

# VIKINGS NYHETER

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Inspired by the real-life experiences of the Norwegian royal family during the German occupation of their country in World War II, *Atlantic Crossing* fictionalises Crown Princess Märtha's journey to safety in the U.S., and her influential relationship with President FDR. The stories are rooted in fact, but it's difficult to know exactly what was said in intimate moments or behind closed doors, and these are, after all, dramas, not documentaries.

"It was really hard for us to find information on Martha and what she was up to during her period in America, which lasted for the whole length of the war," Alexander Eik, the writer and creator of the series said in an interview with the Television Critics Association.

"We labeled this show, 'inspired by true events.' But the overall story of *Atlantic Crossing* is true: That Crown Princess Märtha had more access to President Roosevelt than any other person, [save] for his advisers, up until his death, and that she made a significant effort to help Norway during the war." The writers spent 6 to 7 years researching all sides of the events depicted in the series, as well as the personalities of all the characters involved. For the closed-door conversations that there was no solid research on, they carefully took

into consideration what they knew of those historical figures and tried to imagine themselves in their shoes – for some, it was easier than others. "It was hard to get a sense of who Martha was as a person behind the royal façade," Eik explained. "Mostly in history books she's only mentioned briefly as a side character, so we had to approach the writing process as detectives, and combining gold digging and laying out this big puzzle, and of course there are many missing pieces to the puzzle and that's where we create the fictional parts." Admittedly, Eik said, "We tried to stick as close as possible to those scenarios, but of course in the end this is a fictional work inspired by true events."

# Atlantic Crossing: History to Know Before You Watch

[MASTERPIECE](#)'s *Atlantic Crossing* covers some surprising and little-known history involving U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Norway's [Crown Princess Martha](#). Before the premiere on Sunday, April 4, 9/8c, catch up on five historic situations that will help you best appreciate the show—from Norway's intent to stay out of World War II, to Roosevelt's decision to run for a third term. Norway stayed neutral during World War I, which ended in 1918. Two decades later, another global war loomed and Norwegians fervently hoped to stay out of it as well.



Norway's neighbour Germany had good reasons for wanting to seize Norwegian ports in order to secure access to raw materials and threaten Great Britain. But German Chancellor Adolf Hitler had publicly renounced such plans, which was reassuring to anyone who believed him. As a fallback, Norway's leaders were confident that Great Britain would quickly repulse a German invasion, should it come. Therefore Norwegians were stunned when Nazi forces mounted an overwhelming surprise attack on Norway and Denmark on April 9, 1940. "We are never going to give back these countries," Hitler brazenly told one of his deputies. Denmark immediately capitulated, but Norway's King Haakon VII called on his subjects to resist. Britain did come to Norway's aid for a few weeks but had to withdraw when Hitler's troops invaded the Low Countries and France the following month, where the bulk of the British army was stationed. Norwegians briefly fought on, but their fate was sealed.

The Norse first came to North America around 1000 A.D., establishing a short-lived colony called Vinland in what is now

Newfoundland. They came in much greater numbers eight centuries later, in the 1800s, escaping poverty, rising population, and a shortage of arable land in Scandinavia. Most who emigrated from Norway to the United States were farmers, taking advantage of the Homestead Act, which gave 160 acres of land to anyone who would work the parcel for at least five years. By the early 20th century, the population of Norwegian America was over a million—almost half that of Norway itself—with eighty percent living in the Upper Midwest, particularly Minnesota and Wisconsin. The U.S. had become "larger Norway"—a Norwegian enclave beyond Europe. Norwegian America represented the old, religious, rural Norway, as the mother country became increasingly secular and urban. Norwegian Americans also spoke an older form of the language, losing touch with the linguistic changes back home. But World War II brought the two kindred cultures back together, as Americans of Norwegian descent became a powerful voice in support of their occupied compatriots abroad—a voice that U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt heard very clearly.



At the beginning of *Atlantic Crossing*, Norwegian [Crown Prince Olav](#) and Crown Princess Martha are visiting the United States. What was their mission? The year was 1939, and the world was just emerging from the Great Depression, a decade-long economic crisis that helped spur totalitarian movements across the globe. The U.S. and Norway each had their troubles in the 1930s, but both stayed democratic and maintained strong trading and cultural ties. However, Norway had two repressive and well-armed neighbours: Germany and the Soviet Union. Norwegians were therefore nervous about isolationist sentiment in the U.S. that promoted a minimal role for America in world affairs. Norway was officially neutral, and so was the



United States. Neither country was interested in a mutual defence treaty. Yet the U.S. could still do much to protect Norway's security, principally by ensuring freedom of the seas. A belligerent naval power such as Germany could easily cripple the Norwegian economy. As a small nation, Norway needed powerful friends. The United States was one, and Norway wanted to keep it that way. The visit of the Crown Prince and Crown Princess was a ten-week, cross-country tour designed to sow as much friendship as possible.

During Franklin Roosevelt's second term as president, he began to make plans for his impending retirement. Since George Washington, U.S. presidents had served no more than two terms. Roosevelt saw no reason to break the tradition, so he directed aide Sam Rosenman to acquire a piece of property adjoining the family's Hyde Park estate in New York, where a presidential library would be built. The plans called for a private study, where Roosevelt could write his memoirs. This pleasant vision persisted even after the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939. According to Rosenman, it was not until April 1940, when "the Nazis invaded Denmark and then Norway," that Roosevelt changed his mind. "He became determined to stay in the White House until the Nazis were defeated." Thus began Roosevelt's campaign for an unprecedented third term. He faced Republican challenger Wendell Willkie, an internationalist who differed mainly on domestic issues. Both men pledged to keep America out of overseas conflicts, while also helping Great Britain and other Allies, short of war. Although many of Roosevelt's own supporters objected to a third term on principle, his popularity carried him to victory in November 1940. Thirteen months later, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and Hitler's subsequent declaration of war on the U.S. brought America into World War II.

Despite his promise to stay out of conflicts abroad ("unless attacked," he would carefully add), President Roosevelt was sure that America would inevitably have to fight. His biggest obstacle to preparing the country was isolationism—a broad coalition of American citizens of different political views, classes, faiths, and occupations who were united in the view that foreign wars were not America's concern. The most notable spokesman for the cause was aviator Charles Lindbergh, who had ties to leaders in Nazi Germany and who had aired explicitly anti-Semitic views. But many others were isolationists out of the innocent and common sense conviction that the country should mind its own business. In a speech delivered on the day when the last Norwegian army units surrendered to German forces, Roosevelt condemned the fantasy that the U.S. could be a sheltered island amid a sea of tyranny. "Such an island may be the dream of those who still talk and vote as isolationists," he said. But in reality, that dream was a "nightmare of a people without freedom—the nightmare of a people lodged in prison, handcuffed, hungry, and fed through the bars from day to day by the contemptuous, unpitiful masters of other continents." Eighteen months later, the America First Committee, the foremost isolationist group, officially disbanded—three days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.



*image from pinterest*

## *Quick and Easy Multi- coloured Asparagus Salad*

12 green asparagus spears  
12 white asparagus spears  
12 purple asparagus spears  
1/3 cup olive or rapeseed oil  
grated zest and juice of a lemon  
kosher salt and fresh cracked white pepper  
fresh herb such as watercress for garnish

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Cut about 1 1/4 inches from the base of each of the asparagus spears then peel the white ones but only from the tips down. Place the spears on a baking dish and toss with the oil, lemon juice, zest and seasonings.

Bake 8-9 minutes, just until tender when pierced with the tip of a knife.

You can serve them hot or cold, just as they are or cut up, making sure to serve with the juices from roasting. The image shows them bundled and you can do that with fish chives or another vegetable shaved on a microplane or culinary mandolin

Garnish with fresh baby watercress or other herb of your choice.

*recipe adapted from nordic cooking by trina hahnemann*

5 pounds rhubarb, trimmed into 2 inch pieces  
12 pods cardamom, crushed  
5 cups water  
4 cup granulated sugar  
pinch of salt

Rinse the rhubarb well then drain. Combine the cut rhubarb and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for 40 minutes.

Line a strainer with cheesecloth then strain the rhubarb from the cooking water. Discard the rhubarb & cardamom. Transfer the liquid to a clean pot along with the sugar then bring to a boil; stirring so that the sugar dissolves. Skim and discard any foam that may form on the top and cook for 10 minutes.

Pour the hot liquid into clean jars. When the cordial has cooled, store in the refrigerator. To serve, mix one part rhubarb cordial with two parts cold or sparkling water over ice. Can also be served using the same 1:2 ratio with tonic water then add a dose of my beloved gin.

## *Rhubarb Cardamom Cordial*



*image from nordic nibbler*

CHAIR, BEVIN SCHEIRER, opened the Zoom meeting at 2:11 pm and, as always, welcomed those members who attended. Chair welcomed PAUL THENSTEDT, Past District Master. Later during the meeting, BOB ANDERSON, Life Member and District Webmaster, and KRISTINA CARLSON ORLANDI, District #6 Master, were welcomed.

ULLA DUNKEL gave the Chaplain's beginning message in Swedish and the ending message in English.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

MEMBERSHIP: MARY NELSON had nothing to report. HATSIE FORSMAN said that at The Lutheran Home she has a friend by the first name of Karen and husband, Bob, who may be interested in joining; HATSIE said she will keep "working" on them.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: LINDA MICHELSON reported that ELVA MANTE had not sent any cards last month but will do so for Easter.

MINUTES: The December Minutes were accepted at the March meeting by Motion of LINDA MICHELSON and seconded by PLUMMER DUNKLE. The February Minutes were accepted by Motion of MARY NELSON and seconded by PAUL THENSTEDT.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (1) BILL SCHEIRER reported that the owners of the Stirling Hotel want to postpone the anniversary dinner is tentatively scheduled for the third Saturday in October; (2) BEVIN SCHEIRER reported that she sent an e-mail to the secretary at Holy Cross Church inquiring as to the possibility of the Lodge holding its April meeting indoors which the secretary will forward the request to the Pastor and Council; if able to hold the meeting indoors, we would have a pot luck luncheon celebrating Sven Patrick (just a little late this year); (3) HATSIE FORSMAN said that she or ALLEN would contact both the First Presbyterian Church and Wesley United Methodist Church to ascertain about the possibility of holding the April meeting indoors and the cost thereto; BEVIN SCHEIRER will check with the Church of the Manger; (4) ANNE SCHEIRER reported that (a) seven (7) members have not paid their dues; (b) Greta Amidon and Karen Fides have resigned; (c) a member advised that a check was sent in December which has not been received and does not want to send another check; it was discussed and decided that if the check is not received by April 1<sup>st</sup>, the member needs to reissue another check and if the original check is received it will not be negotiated but voided; and (d) RONN BERGEN has passed away and was not a Charter member; and (7) BOB ANDERSON reported that as far as he knows the convention in Cape May has not been postponed but for further discussion he would attempt to have KRISTINA CARLSON ORLANDI join today's meeting which she did.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) BOB ANDERSON asked if the Lodge would have a Trustee to VASA Park and was advised that the Lodge would not; (2) BEVIN SCHEIRER reported that a decision about Scanfest has not been made but BILL SCHEIRER reported that the fryer and lodging have been reserved; (3) BEVIN SCHEIRER reported that Harley-Davidson Classic will be holding an event on April 24, 2021 in Reading with the possibility of the Lodge making pancakes but would need electricity for coffee and griddles; BEVIN SCHEIRER said she would inquire if electricity will be available; (4) KRISTINA CARLSON ORLANDI reported that the District 6 convention in Cape May, NJ may have to be postponed because of New Jersey's restrictions regarding the number of people who can attend an indoor event; therefore the registration forms for attendance at the convention have not been forwarded to the various Lodges; Plan B would be to postpone the convention to a date in September; three (3) proposed Bylaws from the previous year and two proposed Bylaws this year will be voted on at the convention; and (5) BEVIN SCHEIRER asked about a rummage sale at VASA Park of Scandinavian articles provided by some of our members and was informed that she would need to contact the Park's Board of Trustees.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: (1) KRISTINA CARLSON ORLANDI reported on different events hosted by the other Lodges and future events at VASA Park, i.e. Golden Colony luncheon postponed until September 19<sup>th</sup>, the Mother's Day breakfast hosted by the male members of District 6 officers on May 9<sup>th</sup> and Memorial Day services on May 30<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Board of Trustees, all events and dates are tentative because of New Jersey' restrictions; (2) BOB ANDERSON said that he would post the proposed Bylaws from last year on the website; (3) MARY NELSON reported that LILLIAN NELSON traveled to the Honors College in Columbia, South Carolina as she was accepted admission;

*March minutes continued.....*

(3) JEAN GERDING reported that LILLIAN (LILLY) NELSON completed and forwarded the District 6 Scholarship application to KORY WARNER; and (4) TODD PETERSON reported that the Lodge could hold its April meeting in his church in Kunkletown cost free but the Lodge would donate \$50.00 (the amount paid to Holy Cross); KRISTINA CARLSON ORLANDI said that the Lodge could hold its April meeting at VASA Park for a small donation but we would need to make a reservation as soon as possible.

TREASURER'S REPORT: KAREN WYKA, Treasurer, reported the checkbook balance was \$6,754.77, but with monies in and out the balance would eventually be \$5,158.57.

No 50/50 drawing.

NEXT MEETING: Zoom meeting on 18 April 2021 at 2:00 pm; if a particular church will permit an indoor meeting, then the meeting would be held at that church.

Submitted by JEAN GERDING on 28 March 2021.

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Minutes of Viking Lodge 735

18 April 2021

- CHAIR, BEVIN SCHEIRER, opened the in-person meeting at 2:12 pm and, as always, welcomed those members who attended.
- ULLA DUNKEL gave the Chaplain's beginning message in English and the ending message in Swedish.
- The Charter was draped in remembrance of RONN BERGEN who passed away on February 24, 2021; his obituary was read.
- CORRESPONDENCE: (1) the Congratulations card received from VASA National Archives in honor of the Lodge's upcoming 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary; (2) an e-mail received from TERRY MELOSKIE with a request from ART BJORKNER, Grand Master, to "provide a list of milestone birthdays of" our "members" which the Chair nominated ANNE SCHEIRER to complete and forward; (3) an e-mail from CATHY PETERSON with a letter attached from the District 6 Executive Board regarding the District 6 Convention in Cape May - it has been postponed until November 5-7, 2021 and will install nine (9) new members to the Board of Trustees before the convention; and (4) an e-mail from JOANIE GRAHAM with BILL LUNDQUIST's, President VASA National Archives March 11, 2021 letter attached requesting either "a donation toward these matching funds or a 'pledge to donate'" - deadline is April 30, 2021.
- MEMBERSHIP: DEAN NELSON reported no receipt of new applications.
- SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: ELVA MANTE reported that she sent Easter cards to CAROL McDERMOTT; BERYL HELGREN; MARIAN SUNNERGREN; BOB ANDERSON and MILDRED PAULSEN.
- MINUTES: The March Minutes were accepted by Motion of HATSIE FORSMAN and seconded by PLUMMER DUNKLE.
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (1) BILL SCHEIRER reported that the Stirling Hotel has the Lodge's reservation for the anniversary dinner to be held on the third Saturday in October; (2) BEVIN SCHEIRER reported next Saturday there is a Scanfest meeting and it appears that Scanfest may be held; (3) HATSIE FORSMAN reported that there has been no response from either the First Presbyterian Church or Wesley United Methodist Church in regard to the possibility of holding future meetings indoors; (4) ARNOLD "NICK" NICHOLAS suggested meeting in a barroom owned by Kornfiend located in Coplay/Egypt and was advised that the Lodge pays the Church \$50.00 per month; he will inquiry; and (5) MARIE FLUCK knows of a Catholic church in Quakertown which might be receptive to allowing meetings to be held indoors.

April minutes continued.....

- NEW BUSINESS: (1) the Grand Lodge would like a list of milestone birthdays (80 to 95) in order for birthday cards to be sent and BEVIN SCHEIRER elected ANNE SCHEIRER to forward same to ART BJORKNER as ANNE has a spread sheet to that effect; (2) BEVIN SCHEIRER spoke about the Golden Colony luncheon which honors members 80 years old or old (LISA QUEEN is 80 years old and doesn't look it); over 50 years as a member (ARNOLD "NICK" NICHOLAS - he is looking for a pin which the Chair has he definitely will receive one) or have been married over 50 years (no takers); but anyone can attend; (3) ULLA DUNKLE reported that the Lucia will not be held this year but the Lodge will look to hold a together; further, BILL SCHEIRER said he would check with his Church in Reading.
- GOOD OF THE ORDER: (1) TODD PETERSON reported on the erupting volcano in Iceland and people has walking miles to view it; (2) DEAN NELSON reported that LILLY NELSON will be attending Pittsburgh University as a biology major and she WON the Grand Lodge Scholarship and can attend the Golden Colony luncheon as the winner - congratulations to LILLY; also DEAN thanked JEAN GERDING for her efforts in helping LILLY accomplish submitting her application before the deadline; (3) BEVIN SCHEIRER reported on an exhibit in New York regarding Volvo's invention of the 3 point seat belt which Volvo did not apply for a patent so that all auto makers could install same in their vehicles; and (4) PAUL and NANCY THENSTEDT thanked the Lodge for the Zoom meetings via PLUMMER DUNKLE; they enjoyed "visiting" with the members.
- TREASURER'S REPORT: BEVIN SCHEIRER handed out a written report reflecting a balance of \$4,629.81 as of April 30, 2021
- It is PLUMMER DUNKLE'S birthday so he was honored with Happy Birthday being song to him.
- No 50/50 drawing as the 50/50 tickets have been misplaced.
- NEXT MEETING: 16 May 2021 at 2:00 pm. BEVIN SCHEIRER will apprise the members if the Church will permit an indoor meeting or if weather permitting an outdoor meeting under the Church's pavilion.

- **WEDNESDAY, May 12, 6:30-8:00pm Virtual Nordic Table Demo, Spring Desserts**

Hosted by Patrice Johnson, two light and lovely desserts will be featured: the marzipan ring cake (kranskage or kranskekake) coupled with a rhubarb pudding from Finland. The classes are filled with great tips and stories. This is a live virtual class over Zoom. Students need a strong internet connection and a device with video capabilities. Cost is \$30 ASI members / \$35 non-members.

Register online [here](#) with the [American Swedish Institute](#)

- **SUNDAY, May 16th, Customary Monthly Meeting Lodge 735, 2:00pm**

Come mingle with the members of Viking Lodge 735 for our customary monthly meeting. **Stay tuned for details from Bevin- weather permitting we may have an outdoor meeting at the church.**

- **WEDNESDAY, May 26th, Swedish Museum Talk Series, 1:00pm**  
**Virtual tour of the Waldemarsudde Museum in Stockholm.**

Join a virtual visit to the Waldemarsudde Museum in Stockholm. Museum Director Karin Siden will present Prince Eugen's historic home, its collections and more.

Cost is \$10 ASI members / \$15 non-members.

Register online [here](#) with the [American Swedish Institute](#)

- **SUNDAY, June 20th, Customary Monthly Meeting Lodge 735, 2:00pm**

Come mingle with the members of Viking Lodge 735 for our customary monthly meeting. **Stay tuned for details from Bevin...**

upcoming dates and events to remember



**birthdays, birthdays, birthdays**

5/3 tyler scheirer, 5/4 nancy thenstedt,  
5/10 beryl hellgren, 5/11 paul  
thenstedt,  
5/18 kathy hval, 5/20 ronn bergen,  
5/20 marian sunnegren

6/5 mildred paulson, 6/22 mackenzie  
keller,

**Next meeting**  
**Sunday, May 16. 2:00pm**

