

BIRKA BANNER

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

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2010

Chairman's Message

Greetings to all Birka members. It is that time again when Birka's biggest fund raising event is soon here. The lodge needs the help and support of all members to make the fair as successful an event as it always has been. If you have not already signed up to help at the fair, the sign up sheet will be available at the November 19 meeting or you can call me. We will also need help setting up and decorating the Community House on Friday evening, November 26 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The tables are always quite busy when the fair first opens and additional help is appreciated. We are also requesting contributions for the **Grabs Table**, a value of between \$2.00-5.00. Items should be new. Please wrap in holiday paper. We are in need of gifts for boy/girl/woman/man and please mark each package. Home baked goods are also requested for the **Bake Table** and should be priced beforehand. **Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer. Please copy, post and distribute to family, friends, work colleagues, etc.**

Many of our lodge members and table chairs have been hard at work for months preparing for the fair. We have imported gift items, linens, jewelry, dala horses, candles and candle holders, etc. from Sweden as well as a variety of imported foods for your Christmas and Holiday table. The Lucia procession will take place at 11:30 a.m. Please mark the date and come and support your lodge. I look forward to seeing many of you there. It would be great if you have a folk costume or Scandinavian sweater to wear on the day of the fair!

A reminder to Table Chairs and other workers: Please refrain from taking down your displays until after 2:30 PM, when the Fair has ended, no matter what degree of traffic we have. It is distracting to last-minute shoppers if we are closing down the displays rather than serving our customers. Thank you.

At the meeting on September 24, the Refreshment Committee, co-chaired by Pam Petronzio and Audrey DiPillo, and their committee, provided delicious refreshments. We also welcomed new member Sharon Linnea Smith to Birka Lodge. Following the meeting, we had a wonderful video on Iceland. The Halloween Potluck Supper on October 22 was also well-attended and everyone enjoyed the delicious casseroles, etc. and desserts brought by the great cooks in the lodge. Thank you to Janet Muller and her committee for coordinating and setting up the hall. No one went home hungry! Thank you to everyone. Prizes were awarded for interesting and fun costumes worn by our members and children. Thank you to all who donated the prizes. Thank you to Gus and Roz Blomgren for providing the Halloween raffle.

The **November 19th** meeting will be the final meeting for the year and will feature a cultural program of Christmas crafts by Ann-Marie Breuer. Thank you to Andrea and Mike Swanson and their committee, who will be providing the refreshments for the meeting. Nomination and election of officers for the 2011 term will be held. Please contact me if you do not plan on remaining in your current office. Phone number: 781-933-4949. Thank you. The lodge needs your participation.

The **Lucia Rehearsal** will be held on **Sunday, November 21st** at 3:00 p.m. at the Community House. Our Lucia this year is Sonja Williams, granddaughter of Nancy and Gordon Hayward. New children are welcome. Please contact me if you are interested.

The first event for 2011 is our annual **Children's Tree Plundering Party** which will be held, Sunday, January 9 at 3:00 p.m. at the **Community House**. Music, storytelling, dancing around the Christmas tree, gifts, refreshments, and a visit from Tomten are planned. Additional information and cost will be mailed out in early December.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **November 19th** meeting as well as at the **Christmas Fair on Saturday, November 27**. Your presence is requested to support and encourage your lodge and its officers.

Best wishes for a peaceful and joyful Holiday season. "God Jul och Gott Nytt Ar!"

In truth and unity,

Linda Christianson, PDM, Chairman

Happy Birthday!

NOVEMBER

3	Jean Clough	19	Sonja Pryor
4	Linda Boylan	24	Ron Holmgren
5	Joanne Emerson	25	Jane Atherton
8	Andrea Holmgren	25	Marilyn Sandberg
16	Karen MacMillan	30	Maggie Starrak

DECEMBER

1	Bob Landoni	10	Richard Johnson
3	Warren Johnson	11	Alison L- Wickey
3	Marilyn Seaburg	16	Gunnar Berggren
3	Carl Wickstrom	17	Cynthia Olsen
4	Ann Taylor	19	Andrea Swanson
5	Gus Blomgren		
9	Sharon Guidara		
9	Mary Anne Hawkes		

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

November 19- Craft Evening

Andrea & Mike Swanson, Chairmen
Judy Tanzer
Karin Caves
June & Sharon Guidara
Sheila & Richard Sunman
Ann Taylor
Marilyn & Ernie Sandberg

Schedule of Upcoming Events

Nov. 19 - 7:30 pm. - Lodge Meeting - Craft Evening

Nov. 27 - 9:00 - 2:30 - Annual Jul Fair,
Community House, Hamilton

Jan. 9 - 3:00 pm - Children's Tree Plundering Party,
Community House

Jan. 28 - 7:30 pm - Lodge Meeting - Skane Night

District Lodge Convention

The 110th Convention of the District Lodge of Mass. No 2, Vasa Order of America, will be held at the Peabody Marriott on September 16-18, 2011, hosted by Birka Lodge.

....'round the lodge....

DUES ARE DUE!

Each member who prepays their 2011 dues before December 21st will have their name go into a drawing for an additional year of membership - Free. Checks to Linda Boylan, 12 Upton Lane, Boxford, MA 01921.

We draped the charter in memory of Charter Member Linnea Christianson who passed away in July. Long may her memory live among us.

We wish Charlie Hawkes all the best following his recent illnesses. He would love to receive your cards and best wishes.

Our lodge has long been known for its excellent cooks and consistently good food at our meetings and that being said how could we outdo Janet Muller and her committee for their share in the October Halloween/Hexan's Potluck supper. Wow! Some of these recipes should be submitted to the Birka web site under "Recipe Favorites". How about it?



Denise Esperson and ?? ??

New Member



Sharon Linnea Smith

We want to welcome our new member, Sharon Linnea Smith. Sharon lives in Byfield and is a Renaissance person. She is a Reiki Master teacher who also uses her voice to "Balance Energy" in people, animals and places. She is an artist multi-media. Author of "Within Every Woman is a Little Girl Embracing the Universe" celebrating women healing their lives. On the side she sells Shaklee nontoxic and biodegradable cleaning, nutritional, weight management and environmentally safe products.

Havingsten, the Sea Stallion from Glendalough



In the 9th century, AC, the Vikings invaded Ireland and founded the city of Dublin. Now, 1200 years later, a scientific expedition of 65 modern Vikings sailed recently from Scandinavia to Ireland on board the world's largest reconstruction of a Viking Age warship: "Havhingsten", the Sea Stallion from Glendalough.

In 1962 archaeologists found the remains of five different Viking ships at the bottom of the Roskilde Fjord, near the village of Skuldelev, in Denmark. The

largest of those five ships was one of the longest Viking warships ever found. Measuring 30 metres long and 3.8 metres wide, the vessel was designed to transport a large crew of between 60 to 90 Vikings. Thanks to warships like those, the Scandinavians were able to gain military control of many parts of Europe during the Viking Age.

Upon scientific analysis of the timber, it revealed that the longest ship, named "Skuldelev 2", had actually been built in Dublin in the 11th century at the time when the Irish city was a Viking settlement.

In 2000, with the financial help of the Tuborg Foundation, the Viking Ship Museum started a project to reconstruct the "Skuldelev 2" warship. During four years, more than 600,000 visitors at the museum watched the six boat builders use the same tools, materials, and building methods that the Vikings would have used to build the original ship. In 2004 the reconstruction was launched in Roskilde by Queen Margrethe of Denmark, who christened the ship "Havhingsten fra Glendalough" (Sea Stallion from Glendalough).

The next three years were spent testing the boat in Scandinavian waters, recruiting and training the crew, and preparing the details of the expedition to Ireland. At last, in 2007, the expedition departed for Dublin, where the original Viking ship was built in the 11th century.

The expedition crossed the same waters and places that the Vikings did a thousand years ago: Denmark, southwest Norway, the Orkney Islands, west of Scotland, the Irish Sea and Dublin.

This time the ship will be very welcome in Ireland. The ship will stay at the National Museum as the centerpiece of a Viking exhibition before her return journey to Denmark.

Sweden a low wage country

Sweden has the lowest wages in Scandinavia. An industrial worker in Denmark earns almost SEK 80 per hour more than a Swede, according to a compilation by the industrial trade unions. "For a long time Sweden was first, but the others have caught up. In the case of Norway, their currency is worth more, and they also have oil. Sweden was passed by Norway in the beginning of the 1980's, and in the beginning of the 1990's even Denmark and Finland moved ahead of Sweden in wage levels. From having the highest wages in the 1970's Sweden has slipped to a middle position among western European countries".

ANNUAL JUL FAIR

Our annual Jul Fair will again be held at the Community House in Hamilton on Saturday November 27th from 9:00 to 2:30. Everyone seems to love the wonderful cozy atmosphere and, of course all the beautiful Scandinavian decorations, foods, especially the Swedish coffee bread, and enjoying the Holiday music. We will continue to serve the delicious egg, sill and cucumber sandwiches.

There will be imported gift items, linens, dala horses, candles and candleholders, etc from Sweden as well as a variety of imported foods for your Christmas and Holiday tables.

Our Lucia presentation will take place at 11:30 with Sonja Williams as Lucia. Sonja is the granddaughter of Nancy and Gordon Hayward of No. Reading, long-time members. She has participated in the Lucia pageant for many years.

Julgransplundring 2011



Birka Lodge's annual Children's Tree Plundering Party will take place on Sunday, January 9th, 2011, at the Community House in Hamilton.

Traditional activities include singing and dancing around the tree, refreshments, and a visit from Tomten with a gift for your child(ren)!

Additional information will be mailed in early December.

BIRKA BANNER

Birka Lodge # 732
Vasa Order of America

Lois Johnson, Editor
51 Pickman Rd.
Beverly, MA

FIRST CLASS





SWEDISH YULE FAIR

(Traditional Jul Marknad)

Saturday, November 27

9:00 am-2:30 pm

Hamilton/Wenham Community House

Bay Road-Route 1-A

FREE ADMISSION



Lucia Bride of Light at 11:45 am
Scandinavian & American Holiday Music
Glögg & Pepparkakor, Open-face Sandwiches
Coffee & Coffee Bread, Home Baked Goodies
Scandinavian Foods, Linens, Ornaments, Cards,
Wrapping Paper, Candles & Holders, Rings,
Dala Horses, Straw Goats, Jul Tomtes

VÄLKOMMEN

BIRKA LODGE NO.732 OF HAMILTON, MA.

Vasa Order of America

A Non-Profit Fraternal Benefit Association

