



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

SUMMER 2018

Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



Newly elected Grand Lodge Officers, seated, L-R: Vice Grand Secretary Marlene Patient, Vice Grand Master John Hanright, Grand Master Art Bjorkner, Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon, Grand Secretary Joanie Graham. Standing, L-R: EBM-Midwest Region Tom Cleveland, EBM-Eastern Region Debbie Larsson, EBM-Canada Donna Englund, EBM-Sweden Connie Grön and EBM-Western Region Ed Netzel.

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



DEAR VASA MEMBERS,

It has been a few weeks since I was elected your Grand Master for the ensuing term. I was honored with a "send off" party by NJ District 6 Vasa Park Trustees, and I have begun forwarding messages to my Grand Lodge Deputies with updates for everyone. I am anxious to pass to all of you pertinent information from the GL Convention. The Delegates to the convention were hosted and toasted and worked very hard on your behalf to update and revise according to the actions and recommendations sent to

the convention from all of you!

The planning and execution of the convention was excellent. Many thanks go to Victoria Fedor-Thurman, Chairperson of the convention and her District 12 member committees. From hotel management, tours and food, we could have not asked for anything better. I would especially like to thank the many Swedish members attending the convention, and I am looking forward to attending theirs in May 2019!

The composition of the GL Executive Board is outstanding. Of the nine of them, I have known eight for at

least eight years, and they possess much usable Vasa knowledge for the Good of the Order. We are proud to announce the Order is officially on all three major social media platforms! Please share and join Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to help increase our social media presence. For additional questions contact our Social Media Director Chad Widman, chadwidman@gmail.com.

Shortly after the convention First Lady (Nancy) and I headed off to the famous Jamestown Scandinavian / continued on p4

National Archive News

The archive's board member Sten Hult honored - now Member Emeritus - at the Grand Lodge Convention / p3

Grand Lodge News

Vasa members from Canada, Sweden and the U.S. meet at the 39th Grand Lodge Convention in Sacramento, CA / p4

Scholarship winners

The Grand Lodge announces the winners of this year's awards with information on how to apply for next year / p6

Sweden America Day

Calmare Nyckel No. 628 celebrates Sverige-Amerika-Dagen 2018 at Kalmar Castle, Kalmar Sweden in June / p15

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



It is always an honor to be asked to write the editor's message, and this is perfect timing, as I was asked to participate in the Grand Lodge

Convention in Sacramento in July. I can't stop thinking and talking about it. It is hard to decide where to start to express the feelings for such a grand event, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to be there on behalf of Vasa Star. Thank you to the Executive Board and all the Delegates for their hard work while still enjoying everyone's company and having fun together. And super kudos to Grand Secretary Joanie Graham and Chairman/Convention Host Victoria Fedor-Thurman for putting together such a spectacular event.

I arrived on the fifth day and attended the Membership Seminar. At one time Vasa had 70,000 members; it's now about 8,800, losing 4% every year. We continue to ask each member to bring in one new member; this could double the membership. Host interesting programs, even with other community groups, and events with lots of food. Publicize your events on social media – or magnets for the fridge and car with annual events may make other people ask about them. Ask friends if they had their DNA tested and if they have some Scandinavian blood, that could get the conversation going. "Steal" ideas from other lodges (read about them in every issue!) and celebrate together with other Scandinavian friends, i.e. attend a Syttende Mai parade.

We must also remember our existing membership. Visit our sick and elders who are unable to participate.

Help them feel involved, included and important. Many of them brought us to where we are today. A lot of their history – and much more – is part of the Vasa National Archive, which was discussed by Archivist Kathy Cuff at the convention. So many improvements and exhibitions, and a lot of community involvement have been developing at Bishop Hill. Make your plans for a field trip to visit!

I joined the non-delegates on several interesting trips, too: a day in Lake Tahoe (where I talked with Swede Kjell Hansson and found out he is the "morf" of Maja Larsson who stayed with me for a few weeks some years ago); the Sierra Nevada Gold Country and wine tasting in Sonoma; we were at the Railroad Museum in Sacramento on the 4th of July and had a beautiful dinner, music by Smörgåsbandet and fireworks.

I was most impressed with all the friends I made. It was rewarding to meet people I only knew by name (from your submissions to Vasa Star), but now I have your face to go with it. And especially so many of you from Sweden.

To all of you readers of Vasa Star, keep those articles and pictures coming. Just remember: Include only a little detail on past events – let the pictures talk – and then include more details in promoting your upcoming events to maximize attendance. And help your lodge bring in the next new member!

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
LIZA EKSTRAND,
MANAGING EDITOR

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Pancake breakfast at summer resort Sveadal with Svea No. 348 drew the usual vintage automobiles / p11



"Snow" in Arizona as DL 21 convenes. / p9



Grand Lodge Convention in California. / p5
(Victoria, main organizer with Ulrika, photographer)



Midsummer court with Kern River member Bailey Reynolds at Vasa Park in Agoura. /p14

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when you are making a memorial donation

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Milwaukee WI 53213-0331

For our next issue:

By Nov. 1

DONATE to the Education & Scholarship Funds

Send your donations to: Vasa Order of America, Joan Graham, Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804

ARCHIVES NEWS

A message from the president of Vasa National Archives

DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
 Congratulations to Sten Hult who was honored at the Grand Lodge Convention as Vasa National Archives Board Member Emeritus. Sten has demonstrated an exceptionally high level of interest and care for the Archives since its origin, under multiple leadership terms. He has served with distinction and engaged in major volunteer and advocacy activities during his service. Sten has served the Vasa Order in many Local and District No 8 offices and was elected and served as Grand Lodge Board Member from the Midwest and served many terms on the Vasa National Archives Board. Sten and

his wife Nancy have offered significant philanthropic support to the VNA. They frequently visit and participate in events, volunteer and network on behalf of the Archives. I look forward to continuing to work with Sten on the Archives Board in his new role.

Archivist Kathy Cuff and I presented a new video of the Archives and the village of Bishop Hill, IL during the Grand Lodge Convention in July. The video showed the progress made during the last four years. Future programs and exhibits were presented and instruction was given regarding digital access to all collections. This was Kathy's first opportunity to meet Vasa members who

traveled from across the U.S., Canada and Sweden to attend the convention.

Kathy has spent the past three years categorizing, cleaning and properly storing collectibles. Additional storage is our greatest challenge. Please contact Kathy Cuff at vasaarchivist@gmail.com if you wish more information regarding specific storage needs and about items you can donate.

The Archives is an important branch of our Order and member support of our annual fundraisers is extremely important. Thank you to all members who have generously given to the Heritage Fundraiser that is under way. It's not too late for you to make this important

donation this year.

Thank you to the Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates who elected me to serve another four years on the Archive Board and to the current Archive Board who elected me as President. I will continue to do my best to support and improve the VNA and keep all members of the Order informed of the activities and progress made at the Archives.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
 BILL LUNDQUIST
 PGM AND PRESIDENT
 VNA



Greetings from the Vasa National Archives

In 1981, an interesting collection came into the Vasa National Archives: Augusta A. Berglund's purse, immigration paperwork and a hair clipping with a red ribbon. The records about this donation don't reveal much information on Augusta Berglund, but we can piece together some of her life from other records.

Augusta was born around 1875 and lived in Lannerberga, Kalmar, Sweden. Her parents were Isaac and Anna H. Berglund. At the age of 19, Adolf U. Berglund paid for her passage from Gothenberg to New York and Boston.

She signed an emigrant's contract with Scandia Linen in New York on March 23, 1894, shortly after arrival and married Otto Westlund on Nov. 14, 1896. Their first child Flossie Amalia arrived, and their second child, Richard, was born three years later in 1900. Augusta worked as a domestic to help make ends meet in 1910 while Otto worked as a machinist for a piano company then at a wire company by 1920.

Flossie obtained a job as a bookkeeper for a trucking company around 1920. She met George William Cockell during this time. George worked as a bookkeeper and later in radio repair and sales. Flossie and George married in Alton, NH on September 7, 1922. The newlyweds lived with Augusta and Otto for the first few years. Flossie's daughter was born in 1924 and we can assume that Augusta spent many happy



Augusta Berglund's leather purse.

hours with her grandchild.

The Head of Household status passed to George in 1930. Passing Head of Household to adult children is a fairly common practice in Sweden when the parents begin to seek retirement. George supported the family as a radio repairman. The 1930 census shows Otto continuing to work as a machinist and Richard working as a truck driver for a chain store. Otto died in 1936 at the age of 70.

Otto's death did not break up the family unit. Census records from 1940 show George, Flossie, their daughter Loraine, Flossie's mother Augusta and brother Richard living together. George supported the family and Richard helped by working as a car mechanic. Flossie and Augusta maintained the home and raised Loraine. Sadly, Richard died in 1953. Flossie

Cockell joined Mayflower #445 in 1963 and died in 1982.

My favorite part of the collection is Augusta A. Berglund's simple brown leather purse with the lock of blonde hair and red ribbon. We have no information on who the hair belonged to or if Augusta planned to weave it into an item at some point. It was common to take locks of hair before leaving for a long trip when you didn't expect to return. This artifact leads to conversations with visitors on what to bring on long trips and how you would remember places or people left behind.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
 KATHY CUFF, MANAGER-ARCHIVIST
 VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Christmas Greetings

Send your lodge or personal Christmas greetings to vasaeditor@gmail.com

'Vasa Star'

PO Box 13331
 Milwaukee WI 53213-0331
 One inch greeting - \$10
 Larger greetings - \$25

Submit your greeting no later than Nov. 1



Sjölunden Language Camp Awards

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce this year's Sjölunden Language Camp awards.

Bertha Kalm Sjölunden Language Camp Awards were awarded to: Anna Benson, DL #12; Ava Tomky, DL #8; Melissa Pearson, DL #8; Kristine Pearson, DL #8; Anya Hess, DL #12; Dmitriy Hess, DL #12; Clayton Lekander, DL #8; Katelyn Ogonoski, DL #1

Applications for next year's awards MUST be postmarked February 10, 2019. An application online will be available at www.vasaorder.com and in the next issue of the Vasa Star.

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Highlights of the Grand Lodge Meeting

Vasa members from Canada, Sweden and the U.S. gathered in Sacramento, California to attend the 39th quadrennial convention of the Grand Lodge - Vasa Order of America. It was an amazing week of greeting long-time friends, making new friends, visiting interesting and historic sites throughout northern California, and for the Grand Lodge Delegates and Officers, making decision that will affect the future of the Vasa Order of America. Your District Delegate can answer any questions you may have about specific motions discussed at the meeting. While it is not possible to list every action and motion approved, here are some highlights:

1. The Grand Lodge extends many thanks and appreciation to DL Golden Gate #12 Host Committee Chair Victoria Fedor-Thurman and her committee for a well run and very successful convention. Thanks also to District Master Sven-Ove Westberg, the District Executive Board, and the many hard working Vasa members throughout the District for their contributions to this successful endeavor.

2. Distinguished Service Awards were presented to four members nominated by their districts in recognition of their dedicated service to their districts and lodges. Three presentations will be made by the recipients' home districts. I don't want to spoil the surprise so won't name them here. One recipient was in attendance and a very surprised Birgitta Kellgren thanked the gathering for this well-deserved recognition.

3. Honorary Life Membership, Grand Lodge was presented to Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon, Grand Secretary Joanie Graham, and Webmaster Robert Anderson in recognition for their exceptional service to the VOA and the Grand Lodge.

4. The Grand Lodge Emblem was draped, and obituaries were read honoring Past Grand Master George Nord, Past Grand Lodge Board Members Gunnar Mossberg, Bertil Ericsson and Lennart Johansson, current Grand Lodge Deputy to the Central Region J Ben R Friberg, Past Grand Lodge Historian Robert Illig, Past Grand Lodge Cultural Director-Sweden Gun

Lith, and Past Grand Lodge Activities Director Baxter Swaffar.

5. 120 Motions and Officer's Recommendations were discussed and voted on. Of the 87 motions approved, 21 were referred to the incoming GL Executive Board for action. You can discuss details on specific motions with your district's Grand Lodge Delegate or contact me (GS Joanie at vasajlg@aol.com). Here are some of the decision made:

a. Bylaw changes made by a District Lodge in session become effective on approval by the District Lodge, provided they are consistent with the Constitution. A copy of the approved bylaw/s are to be sent to the Grand Secretary immediately following the close of the district meeting.

b. The revised Constitution and the Record of Proceeding will be distributed by electronic means (email attachment) rather than printed, to all District and Local Lodge Secretaries, Grand Lodge Deputies and Grand Lodge Officers. All members may request a copy by email attachment from any of these listed or from the Grand Secretary.

c. The ritual has been updated to be more welcoming to non-members and adds the Membership Chairman to the Installation of Officers ceremony. A revised Ritual will be printed and sent to the local lodges.

d. The application procedure for Old Age and Benefit requests has changed. The application is now handled by the Local Lodge Chairman and Secretary and then sent directly to the Grand Secretary. Approval and signatures by the District Lodge are no longer required. Applications are available from the Local Lodge Secretary or the Grand Secretary. The "matrix" (based on age and years of membership for determining amount of the grant) is still in effect.

e. Grand Lodge Delegates must now be elected before January 1 of the year of the Grand Lodge Convention.

f. The number of Local Lodge Auditors is reduced from three to two.



Joanie Graham, Grand Secretary

g. When voting on a new member, now 1/3 No votes are required to reject an application, rather than 3 No votes.

h. Incoming GL Executive Board will establish an anti-harassment policy.

i. The scholarship for Elder Hostel has been reinstated, EH now known as Road Scholar.

j. Quorum for the District Executive Board and the Grand Lodge Executive Board is set at "greater than 65% of all voting members of the board."

k. Local Lodges are to actively encourage and promote the election of younger members to be delegates to the District Meeting and to encourage them to run for district office.

l. Grand Lodge Executive Board will expand presence on social media; seek better Google search response; update Wikipedia article on the Vasa Order.

m. The newly designed Vasa website is very close to being launched.

n. In order to promote the advancement of youth, one Grand Lodge Executive Board member will be appointed to focus on youth issues.

o. A new Cultural Leaders' handbook was distributed to each delegate to take to their District Cultural Leader.

p. All District Historians are requested to provide material to the Grand Lodge Historian, Alice Iverson, for inclusion in the 125th Anniversary Book now in production. Please make

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

Festival in New York. We enjoyed the friendship, music, food and exhibits. Don Sandy of Thule Lodge #127 did a great job organizing everything.

If there are any festivals or exhibits in your area, endeavor to join in and have a "Vasa information" booth/table. We cannot gain members without sharing our enthusiasm for the order! Have brochures, applications and pictures of your events. Also, suggest at least one attending member wear the traditional costume. If you do not have a local brochure, download the GL brochure shown on the GL web Membership page, and go to the Membership Guide and see a sample of a local district brochure.

The new Vice Grand Lodge Secretary is Marlene Patient, marlenepatient@gmail.com. Contact her for jewelry, pins, new member packets (free)

and other paper products. New membership applications are available online to download. In accordance with an approved motion at the convention, no recommendation is now required for membership, and the wording has been deleted.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
ART BJORKNER, GRAND MASTER



sure your District and Local Lodges are included in this permanent record of the 125th year (2021) of the Vasa Order of America.

A list of the motions, along with the action taken on each motion, has been sent to each lodge, showing which were "Approved," "Rejected" and "Moot." Your Lodge Secretary has received this report and will share it at an upcoming meeting.

6. Great News: There will be no increase in Grand Lodge Assessments. Assessment remains at \$20.75 per member.

7. Newly elected Grand Lodge Officers are: Grand Master Art Bjorkner, Vice Grand Master John Hanright, Grand Secretary Joanie Graham, Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon, Vice Grand Secretary Marlene Patient, EBM-Eastern Region Debbie Larsson, EBM-Midwest Region Tom Cleveland, EBM-Western Region Ed Netzel, EBM-Canada Donna Englund and EBM-Sweden Connie Grön.

8. Newly elected Archives Board Members are: Charlotte Börjesson, Bill Lundquist, Bruce Elfvin and Karen Snowberg.

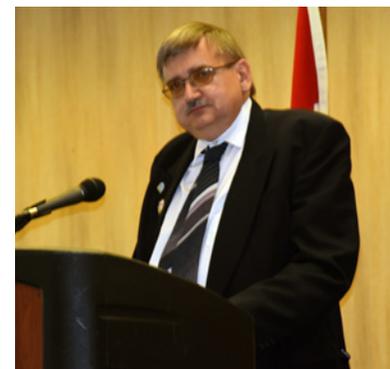
SUBMITTED BY JOANIE GRAHAM,
GRAND SECRETARY



Delegates and officers gather for a group photo at the 39th Grand Lodge Meeting in Sacramento, CA.



Lunch in Gold Country.



DM Sven-Ove Westberg welcomes the group.



Organizer par excellence Victoria Fedor-Thurman with FLOV in a borrowed hat.



Groupies from DL No. 6 celebrate Art Bjorkner's election as Grand Master. Right: Charlotte Börjesson and Lee-Anne Hurtubise show their moves.



Most animated meeting minute taker and scribe ever, Carl Hurtubise.



A (now) relaxed immediate PGM Tore Kellgren.



Kevin DeFeo of DL No. 6 joins the entertainment, Smörgåsbandet, for a riff on the ukulele.

Photography: Ulrika Friesen
(nee Kellgren)

WINNERS OF THE 2018 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce the winners of this year's College or Vocational School Scholarship Awards.



Alexandra Bjorkner
Sveaborg Lodge No. 446
DL New Jersey No. 6
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500

Alexandra attends University of Alabama majoring in occupational therapy. She is in a Fast-Track MSOT program and on the Dean's List. An outstanding dancer since the age of 4, she now performs at all the university football games as a "Golden Girl." Allie organized Sveaborg #446 Vasa Club in Alabama, and is the Chairman and Cultural Leader; she is seeking a volunteer to teach Swedish. During her spare time, Allie volunteers with outreach programs for disabled children, participates in local hospital programs and enjoys the beach.



Elizabeth Cleveland
Viljan Lodge No. 349
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500
Elizabeth is majoring in international and comparative politics and minoring in Parisian studies at American University of Paris. Eventually she plans on working in the human rights field. Elizabeth has been actively involved with Vasa and Vasa Park her whole life; both her parents have been District Masters. Elizabeth is a member of the National Honor Society, is a founding member of the High School FIDM Fashion Club, and the National Technical Honor Society.



Harrison Ogrentz
Nordik Folk Lodge No. 761
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500
Harrison is studying multimedia arts technology/music composition at Western Michigan University. He has been member of Nordikids Children's Club since age 5, is a member of Nordik Folk Lodge and is currently Assistant Master of Ceremonies. Harrison is involved in community theater and does odd jobs helping the local elderly. After college Harrison plans to work in the field of sound engineering and music composition for video games, film and television.



Greta Amidon
Viking Lodge No. 735
DL New Jersey No. 6

Edith Gauch /
Klinglof Scholarship, \$1500
Greta is from Bethlehem, PA and is studying engineering at Penn State University. A Vasa member since 2016, Greta has helped her lodge with the famous Scandinavian Fest and has served as Lucia for the annual pageant. She is a member of the local Black Belt Academy and helps out in her church.



Boone Denton
Carl Widen Lodge No. 743
Central Region
Ellis Hilner Scholarship, \$1500
Boone will attend Abilene Christian University to study micro-biomedical sciences. He has been a Vasa member since 2016. Boone is a member of the National Honor Society has received many community awards for service. He was in the top 10 percent of his class, received awards in football, baseball and track, was Class Secretary in 2017 and Class President in 2016. In his spare time, Boone enjoys landscaping, reading and historical preservation. His goal is to become an ophthalmologist.



Heidi Abrahamsen
Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No. 4
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500
Heidi is majoring in architecture at New York Institute of Technology. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Art Honor Society. She joined Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 in 2001 (age 3) and became a Vasa member at 14. She has participated in many Nordic events including serving as Miss Sweden Day (2017-18), performing at Midsummer in Battery Park City NY and local lodge/District events. Heidi is on NYIT's Cross Country Track Team and is a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee Board.



Elise Land
Arlington Lodge No. 62
DL New Jersey No. 6
Grand Lodge Scholarship - \$1500
Elise graduated from Mt. Olive High School in 2018, but she will be returning to her native Norway to study education and music at Stavern Folkehoyskole. Elise has been a very active member of Vasa since 2015. She has been a participant and instructor in both Skansen and Vassstjarnan folk dance groups. Elise is a member of the National Honor Society, is a member and performer in the Arlington Angels singing group, and is active in many music extra-curricular groups. Elise's goal is to teach English in Norway.



Catherine Johnson
Viljan Lodge No. 349
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500
Catherine has been a Vasa member since 2017. Since age 7, she has been a member of a Swedish Children's Choir and the Children's Club, and now mentors younger members. Catherine is a member of the National Honor Society, has served as Yearbook Editor and has been active in her church mission work. She plans to study education / Spanish / speech therapy at Illinois State University this fall and hopes of become a teacher or speech pathologist.



Heidi Ekborg-Ott
Facklan Lodge No. 248
Central Region

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500
Heidi will be studying international relations at Simpson College. Heidi has been on the Honor Roll, Dean's List, and was a foreign exchange student through the Rotary Youth Exchange in Japan and Italy. She speaks Swedish and has been a Vasa member since 2017 but has been active in Vasa for many years in the Lucia and Midsummer celebrations and also in the Danish Brotherhood.



Katie Spaberg
Evening Star Lodge No. 426
DL Pacific SW No. 15
Irma & Knute Carlson Scholarship - \$1500

Katie got her undergraduate degree at California State at Northridge and continues her studies at Stanbridge University where she will graduate in 2019 as an occupational therapy assistant. She has been a Vasa member since 2011, participated in Sjölund in 2010 and was a member of the local lodge children's club. Katie has been working at a preschool and has been a volunteer in elementary school special ed programs. She hopes to specialize in pediatrics, working with young children with delayed development/disabilities.



Jessica Samuelson
Skandia Lodge No. 549
DL Alberta No. 18
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500
Jessica is studying digital media-IT web design and development at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, where she is on the Dean's List. A 12-year Vasa member, she

is also a volunteer for Skandia's Children's Summer Camp. Jessica has served her local lodge as Cultural Leader since 2014 and helps plan the Midsummer celebration held at Alberta's Vasa Park. She is active in sports and serves as a DJ in her spare time.

The Grand Lodge 2019 Scholarship and Essay Contest

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

Applicants for the above scholarships must have become a Vasa member prior to February 15, 2018.

Applications are available at the Vasa website until January 15, 2019.

To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2019 to be considered.

1. Completed application with enclosures MUST be postmarked no later than 15 February 2019.
2. Complete "OFFICIAL" 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. Current passport style photo headshot (at least 4"x6") or email a digital headshot photo to vgm@vasaorder.org
4. A letter of recommendation from applicant's Local Lodge with date of initiation.
5. Letters of recommendation from two personal references dated 2019.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor, dated 2019.
7. An original, typed essay, not to exceed 1,000 words. Cannot have been submitted in prior years.

Please put in one envelope if possible

Choose an essay subject from the following list:

1. What do you consider to be a role youth can and should play in Vasa?
2. If you have visited a Nordic Country, what was the most impressive element of your visit and why?
3. Explain the differences in Nordic music written by Sibelius, Kalle Jularbo and ABBA and which best suits you.
4. How would you describe how social programs differ from each other in the Nordic countries?
5. Describe the various economies of the Nordic countries and compare their success.
6. Within the Nordic countries, choose what is a most popular tourist attraction, and provide your thoughts on its appeal.
7. What Nordic invention appeals to you as being most important to mankind and why?

AWARDS ARE PAYABLE TO the institution in which the student is enrolled or accepted for enrollment. To qualify for the College or Vocational School Scholarship, a 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.

John Hanright, Vice Grand Master
47 Scandia Rd
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Phone: (973) 262-2412
E-mail: vgm@vasaorder.org

Winners of Grand Lodge Scholarship



Jennifer Pearson
Nordik Folk Lodge No. 761
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

District Lodge No. 8 Scholarship, \$1500

Jennifer is attending Purdue University, Calumet, studying general communications. After graduation in May 2019, she hopes to work in the museum industry or in advertising for a hospital system. Jennifer has been a Vasa member since 2011 and was very active in Nordikids # 208. She continues to assist with the club and holds an office in the local lodge.



Marissa Childs
Svea Lodge No. 253
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500
Marissa is majoring in engineering physics at Hanover College, with intentions of starting a career in energy and environmental engineering. Marissa has been a member of Vasa since 2014 and has participated in various lodge events including the Sankta Lucia Program. In high school, she was awarded Women's Soccer Top Scholar Athlete, Track Top Scholar and was in the band. She was salutatorian of her graduating class, president of the senior class, and a National Honor Society inductee.



Matthew Anderson
Nordic Lodge No. 611
DL Massachusetts No. 2
Einar & Edith Nilsson Scholarship, \$1500
Matthew is studying history at College of the Holy Cross and hopes to become a high school history teacher. He completed the prestigious "Silent Hero" Normandy Project and is a member of the National Honor Society, Boy Scouts and Dean's List. He received a Certificate of Achievement from the Military Order of World Wars in 2016, among other prestigious awards including two Presidential Awards for Academic Excellence. Matthew became a member of Vasa in 2016.



Katarina Prasso
Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No. 4
Bo & Sigrid Bjorling Scholarship, \$1500. Katarina is studying music therapy and psychology at Loyola University in New Orleans. A Vasa member since 2012, Katarina has been active in Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 since 2000, and she was Miss Sweden Day in 2016. Katarina was Outstanding Orchestra Student and recognized by the National Society of Leadership and Success. She participates in her community and provides music therapy services locally.



Nicole Hopkins
Monitor Lodge No. 218
DL Golden Gate No. 12
Oscar & Mildred Larson Scholarship, \$1500
Nicole will be studying english and economics at Montana State University, Bozeman, for which she received a Presidential Scholarship. A Vasa member since 2013, she served as Guard and Lucia and did other volunteer work with her local lodge. Nicole was on the Honor Roll with a Merit Award for U.S. History. Her goal is to become a writer or join the Peace Corps.



Kevin Shoemaker
Drott Lodge No. 168
DL Pennsylvania No. 9
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500
Kevin plans to attend University of Mary Washington for international studies and hopes to work with the U.S. government as a military attache. He received the Gold Award for German; he studies Swedish, German and French. Kevin was designated Staff Sargeant in his JROTC unit and was on the drill team; he joined Vasa in early 2017 and assists his local lodge when he can.



Morgan Klintare
Golden Valley Lodge No. 616
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1500
Morgan is a nursing student at Cuesta College. She is a licensed phlebotomist, and her long-term goal is to be a cardiovascular surgeon. Morgan has been a Vasa member since 2015 and has served as Lodge Princess and was Lucia for 3 years. She has received four national gold medals for rowing and was on the U.S. National Women's Team for two years.



Sara Melendez
Karl XII Lodge No. 103
DL Connecticut No. 1

Gladys & Russell Birtwistle Scholarship, \$1500

Sara plans to study medicine at Loyola University, Chicago. She has been a Vasa member since 2015, volunteering at local lodge parades and Midsummer celebrations. She has been an Honor Roll student, is a member of the National Honor Society, the Science- and Math National Honors Societies. She has worked at the Canton Public Library, helped found the Canton H.S. Writing Center, and coordinated Canton National Honor Society's local involvement in Read Across America Day.



Trygve Nordby
Nobel Lodge No. 184
DL Pacific Northwest No. 13

Grand Lodge Scholarship - \$1500
Trygve plans to study mechanical engineering at Oregon State University. He has been a Vasa member since 2014 and participates in his local lodge; he is a former member of the dance group. Trygve has been involved in soccer, baseball, swimming and music, and was awarded Athlete of the Month from the Rotary Club. His goal is to work for an auto manufacturer.

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL No. 7 Minnesota

The Biennial Convention of Minnesota District No. 7 was held in May at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. After coffee, treats and time to greet everyone, District Master Kendra Nielsen opened the meeting and welcomed everyone with a brief history of VOA. The business portion concluded with the installation of officers. MN District No. 7 is so thankful for retiring Vice District Secretary JoAnn Thoreen's years of dedicated service. Following the meeting an impressive memorial service was held where a candle was lit for each person who died, and white carnation was placed in a vase as each name was read. Accordion music was provided by Carolyn Spargo. Carolyn also entertained with Scandinavian favorites during dinner. The day concluded with the presentation by Grand Lodge Deputy Franklin Dietrich of a 40-year-pin to Leslie Lien and a PDM emblem to Kendra Nielsen.

SUBMITTED BY EUNICE DIETRICH



Biennial Convention of Minnesota District No. 7, including new officers: District Master Antonio Spargo; Vice District Master Kristin Johnson; Jr. Past District Master Kendra Nielsen; District Secretary Leslie Lien; Vice District Secretary Kendra Nielsen; District Treasurer Eunice Dietrich; District Cultural Leader Donna Mae Jensen; Supervisor of Children and Youth Carolyn Spargo; District Historian/Membership Kari Dietrich Sifferle; and Auditor David Anderson.

DL No. 21 ARIZONA

Members of District No. 21 met in Oro Valley Community Center for a one-day convention in April. The meeting was hosted by Lodge No 691 Tucson and included the installation of new leadership and a luncheon. Marilee Mansfield played her Nyckelharpa and described the history of her instrument. Then-GM Tore Kellgren reported on administrative matters and two special awards were presented to GL Deputy Vito Pantaleo and Pat Flippen of Scandia for this.

A Southern Arizona BBQ was followed by Aurora Borealis Folk Band and Vasa 691 Folk Dancers with a Nordic beat.

SUBMITTED BY SANDRA FOGARTY



Vasa 691 Dancers (from left): Howard Yoffee, Lorien Tershy, Gary Spinks, Nancy Bannister, Phyllis Gracy, Sven Iverson, Denis Higbie, and Gayle Anderson - new DM.



Lunch event with Marilee Mansfield and her nyckelharpa

DL No. 15 PACIFIC SW

The inspiration to create a couple gnome homes came from a photo that appeared in the December 2016 issue of Nordstjernen. Someone had built a tiny restaurant that attracted residents in Malmö, Sweden to stop, lean over for a closer look, and smile. Members of a couple local lodges and District 15 Cultural Chairwoman Nancy Kingston thought it would be fun to hide a few of their own at the bases of trees throughout Vasa Park in Agoura Hills, CA. They got together at weekly workshops to create gnome homes, and soon more than 30 were constructed - and the idea for the Gnome Home Scavenger Hunt evolved. Torsten Olsson from Oak Leaf Lodge carved a troll for our event, and searching for gnome homes hidden throughout the park was so much fun that we have been asked to make this an annual event. Our district would like to challenge other districts to make some gnome homes and create a Gnome Home Scavenger Hunt in their area.

SUBMITTED BY NANCY KINGSTON



Torsten Olsson and his carved troll.



Ladies making gnome homes: Britt Potter, Kerstin Wendt, Birgitta Clark, Andrea Tabanelli, Delphine Trowbridge, Dorothy Burns, Lisa Dackow, Mona Steffan, Pia Blommer and Nancy Kingston.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

North Star No. 106

LOS ANGELES, CA / On July 12, 2018 NS member Evelyn Earls turned 100 years old. Evelyn has been a member of NS for 87 years. In 1973 and 74 she was Chairman of the Lodge, and has held many other positions. She had five children of which two are still alive, seven grandchildren and numerous grandchildren. On her birthday she received three visitors in the morning, North Star's V. Chairman Inga Francis, Secretary

Maidie Karling and a friend from Golden Valley Lodge Birgitta Clark. They celebrated with Champagne that we drank in water glasses and presented her with flowers. A crown was put on her head and Evelyn looked so beautiful. She was asked what is your family doing with you. She said they are taking me to Pechunga (a casino), because that is where I want to go.

SUBMITTED BY MAIDIE KARLING



Celebrating with Evelyn: North Star's V. Chairman Inga Francis, Secretary Maidie Karling and a friend from Golden Valley Lodge Birgitta Clark.

Nobel Monitor No. 130



Harpersville Covered Bridge

CLEVELAND, OH / In July, Nobel Monitor joined Svea No. 296 from Erie, PA for a lunch at a winery near Geneva, OH. The weather was clear, the music was enjoyable and fellowship was joyous for all 36 of us. Several visited the Harpersville Covered Bridge nearby.

SUBMITTED BY GARY LARSON

Tegner No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / Our members enjoyed the Midsummer celebration at Sveadal in June. As usual, Chairman Ken Weissenborn supervised the decoration of the Maypole and raised it in its place. Dancing around the pole was short because of the 100 degree heat. However, there were shady areas for picnic lunches and the crowning of the Midsummer Queen. In July, our lodge hosted the Bay Area Tri-Lodge Picnic at Redwood Regional Park, and we

were pleased to have guests from lodges outside the Bay Area. Marilyn Jackson (Framat Lodge) and James Little played Swedish songs on their violins for a sing-a-long; James also played his Swedish bagpipe, and Tegner lodge won the Kubb Tournament! We are looking forward to celebrating our 110th anniversary in November. Details announced soon.

SUBMITTED BY ANN TENNIS



Three members were honored for their summer birthdays: Chairman Tom Eckberg, Past Chairman & Past District Master Edwin Sandberg and Historian John Sipos were recognized by the lodge members.

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN/BEMUS POINT, NY / Spring was good to us with good weather, meetings and gatherings, and recently summer birthdays were celebrated with a special Swedish decorated cake for the occasion. At the meeting, Cultural Leader Sonja Pascatore told of an old Swedish dessert called Spettekaka, dating back 400 years. The ingredients included potato flour, beet sugar and lots of eggs. It was for special occasions such as weddings and births. The Thule Lodge build-

ing and grounds were recently sold, as the cost of maintaining them was too great. Meetings will be held in a local banquet hall.

The annual Scandinavian Festival was held in Jamestown, with much music, dancing and plenty of Swedish food — — the wonderful, three-day event was enjoyed by many. We hope everyone has a wonderful and colorful fall season. God dag to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS

Linne No. 153

SOUTH BEND, IN / Member Chris Miller brought some beautiful hand-embroidered clothing from her grandmother to our May meeting. She wondered if anyone knew the name of the red trimmed apron-like article of clothing, since it had the dates 1874 on one pocket and 1914 on the other. (See the attached picture and let us know if you know or what it was used for.) Gordon Westergren gave a report on the district convention. He won the handmade afghan donated by Kathy Cuff, and Lori Cooper won the 1st place raffle drawing. In July we had our annual

picnic, and on October 7 we hope to have a meeting on the Presentation on Friends of The Viking Ship, which is located in Geneva, IL. We will have a presentation from Matt Baumgartner again in November, then December is our Christmas Party.

We will miss member Becky Fern and wish her well on her move to Ft. Myers. And congratulations and best wishes to members Beth Kemble and Ron Wood who are getting married at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on September 15.

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE COOPER



Chris Miller brought hand-embroidered textiles - who knows anything about the apron?

Svea No. 253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / Our upcoming meetings are: October 7, 2018: Anne Shaw Kingery presents Carl Standlund and Lustron homes. On November 4, 2018: Dr. Michelle Facos, "A Special Feeling for Nature: from National Romanticism to MooseBooties." And on November 8-10, 2018: International Festival.

SUBMITTED BY JAMES HOOK



Right: Svea No. 253 celebrating Midsummer with special music and dance.



Svea Lodge No. 348 Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast

Svea No. 348

SAN JOSE, CA / In April we celebrated Valborgsmässoafton at the San Jose Odd Fellows Hall. The evening started with Swedish pea soup and hors d'oeuvres, and the night featured a traditional bonfire and two wonderful performances by the fabled Zaida Singers led by Zaida Hansson Binetti. The Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser was held at Sveadal, a real celebration since the park had been closed all of 2017 after heavy winter storms last year. The annual event is famous for attracting vintage automobiles that make the windy drive into the Swedish summer resort tucked away in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains. The popular fundraiser was well organized by Keith and Marilyn Crawford. As always, everyone enjoyed a wonderful day.

SUBMITTED BY JIM MELIN



Svea Lodge No. 348 Valborgsmässoafton Bonfire



Vintage Cars at Sveadal

Viljan No. 349

BATAVIA, IL / In March Reed Sheer talked about his explorations in Antarctica and the connection to tracking climate change. We also welcomed a new member, Kristina Karl, and in April membership was extended to her brother Christopher Karl, making them both 3rd generation members in their family. Also in April, the Lekanders provided us with Swedish music and gave a demonstration on the art of creating Dala horses; and 12 of our members visited the Swedish American Museum in Chicago and ate lunch at Tre Kronor. During the May meeting three of our students were recognized for receiving schol-

arships. This was followed by a recap of this year's district convention by our delegates, and a small memorial service was held for Marilyn Thryselius.

Clayton LeKander taught us about the Swedish game, kubb. The game was such a hit that we brought it back during our August picnic and ice cream social! Many of our members have been preparing for Scandinavian Day on September 9, during which our lodge will be selling Swedish meatballs.

SUBMITTED BY KRISTINA KARL



Viljan Lodge trip to the Swedish-American Museum in Andersonville.



Right: Julia Lekander demonstrating the art of decorating Dala horses.



Mayflower No. 445

TORRANCE, CA / Zlatan in LA! The Swedish soccer star Zlatan Ibrahimovich was recruited this spring to play for LA Galaxy. Earlier, he was captain of the Swedish national team and had a successful career in the Netherlands, Italy, France and the UK. September 29 has been designated Swedish Heritage Night at Stubhub Center in honor of Zlatan. It's going to be an exciting game - buy your tickets soon if you wish to

be seated in the reserved sections. Section 103 is reserved for Vasa members; ticket prices are \$25-\$31 for front seats. After the game, Zlatan will visit with the Swedish contingent, and maybe he will run up the stairs and celebrate with us when he scores. More information is available at www.lagalaxy.com/sweden

SUBMITTED BY BERTIL WINTHNER



DL 8 Convention and Linde's contribution to the culture program "God Jul"



Midsommar celebration with Linde members Mary Stetson and Carol Gustafson leading the procession with their violin music.

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / Summer kicked off with the DL 8's Convention in May. We had four delegates participating, learning, enjoying great Vasa friends, fun

activities, and good food. Midsommar was a beautiful day at a new location, and a huge success. In July, Chairman Liza went to the GL Convention in Sacramento as the Vasa Star managing editor, a special event (see editor's note).

As we are gearing up for fall, we have several special events: Kräftskiva on Aug. 25 at the Ekstrand's home, a two-day field trip to Bishop Hill and their Ag-Days (Jordbruksdagarna) on Sept. 29 & 30 - please join us! Our lodge is participating in the annual Scandinavian Festival in New Berlin, WI on Oct. 6 (See ad on another page). At the Nov. 3 lodge meeting, Liza will do a special

presentation from her view of the Grand lodge Convention 2018; Dec. 2 is our lodge Christmas lunch, and later in December there will be, of course, a Lucia event!

Contact us at lekstrand@wi.rr.com if you would like to be part of anything.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



Celebrating the 4th of July picnic at the GL Convention in Sacramento at the "Swedish" table. Some of the folks are: Charlotte Börjeson (front left), Kurt & Maggie Ahlin Thelin and Ulla-Britt Essgren front right. Liza Ekstrand in back center left, and GM Tore & wife Birgitta Kellgren far left in the back.

Bishop Hill No. 683



Norland Band with Ernie Sandquist (left to right).

BISHOP HILL, IL / We celebrated Midsommar on June 23 at the Colony School. What a wonderful day it was, with music in the park all day.

At 4 p.m. it was time to put greens and flowers on the Maypole, many people were in the park to help. At the school, with the leadership of



Chairman Judy Anderson (left) and her granddaughter with a friend.

members of the Swedish American Museum of Chicago, we danced many ring dances, Små Grodorna, Musikanter, Karusellen and the

Rocket. Ernie Sandquist and the Norland Band played the music; it was a wonderful time.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF ANDERSON

Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / Our activities have been keeping everyone involved in Vasa. In April many of us attended the 103rd convention Golden Gate District Lodge #12 in Milpitas. Tore Kellgren announced the great news that the Grand Lodge had \$40,000 in scholarship money, and awarded 20 scholarships this year. How wonderful for our students. In August we gathered with our Vasa brothers and sisters, and Corky Peterson hosted the annual Crayfish and Salmon Potluck.

On Sept. 1 at the Cattlemens Restaurant in Selma, CA was our 50th anniversary luncheon. Corky Peterson is presenting a Swedish Genealogy Presentation on Oct. 20; contact her at corksterr@att.net for details. And please come on Dec. 8 for our biggest fundraiser of the year: the Lucia and Lutfisk Celebration. The Svenska Kids Musik Club will entertain us and the beautiful Lucia Pageant will begin at 7 p.m. The Christmas Smorgasbord is always delicious with glogg and Christmas cookies for dessert. Save the dates.

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN



Ed Rice, Helen Fosick and Leona Rice celebrate August birthdays



Mike and Corky Peterson Bar-B-Q-ing the Salmon

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / We look forward to finishing our long, hot summer and are ready to start our fall season with the following programs: Sept. 22 - Environmental issues in Nordic countries; Oct. 20 - Early immigration & the Seattle Nordic Heritage Museum; Nov. 10 - Jul Bazaar with other Nordic groups; and finally, Dec. 8 - Lucia Festival & Pageant.

These programs will bring us to the end of the current year, during which Cultural Leader Judith Ahlberg has worked diligently to bring varied, informative programs. We will be saying so-long to our Vasa Bladet editor, Carol Blackwell, who is moving her publication base to be closer to family. We wish her well and will miss her a lot.

Our Jul Bazaar is an occasion filled with the antici-

tion of the holidays to come. Various Nordic groups participate in offering crafts, good food and laughter. Then it's time to prepare for the Lucia celebration. Visitors and guests are always welcome. Information can also be found at www.vasaorder.net/?lodge=677



May meeting.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON



Midsummer Queen and Court this year are (L-R): Princess Bella Smedeby, Princess Vendela Smedeby, Princess Treslyn Smedeby, Princess Alexis Smykal, Princess Hannah Loessberg, Queen Sheldon Cornwell and Princess Britt Almquist

Glenn T. Seaborg No. 719

LAGUNA WOODS, CA / Each year we celebrate a combination National Sweden Day and Midsummer with a BBQ held at Dana Point Harbor. Holding the event at such a popular location is a great way to attract new members. Our Midsummer Queen was Sheldon Cornwell.

SUBMITTED BY NANCY KINGSTON



Vinland Midsummer celebration.

Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / We think it is NOT supposed to rain on Midsummer! And certainly not two years in a row, but we learned it rained on celebrations in Sweden also. We placed our Maypole on three tables inside the hall and adorned it with fresh flowers and greens. Following our picnic lunches the showers eased so we set up the Maypole in the parking lot. Ahh, we could sing and dance to our traditional songs, especially Små Grodorna.

IN MEMORIAM

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, PO Box 13331, Milwaukee, WI 53213-0331. Email: vasaeditor@gmail.com. The fee is \$10 - max. 40-45 words, and \$25 for longer obituaries - 50-120 words. 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.

OHIO

SARAH BLASER, 105, an active and loved member of Nobel-Monitor No. 130 since 1982, died on July 26, 2018. She graciously sold our 50/50 raffle tickets, at-

tended the lodge's Breakfast Club for many years, and was an honored lifetime member.

OREGON

SUSANNA BJORK-BELL died in Astoria on April 1, 2018 at the age of 67. Susanna joined Astor Lodge No. 215 on January 28, 2007 and was a willing worker who will be missed.

NELLY NORRMAN was born May 18, 1919 in Umeå, Sweden. She also died in Umeå, on March 30, 2018, just short of her 99th birthday. Nelly lived in Astoria, OR for a number of years and joined Astor Lodge No. 215 on April 27, 1963. She was one of the original organizers who, in 1967, started the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival which is still going strong 51 years later. Though Nelly moved back to Sweden in the 1980s, she remained in touch and kept an interest in Vasa.

Kern River No. 763

BAKERSFIELD, CA / Vasa Members from all over Southern California and Sweden celebrated our most treasured tradition in June – Midsummer at Vasa Park in Agoura. It was very special this year since one of our new members, Bailey Reynolds, represented Kern River Lodge in the Midsummer Court. Escorted by her brother Garrett, we were all very proud of Bailey as Miss Columbia. Every year it is memorable to see the procession of the Midsummer Court, Swedish Folk Dance Club of LA and the musicians coming down the walk ... and later we all enjoy watching our Vasa members joining in with the folk dancers. The children had plenty of activities at the water slide, bounce house, tube sliding and more.

Our next Vasa Park activity is the Höstmarknad/Fall Market on Oct. 16 where we have the big Meatball Competition together with Viking Reenactment, lawn games, vendors, etc.

SUBMITTED BY LAILA JENSEN

Top: Bailey Reynolds, Carolina Pall and Rachael DeLaurenti. Right: Garrett & Bailey - Miss Columbia



Our desserts included watermelon, pepparkaks cake, mandelkakor and other treats. At our July meeting, we shared photographs of our past events. In August, Clara Buttrick related her experiences and friendship with two Norwegian skiers who helped set up a Minnesota ski resort for handicapped skiers. Kajsa Brimdyr, our cultural

leader, sends information by email about events in Sweden as she travels there frequently for business. Upcoming meetings are Sept. 15, Oct. 20 and Nov. 10 with presentations by some members on their travels and Kajsa's worldwide business interests.

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN ELLNER KEAN

TEXAS

MARGARET "PEGGY" OLSSON died peacefully May 15, 2018 in Dallas. She is survived by her husband John of 62 years. Peggy was a remarkable woman and will be greatly missed by her loving family and everyone at Carl XVI Gustaf No. 716 Dallas, TX.

WASHINGTON

DOREEN PARKER (4/18/1921 - 1/8/2018) passed away in Aberdeen. Besides being a member of Norskenet No. 189, she was a lifetime member of Sons of Norway. Doreen had a great sense of humor and was very helpful. She will be missed by family and friends.

SHIRLEY OPAL RANEY, 83, died on May 8, 2018 to be reunited in heaven with her husband Robert, son Robert Jr, and daughter Susan Hamilton. Shirley is survived by Rose Raney, Robert, Chris and Braxton Hamilton. Shirley was a member of Svea No. 469 of Longview, WA.

WISCONSIN

PATRICIA NORDQUIST, 93, died on April 30, 2018. Pat is survived by her daughters, sons- and daughter-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was a very active Linde Lodge 492 member until a few years ago. She will be missed by family and friends.

SWEDISH NEWS

Skåne No. 570

MALMÖ, SWEDEN / Sy Birgit Ekelund Logen Skånes Hedersmedlem har blivit 100 år.

Högtidsdagen firades på annan ort med släkt och vänner. Några dagar senare var logens Ordf. Sy Marie Wickström hemma hos jubilaren för att överbringa logens lyckönskningar. Sy Birgit är en trogen besökare på våra möten fast hon uppnått denna beundransvärda ålder. Sy Birgit har ett långt medlemskap i vår Orden med olika logetillhörigheter, Logen Mälardrottningen, Logen Småland och nu Logen Skåne.

SUBMITTED BY OLLE WICKSTRÖM



Ordf. Sy Marie uppvaktar Sy Birgit på hennes högtidsdag.

Höganäs No. 634



Fanparad.

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Den 16 juni hölls det traditionella sommarmötet, Sverige-Amerika mötet. Dagen till ära installerades fyra nya medlemmar i logen. Installationen skedde enligt den nya ritualen. Efter installationen genomfördes en vacker och högtidlig fanparad. Alla fick välförtjänta applåder efter väl utförd fanparad. Efter logemötet var det dags för bankett. Traditionsenligt utbringas kvällens första skål till HM Konung Karl XVI Gustav och Kungssången sjungs. Vidare enligt traditionen bjuds det på kokt lax med tillbehör med efterrätt jordgubbar med glass och grädde. När banketten är avslutad och borden är avdukade serveras kaffe och kaka, samtidigt

som musiken spelar upp till dans. Att dans är nyttigt bekräftas av våra äldsta medlemmar Sy. Maj-Britt Carlsson och Br. Stig Nilsson. Trots att de båda är över 90 år finner man dem ofta uppe på dansgolvet. När sedan lördagen går över till söndag och lotteri-dragning klar, musiken har tystnat då var det dags att gå hem från ännu en trevlig kväll i Vasas anda och se fram mot Kulturmötet den 22 september. Ett kulturmöte där Ulrik Alm kommer att tala om "Kvinnor som äventyrare och resenärer"



Flitiga på dansgolvet, Sy. Maj-Britt Carlsson och Br. Stig Nilsson.

SUBMITTED BY
OLA SANDBERG

Calmare Nyckel No. 628

Årets Sverige-Amerikadag 10 juni 2018, den 68:e på Kalmar slott.

Dagen firades i strålende sol och började i Kalmar slottskyrka. Gudstjänsten inleddes med vacker musik - prästen Johanna Hajstad vid fiolen och Per-Ola Svensson vid orgeln. Gudstjänsten hölls delvis på engelska och innehöll, förutom sedvanlig gudstjänstordning, predikan med hänvisning till emigrationen där Johanna Hajstad berörde de umbärande de som lämnade Sverige fick utstå. Många lämnade åldriga föräldrar, syskon och vänner men också stor fattigdom. Musiken med anknytning till emigrationen, var komponerad av P Moreus och W Petersson-Berger. Sällskapet flyttade sig till "Gröna salen". Moderator broder Ole Torffvit hälsade alla välkomna och visade in fanparaden som med andaktsfulla steg äntrade salen. Syster Solbritt Allgren presenterade de olika fanorna varvid den svenska, amerikanska och canadensiska nationalsången och Vasasången sjöngs unisont. Ackompanjerade gjorde Calmare Brazz. Hälsningsanförande hölls av Kalmar kommunfullmäktiges ordförande Roger Kaliff. Från Amerikanska am-

bassaden kom David Lindvall, Charge' d'affaires och höll ett högtidstal. Kalmar Folkdanslag med Kalmar Spelmanslag framförde ett antal folkdanser inför en uppskattande publik. Calmar Brazz underhöll med bravur och avslutade med "Så skimrande var aldrig havet". Gemensam avmarsch med fanbärare företogs till Krusenstiernska gården där ostkakegille stod på programmet. Underhållning fortsatte med dans, musik och sedvanliga lotterier. Dagen var mycket lyckad i det varma och soliga vädret med väl genomfört program.

SUBMITTED BY MARIANNE WESTMAN



Ovan till höger: De duktiga fanbärarna Lena Brissman, Asta Dahle'n, Valdis Nilhov, Solbritt Allgren och Monica Jernetz nu framme vid Krusenstiernska gården.



Stämmingsfull gudstjänst i Kalmar slottskyrka.

Ovan: Fanorna presenteras av Solbritt Allgren, här med Vasaflaggan.

Höger: Sedvanligt ostkakegille i Krusenstiernska parken.



GRAND LODGE NEWS

Grand Master, Art Bjorkner

Art Bjorkner was elected to the position of Grand Master of the Vasa Order of America during July's Grand Lodge Convention in Sacramento. He is a long-standing member of the Vasa Order in two local lodges, Sveaborg #446 and Frithiof #63 in New Jersey District #6.

Art was elected to the executive board representing the Eastern Region in 2010. In that position he wrote The Vasa Membership Guide which can be found and downloaded from www.vasaorder.com. During that term he served as Membership Chairman and as a member of the Finance Committee. He also assisted CT District #1 in rewriting its district constitution. Art was elected to the position of Vice Grand Master in 2014.

Art graduated from the University of New York Maritime College with a BS in marine transportation and a Navy Commission. He later completed his MBA in finance from the University of New Haven. He is also a licensed Merchant Marine Officer.



The newly elected Grand Master and FLOV Nancy visit the Nordstjernen display at the Scandinavian Folk Festival in Jamestown NY (with Mette Barslund Martensson, right).

Art spent 20 years in active duty in the US Navy in the submarine service. After retiring from the Navy he spent 10 years sailing the world as a captain on tankers. Art "came ashore" and

managed a fleet of 26 tankers. Following a second retirement he accepted the role of executive vice president of an international ship registry with over 700 vessels and is currently the deputy commissioner for the registry. Art presently has an unlimited license for any size vessel sailing worldwide.

Art is a member of the: Council of American Marines; City of New York Marine Society; Marine Accident Investigators Inter-

national Forum; Naval Submarine League; Military Officers Association; American Legion; Disabled American Veterans; United States

Submarine Veterans; Honorary First Defenders Board; National Cargo Bureau; Masonic Order; and, Shriners.

Art and Nancy have been married 55 years and have three children and six grandchildren. During their marriage they've moved 14 times. All of Nancy and Art's family belong to Vasa.

Art collects old Volvos and plays the trombone. He enjoys making repairs and yard maintenance in Vasa Park in Budd Lake, New Jersey, the residential community in which he and Nancy live and share strong friendships. Art and Nancy travel frequently to Sweden and enjoy visiting with relatives.

Art feels enthusiasm is the lacking ingredient in membership growth and hopes to encourage all Vasa members to reignite the energy and excitement they felt when they joined the Order. He is looking forward to serving the Vasa Order as Grand Master offering leadership and guidance for the future.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY
PGM, BILL LUNDQUIST

STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

Det har gått några veckor sedan jag valdes till din stormästare för 4 år framåt. Jag har blivit hedrad med ett "send off" - party av NJ District 6 Vasa Park Trustees, och jag har börjat vidarebefordra meddelanden till mina Storlogedeputerade med uppdateringar. Jag är angelägen om att alla relevanta uppgifter från Storlogemötet kommer alla till del. Delegaterna till Storlogemötet var väl omhändertagna och uppskattade och arbetade mycket hårt för att uppdatera och revidera i enlighet med de åtgärder och rekommendationer som skickats till Storlogemötet från alla medlemmar!

Planeringen och genomförandet av Storlogemötet var berömligt. Många tack går till Victoria Fedor-Thurman, ordförande för Storlogemötet, och hennes kommittéer i District 12. Hotellarrangemang, turer och mat kunde inte ha varit bättre. Jag vill särskilt tacka de många svenska medlemmar som deltog i mötet,



och jag ser fram emot att delta i deras möten i maj 2019!

Sammansättningen av Storlogens Exekutiva Råd är enastående. Av de nio ombord har jag känt åtta åtminstone åtta år, och de har mycket användbar Vasakunskap för Ordens goda. Vi är stolta att meddela att ordern nu officiellt finns på de tre stora sociala mediaplattformarna! Vänligen dela och gå med på våra Facebook, Twitter och Instagram sidor för att öka vår närvaro i sociala medier. För ytterligare frågor kontakta vår ansvarige för sociala media, Chad Widman, chadwidman@gmail.com.

Strax efter Storlogemötet närvarade First Lady (Nancy) och jag den omtalade Jamestown Scandinavian Festival i New York. Vi njöt av vänskap, musik, mat och utställningar. Don Sandy från Thule Lodge # 127 gjorde ett fantastiskt jobb för att organisera allt.

Om det finns några festivaler eller utställningar i ditt logeområde, försök att gå med och ha ett "VASAINFORMATION" bås eller bord. Vi kan inte få medlemmar utan att dela vår entusiasm för ordern!

Ha broschyrer, ansökningsblanketter och bilder från aktiviteter. Också föreslå att minst en deltagande medlem är klädd i traditionell folkdräkt. Om du inte har en lokal broschyr, ladda ner Storloge-broschyren som visas på Storloge-medlemmarnas sida, och gå till Medlemshandboken online och se ett exempel på en lokal broschyr.

Den nya Vice Grand Lodge-sekreteraren är Marlene Patient, marlenepatient@gmail.com. Kontakta henne för smycken, nålar, nya medlemspaket (gratis) och andra formulär. Nya medlemsansökningar finns tillgängliga online för nedladdning. I enlighet med ett godkänt beslut på Storlogemötet krävs ingen rekommendation för medlemskap, och formuleringen har tagits bort.

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