



The Spiran Speaker

A Publication of Spiran Lodge #98, Vasa Order of America, Rockport MA

March 2013

The Chairman's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

The March meeting begins a new term of office for Spiran officers. It will begin with the swearing in ceremony. Please take this opportunity to show support for your elected officers both new and those re-elected to a new term. It is also a moment in which to recognize them for their committed service to the Lodge.

One officer stands out for her long span of membership as well as her active involvement and devotion to Spiran Lodge #98. Shirley French joined the Lodge on June 3, 1977. As I looked through dusty records at the Lodge Hall, I tried to piece together a chronology of her journey as a member. Shirley began the Spiran Speaker in September of 1990 calling it 'The Spiran Newsletter'. The 'Spiran Speaker' began in 1991. She was elected Cultural Leader of the Lodge in 1992, Secretary in 1997, and has remained until now. She began as District Secretary in 1993, then to District Master, and is currently the District Cultural Leader. Shirley has contributed an immeasurable amount of time to the Lodge. She is and will remain a valued historian of the Spiran Lodge.

Lee and Susan Marr worked hard disassembling upholstered sections of one of the massive antique benches at the Lodge on Tuesday February 12th. Their plan is to determine if the springs are in good enough condition to be retied, a key step toward their reupholstering project. They would like some help! This could be an upholstering apprenticeship!

Refreshment Committee list changes have prompted 3 complaints. That said, rolling the list as well as the chairperson was voted on by the membership at the January meeting. The purpose was to have a fair and equal distribution of this responsibility for all members. Changes to the list must be made by the person seeking the change by first, notifying the chairperson, and then helping find an alternative.

An Activities Meeting was held on February 13th. With a look toward the April Anniversary meeting, it was suggested that a buffet dinner 'outing' for Lodge members might be a fun change of routine. It can be discussed under 'new business' at the next meeting.

The Refreshment Chairman for the March meeting is Elana Brink. Please come and show your appreciation to outgoing Secretary, Shirley French and your support for Peg Leeco, Secretary elect 2013.

Fraternally,

Eric Rask
Chairman

2013 Dues

Your 2013 dues are due NOW.
Please send a check if you have
not already done so of \$20 per
person per year to:

SUSAN LOVASCO
24 SOUTH STREET
ROCKPORT MA 01966

OR

You can pay at the meeting.

The by-laws state: "Any member
indebted to the lodge for three (3)
month with his dues and neglects
to make payment at the first
regular meeting of the following
month, is suspended from and
including the day of said
meeting."

The Scandinavian Folktale, "Saving Spring"

There is a lovely story I recently discovered which is perfect for Spring and Easter celebrations, called "Saving Spring". It's a Scandinavian story and has Old Man Winter, a man being turned into a tiger, talking animals, tattoos, an ice prison and a valiant rescue.

Here's an excerpt of the story, retold by Ilil Arbel, from [Encyclopdia Mythica](#):

"After a while, Oscar (having transformed into a tiger) knew he lost the rabbit, and sat down on the rough ground. Confusion and uncertainty mingled in his mind, and slowly, his memory returned and his own actions horrified him. Tears filled his eyes, and he hid his huge head between his paws, shaking with sorrow and shame. "It's all right, my friend" the rabbit's small voice reached him from a niche in the wall, where it was well protected from the tiger's rage, should it rise again. "This is what Old Man Winter does to people when they come here to save Spring. He turns them into animals and they forget their humanity."

You can read the whole story, beautifully told with rich imagery, here:

http://www.pantheon.org/areas/folklore/folktales/articles/saving_spring.html

The Swedish Pancake Breakfast

We will be holding our
annual pancake breakfast
on Sunday, March 24th
from 8am - 11am. Breakfast
will include Swedish
Pancakes, Sausages, Fruit
Cups, Juice and Coffee.

Contact
info@spiranlodge98.org for
more details and to
purchase advance tickets.



March Birthdays!!

- 3/10 Arthur Olson
- 3/11 Miriam Lane
- 3/12 Susan Marr
- 3/15 Claire Whitten
- 3/18 Nancy Silvis
- 3/22 Evelyn Makkonen
- 3/24 Herman Lilja
- 3/28 Mary Johnson



Waffle Day??

Sweden's traditional **Waffle Day** on March 25 originates with the celebration of the Virgin Mary's impregnation, not for any fun/twisted reason but because of a simple coincidence: **Vårfrudagen**, or "Lady Day," sounds a lot like **Våffeldagen**, or "Waffle Day." The tradition is more secular now, but the waffles are definitely still around. Unlike American renditions of the fluffy IHOP variety, Swedish waffles are thin, made with butter, cream and flour and are joined by strawberry jam and whipped cream rather than Mrs. Butterworth's syrup.

Refreshment Committee *March 1, 2013*

CHM- Elana Brink 546-1170

Claire Whitten 546-7949

Sinikka Negleo 525-2776

William Ghen 922-3258

Gunilla Caufield 546-8352

Erik Wright 546-2865

Rebecca Wright 546-2865

Gerald Tobiason 978-356-2215



A trana (Crane), standing on one leg and holding a stone in the other foot has long been a symbol of awareness. If the stone falls on the foot it is standing on, it hurts and tranan wakes up. Thus, Varfrudagen brings a message of awareness and also of anticipation of spring. Varfrudagen usually falls during Lent, but as this day was considered a day of joy, fasting was not required.

Children in some parts of Sweden believed that tranan came with candy or a small coin which it put under their pillows. In order for this to happen, one had to go to bed early the night before Varfrudagen, helping parents with getting their children to bed since the days begin to get longer and younger children go to bed before it gets dark.

UFF-DA!

A Swedish truck driver once got stuck in a tunnel in Finland. Soon a fin came by the tunnel and found out that the truck was wedged in with the load stuck against the ceiling. The fin suggested that the swede let the air out of the tires. The swede looked angrily at him, "You moron! The truck is stuck up on top."



Let's not forget the Finnish Pancakes!

This recipe is from the Eastern States Exposition also known as The Big E in West Springfield, MA.

8 Large Eggs
1 qt. Fresh milk
3 to 4 tbs. sugar
1 tsp. salt
1 cup flour (8oz.)
1/4 lb butter

Spray a 12" x 16" x 2" pan well with cooking spray, then melt butter in pan. Mix thoroughly with beater - milk, eggs, sugar, flour and salt. Pour mixed batter over melted butter. Bake in 450 degree oven for 20-23 minutes, until pancake rises to top of pan & lightly browns. Remove from oven & let settle before cutting. Serve with maple syrup, jelly or honey.

Recipe may be cut in half for 9" x 13" pan, or thirds for 8" x 8" pan.



I hope you enjoyed this new edition of The Spiran Speaker!

I'd love to make this monthly news letter more interactive with all our members. I encourage everyone to submit articles pertaining to our lodge, Scandinavian heritage, and also to our own community that we all share and live in together!

Perhaps you remember a story from the Old Country your family used to tell. Maybe you came across an article or story about Scandinavia that you found interesting. You may have heard of an event in our area that our members could benefit from. Or, maybe, just maybe, you're willing to part with a well-loved Scandinavian recipe that you've selfishly kept all these years!

Please submit any articles or ideas for consideration to:
MatthewRask@gmail.com

Lycklig vår!
(Happy spring!)