THE GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE

Dear Vasa Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a busy few months since I wrote my previous column. Birgitta and I have attended four conventions, starting with our own District Lodge Golden Gate #12 in late April. After that we just had time to get back home, pack and then it was off to Sweden. We attended both conventions there, starting with Distriktslogen Södra Sverige #20 held in Ljungby in Småland. The following week we attended Distriktslogen Norra Sverige #19 held in Borås in Västergötland. It was really nice to see old friends and make new ones. Vasa is an amazing organization, where you can make friends close to home and also across borders and oceans.

We also had a little time for visiting family and friends. We arrived home late May and a week later we were on a plane again, this time to Canada for District Lodge Alberta #18 Convention, held in Westerose, Alberta, a small town on Pigeon Lake, south of Edmonton and across the lake from Scandia Lodge #549 Vasa Park. A wonderful summer paradise for many and year-round residence for some.

On a personal note: One of the highlights of the trip to Sweden was when we met with my cousin Christina (I wrote about her in an earlier column this year) for the first time in over 60 years. We had an opportunity to catch up with what we had done over the years and I found out that she had been my neighbor (well not quite) when she lived in Seattle for seven years. What she didn’t know was that another cousin of ours, Peggy, had also lived in Seattle at the same time.

As I am writing this we are enjoying our summer but wishing you would send some rain this way. California is in an unprecedented fourth year of a drought that has us looking at our brown, dead front lawn with pride as we do our bit to save the water we have. If you still have a green front lawn you’d better have artificial turf or access to recycled water around here. Otherwise “brown is the new green.”

Soon it will be time for travel again, visiting District Lodge Pacific Northwest #13 for their convention followed by a trip to New England. First for the convention at District Lodge Massachusetts #2 followed by a Grand Lodge Executive Board Meeting that lasts the better part of the week. This is one of two such meetings scheduled for the Board’s four-year term. The week will be capped off with the convention at District Lodge Connecticut #1 and a Vasa National Archives Board Meeting.

Later in the year we are looking forward to additional travel, visiting Lodge Omaha #330 for their 100 year anniversary in October and in November hopefully also District Lodge New York #4 for their convention.

Are you attracting new members? Are you keeping your members? I hope you are growing as a lodge. Many of our lodges are working hard at keeping their members engaged and making sure they are coming to the meetings. Yes, it does take work. Are you keeping your members informed with what is happening at the lodge? A lodge newsletter is easy to put together and is an essential part in creating excitement. Publishing it by email removes the financial burden of printing and mailing it to all members. You may have some members who don’t have email and for them you’d need to publish it in print. You must have an exciting lodge meeting if you are going to attract new and keep your current members. Don’t be boring! The competition for your current and prospective members’ time is stiff. You have to put on programs that engage.

/ continued on p4
We have another long list (p5) of members to welcome to Vasa – your brothers and sisters of this organization greet you from all over Swedish America! Somehow, Sweden is everywhere. I’ve heard from a lot of people who traveled to various places this summer, excited by the bits of Sweden they experienced outside Scandinavia, even if it was just flying somewhere via SAS or test driving a Volvo. I myself was in Paris, France, where I spent a little time at the L’Institut Suedois – they were serving fika and selling Pippi books in the garden. The Swedish Institute and the Swedish church designed by Ragnar Östberg (of Stockholm City Hall fame) are but two of the iconic Swedish sites in Europe’s fashion capital.

My visit was brief, but a seasoned traveler to France is writing in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my creative, interesting and enriching activities happening in local lodges across the U.S., that one needn’t really go far to find Swedish experiences (p10). Yes, we all want to go to Sweden, but there’s so much “Sweden” going on in our backyards. As you think of the Swedish summer behind you and fall activities ahead, read about what your lodge is doing, get ideas from other lodge information, and revel in the increased interest in – and awarding of – scholarships (p6); a testimony of the promise for a strong and thriving new generation of Swedes in America.

Remember that nearly all the content of the Vasa Star comes from you, our readers. If you aren’t sending your contributions and requests for submitted photos should be scanned in JPEG format at a resolution of 300 dpi. • For submitted lodge articles, please add city and state. Thanks!

IN MEMORIAM > Please read instructions on how to send and pay for Obituaries.

Where to Submit Material

MAIL TO: vasaeditor@gmail.com or Vasa Star PO Box 13331 Milwaukee WI 53215-0331

Christmas Greetings
Send your lodge or personal Christmas greetings to vasaeditor@gmail.com ‘Vasa Star’ • Box 13331 • Milwaukee WI 53215-0331 Please send no later than October 20. One inch greeting – $10, larger greetings – $25

Deadlines for The Vasa Star

Fall Deadline » October 15
Winter Deadline » January 15
• Picture and article, 200 words or less.
• For Letters to the Editor column, 150 words or less.
• Please send pictures of good quality in order for them to reproduce well in The Vasa Star. Electronically submitted photos should be scanned in JPEG format at a resolution of 300 dpi.
• For submitted lodge articles, please add city and state. Thanks!

IN MEMORIAM > Please read instructions on how to send and pay for Obituaries.

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I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information: swedengen@telia.com

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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Högani No. 634 celebrates 60th anniversary in Varaždin, Sweden. / p15

‘Uttal’ - Swedish Pronunciation

Chapter 8, Part 2 of Introduction to Swedish pronunciation. / p16

THE VASA STAR

Summer 2015 Vol. 107, No. 3, Serial 849 Published by The Vasa Order of America www.vasaorder.com

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Layout & production: N strides, Swedish News, Inc.

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GREETINGS VASA MEMBERS,

WE ARE RECEIVING MANY INQUIRIES AND LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM POTENTIAL CANDIDATES AND HOPEFULLY I WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE GOOD NEWS SOON REGARDING A NEW ARCHIVIST. THE JOB DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE POSITION HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT THE ORDER AND TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. THE THREE GREATEST CHALLENGES INCLUDE THE NEED TO BE FLEXIBLE IN SWEDISH, INNOVATIVE IN DIGITALIZING DATA, MAKING IT READILY AVAILABLE TO USERS, AND LIVING IN A SMALL RURAL COMMUNITY. MEANWHILE, A LOCAL RESIDENT, KIM THRASH, IS WORKING AT THE ARCHIVES DISPENSING INFORMATION AND OFFERING GUIDANCE TO THOSE WHO VISIT THE ARCHIVES.

I HAVE RECEIVED MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ARCHIVES AS WELL AS THE BISHOP HILL AREA, THEREFORE I TELL AN ARTICLE EXPLAINING WHAT IS DONE BOTH AT THE ARCHIVES AND THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE. THIS WILL HELP ANSWER QUESTIONS.

THE VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES IS LOCATED IN BISHOP HILL, ILLINOIS. VISITORS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE "GREAT IMMIGRATION" AS WELL AS THE HISTORY OF THE VASA ORDER USE THE ARCHIVES TO COMPLETE GENEALOGY RESEARCH. A SURPRISING NUMBER OF SWEDISH MEMBERS AND OTHERS TRAVEL TO THE BISHOP HILL AREA ANNUALLY LOOKING FOR PRECIOUS FAMILY CONNECTIONS. AT THE ARCHIVES, VISITORS ALSO FIND A COLLECTION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED ORIGINALE CASE TAPES OF INTERVIEWS WITH SWEDISH IMMIGRANTS TO THE MIDWEST, BIOGRAPHIC AND PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS AND OTHER ARTIFACTS.

BISHOP HILL IS A FULLY FUNCTIONING VILLAGE LOCATED IN HENRY COUNTY, NEAR THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF ILLINOIS. IT IS A REGISTERED HISTORIC LANDMARK, AN ACTUAL LIVING, WORKING PIECE OF HISTORY OF THIS SIGNIFICANT IMMIGRATION PERIOD. BISHOP HILL IS CONSIDERED A BIRTHPLACE OF THE SWEDISH IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND IS AFFECTUALLY CALLED A "UTOPIA ON THE PRARIE." IT IS NOT A REPRODUCTION, BUT IS VERY MUCH THE SAME TOWN THAT WAS SETTLED IN 1846. MANY OF THE HISTORIC SITES IN THE VILLAGE ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SUCH AS THE CHURCH, THE STEEPLE BUILDING AND OTHERS INCLUDING THE OLOF KRANS MUSEUM WHERE THE ORIGINAL ARTWORK DEPICTING PRARIE LIFE IN THE 19TH CENTURY BY THIS EARLY LOCAL PIONEER IS DISPLAYED. THE TOWN OF ANDOVER IS NEARBY WHERE THE JENNY LIND CHAPEL IS LOCATED. IT STANDS AS A TRIBUTE TO HER HISTORY.

BISHOP HILL JANSSONISTS

BISHOP HILL WAS SETTLED BY THE JANSSONISTS WHO WERE A GROUP OF SWEDISH PROTESTANTS WHO FLED OPPRESSION SEEKING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1846. IN SWEDEN, ERIK JANSSON, THE GROUP'S LEADER, HAD BEEN JAILED FOR HIS BELIEFS. HE FLED SWEDEN WITH MORE THAN 1000 FOLLOWERS. THEY PURCHASED LAND IN THE WESTERN WILDERNESS OF ILLINOIS AND LIVED THE FIRST WINTER IN DUGOUTS ALONG THE CREEK. MANY DIED OF CHOLERA BUT SURVIVORS BUILT A CHURCH FOR WORSHIP, DORMITORIES, A BAKERY AND BREWERY. THEY BUILT INDUSTRIES INCLUDING BROOM, BUGGY AND WOVEN RUG PRODUCTION. THEY BUILT A HOSPITAL, A SCHOOL AND OFFICE BUILDINGS.

A BEGINNING AND AN END

AFTER 110 YEARS AND MANY GOOD MEMORIES TO CHERISH, A SWEDISH ORGANIZATION CLOSES ITS DOORS, Merging with another to keep up the Swedish American traditions. Helen Johnson Haamacher reflects.

On October 7, 1905, Tryggve Lodge No. 88 began in East Orange, New Jersey. One day before New Jersey District No. 6 became a part of the Vasa Order of America. The group was originally a Swedish workingmen’s society but with the new association, women were welcomed to join immediately. The lodge meetings were originally conducted in Swedish, changing to English in 1950, and the location changed a few times, mostly for convenience of its members. The place I remember fondly was the Odd Fellows Hall on Main Street in Orange; many celebrations happened there, monthly meetings were filled with music, singing, dancing, agreements and arguments, friendship, refreshments of all kinds, greetings, Swedish and Swinglish. Many ideas were formed and exchanged and implemented, as were many lifelong friendships. Tryggve sponsored Children’s Club Vitsip-pan #116 in 1943, and they held most of their programs here. We had a great time.

When our Vasa home in New Jersey was established, a bi-lingual, internationally known as Vasa Park in Budd Lake, many of Tryggve’s members were very involved in its development and activities. They built two cabins, helped design the roof configuration of the original dance hall, hosted the Mr. Tryggve beauty contest, participated in every Leif Erikson Parade and Leif Erikson Smörgåsbord, had several winners in the Miss Vasa Park beauty contest, cooked many dinners and filled many glasses with the liquid of choice. And of course, for more years than I can remember, we hosted our two-day picnic, serving all kinds of wonderful food in the dining room and handmade hamburgers in Lilla Stugan. Since the inception of Vasa Park, there has always been a Tryggve member elected and serving on the Board of Trustees, the governing body of the Park.

In recent years, Tryggve meetings moved from Montclair Women’s Club to Clifton Masonic Hall. We have had Lucia celebrations, Christmas parties with Julie tomtes and Santa Clauses, send-offs and homecomings, Oktoberfests and anniversaries.

In 1985, Bernadotte #122 merged with Tryggve; in 1993, Svea #92 disbanded; in 2003, Högå Nord #194 disbanded. Many members from these lodges transferred to Tryggve, and over the years our membership has been as high as 250. Currently our roster has 58 members. Tryggve has been honored to have 10 of its members rise to the office of District Master. In this auspicious group is the first in New Jersey of father, son-in-law, daughter, husband and wife combination of District Masters. Over the years, Tryggve members have served as officers on the Grand Lodge level, such as Cultural Director, President of Children’s Clubs, Deputy. Activities Director Vasa National Archives Board.

Because of a lack of participation at meetings, members leaving out of state, and the advancing ages of some, we talked and talked and agonized … and came to a motion and vote to merge with Lodge Baltic-Framt #360, another lodge close by in New Jersey.

We forwarded our request to the New Jersey Executive Board, and it was accepted. Our Charter will be retired and will hang with honor with those other former New Jersey Lodges in District 6 Archives. Since its inception 110 years ago, Tryggve has received over 1,000 applications for membership; they have been preserved in our Archives. They are a wealth of information to review, including addresses from families in Sweden, names and occupations.

This is sad for me to reminisce upon. I joined Tryggve 58 years ago when Tryggve hosted the official visit for my father, Carl G. Johnson, District Master in 1957. I have not delved into specific names other than my father, as there are too many important and significant — each member was and is an important part of the history of Tryggve. I have my memories to cherish.

Tryggve is hosting a party to commemorate the ending of Tryggve and the beginning of Baltic-Framt membership at their meeting hall in October. At that time membership pins will be presented to those who have reached milestones, members who are transferring to other lodges will be recognized, and we will all join together in a new beginning.

HELEN JOHNSON HAAMACHER TRYGGVE MEMBER DISTRICT MASTER 1958, GRAND LODGE DEPUTY 2002-2006, VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES BOARD MEMBER 2011-104

Family Tree Släktutredningar

I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information.

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From the grand secretary’s desk

Vasasyskon, Summer time is that special time when things slow down and we can pause to look back where we’ve been and look forward to what comes next in our lives.

This past year since the Grand Lodge Convention has been a very busy and hectic time for me. So many tasks must be completed following our quadrennial meeting, and I am relieved to say that all tasks have been completed. The Constitution calls for certain documents to be completed within six months of the meeting. Because of my husband’s serious health issues during the past year, I missed this deadline. I was able to complete, produce and distribute electronic copies of the Record of Proceedings and the updated Constitution in March 2015. Then came the tasks of requesting quotes from various printers to produce the paper copies of these documents.

Record of Proceedings

I am happy to report that every lodge has received one copy of the Record of Proceedings for its Local Lodge and for its District Lodge. Each local lodge received six copies for the lodge officers and each district received 12 copies for their district executive board members. All Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates received one copy of each of these documents.

If you would like to order a copy of the booklet Record of Proceedings, a limited number of copies is available from Grand Secretary Joanie Graham (vasajlg@aol.com) at cost (printing and postage). The Constitution is now available from the Vice Grand Secretary Lee-Ann Anderson Hurtubise. The complete Vasa Handbook (binder) includes the updated Constitution, the Local Lodge Ritual, and the Instruction Manual. Send your order to Lee-Ann at ande6353@gmail.com or by mail to 350 Kenyon Ave., East Greenwich, RI 02818. Lee-Ann will package your order, determine postage and contact you with the full amount. You will mail a check to her payable to “Vasa Order of America.” When the check is received, the package will be mailed. Please allow plenty of time for mailing. Each new member should receive a handbook at their initiation.

Vasa Directory

The Vasa Directory, listing all Local Lodges, Children’s/Youth Clubs, Vasa Activities Club, as well as the District Lodges, Grand Lodge, and Archives Board of Directors, has been updated as of July 1, 2015 and is available as an email attachment. This can be printed on your home printer, but I suggest you save it on a flash drive and take it to your local copy center ( Staples, Kinoko’s, etc.) to have them print it double sided and bind with a spiral binding. Makes for a handy and inexpensive desk copy. The Grand Lodge will not be producing this in hard copy/print. If you find incorrect information in the Vasa Directory, please contact me at vasajlg@aol.com, so I can make the correction on my master copy.

As I mentioned, all of these documents are also available by email as a pdf. Contact me, Grand Secretary Joanie Graham, at vasajlg@aol.com. This way you will have them on your computer, which makes it easy to search for specific words. You can also print specific sections or pages, if desired. The Constitution has been posted to the Vasa website (vasaorder.com). Please do not post the Record of Proceedings or the Vasa Directory to any website or social media.

Student Loan Program

Announcing that the Education Fund’s Student Loan Program is once again available to receive applications. These no-interest loans are available to college students. The student signs a promissory note, and a parent or guardian AND the local lodge sign as guarantors of the loan. The student may apply for up to $1,500 each year for three years, for an aggregate of $4,500. Student must have been a member of Vasa for two years. Applications are available from me at vasajlg@aol.com and are submitted to the local lodge.

At the Grand Lodge meeting, the officers and delegates voted to increase the grants provided to the Youth/Children’s Clubs from $200 to $300 when they submit their Annual Report to GL Children/Youth Club Director Lynda Smith. This year, of the 25 children’s clubs, only 12 clubs submitted their reports and awards were mailed to these clubs. I’m happy to hear that discussions are taking place in several local lodges to form new children’s clubs.

Trouble in cyberspace

During the summer, I discovered that some emails were not getting through to me. I contacted AOL and learned the problem was at their end, not my computer. I have no idea how long this has been happening. If you emailed me in the past few months (or more) and I did not respond, please send your email again. I always respond to your emails, even if just to say “thanks.” The problem has been resolved. If you seem to have trouble getting an email to me, try my other one: circulationvasastar@gmail.com.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. If I don’t have the answer to your question, I’ll tell you who might.

In truth and unity, Joanie Graham, Grand Secretary

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Grand Lodge Executive Board Member in Sweden, Ulf Alderlöf

Dear Vasa Friends!

As the Member of the Executive Board-Sweden, I want to make a short presentation of myself. I am 71 years old and was born and grew up in Karlskrona, Blekinge county, in southeastern Sweden, “the garden of Sweden.” I attended eight years in primary school, three years in engineering school, and then served in the Swedish Air Force as an aircraft mechanic for one year. After this I began education and training as a pilot in the Swedish Air Force in Ljungbyhed, Skåne. I spent three years there and after graduation I became a pilot with the F17 Wing in Kalllinge, Blekinge, not far from where I grew up. After 37 years I retired in 2002 and became a civilian.

I married Ingegerd in 1970 and have two daughters and two grandchildren, nine and six years old. We became Vasa members in Local Lodge Ronneby #630, D1, Southern Sweden #20 in 1985 and I have served as Guard, Vice Chairman, Chairman and Past Chairman. I served as a member of the District Executive Board from 2003 to 2009. As a delegate to the Grand Lodge Convention 2010 in Washington, DC I was elected as MEB-Sweden, and am now in my second term. I am also an “Odd Fellow” member in Ronneby.

All these years in Vasa Orden have given my wife and me so many good friends and great experiences. In Sweden, the USA and Canada.

I wish all Vasa Members and Vasa Orden of America the best in the future.

In truth and unity, Ulf Alderlöf, MEB-Sweden

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The Grand Master’s Message (continued from page 1)

I mentioned in my previous column that we are working with Swedish companies to get special value programs for our members. By now, if you are a Vasa Member in the U.S., you should have been informed by your Lodge Secretary about one such program we have with Volvo Cars. If you haven’t heard, please ask your Lodge Secretary. Grand Secretary Joan Graham sent out this information in June. Otherwise, send me an email GM@vasaorder.org to get the details. This is a special deal for Vasa Members in the USA which means I cannot provide more details here. If you are not a Vasa member and are reading this, please contact me or go to www.vasaorder.com/VasaMembership for more information on becoming a member.

Our new Vasa Database is ready to be put to use. To that end I am sending a spreadsheet template to all District Secretaries to provide member information. This data will be entered into the database allowing each Local Lodge to conveniently maintain its membership information. It will be accessible on the web where password-protected information can easily be updated and retrieved. With the database in place, annual reporting of membership can be handled automatically, providing that all lodges keep their data current.

You will also have a place to announce your upcoming events and have your members RSVP to meetings where that would be appropriate. Support your District Secretary by providing this information in a timely manner!

In truth and unity, Tore Kellgren, Grand Master

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Do you have a question for the Grand Lodge?

Ever wonder why or how or when…? Send your questions about anything Vasa-related to vasajlg@aol.com and then watch for the FAQ Column in The Vasa Star.
Welcome to the New Members listed here from the many people who were “new members” before you, each with an enthusiasm for our heritage and a desire to enjoy the familiar traditions together. Let’s remember that New Members want to feel included in the activities of the lodge. Put them on committees; talk to them when they arrive at your meetings. Be sure to fill them in on the information that others already know, so they know the background of things that are happening. Include them when nominating officers for the new term. WELCOME!

We need to keep the New Members engaged. We all know that a successful lodge must have a strong cultural focus. Form a Cultural Programs Committee of three or more members to help the Cultural Leader. Include your New Members on this committee. By doing some research you can identify resources for programs in your community. Your New Members shouldn’t be overlooked for interesting programs. Select a theme for the year. You must develop a strong cultural program if you want to build and keep your membership. INCLUDE!

We need to encourage our New Members to share their talents. Develop interest groups in your lodge: singing, folk dancing, language, crafts, travel, or current events in Sweden. Or perhaps genealogy, or a computer club. You can form an Activities Club for these special interests and invite non-Vasa members to join. Decide which of these activities will work best with your group, and then publicize in the community activities column of your local newspaper or post a flyer at your local library. Let your community know that you are actively sharing your Nordic traditions. CONTRIBUTE!

Mom Lisa Raddatz and her baby Wren, 9 months.
Nordikfolk/Noridkids, story page 13.
WINNERS OF THE 2015 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce the winners of this year’s $1,000 College or Vocational School Scholarship Awards.

**Susan Amidon**  
Viking Lodge No. 735  
DL New Jersey No. 6  
Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship  
— $1,000  
Susan will be attending Penn State University in State College, PA, majoring in Chinese and Japanese. While in high school, she studied Chinese and Japanese on her own with the assistance of online courses. She is very motivated and enjoys learning. As a Vasa member, Susan is very active in her local lodge and participates in cultural and musical events.

**Edwin Bennett**  
Evening Star Lodge No. 426  
DL Pacific Northwest No. 15  
Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship  
— $1,000  
Edwin is a biochemistry major at Whittier College in Whittier, CA. He has earned numerous awards for his outstanding service to the community, Vasa Order, high school and college. He has always been on the Dean’s List. Upon graduation from college, Edwin expects to enter medical school with a scholarship from the Air Force or Navy.

**Hannah Ingerson**  
Tuscon Lodge No. 691  
DL Arizona No. 21  
Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship  
— $1,000  
Hannah will be attending a university to major in art education. She is a member of the National Honor Society and played high school tennis, volleyball and soccer. As a Vasa member, she has been with the Swedish Children’s Folkdance Group since age 5, has participated in many Lucia pageants and is a volunteer for lodge events.

**Linnea Heinstedt**  
Golden Valley Lodge No. 616  
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15  
Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship  
— $1,000  
Linnea is attending Utah State University and majoring in public health education. Prior to Utah State, Linnea attended College of the Canyons and earned associate’s degrees in math and science. She has always maintained her grades and a place on the Dean’s List. Upon graduation, she plans to attend graduate school then work toward becoming a pediatrician.  
As a Vasa member, Linnea was a Vasa Park Folk Dancer and has held various local lodge officer positions, including youth supervisor.

**Emily Pearson**  
Nordik Folk Lodge No. 761  
DL Lake Michigan No. 8  
Winner of Lodge Viking #730 Grand Lodge Scholarship  
— $1,000  
Emily is attending Purdue University and majoring in business management. She is on the university tennis team and volunteers in the community. As an active Vasa member, Emily has been a member of Nordikids since its inception and has held various officer positions.

**Miriam Saucedo**  
Astor Lodge No. 215  
DL Pacific Northwest No. 13  
Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship  
— $1,000  
Miriam is graduated from Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, with a degree in Psychology. She is planning to continue her studies in a Professional Counseling graduate program at Lewis and Clark College. Miriam is a member of Astor Lodge #215 in Astoria OR. She has been an active member in Vasa since 2009. She was serving as Miss Sweden in 2010 and has been helping out at many different events in the Vasa community.

**Rachel Hennigan**  
Nordik Lodge No. 761  
DL Pacific Northwest No. 8  
Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship  
— $1,000  
Rachel is attending Purdue University and majoring in electrical engineering technology and computer engineering. Upon graduation, she desires to attend graduate school and obtain her Master’s degree.  
Rachel is active in university activities and was chosen to be the vice president of Women in Technology. She is also a student IT trainer.  
As a Vasa member since 2006, Rachel has held various local lodge officer positions including delegate for two District Conventions as a representative of Nordikids children’s group.

**Johan Englen**  
Facklan Lodge No. 248  
Central Region  
Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship  
— $1,000  
Johan is attending Drury University in Olathe, KS, majoring in history and international political studies. Upon graduation, he will attend graduate school to become a political analyst, journalist or professor. Johan speaks Swedish fluently and participates in the Swedish community. He is an Eagle Scout, a pool lifeguard, and volunteers at a foster home, Phillips University Legacy Foundation, the Salvation Army and the Special Olympics.

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce this year’s Sjölunden Language Camp awards. Bertha Kalm Sjölunden Language Camp Awards were awarded to:

**Emily Benson**, District No. 12  
**Erin Benson**, District No. 12  
**Claire Custer**, District No. 9  
**Kaelin Den Hertog**, District No. 15  
**Nelson Granzow**, District No. 8
VASA SCHOLARSHIPS TO SWEDISH LANGUAGE CAMP

The Grand Lodge Executive Board will award up to five Sjölund Scholarship to qualified applicants from the U.S. and Canada.

Eligibility
Applicant must be between 12 and 18 years of age as of April 1, 2016. Applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent must be a member of the Vasa Order of America for at least two years prior to April 2016.

Requirements
Award winner is expected to provide:
A. Evidence of health and accident insurance absolving the Vasa Order of America of any liability.
B. A letter of recommendation from a current teacher and the latest records of grades.
C. A brief essay on "WHY I SHOULD BE CHOSEN TO GO TO THE SJÖLUNDEN SWEDISH CAMP".
D. A letter, bearing the Local Lodge Seal, verifying that applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent will be a member for at least two years prior to April 1, 2016.
E. Other comments that will assist in selecting the winners.

Awards
The Vasa Order of America will pay the basic tuition (around $2,035) for the two-week 2016 Summer Program and will reimburse travel expenses up to $600 against submitted receipts. All other costs will be borne by the recipient.

Date of Camp: August 1-13, 2016 (schedule is subject to change)
Refer to: http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-languages/swedish-language-village
Additional information and the scholarship application is available on the Vasa web site: www.vasaorder.com.
Deadline for application is a postmark date of February 10, 2016.

The Grand Lodge 2016 Scholarship and Essay Contest

The Grand Lodge of the Vasa Order of America offers the following to students attending or planning to attend institutions of higher education.

A limited number of $1,000 COLLEGE or VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS: awarded to students to continue education at an institution of higher learning.

Applications will be available on the Vasa website (www.vasaorder.com) from September 15, 2015 to January 15, 2016.

To be eligible, all the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2016 to be considered.
1. Completed application.
2. Complete transcripts of grades through the first half of the senior year for high school students or fall semester of current academic year for college students.
3. Include a current, good quality, passport style photo 2"x3" or email a high-res headshot to vgm@vasaorder.org.
4. Letters of recommendation from applicant’s Local Lodge.
5. Letters of recommendation from two personal references.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor.
7. An original, typed essay, not to exceed 1,000 words.

Please put in one envelope if possible.

Suggested Essay Subjects:
1. The role youth can and should play in Vasa.
2. My vision of the future of Vasa.
3. My local lodge and the community.
4. What Vasa means to me.

AWARDS ARE PAYABLE TO the institution at which the student is enrolled or accepted for enrollment. The $1,000 College or Vocational School Scholarship, student needs to be enrolled in an accredited vocational school or institution of higher learning taking no less than six (6) credits per semester or eight (8) credits per quarter in the academic year immediately following the award. In extraordinary circumstances, on petition to the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee, payment may be postponed for a period not to exceed two years.

For questions email: vgm@vasaorder.org

Family Tree
Släktutredningar
I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information.
swedengen@telia.com

ABIGAIL OGRENZ
Nordik Folk Lodge No. 761
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Winner of the Pennsylvania #9 Grand Lodge Scholarship – $1,000
Abigail is currently enrolled at DePaul University in Chicago, where she’s majoring in Therapeutic Exercise Science. In the future, she hopes to work in a theater where she can create educational theater for young audiences; ultimately, she would like to open a theater that focuses on being accessible to underserved communities.
Abigail has been a Vasa member since 2009. She has been involved in Nordikids and still participates in Kansas City Ethnic Festival, Santa Lucia and other traditional events.

ALEXANDER ENGLEN
Facklan Lodge No. 248
Central Region

Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship – $1,000
Alexander is attending Culver-Stockton College in Canton MO, majoring in psychology. Upon graduation he will attend graduate school and is a volunteer at Canton Community Center.
He attends regular Vasa meetings and participates in Kansas City Ethnic Festival, Santa Lucia and other traditional events.

Grand LODGE NEWS
Summer 2015 / THE VASA STAR
Golden Gate No. 12 Celebrating 100th Annual Convention

100th annual district meeting of DL Golden Gate No. 12 in Stockton, Cal., hosted by Nord Lodge No. 392

Nord Lodge #392 hosted the Golden Gate District #12 100th annual convention April 24 – 26, 2015 at the Holiday Inn, Stockton, California.

An extensive display placed near the entrance to the convention room brought to life the history of our district. Past convention memorabilia spanning 100 years was lovingly assembled by all the lodges.

The District meeting convened on Saturday morning with a welcome to all in attendance by Helen Mingram, PDM, HLM, followed by the Flag Ceremony. Members of the PDM Club processed carrying the flags of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Canada and USA as each national song was played with people proudly singing along. Emma Hanlon of Svea Lodge #348 was bestowed the Honorary Life Membership award for her tireless contributions to the Vasa Order of America.

During the convention Emma announced that Joy Marie Brusenback from Norden Lodge #684 was the 2015 District Scholarship winner.

Banquet Master of Ceremonies PGM Eric Johnson introduced speakers Grand Master Tore Kellgren and DM Paul Jevert. What a wonderful time of fellowship as we enjoyed a delicious meal and then danced to the music of Waterloo ABBA Tribute Band.

Another memorable convention! submitted by carol ann sell

Golden Gate No. 12

Sweden Day: Akvavit Kryddat Brännvin World Championship

Vasa Order of America Golden Gate District #12 hosted this event at the annual Sweden Day festivities, May 30 at Sveadal, a resort nestled in the beautiful redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains, 20 miles southwest of San Jose, California.

There were 39 entries of favorite akvavit recipes judged by three distinguished and esteemed culinary experts: Roberth Sundell, a native of Stockholm, Sweden who currently owns Pläj Scandinavian Restaurant & Bar in San Francisco; Alexander (Alex) Hult, native of Borlänge, Sweden who currently owns Hult’s Restaurant in Los Gatos; and the Rev. Benjamin Davis Hutchinson, native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and pastor of Cassopolis United Methodist Church in Michigan who stepped in for Lars Nordel of Umeå, Sweden who suddenly took ill.

Awards were given as follows;

Traditional: Robert Erik Olson

Best Tasting: (3 way tie) Dave Jansson, Catherine Lipscomb, Greta Anderson

Best Presentation: Jim Melin

The day was filled with many other activities and a beautiful performance of Roberth Sundell, Benjamin Hutchinson, and Alexander Hult on stringed instruments by Nykken, a premier musical group from the Bay Area.

Robert Sundell, Benjamin Hutchinson, and Alexander Hult

submitted by carol ann sell

Pacific Southwest No. 15

Easter Lunch

On March 28 the District held the third, what we hope to be annual, Easter Lunch. This year Mayflower Lodge No 445 in Torrance, California, opened its doors to the members. Happy Vasa members enjoyed a lunch that included herring, salmon and semlor. The latter homemade by DC Maidie Karling. ADS Nel Solt headed the event and had many happy helpers. DS Isabella Muscarella donated her deviled eggs. EBM Valerie Larson donated potatoes and carrots. After lunch DT Bob Solt served as “Bingo Boy”; silly little Easter items served as prizes. Guests were also welcome to make their own Pask ris. Everybody seemed happy with their afternoon.

Springfest in Vasa Park

District 15’s Vasa Park is located in Agoura Hills Southern California. May the 3rd was a beautiful day - perfect for the annual Spring picnic and Vasa member appreciation day. Many Viking’s enjoyed the pool while others preferred just to socialize. In the morning we could enjoy a yummy waffle breakfast. Later the “Kaffe stuga” opened and at noon the barbeque served lunch. We had Swedish entertainment by Tjärnmyrbergarn, Karl-Ivar Pettersson who played accordion and sang. Julia Phil sang along while husband Eskil was happy to visit. In spite of the California water shortage, the Park was beautifully green. It was a lovely day for all!

Great big Thank You to Vasa Park Association for sponsoring this event for our District!

submitted by nel solt

DISTRICT PRESS REP
Lake Michigan No. 8

Satellite 661 hosted the 107th convention on May 29-31, 2015 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Cultural Leader Tim Ogrentz held the first kubb tournament with 18 players, and we were entertained by graduate students from WMU’s School of Music who played Scandinavian Folk Music, and Holly Jen-sen who gave a presentation of her trip to Göteborg, Sweden to collect a new Volvo.

District 8 established a District Cultural Enhancement Fund (CEF) to support local lodges in increasing knowledge and enjoyment of Nordic culture. Each year, every local lodge will be allotted $10 per lodge member plus a fixed sum of $300 per lodge from the CEF. The money may be used for open houses, programs, training, materials, entertainment, food and/or participation in community cultural events. The objective is to make our activities more learned, cultural and fun, to encourage members to stay members, and guests to join. Plans and achievements will be reported so we learn from one another.

Dr. Murray Cooper and DC Marvin Anderson presided over the memorial service for members who died during 2014. They were remembered with memorial candles lit by Judith Ruser.

Membership Awards of $300, $200 and $100 were earned by and presented to Svea 253, Viljan 349 and Bessemor 203, respectively. Seven $1,500 scholarships were awarded to Rachel Hannigan, Sofia Nelson, Abigail Ogrentz, Harrison Ogrentz, Jennifer Pearson and Emily Pearson of Nordik Folk 761, and Ashley LeBlanc of Linde 492. VDM Michael Pearson Sr. presented the DSA to PDM Edward Hultgren, who has served in numerous capacities since 2002, and the officers for 2015-2016 were announced.

District Lodge Lake Michigan #8 had a convention in Kalamazoo, Michigan the last weekend of May. We were very fortunate to be able to award scholarships to seven very deserving young members. We are so very proud of our youth! They are our ambassadors to the future of our Order!

All scholarship recipients this year receive $1,500 toward their college expenses. Five of these scholarships are being funded by the South Side Chicago Lodges fund (an endowment fund started in the 1990s), and two of these scholarships are being funded directly from District 8’s funds, budgeted just for this purpose.

Here are the recipients, listed in alphabetical order by first name, and the school they will be attending in the fall semester:

- Abigail Ogrentz – DePaul University/IL
- Ashley LeBlanc – Valparaiso University/IN
- Emily Pearson – Purdue University/IN
- Harrison Ogrentz – Chicago City Colleges/IL
- Jennifer Pearson – Purdue University/IN
- Rachel Hannigan – Purdue University/IN
- Sofia Nelson – Indiana University/IN

Scholarship News

District Lodge Lake Michigan #8 had a convention in Kalamazoo, Michigan the last weekend of May. We were very fortunate to be able to award scholarships to seven very deserving young members. We are so very proud of our youth! They are our ambassadors to the future of our Order! All scholarship recipients this year receive $1,500 toward their college expenses. Five of these scholarships are being funded by the South Side Chicago Lodges fund (an endowment fund started in the 1990s), and two of these scholarships are being funded directly from District 8’s funds, budgeted just for this purpose.

Here are the recipients, listed in alphabetical order by first name, and the school they will be attending in the fall semester:
**Fylgia No. 119**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA /** News for 2015 is that renovation is done and we are meeting again at the Swedish American Hall, our home for 107 years. We have an elevator to the top floor and a new restaurant on the street level. In the spring, Ann Marie Hill demonstrated how to make various cookies and Scott Schulkin shared his famous - or infamous - recipe for glögg. Ted and Astrid Olsson taught us how to make “feather branches” and we enjoyed semla. Our district cooking class theme at Nordic House in Berkeley was Aquavit Infusion. Afterward, we enjoyed Swedish sandwiches and lovely Swedish music of Jennie and Mark Walstrom. Another Aquavit Infusion event was held at the Swedish American Hall in April in preparation for the first International Aquavit Contest held at Sveadal for Sweden Days in May. This was the third annual Aquavit Contest held at Sveadal, and we enjoyed a picnic with a dozen Swedish cousins at the historical site Ballingstorp near Kristianstad, where Ann’s mormorsmor and morfarsmor grew up in the mid 1800s.

Rachel treasures her Swedish ancestry and felt it was a great honor to be Midsummer Queen. In July Tegnér hosted the Tri-Lodge Picnic, where Sveaborg again won the Kubb Tournament. Eight Tegnér members attended East Bay Day in Sveadal in August, and six members played Kubb, getting practice for next year’s.

**Tegnér No. 109**

**SCOTIA, NY /** Many activities marked our Albany, NY, area Tegner Lodge #109 second quarter, which culminated in our much loved Midsummer Festival and Smorgasbord in June.

**Tegnér No. 149**

**OAKLAND, CA /** We had the honor of selecting the Bay Area’s Swedish-American Patriotic League’s Midsummer Queen Rachel Tennis. She is the granddaughter of Tegnér member Ann Tennis and the late Barry Tennis, and daughter of Terri and Jon Tennis of West Linn, OR. Rachel graduated from Azusa Pacific University then spent a year as an au pair in Australia.

She is now a pastoral assistant at a Presbyterian Church in Wilsonville, OR.

Rachel has traveled twice to Sweden with her family and grandmother. They always rent a van and have driven to Jokkmokk above the Arctic Circle to Skåne in the south, from Stockholm to Trollhättan, and once to Visby. They enjoyed a picnic with a dozen Swedish cousins at the historical site Ballingstorp near Kristianstad, where Ann’s mormorsmor and morfarsmor grew up in the mid 1800s.

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Ken Weissenborn, Past President of the Swedish-American Patriotic League crowning Queen Rachel Tennis.

**Thule No. 127**

**JAMESTOWN/BEMUS POINT, NY /** Hello from Thule Lodge. We have had a wonderful summer season with favorable weather, and our lodge continues to meet on a regular basis for meetings, discussions, cultural reports and refreshments. Recently three of our members - Edwin Sandberg, Allie Linnea Nelson Withers and John Sipos - celebrated birthdays and were honored with a special made cake in Swedish colors.

Thule Lodge was a participant in the annual Scandinavian Folk Festival held in the middle of July. The festival featured three days of music, dancing, Scandinavian gifts, food and crafts. A fun time was enjoyed by all, and Thule member Donald Sandy was the coordinator of the annual event.

We are having our annual hot dog and corn roast in late August for all Thule members. It’s corn season in our area, and all take advantage of the fresh corn. Edwin Sandberg is our corn roaster who uses his own special technique.

Our lodge is located at 4123 Pancake Hill Road in Bemus Point, and welcomes visitors. All those in the Thule Lodge wish everyone a wonderful summer season, and a beautiful fall time. If you are in our area, stop and visit us.

“God dag” to all.

submitted by ann tennis

Ken Weissenborn, Past President of the Swedish-American Patriotic League crowning Queen Rachel Tennis.

**Tegnér No. 127**

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Monter No. 163

ISHPEMING, MI / We celebrated long time member, Helen Kakku's 99th birthday at our lodge meeting in July. Thirty people were in attendance.

Submitted by Debbie Buskove

Drott No. 168

POTOMAC, MD / Drott Lodge continues offering new events mixed with traditional celebrations to provide diverse programming.

A Swedish Iron Chef Competition was held in May with 12 recipe entries, all complying with the condition they must include lingonberries. Swedish Chef Frieda Johansson and Finnish Chef Mikko Kasanon were challenged as they tasted savories or sweets ranging from salads to cheesecake. Past Chair Julie Olson won first place for her lingonberry stuffing; Chair Eric Randolph took second with his saffron panna cotta with lingonberry reduction. Historian Eva Dunhem submitted three entries and was awarded third place for her root crop pancakes. Everyone got to sample the entries.

Midsummer was celebrated on a hot afternoon in a joint venture with other Scandinavian groups. Children's games, dancing around the Maypole, and good food and fun was enjoyed by all. In July, a small group repeated last year's service project of serving Sunday dinner to families arriving at the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. The Inn is a free residential facility for children and their families who travel from all over the world to participate in leading-edge research studies at the Institute's premiere biomedical research hospital. An Italian-themed dinner with Swedish desserts was served to approximately 80 guests.

Submitted by Carol Whitley

Brahe No. 245

ROCKFORD, IL / We met on June 14 in our VASA Park Lodge with 17 members attending! Chairman Gary Johnson led the meeting, which included reading the obituary of Vasa member Marilyn Ryall. Cultural Leader Betty Rottman gave an interesting discussion on genealogy, which included reference to a service that will supply your DNA history for only $99.95! Treasurer/Financial Secretary Charlotte Tollin reported on the finances. Refreshments were provided by Joyce Anderson.

On July 26 we had another meeting with 14 members. Refreshments were provided by Vivian Anderson and Cultural Leader Betty Rottman reported the interesting information from our July 2015 issue of Valthorner that District 8’s Cultural Enhancement Fund (CEF) will “allot $10 per lodge member plus a fixed sum of $300 per each lodge … to raise our enjoyment of our Nordic activities, to encourage new members to stay members and guests to join.”

Auditor David Tollin said he would be going to Milwaukee to participate in the August 22 crayfish meal provided by Linde Lodge and had room to take four Brahe members.

Next meeting will be at 1 p.m. on August 23 for a potluck and corn boil!

Submitted by Dennis G. Eksten

Svea No. 253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / In April, Marc Hagn presented the American form of barbershop music, and introduced “The Late Shift” (Tim Martin, tenor; Andrew Myer, lead; Adam Wianans, bass; Bob Kendal, baritone), reigning champions of the Cardinal District Harmony Society of Indiana and Kentucky, who entertained with quality harmony singing. Lodge members, Dans Norden, and Scandilocity performed at Nordic Faire in Munster, Indiana.

In May, June McCarty Clair presented Hans Christian Andersen, A Fairy Tale Life, about the world’s famous creator of children’s stories, such as The Ugly Duckling, The Little Mermaid, The Emperor’s New Clothes, and The Princess and the Pea. Jim Nelson and Glenn Carstrand led a history trip to Porter County, Indiana to visit historical buildings, churches, businesses, residences and sites.

Svenska Nationaldagen was celebrated in June with lunch at Rick’s Cafe Boatyard. Attendees dressed in Nordic costumes or wore blue and yellow attire. Midsummer was enjoyed with a decorated maypole, a Grand March, dancing, singing, Kubb games and a delicious pot luck dinner. Douglas Kraitz played the accordion, Marie Lawlor and Eija Vesterqvist led the dancing and fun, and Michelle Escalante made a pitha in the shape of the Swedish flag.

Submitted by Joella Hultgren

Omaha No. 330

OMAHA, NE / Twenty-two members participated in a tour to Kansas City, KS. They visited two well known stores with Swedish ties: IKEA and Nordstrom’s. Robert Lindwall from Vasa in Kansas City welcomed us at IKEA and after a Swedish lunch the shopping spree started. The Vasa and Omaha Viking lodges have cooperated in arranging bus tours to Bishop Hill, IL, and to Minneapolis, MN.

The lodge will celebrate its 100th anniversary in October 2015 and the committee is hard at work to make it a special occasion.

Submitted by Gunn Henriksson

The presentation of 50 year medal to Karin Johnson from her father, Arlie Veis.

Helen Kakku
Svea No. 348
SAN JOSE, CA / Robert Peterson, Fylgia Lodge 119 member, PDM Golden Gate No. 12 and Past Grand Treasurer, presented the “Swedish Heritage of Kingsburg California.” Bob presented this history from the perspective of his family. Many of us probably have experiences that can enrich the preservation of our Nordic culture that will be lost if we do not record them and also share them with our families and friends.

Verlene Schermer presented a delightfully entertaining and educational musical evening at the May meeting. We appreciate Verlene’s artistry and dedication to Scandinavian music.

We are most fortunate to have the Sveadal Resort Center in the Santa Cruz Mountains as a venue for the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast. The breakfast serves approximately 200 folks each year, including the San Jose Classic Car Club. The Sweden Day celebrations at Sveadal for the past three years have had resounding success; all DL12 lodges enjoy Midsummer at Sveadal. Isabella Jones, a Cupertino Homestead High senior, represented Svea Lodge as Maid of Honor at the Midsummer Queen’s Court.

We have our 99th Anniversary dinner on August 21, and “Fun in the Sun” is our final summer activity at Sveadal on Sunday, September 13 with a picnic, games and hiking.

Sveaborg No. 449
OAKLAND, CA / The Annual Tri-Lodge Picnic, hosted this year by Tegner Lodge #149, was held Saturday, July 18th under the beautiful redwood trees in Roberts Regional Park, Oakland, California. The players on the winning Kubb team were David Bilyeu, Ellen Morrison, Ollie Forsberg, Evelyn Ternstrom and Dan McDonald. The Sveaborg team defeated both Framat Lodge #405 and Tegner Lodge #149. Framat won second place by defeating Tegner, the team with the most wins of the Kubb trophy. All three lodges are members of District Lodge Golden Gate #12.

Linde No. 492
MILWAUKEE, WI / Our April and May meetings covered a lot of Carl Larson history and art. Culture leaders Cris and Susanna Rosario did the presentation, and many of our members brought their own stories or pictures, especially the one that had visited the CL Museum in Sandborn (Dalarna) in Sweden. We also had the ever so popular “show and tell of Svenska Things.” The June meeting was a great luncheon with pie at Baker’s Square, where we got a summary of the District Convention by our delegates. And the beloved Midsommar event was celebrated at Old World Wisconsin, hosted by SAHS-WI on June 21.

We had a bit of a summer break before we reconvened for the annual Kräftskiva in August, and then a road trip to Minneapolis in mid-September before we participate in Scandinavian Festival on October 3. This is the 25th Annual festival put on by Nordic Council in Milwaukee with headline entertainment ABBA Salute! Call if you like to join any of our activities - you are always welcome.

Phoenix No. 677
PHOENIX, AZ / Our first fall meeting is September 26, with a delicious luncheon and an enjoyable program for members and guests. October 24 will bring the next gathering and educational meeting.

The biggest events are Jul Bazaar and Lucia fest. The bazaar, on November 7 at Tegner Lodge, hosted by SAHS-WI on November 7, featured a variety of Christmas with an opportunity to find unusual gifts.

The Lucia fest takes place at the same location on December 12. With the guidance of our leader, Sindi Westbrook, we even have star boys with Lucia and her entourage, which always makes for a memorable pageant. We’ve seen many of these young people grow up, as they offer cherished songs as well as new ones, always a moving event. For information contact Nancy Anderson at 480-464-5469 or visit www.vasorder.net/?lodge=677. We wish you a happy fall!

Skol Club of Linde Lodge
VALPARAISO, IN / During the college year 2014-2105 Linde member Ashley LeBlanc was busy organizing a subsidiary charter at Valparaiso University where she is studying. The group named themselves Scandinavian Klub of Linde, or SKOL for short, as Linde No. 492 was busy organizing a subsidiary charter at the vasa star.

The group was able to spark an interest on campus with movie nights, birthday celebrations, a visit to Norwegian and also Swedish resorts hidden in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Friday evening included a potluck dinner and on Saturday we had a choice of activities including kubb, hiking, walking tours and swimming. The featured event was the First International Akvavit World Championship, judged by 3 famous Swedish culinary experts. Hors d’oeuvres were served to all who participated in the tasting.

The evening meal was a gourmet dinner catered creation by our own Dave Jansson, featuring foods from southern Sweden.

Lindbergh No. 494
LOS ALTOS, CA / In March, 60 members and guests enjoyed a social hour followed by a brief business meeting. We had a St. Patrick’s Day meal and Sven-Ove Westberg, District 12 Archivist and accomplished genealogist, shared what he has learned about the experiences of early Swedish immigrants to America.

The highlight of the May meeting was the First International Akvavit World Championship, judged by 3 famous Swedish culinary experts. Hors d’oeuvres were served to all who participated in the tasting. The featured event was the First International Akvavit World Championship, judged by 3 famous Swedish culinary experts. Hors d’oeuvres were served to all who participated in the tasting.

The annual Swedish Day celebration was held at Sveadal. District 12’s picturesque Swedish resort hidden in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Friday evening included a potluck dinner and on Saturday we had a choice of activities including kubb, hiking, walking tours and swimming. The featured event was the First International Akvavit World Championship, judged by 3 famous Swedish culinary experts. Hors d’oeuvres were served to all who participated in the tasting.

The evening meal was a gourmet dinner catered creation by our own Dave Jansson, featuring foods from southern Sweden.
Norden No. 684
FRESNO, CA / This has been a busy time of year for us. Our Joy Marie Brusenback received a $2,000 dollar scholarship from Golden Gate District No. 12. She would like to be a doctor and specialize in pediatrics. Our lodge scholarship recipient was Brittany Johnson. She received $700 dollars and will put it toward her college education. Valborg at George and Carol Sell’s home in Visalia, California was great fun, and the food was outstanding. We swam, sang, ate and enjoyed the company of our lodge families, and initiated a new member, Kenneth O’Rand. We are looking forward to our Anniversary Luncheon on September 5, 2015 at the Cattleman’s restaurant in Selma, California. The crayfish and salmon smorgasbord dinner on August 8 at Mike and Corky Peterson’s was delicious. Those who attended brought a variety of salads, desserts and other side dishes. Mike Peterson was the “grill master.” It was a great time to catch up on everyone’s summer events. We sang Swedish songs and welcomed four new members: Christin Holt, Aaron Holt, Rebecca Holt and Audre Smith. Norden Lodge is sponsoring a Vasa Children’s Group called Svenska Kids Musik Club. The Charter #211 has been applied for and there are 25 members in it already. Christin Holt is one of their instructors. We are delighted to be sponsoring them and look forward to hearing from them in the near future.

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN

Nordikfolk No. 761
MUNSTER, IN / The “Kids” and the “Folks” combined forces and planned a Nordic Faire on May 2, a lovely spring Saturday. The public was invited for a donation of $5. Lodge members dressed in folk costumes or and performed a few songs including old favorites as well as a couple Abba selections. An exhibit of Viking replicas and artifacts, as well as genealogy table offered historic information. There were games of kubb, Nordic ski races, ancient Viking Rune messages writing and coloring stations for the littlest ones. Lodge members prepared a spread of Nordic foods to sample: Swedish pancakes and lingon, meatballs and potatoes with dill, open-faced sandwiches and many wonderful desserts. Live entertainment was enjoyed all day long! The Dans Norden group came from Indianapolis to both perform and encourage audience participation. Nordikids danced and performed a few songs including old favorites as well as a couple Abba selections. It was such a success in many ways that we have already started planning how to improve and make Nordic Faire an annual event.

SUBMITTED BY LYNDA SMITH

Nordikids No. 208
Sylvia Swanston dances with Henna Schecter.

Sierra Kronan No. 737
GRANITE BAY, CA / Greetings from Sierra Kronan! On a mission to emphasize Scandinavian culture inside as well outside our regular meetings, Cultural Leader Loie Rhodes has educated and entertained us this year. She gave a delightful presentation on IKEA, what the acronym stands for, the founder Ingvar Kamprad, plus other interesting and fun facts. We learned about Scandinavian Easter traditions including similarities in decorating the home, foods prepared and children’s activities, as well as some differences, such as “Teaser Letters” in Denmark and crime-solving novels called “Easter-Thrillers” published in Norway. A book club was organized as another way of educating members about Scandinavian culture. Loie presented on the “Names Adoption Act” passed in 1901 which abolished the patronymic naming practice in Sweden. Intrigued by the excellent article in the May 2015 Nordstjernan concerning the Swedish American Hall in San Francisco, she arranged for our tour in July. Several other area lodges were represented and members reminisced about childhood recollections of this building, now designated as an historic landmark. We look forward to our September meeting when the cultural topic will be “Swedish Migration.”

SUBMITTED BY CAROL NESEWICH

Vinland No. 703
CAPE COD, MA / Midsummer celebration in pictures.

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY KEAN

Decorating the Maypole with fresh flowers and greens. Photos by Dave Swanson.
Strange spellings
The spelling of some Swedish words differs from their pronunciation. The conservative written language has preserved certain word combinations reflecting an older way of pronunciation, even though the actual sounds disappeared long ago in everyday speech. Since the spelling of the words is not always phonetic, even native Swedes sometimes find it difficult to tell how a word should be written correctly, so do not despair. Many times the peculiar spellings, because of their old roots, can actually help you to see how closely they are related to words in English, which in turn will facilitate learning them.

The j sound
The gj sound
The sj sound
The ng sound
This chapter concludes the Introduction to Swedish course. The previous chapters have also been posted in the Vasa Star starting with the winter 2012 issue. I hope you have enjoyed the course and that you now know more Swedish than when you started. The whole course, with sound bites for pronunciation, may be downloaded at http://www2.hhs.se/isa/swedish/default.htm. This comprehensive course is well-suited for self-studies as well as studies in a group setting.

And now, what would you like to see in future installments of Svenska Språkhörnan? I am very interested in your ideas and I thank you in advance for your suggestions. Write to me at vasasvenska@verizon.net. Tack så mycket!

SVF SVEN PAI RSEN
GRAND LODGE LANGUAGE DIRECTOR
VASASVENSKA@VERIZON.NET

Beware of "False (Language) Friends"!
(http://www.lexiophiles.com/english/swedish-false-friends)

When you are learning a new language the so called false friends can cause confusion, laughs or, in the worst case, you may even end up insulting someone (unintentionally of course). Many languages share words that look very similar to each other, and may therefore lead even the most meticulous language learner to accidentally construct some pretty weird sentences. Swedish and English are a rather well-known pair when it comes to false friends, so be careful!

Delicate – delikat: If you try to explain to someone in Swedish that you are a very delicate person, you may not want to use the word “delikat” as it does not mean sensitive or fragile, it means delicious! :)

Full – full: You have been invited to a Swede’s home and have been offered a lot of delicacies, and now you want to tell your hosts how full you feel after the great meal. It is very tempting to use the English word full to describe your state, but please be aware that “full” in Swedish means drunk. Not good!

Must not – måste inte: Imagine you are babysitting a Swedish-speaking child and you feel the need to teach the young one what he may or may not do. Your attempts will most likely fail if you try to say that he or she must not do something, since in Swedish “måste inte” means do not have to! Offer – offer: Perhaps you will try to sell an item to someone in Swedish at some point in your life. You may want to prepare for that moment by remembering this important fact: Don’t try to convince your potential customers by telling them what a great offer you have for them, since “offer” in Swedish means victim. People will find this very disturbing.

Prick – prick: If you ever feel the need to insult a Swedish-speaking person, you will just seem like a lame weirdo if you try to affront someone by calling them a prick. A “prick” in Swedish simply means a dot, like at the end of this sentence. Pretty neutral, so better think of something else.

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, PO Box 5555, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0555. Email: vasaeditor@gmail.com. The fees is $8 for one column inch. Longer obituaries will be charged a flat fee of $25.00. All notices must be typed and in a format similar to what you see here. NO newspaper clippings if you submitted an Obituary and it is not listed here, please resubmit to be included in the following issue.

ARIZONA

MARGARET DAWN lit up the room with her bright smile and friendly personality. Margaret was a 21-year member of Tucson Lodge #691 and active until passing away at age 95. Born in Nogales AZ, she and husband John had three children.

HELEN KELLY was born in Malta, Montana to Swedish parents. This sweet lady enjoyed square dancing and was a 28-year member of Tucson Lodge #691.

JOAN SWENSON-HITZ was born in Hemsted, NY. She moved to Tucson in 1978 and was a neonatal intensive care nurse. Joan was a Tucson Lodge #691 officer during her entire 18-year membership (chairman, secretary and District 21 chaplain). Joan, a proud mother and grandmother, died at age 85.

CALIFORNIA

BLANCHE TERSLIN was born in Denmark to Jewish parents. This great lady was grateful to Sweden during WWII for granting her safe passage. She was an active Tucson Lodge #691 member until passing away at age 94.

OREGON

NANCY LEE GRIMBERG, 76, was born in Portland and spent her early years on a homestead in Birkenfeld, OR. She loved Astoria and joined Astor Lodge #215 in 1977. She will be missed at Lodge and Sewing Club. Nancy is survived by her daughter Ann and two granddaughters.

WASHINGTON

LESTER HAILEY of Lake Stevens died of cancer February 8, 2014. He played the saxophone for 82 years, entertaining folks at the World’s Fair in Vancouver, BC and at home at the Swedish Club and Nordic Museum. Lester was honored by Willis Scott of the TODAY Show at age 100.

IN MEMORIAM

SWEDISH NEWS

Höganas Sweden I strålende sommarvåder samlades 125 Vasamedlemmar den 27 juni 2015 för att föra logens 60-års jubileum på Hotel Erikslund i Varalöv.


O Birgit Olsson kunde även hälla en amerikansk, gäst, Daga-Karin Lindquist, LLI. North Star är 145, välkommen. En stilfull funparad utfördes och belönades med varma applåder.

Lycökssningar hade inkommit från Stornästen, DL 20, PDM-klubben och många enskilda loger.


Efter en vacker ljusläckningsceremoni avslutades mötet och välkomstdrinken serverades innan gästerna tog plats vid de vackert dukade bordgen. Logens egen keramiker, Ove Thornblad hade tillverkat och skänkt vackra keramiksaker till ett helt lotteri och många lyckliga vinnare kunde glädja sig åt de fina vinsterna.

Stämnings var hög och steg ytterligare när underhållarna Peter och Viktor visade sina musikaliska talanger. Dansen tog vig och som vanligt fylldes golvet snabbt av dansglada Vasasysson. Den minnesvärda jubileumssällskapet avslutades med att Leif Larsson traditionsenligt sjöng “We’ll meet again” till alla förjönings.

SUBMITTED BY HANS BODNEN KULTURLEDARE


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THE GRAND MASTER’S MESSAGE (SWEDISH)

KÄRA VASAFOREN,


THE SWEDISH CLOCK MAKER

Traditional Swedish dala hare crafted in Oregon.
Custom painted to order in any color or folk art style.
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The Scandinavian Festival
Nordic Council Wisconsin
Inviting friends and family to join in arts & crafts, sales booths, ethnic food, genealogy, children’s activities, entertainment and more.
Ronald Reagan Elementary School
4225 S Calhoun Rd, New Berlin WI 53151
262.366.9152

Oct. 3, 2015 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
$8 - children $2

Headline Band: ABBA Salute
Don’t miss out!

THE RENDEZVOUS

Dagens Wrocławia folklorist,
Farmande ett fävs av nationella tradi-
svenska Hälsning till alla och våra underhål-
Menzel, som stod för värdskapet.

Folkets Hus för att fira Sverige-Amerikadagen. 673 firar Sverige-Amerikadagen.

Härnösand No. 673
Logen Härnösands svenskspråkiga medlemmar underbara dagen väldigt välkomna. Därefter spelades en dans och ett taglarp slag.

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