

BIRKA BANNER

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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2012

Chairman's Message

Greetings and Happy New Year 2012 to all Birka Members! I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas holiday and New Year celebrations with family and friends. Now that the holidays are over it is time to begin our lodge meetings/activities for 2012.

Our first lodge meeting will be **Friday, January 27th** at 7:30 p.m.. A cultural program will be presented by Cultural Leader, PC, Ann-Marie Breuer. Please plan on attending. Refreshments will be provided by the Kitchen Committee, chaired by Judy Tanzer. There will be a small amount of food from our Deli Table available for purchase.

The **February 24th** meeting will feature a cultural program about the Swedish Vasalopp. The Kitchen Committee, chaired by Linda Boylan will be serving refreshments following the meeting. Please come to enjoy Vasa fellowship and refreshments.

At the **November 18th** meeting, Nomination and Election of Officers was held. A motion was made to accept the slate of officers presented. All nominated officers agreed and the nominations were closed. I would like to thank the officers for being willing to serve in your current office and support the lodge. Also, thanks to the Refreshment Committee, chaired by Andrea and Mike Swanson, for the delicious refreshments enjoyed that evening.

Our **Christmas Fair on November 26th** was a great success! My thanks and appreciation is extended to all who participated and helped in any way both on Saturday and Friday night during the set up. These events cannot happen without the **help and cooperation** of everyone. I certainly could not do this alone! The Christmas 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. It is an event that is a service to the community and many non-Scandinavians look forward to the fair every year. Our Treasurer, Mike Swanson, will have a more detailed report of the profits at the January meeting. 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, Michaela Halloran from Amesbury. Michaela has been participating in the Lucia procession since 2002. She is the daughter of Birka member, Matilda Halloran. Her brothers, Patrick and Frederik had participated as star boys. Thank you to our, soloist, Pamela Morris for her leadership and singing during the Lucia procession and also to pianist, Dr. Frank Corbin of Ipswich. I would also like to thank musicians, Bob Landoni, Mark French and Dan Murphy for providing festive holiday music during the fair.

On Sunday afternoon, **January 8th** our annual **Tree Plundering Party** was held. Thank you to everyone who brought food, children and themselves! It was a great time and the children and adults enjoyed the festivities. There was a wonderful group of 40 who attended. Thank you to Mike and Sue Bagnulo, Judy Tanzer, Mary Anne Hawkes, Ann-Marie Breuer, Inga-Lill Olsson, Carol Landoni, Mike Swanson, Linda Boylan, Sharon Linnea Smith, Gus and Roz Blomgren, June and Sharon Guidara and other helpers. Thank you also to Linda Boylan for taking the reservations; to Bob Landoni for providing the music for dancing around the tree; to Ann-Marie Breuer for teaching the game dances and reading wonderful stories for the children; to Mike Bagnulo (Tomten). Thank you to all! The giant karameller, donated by Gus and Roz, was won by Sue Bagnulo. Thank you Gus and Roz. Our District Master, Marlene Patient and District Secretary, Mary Ellen Jansson from Worcester also attended.

Please note: The next Activities Committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, February 12th at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Ann-Marie Breuer in Hamilton.** The Auditors will also be meeting with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary at that time to audit the financial books of the lodge. The activities for the spring will be planned. Please contact me if you plan attend.

Reminder: Please notify the Recording Secretary, Mrs. Judy Tanzer, 3 Anthony Road, So. Hamilton, MA 01982, telephone no. 978-468-7407, of any address changes. Thank you.

Annual dues of \$25 for 2012 is now due. Please mail your dues to: Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Lane, Boxford, MA 01921, payable to: Birka Lodge No. 732. **Reminder: Please consider this your dues notice for 2012. Dues are due in January.** It would be great if all dues were paid by March 2012.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **January 27th** and **February 24th** meetings. Please mark the dates on your new 2012 calendars! Your presence is requested to give encouragement to your officers and make more secure the future of our Order.

In truth and unity,

Linda Christianson, PDM, Chairman

Happy Birthday!

....'round the lodge....

JANUARY

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 5 | Melissa Starrak | 17 | Barbara Kanerva |
| 10 | Abigail Butt | 22 | Gerard Tobiason |
| 14 | Janet Bloom | 25 | Ann-Marie Breuer |
| 14 | Sharon Smith | 31 | Carol Whynott |

FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Joan Sullivan | 12 | Elizabeth Sandberg |
| 6 | Robert Blomgren | 15 | Eva Ghika |
| 9 | Lisa Winsor | 19 | Thommy Ilmrud |
| 11 | Inga-Lill Olsson | | |

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

January 27- Meeting - Fishing Industry

Judy Tanzer, Chair
Gus Blomgren
Mike & Andrea Swanson
Denise Esperson
Mary Anne Hawkes

February 24 - Meeting - Vasalopp

Linda Boylan, Chair
Marilyn Seaburg
Audrey DiPillo
Milton Leitner
Marlys Mahajan
Matilda Halloran

Schedule of upcoming events

January 27 - Lodge Meeting, 7:30 - Fishing Industry

February 12- Activities Committee,
Anne-Marie Breuer, Hamilton

February 24 - Lodge Meeting, 7:30pm -
Vasalopp [Cross-country ski event]

March 23 - Lodge Meeting, 7:30 Påsk (Easter)

April 27 - Installation of Officers



Everybody enjoyed Vinnie's flip-flop hat!

Annual dues of \$25 for 2012 are now due. Please mail to Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Ln., Boxford, MA 01921, payable to Birka Lodge No 732. It would be great if all dues were paid by March 2012.

Another outstanding Jul Fair! The Crown Bakery coffee bread continues to be one of the best sellers. Can see why! Our thanks to Linda Christianson for her efforts in working out the details of the fair as well as presenting the Lucia procession. Everything was outstanding. Andrea Swanson and her kitchen staff made the usual delicious open-faced sandwiches, yum..

Our members were still travelling in 2011, both within and outside the US. Pam Petronzio visited New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville with the Show of the Month Club and friends.

Janet Muller and Frank Ryan cruised the Eastern Carribean in January, the Western Carribean and London in March, Bermuda cruise in June and weddings in Mexico and the Dominican Republic in the fall.

Special New Year's wishes to Mike Swanson and Ron Holmgren after recent medical problems.

NEW MEMBER



DANIKA 'DANI' ASHNESS

Dani, daughter of Birka member Kari Ashness, is a student at Pinkerton Academy. She's a fifteen-year-old athlete who loves to run and participates in three seasons of sports at school: Cross Country, Indoor Track and Spring Track. She loves photography and often accompanies her Dad when he photographs weddings. In addition she loves to help her Mom in the garden and attend as many Scandinavian fairs each season as she can. Dani should be getting her license in the late spring so she will finally be able to drive herself to the mall!

SANTA LUCIA 2011



MICHAELA HALLORAN

Michaela loves animals, especially gorillas and wants to definitely be another Jane Goodall. She has two brothers, but most of her family lives in Sweden.

The festival of Santa Lucia begins before dawn on the 13th of December. Throughout Sweden the oldest daughter in each household comes to her sleeping parents dressed in a long white gown tied with a red sash and wearing a crown of lingonberry leaves set with seven lighted candles. She carries a tray of steaming hot coffee and Lussekatte. The procession includes her sisters and brothers, also holding lighted candles. Awakened by the lights and singing, the parents rise and eat.

ÄGGAKAKA (EGG CAKE)

Pkg. of thickly sliced good quality bacon
7 eggs
Scant 1/2 cup of all purpose flour
2 1/2 cups of whole milk
Butter, salt, pepper

Butter large frying pan and fry bacon. Remove to another pan to keep warm. Beat together eggs, milk, flour, tsp. of salt and pepper to taste. Pour beaten batter into frying pan (cook directly in bacon fat). As it begins to harden, poke holes so that all the batter cooks and becomes firm. When the cake is solid - slip it out onto another plate and slide it back in on the uncooked side so that it will be evenly cooked. Serve the egg cake with the bacon and lingonberry preserves.

Thanks to Anne-Marie Breuer for her special recipe from Skåne. Translation: "If you want a taste of Skåne, bake an eggcake." Serves 4

CHORUS CELEBRATES 80 YEARS



Our Birka member, Sonja "Sunny" Dahlgren Pryor, is celebrating her 50th year as conductor of the 130 voice Chorus North Shore, which is celebrating its 80th year of choral music. The Chorus performs choral masterpieces from all eras as our artistic director takes singers and audiences on a ride through the great school of masterworks.

Sonja's mother and father and older sister were born and emigrated from Sweden. The very musical family sang continually in harmony, Dad was bass, Mother was soprano and the children would cover the rest, even harmonizing when doing dishes or riding in the car.

She is pleased that they brought Handel's "Messiah" to Ipswich and Danvers in December for the first time.

JULGRANSPLUNDRING



In most countries, the Twelfth Night marks the end of Christmas celebrations. But the Swedes, Finns and Norwegians stretch Christmas into the New Year. This gives January 13th as the

termination date for Christmas. On the 20th day of Canute (tjugondedag Knut) Swedish families "plunder the Christmas tree" (Julgransplundring). The children, relatives, neighbors and friends gather to strip the tree. The Swedes play games, eat cake and drink a fruit drink, throw out the Christmas tree and walk home with a bag of sweets.

We had a great time at our Plundering Party on January 8th. Always a good turnout and the children have such a good time. As usual, Mike Bagnulo was Tomten and seemed to enjoy his role as much as the children do.

JUL FAIR 2011



BIRKA BANNER

Birka Lodge #732
Vasa Order of America

Lois Johnson, Editor
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FIRST CLASS

