



Birka732.com

Birka Banner

Birka Lodge, Vasa Order of America

January - February 2020

Message from the Chair

Greetings and Happy New Year 2020 to all Birka members. I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas holiday and New Year celebrations with family and friends. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to begin our Lodge activities for 2020.

Our first Lodge meeting will be **Friday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m.** Cultural Leader Ann-Marie Breuer will present a short cultural program. The Refreshment Committee, chaired by Marlys Mahajan, will provide the refreshments. Refreshments will be served beginning at 7:00 p.m. Desserts will be served following the meeting. Deli items from the Jul Fair will be available for purchase from Mike Swanson. The annual report to the District Lodge will also be presented. Please plan on attending.

We will also be draping the charter for member Diane Forsstrom, who passed away during the first week of January. Her funeral will be held on Saturday, January 25. More details will be available at the meeting.

The **February 28** meeting will be a Viking presentation by Ann-Marie. The Refreshment Committee, chaired by Linda Boylan, will begin serving refreshments at **7 p.m.** Please come to enjoy Vasa fellowship and refreshments.

At the **November 22** meeting, the nomination and election of officers was held. A motion was made to accept the slate of officers presented. All nominated officers agreed to serve, and the nominations were closed. I would like to thank the officers for being willing to serve and support the Lodge. Thank you also to Kajsa Woodger for telling us all about the Swedish language camp that she attended last summer.

Our **Christmas Jul-Fair** that was held on **November 30** was a great success! Many thanks and much appreciation are extended to all who participated and helped both on Friday night for set up and at Saturday's Fair. These events cannot happen without the **help** and **cooperation** of everyone. The Jul Fair is our largest fund raising event of the year, and I'm so very grateful to all of you for coming and being part of the success of this event. Many, many thanks to all. The Fair is a service to the community, and many non-Scandinavians look forward to it every year. Our Treasurer, Mike Swanson, will have a detailed report at the January meeting. Post Jul Fair sales are still coming in.

The Lucia procession again this year was wonderful with a great group of children. The children did a superb job and looked adorable as they sang and processed to the stage. Our Lucia was Anna Carlson, daughter of Cheryl and Scott Carlson of Natick. Thank you to our soloists, Pamela Morris and Anders Carlson of Natick, and to pianists, Helen Greene of Ipswich and Eddy Conrad. Thank you, too, to accordionist and Birka member, Warren Johnson, and to Bob Landoni, Mark French, and Dan Murray for providing festive holiday music during the fair.

The **Tree Plundering Party** was held on **Sunday, January 12**. Thank you to all who brought food, and helped with decorations and set up. Special thanks go to Tomte Mike Bagnulo; Mrs. Tomte Sue Bagnulo; Musician Bob Landoni; and story teller, Ann-Marie Breuer. The children and adults had a wonderful time

Please note: The next Activities meeting is be **Sunday, February 16, at 2:30 p.m.** at the home of **Marlys Mahajan in Hamilton**. The **Auditors** will also meet with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary at this time to audit the financial books of the Lodge. The activities for the spring will be planned. Please contact me if you plan on attending.

Annual dues of \$25 for 2020 are now due. Please mail your dues to: Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Lane, Boxford, MA 01921. Checks should be payable to: Birka Lodge No. 732. **Please consider this your dues notice for 2020. Dues are due in January.** It would be great if all dues were paid by April this year.

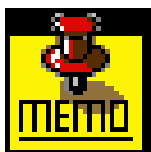
Before closing I would like to thank the members of the November refreshment committee, chaired by Andrea and Mike Swanson, for the delicious refreshments that we all enjoyed that evening.

I look forward to seeing you at the **January 24 and February 28** meetings. Please mark the dates on your new 2020 calendars! Your presence gives encouragement to your officers and makes more secure the future of our Order. Happy New Year!

In truth and unity,

Linda Christianson,

PDM, Chairman



REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

January 25, 2020

Marlys Mahajan, chair

Gus, Eric, Greg Blomgren

Denise Esperson

Mary Anne Hawkes

Mike and Andrea Swanson

Kristin Seashore

February 22

Linda Boylan, chair

Janet Dawe

Ginny Karlsson

Audrey DiPillo

Hearty Birka Birthday wishes to these members:

... in January

10 Abigail Butt
14 Janet Bloom
18 Eric Blomgren
18 Greg Blomgren
22 Gerald Tobiason
25 Ann-Marie Breuer
29 Tina Rawson



... in February

11 Inga-Lill Olsson
12 Sarah Williams
12 Elizabeth Sandberg
15 Eva Ghika
15 Marlys Mahajan
20 Ginny Karlsson

... 'round the lodge

For college age and soon-to-be college age members; The Vasa Order of America, Grand Lodge, gives out eight \$1,000 scholarships each year to Vasa members. The deadline for applications this year is February 15. Check the VASA Grand Lodge's website, www.vasaorder.com, for details about this year's application process.

New Christmas Tree We had a new Christmas tree this year at the Jul Fair, thanks to Richard Lilja. He bought it at an after Christmas sale last year and it was a beauty! It really lifted the spirits of the whole fair. It was also the star of the show at the Tree Plundering. Thank you, Richard.

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 (and dental) expenses from the Grand Lodge. You are entitled to receive up to \$3,000. If you would like an application, please contact Chairperson Linda Christianson at 781-933-4949.

Change of Address Please notify Assistant Recording Secretary Marlys Mahajan of any address changes, either in writing at 26 Appaloosa Lane, Hamilton, MA 01982, or by phoning her at 978-468-4423. Thank you.



Calendar of Events

January

24 Lodge meeting, 7:30 p.m., refreshments served at 7 p.m.

February

16 Activities meeting and auditors meeting at Marlys Mahajan's home, at 2:30 p.m.

28 Lodge meeting, 7:30 p.m., refreshments served at 7 p.m.



Reminders

Dues are now due!

If you haven't paid your dues yet, why not write out your \$25 check now and bring it to the January meeting?

Check out the web site


Remember to check [Birka Lodge's website](#). The web address is found here and at the bottom of the previous column. The website is maintained by Richard Lilja. Thank you, Richard.



Valkommen to;
Hasa Order of America's
Birka Lodge #732
A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

Hamilton -Wenham
Community House (on Rt 1A)
South Hamilton, Massachusetts

Visit or /Email us at:
Website: Birka732.com
Email: BIRKALODGE732@GMAIL.COM



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About us

Birka Lodge #732 was founded in 1984, and currently has approximately 120 members, the majority of our members are from Boston's North Shore area, New Hampshire, and Maine. Members are of Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, and Finnish ancestry.

Our meetings are held the fourth Friday of each month (except July, August, and December) at the Hamilton -Wenham Community House, Route 1A, Hamilton, MA at 7:30pm.







Birka Banner is a bi-monthly newsletter, published by Birka Lodge 732, Vasa Order of America, and on the web at www.birka732.com

Linda Christianson, Chairperson

Marlys Mahajan, Editor

Richard Lilja, Webmaster