianson



Anna Linnea Christianson of Woburn died July 25 at the Sawtelle Family Hospice House in Reading. Known to her family and friends as Linnea, she was the wife of the late Richard C. Christianson. She is survived by her children Linda, Donald, David and three grandchildren. She was 90.

Born in Västerås, Sweden on June 30, 1920, she was the daughter of Julius Anders and Anna Emelia (Svensson) Anderson. She, along with her parents, traveled by boat from Huaröd, Skåne, Sweden, through Ellis Island to Cambridge, MA, settling in Somerville when she was four years old.

She attended Somerville schools and graduated from Somerville High School in 1938 and attended Fisher Business School. Linnea was a resident of Woburn for 55 years. She worked as a secretary for H. Harris in Charlestown and then for 20 years as a sales associate for the Donut Kitchen in Woburn.

She was an active member of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Woburn.

She was a member of the Birka Lodge of Hamilton V.O.A. holding several offices. She was a lifetime member of the Edmund Lodge I.O.V. of Woburn and active in the Scandinavian Living Center of West Newton. For many years, she spent summers with her family at Camp Calumet in W. Ossipee, NH.

An avid traveler, she also enjoyed her many visits to relatives and friends in Sweden.

With all that she gave to her organizations, her family was first and foremost in her life and she will be sorely missed.

Newburyport Cruise in August

We had an excellent narrated tour of historic Newburyport Harbor. In the vast marsh areas upstream we saw abundant wildlife and learned much about the ecology from our well-versed Captain. Then many were off to their favorite local waterfront restaurants.



Cruise to Bermuda in June

Familiar faces on the Boston-to-Bermuda cruise aboard the "Norwegian Spirit".





Midsommar Afton at the Ghika's
Eva in front of the Maypole, decorated with lots of help, Swedish music and dancing, Rich Lilja takes a break, the Svensk mat was delicious, the kids enjoyed their desserts, especially Grandpa Ron Holmgren's ice cream.A perfect day, enjoyed by all.

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FIRST CLASS

