



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

LOCAL LODGE SVEA #296

Instituted May 20, 1914

Erie, Pennsylvania

June 2023 News and Notes

Hälsningar!

Our first Book Club met on May 17th at Lisa Davis' home. Six of us read *Animal Life*, by Olafsdottir. We enjoyed some food and a bit of wine before discussing the book. This is not the kind or subject of book that I would normally read, but by the end, I wanted to know where Domhilder ended. Then after our discussion of the thought provoking details, I think I want to read the book again.

Our next book is *Stolen* by Ann-Helen Laestadius. It is a novel about life as an indigenous Sami, living north of the Arctic Circle. If you are interested in joining the Bokklubb for this book, please register on-line or contact Lisa or Pat. If you are registering on-line you must be logged in as a member.

Please note that we have cancelled our July trip to Ferrante's Ristorante and Winery in Geneva, Ohio. Ferrante's coincides with the Jamestown Scandinavian Festival. Many of our members, as well as the Nobel-Monitor members that join us, will be going to Jamestown. Both events are always a great time but we decided to defer to the Swedish activity!

In the meantime, keep checking our website for frequent updates and news about Svea Lodge and our activities. If you have friends and family with some Scandinavian DNA, invite them to Midsommar. The more the merrier!

[Check out the Svea website](#)

In addition, if you click and sign-up below, and you don't already, you will receive the regular Svea Newsletter.

[Sign-up for the Svea Newsletter](#)

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTHS NEWSLETTER?

- Mark Your Calendar
- Things to do in NWPA - Scandinavian and otherwise
- 2023 Banquet
- News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9
- Benevolence - Swedish Death Cleaning - minus the death part.

All current members in Svea will automatically receive our email Newsletters, as long as you have provided a current email address. Those who do not use the internet are sent a USPS copy.

Upcoming events:

June 3, 2023 - Midsommar 11:00AM at Presque Isle State Park, Runner's Pavilion. Bring a dish to share, your own beverage (non-alcoholic on Presque Isle) flowers for the Maypole, and a chair! Be sure to check out the website for more information on Midsommar celebrations.

June 5, 2023 – VASA Lunch (formerly known as VASA Breakfast)

- Butch's Restaurant, West 26th Street
- 11:30 AM

June 7, 2023 - District Lodge Board Meeting via Zoom

June 23, 2023 - Bokklubb - *Stolen* at 6PM, Lisa Davis' house. You won't want to miss reading this truth-based novel.

Other Things to do in NWPA with your Svea friends:

Wellness Wednesdays - Sunrise Yoga - from 6-7AM at Dobbins Landing

Kickball League - Flagship City Sports & Sips - 5-9PM every Friday at Perry Square, Downtown Erie

LOOKING AHEAD:

2023 Scandinavian Folk Festival - July 15-16 - Northwest Arena, Jamestown, NY

2023 Mt. Jewett Swedish Festival - August 11-13 - Mt. Jewett, PA

News from our May 21st Banquet:

The Banquet was a great time! We learned a bit about the King and Queen of Sweden - this is his majesty's jubilee! We rededicated our 109 year old Charter and affirmed our faith in Vasa Order of America, Svea Lodge #296. We had 40 people in attendance at the Shrine Club with ten people as guests. Thank you to everyone who came and participated. Our 110th year should be epic.



News from our Sister Lodges and PA District Lodge #9

Drott Lodge: They are hosting Swedish author, Maria Bouroncle to learn more about her book *It Came to Me on a Whim*.

Nobel Monitor: The annual Memorial Service will be held June 4th along with a concert by Vasa Voices, their Swedish choral group and led by their new director, Mary Ober. Seven of our N-M friends came to our May banquet.

PA DL #9: The Working Group has been established to work on the activities and programs designed to increase membership, retain present members, and develop joint activities with the 3 lodges. Pat and Lisa will represent Svea.

It won't be too early to start thinking about the District Convention that will be September 27-29, 2024 in the Cleveland area.

Our Benevolence:

We are a Benevolent Society, making monetary contributions to valuable organizations, as well as, collecting tangible donations for local social service agencies.

We strive to honor our aged members with cards and phone calls to let them know we value them. Let Cheryl know if anyone needs a card or call.

The Monday after the banquet, Cathy Beck took our cleaning items to the Erie Humane Society to help them with the influx of cats and kittens they recently had. Everything was very much appreciated. Cathy ALMOST came home with a dog.

In September, we will host a Lodge Swedish Death Cleaning - minus the death part. If you have Swedish items that you would like to see go to a new home, would like to swap some Scandinavian items to give your Christmas decorations a refresh, or you are new to the group and would like to start collecting tomte, come to our meeting on September 17th. Any items left over will be donated to a local charity.



2023 GOLDEN JUBILEE

King Carl Gustav XVI has
been King of Sweden for
50 years!



Ädelmod, Sanning och Enighet
Generosity, Truth and Unity