

# BIRKA BANNER

Bi-Monthly Newsletter, Birka Lodge #732, Vasa Order of America  
[www.birka732.com](http://www.birka732.com)

**MARCH - APRIL 2010**

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## Chairman's Message

Greetings to all Birka Members. The February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled due to loss of electrical power in Hamilton and the surrounding communities on the North Shore. Many of our members did not have electricity for three days. Hopefully, the winter weather is behind us. Thank you to Linda Boylan and her Refreshment Committee for being prepared with refreshments for the meeting. I'm sure the refreshments would have been delicious! Winter is almost over! Spring is coming!

**The March 26<sup>th</sup>** Pask (Easter) meeting, will feature a small Easter/Spring Boutique of imported items and a Cultural Report by Ann-Marie Breuer. Refreshments will be provided by Ann-Marie and her committee. Please come and enjoy an evening of fellowship with Birka members.

Also at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting we will be draping the charter in memory of charter member Ray Sanford, who died in late February. Ray and his wife, Nancy were active with the Jul Fair and Ray played the piano at many lodge events. Long may his memory live among us.

The **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** meeting will be installation of officers. The installation ceremonies will be conducted by District Deputy Dawn Briggs and her team from Nordic Lodge in Worcester. There will also be other guests from the District Executive Board. Please plan on attending to support your lodge officers and to welcome guests from the District. We are in need of refreshments following the installation and 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.

The Activities Committee met on March 7 at the home of Judy Tanzer and programs for the coming year were planned. The next Activities Committee meeting will be announced at the March 26 lodge meeting.

Before closing I would like to thank Judy Tanzer and the members of the January Refreshment Committee for the delicious refreshments that we enjoyed at the meeting. Thank you to Ed and Lois Johnson for providing a wonderful video of their trip to Spitsbergen, Norway at the January meeting.

My mother, Linnea, is continuing her rehab and should be coming home shortly. She is very grateful for all the cards she has received from her Birka friends. Thank you to all who have called and sent get well wishes.

**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 \$20 for 2010 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 2010.**

**Grand Lodge Investment Funds** – In the January/February 2010 Vasa Star issue, page 7, there is a letter from Grand Master Rolf Bergman documenting the disastrous loss of Grand Lodge Investments of the Education Funds as well as those of the Vasa National Archives Endowment. Please read this letter. The letter has been sent to all Local Lodge Secretaries and will be read at our March 26 meeting. **This action does not affect our treasury or lodge funds.** We await further word from the Grand Master on the status of the on-going investigation.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **March 26<sup>th</sup>** and **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** meeting and installation of officers. Please mark the dates on your 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....

## 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 Pathrick Olsson	15 Helen Riddle
12 Sheila Sunman	17 Michael Bagnulo
13 Christine Lovgren	28 Helen Pestana
14 Janet Lundstrom	29 Norbert Pestana
15 Carin Liu	

## REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

### March 26 Påsk - Easter Celebration

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

### April 23 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 26 - 7:30 pm Påsk (Easter) Celebration

April 23 - 7:30 pm Installation of Officers  
Dawn Briggs, District Deputy

### "BANNER" by mail or e-mail?

Check out our web-site to see if you like the Banner in this format. One advantage is that the web pictures are in color. Let us know if you want it sent by e-mail.

Don't forget that yearly dues of \$20. are now due and payable to Birka Lodge, No 732. Please mail to our Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Ln., Boxford, MA 01921.

It will be wonderful to see Linnea Christianson back at meetings again and we're sure Linnea will be happy to be back home again and back into her regular routine before long. Stay healthy, Linnea.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Andrea Holmgren's Mom in February. Our deepest regards to Andrea and her family.

Our thanks to Pam Petronzio for submitting her great recipe, "Chicken, Wild Rice and Pecan Salad" that everyone liked so much. Because of its length I have submitted it to the Birka web site under "Recipe Favorites". Many thanks, Pam.

Janet Muller and Frank Ryan will be touring Egypt during the latter part of April, including a cruise to Luxor. Lucky them. Egypt is certainly one of the most interesting countries in the world.

June, Sharon and Dan Guidara had a perfect trip to Norway, Sweden and Denmark last fall, even visiting June's grandfather's hometown of Halsingborg. They travelled the picturesque hilly area of Bergen, through Flam to Oslo and then to Copenhagen and Stockholm.

Denise Esperson and three friends will travel the Western Carribean in April aboard the Princess Cruise Lines visiting islands like Roatan in Honduras, Cozumel and Grand Cayman Islands.

## BROCCOLI SALAD

Large head of broccoli  
Raisins, walnuts, red onion, 8 slices bacon

Cut head into small pieces. Add raisins, walnuts, red onion and bacon. Mix with dressing and chill.

1 Cup Miracle Whip salad dressing (or mayo)  
4 tbsp sugar  
1/2 c red wine vinegar.

Thank you, Andrea Swanson, for this great recipe. Everyone loved it at our meeting.

## SWEDISH BIRTHDAY SONG

### "Ja, ma du leva"

Birthdays are such an important tradition in Scandinavia and for that reason I am printing both Swedish and English versions of "Ja ma du leva" so that we can all learn the words and sing along when we present the birthday cake at our meetings.

**Ja, ma du leva. Ja, ma du leva.  
Ja, ma du leva uti hundrade ar.  
Ja, ma du leva. Ja ma du leva.  
Ja, ma du leva uti hundrade ar.**

**Ja, visst ska du leva, Ja visst ska du leva,  
Ja, visst ska du leva uti hundrade ar.  
Ja, visst ska du leva, Ja visst ska du leva,  
Ja, visst ska du leva uti hundrade ar.**

**"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.

## CHARTER FLIGHTS

After the Second World War, there was a large pent up need among Swedes to "see the world". Several travel agencies were formed and group trips by bus and sometimes train were arranged to many of the European countries.

In 1951 all Swedes received three weeks of legislated vacation. 1955 became a breakthrough year for charter trips by air. Swedish Aero flew to Mallorca for the first time and then later to Palma and the Canary Islands. As the Swedes got longer vacations - four weeks in 1963 and five weeks in 1978, there were more people taking charter trips. Last year there were approximately 2.1 million taking charters. Greece, Spain, Turkey and Thailand the most common. More than half of the trips being sold on the net. The charter companies are Sweden's e-trade queens.

## JULGRANSPLUNDERING

Birka Lodge's annual Tree Plundering Party was a resounding success on Sunday, January 8th, 2010 at the Community House in Hamilton with 19 children and 25 adults attending. Traditional activities included singing and dancing around the tree, a visit from Jul Tomten, sandwiches and goodies.

We were delighted to have as guests, Eleanor, a former au pair and her brother Vincent, studying to be a mechanical engineer from Skaraborg, Sweden. They had a wonderful time dancing with the children and said how similar our plundering was to the Swedish version.



## DISTRICT LODGE CONVENTION

The 109th Annual Convention of the Vasa Order of America, District Lodge of Mass. No 2 was held in the fall at the Courtyard Marriott in Fitchburg.

Birka Lodge currently has 5 members serving as District Lodge Officers:

Mike Bagnulo,  
District Trustee

Linda Christianson,  
District Membership Chairman

Marilyn Seaburg,  
District Chaplain

Karl Seaburg,  
District Outer Guard

Linda Boylan,  
District Auditor



## Julgransplundering - January, 2010



### **BIRKA BANNER**

Birka Lodge #732  
Vasa Order of America

Lois Johnson, Editor  
51 Pickman Rd.  
Beverly, MA 01915

## FIRST CLASS