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HOME

BIRKA BANNER March, & April



Overlooking Gotta Canal at Sunset

The Newsletter of Birka Lodge #732, Vasa Order of America

March, April 2008

Chairman's Message

Greetings to all Birka Members. I hope everyone is shoveled out from all our snowstorms this winter! Our **February 22nd** meeting was cancelled due to one of the most recent snowstorms. Thank you to Marilyn and Karl Seaburg and their Refreshment Committee for being prepared with refreshments for the meeting. I'm sure the refreshments would have been great! Winter is almost over! Spring is coming!

The **March 28th Pask (Easter)** meeting, will feature a small Easter/Spring Boutique of imported linens and paper goods provided by Ann-Marie Breuer and Linda Boylan. The proceeds from the Easter/Spring Boutique will benefit the lodge general fund. Refreshments will be served by Ann-Marie Breuer and her committee. We welcome Abigail St. Hilaire, cousin of Birka member Audrey DiPillo, who is transferring from Three Crown Lodge in Lynn. We will be selling food from our Deli Table. Please come and enjoy an evening of fellowship with Birka members.

The **April 25th** meeting will be installation of officers. As a reminder we are still in need of a Recording Secretary. Please consider this important office. If interested, please contact me. The installation ceremonies will be conducted by District Deputy Larry Stidsen and his team from Nordic Lodge in Worcester. There will also be other guests from the District Executive Board attending. Please plan on attending to support your lodge officers and to welcome guests from the District. We are in need of refreshments following the meeting and will need help to set up the hall. If you did not sign the Refreshment List at the March meeting, please give me a call. Donations of food – sandwiches, sweets, etc. are welcome. My phone number is: 781-933-4949. Thank you. Your help is appreciated. Please come and enjoy Vasa fellowship and refreshments.

There will be Raffle Baskets donated by Gus and Roz Blomgren at both the March and April meetings with special themes for both baskets. Come and take a chance or two! Thank you to Gus and Roz for providing these baskets.

The Activities Committee met at the home of Linda Boylan on **March 9th** and planned the programs for the year. The next Activities Committee meeting will be announced at the March 28th lodge meeting.

Reminder: Please notify the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Linnea Christianson, 105 Pearl Street, Woburn, MA 01801, telephone no. 781-933-4949, of any address changes. Thank you. Annual dues of \$20 for 2008 are now due. Please mail your dues to: Financial Secretary, Ellen Sandberg, 896 Main Street, Reading, MA 01867, payable to: Birka Lodge No. 732.

Before closing I would like to thank Linda Boylan and the members of the January Refreshment

Committee, for the delicious refreshments that we enjoyed at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **March 28th and April 25th** meetings. Your presence will give encouragement to your officers and make more secure the future of our Order.

In truth and unity, Linda Christianson, PDM, Chairman

Happy Birthday!

MARCH

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ethel Johnson | 14 Ellen Sandberg |
| 1 Ann Moulton | 15 James Jensen |
| 2 Robert Sanborn | 19 Mathz Olsson |
| 4 Ellen Denis | 22 Kristine DiPillo |
| 7 Linda Flanagan | 27 Marilyn Kelly |
| 10 Carol Landoni | 31 Daniel Guidara |
| 11 Miriam Lane | |

APRIL

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Pathrik Olsson | 15 Helen Riddle |
| 13 Eric Birchander | 17 Michael Bagnulo |
| 13 Christine Lovgren | 28 Helen Pestana |
| 14 Janet Lundstrom | 29 Norbert Pestana |
| 15 Carin Liu | |



REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

March 28 Pask - Easter Celebration

- Ann-Marie Breuer, Chair
- Sue & Mike Bagnulo
- Matilda Halloran
- Carol & Bob Landoni
- Chris Lovgren
- Inga-Lill Olsson
- Helen & Warren Riddle

April 25 Installation of Officers

Everyone's on the Committee this month! Call Linda Christianson, 781-933-4949, to let her know what you are bringing. Come early and help with the set-up of tables, chairs, etc. and also the clean-up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|---|
| March 28 | - 7:30 pm | Pask (Easter) Celebration |
| April 25 | - 7:30 pm | Installation of Officers Presided by Larry Stidsen, District Deputy |
| May 23 | - 7:30 pm | May Basket Auction |

CONDOLENCES

Judy Tanzer's mother-in-law and Amy's grandmother passed away recently .
Our condolences to Don and his family.

LATE SUMMER OUTING

Is it too early to begin thinking about our annual summer outing that everyone seems to enjoy? Last August we sailed aboard the "Finback" and the "Fame" around Salem Harbor and then had dinner together at Pickering Wharf. Sue Bagnulo and Lois Johnson are looking for ideas for this year.

www.geocities.com/birka732

Our Web site is now 1 1/2 years old under the guidance of Web Master, Rich Lilja. We are fortunate to have Rich monitor and update Lodge info and photos.

‘Ja, ma du leva’

This song is sung to celebrate birthdays and other special occasions. At Birka monthly birthday celebrations, we sing the Swedish version after we have sung our traditional American birthday song. Perhaps you would like to learn the Swedish words and sing along. Ask someone for help in pronunciations!

Let's all join in and sing.

Swedish Version

Ja, må du leva, Ja, må du leva,
Ja, må du leva uti hundra år.
Ja, må du leva, Ja, må du leva,
Ja, må du leva uti hundra år.

Ja, visst ska du leva, Ja, visst ska du leva,
Ja, visst ska du leva uti hundra år.
Ja, visst ska du leva, Ja, visst ska du leva,
Ja, visst ska du leva uti hundra år.

"Ett fyraldigt leve... leve du
HURRAH, HURRAH, HURRAH, HURRAH!"

English Translation

Yes, may you live, Yes, may you live,
Yes, may you live for a hundred years.
Yes, may you live, Yes, may you live,
Yes, may you live for a hundred years.

Oh sure, you will live, Oh sure, you will live,
Oh sure, you will live for a hundred years.
Oh sure, you will live, Oh sure, you will live,
Oh sure, you will live for a hundred years

"A four fold cheer ...cheer for you.
HURRAH, HURRAH, HURRAH, HURRAH!"

THE NEW INDIAMAN “*GOTHEBORG*” UPDATE



Thousands of onlookers gathered to welcome the three-masted wooden ship, the Gotheborg, an exact replica of the Swedish East India Company's 18th century vessel of the same name to Gothenburg's Frihamn in **June 2007**. Dozens of small boats escorted the ship into the harbor with a 21-gun salute. King Carl XVI Gustaf and Chinese President Hu Jintao watched the vessel arrive, along with some 90 guests of honor.

The **2007 May-June** edition of the Banner depicted the exciting story of the restored sailing vessel. Now, two years after she set sail for China in **October, 2005**, she has safely returned home.

In **1745**, the “Gotheborg” was just returning from a successful expedition to Guangzhou (Canton) after two years sailing the oceans. But, as she was triumphantly approaching Gothenburg harbor, under the eyes of hundreds of people, she suddenly crashed against the entrance to the harbor and sank with her entire cargo. Eventually the “Gotheborg” was left to rest forgotten deep in the harbor for 240 years until a marine archeological excavation discovered the ship in **1985**. After several years of planning, enthusiasts started to think about building a full-scale replica of the 18th century East Indiaman. On **January 6, 2003** the new East Indiaman was launched at the old Eriksberg shipyard in the city of Gothenburg with the presence of their majesties, King Carl XVI and Queen Silvia.

We thank Birka member, Milton Leitner for providing us with the insert from the Swedish newspaper, Dagens Nyheter, complete with the exciting events.

EASTER IN SWEDEN

The Swedish translation for Happy Easter is "GLAD PASK!"

In Sweden long ago, Easter was thought to be the witches time. In west Sweden they lit Easter bonfires around which people would scream and yell to frighten away the witches. On Maunday Thursday the witches were said to fly off to "Blakulla" and return again on the Saturday.

Nowadays, children dress up as Easter witches on the Thursday before Easter and go from house to house and are given gifts or money - very similar to the North American Halloween.

After the long fast during Lent, eggs were eaten in celebrations, often taken from the nests of the spring birds and children would play games with eggs - such as rolling the eggs. The older children in Skane would assemble at a special celebration when they would dance, play games and eat eggs.

The Easter egg has a long history . In graves from B.C. in Gotland, colored clay eggs were found. They were painted in red and yellow as the eggs represented the sunrise and sunset - and even today the Swedes, like other Europeans paint their eggs at Easter.

As a reminder of Christ's suffering, young people would thrash each other with silver birch twigs on the morning of Good Friday. These silver birch branches, decorated with brightly colored feathers, were the originator of both the Lent and Easter decorated branches.

Semlor are special buns that used to be associated with Lent but now seem to be sold earlier and earlier in the year. They consist of a sweet bread bun when the middle is scooped out and filled with marzipan and whipped cream. Otherwise, lamb is often eaten at Easter as well as many of the dishes eaten at the Christmas Smorgasbord.

Source: Swe-Mail

SINGLES

Sweden has the highest number of one-person households in the world. More than 40% of Swedish households are made up of people living by themselves. Of cities world wide, Stockholm is topping the charts with its 60% of one-person households

Source: Swe-Mail.

Julgransplundering
(Christmas Tree Plundering)
Held on January 6, 2008

