



# THE VASA STAR

## Vasastjärnan

Publication of THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

Summer 2012

## THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

by William Lundquist



Bill Lundquist

Dear Vasa Brothers and Sisters,

I'm happy to have heard from members who are pleased with the new look of the Vasa Star. It is apparent the membership at large desires a printed copy of each Vasa Star rather than just the electronic option. Please notify the Grand Lodge Secretary, Joan Graham if you choose only to have your Vasa Star on line. Your support of this large cost saving endeavor is greatly appreciated.

Fundraising continues for the Education Fund and the Vasa National Archives in Bishop Hill. Please remember as you begin another year of District conventions that the "tool" unanimously approved by the Grand Lodge in session in 2010 allowing Districts to donate up to 5% of their unused allocation in the Old Age and Benefit Fund is an annual decision. Some Districts who meet biannually have made the decision to give their District Executive Board the option of making the donation the year the District does not meet. As I've said many times before, The National Archives is a vital arm of the Order and sustaining it is absolutely necessary. To date there have been no other viable fiscal options for us other than fundraisers and the unique opportunity of the OA&B donation. It is imperative that your District leaders understand and communicate this endeavor appropriately to delegates at District conventions. The annual Heritage Fundraiser for the Archives is underway and I am thankful to those who have already donated so generously. If you haven't made that donation please send it as soon as possible. Without help from the membership the daily needs of the Archives would not be met. I am grateful to those who regularly go to the Archives to help with general maintenance, yard and building upgrades and electronic data entry. The Order is lucky to have talented willing members who help when needed.

Donations are still coming in for the Stamp Fundraiser in support of the Education Fund and restoration of the "named" scholarships. I will communicate the results of that campaign in a future issue. As you've read Grand Lodge Scholarships were given to two deserving young men this year. Sadly, many applicants were denied due to lack of available funding. We had the opportunity to give two scholarships because a few members made donations earmarked for a scholarship to be given this year and through the interest and added donation made by District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8 to their Grand Lodge Scholarship, a new "named" scholarship. Hopefully this answers any questions you may have related to the ability to offer scholarships while continuing to rebuild others.

As we approach a year of District conventions, I am asking that you take a new approach when choosing your delegates to the 2014 Grand Lodge Convention. It will be held beginning July 4 in Rye Brook, NY. I know that District Lodge New York No. 4 has an exciting agenda planned for those who attend but attendance is not only about enjoying the wonderful events in store for you, it is more importantly about conducting the business of the Order at the Grand Lodge level and setting the stage for the years, 2014 - 2018. The decisions made there will be for all members in the US, Canada, and Sweden. When your District decides who will represent you in New York I would like you to consider not only those who are willing and able to travel but search for that representative who will run for the Grand Lodge Executive Board Member from your region, another GL office or serve as an Appointed Officer. This representative should be one who not only understands and will articulate the concerns of your district but more importantly is visionary and willing to work on committees making good decisions not only for your District but for the "Good of the Order". I also hope many in your Districts will choose to come to the Grand Lodge Convention to explore the sites the host lodge has prepared, support the delegates and officers and meet and/or greet fellow members from all over the world. As a reminder, all Vasa members are welcome to attend sessions of the Grand Lodge. Officers, delegates, and Past Grand Lodge Officers have voice and vote while all who have served as Grand Lodge delegates in the past have voice. Please encourage members of your Executive Boards as well

as your newest members to come to the Grand Lodge convention to learn more about the Order so they can prepare to be District and Grand Lodge leaders. Choosing your delegates needs to be one of your most important decisions over the next two years to help make a difference for the future of the Vasa Order of America ... **choose carefully.**

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you again soon at your District conventions in the coming year. Thank you for your ongoing support and hospitality.

*In Truth and Unity,  
William Lundquist,  
Grand Master*

Kära Vasasyskon!

Jag har glatt mig åt att höra ifrån medlemmar, som gillar Vasastjärnans nya utseende. Det är tydligt att de flesta medlemmar önskar en tryckt Vasastjärnan och inte bara den elektroniska varianten. Var snäll och meddela Storlogens Sekreterare Joan Graham om du väljer att bara ha Vasastjärnan på nätet. Ditt stöd för denna stora besparing är mycket uppskattat.

Insamlingen fortsätter för Utbildningsfonden och Vasaarkivet i Bishop Hill. (Det följande gäller endast för USA och Kanada: När nu ett nytt år av distriktskonferenser snart börjar, tänk då på att det "verktyg" som enhälligt godkändes vid Storlogekonferensen 2010, vilket ger distrikten möjlighet att donera upp till 5% av deras oanvända tilldelning i 'Old Age and Benefit Fund' är ett ärligt beslut. Några av de distrikt som möts varannat år har bestämt att låta sitt Exekutiva Råd besluta om en donation det år när det inte är distriktsmöte. Som jag sagt många gånger tidigare så är Vasaarkivet en mycket viktig del av vår Orden och att understödja det är absolut nödvändigt. Det finns inga andra bra sätt att stödja det finansiellt än insamlingar och den unika möjligheten att använda OA&B för donationer. Det är mycket viktigt att ledarna i era distrikt förstår denna möjlighet och kan förklara den på ett lämpligt sätt för delegaterna vid distriktsmötena). Den årliga 'Heritage'-insamlingen för Arkivet börjar snart och jag tackar de som redan har gett generösa bidrag. Om Du inte har gett något ännu, var snäll och gör det så snart du kan. Utan hjälp från våra medlemmar kan Arkivets dagliga behov inte fyllas. Tack till alla som regelbundet åker till Arkivet för att hjälpa till med löpande underhåll, tomten och byggnadsförbättringar samt elektronisk databehandling. Orden kan skatta sig lycklig att ha begåvade och villiga med-

lemmar som hjälper till när det behövs.

Det kommer fortfarande in bidrag till Brevmärkeskampanjen, som stödjer Utbildningsfonden och återställandet av andra stipendier. Jag ska meddela resultatet av kampanjen i ett kommande nummer. Som ni väl har sett så har i år två stipendier delats ut till två välförtjänta unga män. Tyvärr fick många sökande nej pga brist på medel. Att vi kunde ge ut två stipendier berodde på att några få medlemmar gav bidrag öronmärkta för att ett stipendium skulle kunna delas ut i år och ytterligare ett tack vare räntor och ett extra bidrag från Distriktslogen Lake Michigan No. 8 till deras nya Storlogestipendium. Förhoppningsvis har detta besvarat dina eventuella frågor om möjligheten att erbjuda stipendier medan återställandet av andra fortsätter.

När vi nu närmar oss ett nytt år med distriktsmöten, ber jag er att se annorlunda på hur ni väljer era delegater till Storlogsmötet 2014, som börjar 4 juli i Rye Brook, NY. Jag vet att Distriktslogen New York No. 4 planerar många spännande inslag för deltagarna men att delta är inte bara att njuta av de fina programmen utan det viktigaste är att arbeta med Ordens ärenden på Storlognivå och att göra förberedelser för åren 2014-2018. De beslut som tas berör alla medlemmar i USA, Kanada och Sverige. När ert distrikt beslutar vem som ska representera distriktet i New York vill jag ber er att inte bara tänka på sådana som vill och kan resa utan att söka efter en representant, som kan bli en kandidat för er regions medlem i Storlogens

Exekutiva Råd, en annan Storlogetjänsteman eller att tjäna som en utnämnd Tjänsteman. Denna representant bör vara någon som inte bara kan förstå och tala om ert distrikts angelägenheter utan också, vilket är ännu viktigare, vara en visionär som är villig att arbeta i kommittéer och medverka till goda beslut inte bara för det egna distriktet utan för "Ordens Bästa". Jag hoppas också att många i era distrikt bestämmer sig för att komma till Storlogekonferensen för att delta i de program världen har planerat, stödja delegaterna och tjänstemännen och träffa medlemmar från många olika platser. Jag vill påminna om att alla Vasamedlemmar är välkomna att närvara vid Storlogens sessioner. Tjänstemän, delegater, och fd Storlogetjänsteman har rätt att tala och rösta medan de som tidigare har varit Storlogedelegater har rätt att tala. Jag ber er att uppmuntra medlemmarna av era Exekutiva Råd såväl som era nyaste medlemmar att komma till Storlogekonferensen för att lära sig mer om vår Orden och förbereda sig för att bli ledare i distrikten och Storlogen. En av era viktigaste uppgifter under de kommande två åren måste bli att välja delegater, som kan bidra till goda förändringar inom Vasa Orden av Amerika i framtiden...**välj med omsorg.**

Jag ser fram emot att få träffa många av er igen vid era distriktsmöten nästa år. Tack för ert fortsatta stöd och er gästfrihet.

*I Sanning och Enighet,  
William Lundquist,  
Stormästare*

### Ken Banks, GLEBM-Canada

Word has reached us at press time that Grand Lodge Executive Board Member-Canada Ken Banks passed away on Sunday, September 9, 2012. Sincere condolences are extended to Ken's wife Carol and their family. Ken was in his second term on the GL Executive Board, where he served as Chairman of the Constitution Committee and as a member of the Finance Committee. Ken was a member of Skandia Lodge No. 549 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He served as District Master of DL Alberta No. 18 in 1997-1999, as Chairman of the Grand Lodge Convention Host Committee in 2002, as a Grand Lodge Delegate in 1998 and again in 2006 when he was elected to the GL Executive Board. Ken had tremendous enthusiasm for and dedication to the Vasa Order of America and his passing is a great loss not only to his family, but to DL Alberta No. 18 and to the Grand Lodge. Peace be with our Brother Ken Banks.



Submitted by: Joanie Graham, GS

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**Advertising Prices RATES UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

**CORRECTION**

There are corrections to the article about Astor Lodge (100 birthday p.9) Spring Vasa Star 2012.

Astor Lodge is in Astoria, Oregon.

The Lodge was 100 years old February 2012.

Sincerely,  
 Terry Arnall  
 Lodge Historian

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**THE VASA STAR**

*Letter from the Editor*

Growing up in Vasa. Memories. First impressions. Interesting characters. Talented men and women. Colorful children. Work ethic. Tradition. Korv smörgåsar, strong coffee, saft, limpa, bullar, bingo, tombola, raffles, crafts. Charitable giving. Everyone helping, volunteering, pitching in, serving, stepping up. Smiles, songs, stories, jokes. Laughter and friendship.

What memories do you have during your first years as a Vasa member?

The Youth section welcomes our youngest members to submit a few sentences or a few paragraphs with your name, age and Lodge. They will be published in upcoming issues of the Vasa Star.

Encourage your youngest members and newest members to be, to send me an email or write me a note with some of their first Vasa impressions.

[vasaeditor@earthlink.net](mailto:vasaeditor@earthlink.net)

**Deadlines for The Vasa Star:**  
 Winter Deadline is January 1; Spring Deadline is April 1;  
 Summer Deadline is July 1; Fall Deadline is October 1

Picture and article, 200 words or less.  
 For Letters to the Editor column, 150 words or less.

Please send pictures of good quality in order for them to reproduce well in The Vasa Star. Electronically submitted photos should be scanned in JPEG format at a resolution of 300 dpi.

**For submitted Lodge articles, please add city and state. Thanks!**  
**Price for Christmas Greetings – due October 1 – \$30.00 column inch**  
**Deadline for Lucia articles is January 1**

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

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The Vasa website at [www.vasaorder.com](http://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.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

For the Good of the Order - presenting this new column where members may share their ideas, thoughts, and concerns relating to The Vasa Order of America. Please keep your comments under 150 words, and remember our motto: Generosity, Truth and Unity. Letters will be printed as space allows.

Dear Annelie,  
 First let us congratulate you on becoming the new Vasa Star Editor.  
 Your qualifications will indeed be an asset to our important publication and we are so lucky to have you in charge in getting Grand, District and Local lodge news out to the membership  
 Second, congratulation is in order to the GL Board that they finally decided to change the format of the Vasa Star. How necessary was it to print it in full color on glossy paper when all we were interested in was reading about what was going on out there in Vasa land.  
 When we worked at the Vasa Archives we often had to check old copies of the Vasa Star from the days when they were printed in black and white with a one color accent on the front page.  
 The Vasa Star used to be published eleven times a year and sent to our homes. Our wish is that one day, this will become a reality.  
**In Truth and Unity,  
 Richard and Lillemor Horngren  
 Greenbrier TN 37073**

Dear Joanie and Annelie,  
 The latest issue of The Vasa Star arrived yesterday and it is wonderful. Love the newspaper style! The size is perfect – nice to hold and read. It folds over for perfect storage. Excellent paper quality – I really appreciate this beautiful sturdy paper stock because I read the Vasa Star from front to back, often carry it around with me, and I save every issue for later reference. The format is great. Everything is just right for easy reading. There’s just the right balance of text and photos and I absolutely love having side-by-side Swedish and English translations. So many nice features and perfect print size and margins. I hope you will stick to the newspaper style over time. I like this so much better than the glossy paged magazine – which was nice, but this is nicer. And if it saves money, even better! The move to this new presentation is most welcome. Well done!  
**In Truth and Unity,  
 Jean Tygum, Editor, Svea Tidningen  
 Svea Lodge #253, Indianapolis**

Hello, Annelie,  
 We sincerely welcome you to your new position at The Vasa Star.  
 My name is David Borg and I am a member of the VASA Central Region Carl Widen Lodge 743 in Austin, Texas.  
 Thank you for the The Vasa Star, Spring 2012 issue. I noticed and appreciated the recognition of my Aunt Ruth Bengtson Olson in the In Memoriam section. She will be missed by her family, by her circle of friends and by our cousins in Sweden. Thank you.  
 Although my wife Paula and I have retired to South Central Missouri, we still try and participate with our home Vasa Lodge in Central Texas, although our visits to Texas are not as often as they should be.  
**Finest regards,  
 David**



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# ARCHIVES NEWS



**Sommaren går mot sitt slut, och snart kommer hösten med alla sina vackra färger.**

Det har varit en oerhörd varm sommar i Bishop Hill, trots det har arbetet rullat på som vanligt, många förfrågningar kommer in gällande släktforskning, både från Sverige såväl från USA, intresset ökar konstant från medlemmar såväl som övriga grupper.

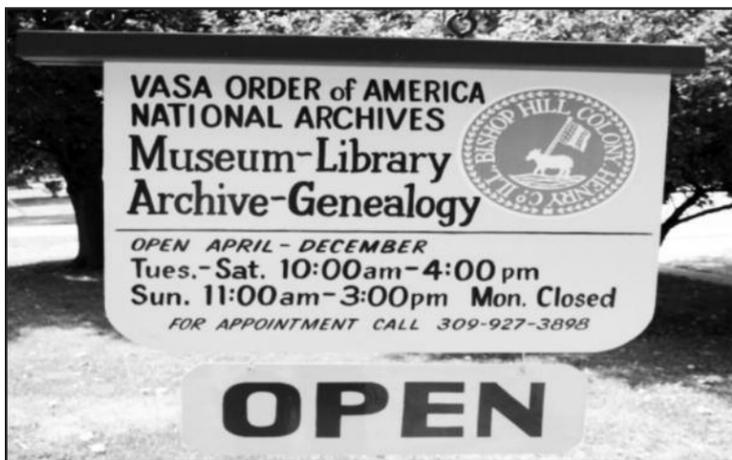
Just nu pågår ett genuin arbete med att förbereda för juni 2013, och vår stora utställning om Samerna. Ytan för utställningen är 150 kvm. Och kommer att bestå av olika föremål, hantverk, bilder, samt musik mm. Vi på arkivet hoppas att alla

bröder och systrar med barn och vänner bokar in en resa till Bishop Hill. Förutom utställningen finns det flertalet golfbanor, casino, shoppingområden, museum, runt Bishop Hill, varför inte boka in en resa på Mississippi river och titta på städerna från floden.

Vi har ett uppgjort pris med ett hotell i Kewanee "Amerika In" (ca 15 minuters bilväg från Bishop Hill) där hotellkostnaden är 60 dollar per natt. Det finns också ett antal familjer som med glädje, vill vara era värdfamiljer. Ni är alla välkomna att höra av Er till Arkivet för mera information.

Vi efterlyser även volentärer från samtliga länder, som kan hjälpa oss under Juni månad. Mera information kommer att komma på vår hemsida under hösten.

Under sommaren har undertecknad haft äran att få besök från långväga medlemmar, Kalifornien såväl som Florida och Sverige, Siv Swan-Pierson med make, gjorde ett mycket trevligt tre dagar stopp i Bishop Hill innan dom fortsatte sin resa mot Sverige.



I skrivandets stund, har jag nu arbetat för arkivet i år och två veckor, tiden har bara flyget iväg, och när jag ser tillbaka på året som var, så tycker jag att jag inte har hunnit hälften av allt det jag skulle villja hinna. Antalet besökare har ökat under detta år, och det ser vi som ett positivt betyg på att intresset för arkivet och vårt arbete värdesätts.

Med vår nya fina skylt på utsidan, hoppas vi på att kunna få ännu flera besökare, och väcka upp allmänhetens intresse för Vasa Order Of America, som i sin tur kan mynna i flera medlemmar.

Arkivet önskar alla en unerbar höst, och att vi alla får vara friska.

Viktoria

**Summer is coming to an end and soon it will be fall with all the beautiful colors.**

Even though it has been an extremely hot summer in Bishop Hill, work has continued as usual. We have had many requests regarding genealogy from Sweden and here in the United States. Interest is increasing from members as well as with others.

Now our main efforts are being directed toward preparations for the Sami exhibition in June 2013. The exhibit will cover 1615 square feet with crafts, photos, music, etc. We at the archives hope many of you will bring your friends on a trip to visit us. Besides the exhibition, there are several golf courses, casinos, shopping areas, and museums around Bishop Hill so come and get acquainted with the area. Why not book a trip on the Mississippi River? You can choose between a dinner on the Celebration Belle or a two-day cruise up the river.

We have a prearranged price of \$60 a night with a hotel in Kewanee, about a 15-minute drive from Bishop Hill. Also there are several families in the village who would like to be host families. You can contact us for more information.

We are calling for volunteers who help us during the month of June. More information will be coming on our website in the fall.

This summer we have had the honor with visits from many members who live in California, Florida and Sweden. Siv Swan Pierson and her husband were here for three days before they continued on their trip to Sweden.

At the time of this writing I have worked at the archives for one year and two weeks. When I look back at the year, I have not had time to do half of what I would have liked to do. The number of visitors has increased and it seems that we produce a positive interest in our services and our work is of value.

With a beautiful new sign in front of the building we hope to get even more visitors and encourage more interest in the Vasa Order of America.

Best wishes for a pleasant autumn.

Viktoria

# DL NEWS

## DL New Jersey #6 Convention News

District Lodge New Jersey #6 held its annual convention in Cape May, NJ on May 5 & 6, 2012. Seventy delegates gathered there for Vasa business, fun and fellowship. The sun was in and out during the weekend but the mood was definitely upbeat.

On Saturday morning District Master Jack Hanright called our 105th convention to order. Sixteen of our Past District Masters were in attendance along with the following Grand Lodge dignitaries: Grand Master, William Lundquist; Grand Lodge Deputy NJ District #6, BJ. Peterson; Executive Board Member - Eastern Region, Art Bjorkner; National Archives Board Member, Helen Haumacher; Grand Lodge Cultural Leader for US and Canada, Inger Hanright and Grand Lodge Web Master, Bob Anderson. Sheila Lundquist, spouse of our Grand Master was also acknowledged and welcomed. Vasa Park trustees were elected and all annual reports were reviewed and accepted in a timely manner. Our Grand Master William Lundquist addressed the convention. He informed us that \$113K has gone back into the National Archives Fund through donations and \$156K is now back in the Education Fund. He encouraged us all to continue to donate to these important funds. He told us that our District was the only one to grow in membership over the past 2 years. And he asked us to start thinking about the Grand Lodge Convention in 2014 as we will be selecting delegates at next year's convention.

Sunday morning opened with our Memorial service honoring members who passed away during the year. Our business session was called to order and we proceeded with election of District Officers for the 2012-2013 term. Those elected were: District Master - Kevin DeFeo, Tryggve #88; Vice District Master - Ken Christenson, Frithiof #63, Executive Board Members: Marie Demboski, Draken #731; Randall Pierson, Draken #731 and Stacy Graham, Arlington #62; District Treasurer - Eric Johansson, Tryggve #88; District Secretary - Cathy Peterson, Draken, #731; Assistant District Secretary - Elve DeFeo, Gothiod #486; District Trustee, 3-years - Robert Cranmer, Draken, #731; District Auditor, 3-years - Ake Winlund, Arlington #63; District Auditor, 1-year Richard Signor, Sveaborg #446; District Chaplain - Willamina Groething, Arlington #62; District Cultural Leader - Carol McDermott, Tryggve #88; District Master of Ceremonies - Kevin Larsson, Lyckan #507; Assistant Master of Ceremonies - Victoria Ozkan, Arlington #62; District Inner Guard - Beverly Blake, Arlington #62; District Outer Guard - Kurt Christenson, Frithiof #63.

After the installation of our new officers, good wishes were extended to our new District Master under the Good of the Order. Our 105th convention was then adjourned.

I encourage all Vasa members to try to attend their District's convention either as a delegate or Lodge member at least once. The good will engendered that weekend will last through the upcoming year and its is a great way to learn the inner workings of our Order. It is always a fun weekend and you couldn't ask for better company.

Submitted by: Beverly Blake, Correspondent



Newly elected Executive Board of NJ District #6, standing L to R; Junior Past District Master, Jack Hanright; Vice District Master, Ken Christenson; District Master, Kevin DeFeo; District Treasurer, Eric Johansson. Seated L to R; District Assistant Secretary, Elve DeFeo; District Secretary, Cathy Peterson; Executive Board Members, Marie Demboski, Randall Pierson, Stacy Graham.

## DL Pacific Southwest #15

Even in sunny southern California we feel a need to greet the spring. There is just something special in the air and everything is so verdant after all the winter rain. Our wonderful Vasa Park in Agoura Hills welcomed all on the first Sunday in May where the District put on their annual Springfest. Viking men, women and children could be seen making their way out of the L.A. congestion, for a day of festivities ranging from waterslides, ziplines, food booths, games, music, songs, dancing and sharing times with friends, new and old.

The event was quite well attended. Many young families arrived with little ones this time. Busy, busy little ones in the bouncer, on the waterslide or looking for gems at the Vasa Mining Co. Slightly older members watched with smiles and perhaps a little bit of envy. Were we really that funny and cute once upon a time?

The food business was brisk. We ate our goodies and enjoyed LeRoy Anderson's musical tribute to Alfon Bergstrom, who left us last year. These two gents entertained us with their accordions for over fifty years. Life changes but good friendship does not. And so we made room for more good Vasa memories.

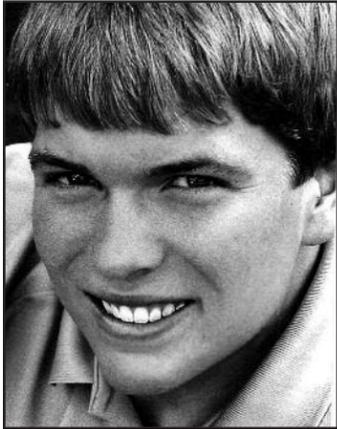
Thank you to EBM Mary Wright who chaired the event. And thank you to all your little elves! It was another lovely day in our Park!

In Truth and Unity,  
Nel Solt

# GRAND LODGE NEWS

## THE GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP - \$1,000

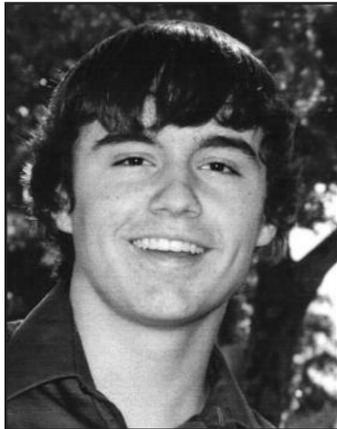
Dylan James Bender  
Jubileum Lodge #755  
DL Lake Michigan #8



Dylan has completed his first year at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, MI. Michigan Tech is a state of the art university that excels in engineering and environmental fields. He graduated from high school with high academic honors and was active in wrestling and football as an all conference lineman. Dylan also received music awards, attended Orchestra Summer Camp and Sjolunden Language Camp. He is an Eagle Scout and served his church and community involved in numerous service projects. As a student at Michigan Tech Dylan is achieving continued success as an outstanding student, is a member of the US Air Force ROTC program and works as a work-study student in the university's library. Dylan has chosen Environmental Engineering as his field of study. He is especially interested in our water resources and hopes to use engineering principles to improve the environment and provide better living conditions for all species. Dylan will no doubt graduate with distinction and pursue his chosen career.

## THE LAKE MICHIGAN #8 GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP - \$1,000

Edwin Bennett  
Evening Star Lodge #426  
DL Pacific Southwest #15



Edwin is a 2012 graduate of Eldorado High School in Placentia, CA where he was awarded the school's "Distinguished Scholar Award" three years in a row. He has received numerous other academic achievements, awards and honors throughout high school and has been involved in many organizations. Edwin knows the value and importance of giving back and volunteers for the Order, his church and his community. Edwin served Morning Star Children's Club # 172 many years as a Lucia Pageant Star Boy, attended and served as a leader at Viking Village several years, attended Sjolunden Language Camp in and served at District #15's ViKing 2011-2012. He has traveled several times to visit family in Sweden, speaks some Swedish as well as Spanish. Edwin is waiting for acceptance at several prestigious universities on the east coast and in California where he hopes to secure a degree in biology in order to ultimately become a doctor of veterinary or pediatric medicine. Edwin believes he can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

## The Grand Lodge 2013 Scholarship and Essay Contest

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

**Two \$1,000 COLLEGE or VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS:** awarded to students to continue their education at an institution of higher learning.

*Applicant for the above scholarships must have become a Vasa member prior to February 15, 2012.*

*Applications are available at the Vasa website (vasaorder.com) until January 15, 2013.*

*To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2013 to be considered.*

1. Completed application.
2. Complete transcripts of grades through the first half of the senior year for high school students or fall semester of current academic year for college students.
3. Current passport photo (preferably 2x3 in. B&W).
4. A letter of recommendation from applicant's Local Lodge.
5. Letters of recommendation from two personal references.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor.
7. An original, typed essay, not to exceed 1,000 words.

**Please put in one envelope if possible**

### Suggested Essay Subjects

1. The role youth can and should play in Vasa.
2. My vision of the future of Vasa.
3. My local lodge and the community.
4. What Vasa means to me.
5. My Swedish Heritage

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

Tore Kellgren  
Scholarship Chairman  
Vice Grand Master  
5971 W. Walbrook Dr.  
San Jose, CA 95129  
Phone: 408 996 1970  
E-mail: tore@kellgren.org

## Who Said English Was Easy to Learn?

Here is a lesson in the English language. Do we really think that English is easy? Ponder these twisted phrases before you tackle the Swedish lesson on page 6.

- 1) The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
- 2) The farm was used to **produce produce**.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.
- 4) We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture..
- 5) He could **lead** if he would get the **lead** out.
- 6) The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**..
- 7) Since there is no time like the **present**, it was time to **present** the **present**.
- 8) A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.
- 9) When shot at, the **dove dove** into the bushes.
- 10) I did not **object** to the **object**.
- 11) The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.
- 12) There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**.
- 13) They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.
- 14) The buck **does** odd things when the **does** are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a **sewer** fell into the **sewer**.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.
- 17) The **wind** was too strong to **wind** the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the **tear** in my dress I shed a **tear**.
- 19) I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of questions.
- 20) How can I **intimate** this to my most **intimate** friend?



# 2014 Grand Lodge Convention

Hosted by

## District Lodge New York No. 4



District Lodge New York No. 4 cordially invites all Vasa members from Sweden, Canada and the United States to the Westchester Hilton from July 4, 2014 to July 11, 2014 for the 38th Quadrennial Grand Lodge Convention

Look in future Vasa Stars and [www.VasaOrder.com](http://www.VasaOrder.com) for Convention details

The Convention Committee proudly offers the following pin for sale. This attractive pin embraces our Nordic Heritage and the immigrants to the New World



\$5.00 per pin plus shipping.

Shipping: \$1.50 for 1-5 pins; \$2.50 for 6-10 pins; and \$3.50 for 11-15 pins

Shipping is free on orders over 15 pins

**District Lodge New York No. 4 is also raffling a 2012 Jeep Compass Latitude 4x4 or \$15,000 cash \$20 per ticket, maximum of 2,000 tickets to be sold!**

**For Pins and Raffle Tickets please contact:**

**Gail Olson, District Secretary  
654 Western Highway  
Blauvelt, NY 10913  
[gailolson.optonline.net](http://gailolson.optonline.net)**

## English is a Crazy Language

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, two geese. So one moose, two meese? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Perhaps English language speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. And why is it that when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

## BASIC SWEDISH COURSE

### Lesson Two: *Var bor du?* (Where do you live?)

#### Vocabulary

<b>var?</b> - where?
<b>bor</b> - live(s)
<b>du</b> - you (singular)
<b>i</b> - in
<b>talat</b> - speak(s)
<b>svenska</b> - Swedish (language)
<b>jag</b> - I
<b>engelska</b> - English (language)

<b>inte</b> - not
<b>från</b> - from
<b>varifrån?</b> - from where?
<b>kommer</b> - come(s)
<b>ja</b> - yes
<b>nej</b> - no
<b>Sverige</b> - Sweden
<b>där</b> - there

#### Examples

<i>Var bor du?</i>	Where do you live?
<i>Jag bor i Norge.</i>	I live in Norway.
<i>De talar engelska.</i>	They speak English.
<i>Eleven talar svenska</i>	The pupil speaks Swedish
<i>Kvinnan kommer från Sverige</i>	The woman comes/is from Sweden.

#### Grammar

##### Questions:

Forming questions in a simple sentence is done by reversing the subject and the predicate (verb).

##### Examples

<i>Han talar svenska</i>	He speaks Swedish.
<i>Talar han svenska?</i>	Does he speak Swedish?
<i>Du bor i Stockholm.</i>	You live in Stockholm.
<i>Bor du i Stockholm?</i>	Do you live in Stockholm?
<i>Mannen har boken</i>	The man has the book
<i>Har mannen boken?</i>	Does the man have the book?

##### Personal Pronouns:

<b>jag</b> - I	<b>vi</b> - we
<b>du</b> - you	<b>ni</b> - you
<b>han</b> - he	
<b>hon</b> - she	<b>de</b> - they

#### Note:

-**De** is pronounced as 'dom' (dåm).  
 -The use of **du** is very widespread everywhere in Sweden, but **Ni** is the more polite, respectful form of singular 'you'.

#### Verbs:

There are three categories of verbs in Swedish, each classified by the ending of the particular stem.

-The first class of verbs is the most common. The stem of a verb in this class ends in 'a'. The stem is also the infinitive: *tal-a* (to speak). To form the present tense just add 'r' to the infinitive: *att tala --> jag tala-r* (to speak --> I speak).

-The second class of verbs includes those whose stems end in a **consonant**. Many of the most common verbs fall into this class. Add 'a' to the stem to form the infinitive and 'er' to form the present tense: *att komm-a--> vi komm-er* (to come--> we come).

-The third class of verbs includes those whose stems end in a vowel other than 'a'. The stem is the infinitive and the present tense is formed by adding 'r': *att bo--> de bo-r* (to live--> they live)

In future vocabulary lists, verbs in different tenses will appear in their infinitive forms with a dash at the end of the stem followed by the ending (*tala-r, tala-de* (spoke), etc).

Note: The verb 'är' (am/is/are) is a conjugation of the irregular verb 'vara' (be). More irregular verbs will be covered in future lessons.

#### Negation:

Negation is the process that turns an affirmative statement (I am happy) into its opposite denial (I am not happy). To construct a negative expression in Swedish, just add the particle 'inte' after the predicate.

#### Examples:

<i>Är du från Sverige?</i>	Are you from Sweden?
<i>Nej, jag kommer inte från Sverige.</i>	No, I do not come from Sweden.
<i>Varifrån kommer de? Är de från Danmark?</i>	Where do they come from? Are they from Denmark?
<i>Nej, de är inte från Danmark.</i>	No, they are not from Denmark.
<i>Hon talar inte engelska.</i>	She does not speak English.
<i>Bor ni i New York?</i>	Do you live in New York?
<i>Nej, vi bor inte i New York.</i>	No, we do not live in New York.

#### Exercises

Translate the following sentences into English:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mannen talar inte engelska. | 9. Vi bor inte i Stockholm.                       |
| 2. Han är från Finland.        | 8. Vem här talar svenska?                         |
| 3. Var är brevet?              | 7. Varifrån kommer ni? (or, var kommer ni ifrån?) |
| 4. Pojken bor på Island.       | 6. Flickan kommer från Sverige.                   |
| 5. Jag har inte boken.         |   |

Translate the following into Swedish:

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6. The girl comes from Sweden.      | 5. I do not have the book.         |
| 7. Where do you (plural) come from? | 4. The boy lives in Iceland.       |
| 8. Who here speaks Swedish?         | 3. Where is the letter?            |
| 9. We do not live in Stockholm.     | 2. He is from Finland.             |
| 10. Where are they?                 | 1. The man does not speak english. |
- Answers:

*Note:* Like I did in Lesson One I have put the answers upside down in order not to give them away immediately. As you can see, the format has changed (there are no caps), but I trust you are able to figure it all out anyway. Lycka till! (Good luck!)

#### PHRASES

In the previous issue of Vasa Star I promised to include some simple every-day Swedish phrases that may be useful when practicing conversation at local lodge meetings and events.

Section 1 lists words and short phrases and in Section 2 you will find some conversational sentences. Let everyone present get a shot at using them and also putting together their own sentences. Ha så trevligt! (Have fun!)

#### Section 1 – Words and Short Phrases

##### English

Welcome

Hi. Hello. How-do- you-do?

Good morning

Good afternoon

Good evening

Pleased to meet you

Do you speak Swedish?

Yes, a little

Bye-bye. Goodbye

Good night

Have a nice day / a good evening/night

Take care ("Have it good")

Excuse me (getting attention or begging pardon)

Sorry

Thank you. Thanks. Thank you very much.

A thousand thanks

You're welcome. It's alright. Don't mention it.

##### Svenska (Swedish)

Välkommen (singular) /

Välkomna (plural)

Hej. Hallå. God dag

God morgon

God eftermiddag

God kväll / afton

Trevligt att träffas/råkas

Talar du svenska?

Ja, lite

Hej då. Adjö

God natt

Ha en trevlig/bra dag / en trevlig

kväll

Ha det bra

Ursäkta

Förlåt

Tack. Tackar. Tack så mycket

Tusen tack

Var så god. Inget att tacka för.

Ingen orsak. Det var så lite

#### Section 2 – Conversational Sentences

I am glad you could come tonight

So am I

Roligt att du kunde komma ikväll

Jag också

Was it difficult to get here?

No, it was fine (it went well)

Var det svårt/besvärligt att komma hit?

Nej, det gick bra

Was the sun shining this morning?

Yes, it did

Sken solen i morse?

Ja, det gjorde den

Did it rain yesterday?

No, it didn't

Regnade det igår?

Nej, det gjorde det inte

Is it cold outside?

No, it's quite warm

Är det kallt ute?

Nej, det är riktigt varmt

What a pretty dress / suit!

Thank you. It's new.

Vilken snygg klänning / kostym!

Tack. Den är ny.

Where do you live? (city, town)

I live in ...

Var bor du?

Jag bor i ...

What street do you live on?

I live on ...

Vilken gata bor du på?

Jag bor på ...

-----  
 Your comments and questions are always appreciated!

*Siv Swan-Pierson, Grand Lodge Language Director*  
*VasaSvenska@Verizon.net*

*When you wish  
 To Honor a  
 Member's Anniversary  
 or  
 Make a  
 Memorial Donation  
 Remember the  
 Education Fund  
 and the  
 Vasa Archives*

# LODGE NEWS

## Norden Lodge #1

West Hartford, CT

April 22, 2012 Norden Lodge #1, Ct. District #1 celebrated their 129<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Elaine's Restaurant in Wethersfield Connecticut. Chairman Linda Steinmiller welcomed honorable guests PGM George Nord, DM Joe O'Leary with his wife Mary-Ann, Robert E. Johnson with his wife Marion, Britt Cantela with her husband Douglas, Lilija Strazinski, and Vasa Park Chairman Art Ogonoski with his wife Arlene along with members from the Executive Board.

A wonderful brunch was had by all and everyone enjoyed the time spent together. Many of the guests wore their Scandinavian costumes which made the day very festive. PGM Gorge Nord and GM Joe O'Leary spoke to the guests and Vasa Park Chairman Art Ogonoski reported on the activities planned for the coming year. Members of Norden Lodge #1 can't wait to celebrate our 130<sup>th</sup> next year.

Submitted by:  
Gary Steinmiller,  
Vasa Star Correspondent

## Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY



Susan W. Sipos of Cassadaga is shown placing a carnation in memory of those lodge members who died in the past year at the annual memorial service.

Following our major cleaning of the lodge in the spring, the first Sunday morning pancake breakfast was held with many in attendance. May brought the annual famous Swedish meatball dinner, June the Father's Day herring breakfast, and of course the Friday night fish dinners.

Our monthly meetings during the summer were held on the fourth Thursday evening and members who had birthdays during June or July were recognized and honored. Lodge members Susan Sipos and Chaplain Diane Shaw provided a decorated cake honoring the birthdays of Betty Lawson, Florence Swanson, Lodge Historian John Sipos, Past Cultural Leader Allie Nelson Withers, Auditor Tom Eckberg, and Past Lodge Chairman and PDM Edwin.

The Memorial Service was

held at the end of May to remember those members who passed away in the past year. The ceremony was opened by Donna Sandberg. Memorial music was played on the piano Bernice Veights. Edwin Sandberg read the names of the departed members. Susan W. Sipos, who served as the Chaplain of the day, placed a memorial carnation on the altar for each departed member, while Mr. Sandberg read a memorial message.

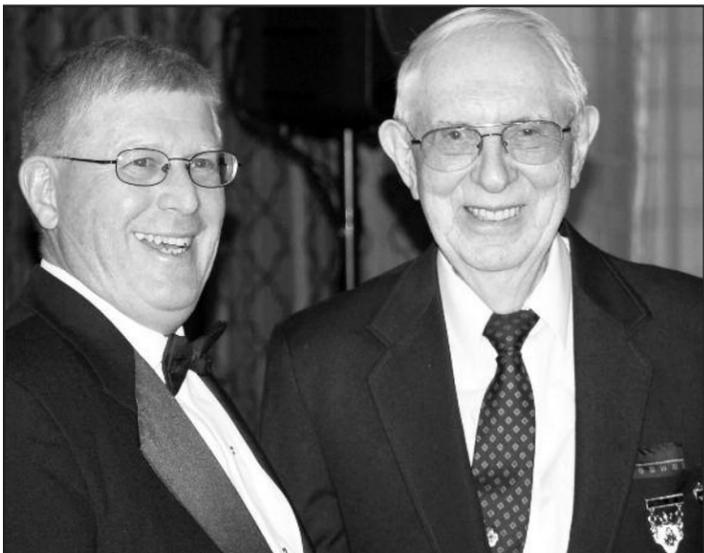
The annual Scandinavian Folk Festival was held in the middle of July, featuring music, dancing, foods, crafts, Swedish lessons, and vendors. It was a wonderful event enjoyed by all.

Thule Lodge is located at 4123 Pancake Hill Road in Bemus Point, and welcomes visitors to its lodge.

Submitted by: John Sipos,  
Lodge Historian

## Monitor Lodge #218

Sacramento, CA



Bill Lundquist and 50-year member Arlie Weiss.

Monitor Lodge #218 recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary titled Ett Hundre Års Jubileum. The celebration

was held in conjunction with District 12's 97<sup>th</sup> Convention April 27-29, 2012. After several months of preparation by the



Lillian Gafford receives her 65-year pin from GM Bill Lundquist.

"2012 Committee," chaired by Gail Nemy of Monitor Lodge 218 and co-chaired by Raye Brown of Sierra Kronan Lodge #737 in Roseville, the weekend was a huge success enjoyed by many.

According to Monitor member Arlie Veis, Monitor Lodge #218 was established April 6, 1912, organized by Bernard Anderson of Fylgia Lodge #119, San Francisco. Monitor Lodge was named after Swedish inventor John Ericsson who built the Monitor Ironclad ship of Civil War Fame! Our namesake also helped design the Göta Kanal that traverses Sweden from East to West.

The highlight of Monitor's celebration took place Saturday evening at a gala banquet attended by convention-goers and Delegates, Grand Lodge Officers and spouses as well as District Officers and spouses. Master of Ceremonies for the evening, PDM Kurt Pfannkuch, skillfully led us through introductions and the Aquavit Toast as we enjoyed Monitor's own Brännvin and a rousing rendition of Helan Går led by

Yvonne Magneheim.

Milestone awards were presented by Grand Master Bill Lundquist to Lillian Stafford, 65 years, and Arlie Veis, 50 years.

Dancing to the Big Band sounds of "The Rotary Rooters" rounded out a very memorable evening.

Woven into the fabric of Monitor Lodge #218 in Sacramento is member Dorothy Scherer, initiated on April 4th, 1989. Dorothy recently celebrated her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday at our meeting in March. This was a huge surprise for many of us,



The Dorothy Scherer family.

## Tegner Lodge #224

Missoula, MT



Grand Lodge Deputy Alice Iverson-Andie Linsted-Pat Swanson, Chairman.

On June 15<sup>th</sup> Tegner Lodge #224 in Missoula, MT, celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lodge at Benson's farm. We had visitors from the District come for this celebration, the Grand Lodge Deputy, Alice Iverson and the District #13 Assistant Secretary Carol De Sau along with members from North Star Lodge #145 in Spokane, WA. We also had Grand Lodge Deputy Iverson award member-

ship pins to several of our members, Ann Harding for 10 years, Donna Rappa for 25 years, and Elinor Utech for 40 years. While everyone enjoyed their delicious meal Al Amon played several selections on his accordion. Our scholarship winner for this year was Andie Linsted who talked about her essay and was later awarded a certificate by Grand Lodge Deputy Iverson for \$500.00. One of our members,

Roy Anderson, who was unable to attend as he was in Russia on a trip, wrote a poem for the occasion which was read by Rick Swanson. Rick also read several Ole and Lena jokes for laughs. Even the weather cooperated as we have had a couple of weeks of rain, but the sun came out warm and bright which everyone enjoyed.

Submitted by: Rick Swanson

## Skandia Lodge #247

Pasadena, CA

There are events so outstanding that they bring a smile and warm the heart. Such an event was Midsummer at Skandia Lodge on June 14, 2012. The members and guests devoted the night to food, fun, friendship, and all the wonderful things that make for all those good memories. Entertainment was provided by accordionist/ musician supreme, LeRoy Anderson. The tables were brimming with all good choices. Skandia Chairman Jane Hendricks invited everyone to share their memories of Midsummers past. When we all reluctantly went home, it was with warm smiles and happy hearts.

At the SACA Midsummer celebration at Vasa Park, Skandia Lodge members were in charge of the breakfast with a great group of Skandia helpers. How busy a day? For an example, Skandia members Bob and Nel Solt helped in preparing and bringing the Program books to Vasa Park; decorating the Maypole, serving beverages, assisting the treasurer, served on the breakfast committee, and worked the Tombola booth. All who participated did so for the enjoyment of all; recreating past traditions and making new ones for the future. That is Vasa, onward and upward.



The 2012 Midsummer Court at Vasa Park: Left to Right: Allyson Michele Stacks, Princess ~ Viking Lodge No. 256; Elin Louise Kindig, Columbia ~ Golden Valley Lodge No. 616; Emmaline Shirley Mauritsen, Midsummer Queen ~ Skandia Lodge No. 247; Aimee Katrina Elder, Svea ~ Mayflower Lodge No. 445; Kyra Deborah Daily, Princess ~ Nordic Lodge No. 660.

A special celebration for the Fourth of July was the parade put on by the city of Sierra Madre, CA. The Grand Marshals were none other than Skandia's own Bob and Nel Solt seated on the back of a shiny red convertible – exactly matching Nel's dress – with a fine sign. Being IN the parade did not allow them to the parade but Patrick and Kathleen McGinley (Skandia members) created an exemplary video which not only included our famous Grand



Marshals, but also the Sierra City College Marching Band and on the cymbals, Skandia member Kirsten Orcutt, the Unknown Band (with large brown paper bags over their heads making them unknown), antique cars, belly dancers, fire engines, police cars, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and plenty of candy was given to all along the parade path.

At our regular July business meeting, Betsy and Lori provided dinner for us with pizza, spaghetti, fresh green salad, cookies and ice cream plus a special cake brought to us by Skandia member Ernie. We completed all the business of the lodge including plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration which will be held for Skandia on March 9, 2013.

Submitted by: Dr. Jacqueline E. Ahlen

## Svea Lodge #253

Indianapolis, IN

Gregory MacLennan was initiated as a new member in April. His Swedish relatives were from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. The program, "Growing Up Swedish In Minnesota" was presented by LaVonne Heighway, who was born in Minneapolis, MN, and later moved to a farm in Chisago County, about 50 miles northeast of the Twin Cities. LaVonne spoke about what it was like growing up in rural Minnesota in 1952, in a very Swedish family with a strong sense of Swedish heritage.

In May, a lively musical program on Nordic Dancing was presented by Annette Johansson, John Seest, and Eija Vesterqvist. The performed favorite Nordic dances, demonstrating and contrasting techniques of the vari-

ous Scandinavian styles. Music was provided by a newly formed Scandinavian folk music instrumental ensemble called Scandilocity.

The annual Midsommar celebration was held in June. We decorated the Maypole, danced around the maypole, and enjoyed the lovely Midsommar festivities. The lodge provided meat and beverages, and the members brought other food items to share. John Seest was initiated as a member of the lodge. A large pinata in the shape of a red stuga was made by Michelle Escalante for the children to enjoy. Members of the local Sons of Norway Lodge joined in the fun.

Submitted by:  
Joella D. Hultgren  
Publicity Committee

At our last regular meeting, we enjoyed learning how to play Swedish traditional games! Don Sandy from Jamestown, NY, teaches them on Scandinavian Cultural Days and we enjoyed his visit.

The games are called Kubb, which involved using wood batons to knock down blocks. This is similar to lawn bowling. The other game is HNE-FATAFL (try to pronounce that!). This game resembles chess.

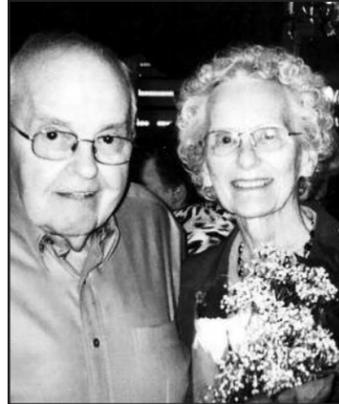
We held our annual dinner at the Maennerchor Club on May 19th. Our speaker was Bruce Elfin, District Master. 50-year pins were received by Cheryl Brown, Margaret Minor, and Margaret Shoskin.

We are excited to be hosting a convention in September planned by Dorothy Overberg, Cheryl Brown, Sandy Miller, Leona Carlson, Tom Johnson and David Cope

Submitted by: Linda Collin

## Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA



Doris and Milton Forbes married 65 years.



Swedish board game HNEFATAFL enjoyed by Lucia Doyle.

## Skogsblommen Lodge #378

Issaquah, WA

Members of the lodge decided to hold a Ladies Tea Party to encourage friendship and conversation. Under the guidance of Emma, a planning committee was formed, meetings held, resulting in a Scandinavian inspired, with a touch of British

flair, tea party on May 5, 2012.

"Come into the Garden," was the theme and we were served dainty, open-face sandwiches with caviar and eggs, rye bread, Jarlsberg cheese, Wasa crackers, ham, and lefse. Dessert followed with fresh fruit, traditional

scones with lingonberry jam and Devonshire cream, and assorted sweets.

What a wonderful way to spend an early summer's day!

Submitted by: Rose Zappert  
Emma Wilmot

## Sveaborg Lodge #449

Concord, CA



Teresa Fassl as Svea.

Sveaborg Lodge recently held their 88th Anniversary Dinner, attended by many members and honored guests. The high point of the event was the "Viking of the Year" award, given annually to a mem-

ber for outstanding service and dedication to the lodge. Chosen this year was Rosemary Fassl, an active member since 1997. She has been leader of the Vasablad Children's club which performs songs and dances at meetings, especially at the Julfest. Additionally, the group has performed at convalescent and retirement homes and for the Sveadal Midsummer.

Several members of Sveaborg Lodge participated in this year's Midsommar Festival at Sveadal on June 23. Vasablad Children's Club alumna Teresa Fassl represented Sveaborg in the Midsommar Queen's court. She played the part of Svea, who represents Sweden, while Columbia represents America. Vasablad member including Lucy Rose Fassl-Lemons and her cousin, Khloe Contreras,

helped decorate the Majstång (maypole) with flowers, watched as it was raised by many strong men, and then danced around it. What fun that was!

Submitted by: Bob Burman



Rosemary Fassl

## Austin Lodge #466

Chicago, IL

### Launches Media Plan Promoting the Vasa Order, Scandinavian Culture and History

The Vasa Order of America is one of the oldest Scandinavian Fraternal organizations in the United States. Beginning in the 1800s, thousands of immigrants of Nordic origin came to the United States in hope of a prosperous future in America.

These immigrants contributed in countless ways to build the American Midwest and frontier states into the thriving communities that exist today. With the settlement of new communities, the desire to preserve the traditional modes of Scandinavian lifestyles developed a need for protective fraternalism in local

organizations of thousands of immigrants from Sweden. Together these formed the Vasa Order of America in 1896.

Today, the Vasa Order aims to promote the rich history and culture of Scandinavians. In this spirit, the Austin Lodge #466 meeting on Chicago's northwest side, has taken three specific steps in achieving these goals.

The first is a mini-documentary titled "Scandinavians in America," which can be viewed at [www.thevasaorder.com](http://www.thevasaorder.com).

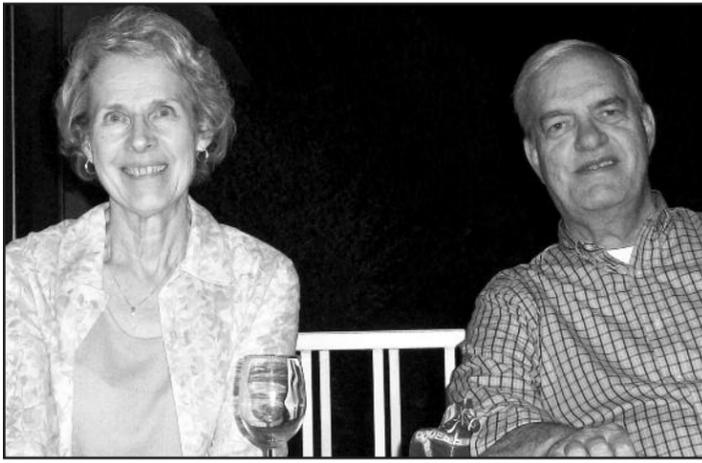
Secondly, last fall, Austin Lodge developed a comprehensive website celebrating

Scandinavian history and culture, the Vasa Order, which also contains many links to Scandinavian Cultural websites, and several online video channels. The web address for this site is: [www.nordicchicago.com](http://www.nordicchicago.com).

The Scandinavian American Broadcasting Network which will launch this September is the final part of this media strategy. This new enterprise will contain web videos focusing on Scandinavian culture, both present and past.

Submitted by:  
Allan Winters

## Norden Lodge #684 Fresno, CA



Carole and George Sell hosting the bonfire.

Norden Lodge members celebrated *Valborgsmässoafton 2012* at the home of George and Carole Sell. We gathered in the afternoon, but stayed into the evening to enjoy excellent food, fine companionship, and cheerful singing under the stars.

The June meeting started out in confusion. We had all brought pot luck dishes to the church hall where we usually meet, but due to some mixed messages, the hall was completely locked up. We stood in the parking lot, arms full of food, wondering

what to do. Marci Johansson saved the day, inviting the whole group to her house. So what started as a possible disappointment turned into a fun party at Marci's.

The informal meeting we had in Marci's living room that evening included some special highlights. We installed new members Christina and Lisa Lumeya. We also welcomed scholarship winners Pernilla Brusenback and Joy-Marie Brusenback.

Submitted by: Judy Harless

## Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod #703 Dennis, MA



Our traditional Maypole provides camaraderie for members.

In April, our members were treated to an International Concert performed by The Handbell Ringers of the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Harwichport. Our own Elsa Erickson displayed her musical talents as a handbell ringer. She also prepared the strawberries and several members baked angel food cakes for our strawberry shortcake dessert following our meeting and concert. A Swedish meatball dinner with traditional vegetables, potatoes and breads after our May meeting allowed for our members to socialize and to reminisce. Our annual Memorial Service honored our six members who had recently passed away. Many tears were shed as we recalled

their contributions to our lodge. In June we decorated our Maypole with fresh flowers, enjoyed picnic lunches sampled homemade desserts and watermelon at our Midsummerfest. Our talented accordionist, Sonya Westerback, provided Scandinavian music. All ages danced around the Maypole before June sprinkles arrived to cool us off. Several members are interested in pursuing folk dance and Swedish language lessons in the coming year. We had guests from Ingeborg Lodge in Brockton. Both lodges are making plans to co-host the Massachusetts District Convention at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis in Sept. 2013.

Submitted by: Dorothy Kean

## Viking Lodge #730 Flint, MI

June 24, 2012, was a beautiful summer day for our Midsommar Celebration. We were again privileged to join in the festivities at the VASA Country Club near Lapeer, MI, at the invitation of Lisa Johnson. The grounds include a community of homes which surround a small lake with swimming for young and old. Viking Lodge #730 was represented with ten members this year.

The smorgasbord tables were covered with the best of Swedish food which included Johnson's surprise, cucumber slices in vinegar, meatballs, beets, baked fish, and a variety

of desserts. Music and sing along sheets were offered by Roy Berger on the accordion and Hazel Johnson on the keyboard. A welcome crew of mostly teenagers decorated the Maypole with Swedish flags and a multitude of colorful fresh flowers.

How could you not have had a good time? The weather was perfect, good friends, good food and wonderful facilities! Maybe next year I will have to find my swimsuit and take a dip in the lake!

Submitted by: Ron/Dee Carlson  
Viking Lodge #730

## Jubileum Lodge #755 Madison, WI



Ann and Wesley Hanson. Wesley is playing a Civil War period "backwards blaster," officially a Tenor Saxhorn.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> we were visited by Vice District (8) Master Ed Hultgren and his wife Joella, District 8 newsletter Valthornet editor. Ed led us across the Nordic Arctic, with photos from their cruise. We also learned that Ed was a distant relative of Swedish author, lyricist, and entertainer Beppe Wolgers.

On Friday May 4 we joined the congregation of Arbor Covenant Church to remember

Ulla Swanson, wife of Lodge Chairman Gunnard Swanson. The many stories confirmed that Ulla really was as wonderful as we thought. She will be greatly missed.

Wesley Hanson, our May 17 speaker, was band director at North Park University when Gunnard Swanson was a student. He and his wife Ann told and played and sang a history of Civil War music. Highlights

included "For Grandmother Told Me So," a child's hilariously confused explanation of the Emancipation Proclamation, "Sheridan's Gallop," performed on a period horn, and "The Army Bean," a soldier's tribute to the staple food of both armies.

We celebrated Midsommar on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, with a large attendance of around 35.

Submitted by: Robert Merrill,  
Historian

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# SWEDISH NEWS

## Logen Höganäs Nr 634

USA-resan 2012

6 glada Vasasyskon från Logen Höganäs nr 634 beslöt att genomföra en kombinerad Vasa och turistresa till västra USA i mars månad.

Efter en väldigt lång och strulig flygresan anlände vi sent på kvällen den 12 mars till ett regnigt och kallt San Francisco. En shuttlebus tog oss in till hotellet Holiday Inn vid Fishermans Wharf där vi bokade oss för 4 nätter. Efter en natts god sömn begav vi oss ut på stan för lite sight-seeing. Regnet fortsatte att ösa ner, det var ca 5 grader så det första vi gjorde var att köpa var sin regnjacka med fleecedoder, de tunna sommarjackor vi tagit med kunde ju inte stänga ute kylan. Efter en rundtur med en sight-seeingbuss värmdes vi oss med en skål av den berömda clam-chowder-soppan, den smakade ljuvligt gott! På kvällen besökte vi Logen Fylgia nr 119, där deras ordförande Scott Schulkin välkomnade oss. Logen har ett 40-tal medlemmar och endast ett fåtal personer hade kommit denna kväll. Temat för mötet var svenska påsktraditioner och Leif Larsson berättade lite om hur vi firar påsk och vi fick i gengäld höra om deras egna traditioner. Efter mötet bjöds vi på kaffe och fastlagsbullar och vi hade en gemytlig kväll tillsammans.

De följande dagarna besökte vi Alcatraz, Muir Woods, åkte Cable Cars och strosade runt i Chinatown. Vi hämtade ut en hyrbil, en van som rymde oss alla sex med allt vårt bagage, och körde vidare till San José för att besöka logemötet i Logen Svea nr 348. Vice Stormästare Tore Kellgren och hans hustru Birgitta, som vi träffat flera gånger på våra Distriktsmöten i Sverige och på Storlogemöten i USA, kom till vårt hotell, vi åt middag tillsammans och sedan lotsade de oss till logelokalen. Ordförande David Carlson hälsade oss välkomna och ett kort möte hölls. En kvinnlig föredragshållare berättade om Lappkungens dotter, en självupplevd skildring om den ryska invasionen av Finland och hur hon fick fly över den svenska gränsen med sin mor och sina syskon, medan fadern fick stanna kvar i Finland. Efter föredraget bjöds vi även här på fastlagsbullar med varm mjölk och kaffe.

Vi körde vidare längs Hwy 1 och måste naturligtvis stanna till på Hearst Castle för att titta på tidningskungens berömda slott och körde sedan vidare för en övernattnings på Madonna Inn i San Luis Obispo, ett glittrigt och spektakulärt hotell som man måste se.

Färden gick vidare till den "danska" staden Solvang där vi fikade med äkta danska wienerbröd på Olsens Café, körde sedan till Santa Barbara och promenerade ut på den berömda träpiren för att se på alla pelikaner som håller till där. Körde sedan vidare till Woodland Hills i Los Angeles för nästa övernattnings.

Ordförande i Logen Golden Valley nr 616, Bertil Winther, hade arrangerat en träff hemma hos en Vasafamilj, Kerstin och Bill Wendt, tillsammans med ett



Leif and Bodil Larsson, Gunnar and Evy Lindquist, Berit and Hans Bogren.

20-tal medlemmar i logen, och där blev vi bjudna på en riktig Thanksgiving-middag. Man hade stekt två stora kalkoner med stuffing och alla tillbehör och till dessert fick vi pumpkinpaj, kaffe och hembakade kakor, allt till vår ära. Kvällen förflöt under mycket skratt och pratande, alla var så trevliga och vi hade en fantastisk fin och minnesrik kväll.

Övrig tid i Los Angeles spenderade vi på Universal Studios, i Hollywood och Beverly Hills och nu började den californiska solen lysa på oss och temperaturen närmade sig 20 grader.

Nästa stopp var Las Vegas där vi checkade in på MGM Grand Hotel, detta gigantiska hotell med över 5000 rum, där man fick kryssa mellan spelautomaterna för att hitta sitt rum. Vi beundrade den fantastiska vattenorgeln utanför Hotel Bellagio, var inne på Caesars Palace och förundrades över alla ljusen i staden efter mörkrets inbrott.

När vi lämnade Las Vegas kom vi till Hoover Dam, en enorm dammbyggnad över Coloradofloden, som förser hela Las Vegas med elektricitet. En imponerande syn!

Körde sedan genom ett ganska ödsligt ökenlandskap utan någon bebyggelse och kom så småningom till Grand Canyon. Det finns inga ord som kan beskriva denna plats, detta väldiga bergmassiv där ljuset och färgerna skiftar allt efter hur solen rör sig på himlen. Varken foton eller film kan göra intrycket rättvisa. Helt fantastiskt!

Slutmålet på vår resa var Tucson i Arizona. Vår Vasavän Ann-Marie Kinnison, som bott större delen av sitt liv i Tucson men som gärna åker till Höganäs på sommaren då värmen i Tucson är påfrestande, guidade oss runt i omgivningarna till Tanque Verde Guest Ranch och till den vackra oasen Aqua Caliente och bjöd oss sedan på lunch i sitt hem.

Hennes loge, Tucson nr 691, hade för vår skull flyttat sitt möte och ordförande Joan Swenson-Hitz hälsade oss varmt välkomna. Kvällens tema var Men's Night, dvs Brödernas afton, och alla var klädda i cowboy-kläder och en Barbershopkör sjöng härliga sånger för oss. Vi bjöds på en god middag med baked beans, stew och cornbread, kaffe och kaka. Stämningen var hög och kvällen avslutades med att Leif fick sjunga "We'll meet again" tillsammans med Barbershopkören och fick många applåder för detta.

Samtliga loger vi besökte fick rykande färsk Vasa-Nytt som vi tagit med, ett par små

Höganäskrus och ett fotocollage från vår loge, där vi visade allt från högtidsmöten, julfester och brödernas och systrarnas aftnar. Allt blev mycket uppskattat och alla förvånades över hur det går till på våra möten, en stor kontrast till deras egna sammankomster.

Så var det tid att åter sätta sig på flygplanet för en lång hemresa, men vi är alla överens om att vi hade en fantastisk resa och har många härliga minnen med oss hem i bagaget.

**Submitted by: Bodil och Leif Larsson, Evy och Gunnar Lindstrand, Berit och Hans Bogren**

### USA Trip March 2012

Six members of Höganäs Lodge #634 decided to make a trip to California in March.

After a very long flight we arrived in a dark, rainy and cold San Francisco. A shuttle bus took us to Holiday Inn at Fisherman's Wharf where we stayed four nights. After a good night's sleep we went out for some sight-seeing. The rain continued to pour down so we had to buy warm jackets as our thin summer jackets could not keep out the cold and wet. We took a sight-seeing bus tour and then we warmed ourselves with a delicious bowl of the Wharf's clam chowder soup.

We attended the meeting in Fylgia Lodge #119, where we were welcomed by Chairman Scott Schulkin. The theme of the evening was Swedish Easter traditions and Leif Larsson talked about how we celebrate Easter in Sweden and we were told about the American traditions. We were treated to coffee and "fastlagsbullar" and had a very cozy evening.

After visiting Alcatraz and Muir Woods, riding the cable cars and strolling around China Town, we picked up a large rental van and drove to San Jose to attend the Svea Lodge #348 meeting. Vice Grand Master Tore Kellgren and his wife Birgitta, who we had met several times at our District Conventions in Sweden and Grand Lodge Conventions in US, came to our hotel and we had dinner together before the meeting. Chairman David Carlson greeted us. We listened to an interesting lecture and were served coffee and "fastlagsbullar."

We drove along Hwy 1 and of course had to stop at Hearst Castle to look at the famous mansion. We loved staying at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo, a spectacular hotel you must see. The next day we stopped in the Danish town of

Solvang, strolled the pier in Santa Barbara and finally arrived in Woodland Hills, Los Angeles for next overnight stay.

The chairman of Golden Valley Lodge #616, Bertil Winther, had arranged a meeting with more than 20 members of the lodge in Kerstin and Bill Wendt's home, where we were treated to a real Thanksgiving dinner. Two big turkeys with stuffing and all the fixin's, pumpkin pie, homemade cookies and coffee. Delicious! We had a great time with lots of talk and laughter. It was a very nice and memorable evening.

Our remaining time in Los Angeles was spent at Universal Studios, Hollywood and Beverly Hills where the Californian sun was shining and we finally enjoyed warmer weather.

Off to Las Vegas where we checked in at MGM Grand Hotel which boasts over 5,000 rooms. We admired the amazing water fountains outside the Bellagio Hotel, walked through Caesars Palace and marveled at all the lights in the city.

When we left Las Vegas we came to Hoover Dam, an enormous construction which supplies the entire Las Vegas with electricity.

Eventually we came to the Grand Canyon and there are no words to describe this place. This spectacular landmark

where the light and colors change according to how the sun moves in the sky. Amazing!

The last stop on our trip was Tucson, AZ. Our friend Ann-Marie Kinnison, who has been living in Tucson for many years, and visits Höganäs in the summer, guided us to Tanque Verde Guest Ranch and the beautiful oasis Aqua Caliente. We enjoyed a delicious lunch at her home after the tour.

Tucson Lodge #691 had moved their meeting to accommodate our visit and the Chairman, Joan Swenson-Hitz, welcomed us. The theme was Men's Night, everyone was dressed in cowboy clothes and a Barbershop quartet sang lovely songs. We had a delicious dinner with baked beans, stew and cornbread. We had a wonderful time and the evening ended with Leif Larsson singing, "We'll Meet Again," with the Barbershop quartet.

We presented each lodge we visited with a new edition of Vasa-Nytt, a ceramic jar from Höganäs, and a photo collage from our lodge depicting what we are doing in our meetings.

Soon it was time to fly home taking with us fantastic memories and many new Vasa friends.

**Submitted by: Bodil och Leif Larsson, Evy och Gunnar Lindstedt, Berit och Hans Bogren**

## Logen Gotland Nr 624



2012-års tjänstemän vid Logen Gotland

Åldersläget bland logens syskon är högt, vilket gör att vi av naturliga skäl tappar allt fler medlemmar. Under 2012 har vi antagit en vision - att vi åter skall bli över 200 medlemmar i logen. Vi var det under 1990-talet. För att åter bli det, satte vi årsmål - att rekrytera flera nya medlemmar än vad som lämnar logen.

För att nå det målet måste vi finna nya vägar. Vi beslöt oss för att ta fram en informationsfolder om Vasa Ordern Av Amerika, och om vår loge - som tilldelades faddrar och presumtiva nya medlemmar.

Vi tar upp rekryteringsbehovet vid alla informationer till medlemmarna och uppmanar, att ta med gäster till kommande logemötens efterkapitel. Bland dessa gäster kan sedan intresserade nya medlemmar rekryteras.

Vi valde dessutom att delta i ett lokalradioprogram, där vi var cirka trettio medlemmar som deltog i intervjuer, och där vi fick berätta om Vasaorden Av Amerika, och om hur trevligt vi har i vår loge.

Vid efterkapitlen åter vi alltid en god middag. Festkommittén har alltid något lämpligt tema för kvällen, vilket också höjer stämningen. Vi har så gott som alltid gäster med vid dessa tillfällen. Efterkapitel ökar alltid

stämningen hos deltagarna, med sedvanliga skålar, tal och allsång. När middagen är intagen träder man till dans till någon orkester från Gotland. Det brukar inte bli uppbrott förrän efter midnatt då alla är nöjda och ser fram emot nästa logemöte.

Vid marslogen inbjöds landshövdingen Cecilia Schedin Seidegård till efterkapitlet, där hon fick information om Vasa Orden Av Amerika. Hon deltog vid middagen, höll information om hur det är att vara landshövding, och hon dansade till långt fram på kvällen innan hon tackade för sig och tog avsked. Det var ett uppskattat inlägg i efterkapitlet den kvällen.

Vid vårlogen i maj månad hade vi turen att kunna recipiera nio nya medlemmar till följd av ett lyckat rekryteringsarbete.

Som ytterligare ett tillfälle att få visa upp Vasa Orden Av Amerika deltog Logen Gotland vid årets nationaldagsfirande den 6 juni.

HM Konungen Carl XVI Gustaf och Drottning Silvia var hedersgäster vid årets nationaldagsfirande på Gotland. Efter besök på olika kulturaktiviteter anlände kungaparet till Almedalen i Visby i ett strålande

*Continued on page 11*



*Bland andra fanor - Logen Gotlands fanbärare under nationaldagen 2012.*

sommarväder. Konungens höll högtidstal. Evenemanget inramades av fanborgar från olika organisationer, och bland dessa återfanns våra egna fanbärare med Vasafanan samt de svenska, amerikanska och kanadensiska fanorna. Det var en givande och intressant dag i Almedalen, många av våra medlemmar fanns på plats, och våra fanor fyllde väl sin plats i fanborgen.

Logen har också nu på försommaren inbjudit medlemmarna till en utflykt till Svenskbygården på Gotland. Det är ett museum om svenskar, boende på Dagö utanför nuvarande Estland, som på 1780-talet deporterades till Svenskby nära Svarta Havet i Ukraina. Historien om deras liv och mödor där samt hur en del av dessa återvänder till Sverige 1929 kan åses vid museet. En intressant, allvarlig och annorlunda utvandrarhistoria i österled.

I höst kommer den årliga teaterresan till Stockholm att genomföras, där vi som vanligt hoppas på gott deltagande.

**Submitted by:**  
**P-I Kolmodin, Ordförande**

**Gotland Lodge Nr 624**

The ages of our brothers and sisters are becoming rather high, which causes that we are losing members. That is a problem for us, and this year we have adopted a vision that we will again be more than 200 members at the Gotland Lodge. We were so many during the 1990s. We must have annual targets to recruit more members than leave the Lodge.

Reaching those targets means that we must find new ways for getting new and younger members. We decided to make an informational leaflet about the Vasa Order and our Lodge, which we are giving to our members, guests and friends. We urge our members to invite friends to visit our Lodge-dinner parties with the intention of attracting new members.

We also have participated in a local radio program, with about 30 members, where we presented our Lodge and our meetings, and what a nice time we are having together.

We always complete our meetings with a good dinner-party. The committee always has

a fitting theme for the party, which also heightens the mood. We are eating and singing. After dinner we are dancing until after midnight and looking forward to the next Lodge-meeting.

At the March meeting we invited the County Governor Cecilia Schedin Seidegård to the dinner-party. She was given some information about the Vasa Order, and she gave us some information about her job as County Governor in Gotland. She also participated in the dancing together with us during the evening. We all thanked her for being with us that evening.

At the Spring-Lodge meeting we had successfully installed nine new members as a result of good recruiting.

As an extra opportunity to be noticed, the Gotland Lodge participated during the National Day Celebrations on June 6, in the Almedalen, Visby.

HM the King Carl XVI Gustaf and HM the Queen Silvia were Guests of Honor at the annual National Day celebration at Gotland. After visiting different cultural events during a sunny day, HM the King held a solemn speech. The event was framed with standards from different organizations, and even from The Vasa Order. We participated with our four banners. It was a memorable day, and many of our sisters and brothers took part.

In early summer we had an excursion to the Svensk-

bygården, a museum for Swedes once living at Dagö outside the Estonian coast – who were deported by the Russians in the 1780s to a little village named Svenskby nearby The Black Sea in Ukraine. It was an interesting, serious and different story about Swedish emigrants living during very difficult circumstances. Some of their survivors returned to Sweden after rough times in 1929.

During the autumn we will make the annual theatre trip to Stockholm, where we look forward to a special time with our sisters and brothers.

**Submitted by:**  
**P-I Kolmodin, Chairman**

**Logen Härnösand Nr 673**

**Firar Sverige-Amerikadagen**

Efter att under många år ha firat Sverige-Amerikadagen i Stigsjö hos familjen Wigert, togs ett nytt beslut att fira dagen på Hemsön, där vår ordförande är bosatt. Onsdagen den 4 juli samlades ett fyrtiotal logesyskon vid Hemsö Kyrka.

Yvonne Östman berättade om Hemsö kyrkas tillkomst och mycket intressanta historia. Hon sjöng därefter mycket vackert en sommarpsalm.

Därefter vidtog en tipspromenad som avslutades vid Gropen. Mycket uppskattat och Bert och Ulla Wallin hade svarat bäst på frågorna.

Ordförande Karl Bäcklund hälsade oss välkomna till Hemsön, och därefter hölls flaggceremoni.samt sjöng vi nationalsången.

I Gropen underhöll sedan Sonja Ramström med ett flertal låtar på sitt dragspel. Bl.a Fredriks Gånglåt, Barfotabarn, Hemsövalsen, Amerikabrevet, Hälsa dem därhemma, m.fl

Vi hade tagit med oss picknick som inmundigades denna sköna dag. Mätta och belåtna lyssnade vi på ytterligare några låtar.

Sonja avslutade sedan med Härnövalsen och därefter var det dags att bryta upp, och bege sig hemåt.

**Submitted by: Bosse Selin,**  
**Kulturledare**



*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 membership in these local Vasa lodges. If you are new to the Vasa Order of America we bid you welcome. If you are transferring or are a dual member, your new lodge bids you welcome. We hope you will enjoy your membership and will participate in all of the activities planned for you.**

**Art Bjorkner, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman**  
**31 Vasa Drive,**  
**Hackettstown NJ 07840-5314 USA**

**DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2**

*Ingeborg Lodge No. 66*  
Nina Eliasson Sousa  
*Nordic Lodge No. 611*  
Elliot Nye Browning  
Karen Ann Carlson  
*Birka Lodge No. 732*  
Diane Lizabeth Forsstrom  
Christine Jacobson Kimball

**DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6**

*Arlington Lodge No 62*  
Laura C. Forrest  
Jacqueline Lee Joyner  
Travis Jordan O'Hare  
Earle R. Waller  
*Three Crowns Lodge No. 704*  
Peter Michael Basinski  
Jill F. Kruger  
*Viking Lodge No. 735*  
Joan C. Bowman

**DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8**

*Siljan-Mora-Tuna Lodge No. 134*  
Gladys J. Torkelson  
*Svea Lodge No. 253*  
John A. Seest  
*Hagar Lodge No. 721*  
Sherida Valerie Magnuson  
Walter Roald Magnuson  
Janet M. Nelson  
*Viking Lodge No. 730*  
Margaret E. Main  
Michelle Marie Pearson-Gary  
Carl Gunnar Swenson

**DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12**

*Balder Lodge No. 343*  
Martha Helene Howard  
Irene Johnson  
Mary Catherine Kemp  
Dorene Lynn Lewis  
Patricia Ann Ponnay  
*Jenny Lind Lodge No. 388*  
Sharon Ann Haynes  
*Nord Lodge No. 392*  
Crissy Coralee Anderson  
John Phillip Anderson  
*Norden Lodge No. 684*  
Christina Maria Lumeya  
Lisa Lumeya

**DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15**

*Mayflower Lodge No. 445*  
Mariane Allemann  
Paige Lee Amador  
Marguerite Connelly  
Gunilla Eva Goudeau  
Carina Linnea Haley  
Kamilla Harkless  
Rodnina Harvey  
Charus Linnea Johnston  
Linda Kay Lemmon  
*Baltic Lodge No. 689*  
Swayn Kenneth Ericson  
Anna-Lise Obetz  
*Oak Leaf Lodge No. 685*  
Cecilia Brady  
Cole Spencer Kenyon  
Erin L. Miller

**DL ARIZONA NO. 21**

*Phoenix Lodge No. 677*  
Mary-Ann D. Allen  
Merrily C. Beyreuther  
Paul Alfred Beyreuther  
Carol Anne Roessler  
Karl Otto Roessler  
*Solstad Lodge No. 709*  
Doris Vivianne Roy  
Errol George Roy  
*Nordic Red Rocks Lodge No. 760*  
Carol Marlene Anderson  
Mary Kay Runke  
Sheila Renee Runke

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## NOT MY TIME TO DIE

by Lilly Setterdahl

Book Review by Wini Caudell

There have been many books about the Titanic victims and survivors but Lilly Setterdahl's book "Not My Time T Die" is the first book to delve into the stories of Swedes who were aboard the ill fated ship. It brings the Swedish people's stories into clear and heart breaking focus.

Lilly tells the story of why Swedes immigrated in 1912 and also the stories of the 123 Swedes on board. With translated letters and eye witness accounts Lilly has given a voice to many Swedes who were traveling to America on the doomed Titanic. After reading the book you will have a better understanding of what their stories and experiences were. Something, that up until now hasn't been done.

She also follows the 34 survivors and tells their stories of surviving the wreck and in some cases follows them for the rest of their lives. There are stories of tragic endings but also stories of happy endings. Lilly, as usual, has done a great amount of research and brought their stories to life. She also brings to your attention all of the questions that many of the survivors asked and each person's account is brought vividly into focus.

She has included many photos and newspaper clippings of the day. Lilly has painstakingly researched every Swede and has included correct dates and birth parishes. This book is a complete and wonderful record of the third largest ethnic group on the Titanic and will stand forever as their story. They would be grateful for Lilly's wonderful and extensive book.

This is a must read book for anyone who is both interested in the Titanic and Swedish immigration. Well worth reading!

Wini Caudell  
Illinois Ancestors

## UPDATE ON RECENT SWEDISH EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

by Newkirk Johnson of Warren, PA

On June 28th, I gave a brief presentation at Vasa Order of America Thule Lodge #127 about a fact that all members might be interested in: more people emigrated from Sweden in 2011 than in any other year including the peak emigration years in the late 1800s!

According to Statistiska Centralbyrån, 50,786 people left Sweden in 1887; in 2011 51,179 Swedes emigrated. Of course, the 1887 figure represents a larger percentage of Sweden's population at that time than in 2011. The record-breaking 2011 emigration is notable though.

Further, while record numbers of Swedes are leaving, record numbers of people from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Somalia, and other countries are immigrating. In 2011, more than 80,000 expatriates arrived in Sweden. In recent years this figure has approached 100,000. They are arriving by the thousands as refugees are intentionally brought in by the Swedish government. Most aren't skilled workers, cannot speak or read Swedish, and are indifferent at best to Swedish cultural mores. In many immigrant communities unemployment hovers at 50 percent or more, thus most refugees are long-term dependents of Swedish taxpayers.

One political party has recently emerged in thoughtful opposition to self-destructive mass immigration policies. Sverige Demokraterna won representation in the Riksdag for the first time in 2010, and current public opinion polls suggest they are now the third most popular political party in the country.

Sverige Demokraterna will likely increase their representation in the Riksdag in the next election in 2014 thereby augmenting their ability to affect substantive change to mass immigration policies.

## In Memoriam

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

### CALIFORNIA

**ELVIN TAYLOR**, our brother and friend, died May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Elvin was born November 18, 1916, in San Bernardino, CA. He joined Oak Leaf Lodge #686 on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1985 and was an active member taking on the role of treasurer for many years as well as past chairman. Elvin will be remembered for securing the Cameron Center for our meetings and always willing to help where needed with a smile. He and his wife, who preceded him in death, lived in Newbury Park, CA. He had been ill for some time and was living in "The Reserve" retirement home in Thousand Oaks, CA.

### MASSACHUSETTS

**CLARA DOROTHEA (ANDERSON) ELLNER** age 94 passed away on May 5, 2012. She was born Sept. 26, 1917 in Brooklyn, N.Y. and lived in Worcester, Holden and West Yarmouth, MA. Clara and her husband Harry Gustaf Ellner (deceased 2008) joined the newly formed Nordic Lodge #611 on Sept. 26, 1940. She always valued her Nordic and Vinland Lodge friends as she participated and volunteered in all activities as a Vasa member for 71 years. She leaves her daughters, Dorothy and Judy and three grandchildren, Erik, Bethany and Kierstin and one great-granddaughter Gabrielle.

### FLORIDA

**DAGMAR E. SHEEHY** was born May 24, 1912 in Chicago, IL. She lived to see her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dagmar died on June 1, 2012 in Miami, Florida, where she attended Miami Lodge #554. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, John H. Ostrom in 1946. Dagmar was the oldest and longest serving member of our lodge, with 76 years of active membership. She is survived by her children DeAnna, Noel, Dennis, Christina, Barbara, and Loretta, grandchildren Dana, Doreen, Kari, Jill, Clinton and Denny, great grandchildren Zachary, Courtney, Alexander, Katherine, Christopher and Isabella. There are also many nieces, nephews and relatives in Sweden who will miss her. Dagmar was a loving mother who raised her children on her own, always sacrificing to give them everything she possibly could. She will be missed by all.

### OHIO

**ERIC O. ARVIDSON**, 78, died on May 11, 2012. Eric was the loving husband of the late Maria, beloved twin brother of Emil S., and step-father of Gerda (Gunner) Maidhof and their children Sylvia, Katia, and Peter who live in Germany. He also leaves his nieces, Penny Arvidson Richards and Pamela Hooley with families. Eric's parents, Sture and Hilma (Johnson) Arvidsson, sister Betty Kuederle, sister-in-law Betty Arvidson are deceased. Eric was a 50 year member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 having joined in 1961.

**JUNE R. EDWARDSSEN**, loving wife of the late John, passed away on April 12, 2012, at the age of 91. She was a loving mother to Jon and Robert; grandmother of Lisa, Joanna, Eric, Jason, Joel, and Jenelle; great-grandmother of five; sister of the late Lynn Lasch. June enjoyed traveling, reading, the arts, and had a love for animals. She joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 in 1998.

**VIOLA A. HADLEY (nee Carlson)**, 91, passed away on April 11, 2012. She was the beloved wife of the late Floyd D., dearest mother of Robert (wife, Linnea), and loving grandmother of Robert Carl Hadley. Viola joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 in Cleveland, OH, in 1999, and was an active member of the Tuesday Breakfast Club.

**DOROTHY E. ROBINSON** passed away April 17, 2012, at the age of 95. She was born August 12, 1917, in Steubenville, OH, and was initiated in Harmony Lodge #465 in 1979. She leaves two sons, Raymond Benson and Mason Evans, as well as a granddaughter, Amy Kness. Her husband, Lewis R. Robinson, passed away November 25, 1976.

**WILLIAM H. SWEIGARD**, 85, passed away on May 6, 2012. He was married for 61 years to the late Livia (nee Roolecht). He leaves his children Lembit and Margus (Vicki); grandchildren Hilary Evers (Craig) and Heather, great-grandfather of Emaline; dear brother of Lucille Sweigard, Richard (Elaine) and the following deceased: Twila Bean, Pauline Armstrong, and Ruth Sweigard. Bill joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on September 9, 2007.

### PENNSYLVANIA

**KERMIT A. ANTONSON**, 84, passed away on March 5, 2012, after a brief illness. Born March 9, 1927, in Chicago, IL. Kermit resided in Hanover, PA, at the time of his death. He was a member of Drott Lodge #168 for over 66 years and during his active years spent many hours visiting sick members. Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Anna Belle Antonson, also a Drott member.

**DAGMAR MOELLER JOHNSON**, born in Denmark on November 17, 1919, passed away at home in Camp Hill, PA on April 10, 2012, at the age of 92. She met her Swedish born husband shortly after arriving USA. Dagmar was a member of Drott Lodge #168 for nearly 50 years. She was predeceased by her son Sven Eric and husband Karl. Survivors include a brother and daughter Karen Yeager and family.

**LOIS HIGH JOHNSON**, 91, of Silver Spring MD, died January 1, 2012. Born on June 17, 1920, in Bertrand, NE. Lois and her husband Ellery moved to Washington, DC, after WWII, where they raised four children. An avid genealogist, Lois and her husband joined Drott Lodge #168 in June 1981. She is survived by two daughters, one son, and two granddaughters.

**JUANITA SODERMAN PEARSON**, a long-time resident of Bethesda, MD, died at the age of 88 on March 19, 2012. Born in Gladstone, MI, on March 18, 1924, Juanita was proud of her Swedish-Finnish roots and learned Swedish as an adult, immersing herself into genealogical research. A member of Drott Lodge #168, Juanita is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren.

### MICHIGAN

**ERWIN OSCAR KVAL** passed away on November 17, 2011, in Grand Blanc, MI. He was born July 11, 1929, in Lisbon, ND. Erwin was a member of Viking #730 and the American Legion. He is survived by his wife Donah, children Patricia and husband Kevin, Timothy and wife Tanya, and several grandchildren.

**HOWARD WEAVER**, 88, passed away on March 15, 2012, in Flint, MI. Born July 1, 1923, in Indianapolis, IN, Howard was very active in Viking Lodge #730. He retired as Curator of Historical Crossroads Village. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy. He leaves a daughter, Susan and her husband Darrel, and loving life partner Ruth.

### RHODE ISLAND

**CARL E. LUNDBOHRM** passed away on January 7, 2012, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Sweden on December 27, 1921 and came to the USA in 1938 at the age of 17. He attended public and military schools in Sweden and was an accomplished musician. During WWII he joined the US Army paratroopers and was seriously injured. He earned a B.S. in Physical Education and a M.S. in Physical Therapy. He taught and coached in both the Hopkinton and Charho School systems, and started two recreation centers in the

late fifties. He received many commendations for his work with children. Carl served on the Hopkinton Town Council from 1968-1972, on the building committees of Ashaway Elementary School and Trinity Lutheran Church.

He and his wife joined Quahog Lodge in 1980 and he soon became chairman. In April 1998-April 1991 he served as DM in VOA District #3. He is remembered for his many years of service at Little Rhody Vasa Park in Foster, RI. He was an inveterate member of the "Thursday Morning Boys." His dedication was instrumental to getting many of the improvement projects completed over the years. When he was unable to physically volunteer, his spirit and support continued to influence the other members of the group. Vasa was a big part of Carl's life!

Carl was predeceased by his parent, Ebba Kristina Forsberg Lundbom and Karl Ernst Lundbom, a sister, Stina and husband Emil Svenson, sister Gudrun and husband Gösta Ossmo. He has two nieces and their families in Sweden. He has been married to Dorothy Ballestaci Lundbohm for 61 years and they have two children, Karin Lundbohm Liese and husband Ronald, son Eric and wife Joan, 4 grandsons, Justin Liese and wife Kaitlin, Kyle Liese and wife Erin, Björn Liese and fiancé Catherine Bartholomae, and Adrian Lundbohm, granddaughter Kristin Lundbohm and one great grandson Travis Liese. He is missed by many!

### VIRGINIA

**ANNA INGBORG (ANDERSON) SEIDEL** passed away on June 22, 2012, at her home in Charlottesville, VA, at the age of 90. Born on November 11, 1921, in Yonkers, NY, to Alfred and Helen Anderson, Anna was a member of

Gota Lejon Lodge #84 in New York. She was predeceased by her sister Agnes H. Anderson and brother Alf G. Anderson. She married the late Wallace E. Seidel on October 18, 1942 in Mount Vernon, NY, moving to Washington DC, in 1951 and Alexandria, VA, in 1956. Anna raised four children, attending Northern Virginia Community College and earning an AA degree in 1975, magna cum laude. She worked as a secretary in the Pentagon Dept. of Defense and Office of Atomic Energy until her retirement in 1990. She will be remembered by sons Alfred Seidel of Boulder, CO, and Wesley Seidel of Ascot, U.K., and her daughters Sandra Seidel of Charlottesville and Lisa Salinas of Viera, FL.

## MEMORIAL NOTICES

should be mailed with check or money order to: Annelie Lindberg, 105 Gorrión Ave., Ventura, CA 93004. Phone: 805-672-0032. E-mail: vasaeditor@earthlink.net. The fee is \$8.00 for 1 column inch. Longer obituaries will be charged a flat rate of \$25.00. All notices MUST be typed and WRITTEN in a format similar to those in this column. NO newspaper clippings.

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