

BIRKA BANNER

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

MAY- JUNE 2012

Chairman's Message

Greetings to all! The April 27th Installation of Officers was well attended with a total of 45 members and guests. The following dignitaries attended: District Master, Marlene Patient; 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: Michael Bagnulo, District Trustee; Shirley French, PDM/District Cultural Leader; Linda Boylan, District Executive Board Member; Ken Briggs, District Executive Board Member; Michael Swanson, District Auditor and PGLD/PDM Marian Parco. Also attending from Spiran Lodge No. 98 in Rockport was Chairman, Eric Rask, and his wife, Carolyn.

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. Thank you, thank you to all! Also, thank you to the March Refreshment Committee for the delicious food we enjoyed.

At the **May 25** Meeting, we will be having our Memorial Service to remember our departed members who have died this past year. Following the meeting, we will have a May Basket Auction. Please bring a decorated Spring Basket or Gift Bag with plants, flowers, etc. Be as creative and interesting as you choose.

Mark your calendars for the very popular, **Gokotta, Saturday, June 9** from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Patton Park, Hamilton. We will have a visit from our Swedish Gok (cuckoo bird), signifying the beginning of Spring. Please bring your own lawn chairs and small tables and light breakfast and a contribution of bagels, muffins, fruit, etc. for the common table. The lodge will provide coffee. This has always been a popular event – please plan on attending.

The final meeting before the summer break will be **June 22** 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. Please plan on attending.

Midsommar at the Ghika's, Hampton, NH will be held on **Saturday, June 30** at 2:00 p.m. A separate flyer with further details and directions will be mailed in June. Save the date!

The lodge has planned a summer outing for **Sunday, August 26 at 3:00 p.m.** A Viking/Pirate ship cruise will be departing from Rockport. Sign up sheet with cost and further details will be available at the May and June meetings. Please mark your calendars for this fun event! Family and friends are invited.

The next Activities Committee Meeting will be held on **May 20 at 3:00 p.m.** at the home of Gus and Roz Blomgren in Methuen. All officers and members are invited to attend. The Activities Committee met on April 15 at the home of Andrea and Mike Swanson. Thank you, Andrea and Mike.

Reminder: *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. Each member is entitled to receive up to \$3,000. If you would like an application, please contact Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer.

Please notify Recording Secretary, 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 2012 dues of \$25, please mail your dues to:
Financial Secretary, Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Lane, Boxford, MA 01921, payable to: Birka Lodge No. 732.

If you have not been able to attend a lodge meeting this year, it is not too late. We miss you. There are 2 lodge meetings left before the summer break in May and June. I hope to see you soon. Come and support your lodge and it's officers. New program booklets for 2012-2013 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.

Thank you also to Gus and Roz Blomgren for preparing the Raffle baskets for the March and April meetings.

Lastly, I would like to thank Lois and Ed Johnson. Lois and Ed have served as editors of the Birka Banner and will be moving, during the summer, to New Jersey to be close to their daughter and her family. The lodge will be needing a new editor. If you are interested, please contact either myself or Lois and Ed. Thank you, Lois and Ed for your dedication and service.

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!

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

MAY

1 William Guidara	20 Christine Kimball
13 Richard Lilja	22 Linda Reidlinger
17 Linda Christianson	25 Al Reidlinger

JUNE

4 Ernest Sandberg	17 Richard Johns
4 Ann DeLacey	28 Ellen Greenberg
8 Janet Dawe	
12 Judy Tanzer	

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 25th- "May Basket Auction"

Judy Tanzer, Chairman
Linda Christianson
Mike & Andrea Swanson
Sue & Mike Bagnulo
Kari Ashness
Lois & Ed Johnson
Ann DeLacey
Sharon Mikutel

JUNE 22nd - "Midsommar Strawberry Fest"

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

COMING EVENTS

May 25 Monthly Mtg., 7:30 - May Basket Auction
June 9 Gokotta Breakfast, Patton Park - 9:00 AM
June 22 Monthly Mtg. 7:30 - Strawberry Festival
June 30 Midsommar Picnic, Ghikas, Hampton, NH
Aug. 26 Viking/ Pirate Sail, Rockport, 3:00 PM

Your choice -" BANNER" by mail or e-mail?

If you haven't yet, check www.birka732.com and download and print a recent issue of the Banner. A big advantage is that the photos are in color. You can arrange to have each issue sent to your web address and we save the postage. Our Webmaster, Rich Lilja, is doing a great job, please call him.

Congratulations to Ellen Sandberg, whose name was pulled to get a free additional year of Birka membership from our "pay 2012 dues by the end of 2011 campaign." Ellen and other members paid their 2012 dues early. If YOU haven't yet, please write a check and send it to Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Ln., Boxford 01921 to remain a member of our lodge. ALL MEMBERS, please bring your membership cards to the next meeting, so Linda can update the back with "paid through."

Warren Johnson, Birka accordionist, has just returned from visiting his daughter Valerie in Australia, for his yearly 3-month trip. Lucky him.

We are sad to announce the death of our member, Alan Clough of New Hampshire. Our condolences to his wife Jean.

Diane Forsstrom, a new member, is recuperating nicely after recent surgery.

Sonja Dahlgren Pryor, of Ipswich, presented the "Honors Youth Choir" of "Chorus North Shore" in Rockport in April. The 41 member children's choir presented a program of songs in celebration of spring, sea shanties and music by Mozart, Aaron Copland, Handel and John Rutter.

The "Honors Youth Choir" provides children, aged 10 through high school, the opportunity to learn and perform choral masterworks.

Sonja, a Birka member, is now in her 50th year as Music Director of the "Chorus North Shore" which began its career 80 years ago.

Audrey DiPillo and family, including husband and three daughters, will be leaving on a weeks trip to Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons in June.

Janet Muller and Frank will be cruising to Bermuda for a week-long trip in June.

Lois and Ed Johnson want to thank everyone for their help and co-operation during their years as Editors of the Banner. Great way to meet new members.

NEW MEMBERS



**CHRISTINE KIMBALL AND
DIANE FORSSTROM**

CHRISTINE KIMBALL'S grandparents came to Cape Cod from Malmo and Stockholm. I guess they didn't have the energy to go to Minnesota like so many of the Swedes. When they came over, they decided they were going to become Americans, so unfortunately I was unable to sing the national anthem at my installation. They had a lovely farm on the Cape.

I have four sons and a daughter. I enjoy cooking, painting with oils and playing with my two big blonde Afghan Hounds. I am a devout Christian.

DIANE FORSSTROM was born in Beverly to a Swedish and Finnish family and joined Thule Lodge #96 at age 15. My aunt and uncle served as Mass. District Masters during the 1960's. I graduated from Beverly High School and my uncle awarded me a Vasa Lodge Scholarship during Awards Night. Our family visited Sweden in 2004. I danced with the Birka Scandinavian Dancers under the direction of Ann-Marie Breuer and Linda Christianson, Assistant Director. Recently I began selling straw decorations and candles for the Birka Jul Fair.

I love reading books, gardening, needlepoint and enjoy Beverly events. My mother grew up as a Swedish-American Overberg. My Dad grew up in a Finnish-American home in Peabody. Scandinavians have been in my entire life with Vasa ties attached.

MIDSOMMAR PICNIC

Eva and Vinnie Ghika will be hosting their annual Svensk Midsommar Fest on Saturday, June 30th at 2:00 pm at their home in Hampton, NH. Enjoy a fun day with your Birka friends, lots of Swedish and American foods, games for the whole family plus dressing the Maypole as well as dancing around it. Bring your own chair and something for the common table. Coffee and soda will be provided. There will be a fishing pond with goodies for the children as well as a kiddie pool. A flyer will be sent out.

LODGE OFFICERS 2012 - 2013

Installing District officers at our 2012 meeting were District Deputy Dawn Briggs and her team.

Chairman	Linda Chrstianson
Vice Chairman	Gus Blomgren
Recording Secretary	Judy Tanzer
Corresponding Secretary	Ann DeLacey
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 Edmund Johnson '13 Susan Bagnulo, '14 Andrea Holmgren, '12 William Ghen, '13 Pamela Petronzio, '14

Auditors

Appointed Positions:

Musician	Bob Landoni
Newsletter Editor	
Membership Co-chairmen	
Vasa Archives Rep. &	
District Newsletter Corresp.	



"FORMIDABLE"

Have you ever thought of the fun it would have been to sail with the *Pirates* ?

We are planning an afternoon sail aboard the Northeast's only traditional square-rigged tall ship on Sunday August 26th at 3:00 PM. The tall ship "Formidable" takes passengers on a 90-minute tour out of Tuna Wharf in Rockport. Come dressed in pirate or viking garb. Crew members will hoist the sails and portray maritime life during the Colonial Days. A flyer describing the details will be sent out later.

Installation of Birka Lodge Officers - April, 2012



Dawn Briggs, Grand Lodge Deputy, installs Birka Lodge officers.



Marlene Patient, District Master, and Dawn Briggs, Grand Lodge Deputy, with Linda Christianson

As usual, the Swedish food table was most delicious.



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Birka Lodge # 732
Vasa Order of America

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

FIRST CLASS

