

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2006



Official publication of
THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization
Organized September 18, 1896



The Grand Master's Message



Ulf Brynjestad

Vasa Brothers and Sisters;

I wish you all a good continuation on the New Year and I know that it will be successful. In my last message I discussed and requested your feedback on some thoughts on the future of the Vasa Order. Your response has been overwhelming. I would like to spend my column on this very important subject.

Many of you sent “one-liners,” others sent reasonable arguments pro and con, while some of you presented well-thought out arguments with extensive reasoning to prove your point. I must say from the outset that all viewpoints were very reasonable, both pro and con. They all had one thing in common; it is time for the Vasa Order of America to confront change and that the Order has a future if it wants one. One of the respondents had asked other Swedish-Americans of the Boomer generation how they related to their Swedish heritage. It was concluded that in modern America, Nordic is the tribe and Swedish is the band. It was also concluded that the Order should not open its membership until it evolves into something that is desirable to those interested in Swedish and Nordic culture.

The Order has a future. Continuing interest in Nordic culture and history means that the Order can continue to be relevant and viable. Without significant change, however, this will be difficult. Even the strongest lodges are increasingly elderly and frankly, showing signs of failure. It is clear that “... no one under the age of 70 is willing to sit around and eat pea-soup and talk about the old country or what ails them.” Worse than poorly performed and unappreciated rituals is the increasingly large number of irrelevant programs featuring such things as St. Patrick’s Day or Bunco parties.

The obvious conclusion is that the leadership and the members seriously contemplate which traditions it wants to preserve and work diligently to design a cultural organization that appeals to Swedish-American adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s. When the Order was first organized, most reasons for belonging were financial. Those reasons are gone today. Turning the Vasa Order into a generic, non-Nordic social club for the elderly is not the answer. Leaving it as it is today is not the answer either.

I thank all of you for your thoughts on this matter and I am looking forward to your suggestions on how to transform our Order into a stronger and more viable organization...

Kära Vasasyskon

Jag önskar er alla en god fortsättning på det nya året och jag vet att det kommer att vara lyckat. I mitt förra meddelande diskuterade jag och bad om era tankar kring Vasaorderns framtid. Er respons har varit överväldigande. Jag skulle vilja ägna min spalt åt detta viktiga ämne.

Många av er skickade kommentarer, andra skickade förnuftiga argument för och emot, medan en del presenterade vältänkta argument med omfattande reonemang för att styrka era åsikter. Jag måste säga att alla åsikter har varit väldigt vettiga, både de för och de emot. De hade alla en sak gemensamt; det är dags för Vasaordern att konfrontera förändringar samt att Ordern har en framtid om den vill ha det. En av de svarande frågade hur andra Svensk-Amerikanska baby boomers relaterade till deras svenska arv. Det fastställdes att i dagens Amerika så är Norden stammen och svenska är grenen. Dessutom fastställdes att Ordern inte ska öppna medlemskap förrän det utvecklas till något önsktvärty för de som är intresserade i svensk och nordisk kultur.

Ordern har en framtid. Kontinuerlig intresse i nordisk kultur och historia innebär att Ordern kan fortsätta att vara relevant och gångbart. Emellertid kommer detta att vara svårt utan betydande förändringar. Även de starkaste logerna är alltmer äldre och uppriktigt sagt, de påvisar svaghetssymptom. Det är klart att “...ingen under 70 vill sitta och äta ärtsoppa och prata om det gamla landet eller vad som plågar dem.” Värre än dåligt utförda och ouppskattade ritualer är det ökade numret av irrelevanta program så som de med inslag av St. Patricks dagen eller Bunco festerna.

Slutsatsen är uppenbarligen att ledarskapet och medlemarna på fullt allvar ska fundera på vilka traditioner som de vill bibehålla och arbetar omsorgsfullt med att formge en kulturell organisation som tilltalar Svensk-Amerikaner i 20-, 30- och 40-års ålder. När Ordern först organiserades, var skälen för tillhörighet ekonomiska. De grunderna har försunnit. Att omvandla Vasa Ordern till en allmän, icke-nordisk social klubb för äldre är inte svaret. Att lämna det så som det är idag är inte heller svaret.

Jag tackar er alla för era tankar kring denna fråga och jag ser fram emot era förslag på hur vi ska omvandla vår Order till en starkare och mer gångbar organisation...

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Send bottom section of white copy of application for new members to her.

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<i>10% discount for Vasa Lodges and Members</i>		

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Letter from the Editor

We are already in the month of February and the upcoming 2006 *Grand Lodge Convention* is getting closer by the minute so be sure to make your reservations, it will be quite an event!

There is lots of interesting reading in this issue; personally I take great interest in the biographies. In the *Please Meet* section there are some very special people you can "get to know." And don't miss the articles in the *Culture and Happenings* section.

Under *Lodge News* you can find our beautiful Lucia's from the 2005 Lucia celebrations. If "Your very own" Lucia does not appear in this issue you can be sure to see the rest of them in the next issue.

Also notice a great buy, our *2006 Vasa Calendar* is still for sale with a reduced prize.

I hope your New Year is off to a good start!

Marie

Brev från redaktören

Vi befinner oss redan i Februari månad och 2006 års *Grand Lodge Convention* närmar sig med stormsteg, så se till att ni gör era reserveranden, det kommer att bli ett alldelers fantastiskt evenemang.

Det finns en hel del intressant att läsa om i denna utgåva. Personligen är jag mycket intresserad av att läsa biografierna. I *Please Meet* delen finns några väldigt speciella personer du kan "lära känna." Och missa inte artiklarna i *Culture* och *Happenings* delen.

Under *Lodge News*, kan ni se våra fina Lucior från 2005 års Lucia firanden. Om "Er alldelers egen" Lucia inte kommit med i denna utgåva så kan ni vara säkra på att finna resten av dem i kommande upplaga.

Notera ett bra inköp, vår *2006 Vasa Kalender* är fortfarande till salu med ett reduserat pris.

Jag hoppas det Nya Året börjar bra för Er!

Marie

IMPORTANT!

Immediate Changes

Effective immediately

Grand Master Ulf Brynjestad's new email address is:
drulf@consulateofsweden.org

Grand Treasurer Richard Overberg's new email address is:
croverberg@aim.com

NATIONAL ARCHIVES NEWS

National Archives News

A Thank You to Our Generous Donors

First of all I would like to thank D.L. Illinois No. 8 for their generosity in the last year consisting of a lap top computer for the use of our Financial Secretary, a new concrete driveway and sidewalk repairs at the Archives. Lodge Skandia No. 549 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada donated \$10,000 towards our new computer system. Charlotte and Lars-Göran Börjesson from Göteborg donated a portable computer, software and immigration data for the use of our visitors, so our staff can continue working while the visitors do their research. Your generous donations are gratefully received.

Revised Tax Status

Our Archives are now registered as a Public Charity with a 501(c) (3) tax status so all donations are tax deductible. I hope you are able to take advantage of this exemption or know of someone who may share our interest and would like to support the preservation of our ancestral heritage with a donation.

Our Financial Future

Many members have given freely of their time and many continue to do so in order that the history of our Order and the genealogical information about our members and Nordic immigrants be recorded and preserved for the future. I ask for your support of my motion to the Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego that the \$2.50 annual levy from each member is extended for the next four years or until it is no longer required. This \$2.50 is a small price to pay for the work carried out on your behalf at our Archives. *Please let your lodge and Grand Lodge delegate know that you support this motion.* The \$1.50, which our members in USA and Canada have contributed annually, brings in \$20,000 but our bare bones budget is \$60,000.

In closing I encourage each one of you to include a visit to our Archives in your future travels. You will be warmly welcomed.

The above support I ask of you in the spirit of Generosity and Unity.

Submitted by: Lennart P. A. Petersson

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete: Cynthia B. Erickson, Business Manager, P.O. Box 1118, Issaquah, WA 98027.

Nyheter från Arkivet

Ett stort Tack för följande generösa gåvor

Vi tackar D.L. Illinois Nr 8 för deras generösa stöd under året, bestående av en ny bärbar dator för Finanssekreterarens användning, ny betongkörbana och reparation av gångbanor runt Arkivet. Logen Skandia No. 549 i Edmonton, Alberta, Canada gav \$10.000 för vårt nya datasystem. Charlotte och Lars Göran Börjesson skänkte en bärbar dator för besökarnas användning så vår personal kan arbeta ostört medan besökaren forskar.

Ett hjärtligt tack för dessa fina gåvor

Skattelindring för donatorer

Vi har nu erhållit förmånligare skatteregler, som innebär att alla donationer och andra gåvor är avdragbara för USA skattebetalare.

Hur klarar vi oss ekonomiskt

Många medlemmar har frivilligt donerat sin tid under åren och många gör det fortfarande så att vår Ordens historia samt medlemmars och Nordiska immigranter genealogi kan insamlas och bevaras för framtiden. Jag ber om Ert stöd för mitt förslag till Storlogemötet i San Diego att alla medlemmar fortsätter att skänka till vår verksamhet med ett årligt bidrag av \$2,50. Detta är ett rimligt pris att betala för allt frivilligt arbete som läggs ner åt Er. Det \$1,50 årliga bidraget från våra medlemmar i USA och Canada ger oss \$20.000 medan våra rena utgifter är \$60.000 per år. *Var vänlig informera era Loger och Storloge delegater att ni stöder detta förslag.*

Jag hoppas också att Ni inkluderar vårt Arkiv i Era framtrida resplaner.

Hjärtligt välkomna!

Om ovanstående stöd ber jag Er i Ädelmodets och Enighetens anda.

Submitted by: Lennart P. A. Petersson

Deadline for The Vasa Star:

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st

July/Aug. is June 1st

March/April is Feb. 1st

Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st

May/June is April 1st

Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

Deadline for Christmas ads:

October 1st

ON THE COVER

**Alvalene P. Karlsson
presented with plaque as**

**SWEDEN DAY 1993
WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

~ New York ~

Courtesy Jeanne Widman

Vasa Star January-February 2006

REGISTRATION FORM • 36TH GRAND LODGE CONVENTION • JUNE 30 – JULY 7, 2006

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 1, 2006

Go to www.vasaDL15.com to download form

Note: Grand Lodge Officers, Honorary Life Members of the Grand Lodge and Delegates receive complimentary tickets for the Saturday and Friday nights banquets and the Sunday and Tuesday tours. Spouses and other participants are responsible for payment of all events in which they partake.

Date, Week Day	Event	No. of People Attending	Price Per Person (Prices in U.S. \$)	Total Cost
June 30, Friday	Golf Tournament		\$95.00	\$
June 30, Friday	Welcome Reception		No cost	No cost
July 1, Saturday	Banquet "Swedish Rhapsody"		\$59.00	\$
July 2, Sunday	San Diego City Tour		\$40.00 (Lunch & Coffee included)	\$
July 2, Sunday	Theater (Non-binding pre-registration)		To Be Announced	----
July 3, Monday	Sea World Trip		\$55.00	\$
July 4, Tuesday	San Diego Historical Sites and Museums Tour		\$59.00 (Lunch included)	\$
July 4, Tuesday	Harbor Cruise (Evening)		\$25.00 (Snacks included)	\$
July 5, Wednesday	Tour to Julian and Casino/ Outlet Shops		\$35.00 (Lunch included)	\$
July 7, Friday	Grand Banquet		\$69.00	\$

**PLEASE WRITE CHECK TO: VASA GRAND LODGE 2006 CONVENTION
MAIL TO: Leslie Leigard, 21402 Perry St., Carson, CA 90745**

TOTAL INCLUDED \$ _____

Note: Advance Registration is required for everyone attending all or a portion of the Grand Lodge Convention!

Note: Refund for registered events will be made in full for requests received by April 30, 2006.

Please Print Clearly

Name _____ Local Lodge & No. _____

Address _____ District Lodge & No. _____

City,State/Prov.,Country _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone Number: Country Code/Area Code/Number _____

(How many?) Delegate _____ GL Officer (Elected) _____ GL Officer (Appointed) _____ GL Honorary Life Member _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION WITH THE HOTEL DIRECTLY TO ENSURE CONVENTION RATES!

To: Reservations Manager, Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108

Phone: 1-619-291-7131, Toll free 1-800-772-8527 Fax: (619) 291-3584

Internet Reservations: www.towncountry.com (Go to Make a Reservation;
Group; Attendee Code: Vasa)

**Vasa Order of America
36th Grand Lodge Convention**

June 30 - July 7, 2006

Note: Convention rates are good
also for June 29 and July 8.

**Reservations due by June 6, 2006
to receive convention rates**

Name _____

Address _____

City State/Province _____ Zip/PC _____ Country _____

Phone No.: Country Code/Area Code/No. _____ Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Double Room, \$109 + tax: King size bed _____ 2 Queen size beds _____ Smoking _____ Non-smoking _____

Sharing Room with _____ Confirmation Required: Yes _____ No _____

Special Request _____ Arrival Guaranteed by: _____

1st Night's Deposit of \$ _____ (check) or Credit Card: Type _____ Number _____ Exp. _____



THE 2006 GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

To spend a summer vacation in beautiful SAN DIEGO is a dream for many Americans and people from other countries as well. Now you can live the dream without having to spend days planning the trip and worrying about all the details! All you need to do is to register for the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention, make your reservation with the *Town and Country Resort* and get your plane ticket!

With the great program we have put together, you will be entertained during the whole week and still have time for beaches, golf, shopping or whatever your heart desires. We would love to have you and we promise *you will enjoy the City, the Pacific Ocean, the palm trees, and the fellowship with Vasa friends from three countries!* So, start packing your bags and get ready for a lot of fun in the sun!

VÄLKOMMEN!

If you did not get to order the wonderful articles we have been offering as a fundraiser for the Convention, take heart--you can still get these special items for yourself or to give away! Some great things for you and some much needed funds for DLPSW #15!

- ◆ (1) Join in the Old Country's celebrations for the whole year with the publication Holidays in Sweden!
- ◆ (2) Dream of palm lined beaches every time you use the Spoon Rest/Tea Caddy!
- ◆ (3-6) Sing and dance to the Gammaldans CDs with grand old accordionist Alfon Bergstrom!
- ◆ (7) Get into the Vasa Spirit dressed in our Royal Blue Polo Shirt!
- ◆ (8) Let the Vasa Wrist Watch keep the time for you in a stylish manner!



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S H I P T O	Name: _____	Country _____
	Address: _____	
	City/State/Zip: _____	Ph. No. _____ Country Code/Area Code/Number _____
	Email: _____	

Go to www.vasaDL15.com to download form

These items are offered as a fundraiser for the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego, California, June 30 - July 7, 2006

NOTE: Sales tax is included in the prices
Prices are in U.S. Dollar

QUANTITY	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
	1. Book: "Holidays in Sweden – Traditions and Superstitions"	\$11.00	
	2. Commemorative Tea Caddy/Spoon Rest	\$11.00	
	3. Compact Disc: "Skandinavisk Gammaldans"	\$16.00	
	4. Compact Disc: "Alfon's Gammaldansfavoriter"	\$16.00	
	5. Compact Disc: "Dragspelsglädje"	\$16.00	
	6. Compact Disc: "Sweetheart, Let's Dance"	\$16.00	
	7. Royal Blue Polo Shirt with Vasa Emblem S () M () L () XL () XXL () XXXL ()	\$28.00	
	8. Wrist Watch with Vasa Logo, Ladies' () Men's ()	\$32.00	

Please write your check to: **VASA GRAND LODGE 2006 CONVENTION**

Mail your order and check to: Leslie Leigard, 21402 Perry St., Carson, CA 90745

Email: lesliej28@comcast.net • Phone (310) 835-6501

Thank you for your order and support of District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15!

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Shipping and Handling (USD)							
Order Total	U.S.A.	Canada	Sweden	Order Total	U.S.A.	Canada	Sweden
Up to \$16.00	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$61.00 to \$80.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$20.00
\$17.00 to \$29.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$81.00 to \$100.00	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$24.00
\$30.00 to \$40.00	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$14.00	Over \$100	\$14.00	\$22.00	\$28.00
\$41.00 to \$60.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$16.00				

All items are shipped
First Class within the U.S.
and Air Mail to
Canada and Sweden

JOIN US FOR THE 36th GRAND LODGE CONVENTION June 30-July 7, 2006

at world-class Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego!

Address: 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. (619) 291-7131

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY JUNE 30

9:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

6:00 P.M.

Golf Tournament at Riverwalk next to the Hotel. Cost: \$95.00, which includes cart fee, green fee, and range balls plus 20% discount on purchases in the Golf Shop.

Registration Desk Open.

Welcome Reception with “Boys and Girls Beach Party” around the pool. Music, Mexican buffet, and one complimentary drink per person. No host bar.

SATURDAY JULY 1

10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

2:00 P.M.

Evening

Canada Day.

Registration Desk Open.

Opening Ceremony with greetings, presentation of flags and introductions.

Informal Banquet. Theme: “A Swedish Rhapsody.” Swedish cuisine, entertainment and dancing. Cost: \$59.00.

SUNDAY JULY 2

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Evening

Free day for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

San Diego City Tour. A fully narrated tour visiting San Diego, Coronado, and La Jolla. We will see the famous Hotel del Coronado and experience the beauty of the Pacific Ocean coastline in La Jolla; visit Old Town, the “birthplace” of California, and make a stop at the historic Gas Lamp Quarters. We will eat lunch and stroll in the beautiful Balboa Park, America’s largest urban cultural park, and have “kaffe med dopp” at the House of Sweden before going back to the hotel. Cost: \$40.00.

Arrangements can be made for those wishing to visit San Diego Zoo in the morning.

Theater. (Play and cost to be announced).

MONDAY JULY 3

Time to be announced

Day meeting for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

Sea World with killer whale Shamu and many other amazing animals. Cost: \$55.00

TUESDAY JULY 4

8:30 A. M.

7:30 P.M.

Free day for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

San Diego Historical Sites and Museums Tour. We will visit Cabrillo Park, the Maritime Museum, and Mission Alcala; have a late lunch at Seaport Village by the bay, and do shopping and sightseeing in the Village. Cost: \$59.00.

Spectacular Evening Cruise in San Diego Harbor to celebrate the Fourth of July and watch the many fireworks. No host bar. Cost: \$25.00. Hors d’oeuvres included.

WEDNESDAY JULY 5

8:30 a.m.

Day meeting for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

Bus Trip to the old gold mining town of Julian. Visits to wineries, more. Lunch. The bus will stop at Viejas Casino and Outlet Shops on return trip. Cost: \$35.00.

THURSDAY JULY 6

Non-Delegates

7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P. M.

Day meeting for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

Spend the day relaxing around the pool, go to the beach, shop, or take the trolley and ride around/stroll in beautiful San Diego!

Cultural and Membership Seminars.

FRIDAY JULY 7

7:00 P. M.

Day Meeting and Installation of the new Grand Lodge Officers.

Grand Banquet with entertainment and dancing. Cost: \$69.00. Wine included.

Room Rate \$109.00 plus tax per night (double room). Parking is available at a discounted rate of \$7.00 per night. The special convention rates for room and parking are also available for June 29 and July 8. June 6, 2006, is the last day to reserve hotel rooms in order to receive the special convention rates, and reservations must be made directly with the hotel (information is included on the Convention Registration Form).



Vasa Order of America
District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15
Host of the
2006 Grand Lodge Convention
Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
500 Hotel Circle, No. San Diego, California 92108

October 10, 2005

District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15 is hosting the 36th Grand Lodge Convention of the Vasa Order of America in San Diego, California, from June 30 through July 6, 2006. You are invited to participate in this international event by placing an advertisement in the Convention Activities Book. A copy of this booklet is distributed to each attending delegate and officer as well as to each District and Local Lodge throughout the Vasa Order and all advertisers.

Advertising space in this coffee table sized booklet is available at the following rates: a full-page ad is \$585.00, one-half page is \$310.00, one-quarter page is \$170.00 and one-eighth page is \$95.00. These prices are based on camera-ready copy. If you need help in completing your ad, please let us know and we will be glad to assist you.

Please send your copy and payment to Bob Solt, 525 No. Hermosa Avenue, Sierra Madre, California, 91024, before April 30, 2006. Checks should be made payable to the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention Committee. Ad copy may be sent by e-mail to Mr. Solt at BOBSOLT@juno.com.

Since the Vasa Order of America was organized in New Haven, Connecticut on September 18, 1896, the Grand Lodge Conventions have been the high point of each term. With a mission statement to promote international culture, youth and education, the members have worked diligently for over one hundred years on a local, state, and multi-country scale to provide a fraternal setting in which people can grow and develop their best potential. Please join us in celebrating this very special event.

In Truth and Unity,

Dr. Jacqueline E. Ahlen

Dr. Jacqueline E. Ahlen
Publicity Chairman

2005 Grand Lodge Membership Campaign Results - Correction

Little gremlins (or was it the household Tomte) caused the second-place winners of the Most Members Sponsored Award to disappear from the Graham computer. Here is the complete listing of winners.

The winner of **Most Members Sponsored Award** (in 2004) is **Marty Bergman**, Nobel-Monitor #130, DL#9 – 9 members who will receive \$100. A tie for **Second Place**, with 6 members each, **Inger Huber** of Linnéa #696, DL #15 and **Bob Burman** of Sveaborg #449, DL #12 will each be awarded \$50 each.

Announcing: The Vasa Doctoral Fellowship (VDF)

The Grand Lodge is pleased to offer its first Vasa Doctoral Fellowship (VDF) in the amount of \$10,000 per year, renewable for a second year. The VDF was made possible through a large memorial grant by Edith M. Gauch. The fellowship is for the 2006-07 academic year. The application deadline for receipt of all parts of the application is April 1, 2006.

The VDF will be awarded to a post-graduate (doctoral) student at an accredited University in the United States, Canada, or Sweden. Preference will be given to individuals who have been members of the Vasa Order of America for at least one year prior to the application deadline, April 1.

The focus or area of study of the VDF shall be Swedish-American studies, broadly interpreted to include such varied disciplines as history, political science, sociology, language, literature, and the arts and sciences.

The Fellow must be a citizen or resident alien of the United States, Canada, or Sweden.

The project shall be of potential benefit to VOA. This benefit can be broadly interpreted to include the Fellow sharing the findings of the project in an accessible manner,

*e.g., in an article in the **VASA Star** or a lecture at a VOA District Convention. Upon completion of the dissertation, two copies shall be sent to the Vice Grand Master for deposition at the Vasa Archives and the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, respectively.*

It is expected that the applicant winning the Vasa Doctoral Fellowship will travel to the Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego the first week of July, 2006 for the award ceremony. Travel and local accommodations will be paid for by the Grand Lodge.

An Application form with, cover letter, as well as the complete rules for the VDF can be downloaded in PDF format from the Vasa Order of America web site www.vasaorder.com on the 'benefits' page.

If further assistance is needed please contact:

Rolf Bergman, Ph.D.

Vice Grand Master

Chairman, Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee

3236 Berkeley Avenue

Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-2055

Phone: 216-371-5141

E-mail: rolf.bergman@sbcglobal.net

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL New Jersey #6



Marlana Persson

On Sunday, November 27, at the Vasa Park Cultural Center, Budd Lake, New Jersey, Marlana Persson, daughter of Carmelina and Roy Persson of Arlington Lodge #62, and granddaughter of the late Eleanor and Tage Persson of Tryggve Lodge #88, proudly served as the New Jersey District 6 2005 Lucia Bride.

A member of Arlington Lodge #62, Budd Lake, New Jersey, Marlana is a senior at Mount Olive High School, and has spent many summers working as a lifeguard at Vasa Park's swimming pool. "Vasa has been a part of our family since I was a little girl," said Marlana. "I am very grateful for this honor, and have had lots of fun. I will never forget performing at my first District Convention in Cape May. Thank You to Eric Johansson and Cathy Peterson, who have been leading our Vasastjarnan's Children's Group for

many years." Marlana lives in Vasa Park with sisters Kayla, Maria and brother Tage Gunnar.

In 1933, Marlana's grandfather, Tage, left Sweden, and began the two week boat journey to America, and was one of many Swedes to pass through Ellis Island. Seeking the fraternal bond of others from his Homeland, Tage joined the Vasa Order in 1935, met Eleanor Dolly Wednesday, also a Swedish immigrant, and were wed in 1950. Tage and Eleanor raised their children Jan, Roy and Nita, in Bloomfield, New Jersey, and were long time members of District Lodge Tryggve #88, then based in Orange, New Jersey.

The Persson Family, active members of Vasa for over 70 years, is proud of their Swedish Heritage, Culture and Fraternal Order.

Submitted by: Roy and Carmelina Persson

DL Arizona #21

The biennial convention for District Lodge Arizona 21 will be in Tucson, Arizona from March 31 through April 2, 2006 at the Holiday Inn. Host lodge Tucson #691 has planned three days of activities; including a Friday evening social, official meetings on Saturday with



Carol Casey, Gunney Bachert and Andria Odean.

a gala banquet in the evening, and a memorial service after Sunday morning's breakfast. The schedule of events also includes a workshop on program ideas, using a variety of presentations, and a membership seminar.

All districts are encouraged to attend our 2006 convention, where you will be shown great southwestern hospitality. For more information contact Loretta Olson, Reservation Chairman, at (520) 326-7330, by email at nosloal@aol.com or by writing to 622 N. Forgeus Ave., Tucson, AZ 85749.

Arizona District 21 has been busy with many activities and events in 2005. There were "Fish Boils," Ethnic Fairs, a 25th Anniversary, Midsummer celebrations, Smorgasbords and member weddings, to name a few. In October the district hosted the Grand Lodge Executive Board in Tempe, providing a meal and fellowship. It was an honor to have the GL Board in Arizona, and the district is looking forward to the 2006 GL convention in San Diego. A bus is being considered to take some of our Arizona members to the coast for the meetings and special events.

The district to benefit our Scholarship fund and to help with district expenses is selling quality Polo shirts with an embroi-

dered, woven Dala horse. For more information on district activities call DS Pat Flippin at (928) 778-9333 or email photoartist2000@hotmail.com.

Submitted by: Jaynie Anderson

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NEWS FROM LODGES

Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

The 58th Biennial New York District #4 state convention for the Vasa Order of America was recently held in Jamestown, New York. Delegates attended the three-day convention from ten Vasa lodges throughout New York State. The first day of the convention included registration, a reception, and music by the Svenska Spelman, a Scandinavian Folk Musical group.

On the second day, there was an opening ceremony of American and Scandinavian Flags, followed by a series of meetings and gatherings. The second day concluded with a grand dinner, which did many attend. Edwin Sandberg has served as the New York District #4 Master for the past two years, and welcomed all to the dinner. Chairman of the Thule lodge #127 Robert Fuller added a second welcome to those attending the convention dinner. The invocation was given by the Thule Lodge historian John Sipos, who asked all to remember those departed brothers and sisters, and to remember those who are fighting to preserve our freedom. Sipos concluded with the Swedish table grace. Entertainment for the Thule dancers provided the evening, dressed in their very colorful Swedish outfits.

Thule Lodge inner guardsman Susan Sipos was thanked for all of her efforts in creating the program for the evening, using her computer artist talents.

The closing day of the convention was a Memorial Service held on the third day, and was organized by Thule Lodge Cultural Leader Fanchon Fuller.

Thule Lodge secretary Lucile Marsh served as the New York District secretary, and John Marsh served as a member of the Executive Board. Nels John Nelson served as the New York State historian.

The New York District #4 convention has been held every two years since 1902 in various locations throughout the state. A special thanks is extended to Thule Lodge #127 Financial Secretary Donna J. Sandberg for her organizational skills in putting together the recent convention. The next New York District #4 convention will be held in the fall of 2007.

The Thule Lodge #127 serves to preserve the Swedish heritage through events and activities throughout the year. The lodge is located at 4123 Pancake Hill Road in Bemus Point, New York.

Submitted by: John Sipos

Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA

Members of Tegnér Lodge #149 elected officers at the October meeting. Laura Nordendahl was re-elected Chairman and most of the other officers are staying on for next year.

On November 5th we held our 97th Anniversary dinner at a restaurant in Castro Valley. About 30 members and guests attended, including District Master Birgitta Kellgren and Past District

Masters Tore Kellgren, Myrtle Widmark and Inga-Lill Fivian. The following members were recognized for their years of membership: 50 years - Mary Ellen Oliveria; 40 years - Mary Ann Hill; 25 years - Virginia Campbell and Elsy Mattsson. The Tegnér Singers entertained us with a medley of Swedish and American songs.

Submitted by: A. Tennis



Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130

Cleveland, OH

Nobel Monitor Lodge lost our long time newsletter editor, Betty Ohman Taylor, on January 4, 2006. Betty joined our lodge in Aug. 1983 at the young age of 73. By April 1984 she took on the position as our newsletter editor. She kept that position until January 2004, almost 20 years. In addition she continued her position as Vasa Star Correspondent until her death. Many of you may remember reading the articles she submitted about our lodge.

Betty was also known for her talent to write poetry. She often wrote a poem for a special birthday or occasion and was our official poet laureate.

Not too long after she joined, about 1988, she began meeting with a couple of members from the lodge for breakfast on a Tuesday morning. The Breakfast Club, as it became known, grew because of Betty's efforts and has continued to meet every Tuesday morning ever since - regardless of the weather! At first it was older women that met, but now it includes a significant number of men as well, all who enjoy each other's fellowship and a good breakfast at a local restaurant. Attendance is usually about twenty, but has at times reached thirty-five. Betty even arranged with the restaurant manager for a free breakfast for each member on his or her birthday. It is said that members now look forward to retiring, just so they can come to the Breakfast Club on Tuesday morning.

Since our newsletter is sent to other lodges in the District Lodge Pennsylvania No. 9 we know [RSB] that Betty's work has inspired at least one other lodge to form its own Breakfast Club.

Submitted by: Marty Bergman

Left - Tegnér Lodge #149 singers and friends at their 97th Anniversary dinner - left to right: Shelby Nordendahl, Ingrid Andersson, Elsy Mattsson, Monika Feist, Tore Kellgren, Mary Ann Hill, and Dorinda Nyland, pianist.

Oscars Borg Lodge #172

Philadelphia, PA

Oscars Borg Lodge #172 mourns the death of two of its most loyal and distinguished members: Howard Seaman passed away May 21, 2005. He was born in Philadelphia October 3, 1918, and joined our lodge in June of 1975. Although he "married" into the Swedish heritage, he was a great and dedicated member of Vasa. He loved to play the piano and many Swedish tunes were included in his repertoire – he entertained us at every meeting! Howard served as an auditor and then into the Treasurer's seat from 1977 through 1999! He was probably the first person on the dance floor as well. Howard had many health problems, but he was ever faithful and we were glad to see him at our meetings, outings and affairs with Anne, his wife, and FS Karen, his daughter.

William (Bill) Nyborg died July 18th at the age of 79. He was born November 17, 1925, and joined our lodge November 16, 1984. He served as our Vice Chairman (1986-90) and in 1991 was elected Chairman. Bill loved to share his beloved Swedish heritage and whenever we had a problem about "memories and memorabilia" he always volunteered to speak and entertain with his sense of humor and accents! He could also sing those Swedish tunes!

We miss these two great guys and our sincere sympathy to their families and friends. The Vasa Order needs more members like them ... Sov i ro Howard and Bill.

Submitted by: Linda Smith



L-R: Ginny Swedburg, Anne & Karen Seaman, and Howard and Dorothy Paley.

Kronan Lodge #179

Chicago, IL



Congratulations, a fitting title for all the members of Kronan Lodge #179, celebrating the 96th anniversary on Sunday, October 23, 2005.

Celebrating with congratulations, honoring our member, Elin Pearson, for her membership in Kronan Lodge of 79 years. Pictured here, the presentation was performed with a great deal of pleasure for our Chairman John Nygard and Financial Secretary, Louise Nygard. After the giving of this award, our Chairman continued to read the many congratulatory messages from well wishes, and Ronneby Lodge #630, Enköping #646, Mälardrottningen #563, Sweden, and the Bishop Hill Archives.

Congratulations were given to Carrie Emrikson and Fred Rundquist, becoming our newest members of Kronan Lodge #179 on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2005 – *We Are Still Going Strong!*

The delicious dinner and fine entertainment enjoyed by all in attendance, was held at the Holiday Inn in Skokie, IL. Our District Master Sten Hult and his wife Nancy, Vice District Master Jim Nystedt and wife Mary Jean, giving their congratulations and to continue with our great work in keeping the Kronan Lodge and our Scandinavian Heritage, past and present, alive for the generations to come.

On Sunday, Nov. 27, 2005, we enjoyed our Holiday Members Party, and giving us a chance to say "Thanks" for the many friendships and fellowships formed throughout the many years.

Submitted by: Virginia Wiland-Lindroos

Nobel Lodge #184

Portland, OR



Nobel Lodge had its Christmas party and we even had a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, Paul Anderson and Eivor Airola. There were even tomtar to greet the season, Madeline Nordby, Treg Nordby, Lexi Baker and Sami Baker.

We had a joyous time with Jeff Klein being the moderator. Joyce Masters and Mary Laurie did the piano accompaniment for Swedish Christmas songs as well as some American numbers.

When we entered the lodge hall we did so with a line of "dancers" following Jeff and his accordion. The tree was all decorated with decorations the members had made earlier. When we sang and danced around the tree it was a bit of the "old country."

Submitted by: Mary Hagelin Laurie

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR

Craig Petersen

P.O. Box 129 • Ione, CA 95640
Phone: 209-763-2523

cpvasapix@aol.com

The Vasa website at www.vasaorder.com contains a "materials button" which has the listing of audio visual materials available.

If you are unable to use the Vasa website, you can still ask that a listing be sent to you by mail.

Norden Lodge #233

Tacoma, WA

The PNW District #13th 50th Biennial Convention was hosted by Norden Lodge #233 on September 9 - 11, 2005 at LaQuinta Inn in Federal Way, WA. The theme was Swedish Crowns are Paramount and the favors and centerpieces were designed using this theme.

The Lodge members spent many hours making the yellow and blue topiary trees, the Viking Ships that had 3 Swedish crowns on each side, and baking the butter rich goodies served at the coffee hours. Harold Molander and Fritz Grahn designed, cut out, and painted the wooden Dalahästar which were included in the goodie bags.

Vasa members attended from Canada, California, Oregon, Montana, and Washington. Each guest was welcomed and given a nametag, which had the 3 flags (U.S., Canadian, and Swedish) across the top. All the lodges attending brought a beautiful raffle basket. These baskets made a lovely display on Friday and Saturday. The drawing was held at the banquet on Sat. evening.

The Saturday evening Banquet was one of the highlights of the convention. The tables were beautifully decorated with the topiary trees, Viking Ships, and lovely programs. Since it was the 50th Biennial Convention, gold balloons decorated the perimeter of the ballroom. The Pickled Herring Band was excellent for both the dinner music and gammal dancing afterwards.

The Memorial Service was held Sunday AM with 98 persons in attendance. Don Barrett officiated and Alton Veil read the necrology. Jeff Klein, Marilyn Carlson, and Delores Sward provided the music. Grace Bredeson and Amanda Creighton placed white carnations in the vases in honor of the deceased members. The service closed with all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Fritz Grahn



Marilyn Carlson, Kay Booth, Judy Gullander and Grace Bredeson

Skandia Lodge #247

Pasadena, CA

The Lodge hosted District Master Deborah Kenshalo and her staff on October 13 for dinner and invited her to lead our business meeting. Skandia Chairman Birgitta Roodsari welcomed D.M. Debbie and presented the gavel. The D. M. led our meeting with her usual graciousness and she and her staff performed very efficiently. It is always a pleasure to have our District Officers visit us, and Skandia members show how much the District is appreciated by setting a beautiful and bountiful table.

Our Cultural Leader, Julie Lindberg, really did her homework and presented each member with a collection of

Swedish recipes. Julie always has something of interest for the members. We usually precede our business meetings with refreshments or a dinner and the member's participation makes each evening light work and good fun, and with Julie's interesting programs, it is also a learning experience. With Birgitta Roodsari as our Chairman, Betsy Cepielik as Secretary, Lori Wennbo as Financial Secretary, Bob Solt, Treasurer, and Nel Solt, Vice Chairman as newsletter publishers, we have a great crew and are all very proud of Skandia Lodge and our Vasa Order of America.

Submitted by: Dr. Jacqueline E. Ahlen

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA

Our members enjoyed learning to sing our favorite Swedish Christmas carols. Those we practiced included "Hosianna," "Stilla Natt," "Sankta Lucia," and "Lutefisk."

Then we were entertained by eleven-year-old Nicholas Nasibyan, the grandson of members Philip and Linda Carlson. He is what one would call a musical prodigy. He began to play the piano as a four-year-old – at seven he composed his first opera – and as a nine-year-old played an entire church service. Today he is also accomplished on trumpet, violin, bagpipe and organ.

Last summer he visited Sweden and relatives in Jönköping with his grandparents. He was a guest musician, playing at several church services. For us, he played and sang a song he composed that he titled "Jag Älska Dig Sverige." It will be interesting to see which direction Nicholas will take in the future. He is most anxious to re-visit Sweden!

We are fortunate to have many talented members in our lodge who are willing to share their "Swedish experiences." At our last meeting, Jay Lynne Nordberg Pichoco demonstrated a recipe. It was her favorite culinary memory from her first trip to Sweden. We can all recommend it as we enjoyed partaking of the results.

The recipe will appear in the next issue under Recipes, Smörgåstårta.

Submitted by: Linda Collins



Nicholas Nasibyan

Omaha Lodge #330

Omaha, NE

Omaha Lodge #330 met at the SAS building on Sunday, Oct. 9 for their 90th Anniversary Dinner. Two visitors from the Sioux City Iowa lodge also attended.

Tables were decorated with mum bas-kets and the delicious dinner was prepared by Harold Olsen and Sally Nelson.

Arlynn Connor, Historian from Sioux City, IA, gave a special presentation on

their lodge and Stan Swanson, Cultural Leader, talked about their yearly activities. Les Marks, Historian, gave a brief history of the Omaha Lodge and showed historical items from days gone by and picture books.

A good time was had by all.

Submitted by: Les J. Marks

Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI

Late summer and fall was a busy time for the Lodge. A fun filled Cray fish kicked off the start of the "Fall semester." The party was hosted by Lisa & Rolf Ekstrand, and included many of our District Lodge Lake Michigan No 8's dignitaries. Bror, a Finnish Accordion player, his wife Anne-Marie and son Tomas entertained us. All in all there were 60 people attending the affair.

Ray Shoberg hosted a picnic on Labor Day, and again the same trio from Finland entertained us.

The Lodge Picnic took place shortly thereafter, and we played "who's that cute baby?" as we had all brought our baby pictures to be identified. What a chore? Only one or two of us still looks like a baby.

October came with dear members from Sweden; Elisabeth Agge, Karl-Erik Axelsson, Hillivi & Lars-Åke Sjöberg. They joined us for the business meeting, and then helped testing our newly created

Swedish Bingo. This was a fun way to at the same time get a Swedish lesson, or for the Swedes an English lesson. The lodge also hosted a special 1st Anniversary Wedding Party for Elisabeth and Karl-Erik before the continued their travels and return to Sweden.

Our lodge has started an attempt to get more members joining the business meeting by having the meeting during daylight. So Saturday mornings have become Breakfast meetings. However, there will still be some afternoon or evening meetings to accommodate for others.

Our SKANSEN Children's Club has also been busy with their practices of Swedish songs and dances. They will be performing the Sankta Lucia and Christmas program in December.

Other up-coming event is our Annual Ärtsoppa och Pannkakor Middag (Pea soup and Pancake Dinner) on March 18, 2006 at the Norway house. For more information please contact Lisa or Rolf



Bror playing the accordion, and the ones enjoying the music are Anne-Marie Hummel, Miriam Hendrickson, Christy Blank, The Granetzke's, Sten Hult, Richard Horngren, Marion Bruce, and Ray Shoberg.

"EVERYONE WHO TASTED THE CAKE LOVED IT," says Sue Malarkey, who organized the Scania Lodge 728 sales of the POSTCAKE as a fundraising event at their November Bazaar held at the Unity Church Hall in Prescott, AZ.

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Submitted by: Lisa Ekstrand



Rolf & Lisa Ekstrand with Bror from Finland at the crayfish party.

Hope Lodge #503

Seattle, WA

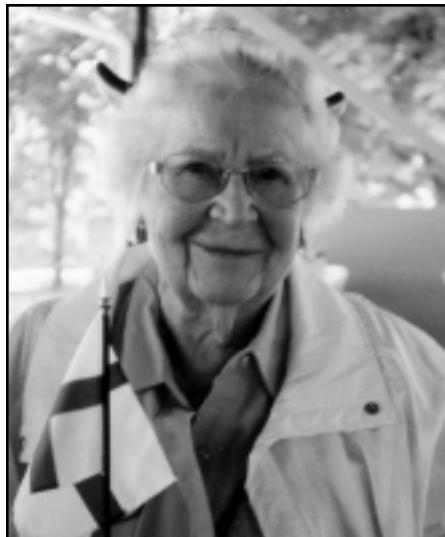
Looking back on January of 2005, with the absence that month of our current Chairman Joanne Bell, Hilda Krahn, who has served as Chairman in the years 1999, 2000, and 2001, presided over the initiation of my sponsored dear friend Loyd Pierson who then became a member of our lodge.

In February the Program Committee carried out the Valentine theme and I happened to roll the dice for the high score to win the centerpiece at our table. Each table had a similar centerpiece for its winner.

For the March meeting we were greeted at the reception desk by Liz Bogus, Nancy Flaten and Ethel Norman, all decked out in bright green attire to honor St. Patrick's Day. There we all signed get-well cards to be sent to various lodge members who were unable to attend, including Lucile Hardenbrook, now living in Salem, OR. We then ambled over to the refreshment table where George Boxrz and Lois Morgensen graciously poured us a drink of our choice. Those having a birthday in the current lodge month receive a complimentary beverage. We then joined other members for the usual social hour before lunch to catch up on interests and doings of our friends. It was good to see Doris Storm back since her husband Harry Storm passed away a year ago. During our meeting Dorothy was awarded her 55-year membership pin in Vasa Hope Lodge (which I also proudly possess).

During our April meeting Marion Nelson, our Vasa Park Board member, brought us up-to-date information on the improvements at Vasa Park at Lake Sammamish. She stated the Park Board put up a website on the computer: VasaParkResort&Ballroom. Two fallen trees in the park are to be replaced. The concession stand is a complement to the park and is doing great, better than last year, even had to buy a freezer to sell ice, etc. The Ballroom is sold out 43 weekends out of 52 this year.

In the month of May Loyd and I were delighted to be among the 180 people signed up for the Alaska Dance Cruise, organized by Desiree Omdal and our own two Vasa Hope members, Sylvia Jorgensen and Carl Nyberg, who joined our lodge in 2002, and were the musicians in the "Sylvia and Fjordsong"



Hilda Krahn, Past Chairman - Picnic at Vasa Park.

three-piece band along with Sylvia's brother Paul Johnson. They performed aboard the Norwegian Star cruise ship playing wonderful dance music for four days out of the seven days that the ship cruised the Inside Passage of the Alaska Coast. There 2,000 passengers plus the ship's staff of about 1,000 and made port stops in Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketchikan and Victoria, B.C. You may recall reading about the planned trip in the well-written detail article by Desiree Omdal in The Vasa Star March-April 2005 issue.

August 3, 2005 was our annual Picnic at Vasa Park at Lake Sammamish. We all appreciate the hard work that Liz Bogus and the rest of the Program Committee did to organize all the fun activities. One was a race of wooden small horses each bearing a name, one was named U.S.A. and the other five represented Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland. With rolls of the dice the horses each progressed around the lengthy track, with Sweden finishing ahead for the winner! A number of guessing games were played.

There were fabulous prizes for all, including a mysterious packaged labeled "For Man Only." This was opened by George Boxrz, who found inside a labeled "MANty hose" like a lady's pantyhose, but with a zipper in front! This, of course, created hilarious laughter, all in good fun.

In October we met with our friends for lunch, followed by our first meeting of the fall season on Columbus Day, and Bingo afterward.

Submitted by: Elsie J. Busch

Bishop Hill Lodge #683

Bishop Hill, IL

Our lodge will be hosting the 2006 District Convention of District Lodge Lake Michigan No 8 on May 19-21 at the Holiday Inn in Moline, Illinois. So these are very busy times for the members of Bishop Hill lodge No 683 and also for Nobel Lodge No 288, who has graciously offered to help where needed.

After the initial job to find and reserve a place to hold the convention, the committee had to find ways to raise money. Hosting a convention can be very expensive but with careful planning it can be a moneymaking project.

Our chairman Sally Nelson suggested that besides the regular money raffle, we would hold a raffle offering only handmade items as prizes. The search then began by contacting the various shops in Bishop Hill and also asking individual members for donations. The response has been overwhelming.

We are hoping that many of our Vasa friends all over the country plan to attend our Convention. You will find it a very interesting learning experience. Please contact our lodge or any District No 8 officers for more information.

Välkomna!

Submitted by: Lillemor Horngren



Chairman Sally Nelson accepting from Swedish artist Barbro Kardell's her painting of a Göta Kanal boat, to be used as one of the raffle prizes.



Norden Lodge #684

Fresno, CA

Norden Lodge #684 has been going along doing its usual things. Our gains in membership have been small, but on the other hand, our losses have been small. In September we celebrated our 37th anniversary with a delicious catered dinner. Not all members were home from vacation, but most were there. Entertainment was provided by member Mary Morton, who sang several show tunes, and everyone enjoyed a lot of good conversation.

The next activity was our annual Lutfisk-Lucia dinner on December 10 which was opened to the public. People of Swedish extraction come from several towns in the area for this activity.

Our Cultural Leader, Monica Shipley, continues to provide interesting and informative programs at our monthly meetings. This year she was elected to the position of District Cultural Leader. She is a "natural" because she was born and grew up in Sweden so she can tell us all about Swedish customs and celebrations.

Our Chairperson, Helen Foskick, who also grew up in Sweden and in addition, lived for some time in Lindstrom, MN, is teaching a group of interested members how to speak Swedish. We will be hearing lots of *hej's* and *hej då* at future meetings.



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The Scandinavian Picnic, sponsored by our group, a group of Danes and a group of Norwegians, was held early in October. The weather was very cooperative, the potluck dinner was very good, and all who attended had a good time.

To end on a high note, at our meeting in November, we inducted one adult and two young people into membership. Two other children will attend meetings and join when they reach the age of membership. We welcome them heartily!

Submitted by: Pauline Peterson Mathes

Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

So. Dennis, MA

In August Rune, Vivian Lundquist and I drove up to the SAC Park to celebrate VASA Day. Fortunately it was a "bonus day" as it was neither pouring nor unbearably hot, which was the pattern for the summer of '05 on Cape Cod. On the way home, it was a different matter--the skies opened up letting out pitch-fork lightning which followed us all the way home, a nice way to travel! Greeting us at the Park was that "lady-who-keeps-on-giving" Pam Genelli and her two young sons, Mat and Nick, who were her willing assistants. Pam turned out some formidable Swedish meatballs, and, with her cooking staff, presented a delicious smörgåsbord. Eder tacksamma; it couldn't have been better.

An important part of that day was the Civil Disturbance Band, which was terrific, with Dan Murphy on piano, Mark French on guitar, Frank Higgins on trumpet, Bob Landoni on clarinet/sax, and Tom Page on trombone. Bob and Tom also provided the vocal entertainment, and believe me, they sang as well as Bob Eberle or Sinatra. If you're looking for a super band for your next social, call Dan at 978-927-7386.

Our September meeting was cancelled because of "Katrina" who actually passed south of Nantucket and spared the Cape.

During our October meeting the Charter was draped to honor Dorothy Hjelmquist who had recently passed away. Dorothy had been an active and supportive member of The Lodge.

Following the business meeting, we had the pleasure of being addressed by Astrid Tollefsen, daughter of a Norwegian father and a Yankee mother. Astrid, a former Navy officer, is a teacher, lecturer, researcher and author of an outstanding book titled "FOLLOW-

ING THE WATERS, Voices from the Final Norwegian Emigration." It is a formidable record of Norwegians who came to this country, and is told in their own words. It will have you laughing and almost crying throughout the book. Once you start, you will NOT want to put it down. With over 450 illustrations and photos, and more than 150 interviews, Astrid's book is a treasure, not only for Norwegians, but also for anyone of any racial background. It is both a scholarly work and a work inspired by love and esteem for the bravery and sacrifices made by these early emigrants. Astrid Tollefsen's web is: home.earthlink.net/~astrid2000. Her Email is: astrid2000@earthlink.net. Believe me, if you buy her book, you won't be disappointed; it is a real treasure.

Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman

Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

November 20, 2005 was our 2nd anniversary. This was celebrated with a delicious cake with fruit filling. The Mayor of Sedona, Pud Colquitt attended our meeting. Also attending were Maureen and Andy Anderson of Prescott Scandia Lodge and author Willis Peterson.

November also brought on a legal battle of Trolls vs. Gnomes. This was a funny presentation by Nelson Cederberg representing the trolls and Marilyn Cederberg representing the gnomes. They extolled their virtues in convincing arguments. The jury is still out on who won their case.

Our lodge was invited by Scandia Lodge #728, Prescott, Arizona to join them for their Lucia Fest on December 11, 2005. The host lodge provided delicious food, drinks, fun and entertainment. Thank you Scandia Lodge for all your hard work.

The first meeting of the New Year will be on January 22, 2006. The meeting will have an Italian flair since our Chairman Vito Pantaleo will present a talk on Italy. This is his heritage. Our refreshments are influenced by our cultural topic.

Pea soup and pancakes will be the event of our February 26, 2006 meeting. All members are involved in making and eating this traditional meal.

Submitted by: Kristin Boyes

SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563

En mycket stilfull fanparad genomfördes, varefter spontana applåder hördes i salen. Logens förtjänstecken delades ut till Birgith Siegers för "sina utmärkta initiativ och fina insatser för att främja Logen Mälardrottningens verksamhet," samt till Christina Bergström för "sina utmärkta insatser inom medlemsvård för vår Loge." Även här kom spontana applåder.

Vi hade fått 33 telegram från Sverigeloger och tre från loger i USA. Många "platta" paket överlämnades och några icke så platta. I skrivande stund vet jag inte vad de innehåller – förutom ett, en bok skänkt av vår DD Harriet Jansson med make Svante. Denna kommer alla i Logen att få möjlighet att se, låna och läsa.

Direkt efter Högtidslogen bjöds på en välkomstdrink samt musikunderhållning. Det var elever från Kungsholmens musikgymnasium som sjöng mycket vackert för oss. Denna underhållning bjöd Marianne och Bo Hjulström, Logen Eskilstuna nr 633, på – ett stort tack till er!

Till middagen anslöt flera gäster, bl a en representant från Kanadensiska ambassanden. Hon var mycket intresserad av Vasa Orden, och kan ev bli en kommande medlem i vår Loge.

Vi åt middag i Odd Fellows stora matsal – en stor och luftig sal, som passade väl till vår jubileumsbankett. Stämningen var hög och många skratt hördes från borden.

Tack till alla som på något vis varit inblandad i att göra detta vårt 75-årsjubileum till en så lyckad fest. Det blev en dag att minnas!

Submitted by: Pia Norrman

Pictures by: Lars-Åke Sjöberg och
Birgith Siegers



Vasa Star January-February 2006

Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633



Odföranden i Logen Eskilstuna LL Nr 633, Elsa Arvidsson: Nu börjar alla veta vad Vasa Orden av Amerika är det har knappast någon annan lyckats med för allmänheten säger Odföranden Elsa Arvidsson till v och Ps Hans-Olof Söderström till h. vid överlämnanget av logens Förtjänstecken till Br Inge och DM Lisbeth Hallberg Qvarfordt, båda från LL Nr 663 och nr LL751.

Vasa medlemmar blir hedrade

Ett inslag i Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633:s novembermöte var när vi fick uppfylla ett mötesbeslut, taget vid ett tidigare möte. Logens tjänstemän och medlemmar känner en mycket stor tacksamhet mot vår Distriktsmästare Lisbeth Hallberg Qvarfordt och Broder Inge Hallberg för deras oegennyttiga hjälp som de under lång tid givit Logen. De har hedrat oss med flertaliga besök, förmedlat kontakter med massmedia som bl. a. resulterat i helsidor i lokalpressen, stöttat oss med idéer och förslag och Broder Ingess foton från ett flertal av våra olika aktiviteter har varit en fantastisk fin dokumentation för framtiden. Gruppen bakom förslaget till utmärkelsen vill särskilt framhålla vår tacksamhet över fotoreportaget vid vårt 50-årsjubileum som verkligen var något enastående.

Mot detta som bakgrund lades förslaget att de skulle avtackas aldeles särskilt vid lämpligt tillfälle och i lördags var det dags. Under mötet framfördes de till Logens altare och fick där under varma applåder mottaga Logens Förtjänstecken. Mottagarna uttryckte sin tacksamhet och förklarade sig vara mycket hedrade och tacksamma. Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633 gladdes med dem och vi kände att vi hade nått Vasasyskon med sann Vasa-anda som verkligen var förtjänta av vår utmärkelse.

Vasa members are being honored

During our November meeting we got the possibility to fulfill a decision made during one of our previous meetings. Officers and members of the Lodge felt great gratitude towards our District Master Sister Lisbeth Hallberg Qvarfordt and Brother Inge Hallberg for their altruistic help they offered us during a long period of time. We are honored with multiple visits; they contacted our local newspapers, which resulted in several articles and even one full page in the newspaper. They gave us suggestions and ideas and Brother Inge's pictures are a marvelous documentation to save for the future. The group behind the suggestion to honor them wants to specially point out our thankfulness for the booklet of photos from our 50th anniversary it was really outstanding.

The Lodge decided to give them a special honor at the next meeting they were able to attend, and that occurred last Saturday. The Master of Ceremonies brought them to the altar and was accompanied with enthusiastic applause. Sister Lisbeth and Brother Inge received the Badge of Honor of our Lodge, Eskilstuna No 633. The Badges was given and taken in a true Vasa Spirit and we know for sure that the receivers really deserve them.

Submitted by: Hans-Olof Söderström

Picture by: Carin Lundvall

Logen Kongahälla Nr 702

Sex logesyskon från Logen Kongahälla gjorde en kombinerad släkt- och rundresa i USA under september 2005. Resan gick via Paris till Boston. Med en hyrd bil fortsatte färden till släktingar i Monson och Springfield, MA. Utefter kusten i Maine besöktes städerna Bath och Camden samt Nationalparken Acadia.

På vår resa vidare till höglandet och Vita Bergen i New Hampshire passerade vi huvudstaden i Maine Augusta och sökte väster därom efter ett lämpligt motell för övernattning. Strax västerut vid förorten Manchester körde vi in till ett motell. Här mötte en överraskning, i receptionen hälsades vi välkomna av en affisch på svenska och med en dalahäst.

Vi hade kommit till "Axell:s SCANDINAVIAN INN" vars vägskylt även var prydd med de skandinaviska flaggorna. Detta blev en verklig stor överraskning för oss och en av resans absoluta höjdpunkter. Ett mycket fint och förstklassigt motell, ett av de bästa under våra resor i USA. Har tidigare flera gånger rest västerut på västkusten. Ägaren Kent Axell var bördig från Alingsås i Sverige och hans fru Sheila hade en av sina föräldrar från Sverige. Här fick vi ett fantastiskt mottagande.

På kvällen blev vi hembjudna till deras hem som låg i anslutning till deras andra motell någon kilometer längre västerut. Mycket trevlig samvaro där det blev talat mycket om "Vasa Orden av Amerika" om våra tidigare resor i samband med konvent och 100-årsjubileet år 1996. Kent Axell var intresserad att få information om Vasa Orden och om Bishop Hill. Vi skall skicka lämpligt informationsmaterial. Kanske några nya medlemmar?

Nästa morgon gjorde vi en utflykt med deras båt på den närlägna stora sjön "Cobossecontee Lake."

Vid bryggan låg båten, en på två pontoner (catamaran) bekvämt och komfortabelt byggd överdel för passagerare. Vi går ombord, Kent startar motorn och vi glider ut på den vackra sjön.

Efter denna vår resas största överraskning tog vi adjö av Sheila och Kent Axell. Här var verkligen ett ställe att rekommendera för andra svenskar eller svenskamerikaner.

På vår fortsatta resa i det mycket vackra landskapet genom New Hampshire såg vi bl. a. den höga toppen Mount Washington. Färden gick vidare till Cape Cod för ytterligare ett släktbesök.

En dag ägnades i Boston med alla sina historiskt kända platser och vackra parker.

Submitted by: Karl Olof Nilsson



Kent och Sheila Axell samt deras båt vid sjön Cobossecontee Lake.

Logen Sundsvall Nr 705

Har den 6 november hållit logemöte på WF-lokalen. Mötet inleddes med att en mycket stämningsfull parentation hölls över de två medlemmar, som avlidit under året.

Kaplan Berndt Wiklander läste en vacker dikt och Protokollsekreterare Lennart Bjärmkvist spelade på nyckelharpa.

Mötesdagar för år 2006 bestämdes, likaså årsavgift och receptionsavgift för år 2006.

Första nominering av tjänstemän och kommittéer för nästa år hölls. Nyhetsbrev från vår vänloge Satellite Lodge Nr 661 i Kalamazoo lästes upp och vi fick veta att om det blir svårt att finna LUTFISK här hemma, går det bra att beställa hos Wikströms Delicatessen i Chicago eller från Fish Shanty i Kalamazoo.

Vår Distriktsdeputerade Leif Claesson från Logen Härnösand Nr 673 installerade sin efterträdare Kjell Hamrin, också från Logen i Härnösand, under en högtidlig ceremoni.

Vid efterkapitlet åts en god måltid tillagad av vår Ceremonimästare GunnBritt Ullberg.

Kvällen avslutades med att Leif Claesson, som är pensionerad helikopterpilot, höll ett mycket intressant föredrag om helikopterräddning till lands och sjöss med små inlägg från egna spännande räddningsaktioner.

**Submitted by: Margareta Tellberg
Picture by: Jan Hellsing**



Kjell Hamrin, Leif Claesson, Margareta Tellberg.

Logen Knallen Nr 745



PS Ingvar Carlén och BPS Britt-Inger Svahn samtalade med DM Lisbeth om sina många år i USA.

Logen Knallens Thanksgiving

Ett arrangemang helt i linje med vår Orden, och Vasa Orden i Tiden!

Det började hemma hos en av Vasamedlemarna för många år sedan, då man samlades och firade Thanksgiving. Vi var bara några stycken som åt och hade det trevligt säger Broder Bo Kindblad.

För varje år blev vi fler och fler och insåg att vi nu måste ta logelokalen till hjälp. I år var vi 93 st, varav 19 gäster och presumativa medlemmar.

Vi ser att detta är bara början, nästa år blir vi ändå fler, inte minst genom att vi har flera nya medlemmar på gång inflickar ordf. Börje Olausson. Vi firar ingen julfest, många besöker ju flera julbord utanför logegemenskapen så vi firar Thanksgiving Day istället. Senare kommer vi samman en söndag i advent och besöker någon kyrka med eferföljande Adventskaffe. Ja, där ser man hur varje loge försöker komma med "nya" infallsvinklar för sina logemöten.

Jag kom till Logen Knallens Logemöte en vanlig vardagskväll mitt i veckan, då kan det väl inte samlas så många. Men, vad jag bedrog mig. Jag kom in i en logelokal som var fullsatt med logemedlemmar och naturligtvis tjänstemän. En mycket vacker logelokal, typisk för Odd Fellow

Ordf. Börje Olausson hade logemötet helt under kontroll. Allt från intagning till mötesförhandlingar och Ljussläckning. Samtliga tjänstemän var klara till 2006.

Presentation hölls för den nyss bortgångna Hugo Walters, 99. Det var en vacker stillsam och stilfull början av logemötet.

Den stora FESTEN med Kalkon-middag är precis vad som hör hemma i Thanksgiving. En högtid som man firat i Amerika sedan år 1621 till och från. President Roosevelt fastställde 1939 att dagen skulle fira den fjärde torsdagen i november. Hans mål var att förlänga julhandeln.

Presidentens tal nyss uthämtat från Internet och översatt av Broder Börje lästes med andakt av FDO Åke Swahn, ett uppdrag som jag haft de senare åren, vilket gläder mig sa Broder Åke.

President Georg W. Bush avslutade sitt tal med; "Torsdagen den 24 november 2005 som är en nationell dag för firande av Thanksgiving, uppmanar jag alla amerikanare att samlas i sina hem och på platser där vi kan fira med sin familj, vänner och kära, för att stärka de band som binder oss samman och tacka för de friheter och välsignelser vi åtnjuter."

Det blev en mycket härlig kväll med Logen Knallen, kanske något att ta efter istället för Julfesterna. Thanksgiving – Tacksägelsedagen är ju så pass nära december. För Logen Knallen blev det i varje fall en Knalleffekt!

Som DM kan jag vara helt lycklig över Vasa Orden av Amerikas loge Knalle #745 i Borås. Vi tog "Vasabilen" och svängde ned till torget på Knalleland och fick förmånen att dela ut lite Vasabroschyror till några som intresserade sig för vår bildekal.

Submitted by: Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt
Picture by: Inge Hallberg

Thanksgiving at Logen Knallen Nr 745

Thursday November 24, 2005 we came together in Odd Fellow's House in Borås to traditionally celebrate Thanksgiving, the American Holiday, which, as far as we can see, is more of an introduction to Christmas time – at least in the meaning of business. This year it was an especially great Thanksgiving-celebration. We noticed a fantastic "public attendance": 74 Sisters and Brothers at the Lodge-meeting and at the following dinner we were 93 and could welcome 19 guests, potent ional new members.

Secondly, we had the honour to see our District Master Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt in our Lodge. It was the first time she was our guest. We were also pleased to meet her husband, Brother Inge Hallberg, with the camera in his hand. Inge is one of the most successful photographers and illus-

trators from our country with several honourable national and international prizes.

The Lodge-meeting had a very solemn introduction, we commemorated our Member of Honour Brother Hugo Walters, who died only weeks before, nearly 99 years old and with more than 80 years' membership in The Vasa Order of America.

We then continued with the general agenda for the November meeting where we elected Lodge-Officers for 2006. We have a new Secretary, Treasurer, Culture leader and Master of Ceremonies.

District Master Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt declared her pleasure in joining us on this special day and valued the Vasa Community that gives us confidence and life-quality.

The Arrangement group had done a wonderful job and the service was perfect. According to the tradition we enjoyed a tasty turkey with accessories and a California wine.

Our tradition calls for the very important President's speech. Our Chairman Börje Olausson had translated and Brother Åke Swahn presented it to us. District Master Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt expressed in a Swedish manner all our thanks for the dinner, and again she pointed out the importance of the progress and development in the sense of Truth and Unity.

After dinner we had coffee and refreshments, mingling to meet and talk to as many as possible. Two of our guests, Gullbritt and Henrik Westling, improvised a little entertainment for us, singing wonderful songs of Evert Taube. It was a pleasant celebration of Thanksgiving Day 2005.

Submitted by: Ingvar Carlén
Foto: Inge Hallberg

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På resa bland vasavänner i USA



Karl-Erik Axelsson och Elisabeth Agge Logen Enköping nr 646 besöker Vasa arkivet.

Under de första veckorna i oktober passade Karl-Erik Axelsson samt Elisabeth Agge logen Enköping nr 646 samt Lars-Åke och Hillivi Sjöberg logen Mälardrottningen nr 563 att besöka USA. De började med att hälsa på sina bekanta i Linde loge nr 492 och fick bo hos Jake och Marge Gruel som de känt i många år.

Under vistelsen deltog Karl-Erik och Elisabeth i ett logemöte för att träffa de

övriga medlemmarna i Linde loge, efter mötet spelade de Bingo då man fick lära sig att översätta engelska ord till svenska.

Elisabeth Agge passade även på att tacka Linde loge för att de tog emot Maja som ungdomsutbyte från Sverige detta år.

Under veckan i Milwaukee umgicks de med familjen Gruel samt även Lisa och Rolf Ekstrand. I Milwaukee passade medlemmar i Linde loge samt vänner att ha ett party för Karl-Erik Axelsson och Elisabeth Agge som hade 1 årig bröllopsdag. Varmt tack alla ni som kom.

Färden fortsatte sedan till Illinois och Bishop Hill. Genom vänerna Richard och Lillemor Horngren fick de möjlighet att bo hos deras vänner Jack och Nancy Knobloch.

Under vistelsen gjordes även ett besök till Vasa arkivet.

Resan i USA avslutades med en inbjudan till Virginia Lindroos i Kronan Lodge, Chicago för att kunna prata och umgås. Tillsammans sjöngs det och spelades musik.

A trip amongst Vasa friends in the US

During the first week in October Karl-Erik Axelsson and Elisabeth Agge Lodge Enköping no 646 visited the US together with Lars-Åke and Hillivi Sjoberg.

They began their trip by visiting their

friends in Linde Lodge no 492 and stayed at Jake and Marge Gruels home that they have known for many years.

During the visit they took the opportunity to visit a lodge meeting so they could meet the other members in Linde lodge. After the meeting they played Bingo where you have to translate English words to Swedish. Elisabeth Agge also took the opportunity to thank Linde lodge for hosting Maja as a youth exchange from Sweden this year.

During the week in Milwaukee they took some time off to spend with the Gruels family and Lisa and Rolf Ekstrand.

Also during the stay in Milwaukee the members in Linde Lodge and friends got together and had a party for Karl-Erik Axelsson and Elisabeth Agge who celebrated their first anniversary. Our deepest thanks to everyone that came.

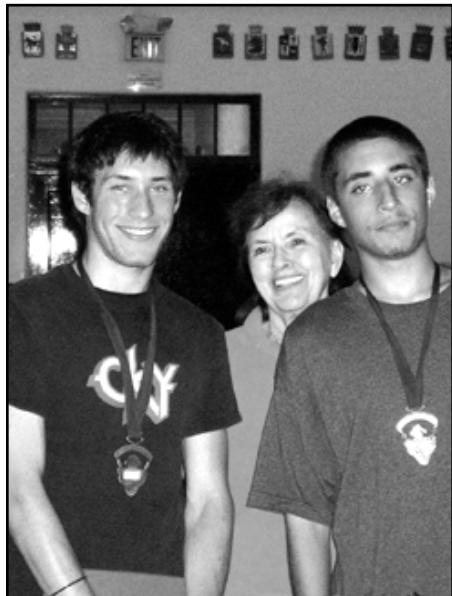
Next stop during the trip was to Illinois and Bishop Hill. Richard and Lillemor Horngren made it possible to stay at their friends Jack and Nancy Knobloch house. During the visit in Bishop Hill they also visited The Vasa Archive.

The trip in USA ended with an invitation to Virginia Lindroos in Kronan Lodge, Chicago to talk and socialize. Together we sang songs and played music.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge

YOUTH NEWS

Edward Yankowsky



Edward Yankowsky and Jackie Ahlen.

Edward Yankowsky grew up, and still lives, in the town of Temple City. During his years at Temple City high school Edward has been a member of and participated in the Kiwanis Key Club, his high school wrestling team as well as the high school track and field team. As a student of Temple City High School, it was Edward's responsibility to complete one hundred hours of community service as a requirement for graduation. At the time he received his diploma however, Edward had completed over two hundred hours of community service. In addition, Edward was able to maintain a 3.0 grade point average throughout high school.

Outside of high school, Edward was a member of the Young Marines, an organization that focused on self-discipline, leadership, physical fitness, as well as knowledge of the principles and ethics that the women and men of the Marine Corps live by. Edward enjoys reading various types of literature during his spare time; he is especially interested in

the reading of philosophy. In addition, he likes to socialize with his friends for the majority of his free time.

Edward has been a member of Vasa since June 2001. During his time so far as a member Edward has served as Outer Guard for his lodge for two years and has served as Master of Ceremonies for three years now. Edward has also served in the past as the Vi-King and attended, as a delegate, the Vasa District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15-89th Annual Convention of 2003. In the past, Edward has also received three consecutive scholarships to attend the Swedish Language Camp, Sjolunden.

Having attended the Temple City Unified School District all his life, Edward is continuing his educational studies at Pasadena City College and plans to transfer to a four-year university afterwards; Edward is currently majoring in teaching at the elementary school level.

Submitted by: Jackie Ahlen

Katie Westlund as Nordikids 2005 Lucia Queen

Katie Westlund was selected 2005 Lucia Queen for Nordikids Musiklubb (Lake Michigan No. 8). She performed in "A Winter Wonderland" along with the rest of the group at their Annual Lucia fest on Sunday, December 11th, at the Wicker Park Social Center on Ridge Road in Highland, IN.

Katie is the daughter of Steve and Michelle Westlund of Schererville, In. She has been a Nordikid for three years. Her grandparents, Nancy and Chuck Westlund of Palos Heights, IL, were instrumental in keeping the families Swedish traditions alive. They were members of the South Side Swedish Club as were Katie's great-grandparents, Bert and Vera Westlund, who emigrated here from Sweden and met in English classes in Chicago. Katie's maternal great-great-grandfather, Carl Hasselgren, emigrated to the U.S from Stockholm, Sweden.

Katie is a seventh grade straight-A honor student at Grimmer Middle School in Schererville, IN, where she is involved in cheerleading, volleyball, shows choir and the Spell Bowl Team. Katie is a current grade level champion for the Times Spelling Bee and a state finalist in the Reader's Digest Word Power Challenge. Her hobbies include volunteering for the Lake County Public Library, singing in her church's praise team, and playing the piano.

Submitted by: Linnea Ogrertz



Katie Westlund

Nordikids Musiklubb Enjoy "Craft Night"

Nordikids Musiklubb enjoyed an evening decorating foam-cut Dala Horses based on the popular 18th Century Swedish folk toy Monday, October 10 at their weekly gathering to promote their Scandinavian Heritage.

This "craft night" is one of Nordikids' Monday night meetings held at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Lansing, Illinois from 6:30-8:00 pm for children 4-14 of Scandinavian decent to become familiar with the language, music and customs of their ancestors.

For information about our group or events please contact Lynda Smith at (219) 923-8777 or email lamsmith@hotmail.com.

Submitted by: Lynda Smith



Eric Nelson



Front Row l-r: Abigail Ogrertz, Harrison Ogrertz, Rachel Wadkins, Carl Nelson, Jennifer Pearson, Stephen Lesko. Back Row l-r: Rachel Hannigan, Michael Pearson, April Nelson, Megan Wadkins, Emily Pearson, Lisa Raddatz, and Erica Stoica

Nicholas 11 - Musikaliskt underbarn

11-åriga Nicholas Nasibyan från USA vad man kan kalla ett musikaliskt underbarn. Redan som sjuåring komponerade han sin första opera och som nioåring satt han vid orgeln under en hel gudstjänst för första gången.

Han började spela piano redan som fyåring och bemästrar i dag även trumpet, fiol och säckpipa. Under tisdagen besökte Tranåsbon Lars Järskog av sin kusins speciella barnbarn, som var och hälsade på i Sverige tillsammans med morföräldrarna Philip och Linda Carlson.

Submitted by: Linda Collin



PLEASE MEET

EULOGY - ALVALENE PIERSON KARLSSON

Alvalene Pierson Karlsson was born August 25, 1920 in Tenants Harbor on the coast of Maine. She grew up there and later attended the University of Maine in Orono, ME, graduating as Phi Beta Kappa, Class of 1940. After her college graduation Alvalene moved to Manhattan and worked as a medical lab researcher at The Rockefeller Institute. Her thoughts at the time were towards becoming a doctor/physician.

During her time in New York City Alvalene met Torsten Edward Karlsson while both of them volunteered as air raid wardens during World War II. Torsten was an immigrant from Värmland, Sweden. He had trained as an artist in Stockholm and had come to join his mother in New York City. The couple married in 1944 and the union produced three children, Paul, Keith and Gail, all born between 1948 and 1951.

Alvalene and Torsten entered the printing business together, owning The Pierson Press until the late 1960's. Together they also started The Swedish Book Nook, located on East 81 Street, New York City. The Book Nook became a popular meeting place for Swedes in that vicinity of NYC.

Torsten worked for the Swedish-American newspaper Nordstjernan as a journalist, photographer and then, finally as editor. Alvalene worked with him, becoming the editor after his death in 1984.

In 1979, they were both awarded the Swedish Order of the North Star by the King of Sweden in recognition of their service on the newspaper. The Sweden Day Committee of New York honored Alvalene as Swede of the Year in 1993.

Alvalene became the Editor of the Vasa Star in 1986 - a job she continued until 2002. Her daughter Gail said: "She was certainly very deeply engaged in her editorial work for the Vasa Star for many years." (Gail's son Kevin was pictured on the cover of the December 1987 Vasa Star as a baby.)

Alvalene also served as Secretary of the John Ericsson Society. She was a member of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church for over 50 years, during which time she served as an Elder of the church.

A few years ago her photograph collection of 30 years was on exhibit at Columbia University. The collection was titled: "Swedes in New York - 1970 till Today."

Alvalene Pierson Karlson departed this earth leaving six grandchildren Paul's daughters Katherine and Kristina Karlsson, Keith's sons Erik and Chris Karlsson and Gail's sons Kevin and Brian Oldfield.

May her memory and the work she did for the Vasa Order of America long live among us. May she rest in peace.

Submitted by: Marie Carlson

Sources: Gail Karlsson (Alvalene's daughter) and Jill Schroeder (Zimmermann Printing)

Photo: Courtesy Jeanne Widman

Astrid Tollefson

Appointment in Norway

I stood in Skudeneshavn, Norway before the assembled audience of retired fishermen, supporters, family members, friends and dignitaries to open the festivities which would launch my book, the oral history, "*Following the Waters, Voices from the Final Norwegian Emigration*" in Norway, my father's homeland. This trip to Norway was the culmination of many years of work and struggle. I had planned to speak in Norwegian to this Skudeneshavn audience, the first time I had ever spoken Norwegian, to thank this group for their help and to chronicle their emigration and its great contributions to both New Bedford Massachusetts and the Seattle/Alaskan fisheries and communities. I was not nervous and was pleased at the assemblage and so happy to have my

book presented in my father's hometown. I felt the presence of my long departed grandmother, who is profiled in the book, and could feel her smiling...a strong willed woman who had wanted me to speak Norwegian when I was a youth and could never understand why I didn't. Then I started to speak. Whose voice was this coming from my lips ---constricted, high, soft? Whose tears were starting to run down my face? What was happening to me in front of all these people? Then I realized that it was the sudden strong sentiment that my grandmother and father were watching and listening. I continued speaking in Norwegian slowly and accurately and thanking those who had shared their life stories or had made financial contributions to the book, giving a summary of how the book had taken shape, telling a few humorous stories and presenting a program of speakers and music to these people who had in a large part made the book possible. Following the

program we had homemade cakes and coffee, which is, of course, in the Norwegian tradition. We also had American brownies and napkins and plates with the American flags on them, which was my contribution to the blending of two cultures. The windows in the room itself had been decorated with a large American flag and a Norwegian flag.

It had been a very long journey for me to come to this point in my life, and it was a journey that some might say was preordained because my father, a Norwegian emigrant fisherman out of New Bedford, drowned at sea when I was a child just after the '38 Hurricane and I was determined to know him better. My mother, a native of New Bedford with some roots in Nantucket, was a West Barnstable resident when she died in 1998. She was from old New England Yankee stock dating back to the original

Continued on next page



Astrid Tollefson

Continued from previous page

colonists, and we were brought up as Yankees even though my name was totally Norwegian. I learned little about my Norwegian roots as a child and rarely saw the Norwegian relatives. My fleeting memories of my father were just that, but always accompanied by the feeling of security and being loved. That security ended with his death at sea, and life became a struggle to survive for my mother and her two children. But despite our circumstances, and in spite of her many fears, she set goals for us so that we would "never be in her position," and eventually I worked my way through college and my baby brother, who was born just before my father's death, was appointed to one of the federal academies and consequently spent his life on the sea. I also was a naval officer and in many ways we both followed my father's life, travel, traditions and heritage without being fully aware of it.

My early goal in life was to see Norway and my father's childhood home and that was accomplished at Christmas in 1960 when I was teaching school in Germany. My girlfriend and I took a train from Copenhagen and arrived in Bergen where my uncle met us. In fact, on every trip to Bergen Uncle Kristian met me at the train, except for this 2005 trip while en route to Skudeneshavn for the party. He had passed away, as had my dear aunt and as I stepped off the train in Bergen, I had a great feeling of loss and sadness as his smiling face was no longer there to greet me. I was not going to their warm, loving home, but to a hotel. I felt the loss deeply and left Bergen quickly the next day en route to Karmøy, my father's island.

Before arriving in Bergen by train from the increasingly cosmopolitan Oslo, I had had a busy morning. After a delicious Norwegian breakfast at the hotel, I was taken the National Bibliotek, Norway's counterpart to our Library of Congress, where I saw my book in the American section. Later, I met with the director of a major Norwegian book organization and then was treated to lunch by Dr. Kjetil Flatin, who as senior advisor to the International Norse Federation had supported my book. He gave me a letter to read at the book launching. In his downtown Oslo office, we had a remarkable balcony view of the Akershus Fortress, the fjord and Oslo harbor. Then I was whisked by taxi to the heavily fortifi-

fied American Embassy where I was greeted by the Boston-rooted, Deputy Chief of Mission, who complimented my book and me and gave me a letter to read to the group at the launching. Armed with these beautiful letters, I then took one of the world's most scenic railroad trips to Bergen.

From Bergen, after a night at the hotel and an hour exploring the fish and produce market, I traveled south by bus and ferry to Haugesund and the Island of Karmøy where I was met by folk singer and composer Aleksander Hauge who drove me to the historic town of Skudeneshavn, named Norway's loveliest town in 2005 and my father's hometown. My house rental was in the oldest section of town. I had stayed there before and for me it was as if I were coming home again. This was my sixth trip to Skudeneshaven since 1960. . Each time was different, as I was different, and the town was slowly modernizing. It was especially different this year because many relatives and friends had died. I had a fewer people to visit and share life stories with and longer visits to the cemetery.

And so I was at my book launching after several years of documenting these Norwegian emigrants' lives in both New Bedford and Seattle as well as in Norway. Most of those who had emigrated in the twenties and thirties had died during these past few years, and it was now my own age group who were still there. My father's generation was gone, yet still some old timers remembered my grandmother and many also were related to me.

During my stay, I discovered that a new book about Skudeneshavn had been published and in it I found a photo of my father at eight years of age, one aunt at about ten and another at about nine--- the first photos I had ever seen of my family as children.

My aunt's son, my cousin Ketil Berg, and his family came to the party from another town on the mainland further south. He sang a couple of Norwegian folk songs at the party. I showed him the book with the photo of his mother and gave it to him as well as some of my books.

We went out to the cemetery together and visited four generations of family. It was his first visit. We then crossed the heather and rock island on a road built by Russian prisoners during the war and visited the new Karmøy Fisherman's Memorial (I had helped with the

fundraising for this). Its design was influenced by the Cathedral of the Pines in New Hampshire and had an altar on the rocks by the sea. The lighthouse-shaped carillon plays hymns every day at noon and at its base were the more than 125 names of the island's fishermen who lost their lives fishing out of New Bedford and Seattle/Alaska. My father's name is there as well as three more uncles, one of whom lost his life and boat just south of Chatham in 1964.

My cousin viewed the names of his four uncles and then expressed to me how much this experience meant to him. I was so happy that we had shared it together and felt that our parents would have rejoiced in this. It was their day as well as ours. I also knew that now these brave men lives would always be part of written history.

"Following the Waters" is all about courage and covers about seventy-five years of emigration. It is the first book written about this emigration and the Norwegian fishermen and their families, with a smattering of Swedes as well.

Although many died, others went on to great wealth and success. Some are still in New Bedford, others are on the West Coast and still others back in Norway. The scallop industry on two coasts is the product of their emigration, hard work and sacrifice, as is the growth of the Alaskan crab fishing industry. This emigration of skilled and brave fishermen was an economic boom to the USA when it needed it the most both in the depression and in the post war years. Their earnings were also an economic gain for Norway as much money was sent back to the fishermen's homes there. They emigrated from a country that knew poverty to the land of opportunity and many made it. But then the tables turned when Norway discovered oil in the late sixties and Norway then became the magnet for immigration. Many returned to this now wealthy country where they worked and retired and spent out their years remembering New Bedford, their warm beach filled days on Cape Cod, their work and their friends who lost their lives off of our shores.

I have been asked if I found my father once more in writing this oral history. Yes, I feel I found and learned what he would have wanted to pass on to me. Am I a Norwegian? No, but I am a Norwegian-American and proud of it, and I have a better understanding of the responsibilities of being an American after this search for identity. I am much

Continued on next page

Astrid Tollefson

Continued from previous page

more sensitive to immigration, more politically aware and active, more European in my outlook on Americanism and feel empowered to do all I can in my remaining years to make my country one that always lives up to its promise and its constitution. (One of my mother's distant cousins, Benjamin Franklin, had a bit to do with that, also.) My research did not make me a Norwegian, but it did make me a better American. I think that both my mother and father would have liked that.

For more information contact the author directly or visit her website. astrid2000@earthlink.net home.earthlink.net/~astrid2000

Following the Waters, Voices from the Final Norwegian Emigration, with foreword by Lars Fure, senior advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo is hard cover, 514 pages, 400+ photos, 22 chapters, plus special cultural chapters, bibliography, glossary and chapter notes.

Submitted by: Astrid Tollefson

Bertha Arvidson



Bertha Arvidson and son Bruce.

The most senior female member of Svea Lodge #253 in Indianapolis is Bertha (Anderson) Arvidson, born on a farm in Flo, Sweden, on December 10, 1908. The youngest of 6 children (5 girls, 1 boy), Bertha laughs about "the time Mama spanked me because I climbed up in the apple tree and shook down the apples."

After leaving Sweden at age 15, Bertha lived first with a sister in Ridgeway (near Niagara Falls), Ontario,

Canada, working as a hotel maid. In Ridgeway she met Carl Arvidson who had come over on the boat with her brother. Bertha and Carl married in January 1926 when he was 21 and she was only 17. One day a salesman knocked on their door and asked the young bride, "Is your mother home?" Bertha said, "No, she isn't," and shut the door in his face. "I told him the truth!" she laughs.

Carl and Bertha lived first in Buffalo, NY, where Carl worked for DuPont, and where their sons Carl Henry and Douglas were born. The family then lived in Sweden for two-and-a-half years, before returning to New York just prior to the outbreak of World War II. Carl worked in Brooklyn for the Norden Company, which sent him to Indianapolis to the Naval Avionics Center, as supervisor of the assembly division, "for two years" to build the Norden Bomb Site. Carl hoped to return to New York, but after the third year, "no more was said," and so Bertha and Carl settled permanently in Indianapolis. Former Naval Avionics co-workers still remember Carl as "that jolly-stern Swede who was never offended by Swedish jokes." Bertha remembers that "Carl was a card!"

Bertha and Carl helped restore Svea #253 in the 1970s from a membership of only 7. Today the lodge has 122 members. Carl died in 1984 at age 80.

They reared their three sons: Carl Henry, Douglas, and Bertha's orphaned nephew, Steve Anderson. Carl Henry, an Annapolis graduate and career Air Force officer, died tragically at age 30 in a car accident. Doug is an engineer retired from Chrysler in Detroit and lives in

Dearborn Heights, MI, where he and wife Sue are active in the Swedish Club. Steve owns his own business in Indianapolis, A&A Industrial Supply.

Bertha has led a busy and active life, walking 3 to 5 miles a day until about age 92, including to church every Sunday. This is especially remarkable because at 55 she lost her eyesight to macular degeneration and is legally blind. She has 7 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. At her home on Indianapolis's east side, she gardened from dawn to dusk, spring through fall, raising flowers, shrubs, trees and vegetables. Her contribution to every Midsommar picnic was two huge buckets full of white blooms from her snowball bushes, for the mässtang. She was a Red Cross volunteer for 30 years. She liked to knit afghans and to cook, and to listen to books on tapes. In Svea #253 she is famous for her oatmeal cookies and rice pudding.

In 2002, she moved to Rosegate Commons, a retirement community where she lives in an apartment filled with family photos, Swedish glass and art objects, Swedish landscape paintings, Dala horses and roosters. She is known for her friendliness and loves to visit with fellow residents. She still walks a mile a day. In September 2005, she was "Resident of the Month."

Only 4 feet 9 inches tall, with fluffy white hair and a big smile, Bertha has been homemaker, wife, mother, grandmother, churchgoer, knitter, volunteer, gardener, walker and good neighbor. She wears her 50-year Vasa pin with pride. Bertha loves Vasa! As she says, "That's all there is to it!"

Submitted by: Charlotte A. Swenson

Christmas Greetings and wishes for every Happiness now and in the New Year to all Vasa members in the United States, Canada, and Sweden, especially to our sister Filbyter Lodge #714, Linköping

Skandia Lodge #549

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT #8
EXECUTIVE BOARD
Wishing you memories to last the whole year

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GOTT NYTT ÅR

We Wish You All a
Happy and Prosperous 2006
From
Linde Lodge No. 492
Milwaukee - Wisconsin
&
SKANSEN Children Club No 113



CULTURE

Pennsylvania Before Penn

Ambassador of Sweden to the United States Gunnar Lund's first official visit outside Washington, DC was to America's oldest Swedish-American community, the "Ancient Swedes," to attend "Pennsylvania before Penn - Land of the Lenape and New Sweden."

Some six thousand persons attended "Riverfront Ramble" at Tinicum, Pa, site of the first Swedish colonial settlement in what became Pennsylvania. The day long September 24, 2005 program at Governor Johan Printz Park featured living history interpreters, interactive colonial games and crafts, exhibitions by leading historical organization, a canoe race, dancing, music and food, according to co-chair Aleasa Hogate.

Heavy winds prevented Ambassador Lund, Chargé d'Affaires Caroline Vicini,

Consul for Pennsylvania Agneta H. Bailey and Press Counselor Claes Thorson from arriving as planned aboard "Kalmar Nyckel," the magnificent full sized replica of the 17th century Swedish warship that brought the first colonial settlers to the Delaware River in 1638.

Instead Ambassador Lund arrived by car and was greeted by living history reenactors dressed authentically as 17th century Swedish soldiers. The musketeers marched to a military drumbeat as they escorted Mr. Lund to the waiting delegation of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Indians. The highlight of Pennsylvania before Penn" was an authentic and official celebration of the "Friendship Compact" between Swedes and Lenape, first agreed to at Tinicum in 1654.

Colonists received great assistance from the Lenape in keeping England and Holland away from the struggling

colony. Sweden's limited military prowess benefited the Lenape, who had hostile Indian neighbors.

The bond between the Lenni-Lenape Nation and the Swedes and Finns is unique in the annals of America's colonial history and the friendship continues into the 21st century. "New Sweden Colony was the only place in colonial America where there was neither slavery nor Indian warfare, according to Herbert Rambo, a past governor of the Swedish Colonial Society and 12th generation descendent of New Sweden colonist Peter Gunnarson Rambo. "Every Swedish American can take pride in that legacy," he noted.

The New Sweden Centre of Wilmington, Delaware, which sponsors an extensive living history program, coordinated the Ambassador's visit and history program during the festival.

Submitted by: Herbert Rambo

FAMILY

This is Helge Swanson's 100th Birthday Party open house at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 19, 2005.

Submitted by: Lorraine Cooper



2006 Vasa Calendar

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The cost is \$12.95 per calendar plus shipping and handling of \$2.00 for U.S. shipments and \$3.00 for Swedish shipments.

Please send your check or money order payable to:

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Welcome To Our New Members

On behalf of the Grand Lodge and members of the Vasa Order of America, I am pleased to welcome you to our organization. We hope you will enjoy your membership and attend your respective lodges and participate in all of the activities planned for you.

**Joan Graham, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman
5838 San Jose Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804
Email: vasajlg@aol.com**

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Gunnel Lundberg

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Bo Wig

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Olle Oredsson

Logen Smaland #618

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Ingrid Engdahl Eriksson

Jan Eriksson

Ann-Louise Hakansson

Tamas Lakatos

Zanna Lakatos

Karin Ristner

Cornelis Steenvinkel

<p

HAPPENINGS

Anhöriga till Emigranter från Risinge socken i Finspångs kommun!

Under tiden 1868 – 1930 utvandrade 2041 personer till USA från Risinge socken i Finspångs kommun i norra Östergötland.

Det var den största utvandringen i procent räknat på befolkningen från någon socken i Sverige.

Som ny Loge Historiker i Logen Bråvalla Nr 751, önskar undertecknad kontakt med anhöriga till dessa utvandrare både från Sverige och från USA.

Om intresse finns är tanken att anordna några dagar i Risinge socken och till sammans med släktingar från Risinge försöka hitta det Risinge som förfäderna valde att lämna!

Relatives of Immigrants from Risinge parish in Finspångs County!

During 1868 – 1930, 2041 persons immigrated to the US from Risinge Parish in Finspångs County in north Östergötland.

It was the largest emigration in percent counted from any area in any Parish in Sweden.

As the newly elected Historian in Logen Bråvalla Nr 751, undersigned wish to gain contact with relatives of these emigrants from Sweden and from the US.

If there is enough interest, the thought is to arrange for a few days in Risinge Parish and together with relatives trying to find out how Risinge was at the time their forefathers decided to leave

**Submitted by: Åke Sjöblom,
Vallmovägen 7, 612 46 Finspång,
Sweden**

50 Year Reunion

During the week of September 19 a reunion was held in Becket, Massachusetts for former students who had attended the International Graduate School at the University of Stockholm during the academic year 1953-54. The event was organized and hosted by Michel Paul Richard and his wife Peggy. (Richard, who has relatives in Sweden, served as Chaplain of VASA Lodge 554 in Miami, Florida before moving to Massachusetts in 2003.)

Some of the participants came from as far away as Oregon, California, and Iowa; others from the nearby states of New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and New Jersey. The group settled in at Bucksteep Manor in the adjacent hill town of Washington.

On September 20, the group met at the Richard home in Becket for a traditional Swedish dinner, complete with sill, dill, and Aquavit. Afterwards they swapped stories, starting with the voyage on the M.S. Stockholm from New York to Göteborg, some years before it collided with the Andrea Doria. Then came recollections of living with Swedish families; since one of the goals of the program was cultural immersion, students were placed in families rather than assigned to residence halls. Meals were taken at the Kårhuset, where American students could socialize with program participants from other countries (Canada, Czechoslovakia, England, Ethiopia, France, Iran, Iraq, and Switzerland were represented that year). They also made friends with Swedish students in other University programs, as well as young working people from other countries that found the student union congenial. Added to the mix were some Americans who had completed the program earlier and who continued living and working in Sweden.

On the following day, September 21, the reunion party split up to sample the cultural attractions of Berkshire County. Some visited Arrowhead, the home of Herman Melville who wrote Moby Dick while gazing out of his window at Mount Greylock (the contour suggested a white whale). Also, the museum and studio of the illustrator Norman Rockwell; a Swede might call him the American version of Carl Larsson.

That evening a reunion banquet was held in Pittsfield. It began with formal toasts, followed by Swedish songs, and then a focused critique of the program itself. Students were required to take language classes, and they also attended lectures on Swedish history, economic development, and political organization. Individual projects were also encouraged: several students delved into Swedish literature (Pär Lagerqvist, August Strindberg, Selma Lagerlöf) while another who had majored in sociology discovered the work of Alva Myrdal. One worked part time as a statistician for an insurance company, and another obtained a grant from the Swedish Film Bureau to produce a film, and met Ingmar Bergman along the way.

The real emphasis of the program, which made an indelible impression on students, was the direct exposure to Swedish life and society. There were in fact, so many well-planned field trips throughout the year -- and even during

vacations -- that nobody could take part in all of them. Day trips included visits to a minimum-security prison, a large hospital, an assisted living facility, an insurance company, and an iron mine. Also several factories producing glass, porcelain, matches, sewing machines, and skis.

On the cultural side, there were trips to artistic gems like the sculpture garden of Carl Milles in Lidingö. Gustav Vigeland may be less well known to Americans, but his work is equally important, as students discovered when they visited his sculpture park in Oslo, Norway. While in Norway the group also made a scheduled visit to the royal palace, and was welcomed by Crown Prince Olaf himself.

Other ceremonial highlights of the academic year included the Nobel Prize award dinner attended by several students in the program, and a party at the American Embassy. The traditional student cap festival took place in the spring, followed by a trip to the university town of Uppsala for Walpurgis Night. Spring semester also featured an overnight voyage to Gotland where students stayed in the old walled city of Visby, a famous port in the days of the Hanseatic League.

And for the jocks, or would-be jocks, there were cross-country skiing trips in the province of Dalarna, and also in Lappland during the spring break. The work "break" is unfortunately apt, since one of the participants actually broke his leg the first day out. Rather than going back to Stockholm, he elected to stay with the group and was dragged everywhere on a sled for the next ten days with his leg in a cast.

Epilogue

After a hearty breakfast at Bucksteep Manor on the morning of September 22, members of the reunion party assembled for last minute photographs and farewells along with suggestions for a follow up, to include those who couldn't make it this time. For the record, Mike Richard said: "... this was like Rip Van Winkle in reverse. We wake up 50 years later -- actually 51 years -- and discover we have more to talk about now than we did back then! We owe so much to the American Scandinavian Foundation and the University of Stockholm. Especially Margareta Stålhandske, Pär Axel Hildeman, Professor Andrén, and all the others who worked so hard make it happen. Hejdå, until we meet again!"

**Article written by: Mike Richard
Submitted by: Peggy Richard**

8th Annual Leif Erikson Festival

September 24th was a perfect weather day and over one thousand people came out to celebrate the great accomplishments of the Norse people during the Viking Age, as well as the intrepid explorer Leif Erikson. "I had so much fun" said Cliff Demboski of Vasa Park. The Leif Erikson Festival's are held the last Saturday of September at Vasa Park in Budd Lake NJ. Vasa Park is owned and operated by the Vasa Order of America, NJ District #6.

The Leif Erikson festival opened at 10 AM and over 50 vendors of Scandinavian foods and crafts greeted visitors. Vasa's Viking Lodge served traditional Swedish Pancakes and Lyckan Lodge served Swedish Meatballs. There were many other traditional foods available from Denmark, Finland, and Norway. The opening ceremonies took place at 11:00 AM with a Parade, led by the 18-piece Rory O'Moore Pipe and Drum corp. Chairman John Larsson spoke about the influence of the Viking people in Ireland and Scotland during the Viking Age. Immediately after the performance by the Rory O'Moore bag pipers, the Pledge of Allegiance and salute to the flags took place. Miss Sweden Day welcomed the crowd and then, the children took over with traditional folk dances performed by the Skansen Children's club on NJ, and the Elsa Rix Children's club of NY. Elsa Rix is the oldest Vasa children's club in America, and still very active. Performing after the Scandinavian folk dancers were the Peter Smith School of Irish Step Dancers. They received a standing ovation. Later on in the afternoon, the Swedish Folk dancers of NY performed. They are an adult group that practices traditional Scandinavian folk

dances every week. BR & the Ebb Tides played some classic Rock & Roll for the non-Scandinavian public.

During the day there were dozens of out door activities such as Archery Demonstrations by the Ocean County 4H club, Moonwalks, Hayrides, Pony Rides, arts and crafts, and Face Painting. The kids took chances at dunking Christopher Columbus in a 400 gallon 'dunk tank'. There was even a Swedish massage available, just in case your bones were sore. The great Leif Erikson Viking Ship Norseman was there with her full crew. The Norseman crew spent time with the spectators demonstrating how the Vikings sailed and built their Great War ships, which were called Knarrs. Right next to the Norseman were the Ostvik Vikings, who demonstrated how the Vikings lived and what they ate, with a real life interactive 'Viking Village'. Inside Viking Hall, Professor Tom Martin and Allan Swenson were lecturing on "Vikings in Ireland" and the Greenland Vikings.

What would a Scandinavian event be without great Scandinavian Music? The Scandinavian Accordion Club of NY performed throughout the day and also played an evening concert where the crowd could dance the traditional polkas, hambo's and shottis dances. For the first time, Vasa Park welcomed a Finish group called Kaiku, from NYC. These 6 young musicians's wowed the crowd with some very exciting, new alternative music. The Friday Night dinner group served a "Viking Feast." There was not an empty seat in Viking Hall and the music and dancing continued right up till 9 PM when the festivities ended.

The Leif Erikson Festival was orga-

nized to promote and raise the awareness of the accomplishments of the Norse people during the Viking age. The LEF has always been geared towards children and families. "Our goal is to bring Scandinavian Americans back to their great culture, and have a lot of fun at the same time" said Chairman John Larsson. "We hope all people of Scandinavian heritage will join the Vasa Order of America, Sons of Norway, or the Danish Brotherhood." Vasa Park is owned and operated by the members of the Vasa Order of America, NJ District #6 and welcomes anyone of Scandinavian heritage to join.

The 9th annual Leif Erikson Festival will be held at Vasa Park on September 30th, 2006. For more information about Vasa Park please visit our web site at www.vasaparknj.com, or call John Larsson at 732-388-3329.

Submitted by: John Larsson

Leif Erikson Day Celebration in Cleveland, Ohio

We had a grand total of 39 attendees for our 4th Leif Erikson Day celebration at our monument in Cleveland. And one of the most interesting facts is that nearly half of our guests were newcomers! Since we had the same number last year, I will be looking for over 100 next year...which should be interesting, since Leif Ericson Day will fall on the very Monday of Columbus Day, October 9, 2006!!

Regardless, we Clevelanders had a wonderful early luncheon at Shooters Restaurant, the home for our monument, which was dedicated in August 2001.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Leif Ericson Society North Coast Ohio chapter!!

Submitted by: Emilie Knud-Hansen



Vasa Deputy Grand Master Dr. Rolf Bergman Named Honorary Chair of Project Sending Memorial Rambo Trees to Sweden with King's Assistance

A variety of apple tree grown from Swedish seeds brought to America in 1640 by New Sweden colonist Peter Gunnarson Rambo, and extinct in Sweden for nearly 300 years, has been sent to Sweden as a living memorial honoring all Swedish American Immigration. The project is being undertaken with the support of the King of Sweden and several cultural, education and historic institutions as part of celebrations being planned for 2008, the next Swedish-American Jubilee year.

The original specimen became extinct in Sweden because of a severe winter in 1709-10. Its "offspring" will return to Sweden as a gift in the name of friendship from Swedish-America and to encourage academic research and scholarly discussion in Sweden and America.

The Order of Vasa has been invited to provide a leadership role in this celebration of the 370th Anniversary of Swedish-American friendship. Vasa Deputy Grand Master Dr. Rolf Bergman has been named an Honorary Chair of the Swedish American Friendship Delegation touring Sweden in 2008 that celebrates all Swedes who have come to America since 1638.

While in Sweden various organizations are expected to sponsor plantings of Rambo apple trees at important cultural and historic locations and is expected to involve Vasa Lodges throughout the country," according to Chairman Herbert R. Rambo. "This living memorial to our ancestors symbolizes the millions of Swedish Americans who crossed the Atlantic for a new life in America, bringing with them reminders of what had been left behind," Rambo noted.

The Ramboäpplena Project is working in cooperation with the Swedish Project "Linnaean Landscapes," Swedish Agricultural University, the Nordic Museum, the American Swedish Historical Museum and is supported by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden through the King Gustaf VI Adolf Fund for Swedish Culture. Plantings are planned for sites identified with Carl

Linnaeus, whose system for classifying nature is still in use.

The Rambo trees will also be planted at cultural and historic locations in Sweden, including Stockholm, Uppsala, Kalmar, Gothenburg and at the Emigrant Registry in Varmland. "This is a unique opportunity to introduce a historic variety to Sweden and it has created public interest in both Sweden and the United States. In addition to its merits on that basis, the Rambo Apple Project is a wonderful opportunity for increased awareness of Swedish culture and to promote friendship between nations," according to the Committee's American Coordinator James D. Seagers, II.

The Rambo tree scions sent to Sweden were provided courtesy of the United States Department of Agriculture's Plant Genetic Resources Unit at Cornell University, Geneva, NY through the efforts of Professor Phillip L. Forsline.

Because of European Union requirements, the Rambo trees are in quarantine at ScanGene AB in Alnarp, north of Malmö, for testing and if necessary treatment for any diseases before being released to other locations. The King of Sweden's contribution will defray those expenses.

The King Gustaf VI Adolf Fund for Swedish Culture was established in 1962 when the people of Sweden collected money to present The King with a cash gift on the occasion his 80th birthday. The King contributed to the amount and the fund was created for future monarchs to support Swedish culture. King Gustaf VI Adolf was well known for his interest in history and he participated in archaeological expeditions in Sweden, Greece, and China, and founded the Swedish Institute in Rome. An avid gardener and botanist, his work in that field gained him admission to the British Royal Academy. His grandson, H. M. King Carl XVI Gustaf succeeded him to the throne in 1973.

At the request of the Johnny Appleseed Society at Urbana College in Ohio, Rambo began researching the Swedish heritage of the apple and contacted Hans Ling of Uppsala, Sweden,

author of "The Faces of New Sweden." Ling learned from the Sveriges Pomologiska Sällskap that most old varieties are extinct in Sweden because of a severe winter in 1709-1710. Ling has since become the Project Coordinator in Sweden.

Twenty-eight year old Peter Gunnarson Rambo (1611-1698) arrived as a laborer for the New Sweden Company at Sweden's Colony on the Delaware River, which during its brief existence encompassed Delaware, Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. As a freeman Rambo began a rise to prominence as a member of Colony Governor Johan Rising's Council and he went on to serve 27 years in important positions during Swedish, Dutch and English governments. The distinctive Rambo surname is derived from Ramberget a small mountain overlooking Gothenburg harbor, the historic Swedish gateway to America.

Noted naturalist Per Kalm, a student of Linnaeus, tells the origin of the Rambo Apple in his diary from his stay in America and in a supplement to his book "Travels in North America 1747-1751." Apple varieties of that age are very rare in the world and the Rambo apple is of special interest because it has origin in Sweden and is so closely connected both to Swedish and American history.

Through contacts with scientist Dr. Mariette Manktelow at Uppsala University, who is an expert on Linnaeus and his students, it became known that Kalm spent his student years at a farm named Funbo-Lövsta neighboring Linnaeus' homestead Hammarby. The Rambo apple will be planted at Funbo-Lövsta to strengthen this Swedish-American Linnaean connection.

The Rambo apple, as it is known in America, has become part of American folklore because of John Chapman, a/k/a "Johnny Appleseed," who is said to claim the Rambo apple as his favorite. He planted and sold them from nurseries he established in several locations throughout the mid-Atlantic section of the

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RAMBO TREES

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America. The Rambo is the first apple of the season and was once widely grown. It is an excellent apple for cooking and making cider.

John Chapman was a follower of the Swedish philosopher Emanuel Swedenborg, son of Jesper Svedberg who was the Bishop of the Swedish congregations in America 1697-1735. He was also a friend of the last Swedish priest in Philadelphia, Nils Collin.

More recently, the Rambo apple entered pop culture as the source of the hero's name in the "RAMBO" book and movie series starring Sylvester Stallone. The author David Morrell wanted a "strong sounding name" and selected "John Rambo," after his wife brought home a bag of Rambo apples.

Herbert Rambo's success in fostering Swedish-American friendship was officially recognized in 2002 when H.M. King Carl XVI Gustav awarded him knighthood in Sweden's prestigious Order of the Polar Star. Rambo is a member of the Swedish Council of America's Board of Director's and previously served as Governor of the Swedish Colonial Society. He is also a member of



Technician at the United States Dept. Of Agricultural Gene Bank at Cornell University, Geneva harvests Rambo scions for shipment to Sweden, NY.
(USDA Photo)

the New Sweden Centre's Board of Directors.

American Coordinator James D. Seagers, II and Swedish Coordinator Hans Ling lead the Rambo Apple Friendship Project. Americans on Committee are Loren W. Anderson, Dr. Bergman, Professor Robert M. Crassweller, Dr. John Gardner, Willow Hagans, Jeanne Eriksson Widman, Aleasa J. Hogate, Doriney Seagers, Earl E. Seppala, J. H. T. Rambo, M.D., Sandra

S. Pfaff and Dr. Kim-Eric Williams. In Sweden the committee includes Gunilla Åhman, Professor Stellan Dahlgren, Erik Gustavson, Professor Hans Norman, and Dr. Mariette Manktelow.

Submitted by: Herbert Rambo

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Sara Rose Kennedy Named Lucia Queen for the City of Chicago



Pictured is Sara Rose Kennedy, 17, of Hickory Hills, Illinois. Sara was crowned Lucia for the city of Chicago in

a ceremony held at the Daley Center on December 13, 2005. She then participated in a very special program at the Swedish American Museum in the Andersonville neighborhood of Chicago. The evening ended as Sara portrayed Lucia along with many other young women of Scandinavian descent at a candlelight service at Ebenezer Lutheran Church on the city's north side. Sara is the daughter of Ingrid (Rosengren/Kennedy) Lesko.

Sara is a senior at Argo Community H.S. in Summit – a suburb of Chicago. Sara and her mother are both members of Siljan Mora Tuna #134 lodge. Her Scandinavian heritage comes from her grandparents, Diane and Howard Rosengren who are also Siljan Mora Tuna members.

Sara was a member of Solstralen #17 Children's Club for several years and she represented Nordikids CC #208 at the Chicago pageant. She has twice attended

the Swedish language camp at Concordia College in Minnesota,

Sara's mother Ingrid held this same honor in 1984 when she also was named Lucia for the city of Chicago. The South Side lodges were proud to have Sara represent them in this very special event.

**Submitted by: Lynda Ann Smith –
Children's Club Supervisor for District
Lodge Lake Michigan #8**



In Memoriam

Till minne av hädangångna
ordenssysskon genom vilkas
bortgång syskonkretsen gjort
en kännbar förlust
In memory of our departed
members who will be
sorely missed

ARIZONA

LOUISE BADGER passed away on June 15, 2005. She was born in Minnesota on October 14, 1920 and was a member of Tucson Lodge #691 since January 21, 1989.

ARLENE MAY JOHNSON, the last founding member of Phoenix Lodge #677, passed away on August 10, 2005, after a brief illness. She was born January 22, 1916, in Iowa City, IA. After moving to Phoenix she became involved with Vasa and served as Lodge Chairman 1968-71. She was also a Past District Master. She was honored for her 16 years of dedication to the retired community where she lived after her husband Evar passed away. She is survived by her son, Dr. Russell Mahoney and daughter Pamela Francis.

RUTH M. JOHNSON passed away on September 26, 2005, in Phoenix, AZ. She was born on November 20, 1913, in Chicago. Proud of her heritage she loved all things Swedish. She was a member of Phoenix Lodge #677. She is survived by her son Everett Johnson and daughter Regina Graybill.

RON NELSON, passed away in Tucson, AZ, on October 9, 2005, member of Tucson Lodge #691. He was born in Keokuk, IA, on January 29, 1937. He joined our lodge on January 23, 1993.

CALIFORNIA

HILDING ALMQVIST passed away on November 7 after a long illness in Laguna, CA. He was born in Sweden on September 27, 1912 and joined Mayflower Lodge #445 on April 2, 1981. He was Chairman of the lodge in 1984. He is survived by his wife Gunhild and two children.

SIGNE BURNETT passed away November 1 in Mexico where she was living at the time. She was born in Hasslarp, Sweden July 20, 1921 and initiated into Mayflower Lodge #445 on August 16, 1956. She is survived by three children and one daughter-in-law.

MARY CARLSON passed away October 7, 2005, in Morgan Hill, CA. She was a great member of the Mayflower Lodge where she held many offices. She leaves behind Kathy and Jim Krause, plus Cindy Kurt and Suzie, plus many grandsons and sons-in-law and great-grandsons.

HELEN C. LINDBLAD was born on July 15, 1912, in Worcester, MA, and died on February 22, 2005, in Orange County, CA. Initiated into Gold Nugget Lodge on November 11, 1977. She is survived by daughter Marcia Miller, son Ronald Lindblad, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Bert R. Lindblad in 1994.

ANNABELLE MURRAY, member of Balder Lodge #343, passed away in Fortuna, CA, on August 29, 2005. She was born in Rockport, CA, on November 4, 1926. She was married to Al Murray for 42 years. She is survived by her son, two granddaughters, a great-granddaughter, eight brothers and sisters.

GUNHILD SWANSON passed away October 30, 2005 in San Jose, CA. She was born in Los Angeles, CA, on October 17, 1935 and joined Mayflower Lodge #445 on February 7, 1952. She leaves a brother Robert.

BOJAN WICKSTROM, died September 28, 2005, at the age of 93. She was a native of Jämtland, Sweden, and lived in Modesto for 53 years. She is survived by her daughter, Eleonore Huggins of Weiser, ID; brother Hilmer Backlund of Sweden; sister Svea Karlson of Sweden; and two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Birger Wickstrom, son, Gene, three brothers and one sister.

FLORIDA

OLAV ANSKAR FOLLAND passed away on September 22, 2005. He was born in Norway and came to Florida 21 years ago from Mauston, WI. He joined Holiday Lodge #699 on January 22, 2002. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lorraine, two sons, Roger and Erik, daughter Lea, sister Margot, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

JOHN B. HANSON passed away on June 30, 2005. He was born in Dingle, Sweden, on June 28, 1906, and came to Chicago in 1928. He retired to Florida in 1967. Chairman of Vasa Order Bessemer Lodge #303 in 1966, transferred to Holiday Lodge #699 on November 3, 1973. He is survived by a daughter, Alyce, sister Ruth, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

MARTEN E. OLSEN passed away on August 25, 2005. He was born in Sweden on June 25, 1916, and came to Florida from Long Island, NY, in 1974. He joined Holiday Lodge #699 on October 1, 1979. He is survived by his wife of 58 years Edith, son David M. of New Port Richey, FL, and six grandchildren.

ILLINOIS

ELEANORE C. ANDERSON passed away August 13, 2005, after a long illness. She and husband Harold joined Hagar Lodge #721 in November 1978. Eleanore was a very faithful member and will be missed by all her Hagar friends.

MARGARET D. ANDERSON, 85, passed away on August 3, 2005. She joined Nobel Lodge #288, Moline, IL, on August 5, 1968. Margaret was very active in her church, Salem Lutheran Church, and Clara Lodge #118, I.O.V.

LUELLA HALLBERG of Geneva, IL, passed away October 8, 2005, at the age of 87 years. She was a 26-year member of Viljan Lodge #349, Batavia, IL, having joined October 25, 1979. She was actively involved in the lodge and served as Cheer Chairman for several years. Survivors include two nieces, a nephew and cousins in the U.S. and Sweden.

ANNE M. HOGLUNG, member of Hagar Lodge #721, DL Lake Michigan #8, passed away September 22, 2005. Anne and her husband Ed joined Hagar Lodge #731 in 1978. Anne was Chaplain for 11 years. We will miss her loving prayers and special inspirational message which she added to each ending prayer.

LINNEA JACOBSEN, 77, passed away in Des Moines, IA, in late November 2004. She joined Nobel Lodge #288, Moline, IL, on March 20, 1947. She received her 55-year membership pin in 2002. Both her son Reichert Harry and daughter Diana are both members of the lodge. She will be sadly missed by our lodge members.

IOWA

PER BORJE PETTERSSON passed away October 12, 2005, at the age of 68. He was born in Sater Dalarna Lan, Sweden, January 3, 1937, and joined Norrskenet Lodge #331 in 2000. He is survived by his wife Sandy, a brother and his wife, two sons and their wives, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

NEW YORK

SYLVIA CHARNEWS passed away June 29, 2005. She was born on September 10, 1915. She is survived by two daughters, JoAnn and Catherine, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sylvia was a member of Lindbergh Lodge for over 40 years, holding the office of Treasurer. She was a dual member for North Star until it disbanded.

OHIO

ANGUS McDONALD, age 85, died in Cleveland, OH, on October 10, 2005. Angus was born in Scotland on March 24, 1920, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on January 13, 1991. Beloved husband for 15 years to Grace (nee Olson - formerly Ramstrom) and the late Martha; father of Alexander McDonald (Helen) of Scotland; grandfather of Angus and Aileen, and great-grandfather of Stephanie (all of Scotland); stepfather of Gaye Ramstrom Coakley (Francis) and Gordon Ramstrom (Margaret), Seattle, WA; brother of Alec McDonald and the late Ina (both of Scotland).

BETTY L. OHLIN passed away in Cleveland, OH, on October 13, 2005, at the age of 83. Betty was born in Pennsylvania on September 23, 1922, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on February 8, 1998. Beloved wife of the late John R., mother of John Dennis, grandmother of Brian and Mike, great-grandmother of Erik, Kevin, and Nicole.

EILEEN M. OLSON passed away July 14, 2005, at the age of 85. She was born September 16, 1919, in Youngstown, OH, and was initiated in Harmony Lodge #465 on April 15, 1939. Eileen's husband Theodore W. Olson died July 6, 1993. She is survived by a daughter, Diane Rapp, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

RUTH E. SANDIN passed away August 28, 2005, at the age of 82. She was born December 5, 1922, in Youngstown, OH, and was initiated in Harmony Lodge #465 on April 9, 1987. She was the daughter of Adolf and Esther Johnson Sandin. She is survived by several cousins and close friends. She worked in the engineering department of Bell Telephone Co. for 40 years.

OREGON

HILDING ANDERSON passed away on October 30, 2005, at the age of 98 years. Joined Klamath Lank Lodge in Klamath Falls, OR, on October 20, 1931, and transferred to Nobel Lodge #184 on April 1962.

ELDEE BUHITE passed away October 3, 2005, at the age of 94 years. Joined Nobel Lodge #184 on August 2, 1974 and held many offices such as Trustee, Outer Guard and Vice Chairman.

TEXAS

BERT BOWMAN was born October 13, 1913, in Georgetown, TX, and passed away June 20, 2005, in Austin, TX, at 91 years of age. He was a member of Carl Widén Lodge #743 since February 1992. He is survived by wife Dora, son Bruce and wife Bruice, and two grandchildren.

FLORENCE NYSTROM, age 80, member of Bethel Lutheran Church and Swedish Vasa. Preceded in death by grandson Kyle David Nystrom. Survived by husband of 59 years Sherman, children Dr. Bruce Nystrom and wife Judy, Kristine Tolls and husband Myron, grandchildren 1st Lt. Jared Nystrom, Anne Nystrom, Kendra Nystrom and Cody Tolls.

WASHINGTON

ROY HOWARD ANDERSON was born October 19, 1908, and passed away June 13, 2005. He is survived by his wife Mary, son John, daughter Mary and her husband John, one granddaughter, two sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, and great-nieces and nephews.

DOROTHY R. MITCHELL was born December 14, 1920 and passed away April 28, 2005. She is survived by sons Andrew (Lucille) Mitchell and Bonnar Mitchell, two daughters Ingrid Diane Lambert and Rebecca Mitchell, one brother, one sister, a daughter-in-law, three grandsons, two granddaughters and five great-grandchildren.

DONALD NELSON was born April 6, 1915 and passed away May 11, 2005. He is survived by daughters Deanna (Jerry) Kaas, Julie (Robert) Carter, one brother, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

DORIS PEARL PEARSON was born March 8, 1917, and passed away July 8, 2005. She is survived by two brothers and two sisters.

ALBERT JOHN STAKKELAND was born July 28, 1915 and passed away April 13, 2005. He is survived by daughter Nancy (Len) Tschida.

FLORENCE CAROL STAKKELAND was born January 31, 1918 and passed away in March 2005. She is survived by daughter Nancy (Len) Tschida.

HAZEL VAUGHAN, lifetime resident of Aberdeen, WA, passed away September 18, 2005, in Hoquiam, WA. She was 81. Member of Norrskenet Lodge #189 for 41 years. Surviving are one son, one daughter, six grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

MEMORIAL NOTICES

should be mailed with check or money order to: Marie Carlson, 9560 Curberry Drive, Mentor, OH 44060. The fee is \$5.00 for six lines. All notices must be TYPED and written in a format similar to those in this column.

Longer memorials are charged at the rate of \$8.00 per column inch.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



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