# THE VASA STAR
## VASASTJÄRNAN

WINTER 2014
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*

*Lucia with her attendants and starboys (*tärnor *and* stjärngossar*) at the Lidköping Lodge #636 Lucia Celebration on Dec. 14 —all from Dalängen School in Lidköping.*

# THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Vasa Brothers and Sisters,
Once again the Christmas/Jul holiday season has ended and we are blessed to begin another exciting year. I've seen beautiful pictures of your Lucia Pageants and hopefully you were able to share many evenings with family and friends.

Before this article is actually in your hands I will have had the opportunity to see several of you at your 2014 conventions. It is surprising that I am entering my last four months as your Grand Master. The time has flown by and Sheila and I have many lovely lifelong friends because of our Vasa experiences across the United States, Canada and Sweden. There is so much to look forward to in the coming year. The Grand Lodge Convention in Rye, New York is fast approaching.

I'm pleased with the delegate choices you have made and know they will represent you well. Their task is monumental as they will be required to make decisions that will affect the future of the Order and especially the future of the Vasa National Archives. I often hear members want change which can only happen through decisions made at a convention every four years. Your delegates need to come prepared to vote for these changes.

The Education Fund is secure going into the future but funding for the operation of our Archives remains challenging. The Archives is a part of the Vasa Order. It is a child of the Order and needs to be protected and cared for as we care for our children. Operation of the Archives, the Archivist salary and housing and maintenance of the buildings are the responsibility of us, the members. Delegates to the 2014 convention will be asked to support suggestions by the Grand Lodge Board to responsibly face the future and decide how to fund expenses. Monthly support cannot be left to volunteer fundraisers such as the Heritage and Jul Gran Fundraisers. Fundraisers are nice additions but they don't "keep the lights on". We only gain a few thousand dollars annually through the two fundraisers. It is disappointing that only a few hundred of over ten thousand members donate to fundraisers. Do you really see an aging membership increasing donations to fundraising efforts to secure future financing for the Archives? I don't. It costs approximately $80,000.00 to fund the Archives annually. In 2010 I promised to be transparent as well as honest. The most honest fact I can share with you is that you as members of the Vasa Order of America wherever you live; whether you are willing or able to visit; whether you are personally interested in your genealogy or the past; the Archives belongs to you. You are its owner.

No one wants to hear about increases in dues but we must face facts. I have given my heart to supporting all branches of the Vasa Order while serving on the Grand Lodge Board over the past twelve years, especially the last four years as your Grand Master, and I cannot do more without your financial help and support. Support your delegates who will make necessary decisions in July. Realistically, I don't see an aging membership increasing donations through fundraising, therefore we all must act as adult owners and pay the bills. I am taking the responsibility to be the voice that tells you that members must face an increase in dues of at least $5.00 annually to support the Archives going forward. I'm asking you for understanding and support. You do not belong to an organization that is too frugal to take care of itself!

Another area that needs funding is travel expense for your Grand Lodge officers. Members just like you offer to take leadership positions. They are required to give of their personal time and money to represent you. If you want to see and hear from these leaders who you've elected we need to offer travel expense so they can join you at your conventions. They need to be able to see and hear from members in their regions. I am hopeful that we will make decisions in July that make this financial support available.

I'm looking forward to hearing your thoughts and concerns as we approach the 2014 convention and hope many of you will attend the convention as guests. Renewing friendships as well as making new ones enhances our lives as well as the organization.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
BILL LUNDQUIST, GRAND MASTER

## Official Call for Meeting

As required by the Constitution for Grand Lodge, Article IV, this notice constitutes the official call for the quadrennial meeting of the Grand Lodge, Vasa Order of America on July 4-11, 2014 at the Hilton Westchester, Rye, New York / p24

## 'Dopp i Grytan'

Thule Lodge #127 completed its 106th year in the Jamestown/Bemus Point area. The lodge and its members have had a busy year of Swedish events, and concluded the year with the annual *Dopp i Grytan* in the middle of December.. / p26

## Luciafest in Indiana

Over 115 people gathered as Nordikids No. 208 celebrated Luciafest in Highland, Indiana. Many Vasa officers were in attendance for the program, luncheon and an afternoon filled with craft sales, raffles, glögg and games for the children. / p32

## Poet of Nature, Cyberspace...

Harry Martinsson, Nobel Prize winner in literature 1974 started his life with a poor childhood. His father died when Harry was 6 and his mother disappeared the following year moving to the US leaving all the children behind. / p33


ARCHIVE NEWS » P23 GRAND LODGE NEWS » P25 DISTRICT LODGE NEWS » P26 LODGE NEWS » P26 YOUTH NEWS » P22 LANGUAGE AND CULTURE » P33 IN MEMORIAM » P35

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This issue of The Vasa Star brings you scenes from our most-treasured holiday, our Lucia celebrations and the many favorite dishes served at smörgåsbord. You will read about special times when Vasa friends and family have come together to relive traditions that have been handed down through the generations from Sweden. What a treasure we have in the Vasa Order where we can share these wonderful traditions.

Among our members there are many interesting occupations. A member of Lindbergh Lodge #494 in Los Altos, California has an especially interesting occupation. I know you'll enjoy reading her article as she tells about her assignment narrating the story of a pioneer family in Kansas.

The Grand Lodge Convention will soon be here and it is time to start planning your trip. District New York No. 4 has planned many interesting trips for your enjoyment. You will find information about the tours and how to make your reservations online. If you don't have a computer, there is a reservation form for you to fill in and mail. I look forward to seeing you in New York!

JOANIE GRAHAM
INTERIM EDITOR

## Editor's Note

With apologies to Stig S. Salgeback, Grand Lodge Cultural Director for Sweden, *Sweden and Some Swedes in the World*, Fall Issue, *The Vasa Star*, the Prime Minister's name, as submitted by Brother Stig, is Fredrik Reinfeldt, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic is described as belonging to the upper ten of all soccer players in the world.

### Deadlines for The Vasa Star

Spring Deadline » **March 15**
Summer Deadline » **June 30**

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

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

### How to submit Photos

Occasionally photos are submitted to Vasa Star that are not usable, and you're disappointed when your photo isn't used. Here are some guidelines to follow:

1. Best photos are taken with a digital camera or a cell phone camera. These are perfect when downloaded to a computer and emailed directly to the Editor. Please don't try to modify them, no tweaking, no changing to black and white.

2. Photographs can be scanned, but be sure they are good quality photographs, at least 4x6 in size. If you scan them, be sure they are saved as a .jpeg and 250-300 dpi. If you are not sure of the size, attach the original photograph.

3. Photos pasted into a Word document are difficult to work with, so whenever possible don't use this method. Send the photos separately, as an email attachment or as in #2 above.

4. Most importantly, be sure to include a caption naming each person (if it's a small group.)


NORDSTJERNAN
*The Swedish Newspaper in America*

is proud to be of assistance in presenting *The Vasa Star*, *Vasastjärnan* in a new format, in print and digitally.
*Nordstjernan* has been reporting on current events in Swedish America since September, 1872.

**Kenneth T. Jackson**, Professor of History at Columbia University and Editor-in-chief, *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, said it best:
*"Over the past century and a half, more newspapers were published in New York than in any other city in the world, in large part because of the huge foreign-born community and the variety of publications that the different ethnic groups spawned. Most had a brief and almost ephemeral life, but Nordstjernan has been remarkable for its long life and high quality. It not only helped Swedish immigrants adjust to life in a new world and a giant city, but it set a standard that other newspapers worked hard to emulate."*

**www.nordstjernan.com** • 1.800.827.9333 ext. 12
(Call now for a special if you are a Vasa member)


### *Family Tree Släktutredningar*

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

### Remember the Vasa Archives

*when you are making a memorial donation*
**Send your donations to:**
Vasa National Archives
PO Box 101, Bishop Hill, IL 61419

**DONATE** to the Education & Scholarship Funds
**Send your donations to:** Vasa Order of America, Joan Graham, Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Voting for a new chair person? No, it's exercise time at DL Norra Sverige Nr. 19 / **p26**

Olivia Larsson wears the Lucia crown at the Skogsblomman Lodge #378 . / **p27**

Colors, Adjectives
Possessive Pronouns
The Peculiar 'sin'

Svenska Språkhörnan — The Swedish Language corner. Siv Swan-Piersson gives us her fifth chapter to Intro to Swedish. / **p34**


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# ARCHIVES NEWS

## Family Stories: Never Forgotten

THE ARCHIVE WAS HONORED TO RECEIVE A MONEY DONATION FROM MR. AND MRS. MENDELSON "WHO DIVIDE THEIR TIME BETWEEN COLORADO AND CALIFORNIA" I AM SHARING WHAT MRS. MENDELSON SUBMITTED ABOUT HER FAMILY.

This is a brief history of my parents, Edwin & Alma (Kallquist) Nelson and their immigration to the USA.

My father being the youngest of five brothers (the four older brothers immigrated to America already) tended the family farm in Öland. He left Öland in 1916, went through the Ellis Island process and was ready to start his new life in America. His first stop was Seattle, WA to visit my mother's sister. He then hired on a sailing ship to Alaska to seek out his fortune during the 'gold rush' – good experience, hard work, but no fortune. Dad went back to Seattle, worked as a carpenter for three years, learning enough to bring my mother to America. They settled in Seattle for a short time (my sister, Wilma, was born there). All of dad's four older brothers lived in the Chicago area. He felt he wanted to be closer to them. He then moved the family to the south side of Chicago, where I was born and they joined the Bessemer Lodge #203. It was the 'great depression' time – difficult days. Dad worked at his trade when jobs were available – then came World War II. He was offered a job in the British West Indies for a special government project as a foreman. Upon completion of this assignment he returned to Chicago. He and a friend started a business of buying older houses, remodeling them and selling. They did very well.

In 1951, Mom and Dad were convinced they had enough of Chicago winters and decided now is the time for 'sunshine'. Hitched a trailer to their auto and away they went to sunny California (Los Angeles). Dad then bought a piece of land and he built a lovely house for all of us to live in.

Being dedicated to the Vasa organization Mom and Dad immediately joined the Golden Valley Lodge #616, Van Nuys, CA in 1952, served as officers, committee members, etc. Dad built many things for the lodge hall and Vasa Park. They dedicated the rest of their lives to the Vasa organization and loved every minute of it.

**Edwin Nelson**
Born: Feb. 2, 1899 — Öland, Sweden
Died: Nov. 8, 1986
**Alma Nelson**
Born: April 1, 1898 — Öland, Sweden
Died: June 27, 1981

They are buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Hollywood Hills, Los Angeles, CA

SUBMITTED BY MRS. MENDELSON

We thank Mrs. & Mrs. Mendelson for the gift and wish them a Happy New Year!

The records of most Swedish immigrants show a hardworking stubborn people with tough skin and the will to persevere. It was all in their blood. (Does this refer to Edwin or to all Swedish immigrants?)

We now look forward to a successful 2014, hoping we will be spared from natural disasters and other bad news. May friendship and love prevail.

I hope you will come and visit the Vasa Order National Archives in Bishop Hill, Illinois, during 2014. If you need directions or other advice, call the archives at 309-927-3898 or write to our email address: viktoria.vasaarchvies@gmail.com

The area offers excellent golf courses, a shopping center, a casino, restaurants, as well as boat tours on the Mississippi.

HAPPY NEW YEAR,
THE VASA ARCHIVES, VIKTORIA ALMGREN

### FAMILJEHISTORIER: ALDRIG GLÖMT

Arkivet fick äran att mottaga en summa pengar från Mr & Mrs Mendelson, Jag bad Fru Medelson skriva ner lite om sinaföräldrar vilket jag vill delge våra svenska läsare i sammandrag.

Fru Mendelsons far Edwin Nelson kom till USA 1916 som den yngsta av fem bröder, (Samtliga äldre bröderhade redan emigrerat till USA.) De var alla födda på Öland i Sverige. Hans första stopp var Seattle, WA, där hanträffade sin hustrus syster. Efter besöket mönstrade han på en båt som tog honom till Alaska där han sökte lyckan som guldgrävare. Detta gav inga pengar trots hårt arbete, så han for tillbaka till Seattle ocharbetade som snickare i tre år innan han fick ihop tillräckligt med pengar för att hämta hit sin fru, Alma. Alla Edwins bröderbodde i Chicago varför paret flyttade till södra Chicago, där de blev medlemmar i Besssemer lodge 203. Detvar depressionstider och Edwin tog de arbeten han kunde finna för att försörja sin familj. Sen kom andra världskrigetoch han blev erbjuden ett arbete i Västindien som förman för ett statligt projekt.När projektet var klart återvände han till Chicago. Tillsammans med en partner startade han ett företag som köpte, renoverade, och sålde hus. Det gick mycket bra för dem. 1951 hade Mamma och Pappa haft nog av vintrarna i Chicago och beslöt sig för att flytta till soliga Californien. (Los Angeles), where Edwin bought a lot och byggde ett underbart hus som bostad för oss alla. Mamma och Pappa blev medlemmar i Golden Valley Lodge No. 616 i Van Nuys 1962 och tjänstgjorde som officerare. Dad built many things for the lodge hall and the Vasa Park. Båda ägnade resten av sina liv till Vasa Orden och älskade det.

**Edwin Nelson** född på Öland Sverige 1899-02-02. Dog 1986-11-08

**Alma Nelson** född på Öland Sverige 1898-04-01. Dog 981-06-27

De är begravda i Forest Lawn Cemetery, Hollywood Hills, Los Angeles, CA

Vasarkivet tackar Herr & Fru Mendelson för gåvan och önskar dem ett Gott Nytt År.

Det Svenska blodet har mycket envishet i sig, Invandrarna var ett hårt arbetande folk med "skinn på näsan" och hade som motto att aldrig ge upp. Nu ser Vi fram mot ett härligt 2014, i vänskapen och kärlekens tecken och hoppas att vi blir förskonade frånnaturkatastrofer och tråkigheter.

Jag hoppas att det kommer många besökare till The Vasa Order Of America National Arkiv, Bishop Hill under2014. Om Ni behöver hjälp eller råd vid Er resa hit, hör av Er till Arkivet på tel309-927-3898eller mailadress:viktoria.vasaarchives@gmail.com

Området har ett flertal mycket fina golfbanor, shopping center, casino, restauranger, och andra upplevelser somen båt resa på Mississippi river.

GOTT NYTT 2014,
VASA ARCHIVES, VIKTORIA ALMGREN

## Heritage Fund Honor Roll of Donors

### May 1 to December 31, 2013 — Thank you for your generosity

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Vickstrom, Edward
Wallin, Charles
Whited, Noel O.
Zarli, Lily

# Reinhold "Jake" Gruel, 1933-2013

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing of Past Grand Lodge Executive Board Member-Midwest Region Jake Gruel on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. Jake served on the Executive Board during the term 2006-2010 and was currently the Grand Lodge Deputy to DL Lake Michigan No. 8. Jake also served on the Board of the Vasa National Archives as Secretary/Financial Secretary from 2006 until his passing. He was very active in the District, where he served as District Master, as well as in his own lodge, Linde No. 492.

Jake was a dedicated and faithful Vasa member and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Our condolences to Jake's wife Marge and to their four daughters and many grandchildren.

# Jul Grans – In Memory of Your Loved Ones

## Honor Roll of Donors — Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, 2013

## Thank you for your generosity

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Pantaleo, Vito
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Swinson, Ariann
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Taylor, Cal
Tegner, Arvid
Thomas, David W.
Thompson, Richard R.
Thurnquist, Eddie
Tornqvist, Linnea
Touve, Leslie
Underkoffler, Karin
Veis, Arlie
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Wallin, Charles
Weber, Nora L.
Weddington, Linnea
Westerback, Sonja
Whited, Noel O.
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Yockey, Ann

**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA**
A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

**GRAND LODGE**
Organized September 18, 1896 - Incorporated March 29, 1899

**OFFICIAL CALL FOR GRAND LODGE MEETING JULY 2014**

January 1, 2014

To: All Members of the Vasa Order of America
From: Joan Lindquist Graham, Grand Secretary

As required by the Constitution for Grand Lodge, Article IV, this notice constitutes the official call for the quadrennial meeting of the Grand Lodge, Vasa Order of America on July 4-11, 2014 at the Hilton Westchester, 699 Westchester Ave., Rye, New York.

In Truth and Unity,
Joan Lindquist Graham
Grand Secretary

# GRAND LODGE NEWS

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Frost, Ruby
Fulk, Birgit
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Janssen, Joseph & Elaine
Jansson, Kyle
Jensen, Lillian
Jernberg, Inger
Johanson, Eva
Johanson, Richard
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Johnson, Earl K. & Anna L.
Johnson, Edryce
Johnson, Edwin
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Johnson, Erma
Johnson, Evelyn
Johnson, Frances
Johnson, Harland
Johnson, Harold
Johnson, Ivan
Johnson, Jennifer
Johnson, Karin M.
Johnson, Karl
Johnson, Ken
Johnson, Lavone
Johnson, Lester
Johnson, Millie
Johnson, Newkirk
Johnson, Niel
Johnson, Raymond K.
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Karling, Maidie
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Larson, Jean
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Morgan, Kerstin
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Nilson, Hans & Elizabeth
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Nord, George
Nordby, Elsie
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O'Grady, Britt
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Olsen, Marianne
Olson, Florence
Olson, Richard
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Sandstrom, Lisa
Santora, Dorothy Baldwin
Saterstrom, Selma
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Schmutz, Alice
Schneble, Karen
Schneider, Ellen & Manfred
Schon, Lars
Schoonover, Linda
Schueman, Margaret
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Turner, William R.
Tylk, Linda
Veis, Arlie
Vickstrom, Edward
Viking Lodge #730
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Wahlmark, John
Wallace, David F.
Wallin, Chuck
Walters, Judith
Ward, Marian
Warden, Jane
Warns, Fred & Majken
Weeden, Christine
Welsh, Katarina
Westerback, Sonya J.
Whited, Noel
Widman, Helen
Widmark, Myrtle E.
Wiebke, Ingrid
Wieselquist, Erik, Jr.
Williams, Dorothy
Wilson, Kristi
Wilson, Steve
Wineman, Lou
Winkelman, Wendy
Wittenbrook, William
Wooster, Yasuko & Richard L., II
Wright, Dr. & Mrs. Curtis
Wyler, Viola
Yencer, Anna Stena
Yockey, Ann
Young, David & Carin
Zarli, Lily
Zeissler, Kimberly

# DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

## DL Norra Sverige Nr. 19 Culture Conference in Karlstad

At the District Meeting in May 2013 for District Lodge Norra Sverige Nr. 19, Charlotte Börjesson, Logen Göteborg Nr. 452 was elected Cultural Leader for the years 2013-2015. Charlotte organized a conference in Karlstad in October 2013 for the Cultural Leaders in the district with many participants.

One of the goals with the conference was to initiate activities and new cultural areas for our lodges in order to increase the number of members within the district. Vasa Order of America has to be more known in Sweden. We also have to spread the information that we are a Swedish-American friendship and cultural organization.

Logen Karlstad Nr. 632 had a lodge meeting where the Cultural Leaders were invited to join and we had a very nice time and dinner together with the lodge's members.

A popular initiative from CL Elsie Welin was her exercise-breaks we got during both days.

CHARLOTTE BÖRJESSON
DISTRICT CULTURAL LEADER

*Participants from the lodges, are from left in the back row, SLKL Stig Sälgeback – Karlstad nr 632, KL Gull-Britt Nurgberg – Skövde nr 626, KL Börje Lantz – Engelbrekt nr 619, KL Hans Malmborg – Stockholm nr 589, KL Elsie Welin – Kristina nr 656, KL Karl-Axel Andersson – Lidköping nr 636, DM Connie Grön - Lidköping nr 636, V KL Monica Olsson – Göteborg nr 452, Ann Lindell – Kongahälla nr 702, Carin Lundvall – Eskilstuna nr 633, Elisabeth Backmann - Karlstad nr 632, KL Kristina Lundin – Filbyter nr 714. Sitting from the left, Rolf Ström – Vadstena nr 762, DKL Charlotte Börjesson – Göteborg nr 452, KL Karl-Åke Claesson – Knallen nr 745, KL Barbro Bucht - Karlstad nr 632. Missing is KL Kerstin Larsson – Uddevalla nr 638. / Photographer Folke Lundvall*

# LODGE NEWS

*(Above, left to right) Olivia Olson, Ella Nichelini, Linnea Spencer, Keegan Lister and Victoria Gilbert*

*At the "Dopp i Grytan" preparing the cookies, are cultural leader Fanchon Fuller, assistant mistress of ceremony Bernice Veights, and vice chairman Susan W. Sipos.*

## Thule Lodge #127

JAMESTOWN-BEMUS POINT, NY / Thule Lodge #127 completed its 106th year in the Jamestown/Bemus Point area. The lodge and its members have had a busy year of Swedish events, and concluded the year with the annual *Dopp i Grytan* in the middle of December. There were several kinds dipping sauces to go with the breads, korv, pickled herring, ham, Swedish meatballs, potatoes, beets, and many kinds of cookies. Prior to the meal, the Swedish blessing was given by past cultural leader Allie Linnea Nelson Withers. Music was provided by accordionist Don Sandy. Thule Lodge looks forward to a new year of much activity and events, and always welcomes visitors to our lodge, located at 4123 Pancake Hill Road.

Elections for the year 2014 were held at the last meeting of the year. Tom Eckberg will serve as the lodge chairman; Jeffrey Anderson, past chairman; Susan W. Sipos, vice chairman; Lynn Meyers, secretary; Loretta Smith, treasurer; Donna Sandberg, financial secretary; Fanchon Fuller, cultural leader; Diane K. Shaw, chaplain; Donna Johnson and Bernice Veights, mistresses of ceremony; and inner and outer guardsmen Don Carlson and Gene Smith. Past District Master Edwin Sandberg led the installation ceremony. Thule Lodge will be taking a mid-winter break of meetings due to the unpredictable winter weather, and will begin again in March. Thule Lodge members wish all a Happy New Year in 2014, and that the new year is just as successful as last year. "God dag" to all.

JOHN SIPOS

## Tegnér Lodge #149

OAKLAND, CA /About 50 members and friends attended the Lucia pageant and smorgasbord on December 14. Lucia this year was Linnea Spencer, daughter of Celeste and John Spencer of Redding, CA. She is a senior at Shasta High School and a member of the school band, and soft-ball and soccer teams. She plans to go to college next year and study to become a registered nurse.

Linnea is the granddaughter of the late long-time Tegner members Dorinda and Walter Nyland. Linnea said she was one and one half years old the first time she participated in one of Tegner's Lucia programs at the instigation of Grandma Dorinda. The Lucia attendants this year were Victoria Gilbert, Olivia Olson, Ella Nichelini, Annika Zamorra, Keegan Lister, Joacim Zamorra, Emily Serraon, and Alexander Serraon.

In November, about 35 members and friends of the Lodge celebrated Tegner's 105th Anniversary with lunch at Pier 29 in Alameda, CA. After we finished eating, remarks were made by Chairman Ken Weisenborn and several guests, Kathryn Hughes presented a short talk about Frederick Soderberg, Swedish architect. We concluded with the Tegner Singers, assisted by Tore Kellgren, leading a sing-a-long of "Halsa dem darhemma".

ANN TENNIS

## Scandia Lodge #23

MANCHESTER, CT / Here is the Christmas gathering of Scandia Lodge #23 on December 12, 2013 at the Nutmeg Restaurant in East Windsor, CT. From left around the table: Clara Stowell, Judy Anderson, Gail Porter, Rosemary Hokanson, Karen and Al Davis, Paul Berg, Sylvia and Mel Hellstrom, Earl Werdelin and June Roncarti. Missing from the photo was Judy Mitrowski. A good time was had by all.

JUNE JONCARTI

# LODGE NEWS

## *Family Tree Släktutredningar*

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

*Scandinavian Festival founder, Monitor member, Arlie Veis, grandson Adam Johnson and Karin Johnson, Monitors' Chairperson 2013.*

## Monitor Lodge #218

SACRAMENTO, CA / Newly elected 2013 chairperson Karin Johnson, started with Vasa in Monitor's Children Club in 1964. Both of her parents are past chairpersons. Nice to see continuity in Vasa.

There were many well attended events during the year starting with our 101st anniversary in March where Birgitta Ellis received her 50 year pin. Programs included Swedish lessons with a clever version of Swedish Jeapardy. Our Midsummer in May was a potluck smorgasbord with dancing around a maypole built by James Netzel set up in our meeting room. Dancing led by Barry Moore. August crayfish party at the Netzels and Sillfrukost at the Carlsons. Monitor was a big contributor to the 30th annual Scandinavian Festival. The program book included the history of its beginning provided by Festival founder Arlie Veis. The annual Smorgasbord was headed by Peggy Carlson and Deedee Dahlberg with entertainment provided by a trio of Nykelharper players, searched out by Barry Moore.

Our Lucia this year was Tess Ellis, granddaughter of Birgitta Ellis, the director. Karin Johnson assisted and Gail Nemy and Tom Anderson accompanied with keyboard. A visit by Santa Claus, Eric Swanson, followed. A great year with the addition of nine new members and looking forward to 2014 with anticipation.

ARLIE VEIS

## Drott Lodge #168

WASHINGTON, DC / The months of October through December are the busiest for members of Drott Lodge, what with our own bazaar, bazaars of other organizations, and preparations for the St. Lucia Festival and Jul Party. November 2nd Drott mounted its 34th Annual Swedish Bazaar, with sales of imported foods and gifts, homemade baked goods, and a full café serving meatballs, open-faced sandwiches, pea soup, and traditional Swedish desserts. The DC area fiddle group Spelmanslaget entertained shoppers as did Drott member Paul Carlson and some of his private fiddle students. Workers included members, friends and families of Drott members.

Alas, the weather gods were against us in December, and we had to cancel our Lucia Pageant and Jul Party. Our wise chair made the difficult call on Saturday evening. Our chosen 2013 Lucia will reign for a second year.

But in disappointment comes opportunity, and Drott will begin the New Year with a Tjugondag Knut celebration. In Sweden families historically close out the holiday season 20 days after Christmas with a party that involves singing Christmas songs, dancing around the tree, plundering the Christmas tree, "shoving it out the door," and enjoying candies and remaining sweets. All our Lucia families will be invited to participate and to go "fishing for gifts and goody bags" at our January meeting.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL WHITLEY

## Svea Lodge #348

SAN JOSE, CA / A Lucia Pageant on December 8th graced by Sofia Eva Olsson as Lucia, and Christmas Dinner on December 20th capped a year of cultural events and fellowship for Svea Lodge #348 in San Jose California. Families and friends enjoyed the beauty of the Lucia Pageant with the hall filled to capacity. The Zaida Singers performed their lovely Swedish choral music, and of course Santa made his exciting visit with gifts.

Members and guests delighted in the traditional Christmas smörgåsbord dinner. After dinner, Jan, Kikki and Michael Nordin led us in folk dancing and singing around the Christmas tree. Jan directed the dancing and singing accompanied by Kikki and Michael on their violins.

Throughout the year members participated in numerous cultural and fellowship events. A cultural activity of special note is the Swedish language study group that has met weekly at a restaurant. The group includes all levels from native speakers to beginners.

An active hiking group visited various Bay Area parks. Their hikes ranged from misty redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains, to vistas in the Diablo range, to viewing San Francisco Bay at Shoreline Park. The Shoreline Park hike included three generations of the Lilian and Rolf Rejbrand family. This hike had the largest number of participants for the year.

Our Lodge thanks all of its dedicated members who generously donated their time and talents. You made a successful 2013 for Svea 348.

Svea Lodge looks forward to 2014 with a full schedule planned once again.

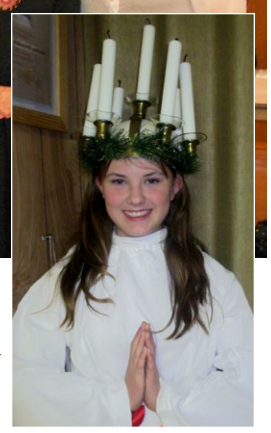
EMMA HANLON

## Skogsblomman Lodge #378

PRESTON, WA / Skogsblomman Lodge in Preston, Washington (on the Eastside of Seattle) celebrated its annual Julfest on December 8th, 2013. The delightful St. Lucia procession and skit "The Mice Celebrate Christmas" were directed by Obert Ronnestad and Alexa Lowe. Afterwards, all the youth attending the Julfest were greeted by Santa Claus. A traditional Swedish Julbord, live music and beautiful decorating were presented by various talented members of Skogsblomman.

SHAWN THORNSBERRY

*Lucia performers from left to right - Olivia Larsson, Erica Larson, Kenley Larsson, Violette Lowe, Aidan Thornsberry, Aiden Lowe, Colin Larsson.*



*LaVonne Heighway (seated); Viola Abbott, Cindy Gast, David Duff, Jean Bang, Dennis Danielson, Edward Hultgren, Marvin Anderson, John Gundersen, Jerry Alfredson, Charlotte Swenson, and Jean Tygum. Lucia – Ellen Björk-Griffith*

# Svea Lodge #253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / New Member Dennis Grasso was initiated in October. Svenska Klass honored LaVonne Heighway for her many years of leading the class. LaVonne was presented with a framed proclamation, gifts, cards, and flowers. Carin Young presented the program "Swedish Royalty Update", highlighting royal baby Estelle and newly married Princess Madeleine and Christopher O'Neill.

In November Richard Wilson was initiated. The Slate of Officers for 2014 were elected. Ann-Katrin Roth presented the program "Ångermanland Landskap", the province located in middle Sweden. Its eastern coastline is called Höga Kusten (High Coast); as glaciers melted, geologic uplift resulted.

Luciafest on December 8th was coordinated by Ulla Williams, and featured glögg, the Swedish Emporium, raffle, and the Children's Corner. Kathy Danielson created a stunning quilt. Julmiddag Smörgåsbord was served. Judy and George Spencer brought julkarva (wheat and oat sheaves) harvested from their farm.

Lucia was Ellen Björk-Griffith, 14 years old daughter of Barbara Griffith and Ulf Jonas Björk. Ellen is a freshman at North Central High School, where she is on the girls' soccer team and plays French horn in the Symphonic Winds Band. She has visited Sweden every year, attended school there two semesters, and is fluent in Swedish. Two attendants were her sisters Annika and Sarah. The Svea Singers, directed by Eija Vesterqvist and accompanied by Annette Johansson, presented a musical program. Following dessert, a raffle drawings and a visit from Jultomte (Scott Clarkson), John Seest led the Nordic dancing.

JOELLA D. HULTGREN

*Sara Brevick, Linnea Lodge Lucia for 2013*

# Linnea Lodge #504

PETALUMA, CA / At the Oktoberfest Trish Terrell gave prizes for the best child and adult costume! Cultural Leader Oscar Carlson gave a very interesting presentation on "Halloween witches in Sweden." Speaking of witches, have you read "Whispers in the Church" by Charlene Hanson Jordan? Very interesting book!

Linnea Lodge's 86th anniversary luncheon in November was at the La Gare French restaurant in Santa Rosa. Attending was the District Master, Corky Peterson and her husband, Mike, the District Treasurer.

On December 8th our St. Lucia Festival was attended by 220 guests. Swedish födoämne of Jansson's Frestelse, sillsallad, herring, glögg, plus many other Swedish dishes were served. A great job was done by Tom Clark as the Master of Ceremonies kept the ball rolling and Christine Mander and family entertained us with Swedish Christmas Songs. Guests then danced around the Christmas tree to Swedish music. Then, who should appear? Santa (Oscar Carlson) with gifts for all the children! The fun filled night ended with everyone singing "Silent Night".

LINDA OLSON PEARL

# Nord Lodge #392

STOCKTON, CA / On Sunday December 15, 2013 Nord Lodge hosted its annual St. Lucia celebration. This year we were inspired to celebrate St. Lucia in a grand way. As most others, our lodge has experienced a decline in membership and attendance. Our goal was to create a Lucia celebration in which people will feel welcomed, entertained and want to come back year after year. We advertised on many community websites and were blessed enough to have our Lucia celebration featured as a story in our local paper! After which our reservation count went up dramatically! We decorated the hall beautifully with lights, snowflakes, and other festive décor. We set up the stage as a family room complete with a fireplace and all! We hosted a traditional Smorgasbord with appetizers, salads, cookies, Lucia buns and many traditional Scandinavian dishes including Swedish meatballs, Korv and Jansson's temptation just to name a few. For entertainment we had ballet dancers, a bells choir and a Finnish musician. We also had short video segments on each Scandinavian country and of course the children's club performed traditional Swedish folkdances followed by the St. Lucia procession. For the kids we had a hot cocoa table with lots of toppings and a visit from Tomte aka Santa Claus. We are very proud to say that we had approximately 110 attendees this year and were told it was the best Lucia celebration EVER! We are very pleased with the outcome and look forward to our 2014 celebration!

DARCI TORRES

*(Left) Lauren Cisna as Santa Lucia with sisters Jenna (right) and Marinn (middle), and brothers Jake and Colt. / (Right) Jim Nolan as Saint Nick.*

# Bishop Hill Lodge #683

BISHOP HILL, IL / Bishop Hill Lodge had their 2013 Christmas Smorgasbord on Dec. 7th. We had 80 people in attendance. The night started with a prayer in Swedish lead by Morris Nelson. The food was great with many different types of Swedish dishes – meat balls, potato sausage, lutfisk, herring, boiled potatoes, red cabbage, rice pudding, custard, and many others.

After dinner Saint Nick made an appearance and handed out treats to all the good boys and girls. Our Lucia Program was next and what a wonderful sight with candles and music. Lauren Cisna was our Lucia. Next, we sang Christmas songs with the help of Shawn Cisna on the piano.

There were many that attended from the Archives – Grand Master William Lundquist and his wife Sheila; Past Grand Master Rolf Bergman and his wife Marty; two Past District Masters Sten Hult, with wife Nancy, and Tom Cleveland; and Vice District Master Mike Pearson, Sr. and his wife.

The night ended with our raffle, always a lot of fun.

JEFF ANDERSON

# Lindbergh Lodge #494

LOS ALTOS, CA / Lindbergh Lodge's fall season with our first Member Appreciation Dinner!

The October meeting and dinner began socially with sipping, chatting and light jazz by our own house band of Jack, Doug, Hans and Hans' son Johan. Following the meeting we enjoyed a traditional Oktoberfest dinner prepared by Laila, Gun, Malle, Ronni and Suzanne. Birthday songs were sung, in English and Swedish. Suzanne presented a program highlighting events that occur in Sweden in October.

Congratulations were expressed to Muriel's son, Greg Beroza, for being awarded the Gutenberg Medal of the European Geosciences Union for "outstanding contributions to seismology."

The Lodge Picnic and Barbecue was held on a gorgeous sunny day at the Margit and Björn's home beside their pool with the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains as backdrop.

In November our annual Soup Supper featured Anna's famous salmon soup, and a hearty soup of lentils and sausage. Susanne presented a program of This Week-end in Sweden.

In early December, under Dave's direction, wine-loving members Chuck (bottling), Betsy and Hans (labeling), Gun (capping), TJ (cap-shrinking), Birgitta (assisting generally) bottled a selected barrel of wine at Thomas Kruse Winery turning out 23 cases of wine.

December's highlight was the celebration of Christmas with Luciafest. We began with Björn's tempting glög. The smorgasbord included a sumptuous array of traditional Swedish food. The beautiful Lucia procession with white-robed Lucia and attendants wearing crowns of lights was thrilling. The large entourage of tärnor and tomtar included many of our own children. Jovial Santa arrived bringing a gift for each child. Many joined in dancing around the Christmas tree and down the aisles accompanied by Hans' accordion. Birgitta's and Tore's granddaughter played a holiday tune on her trumpet to everyone's enjoyment. A raffle was conducted with many lucky winners. Gott Nytt År till alla!

BETSY NILSON

# Lindbergh Lodge #494

LOS ALTOS, CA / When one enters the American Legion hall where Lindbergh Lodge #494 gathers monthly, it is customarily a warm, inviting feeling. However, on this one evening a year, the God Jul cheer is flowing freely, as well as glögg, and excited giggles of children running around.

The usual kitchen crew is busy in the steamy galley, preparing an elaborate Jul bord. Then the long-awaited words: "Dinner is ready!" which send a rush of people upstairs to claim their seats.

Eventually, everyone has had their fill of the excellent holiday meal. Suddenly the lights go out and the room grows silent. There appears a glow in the doorway to the hall, and sweet young voices begin singing the familiar, heartwarming strains of "Sankta Lucia". The electronic candles glow atop the heads of the girls as they walk slowly to the front of the room, followed by handmaidens, then the stjärngosse, and sometimes the nisse After singing several carols, they process back out of the hall, the lights are turned up, and Tomte comes in with a great big bag of presents for all children!

We draw out the celebration as long as we can, and when the hour grows late, we all pitch in together to clean up the hall and kitchen, so that we leave the place cleaner than we found it. Then it is back home we go, feeling warm and grateful that we have such a close-knit group of friends with which to celebrate our Scandinavian heritage.

ANN MARIE RICHARDSON

# Solidaritet Lodge #396

MOUNT VERNON, WA / Our Year in Summary: Our year 2013 has been busy right from our first meeting and "Dansa Julen ut" party in January up to our wonderful Santa Lucia celebration in December.

Every month (except in summer) we had our 2nd Sunday business- and social meeting, as well as our popular 3rd Saturday pancake breakfast, which serves up to 400 people each month. Another regular event is our 4th Sunday Scandinavian dance which draws participants from as far away as Seattle and Vancouver B.C.

We celebrated Midsummer with dancing on our lawn around the decorated pole and afterward a potluck dinner and more dancing, all accompanied by live music of the Skandia Kapell band from Seattle. In October we had our Bazaar/Craft Fair, with lovely crafts for sale plus a coffee corner with pea soup and Swedish delicacies.

On December 8 our Santa Lucia celebration featured 15-year old Kiersten Papritz, the granddaughter of long-time member Maria Papritz, as Lucia. Kiersten has been part of the Santa Lucia pageant ever since she was a toddler, as have her two brothers and several cousins. After the formal celebration we all enjoyed a great smorgasbord, plus dancing around the Christmas tree to live music by accordionist Curt Tveit.

We end with Happy New Year greetings from our lodge to yours.

WILLY EVANS

# Sierra Kronan Lodge #737

ROSEVILLE, CA / Hello to everyone from Sierra Kronan Lodge #737. Here's a snapshot view of lodge activities for the past several months. Our picnic in July was a blast! We visited Gold Bug Park in Placerville, which included among other activities, a "Trip Back to the 1800s" via a self-guided hard rock gold-mining tour. In August we joined Monitor Lodge #218 at their annual Kräftskiva; always a fun time to perfect our skills at peeling the crayfish. At our 'welcome back' meeting in the fall, we congratulated and wished the best to one of our newer members, Elissa Peterson on her marriage to Daniel Silveira the 21st of September. In October Sierra Kronan participated in the 30th annual Sacramento Scandinavian Festival, which was born out of our involvement with floats in the local Camellia Festival Parades. We've enjoyed various cultural talks including one on the 7,000 Danish Jews granted asylum by Sweden in 1943 and another on the history of Runes. On December 13th we celebrated our Lucia program, Jul Fest and Glögg party – a good time was had by all. GOD JUL och GOTT NYTT ÅR.

CAROL NESEWICH

# Scandia Lodge #728

PRESCOTT, AZ / Scandia Lodge presented Mina Robitaille as its St. Lucia on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Her attendant was her older sister Stephanie Robitaille, from San Diego, CA, who had served as Lucia several years earlier. Mina is 11 years old and in the 6th grade in Oakland, CA, where she is an Honor student. She loves to sing and play the guitar and is an avid reader. She is the granddaughter of Scandia member Elin Myers, who was celebrating her 90th birthday the same week. The lodge held its annual Smorgasbord and Lucia Fest, with many members and guests enjoying the traditional foods and music of our Scandinavian heritage. A Christmas Money Tree and a Nordic-themed Gift basket were Raffle items. Many door prizes were also drawn during the afternoon. A light snowfall earlier added to the seasonal feeling and was a great beginning for the holidays.

PAT FLIPPEN AND JAYNIE ANDERSON

# Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

DENNIS, MA / On December 2, 1973, our Lodge was chartered by an enthusiastic group of retirees to Cape Cod. Many were already members of Vasa lodges off-Cape. On October 27, 2013 we celebrated our 40th anniversary at The Riverway Restaurant in South Yarmouth. Memories were shared, photographs and mementoes were perused and sentiments of solidarity and future plans were expressed. Guests included our District Deputy, Larry Stidsen and our newly installed District Master Marlene Ekstrand.

Our International Potluck luncheon followed our November meeting as we sponsor a meal bimonthly. Conversation between bites promotes our fellowship.

The annual Luciafest on December 14th featured Alexis Spencer as our Lucia bride leading a procession of maidens. Alexis is the daughter of Bill and Jessica Klimcyzk. Our members Lorraine Young and Sally Glinski are her great-aunts and Kathleen and Peter Klimcyzk are her grandparents. It was a glorious family event. Alexis and Samantha Spencer and Arianna and Ashley Klimcyzk sang Christmas carols in a professional chorale presentation. Kathleen read a Christmas story to the children and Grace Sohoel Goldberg read the Origin of Lucia. A bountiful holiday feast and a fun-filled festive raffle followed the traditional dancing around the Christmas tree. Snowflakes did not deter our attendees and added to the beauty of the afternoon.

Our Installation of Officers will be on Jan. 18. We are grateful that our dedicated leaders Judith Peterson and Marilyn Sohoel are continuing as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectfully. Other members are continuing in their offices or have assumed new positions. Such a wonderful team!

DOROTHY ANN-ELLNER KEAN
PHOTOS BY DEBORAH SOHOEL GOLDBERG

# Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719

LAGUNA WOODS, CA / Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge 719 hosted their 37th Anniversary, and the annual Luciafest and Smörgåsbord on Dec. 7th, 2013. Members and guests snacked on hors d'oeuvres and shopped for limpa and cardamom breads and shopped for Scandinavian gifts from PDM Jane Hendricks' Swedish gift store. They bought raffle tickets for gift baskets, a Julebuck, and a "12 Days of Christmas" tree.

Chairman-Elect Sandy Weaver welcomed everyone and introduced guests GLEBM Wayne Pierson and GL Language Director Siv Swan-Pierson. Guests feasted on the delicious Smörgåsbord of Swedish ham, potatis korv (members had met earlier in November to make potatis korv for the dinner,) meatballs and other Swedish favorites. Then member Sue Carlson and the Seaborg Singers led the audience in several Christmas carols followed by Sue's presentation on the Lucia Legend.

There was great anticipation as the lights dimmed and Santa Lucia (Kjersten Kindig) entered the room followed by a procession of maidens and starboys singing "Santa Lucia". Teens and children in the pageant included Madison Cornwell, Elizabeth Markstrum, Allison and Linn Molin, Anne Jolie Potet, Cassidy Theilen-Hardy, Josh Sellwood, and Rory and Jon-Eric Moyles. Pageant director was Ulrika Molin. Santa stopped by to give a gift to each child in the pageant. As the children started singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas" he rushed off (he is so busy this time of year). After the pageant, the raffle began and children were asked to draw each ticket and read the winning numbers. Then, the Kinding family, Norman, Jane, Elin, Kjersten, and Carl, all in traditional Swedish folklig dräkt, grabbed hand after hand to get people up dancing until a long line of dancers wound through the room. Many dances followed to top off the Lodge's memorable 2013 Anniversary, Luciafest, and Smörgåsbord, a great way to begin the Holiday Season.

PHYLLIS BRANDON

# Nordik Folk Lodge #761

MUNSTER, IN / This past autumn, Nordik Folk lodge had many activities in addition to their regular meetings. In September, the Westlund, Ogrentz, and Nelson families exhibited materials and sold items at the Scandinavian Day Festival in Elgin, Illinois. A Cultural Festival was held in Munster in October where members of the lodge, in conjunction with Nordikids, sold items and distributed information about the lodge. In late November, the members of the lodge gathered at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Munster to hold a Viking Dinner – which has now become an annual event. Members dressed in Viking attire, dined upon food that was believed to have been served and eaten by our ancestors, the Vikings, over 1,000 years ago. Mike Pearson displayed his collection of artifacts and replicas from Viking life and military gear. The children were delighted to be able to make necklaces and other jewelry from glass beads and silver cord…following patterns uncovered from Viking burial sites. It was a wonderful way to bring the past to life once more.

During our most recent Lucia Fest, the lodge sold GLÖGG that was made earlier in the month at a glögg party at the home of Lynda and Herb Smith. Over $400 was raised for our scholarship programs.

Also of interest, our lodge has a Genealogy group. They meet informally once a month. Members and friends and guests are invited to share their successes and 'brick walls' in searching for their ancestors. Anyone who wishes assistance in searching their roots in Sweden, may contact Herb Smith at hwsmith3@hotail.com. Be sure to put "VASA GENEALOGY" in the subject area.

## SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS OLDEST VASA MEMBER?

Birthday Greetings are extended to Vasa member **CONRAD JOHNSON** of Brahe Lodge No. 245 on his 110th birthday. Conrad was born on January 19, 1904.

## *Family Tree Släktutredningar*

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

**swedengen@telia.com**

# SWEDISH NEWS

## Lidköping Lodge #636

LIDKÖPING, SWEDEN / Lidköping Lodge #636 held their last lodge meeting for the year with a Lucia celebration on Dec. 14, with 53 members and friends attending the celebration. Lucia with her attendants and starboys (tärnor and stjärngossar) came from Dalängen School in Lidköping. They sang the Sankta Lucia song and other beautiful Lucia and Christmas songs. After that we ate from our Julbord, a buffet of traditional Christmas dishes, for example pickled herring, julskinka, Jansons frestelse, gravad lax (pickled raw salmon), smoked salmon, rödbetssallad (beetroot salad), and to drink; glögg, julöl (Christmas beer), and julmust. We also sang together traditional Swedish Christmas carols, like the Tip Tap Song. Before the lottery we had coffee and a Christmas cookie, and a quiz about Vancouver in Canada.

SUBMITTED/PHOTOGRAPHED BY ULF BORG

# GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE (SWEDISH)

## Stormästarens Budskap

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

Jul och Nyårshelgen är förbi och vi kan åter igen se fram emot ett nytt spännande år. Jag har fått se vackra bilder från era Luciatåg och ni har alla förhoppningsvis spenderat långa stunder med nära och kära.

Innan ni läser detta har jag haft möjlighet träffa många av er på distriktsmöten under början av 2014. Det känns overkligt att jag nu inleder mina sista fyra månader som Stormästare. Tiden har flugit förbi och Sheila och jag har många, många vänner för livet efter vår tid med Vasa – i USA, Kanada och i Sverige. Det finns mycket att se fram emot under det kommande året och innan vi vet ordet av är det dags för årets Storlogemöte i Rye, New York.

Jag är glad över de val som gjorts till delegater, det känns som om de kommer vara goda representanter för er alla. De har en enorm uppgift framför sig eftersom de kommer att behöva besluta om saker som rör hela ordens framtid och särskilt då våra Vasa-arkiv i Bishop Hill. Jag hör ofta medlemmars önskemål om förändringar som bara låter sig göras vid våra Storlogemöten vart fjärde år. Era delegater måste anlända väl förberedda för att lägga sin röst.

Utbildningsfonden har säkrats för framtiden men det krävs fortfarande medel för att säkra arbetet vid arkivet, som är en viktig del av vår orden. Vasa-arkivet är en del av vårt arv och måste skyddas och bevaras som om det vore ett eget barn. Driften av arkivet, arkivistens lön och husrum liksom underhållet av byggnaderna är vårt ansvar som medlemmar. Delegaterna till Storlogemötet 2014 kommer att ombes stödja det exekutiva rådets förslag till hur vi bäst finansierar kostnader för arkivet. Den månatliga finansieringen kan inte enbart vara beroende av insamlingar som 'Heritage' eller 'Jul Gran Fundraiser.' Insamlingar är bra som tillägg men "de betalar inte elräkningen". Våra insamlingar ger bara några tusen dollar om året och det känns som en besvikelse att bara några hundra av våra över tio tusen medlemmar donerar pengar. Kan vi verkligen räkna med att en allt äldre medlemsbas ska komma att öka sina bidrag framöver för att säkra arkivets framtid? Jag tror inte det. Det kostar $80,000 om året att hålla arkivet igång. 2010 lovade jag att vara ärlig och utan omsvep. Ärligt och rakt på sak kan jag säga dig som medlem att arkivet tillhör dig; varhelst du bor, oavsett om du har möjlighet besöka dem eller är intresserad av släktforskning eller historia eller ej. Du är arkivets ägare.

Ingen gillar att höra om ökade avgifter men vi måste se sanningen i vitögat. Jag har givit av hela min själ för att stödja alla delar av Vasaorden under de tolv år jag varit medlem av Storlogens exekutiva råd och särskilt under de senaste fyra åren som Stormästare. Mer kan inte göras utan var och ens stöd, såväl i arbete som med pengar. Stöd era delegater som kommer att fatta nödvändiga beslut i juli. Jag kan inte realistiskt se att vår åldrande medlemskrets ska kunna öka sina donationer genom insamlingar så därför måste vi alla som ansvarsfulla ägare betala vad det kostar. Jag tar på mig att vara den som säger att den årliga medlemsavgiften måste gå upp med $5.00 för att säkerställa finansieringen av arkivet. Jag vädjar om förståelse och stöd för detta. Ni är inte medlemmar i en organisation som är så sparsam att den inte säkrar en så viktig del av sin egen framtid!

Ytterligare ett område som behöver resurser är reskostnader för förtroendemän. Medlemmar som du själv väljer att arbeta för Storlogens väl. De ger av både tid och pengar för att göra rätt för oss alla. Om vi vill se och träffa de ledare vi själva varit med och valt måste vi kunna täcka deras reskostnader i samband med distriktlogemöten. De behöver träffa medlemmarna i sina respektive regioner och jag har förhoppningar om att vi ska komma att fatta beslut i juli om att de får resurser till det.

Jag ser fram emot att höra mer om era frågor och funderingar när vi kommer närmare Storlogemötet och hoppas många av er kommer att besöka det som gäster. Livet blir så mycket bättre när vi har tillfälle att både träffa gamla vänner och knyta nya band. Det gäller vår organisation och det gäller var och en.

I SANNING OCH ENHET
BILL LUNDQUIST, STORMÄSTARE

## Do you have a question for the Grand Lodge?

Ever wonder why or how or when…? Send your questions about anything Vasa-related to **vasajlg@aol.com** and then watch for the FAQ Column in The Vasa Star.

# YOUTH NEWS

*Katarina Prasso as Lucia with the members of Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1. Karin Hallesson (visiting from Sweden), Katarina Prasso, Nina Prasso. Back row: Robert Prasso, Jimmy Prasso.*

## Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1

NEW YORK / Katarina Prasso was a most beautiful Lucia for *Barnklubben Elsa Rix # 1* during her three performances this December at St. Andrew's in West Hempstead, Lindberg Lodge #505 in Melville, and in Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Manhasset, Long Island. She sang her solos, *Hosianna, Davids Son* and *O Helga Natt (Oh Holy Night)* with perfect Swedish, intonation and musicianship. She was surrounded by her fellow *Elsa Rix* members as well as several alumni who returned to support Katarina and the club. Elizabeth Dahlström Schumacher is the current leader of the club and her assistant is Kathryn Brown. Katarina's mother is the musical director of the club.

Katarina who joined *Barnklubben Elsa Rix # 1* (the oldest children's folkdance group in the Vasa Order of America) at the age of three and is a dual citizen of America and Sweden. She travels to Sweden every summer to see her mormor, aunts, uncles, cousins, and the many friends she made when attending a confirmation camp in Stockholm two summers ago. Her younger brother, Robert Prasso, who was the *Big Star Boy* during this year's Lucia performances, will attend the same Swedish confirmation camp next summer where we hope he will learn the language as well as his big sister. Katarina's mother, Nina (Hallesson) Prasso is from Stockholm, Sweden. Nina's parents, Karin Eskilsson and Matz Hallesson came from the county Värmland, but had moved to Stockholm when they met. Katarina's father, James Prasso is from Flushing, Queens and his background is Italian, Irish, Greek and French. Both Katarina and Robert attend LaGuardia High School for Performing Arts in Manhattan.

NINA (HALLESSON) PRASSO

## Vasa Kornet #16

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, MN / Our Lucia this year is Mayme Wendlandt. She is 13 years old and has been home schooled her whole life. She is the oldest daughter in her family of five children. Her Swedish heritage is that her great-grand parents came from Dalarna, Västmanland, and Vastergstland. Mayme has been playing the piano for eight years. She is active at Bethlehem Baptist Church and this year she is enjoying teaching in Sunday school to the pre-schoolers. Her hobbies are reading, writing, photography and baking desserts. She has been part of the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers since she was 5. Her two sisters, Maria and Maggie are also in the dancers. Mayme is also a member of the Svenskarnas Dag Girls Choir and hopes to tour Sweden in two years with the choir. Her parents are Steve and Suzanne Wendlandt.

Following the Lucia pageant, the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers (all members of either Linnea #14 or Vasa Kornet # 16 Children's Clubs) performed several folk dances. Music was provided by fiddle player Antonio Spargo.

This event was held on Sunday, December 1st and sponsored by the Parents Club of the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers.

JOANN THOREEN
LEADER, VASA KORNET #16

## Nordikids #208

INDIANA / December 8th found Nordikids Musiklubb No. 208 celebrating their Luciafest at Wicker Park Social Center in Highland, Indiana. This was their 13th Annual Lucia program at this same site. Over 115 people were in attendance for the program, luncheon and an afternoon filled with craft sales, raffles, glögg sales and games for the children. Many Vasa officers were in attendance from the District Lodge and the event was videotaped by Grand Lodge Audio Visual Director, Mike Pearson and can be found on YouTube by typing in "NORDIKIDS LUCIA 2013". Also in attendance were Grand Master Bill Lundquist and his wife Sheila.

Our Lucia this year was Miss Samantha Carroll of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Samantha and her brother Alec who was an 'Honored Star Boy" have been participating in Nordikids Lucia programs for the past 6 years, even though they live over 100 miles away from our 'home' area. By using written materials, and practice CDs with both music and spoken words, Samantha and her brother were able to learn the music necessary to participate with the rest of the Nordikids. Samantha is 10 years old and she goes to school at Matawan upper Elementary school. She studies piano and is an avid soccer player. Her mother Sherry was a member of Solstrålen in the Chicago area and her late grandmother Carol Ericson Combis, was not only a member of Solstrålen – she was a member of Bessemer and she was also the pianist for Solstrålen in later years. Samantha's reign as Lucia this year marks the third generation of women in her family to serve as a Lucia in a Vasa club.

## Learning About Swedish Emigrants Through A Unique Audiobook Experience

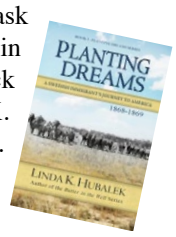
My father emigrated from Hälsingland, Sweden in the mid 1960's, to Nebraska. It was hardly the perilous, life or death decision made by many Swedish emigrants in the 1800's.

As I grew up, I was lucky to have Swedish relatives come stay with us frequently. When I became an adult, I spent three years studying the language with instructor, Gun McCuen, a member of Vasa Order of America's Lindbergh Lodge #494, in Los Altos, California. I consequently joined the Lindbergh Lodge myself. Gun recommended I read Wilhelm Moberg's books about Swedish emigrants and their life in America in the mid 1800's and early 1900's. I enjoyed them greatly, but recently I had the unique privilege to actually meet someone whose family emigrated from Sweden in the 1800's, very much like the characters in Moberg's books.

To provide a little background information… I am a professional audiobook narrator (you can learn more about me at www.annmrichardson.com). This December, I had the opportunity to narrate a series of books by pioneer author, Linda K. Hubalek. Her stories are the result of her genealogy research of her own family, fleshed out with fictional details of what life was probably like, homesteading on the Kansas prairie. While I was tickled to give voice to each character she so lovingly crafted, I was more excited at the prospect that more people would be able to enjoy her works, as they would be available now in multiple media formats. (And the icing on the cake was that I had a good excuse to phone a cousin in Sweden, to get affirmation of my pronunciation of some of the trickier Swedish words.)

Hubalek's audiobooks are available for download on www.audible.com. She has written many books along the Swedish emigrant theme, but the ones I was privileged to narrate are *Prairie Bloomin'*, *Planting Dreams*, *Cultivating Hope*, and *Harvesting Faith*. They tell the story of a young couple and their two young children emigrating from Sweden to Kansas in 1869, from the point of view of Charlotta Johnson, Hubalek's great, great grandmother (farmor). Her writing has been described as a combination of Laura Ingalls-Wilder's and Wilhelm Moberg's writings. Hubalek still lives on the land Charlotta and her husband, Samuel, homesteaded near Lindsborg, Kansas, and she still attends the same church her relatives helped begin. You can learn more about the pioneer author at www.lindahubalek.com.

By a unique set of circumstances, I was able to learn more about the wave of Swedish emigration to America in the 1800's, and also about the pioneers who played an important part in settling the region where I was born and raised. I had the rare opportunity to directly converse with an author and ask questions about characters and events in her books, and learn more of the "back story". I am happy to recommend Linda K. Hubalek's books to anyone, in any format. I found them well-written and engaging.




ANN MARIE (ARVDAL) RICHARDSON

# LANGUAGE & CULTURE

## Harry Martinsson

### The poet of Nature, Sea and Cyberspace / Naturens, Havets och Rymdens poet

Harry Martinsson (1904-1978), Nobel Prize winner in literature 1974 (shared with another Swede, Eyvind Johnson) started his life with a poor childhood. He was No 5 of 8 siblings. His father died when Harry was 6 and his mother disappeared the following year moving to the US (California) leaving all the children to be taken care of by the local community. He never saw her again and was always missing her. He did not see much of his father either, because the father spent three years in Portland, OR just before his return to Sweden and his death. It is certainly a bad beginning of life for anyone. The father's temporary and the mother's definite emigration do not belong to what we are used to hear of.

In spite of these troublesome circumstances his brilliant mind survived and came to expression in adult life.

#### CHILDHOOD

Harry, as well as all the siblings, were spread out to different foster-parents. The common ground for taking care of such children was a sort of auction and the family that offered the lowest prize was accepted by the community. Second to that it was not often the best families that were hired. Little Harry experienced 4 different foster-parents and was at a very early age forced to work on the farms besides being in grade school. Of course the treatment varied from home to home. Not all of them were kind to him and sometimes he was beaten even for minor things. He ran away from his fourth parent-home, but was caught and taken to the fifth place at the age of 12. This last location of childcare was at an old people's home where he adjusted to the circumstances in a very good way.

These childhood experiences were for sure the main content of one of his first novels, *Nässlorna blomma* (*The nettles are blooming*, free translation) 1935.

#### NOMAD LIFE

As a teenager he worked as farmhand and with similar duties, but several times he ran away and became sort of vagabond including begging. At the age of 16 he was able to realize his childhood dream of being a seaman and carried on with that for the following 7 years. The seaman period was a couple of times interrupted by paying off for international vagabond life in India and Brazil. During his early farmhand life as well as during his seaman period he wrote poetry as well as short stories keeping the content for himself, but also saving the texts for optional future use. In his poverty he had to write on paper-bags and similar material accessible. Much of these early notes were accomplished in his poetry and first novels later on.

#### THE ADULT WRITER

He finally left the life on the sea in 1923 and came soon to settle in a small village. A few years later he met the woman to become his first wife, Moa Martinsson. She was 14 years older and already an established author. That's why she gave much support to husband Harry in his first efforts to get published. At the same time she was certainly a substitute for his absent mother. They married in 1928 and divorced in 1939.

Martinsson remarried 1942 with Ingrid Lindcrantz and they got two daughters.

After some small notes in newspapers he got his first collection of poems published in the book *Spökskepp* (*Ghost ships*, free translation) in 1929. That very year he was one of five Swedish authors, "The Five Young", to enter into recognized literature. In the following novels from the mid thirties he wrote about nature on land and sea giving full evidence of his extremely good perception and his great talent to put these visionary experiences into perfect language for the purpose. The same was true for the collection of poems in *Passad* (*Trade-wind*) that was published in 1945.

Martinsson was also familiar with human nature. From my professional life as a hand surgeon I can give a very good example. In the poem "Människans händer" ("Human hands") from his book *Dikter om ljus och mörker* (*Poems from light and darkness*, free translation), that was edited in 1971, he gives a highly remarkable and beautiful description of the hand as our primary tactile organ. His final comparison with the dust on the butterfly wing expresses the top capacity for the perception of touch.

#### ANIARA

Harry Martinsson's probably most famous work is Aniara, the great verse drama about a space ship getting lost in cyberspace. The book was published in 1956 and later on the well-known composer Karl-Birger Blomdahl used the text material for creating an opera that was given the first time in 1959.

The space ship Aniara had 6000 emigrants from the Earth and was heading for the planet Mars, but it lost track and finished in the endless cyberspace. The author's intention was to describe the optional fate of mankind in relation to the risks of modern technology. The mixture of that knowledge and imagination produced this fantastic story. Martinsson was ahead of time, the first landing on the moon took place 13 years later.

#### THE NOBEL PRIZE

The decision to award two Swedish authors in 1974 aroused a lot of criticism, both of them were members of the Swedish Academy. Harry Martinsson became very much concerned from this public reaction and he was never happy again. It contributed heavily to his final illness and suicide in the hospital 1978.

#### SUMMARY

This article was not aimed to cover Harry Martinsson's entire production, but to give evidence for the subtitle above. He was an artist of language and highly assessed by author colleagues and literal experts. He certainly deserved his Nobel Prize.

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Harry Martinsson (1904-1978), Nobelpristagare i litteratur 1974 (delat med en annan svensk, Eyvind Johnson) startade sitt liv med en svår barndom. Han var nr 5 av 8 syskon. Hans far dog, när Harry var 6 och hans mor försvann följande år och flyttade till USA (Kalifornien) därmed lämnande alla barnen för omhändertagande av kommunen. Han såg aldrig sin mor igen och han saknade henne mycket. Han såg inte mycket av sin far heller, ty fadern tillbringade tre år i Portland, Oregon, just innan han återvände till Sverige och dog. En sådan situation är säkert en dålig början för vem som helst. Faderns temporära och moderns definitiva emigration hör inte till de vanliga vi hör talas om.

Trots dessa bekymmersamma omständigheter överlevde hans briljanta begåvning och kom till uttryck i vuxenlivet.

#### BARNDOM

Harry såväl som övriga syskon spreds ut till olika fosterföräldrar. Det vanliga sättet att ta hand om sådana barn var att ordna en sorts auktion, där familjen med det lägsta budet valdes för var och en. Sekundärt till detta var det sällan de bästa familjerna som kom i fråga. Lille Harry kom att uppleva 4 olika fosterföräldrar och blev vid mycket tidig ålder tvungen att arbeta på gården samtidigt med skolan. Naturligtvis varierade omhändertagandet från hem till hem. Inte alla var snälla mot honom och han blev slagen även för småsaker. Han flydde från sitt 4:e fosterhem men fångades in för att komma till det 5:e. Denna sista plats var ett ålderdomshem, där han kunde anpassa sig på ett bra sätt.

Dessa barndomserfarenheter var säkert grunden till huvudinnehållet i en av hans första böcker, *Nässlorna blomma* 1935.

#### NOMADLIVET

Under tonåren arbetade han som dräng med varierande sysslor, men åtskilliga gånger rymde han och tog sig fram som vagabond, luffare och tiggare. Vid 16 års ålder kunde han sedan realisera sin barndomsdröm att gå till sjöss och han fortsatte sjömanslivet de följande 7 åren.

Under dessa år gjorde han flera av brott och stannade för perioder i både Indien och Brasilien. Under dessa år som dräng och som sjöman skrev han såväl poesi som korta berättelser behållande innehållet för sig själv och bevarande texterna för eventuellt framtida bruk. I sin fattigdom skrev han på papperspåsar och liknande. Mycket av detta bearbetades senare till poesi och romaner.

#### DEN VUXNE FÖRFATTAREN

Han lämnade sjömanslivet 1923 och slog sig ned i ett mindre samhälle. Några år senare mötte han den kvinna, som skulle bli hans första fru, Moa Martinsson. Hon var 14 år äldre och redan etablerad författare. Det förklarar att hon gav maken Harry mycket stöd i hans ansträngningar att publicera sig. Samtidigt var hon säkert ett substitut för hans frånvarande mor. De gifte sig 1928 och skildes 1939.

Harry Martinsson gifte om sig 1942 med Ingrid Lindcrantz och de fick två döttrar.

Efter några små försök i tidningar fick han sin första poesibok *Spökskepp* utgiven 1929. Detta år blev han en av 5 svenska författare, De Fem Unga, som blev uppmärksammade i den litterära världen. I de följande romanerna från mitten av 1930-talet skrev han om naturen på land och på hav och bevisade sin extremt goda förmåga att tillgodogöra sig intryck och sin likaledes stora begåvning att överföra dessa synintryck och erfarenheter till ett för ändmålet perfekt språk. Detsamma gällde för diktsamlingen *Passad*, som publicerades 1945.

Martinsson var också väl förtrogen med människans natur. Från mitt professionella liv som handkirurg kan jag ge ett bra exempel. I dikten "Människans händer" ur boken *Dikter om ljus och mörker* 1971 ger han en högst anmärkningsvärd och vacker beskrivning av handen som vår kropps främsta organ för känselsinnet. Hans avslutande jämförelse med stoftet på fjärilsvingen uttrycker den högsta förmågan till upplevelsen av beröring.

#### ANIARA

Harry Martinssons troligen mest berömda arbete är Aniara, det stora versdramat om ett rymdskepp, som går förlorat någonstans på sin färd. Boken publicerades 1956 och senare tog sig den välkände kompositören Karl.Birger Blomdahl an texten som grund för att skapa en opera. Den framfördes första gången 1959

Rymdskeppet Aniara hade 6000 jordemigranter och satte kurs på planeten Mars men kom ur kurs och slutade i det okända och ändlösa. Författarens intention var att beskriva mänsklighetens möjliga öde i relation till riskerna med den moderna teknologin. Blandningen av vetenskaplig kunskap och fantasi producerade denna fascinerande berättelse. Martinsson var före sin tid, den första månlandningen ägde rum 13 år senare.

#### NOBELPRISET

Beslutet att belöna två svenska författare 1974 framkallade en omfattande kritik, båda var ju medlemmar av Svenska Akademin. Harry Martinsson tog denna allmänna kritik mycket hårt och han blev aldrig glad igen. Det bidrog starkt till hans slutliga sjukdom och självmord på sjukhuset 1978.

#### SAMMANFATTNING

Denna artikel var inte tänkt att täcka Harry Martinssons hela produktion men att ge bevis för artikelns undertitel. Han var dessutom en språkkonstnär och högt värderad av författarkollegor och litterär expertis. Hans nobelpris var säkert välförtjänt.

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# Svenska Språkhörnan

## The Swedish Language Corner

### Introduction to Swedish – Chapter 5

By now you have met, in one form or another, around 100 frequent Swedish words. That may not sound like much to you, but what you have learned so far will enable you to decipher many Swedish texts on your own by using a good dictionary – actually, the normal vocabulary of everyday speech rarely comprises more than 1,000-1,500 words. In this chapter we will deal with how **adjectives** are formed; at the same time we will introduce the so-called **possessive pronouns** (mine, yours, his, hers etc.), since some of them follow the same pattern as the adjectives.

You may find this chapter somewhat heavy, but do not worry. Take one thing at a time and you will find that it is not that complicated after all; there are only a few things you need to memorize. And besides, it is not a serious problem if you happen to mix up the endings of the adjectives occasionally; people will understand you anyway.

So what is an **adjective**? Adjectives are simply quality words, words that describe things or people, like *red*, *high*, *angry*, *small*. In modern English there is only one form for each adjective, regardless of its position in a sentence or the number of things/persons that you are referring to: A *long* day. The days are *long*. Two *long* days. The *long* days.

Most Swedish adjectives have three endings, depending on whether they are used with an *en* word or an *ett* word or are in the plural.

The regular adjectives receive the ending **-t** when used together with *ett* words (stort). There is only one plural ending, **-a** (stor**a**). However, some of the adjectives below are slightly irregular, hut they are very common and will therefore be easy to learn.

### Some colors

Colors are very frequent words and are treated like other adjectives (with few exceptions):

| Color | *en* words | *ett* words | *the plural* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *black* | svart | svart | svárta |
| *blue* | blå | blått | blå´(a) |
| *brown* | brun | brunt | brúna |
| *green* | grön | grönt | grö´na |
| *red* | röd | rött | rö´da |
| *white* | vit | vitt | víta |
| *yellow* | gul | gult | gúla |

### Adjectives and identifying words

All adjectives follow the above pattern when placed directly before a noun in the indefinite form ('en gámmal man') or after a form of the Swedish verbs for [*to*]'*be*' (in this case 'är' ['*is*']), '*become*'('bli'), and '*make*' (göra, tillverka); "húset är vitt".

But, when an adjective is preceded by a word that points out or identifies the noun in question is a specific thing or person, or belonging to somebody/something, the adjective will only take the ending **-a**, no matter if it refers to an *en* word or an *ett* word or is in the singular or the plural. (One exception: If the noun is a male person, the ending will formally be -e instead of –a in singular, a remnant of the old three-gender system, but, nowadays, this distinction usually applies to written Swedish only.)

For the sake of clarity, a list of such identifying or 'pointing-out' words is included below. The simple key to it all is that the adjective, when preceded by an 'identifying' word, takes an **-a**.

| With *en* words | With *ett* words | With words in *the plural* |
|---|---|---|
| En svensk sómmar. *A Swedish summer.* | Ett svenskt namn. *A Swedish name.* | Två svénska sómrar/namn. *Two Swedish summers/names.* |
| En kall vínter. *A cold winter.* | Váttnet [indef. 'vatten'] är kallt. *The water is cold.* | Víntrarna/váttnen är källa. *The winters/waters are cold.* |
| En lång vår. *A long spring.* | Ett långt rúm. *A long room.* | Lå´nga vå´rar/rum. *Long springs/rooms.* |
| En varm säng. *A warm bed.* | Ett varmt tack. *A warm thank you.* | Várma sä´ngar/tack. *Warm beds/thanks* |
| En lugn nátt. *A calm/quiet night .* | Ett lugnt liv. *A calm/quiet life.* | Lúgna nä´tter/liv. *Calm/quiet nights/lives.* |
| En hel sída. *A whole page.* | Ett helt folk. *A whole/entire people* | Héla sídor/folk. *Whole pages/peoples.* |
| En stor dörr. *A big door.* | Ett stort land. *A big country.* | Stóra dö´rrar/lä´nder. *Big doors/countries.* |
| En stark kvínna. *A strong woman.* | Ljúset är starkt. *The light is strong.* | Kvínnorna/ljúsen är stárka. *The women/lights are strong.* |

### Irregular adjectives

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| En líten bil. *A small car.* | Ett lítet fönster. *A small window.* | Några små bílar/fö´nster. *Some (A few) small cars/windows.* |
| Hö´sten är vácker. *The autumn is beautiful.* | Ett váckert ánsíkte. *A beautiful face.* | Må´nga váckra hö´star/ánsíkten. *Many beautiful autumns/faces.* |
| En god tánke. *A good thought.* | Ett gott äpple. *A good apple.* | Góda tánkar/äpplen. *Good thoughts/apples.* |
| En bra bók. *A good book.* | Ett bra árbéte. *A good job.* | Bra bö´cker/árbéten. *Good book/jobs.* |
| En glad nýhét. *A glad/happy piece of news* | Ett glatt leende. *A glad/happy smile.* | Gláda nýhéter/leenden. *Glad/happy news/smiles.* |

**NOTES:** 'Natt' ('*night*') has a special plural form – 'nä´tter'. 'Man' ('*man*'), like its English counterpart, is irregular: Singular indefinite: En man (*a/one man*). Singular definite: Mánnen (*the man*). Plural indefinite: Två män (*two men*). Plural definite: Mä´nnen (*the men*). In Swedish 'man' is also a common pronoun that corresponds to the English '*one*' or '*you*': "*One/you would think that…*", "*One has (you have) to accept that one is (you are) only human*", and so on. The Swedish pronoun 'man' has the same function: "Man lär så lä´nge man léver" ("*One learns as long as one lives*"). It exists only in this form.

The English word '*good*' can be translated as both 'god' (the 'o' pronounced like 'oo' in 'tool') and 'bra'. 'Bra' is very common and can be used about practically anything, while 'god' nowadays primarily refers to food and drinks, or to personal qualities: "En bra mä´nniska" would be a decent, trustworthy person, whereas "en god mä´nniska" more would convey the impression of a Mother Theresa, so to speak.

The irregular adjective 'líten'/'litet' ('*little*, *small*') has no plural form of its own; instead the word 'små' is used in the plural. After an identifying word (see below) 'liten' is changed to 'lilla': 'Den lilla bílen' ('*the/that little car*').

### 1. The possessive pronouns

| Pronoun | With *en* words | With *ett* words | With words in *the plural* |
|---|---|---|---|
| *my, mine* | *min* (gámla bil) | *mitt* (nýa hus) | *mína* (gámla bílar/nýa hus) |
| *your, yours [singular]* | *din* (váckra sýster [sister]) | *ditt* (víta fö´nster) | *dína* (váckra sýstrar/víta fö´nster) |
| *his* | *hans* (rö´da cýkel) | *hans* (éngelska [English] namn) | *hans* (rö´da cýklar/éngelska namn) |
| *her, hers* | *hénnes* (stóra säng) | *hénnes* (várma tack) | *hénnes* (stóra sä´ngar/várma tack) |
| *its* | *dess* (gröna dörr) | *dess* (víta ljus) | *dess* (gröna dörrar/víta ljus) |
| *our, ours* | *vår* (gláda nýhét) | *vårt* (lúgna liv) | *våra* (gláda nýhéter/lúgna liv) |
| *your, yours [plural]* | *er* (unga dótter [daughter]) | *ert* (váckra barn) | *éra* (unga dö´ttrar/váckra barn) |
| *their, theirs* | *déras* (lå´nge son [son]) | *déras* (stóra rum) | *déras* (lå´nga sö´ner/stóra rum) |

Only the pronouns *my*, *your* (singular and plural), and *our* have separate forms for *en* words and *ett* words, similar to the endings for the adjectives; for the other pronouns there is only one form.

### The peculiar 'sin'

A common Swedish pronoun without a counterpart in English is also treated in a similar way:

'sin' (with *en* words), 'sitt' (with *ett* words), 'sina' (plural). It is closely related to the possessive pronouns – it is actually a so-called reflexive form of them – and can mean either '*his*', '*her*', '*its*', or '*their*'. Even Swedes sometimes find it difficult to tell when to use 'sin' or a regular possessive pronoun when a sentence becomes more complex, so do not be overly concerned about mastering it at this stage. The rule of thumb is: 'Sin' refers to a person or thing that does something, and is used every time you could insert '*own*' in English.

Han k sser sin únga hústru passionérat. *He kisses his (own) young wife passionately.*

Han k sser hans únga hústru passionérat. *He kisses his* (i.e. someone else's) *young wife passionately.*

### 2. Names & nouns showing possession

John's old watch – Jóhans gámla klócka
The woman's white car – Kvínnans víta bi
Mom's new job – Mámmas nýa jobb/árbéte

The genitive denotes a person or thing that possesses something, and is formed by adding an **-s** to the name or the noun, like in English, but without the apostrophe. Swedish uses the genitive construction more often than English, but basically the usage is the same. English also often favors a construction with 'of', mainly when referring to things, but Swedish is in many cases quite happy to use the -s form even there: *The new rector of the school* – Skólans n a réktor. *The city of Stockholm* – Stóckhólms stad.

### 3. Other words designating/ indicating a specific thing or person

| With en words | With ett words | With words in the plural |
|---|---|---|
| *den* (váckra kvínnan) *the (beautiful woman)* | *det* (gámla húset) *the (old house)* | *de/dom* (váckra kvínnorna/gámla húsen) *the (beautiful women/old houses)* |
| *den här* (várma sómmaren) *this (warm summer)* | *det här* (stóra rúmmet) *this (big room)* | *de/dom här* (várma sómrarna/stóra rúmmen) *these (warm summers/big houses)* |
| *den där* (únge mánnen) *that (young man)* | *det där* (lilla fönstret) *that (little window)* | *de/dom där* (únga mä´nnen/små fö´nstren) *those (young men/small windows)* |

As stated in a previous chapter there is no definite article like the English '*the*' in Swedish; instead, certain endings are attached to a noun to show the definite form ('kvinnan**n**', 'rummet**t**', hus**en**'). In addition, when an adjective is followed by a noun in the definite form, like above, a definite article is placed before the adjective. 'Den', 'det', and 'de/dom' have a strong demonstrative quality and can also be used instead of 'den här', 'det där', and 'de/dom' där' ('*this*', '*that*', and '*those*'): Jag vill ha den (här) bílen. – *I want (to have) this car*. Jag vill ha det (där) huset – *I want (to have) that house*. Jag vill ha de/dom (här) skorna. – *I want (to have) these shoes*.

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Some weird Swedish sayings (from *The Local*, www.thelocal.se/galleries/culture/3000) – ENJOY!

**Ingen ko på isen** – There's no cow on the ice. / This is a popular saying in Sweden, which simply means "Don't worry". It remains unknown how often Swedish cattle are milling about on frozen lakes, but it's no stretch of the imagination to understand that a cow on ice would be definitely worth worrying about.

**Skägget i brevlådan** – Caught with your beard in the letterbox. / While their English-speaking cousins are messing around getting their hands stuck in cookie jars, Swedes are getting their beards caught in letterboxes. Don't ask what they're doing with their faces so close to the letterboxes in the first place…

**Det ligger en hund begraven** – There's a dog buried here. / There's something fishy going on here... There's nothing fishier than a buried dog, right? Well, that's what a Swede would say. Perhaps it's the stench of a buried mutt, perhaps it's the idea of a missing canine companion, or perhaps it's just the absurdity of it all, but it's definitely fishy.

**Att ana ugglor i mossen** – Suspecting owls in the bog. / You may think there is nothing fishier than a buried dog, and that's a perfectly logical assumption. But what about owls in the bog? Yes, those crazy Swedes are at it again. When something strange is afoot, they'll whisper to each other about those fishy owls and their boggy surroundings.

# 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, 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
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Madelyn Louise Merchant
Julianne H. Rose

DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17
**Norrskenet Lodge No. 331**
Joan Mitchell
Joe Mitchell

DL NORRA SVERIGE NR. 19
**Mälardrottningen nr 563**
Lennart Andersson
Eleonor Aspwing
Gunnar Hageros
Maritha Holmberg

**Engelbrekt nr 619**
Håkan Andersson
Ragnhild Friborg
Sigurd Friborg
Henry Johansson
Monica Johansson
Bjarne Lindh
Kerstin Lindh
Brit-Marie Olofsson
Barbro Bagelow
Jan Sundgren

**Upsala nr 623**
Birgit Bergfors

**Gotland nr 624**
Kristina Björkander
Bengt Björkander
Maj Bäckström
Ulla Eliasson
Rolf Enström
Mia Enström
Evert Larsson
Sune Gomander
Ewa Gomander
Ann Havogård Larsson
Claes-Göran Hägglund
Lena Karlsson
Per-Lennart Karlsson
Elsie-Marie Kindmalm
Claes Kindmalm
Göte Nilsson
Gerhard Nyberg
Monica Palmö
Rune Pettersson
Agneta Pettersson
Gunnel Samuelsson
Kristina Thelin
Gunilla Öberg
Ulla Öster
Marie-Louise Östman

**Karlstad nr 632**
Ing-Britt Bergström
Olle Bergström

**Lidköping nr 636**
Anna-Carin Sjunnesson

**Enköping nr 646**
Yvonne Axelsson
Gösta Rohdin
Lisbeth Rohdin
Bengt Sjölin
Monica Sjölin

**Härnösand nr 673**
Eivor Bylund
Per-Erik Bylund
Gudrun Kinnert
Jorma Kinnert

**Kongahälla nr 702**
Hans Ekstrand
Filbyter nr 714
Monica Brage
Karin Kardell

**Knallen nr 745**
Birgitta Friberg
Karl-Olof Friberg
Mikael Wickberg
Mats Brandt
Marie Svendsen
Lone Andersen-Östlund
Carin Brandt
Bill Bakkemose

**Bråviken nr 751**
Carl Magnus Erzell
Ulrika Hofstedt
Jan Månsson

DL ARIZONA NO. 21
**Scandia Lodge No. 728**
Kathy A. Carey
Susan A. Johnson

**Nordic Red Rocks Lodge No. 760**
Maureen Anderson
Marian Patricia Sjostrom

# IN MEMORIAM

**Memorial Notices** should be mailed with check or money order to Joanie Graham, 5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804. Email: vasajlg@aol.com. The fee is $8 for one column inch. Longer obituaries will be charged a flat fee of $25.00. All notices must be typed and written in a format similar to what you see here. NO newspaper clippings.

If you submitted an Obituary and it is not listed here, please resubmit it to Interim Vasa Star Editor, Joan Graham, for the next issue of The Vasa Star.

## CALIFORNIA

**MARGARETA SULLIVAN** of Alameda, California passed away on December 29, 2013. She was born on July 19, 1928 in Stockholm Sweden, lived for many years in Panama with her parents and brother, and then moved to Berkeley, California. It was here she met her dear "Sully", husband Walter Sullivan. Margareta was very active and held many offices in her home lodge, Framåt Lodge #405 and was a dual member of Balder Lodge #343; also holding several offices at the district level. She served as District Master of Golden Gate District #12 in 1984-85. Survived by many dear Vasa friends.

## MASSACHUSSETS

**RUTH E. LARSON** of Brewster, MA died on October 12, 2013 just days after her 97th birthday. Ruth was born on October 6, 1916. She was a charter member of Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod No. 703 since December 2, 1973. Ruth served in several offices including Vice Chairman and Chairman. She was predeceased by her husband, Carl E. Matson. A daughter, Judy M. Olsen survives her.

## OREGON

**MARGARET DAHLEN** was born in Portland, Oregon on October 21, 1920 and passed away on her 93rd birthday, October 21, 2013. Margaret joined Nobel Lodge #184 on September 7, 1990. She was very proud of her Swedish heritage and enjoyed attending Nobel meetings and other Swedish functions until her health declined and she was no longer able to do so. She is survived by her three sons, George, Thomas and Steven Hannibal and stepson Carl Dahlen and their families.

## WISCONSIN

**REINHOLD E. (JAKE) GRUEL, JR.** K9MWF passed away on November 19, 2013. Beloved husband and soul mate of Margaret (nee Anderson), loving father of Janice (Vern) Kamholtz, Joan (Stuart) Swessel, Julie (Steven) LeBlanc, and Jennifer (Allen) Johnson. Adored by his grandchildren Jeremy (LeighAnn) Gruel, Scott Kamholtz, Sondra Swessel, Trevor Swessel, Tyler (Anna) Swessel, and Ashley LeBlanc. Also survived by great-grandchildren Alex, Kayla and Lauren Gruel,Trenton Swessel and Aubree Gromowski. Also, step grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Further survived by his sister Shirley Buss, sisters-in-law Alice Schroeder and Grace Anderson, many nieces, nephews, cousins, foreign exchange students and friends. His parents were Reinhold and Hilda (Kraemer) Gruel, Sr.

Jake was very active in his community, his church, and the Vasa Order of America. Jake served his church as a deacon, and held many other positions over the years. His clear voice could be heard when he read the lessons for the day and when he preached an occasional sermon. He accepted leadership roles in the Swedish lodge- VASA- at the local, district, and Grand levels. He also served on the Vasa National Archives Board in Bishop Hill, IL Jake was a member of Linde Lodge No. 492-Lake Michigan District No. 8.

He was an active Amateur Radio Operator K9MWF since 1956. Jake served in the US Air Force during the Korean Conflict. After his four years of service, he returned to Wisconsin Bell until he took an early retirement at age 49. He and Marge founded JM Gruel Enterprises, Ltd. in 1982 when he retired from Wisconsin Bell. The business closed in November, 2012 due to his illness.

Jake had a very inventive mind, a ready smile, and a helping hand for anyone who needed him. Services were held at Christ the Victor Lutheran Church in New Berlin, WI. Jake will truly be missed!

# Vasa Order of America
# New York District No. 4
## 38th Quadrennial Grand Lodge Convention

July 4, 2014 to July 11, 2014
Hilton Westchester in Rye, New York

Please use the website, www.2014GrandLodgeConvention.com, to purchase your tours, opening dinner, and Grand Banquet. The website also contains a link to the Grand Lodge Convention web page on the Hilton website to make your hotel reservations.

**www.2014GrandLodgeConvention.com**

If you are unable to order via the convention website, please call the Hilton Westchester at +1-914-939-6300 and use reservation code "NYDL4V" to book your room. To order trips and activities, please use form below and return it, with a check or money order, to Gail M. Olson, District Secretary, 654 Western Highway, Blauvelt, NY 10913.

## Trips and Activities

With Swedish Speaking Tour Guides

| | | Price | | # Txts | | Total Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday, July 4: | Opening Dinner - July 4th Picnic Theme with Big Screen Display of Macy*s Fireworks. Price: $55.00 pp | $55 | x | _____ | = | _____ |
| Sunday, July 6: | Tour of West Point with Lunch at the Hotel Thayer. Price: $100.00 pp | $100 | x | _____ | = | _____ |
| Monday, July 7: | Shopping Excursion to Woodbury Common to Shop at Luxury Outlets. Price: $48.00 pp | $48 | x | _____ | = | _____ |
| Tuesday, July 8: | Tour of Central Park, Lincoln Center, Harlem, St. John the Divine - Columbia University, 5th Avenue, Rockefeller Center, Union Square, the High Line, and Greenwich Village. Price: $68.00 pp | $68 | x | _____ | = | _____ |
| Wed., July 9: | Tour of New York City, including the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the 9/11-Ground Zero Memorial, Wall Street, Brooklyn Heights, and Top of the Rock at Rockefeller Center. Price: $130.00 pp | $130 | x | _____ | = | _____ |
| Thurs., July 10: | Tour of Grand Central Terminal, the Chrysler Building, Chinatown, SOHO, and a tour and lunch at Scandinavia House. Price: $110.00 pp | $110 | x | _____ | = | _____ |
| Friday, July 11: | Cocktail Reception and Grand Banquet. Price: $97.50 pp - Choice of Prime Rib/Rib Eye, Chicken, Salmon, or Vegetarian. | $97.50 | x | _____ | = | _____ |

Grand Total: _____

Name: _____ District/Grand Office: _____ Delegate: ☐Yes ☐No

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip/Post Code: _____

Telephone: _____ District & Local Lodge: _____ Banquet Choice: _____

Other Attendees: (Your may copy this form for each person and complete the above or use the additional lines below)

Name: _____ Address: _____ Banquet Choice: _____ Delegate: ☐Yes ☐No

Name: _____ Address: _____ Banquet Choice: _____ Delegate: ☐Yes ☐No

Name: _____ Address: _____ Banquet Choice: _____ Delegate: ☐Yes ☐No

Name: _____ Address: _____ Banquet Choice: _____ Delegate: ☐Yes ☐No