



# Birka Banner

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**Birka Lodge, Vasa Order of America**

**September - October 2019**

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## Message from the Chair

Greetings to all and welcome back from your summer vacations. I hope everyone enjoyed their vacations to travel, visit, relax and return refreshed. It's hard to believe that summer is over, and it's time to plan fall activities at Birka Lodge.

Thank you to the members of the June Refreshment Committee: Karin and John Caves, Matilda Halloran and Eva Ghika. Delicious strawberry shortcake was enjoyed by all.

The first meeting of the fall will be held on **September 27 at 7:30 p.m.** We will have our annual Harvest Fest Auction. Please bring fall plants, garden vegetables, flowers, etc. to auction off. We will also have a Cultural Report from Cultural Leader, Ann-Marie Breuer. An evening you won't want to miss! A great time to fellowship with Birka members and catch up on summer vacations.

We will also have a Delegates Report from our delegates to the District Convention that was held in Rockport on September 21. This year Spiran Lodge #28 sponsored the convention.

The **October 25 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 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, 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 sign up sheet for volunteers for the **Christmas Fair, November 30**, at the **Community House** will be available. As always, we need help with setting up the night before, cleaning up, publicity, and booth help. We also need donations for grabs, home baked goods and so on. This is Birka Lodge's major fund raising event of the year and the help of all Lodge members is needed to make this year's Fair as successful as in past years.

The date of the next **Activities Committee** meeting will be **October 6 at 2:30 p.m.** A volunteer is needed to host this meeting. I encourage all officers and members to attend to help plan our Christmas Fair and upcoming events.

On Sunday, August 18, Birka Lodge members and Ester Johnson from the District Lodge gathered in Essex for a cruise on the Essex River on a perfect summer day. Everyone enjoyed socializing in the beautiful setting. A further report will be given at the September meeting.

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

New program booklets for 2019-2020 are available at these Lodge meetings. They list the days and themes of all the events for the coming year.

Happy Autumn! Your presence is requested to give encouragement to your officers and make more secure the future of our Order. Welcome back!

In Truth and Unity,

Linda Christianson,

PDM, Chairman

## Calendar of Events

## September

27 Autumn's Arrival Lodge meeting,  
7:30 p.m. **Bring a plant or garden veggies** to auction off!



## October

6 Activities Committee meeting, 2:30 p.m., place to be announced  
25 Halloween/Hexan Lodge meeting and Pot Luck Supper, 6:30 p.m.

Hearty Birka Birthday wishes to these members:

## ... in September

3 Claire Glover	14 Karen Caves
4 Mike Swanson	22 Sharon Mikutel
7 Warren Johnson	26 Sue Bagnulo

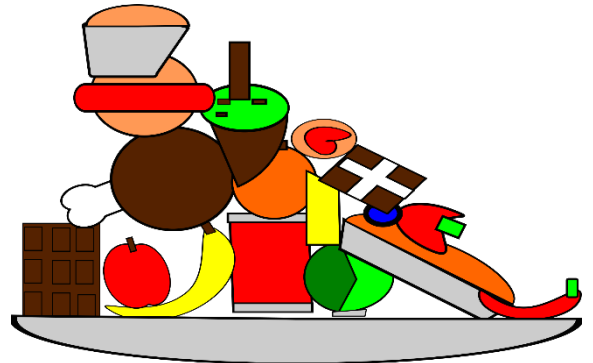


## ... in October

5 Rut Johnson	15 Sara Ghika
14 Kristen Seashore	25 Karen Roman
14 Sven Hyberts	

## REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

Autumn's Arrival  
**September 27**  
 Denise Esperson, chair  
 Audrey DiPullo  
 Andrea/Ron Holmgren  
 Richard Lilja  
 Tina Rawson  
 Kristen Seashore



## Halloween/Hexan Potluck

## October 25

Janet Muller, chair  
Frank Ryan  
Gus/Eric/Greg Blomgren  
Linda Boylan  
Aila Coburn



## ... 'round the lodge

Welcome to new member Bob Carlson! Bob, father and grandfather of Karen Caves and John Caves, respectively, joined Birka Lodge at the May meeting. Please give him a hearty welcome when you next see him. We hope he enjoys our company as much as we enjoy having him join us!

Welcome back, Linda Christianson! She spent a month this summer traveling in Sweden, with a brief visit to a Danish island. She had a good time with family and old friends. Ask her about it!

The Lodge members who joined together for the summer outing had a super time. See page 4 for details.

Congratulation to Sara Ghika for earning a Vasa scholarship to study aeronautical engineering in Stockholm for the coming year. Way to go, Sara!

**For all college age and soon-to-be college age members:** The national lodge, Vasa Order of America, gives out several scholarships each year, such as the one Sara was awarded this year. The deadline for applications has been in December in the past. Watch the Vasa website for details about this year's application process.

**Remember** to check [Birka Lodge's website](#). The web address is found below. The photos of previous meeting and events are wonderful! The website is maintained by Richard Lilja. Thank you, Richard.

**Remember to sign up** at the September meeting to bring a dish or two to the October Pot Luck Supper. Bring a main dish, salad or desert to share. And don't forget your Halloween costume!

**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. If you would like an application, please contact Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer.

**Change of Address:** Please notify Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer, of any address changes, either in writing at 3 Anthony Road, Hamilton, MA 01982, or by phoning her at 978-468-7407. Thank you.

**New program booklets** for the 2018–2019 year are available at the September and October meetings, if you didn't pick one up in the spring. It lists the programs and dates for all Lodge activities through June, 2019.

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## Wonderful Times Together

The summer outing, an Essex River Cruise, was a big success. The weather was perfect, the coffee and muffins appreciated, and the fellowship was a good congenial time. Those attending are shown below. From left to right they are Eva Ghika, Mary Ellen Jannson (District Secretary), Ann-Marie Breuer, Marlys Mahajan, Kristen Seashore, Karen Caves, Nancy Forsstrom-Gillespie, John Caves, Judy Tanzer, Mary Anne Hawks, Pam Morris, and Nathaniel Morris.





Spotlight on . . .

The Sami people

The Sámi people of Scandinavia live in the far northern reaches of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and western Russia. They are often referred to as Lapps or Laplanders. They are an indigenous people of Europe and have been allowed to follow their nomadic traditions to a limited extent in each country.

The traditional livelihoods of Sámi people are coastal fishing, fur trapping, sheep herding, and of course reindeer herding. The traditional dress for both men and women is a long, coat-like dress called a gákti. For an exciting, unique vacation you can even spend a few days in a reindeer camp among gákti wearing Lapps!



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)

Linda Christianson, Chairperson

Marlys Mahajan, Editor

Richard Lilja, Webmaster

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.

**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!!!"**



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 9th 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 18th century, this style floral style became a popular painting with artists. It flourished in the Rococo era of the early 18th century.

Rosemåling began to die out in the 1860's, but the 20th 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.

