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Birka Banner

Birka Lodge, Vasa Order of America

September - October 2018

Message from the Chair

Greetings to all and welcome back from your summer vacations. I hope everyone enjoyed their vacations to travel, visit, relax and return refreshed. It's hard to believe that summer is over, and it's time to plan fall activities at Birka Lodge. The summer, with its record-breaking temperatures and high humidity, makes the cool fall weather very welcome this year.

Thank you to the members of the June Refreshment Committee: Karin and John Caves, Matilda Halloran and Eva Ghika. Delicious strawberry and peach shortcake was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday, August 19, Lodge members traveled by bus to the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, Connecticut, to view a Viking Age exhibit on display from Uppsala University in Sweden. A further report will be given at the September meeting. I was not able to attend, but was told that the attendees really enjoyed it. It was a perfect summer day for the event.

The first meeting of the fall will be held on **September 28** at 7:30 p.m. We will have our annual Harvest Auction. Please bring fall plants, garden vegetables, flowers, etc. to auction off. We will also have a Cultural Report from Cultural Leader, Ann-Marie Breuer. An evening you won't want to miss! A great time to fellowship with Birka members and catch up on summer vacations.

We will also be draping the charter for our dear friend, Leif Kristiansson, PGLD/PDM and member of Nordic Lodge, who died on August 1. Please remember his wife, Siw, in your thoughts.

The **October 26 meeting** is our annual Halloween/Hexan's Potluck Supper at **6:30 p.m.** Everyone attending is asked to bring a main dish, salad or dessert. If your dish needs to be heated in the oven, please arrive between 6:00 and 6:15 p.m. We would like to begin at 6:30 p.m. The lodge will provide coffee and cold drinks. This has been a very successful event, and we have some great cooks at the lodge. Dessert will be served following the meeting. **Costumes are encouraged.** Use your imagination. Children are welcome. Come in costume for the Potluck! Who knows who or what you'll meet!

At the September and October meetings, the sign up sheet for volunteers for the **Christmas Fair, November 24**, at the **Community House** will be available. As always, we need help with setting up the night before, clean up, publicity, and booth help. We also need donations for grabs, home baked goods and so on. This is Birka Lodge's major fund raising event of the year and the help of all Lodge members is needed to make this year's Fair as successful as in past years.

The date of the next Activities Committee meeting will be in October. The date will be discussed at the September Lodge meeting. I encourage all officers and members to attend to help plan our Christmas Fair and upcoming events.

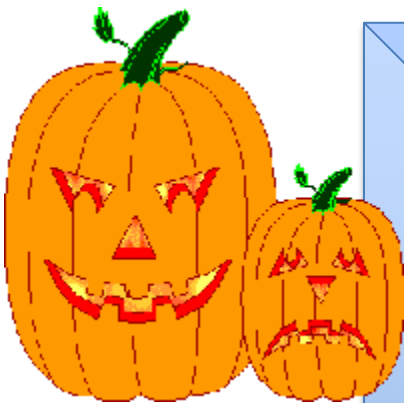
On Saturday, September 22, the Scandinavian Living Center will sponsor its fifth annual Nordic Bites Food Fest from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. There will be food stations, Scandinavian vendors, a Viking encampment, Scandinavian music and much more. I encourage Birka members to attend and fellowship with other Scandinavians. For updates, check the Scandinavian Living Center website at: www.scandicenter.org . See the panel below for full details.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the **September 28 meeting** and the **October 26 Potluck Supper**. Please mark the dates! Come and support your Lodge and its officers. New program booklets for 2018–2019 are available at these Lodge meetings.

Happy Autumn! Your presence is requested to give encouragement to your officers and make more secure the future of our Order. Welcome back!

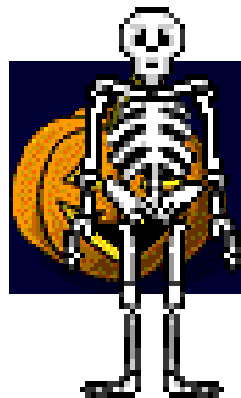
In Truth and Unity,

Linda Christianson, PDM, Chairman



SCANDINAVIAN LIVING CENTER FAIR
206 WALTHAM ST, NEWTON, MA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 11 A.M.–3 P.M.
GENERAL ADMISSION: \$25 AT DOOR,
\$20 FOR TICKETS PURCHASED IN ADVANCE
KIDS, 12 AND UNDER: \$7

JOIN US FOR OUR FIFTH ANNUAL
SMÖRGÅSBORD NORDIC BITES FOOD
FESTIVAL. ENJOY FOOD STATIONS, A VIKING
ENCAMPMENT, LIVE SCANDINAVIAN MUSIC,
AND MORE WHILE VISITING NORDIC VENDORS
AND SOCIALIZING WITH OTHER
SCANDINAVIANS AND THEIR FRIENDS!



REFRESHMENT COMMITTEES



Autumn's Arrival **September 28**

Janet Muller, chair
Frank Ryan
Audrey DiPullo
Ann Delacey
Andrea/Ron Holmgren
Richard Lilja
Tina Rawson
Kristen Seashore

Halloween/Hexan Potluck **October 26**

Denise Esperson, chair
Gus/Eric/Greg Blomgren
Linda Boylan
Aila Coburn

Hearty Birka Birthday wishes to these members:

... in September

3 Claire Glover	14 Karen Caves
4 Mike Swanson	22 Sharon Mikutel
7 Warren Johnson	26 Sue Bagnulo

... in October

4 Ed Thurnquist	14 Kristen Seashore
5 Rut Johnson	17 Anita Adams
7 Vincent Ghika	25 Karen Roman
14 Sven Hyberts	

For all college age and soon-to-be college age members: The national lodge, Vasa Order of America, gives out several scholarships each year. The deadline for applications has been in December in the past. Watch the Vasa website for details about this year's application process.



... 'round the lodge

The Lodge celebrated two special events at our June meeting. Sarah Williams received her grandfather's 50-year Vasa membership pin. (See photo on page 4.) Then the Lodge's two high school graduates, Eric and Greg Blomgren, and college graduate Sarah Williams were feted with a cake provided by Andrea Swanson. Congratulations, graduates, and best wishes in your new endeavors this fall!

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

New program booklets for the 2018–2019 year are available at the September and October meetings, if you didn't pick one

up in the spring. It lists the programs and dates for all Lodge activities through June, 2019.

Calendar of Events

September

28 Autumn's Arrival
Lodge meeting,
7:30 p.m. Bring a
plant or garden
veggies to auction
off!



October

7, 14, or 21 Activities meeting. Stay tuned
for date, place, and time.
26 Halloween/Hexan Lodge meeting
and Pot Luck Supper, 6:30 p.m.

Reminders . . .

Remember to sign up at the September meeting to bring a dish or two to the October Pot Luck Supper. Bring a main dish, salad or desert to share. And don't forget your Halloween costume!

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. If you would like an application, please contact Recording Secretary, Judy Tanzer.

Lena says to Ole "I found dis pen. is it yours?"

*Ole replies - "Don't know, give it here"
He then tries it and says "Yes it is"*

Lena asks "How do you know?" Ole replies, "Dat's my handwriting"

Sven and Ole were sipping their beers when a truck went past loaded up with rolls of sod.

"I'm going to do dat when I vin da lottery," announced Sven.

"Do vhat?" asked Ole.

"Send my lawn out to be mowed."

Sven and Ole were carpentering on a new house. Sven who was nailing down siding would reach into his nail pouch, pull out a nail and either toss it over his shoulder or nail it in. Ole, figuring this was worth looking into, asked, "Why are you trowing dose nails away?" Sven explained, "If I pull a nail out of my pouch and it's pointed TOWARD me, I trow it away 'cause it's defective. If it's pointed toward da HOUSE, den I nail it in!" Ole got completely upset and yelled, "You MORON!!! Da nails pointed toward you aren't defective! Dare for da OTHER side of da house!!"

Remember to check [Birka Lodge's website](#). The web address is found below. The photos are wonderful! The website is maintained by Richard Lilja. Thank you, Richard.

June



August



Wonderful Times Together

Photo at the left: At the June meeting, Sarah received her grandfather's 50-year Vasa membership pin, pinned on by her mother.

Center photo: The Lodge sponsored a bus trip to the Mystic Seaport Museum. Members and friends visited the new exhibit of Viking treasures, such the one shown below, which was recovered from a boat grave dated to the 7th century A.D.

Photo at the right: Members enjoyed lunch on the beautiful grounds of the Seaport Museum.

Speaking of good times, do you remember these pictures from 10 years ago (2008)???



YOUTH COMPANY

@ STAGE 284

Think left & think right & think low & think high!
Oh, the things you can think up if you only try!

Dr. Seuss



Stage 284 is lucky enough to have these Things thinking up fun!

They're silly and sassy and our hearts they have won.

It takes a true talent to sing, dance and flip. They're performances dazzle and they don't miss a quip!

Our story is full of a talented bunch, but the Things in particular have a good hunch,
that you'll love their performance and want an encore, they keep our production team shouting for
more!

Don't miss our great Things

Come from near, Come from far!

They'll thrill and astound you, whoever you are!



Katie Daniels



Julia Fanikos



Cecilia Crockett