

# Birka Banner

Birka Lodge 732, Vasa Order of America

September/October, 2013

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## 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—but soon the cool fall temperatures will be upon us!

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.

I would also like to thank Eva and Vinnie Ghika for hosting Midsommar at their home on June 29. A good time was enjoyed by all, especially when playing the games!

Thank you, too, to Ann-Marie Breuer and Mike Swanson for arranging our recent summer outing—an Essex River Cruise on Saturday, August 24. We had a full boat of 42 members and guests including District Master Marlene Patient and her husband, Ron; District Secretary Mary Ellen Jansson and her husband, Ake; and District Cultural Leader Shirley French and her husband, Mark. It was a beautiful day—the weather was perfect.

The first meeting of fall will be held on **September 27** at 7:30 p.m. Mike Swanson will be presenting a cultural program on the U.S.S. Constitution. He will be bringing a model of the ship that he has built. It should be a very interesting program. Mike is quite an authority. We will also be initiating John Caves, son of Birka member, Karin Caves. Following the meeting we will have a Harvest Raffle. 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 raffled off. During the meeting, there will also be a Delegates' Report about the District Convention by Birka's delegates, Ann-Marie Breuer, Mike Swanson and Judy Tanzer. An evening you won't want to miss! A great time to fellowship with Birka members and catch up on summer adventures.

The **October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting** is our annual Halloween/Hexan's Potluck Supper at **6:30 p.m.** Everyone 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 and 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, since 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 sign-up sheet for volunteers for the Christmas Fair, **November 30** at the **Community House**, will be available. As always, we need help to set up the night before, clean up, publicity, booth help, etc. We will also need donations for grabs and home baked goods. 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 September 8 at the home of Judy Tanzer. Thank you, Judy. The date and place of the October Activities Committee meeting will be announced at the September lodge meeting. I encourage all officers and members to attend to help plan our Christmas Fair and upcoming events.

I look forward to seeing you at the **September 27<sup>th</sup> autumn meeting** and the **October 25<sup>th</sup> Potluck Supper**. Please mark

the dates!

Come and support your lodge and its officers. Happy autumn! Welcome back!

In truth and unity,

*Linda Christianson, P.D.M., Chairman*



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For those who have not paid **their 2013 dues of \$25**, you are now in arrears. Please mail your dues to the Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan. 12 Upton Lane, Boxford, MA 01921. Make checks payable to Birka Lodge No. 732  
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**Lena says to Ole "I found dis pen, is it yours?"**

**Ole replies - "Don't know, give it here"  
He then tries it and says "Yes it is"**

**Lena asks "How do you know?"**

**Ole replies, "Dat's my handwriting"**

Sven and Ole were sipping their beers when a truck went past loaded up with rolls of sod.

"I'm going to do dat when I vin da lottery," announced Sven.

"Do vhat?" asked Ole.

"Send my lawn out to be mowed."



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**Sven and Ole were carpentering on a new house. Sven who was nailing down siding would reach into his nail pouch, pull out a nail and either toss it over his shoulder or nail it in.**

**Ole, figuring this was worth looking into, asked, "Why are you trowing dose nails away?"**

**Sven explained, "If I pull a nail out of my pouch and it's pointed TOWARD me, I trow it away 'cause it's defective. If it's pointed toward da HOUSE, den I nail it in!"**

**Ole got completely upset and yelled, "You MORON!!!  
Da nails pointed toward you aren't defective!  
Dare for da OTHER side of da house!!"**

## 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 Sandford
10 Miriam Hooper	22 Sharon Mikutel
11 Lois Johnson	26 Susan Bagnulo

### . . . In October

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

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## REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

### Autumn's Arrival

#### September 27

Pamela Petronzio, co-chair

Audrey DiPillo, co-chair

Abigail Butt

Bill Ghen

Naomi Gray

Andrea and Ron Holmgren

Richard Lilja

### Halloween Potluck

#### October 25

Janet Muller, chair

Gus Blomgren

Linda Boylan

Janet Dawe

Eva Ghika

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### . . . 'round the Lodge

Welcome to John Caves! John, son of member Karin Caves, will be inducted this month into the Birka lodge. He is a familiar face, having participated in many of our programs for young people, including tree plunderings and Lucia processions as a Star Boy. We hope to enjoy of your fellowship for years to come!

Recently, Vice Chairman Gus Blomgren underwent open-heart surgery in Boston. If you would like to send Gus a get-well card, his address is 125 Ashland Avenue, Methuen, MA 01844. I'm sure he would enjoy receiving cards from his Birka family. Speedy recovery, Gus! We hope to see you soon!

Our condolences go out to Richard Lilja, whose father passed away after a lengthy illness during the summer.

**Cookie Bake** In order to offer more of our popular baked goods for sale at the Christmas Fair, we would like to organize a Cookie Bake during the weekend of November 22-24. Anyone who is interested, please contact Marlys Mahajan, (marmahajan@gmail.com or 978-468-4423). The date, time, and what to bake are flexible, so let us know what is convenient for you, and we can begin making plans.

**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. Please contact Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer (97-468-7407) for an application.

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The Birka Banner is a bi-monthly newsletter, published by Birka Lodge 732, Vasa Order of America, and on the web at [www.birka732.com](http://www.birka732.com)

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Editor: Marlys Mahajan  
Web Master: Richard Lilja

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A detail from the Uvdal stave church in Buskerud county, Norway

## Rosemåling

Rosemåling is a decorative style of painting that originated in Norway and later became popular in Sweden as well. It is the painting of fanciful flowers and scrollwork on wood. It uses basic "C" and "S" brush strokes, often in blended colors of bright colors.

Rosemåling is an outgrowth of Viking travels of the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The Vikings saw the carvings of acanthus leaves in Greek and Roman architecture, and incorporated this decorative style as carvings on their ships. In the Baroque era of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, this style floral style became a popular painting with artists. It flourished in the Rococo era of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Rosemåling began to die out in the 1860's, but the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a revival of art form, due in large part of Per Lysne of Stoughton, Wisconsin. He was born and trained as a rosemåler in Norway, came to the United States and become a wagon painter. When the Great Depression of the 1930's struck, he turned to rosemåling again. It is now taught in adult education classes all across the country.

A great collection of immigrant and contemporary rosemåling is housed in the Vestiheim Norwegian-American Museum of Decorah, Iowa.



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## Calendar Summary

### September

20-22 District Convention

27 Autumn's Arrival, 7:30 p.m.

### October

1 or 8 Activities Committee meeting, 2:30 p.m.  
Date and place to be announced.

25 Halloween Potluck, 6:30 p.m.

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## REMINDERS . . .

- Please check Birka's website for more photos and copies of the Birka Banner in full color. The rosemåling photos are lovely! The web site's address is [www.birka732.com](http://www.birka732.com) and is maintained by Richard Lilja, our Web Master. Thank you, Richard.
- Please notify Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer, 3 Anthony Road, Hamilton, MA 01982 (978-468-7407) of any address changes. Address changes are our only way to ensure that your newsletters reach you. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Please bring an autumn-themed item for our September 27 raffle. Fresh fruits, flowers, or vegetables from your garden (if you have one) are welcome, as are pumpkins, potted herbs, and fall plants.