



Birka Banner

Birka Lodge, Vasa Order of America

MAY - JUNE 2018

Message from the Chair

Greetings to all! The **April 27th** Installation of Officers was well attended with 40 members and guests present. The following dignitaries attended: District Deputy Dawn Briggs, PDM/PGLD, who conducted the Installation ceremonies along with assistance from Marlene Patient, PDM, Assistant District Secretary, Grand Lodge Activities Director and Grand Lodge Convention Delegate. Also attending from the District Lodge were: Herman Lilja, Vice District Master and his wife, Ann; Lynne Martin, District Treasurer; Ann-Marie Breuer, District Chaplain; Judith Peterson, District Executive Board Member; Linda Boylan, District Trustee; Michael Swanson, District Auditor; Richard Lilja, District Master of Ceremonies; Eric Blomgren, District Inner Guard and Greg Blomgren, District Outer Guard.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the April Installation, especially with food and setting up the hall, and all who helped in the kitchen. Everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments that were served. We certainly have some great cooks at Birka Lodge! We received rave comments from our guests on the wonderful food tables of sandwiches, desserts, etc. Thank you, thank you to all! Thank you also to Gus and Roz Blomgren for donating the Raffle basket, which raised \$104 for the Lodge. In addition, thank you to June and Sharon Guidara, who donated a large container of Danish butter cookies for the second raffle item. Thanks also to our musician, Bob Landoni, for the special Swedish music.

Also, thank you to the March Refreshment Committee for the delicious food we enjoyed at that meeting. Thank you, too, to the speaker, Bob Purzyki, who gave an interesting presentation about the China trade and its New England connections.

At the **May 25 Meeting**, we will have a Memorial Service to remember our departed members who have died this past year. Judy Tanzer will chair this Refreshment Committee. The cultural program will be a "*Surprise*" Program. Please come!

The final meeting before the summer break, with a Midsommar theme, will be **June 22**. The Refreshment Committee, co-chaired by Karin Caves and Matilda Halloran, will provide the traditional Strawberry Shortcake dessert. Cultural Leader, Ann-Marie Breuer will be presenting a cultural program.

The Lodge is planning a summer outing to Mystic Seaport, Connecticut, on **Sunday, August 19**. We have hired a bus to transport our guests and us. A sign-up sheet will be available at the May and June meetings. Family and friends are invited.

The next Activities Committee Meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 10, at 3:00 p.m.** A host for this meeting is still needed. All officers and members are invited to attend.

If you have been unable to attend a Lodge meeting this year, it is not too late. We miss you. There are two Lodge meetings remaining, in May and June, before the summer break. I hope to see you

soon. Come and support your Lodge and its officers. New program booklets for 2018–2019 will be available at these meetings. Thank you to Linda Boylan for providing them.

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. I appreciate the help and support of all lodge members. 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



2018–2019 Birka Lodge Program of Events

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. at the Hamilton-Wenham Community House unless otherwise noted

May 25, 2018	Surprise Program and Memorial Service
June 22	Midsommar Strawberry Festival
August 19 @ 9:00am	Summer Outing Bus trip to Viking Exhibit at Mystic Seaport Museum, CT
September 28	Harvest Fest and Auction
October 26 @ 6:30pm	Halloween Potluck Supper and Party followed by the regular meeting
November 16	Scandinavian Craft Night
November 17 (Saturday)	Lucia Rehearsal (11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.)
November 24	Jul Fair (Julmarknad) 9 a.m., Hamilton-Wenham Community House
January 6, 2019 @ 3pm	Tree Plundering, Hamilton-Wenham Community House
January 25, 2019	Viking Night
February 22, 2019	Guest Speaker
March 22, 2019	Påsk (Easter Celebration)
April 26, 2019	Installation of Officers

Two New Members Initiated



The Lodge has initiated a new member at each of the last two meetings. In March, Marcia Sunman, daughter of members Sheila and Richard Sunman, joined the Lodge. Then in April, Aila Colburn joined. Marcia lives in Newbury, MA, and Aila, although born in Sweden, now lives in Salisbury, MA. Be sure to introduce yourself next time you see them, if you haven't done so already. Welcome Marcia! Welcome Aila!



Aila Colburn and Denise Esperson at Aila's initiation

Hearty Birka Birthday wishes to these members:



... in May

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

... in June

4 Ann Delacey 7 Richard Johns
8 Janet Dawe 27 Aila Colburn
12 Judy Tanzer 28 Ellen Greenberg

... in July

2 Nancy Forsstrom-Gillespie
3 Nancy Hayward 15 John Caves
8 Jamie Tanzer 16 Richard Sunman
11 Audrey DiPillo 24 Bill Ghen
14 June Guidara 28 Sandra DiPillo
15 Nancy Olson

... in August

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

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES

Surprise Evening
May 26
Judy Tanzer, chair
Ann DeLacey
Mike and Sue Bagnulo
Linda Christianson
Mary Anne Hawkes
Marlys Mahajan

June 23 Midsommar Strawberry Festival

Karin Caves, co-chair

Matilda Halloran, co-chair

Eva Ghika

... 'round the lodge

Congratulations to all Birka Lodge officers for the 2018–2019 season. All of last year's officers are returning to the same positions this year. Thank you all for stepping up and keeping the Lodge running smoothly!

Summer Outing It's off to the Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut to see the new Viking Exhibit. We have hired a bus to take us there for the day on **August 19**. We will leave Hamilton at 9 a.m. and leave the Museum at 4 p.m. Travel time is about 2½ hours. Check out the highlights of this exhibit at www.mysticseaport.org

Dues If you have not yet paid your 2018–2019 dues of \$25, please do so quickly. Mail a check, payable to Birka Lodge 732, to Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Lane, Boxford, MA 01921.

Sick Benefit Fund If you have been a paid Vasa member for five years or more, you can receive assistance with medical/dental expenses from the Grand Lodge. Each member is entitled to receive up to \$3,000. Please contact Recording Secretary Judy Tanzer for an application.

Website Remember to check [Birka Lodge's website](#) for the latest postings about our Lodge. You will also get to see the latest Banner in full color, and twice as many pages! A big Birka thanks to Richard Lilja for maintaining this site for us.

Address Changing? Please notify Recording Secretary Judy Tanzer of any address changes, either by writing her at 3 Anthony Road, Hamilton, MA 01982, or by phoning her at 978-468-7407. Thank you.

Birka Banner is a bi-monthly newsletter, published by Birka Lodge 732, Vasa Order of America, and on the web at www.birka732.com

Linda Christianson, Chairperson
Marlys Mahajan, Editor
Richard Lilja, Webmaster



Hamilton
2^{town} PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION
Wenham

2018

Community BLOCK PARTY

at dusk

Celebrate
THE TOWN OF HAMILTON'S 225TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY JUNE 23 { **PATTON PARK**
from **4-9 PM**

*****RAIN DATE: JUNE 24*****

Decorate your bikes! BEFORE THE PARADE FROM 3-4PM AT THE HW LIBRARY. *Decorations provided.*

MUSIC • KIDS ACTIVITIES • FOOD TRUCKS

\$20 WRISTBANDS AVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL RIDES AND ACTIVITIES
\$10 TODDLER WRISTBANDS – 2 AND UNDER

OPENING CEREMONY • PATRIOTIC TRIBUTE • BIKE PARADE

Awsome RAFFLES

SalemFive
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



A collaboration of
Hamilton-Wenham Recreation

*Thank you to the many local organizations
for supporting this community event.*



FREE

5PM

2018 CONCERT SCHEDULE

June 17 **Overdrive - *The Best in Brass Rock***
June 24 **Squeezebox Stompers - *Zydeco, Cajun, Blues and Good Ol' Roadhouse Rock 'n Roll***

July 1 **73 Duster - *Rock, Reggae & Blues***
July 8 **Cold Spring Harbor Billy Joel Tribute Band**
Sponsored by Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary
July 15 **The BackTrack Band - *Music of the 50's, 60's and Beyond***
Sponsored by Family Medicine Associates
July 22 **Decades of Rock - *Classic Rock and Kickin' Blues***
Sponsored by Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary
July 29 **Soul Rebel Project - *Reggae and Caribbean Music***

Aug 5 **Studio Two – *New England's Best Beatles Tribute Band***
Sponsored by Anthony and Dodge, PC



INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER SINCE 1820.

GORDON CONWELL
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Special thanks to the First Congregational Church of Hamilton and Wenham Village Improvement Society

For more information, visit communityhouse.org or



RAIN VENUE - ASBURY GROVE TABERNACLE - Lee Park Hamilton 01982