

# BIRKA BANNER

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

**MAY- JUNE 2011**

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## Chairman's Message

Greetings to all! The **April 29th** Installation of Officers and Initiation of Lisa Winsor was well attended. The following dignitaries attended: District Master, Larry Stidsen; Grand Lodge Deputy/District Deputy Dawn Briggs, who conducted the Installation ceremonies along with her installing team from Nordic Lodge, Leif Kristiansson, PGLD/PDM and Siw Kristiansson, past District Deputy to Birka Lodge. Also attending from the District Lodge were; Marlene Patient, Vice District Master; Michael Bagnulo, District Trustee; Shirley French, PDM/District Cultural Leader; Linda Boylan, District Executive Board Member; Marilyn Seaburg, District Chaplain; Judy Tanzer, Assistant District Secretary; Michael Swanson, District Inner Guard and Past Grand Lodge Deputy Marian Parco. Also attending from Nordic Lodge was Ken Briggs, past District Officer.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the April Installation especially with food donations as well as setting up the hall and all who helped in the kitchen. Delicious refreshments were served and enjoyed by all. We certainly have some great cooks at Birka Lodge! We received rave comments from our guests on the wonderful food table of sandwiches and desserts. Also, thanks to Gus and Roz Blomgren for preparing the Raffle baskets. Thank you, thank you to all!

At the **May 27th** Meeting, we will be initiating a new member to Birka Lodge and we will also have a brief Memorial Service to remember our departed members who have died this past year. Following the meeting, we will have a May Basket silent auction. Please bring a decorated basket/ gift bag with a Spring theme- contents can be funny or serious and can be as creative and interesting as you choose.

The final meeting before the summer break will be **June 24**. There will be a Midsommar theme and cultural program. Cultural Leader, Ann-Marie Breuer will be presenting a program on Midsommar traditions. The traditional Strawberry Shortcake dessert will be provided by the Refreshment Committee. Delegates to the District Convention in September, that Birka is sponsoring, will be elected. Please plan on attending.

The next Activities Committee Meeting will be announced at the May meeting. All officers and members are invited to attend. The Activities Committee met on May 15 at the home of Judy Tanzer. Thank you, Judy.

**District Convention update** - Banquet tickets for the Saturday, September 17th banquet at the Peabody Marriott will be available at the May 27th meeting. I encourage all Birka members and friends to attend to support your lodge and the District. Warren Johnson will be providing music for dancing. Please contact me or any member of the Convention/Activities Committee for more information.

**Dues notice:** Effective **January 1, 2012** yearly dues per person will be increased to **\$25**. Due to increases in Grand and District Lodge per capita taxes and increases in Community House rent, a motion was made to increase the yearly dues. The motion will be discussed at the lodge meetings and notices printed in the upcoming newsletters for those unable to attend a meeting.

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

**For those who have not paid the 2011 dues of \$20**, please mail your dues to: Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Lane, Boxford, MA 01921, payable to: Birka Lodge No. 732.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming meetings in May and June. Come and support your lodge and it's officers. The new program booklets for 2011-2012 will be available at the lodge meetings.

As a reminder, please check Birka's website, the web address is found on the front page of the newsletter. The website is maintained by Richard Lilja. Thank you, Richard.

In closing, I would like to thank the lodge for re-electing me as your Chairman for the coming year. Thank you to all the officers who have taken an office for the coming year. Your presence is requested to give encouragement to your officers and make more secure the future of our Order.

Best wishes for a healthy and safe summer. Glad Midsommar! Happy Summer!

In truth and unity,

Linda Christianson, PDM, Chairman

# Happy Birthday!

## MAY

1 William Guidara	22 Linda Reidlinger
13 Richard Lilja	25 Al Reidlinger
17 Linda Christianson	

## JUNE

3 Alan Clough	12 Judy Tanzer
4 Ernest Sandberg	17 Richard Johns
4 Ann DeLacey	28 Ellen Glover

## JULY

3 Nancy Hayward	15 Nancy Olsson
8 Amy Hawkes	16 Richard Sunman
11 Audrey DiPillo	24 William Ghen
13 Pamela Petronzio	28 Sandra DiPillo
14 June Guidara	

## AUGUST

11 Denise Esperson	20 Janet Muller
16 Polly Berggren	24 Lara Collins
17 Matilda Halloran	26 Ambia O. Smith
17 Gordon Hayward	26 Milton Leitner

## REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

### MAY 27th- "May Basket Auction"

Judy Tanzer, Chairman  
Linda Christianson  
Mike & Andrea Swanson  
Sue & Mike Bagnulo  
Linda Boylan  
Lois & Ed Johnson

### JUNE 25th - "Midsommar Strawberry Fest"

Karin Caves, Co-Chair  
Matilda Halloran, Co-Chair  
Eva Ghika  
Carol Landoni  
Ann-Marie Breuer

## COMING EVENTS

May 27th-Monthly Mtg. ,7:30 - May Basket Auction  
June 12 - Activities Cte. Mtg., Ann Marie Breuer  
June 25th - Monthly Mtg. 7:30 - Strawberry Festival  
August 9th - Vasa Day, SAC Park, Shrewsbury  
Sept. 16-18, 2011 - District #2 Convention

## ....'round the Lodge....

Don't forget the 110th Convention of Massachusetts District Lodge No. 2, Vasa Order of America, sponsored by Birka Lodge No. 732 that will be held September 16-18 at the Peabody Marriott, Centennial Drive, Peabody.

Grand Lodge Deputy and District Deputy Dawn Briggs and District Master Larry Stidsen and their team did their usual great job installing our 2011-2012 Lodge Officers on April 29th.

Sheila and Richard Sunman recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a surprise party given by their three children, David, Marcia and Ricky and by all their other family members. Congratulations to a great couple.

Linda Boylan is taking a course in Pre-Calculus II at the North Shore Community College.

"Horse Crooner", Sharon Linnea Smith, sang to the horses at the 16th Annual "Equine Expo & Paraphernalia Sale" hosted by the Essex County Trail Assoc. on May 7th at the Arena Bldg., Topsfield Fairgrounds. Sharon sang at 9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Want to go motorcycling? One of these years Kari Ashness (who loves motorcycling with her husband and friends) will bring her bike to a Birka meeting and take you out!

June Guidara has become Chairman of the Morgensolen Lodge in Beverly with the aim to increase membership. The Guidara family is exceeding itself in travel, with Italy in April, Idaho to see grandchildren, Las Vegas and to Bermuda by ship in June.

It was fun to see Andrea Swanson after an absence of several months caring for her mom in Boston.

Due to extensive lawn renovations, Eva and Vinnie Ghika will not be having their annual Midsommar Picnic in June. We will all miss this popular event.

The Hamilton-Wenham Harvest Festival will be held in Hamilton on Sat. September 24 from 9-2.

## NEW MEMBERS

Our congratulations to the following new members who were initiated at recent meetings:  
Kari (Karyn) Ashness, Sharon Mikutel, Ann DeLacey, Sven Hyberts, Lisa Winsor and Marlys Mahajan.

## NEW MEMBERS



Kari Ashness, Sharon Mikutel, Ann Delacey

Kari lives in Hampstead, NH with her husband and 2 children, Danika, 14 and Derek, 12. She works part time researching IT infrastructures of fortune 1000 companies. She's an avid fan of her kids and their varied sports teams and likes to garden and ride her Harley. Kari has visited Sweden where she successfully found relatives.

Sharon is a fifth grade public school teacher and a Sunday School teacher at her church in New Hampshire. She is of Swedish descent and the youngest of 4 children. She was married in 2010 and honeymooned in Spain and France. She and her husband have two cats, Carrot and Shiraz and a dog Kayla. They look forward to buying a house in NH.

Ann lives in Wakefield and currently works at Copyright Clearance Center in Danvers as a Rightsholder Relations Representative. She had previously been employed at the Addison Wesley Publishing Co. for over 29 years as the Director of Manufacturing and Inventory. Her grandfather emigrated from Linkoping, Sweden to Rockport in the 1890's. She enjoys reading, gardening, antiques and spending time with her family. She looks forward to travel and fun in retirement

## Scandinavian Birthday Traditions

How do our Scandinavian cousins celebrate birthdays? In Denmark the people fly the country's flag outside their home to signify that someone in the family is having a birthday. Gifts are placed around a child's bed while they are sleeping, thus, presents will be seen first thing. A Norwegian child dances in front of the class with a friend while the rest of the students sing. Norway's national flag is displayed outside the home. When an important person has a birthday, the streets are decorated with flags. Swedes like to use their national flag to decorate on birthdays and special occasions. Swedish children are often served breakfast in bed. Cakes are similar to pound cakes decorated with marzipan.

## NEW MEMBER



Sven Hyberts

Sven was born in Malmö, but grew up in a small village in Skåne. As a teenager he liked to play chess and ride a motorcycle. In college he studied Engineering Chemistry and then switched to Engineering Physics. After being awarded a stipend to study abroad in Zurich, he came in contact with a group that "invented" a new way of determining structures of molecules like proteins. He continued with this group in Ann Arbor and received his Ph.D. He moved with the group to Boston and Harvard Medical School in 1990 and married Karolyn the following year. After trying his luck in a software company, he is now back in the lab at Harvard Medical School. They bought a home in Tewksbury and have two daughters, Monica age 18 and Emma 15.

## LODGE OFFICERS 2011 - 2012

Installing District officers at our April 29th meeting were District Deputy Dawn Briggs and her team.

Chairman	Linda Chrstianson
Vice Chairman	Gus Blomgren
Recording Secretary	Judy Tanzer
Corresponding Secretary	Open
Financial Secretary	Linda Boylan
Treasurer	Michael Swanson
Past Chairman	Ann-Marie Breuer, PC
Chaplain	Andrea Swanson
Master of Ceremonies	Denise Esperson
Assistant M. of Ceremonies	Susan Bagnulo
Cultural Leader	Ann-Marie Breuer, PC
Inner Guard	Michael Bagnulo
Outer Guard	William Ghen
Trustees	Michael Swanson, '12
	Ed Johnson, '13
	Susan Bagnulo, '14
Auditors	Andrea Holmgren, '12
	William Ghen, '13
	Pamela Petronzio, '14
Musician	Bob Landoni
Newsletter Editor	Lois Johnson
Membership Co-chairmen	Linda & Lois
Vasa Archives Rep. &	Lois Johnson
District Newsletter Corresp.	

# Installation of Birka Lodge Officers - April, 2011



God Svensk Mat!



Dawn Briggs, Grand Lodge Deputy and District Deputy, installs Linda Christianson for her Ninth term as Chairman of Birka Lodge # 732, as Larry Stidsen, District Master, looks on.

## **BIRKA BANNER**

Birka Lodge # 732  
Vasa Order of America

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

## FIRST CLASS

