

BIRKA BANNER

www.birka732.com

September-October, 2012

The Birka Banner is a bi-monthly newsletter, published by Birka Lodge 732, Vasa Order of America, Lodge Chairperson: Linda Christianson; Editor: Marlys Mahajan; Web Master: Richard Lilja

Chairperson'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. The summer was very hot, which was great for vacations and sunbathing!

I would like to thank the members of the June Refreshment Committee, Matilda and Michaela Halloran, Eva Ghika, Ann-Marie Breuer, and Carol Landoni. Delicious strawberry shortcake was enjoyed by all.

I would also like to thank Eva and Vinnie Ghika for hosting Midsommar at their home on June 30th. A good time was enjoyed by all, the food was delicious, and everyone had fun with the games!

And thank you to Ann-Marie Breuer and our cuckoo bird and musician, Bob Landoni, for helping celebrate our Gökotta on June 9th.

And finally, thank you to Ann-Marie Breuer and Mike Swanson for arranging our most recent summer outing, a sail on the pirate ship *Formidable*, a two-masted vessel, from Tuna Wharf in Rockport on Sunday, August 26th. We had a great group of 35 sailors including District Master Marlene Patient and her husband Ron, and District Secretary Mary Ellen Jansson and her husband Ake, as well as Chairman Eric Rask of Spiran Lodge and his wife Carolyn, and DCL Shirley French and her husband Mark. It was a beautiful day – the weather was perfect.

The first meeting for the fall will be held on **September 28th** at 7:30 p.m. The program will be our Harvest Auction (Skordefest). Members are asked to bring vegetables, flowers, fruit, etc. (from your gardens, if you have one) or a pumpkin, potted herb or fall plant to be auctioned. An evening you won't want to miss! A great time to fellowship with Birka members and catch up on summer adventures.

Sadly, at the September meeting we will be draping the charter in memory of our newest member to the lodge, Christine Kimball, who unexpectedly passed away on August 18th. Christine was initiated at our March 2012 meeting. Long may her memory live among us.

On **Saturday, September 22nd**, Birka will be participating in the Hamilton-Wenham Harvest Festival to be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in downtown Hamilton. Please contact Ann-Marie Breuer if you would like to help with Birka Lodge's table or come and purchase fresh coffee rings and coffee rolls from Crown Bakery.

The **October 26th 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. Come in costume for the Potluck! Who knows who or what you'll meet!

At the September and October meetings, the signup sheet for volunteers for the Christmas Fair, **November 24th** at the **Community House**, will be available. As always, we 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 past years.

The next Activities Committee meeting in October will be announced at the September lodge meeting. There will be no Activities Committee meeting in September. I encourage all officers and members to attend to help plan our Christmas Fair and upcoming events.

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.

As we begin our fall activities, I would like to welcome our new Birka Banner Editor, Marlys Mahajan. Marlys volunteered to take over from Lois and Ed Johnson and for that we are very grateful. Thank you, Marlys.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **September 28th meeting and the October 26th Potluck Supper.** Please mark the dates! Come and support your lodge and its officers. Happy Autumn! Welcome back!

Yours in truth and unity,
Linda Christianson

Hearty Birka Birthday Wishes to these members . . .

. . . in September

3 Edith Sanborn	14 Karin Caves
4 Michael Swanson	18 Naomi Graves
7 Warren E. Johnson	22 Nancy Sanford
10 Miriam Hooper	22 Ann De Lacey
11 Lois Johnson	26 Susan Bagnulo

. . . in October

4 Eddie Thurnquist	19 Sven Hyberts
5 Rut Johnson	20 Joseph Birch
7 Vincent Ghika	21 Ed Johnson
15 Paul French	25 Karen Roman

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

Skodefest (Harvest Fest)

September 28

Pamela Petronzio, co-chair
Audrey DiPillo, co-chair
Abigail Butt
Bill Ghen
Naomi Gray
Andrea and Ron Holmgren
Richard Lilja

Halloween Potluck Supper

October 26

Jane Muller, chair
Gus Blomgren
Linda Boylan
Janet Dawe
Eva Ghika
Sharon and June Guidara

. . . 'round the Lodge

In transitioning to the new Banner format (and software), the old address list was recopied, so some errors may have crept in. If you didn't get your copy of the Banner, please send your correct address to our webmaster at, birka732@verizon.net, or contact Marlys Mahajan.

Lois and Ed Johnson have arrived safely in their new home in New Jersey to be closer to their daughter and family. Their new address is: 51 Arbor View, Pompton Plains, NJ 07444. They would enjoy hearing from their friends at Birka Lodge.



Please notify Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer, 3 Anthony Road, Hamilton, MA 01982 (978-468-7407) of any address changes. We do appreciate your helping us keep the member roles up to date.

As a reminder, please check Birka's website. Its address is www.birka732.com. Richard Lilja, our webmaster, has included traditions and history of the Vasa Order of America; delightful stories of Scandinavian holiday, celebrations, and literature; and links to other Scandinavian related websites. It is a real treasure trove of information. Take advantage of this valuable resource that Richard has provided.

August Pirate Sail a Big Success

Our most recent summer outing was a sail on the pirate ship, *Formidable*, a two-masted sailing vessel. It sailed from Tuna Wharf in Rockport on Sunday, August 26, with a great group of 35 Birka sailors aboard, including District Master Marlene Patient and her husband Ron, District Secretary Mary Ellen Jansson and her husband Ake, Eric Rask, chairman of Spiran Lodge and his wife Carolyn, and DCL Shirley French and her husband, Mark. A good time was had by all, as the photos show!



Our pirate crew kept us entertained! They had tales of the high seas and pirate connections to Massachusetts, and sang lively sea shanties.



Calendar Summary

September

- 22 Harvest Fest in Hamilton (Rt. 1A)
- 28 September Meeting, Skodefest

October

- 26 October Meeting, Hexan's Halloween Potluck Supper (Note: 6:30 start time)

November

- 24 Jul Marknad (Christmas Fair)
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Linda Boylan and husband Tom (above) relax in the sunshine. Mike and Andrea Swanson (below) also caught some rays.





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BIRKA 732
Vasa Order of America

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