



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

WINTER 2015
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



The theater group of Tomelilla No. 631 on stage. /Page 15

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



DEAR VASA MEMBERS,
Spring is almost upon us as you read this. At the moment I am writing this the

Holidays are just past and the New Year is not yet a week old. Birgitta and I spent the Holidays at home, having the family over for our traditional Swedish Julbord (Christmas Table) lunch/dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Eve. I love all that great food. Birgitta is such a good cook. It's always such a delight to have kids and grandkids visiting. Following our Swedish tradition later in the day we gathered by the Christmas tree and opened presents.

All throughout Vasa Land the New Year started with the installation of the newly elected Officers of the Lodge. I congratulate all of you and wish you a successful term in office. During this meeting you also received the new password that I selected for this four year term. Give some thought to the meaning of this password. I think you will find it appropriate for our Order.

I hope you are publishing your Programs for all your meetings of the year. It is important to let members know as early as possible what to expect in the coming year. For them to set aside the meeting dates and be sure to attend. Exciting and engaging programs make good reasons for members to retain their membership and come to the meetings. Guests that you bring to a meeting are also more likely to want to join if they see an interesting program.

By the time you read this I will already have attended the Convention of District Lodge Pacific Southwest #15. This is the first of many for the year with odd years hosting the majority of the biennial District Conventions, including both Norra Sverige #19 and Södra Sverige #20 in Sweden as well as District Alberta #18 in Canada and Districts Connecticut #1,

Massachusetts #2, Rhode Island #3, New York #4, Superior #10 and Pacific Northwest #13 here in the US. A few Districts, New Jersey #6, Lake Michigan #8 and Golden Gate #12 have annual Conventions and the remaining six Districts meet even years. I will attend many of these Conventions, but there are unfortunately a couple of scheduling conflicts.

Looking through this issue of Vasa Star, you will notice names of all members who have donated to our fund raisers during last year. The Heritage Fund and the Ever Living Julgran Memorial both benefit Vasa National Archives. The Educational Stamp fundraiser supports the Grand Lodge Scholarship programs, including the scholarships for higher education and the Sjölundén Language Camp. I thank you all for your generous donations these worthwhile causes. / continued on p5

Archives News

Preparations have begun for spring and summer at the archives—Valborg, Prairie Market and the art exhibit "Wild Harmony," featuring Swedish artists, opens on Sweden's National Day / p3

Grand Lodge News

Honor Roll of Donors for the Grand Lodge Education and Scholarship Fund. An introduction to our new Vice Grand Master, Art Björkner of Sveaborg #446 / p6-7

Local Lodge News

There's no better time than Christmas time to get your feet wet when it comes to trying out Scandinavian traditions. Christmas celebrations galore... / p7-12

Swedish Pronunciation

The Swedish language has some unusual sounds and the pronunciation is on the whole not as regular as one might wish, but you don't have to master all to understand or make yourself understood. / p14

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Amanda Olson Robison

With this, 2015's first issue of the Vasa Star, I wish you a *Gott Nytt År!* Many lodges aren't wasting any time diving right in to the new year with interesting activities, educational opportunities and meetings as the winter months move toward spring. Be sure to see all the pages of the many Lucia celebrations across Vasa land, and discover what your lodge – and others – are planning for this first quarter of the year. It provokes a special feeling, a kind of camaraderie, knowing that so many other lovers of Swedish traditions are also celebrating in similar ways. Enjoy all the information shared in this issue.

The staff of the Vasa Star is making plans, too. In an effort to better manage all the information that comes to us, I have a new assistant on board to help organize all the letters, photos and other assets that get sent our way for publication. Many of you may already know her from Milwaukee's Linde Lodge #492 - **Liza Ekstrand**. I'm so pleased and lucky to have her on board! Here is a little more about her:

In 1978, Liza and her husband Rolf and their children Magnus and

Marianne, immigrated to the U.S. from Sweden. In 2002, she joined Linde Lodge #492 and immediately became the secretary; she has been the chairman for the last four years and is the co-editor of the lodge's newsletter LindeNytt. She has also held positions in District Lodge Lake Michigan #8 as the assistant secretary and treasurer. In addition, Liza helped re-activate Skansen Children's Club #113 in 2004 and stayed with it through 2011 – the club is still going strong. Liza speaks and writes Swedish fluently, and if the opportunity presents itself with the Vasa Star, she is ready to put that talent to work. As a recent retiree, Liza enjoys traveling, golfing, walking, reading, cooking and spending time with family and friends.

Nearly all the content of the Vasa Star comes from you, our readers. If you aren't sending your contributions and requests digitally to vasaeditor@gmail.com, please send them – effective immediately – to our new mailbox at:

P.O.Box 13331
Milwaukee, WI 53213-0331

AMANDA OLSON ROBISON
VASAEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Norden No. 684 Lucia at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fresno. / p11



Torsten Olsson, VASA leader/Swedish craftsman for the Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University / p13

Deadlines for The Vasa Star

Spring Deadline » **April 15**
Summer Deadline » **August 15**

- Picture and article, 200 words or less.
- For Letters to the Editor column, 150 words or less.
- Please send pictures of good quality in order for them to reproduce well in The Vasa Star ▶▶▶
- 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 to the Vasa Star

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

Editor's email:
vasaeditor@gmail.com

Swedish Pronunciation

Chapter 8, Part 1 of Introduction to Swedish pronunciation. / p14

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."

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HEADQUARTERS
Grand Secretary / Joan Graham
5838 San Jose Avenue
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 526 5512
vasajlg@aol.com

Grand Master / Tore Kellgren
5971 W. Walbrook Drive
San Jose, CA 95129
Phone: (408) 996 1970 | (408) 505 6623
gmtore@kellgren.org

Editor / Amanda Olson Robison
Managing Editor / Liza Ekstrand

Send articles, photos & memorials to:
The Vasa Star
PO Box 13331
Milwaukee WI 53213-0331
vasaeditor@gmail.com

Circulation Manager / Joan Graham
5838 San Jose Avenue
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 526 5512
circulationvasastar@gmail.com

Send **address changes** and bottom section of application for new members to Joan Graham.

Membership Chairman / Bruce Elfvin
2924 E. Overlook Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-2434
bbe@elfvinbesser.com

Advertising
Call 1.800.827.9333, ask for Vasa Star rates
vasaeditor@gmail.com

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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

A Message from the President of Vasa National Archives

DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

In this brief greeting I will update you regarding the success of the Heritage Fund 2014 Campaign and this year's Julgran Fundraiser. Archive Board members and spouses, Sheila and I, MEB Midwest Region Bruce Elfvin and Jackie, VP Tom Cleveland and DM Sue, Bd. Mbr. Sten Hult and Nancy, our archivist, Viktoria Almgren, District No. 8 Bd. Mbr. Gene Kiesel and Dawn, and Bishop Hill local lodge members attended the Memorial/Dedication Ceremony on December 6. Elizabeth and Mathew Cleveland hung the many decorated ornaments on the julgran while those in attendance sang Christmas carols, with the service closing while the group sang Silent Night, candles were lit and lights were dimmed. Again this year members created beautifully decorated memorial bulbs for their loved ones. Departed members of many local lodges were remembered by their lodges. Glögg and snacks were served

to all afterward.

In this issue of The Vasa Star you will see the Honor Roll of Donors to the Archives. Donations to the Heritage Fund 2014 Campaign totaled \$15,912.00 and donations to the Julgran 2014 Campaign totaled \$8,030.00. We are grateful for these members who participated in the fundraisers, and especially for those who donated \$1,000 or more. If our 10,000 members in the U.S. and Canada had each donated only \$10 to these two fundraisers, the Archives would have acquired \$200,000! This participation on an annual basis would quickly bring the Vasa National Archives into independence from support by the Grand Lodge. I believe support for the work of the Archives is directly proportionate to knowledge about the Great Emigration. I strongly believe that as Vasa members we all need to study and learn to appreciate the hardships our ancestors faced in Sweden in the 1800s as well

as when they arrived in North America. Bishop Hill offers tangible evidence of the hardships these emigrants faced. The community offers visitors a sense of going back in time and allows you to feel some of the pain our grandparents felt giving up the familiar for religious and financial freedom in the west. Staying in one of the local inns gives an especially vivid experience. The darkness, quiet and basic accommodations lets you imagine everyday life for the emigrants. The Archives itself is the place for study and growth which helps you learn from the past, but walking into blacksmith shops, galleries with working weavers, potters, broom makers, bake shops with limpa coming out of the ovens every day helps you physically appreciate the past.

During my term as president of the Archives I will attempt to introduce you to the Bishop Hill area and try to help develop your love of the past and a desire within our membership to learn

more. Going online for information about Henry County, IL where Bishop Hill is located will help you learn. I will be happy to help you research places to stay and visit in the area and of course I want to encourage you to visit our Archives and our archivist, Viktoria, who will help you do personal research.

All of us who visited Bishop Hill in December were graciously invited to share in Bishop Hill LL No. 683's Holiday Smorgasbord and St. Lucia Pageant. It was a lovely evening and dinner, pot luck style, in the Colony one-room school. Everything, including traditional lutfisk, was delicious and reminded us all of the joy of celebrating our beautiful Swedish Christmas traditions together. Best wishes to all of you for 2015 from the Vasa National Archives Board.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
BILL LUNDQUIST, PRESIDENT VASA
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Archives Heritage Fund Honor Roll of Donors January 1 to December 31, 2014 — Thank you for your generosity

Ahlberg, Kenneth & Judith Alex, Barbara J. Alfredson, Gerald Allen, Dale W. Allen, Kenneth & Bette Anderson, Claire Anderson, David G. Anderson, Donald Anderson, Evert R. Anderson, Grace Anderson, Ivar V. Anderson, Jeannie Anderson, Karla Anderson, Kristina Anderson, Mary C. Anderson, Tobie L. Anderson, Westen H. Andersson, Anders Andrews, Bea Angstrom, Wayne & Sandy Arneson, Karin Asplund, Ray Atherton, Jane Austin Lodge #466	Campbell, Virginia Carlson, Harold Carol, Kasper Carter, Evelyn Carter, Ralph R. Caves, Karin Cheline, Robert W. Colter, Carole Conlogue, Donna L. Connelly, Marguerite Connelly, Myrtle Cook, Hazel Cook, Lois Cunnane, Elisabeth Curtis, Diane Dahlberg, Diedre A. Dahlberg, Edward David, Leena Dawn, Margaret Delfs, Linda DeMent, J. Payton DeSau, Carol Nordby Dill, Birgitta DL Pennsylvania #9 DL Södra Sverige #20 Dorner, Eleanor Doty, Lee & Fae Drew, Astrid Droster, Ralph Ebbersten, Robert Edstrom, Donna M. 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GRAND LODGE NEWS

The Grand Master's Message (continued)

On a personal note, Vasa has again done something extraordinary for me. A couple years back, when I attended a District Convention in Sweden in 2013, a member who is knowledgeable in genealogy informed me that a second cousin of mine was the owner of a nursery just down the street in Lundsunn where the Convention was held. Imagine my delight when Birgitta and I walked the few steps to his place and met him. His nursery reminded me so much of my grandmother's nursery. We talked for a bit and it was as if we had always known each other. This time it came in the form of a surprise email from our Grand Lodge Historian in Sweden, Gunnar Gustafsson. Thank you Gunnar! He writes that he had been visiting Lodge Vänersborg in DL Norra Sverige #19 and there met a cousin of mine. Not knowing what to think, as he didn't mention this cousin by name, I had to write him back right away and ask. He replied that her name is Christina, daughter of one of my father's sisters. I then understood who it was although we have had no contact since I was about 10 years old. To make a long story short, we have since exchanged letters and are also planning to meet when I visit Sweden later this year.



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Joan Graham, Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804

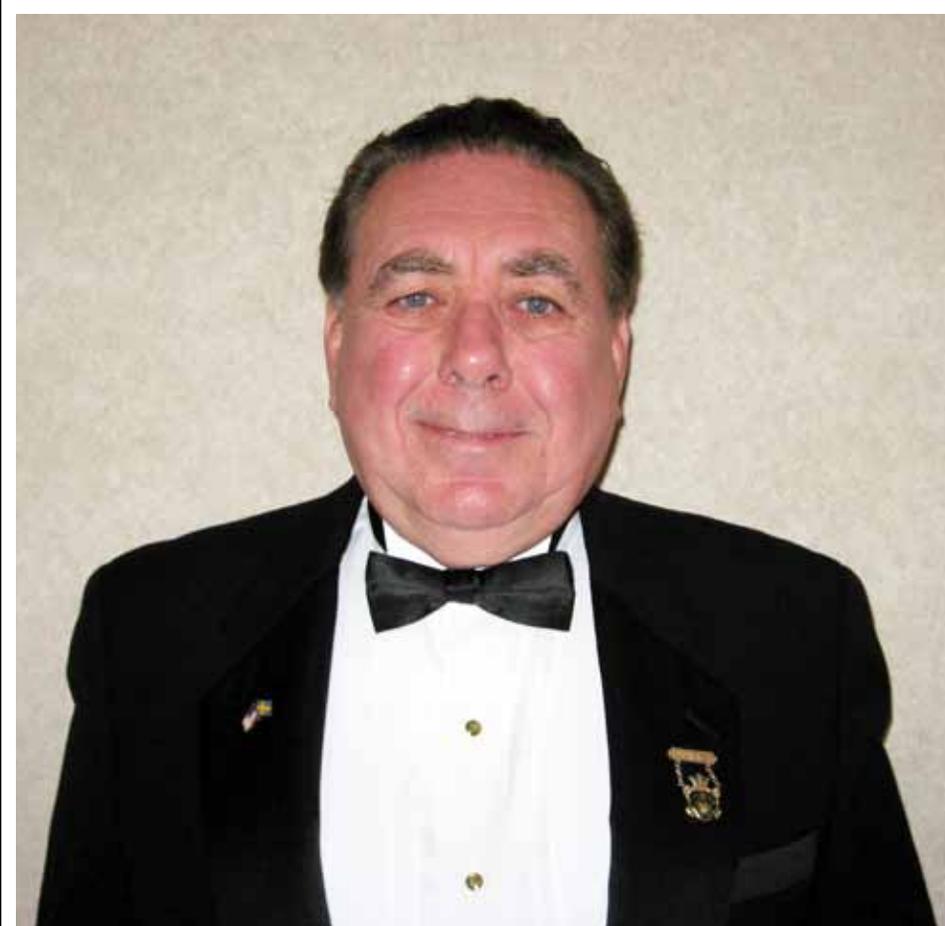
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when you are making a memorial donation

Send your donations to:
Vasa National Archives
PO Box 101
Bishop Hill, IL 61419

How absolutely delightful it is to realize that Vasa made this possible.

As I have stated in previous messages, we need to update our website. To that end I am asking if we have a Web Designer in Vasa Land who might be interested in designing a new website and integrate it with our new web Database. The first task would be writing a specification in cooperation with our Database Designer and our Database Director. No need to be an expert in coding HTML. We have a company that will do that at a very reasonable price. We also need to find someone to work with our current Web Master with the intent of taking over that position in the future. I hope someone is willing to take this on for the Good of the Order. If you are interested or you know some member who might be interested in either of these positions, please contact me or let me know whom I should contact.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER



Art Bjorkner, Vice Grand Master

Art Bjorkner, Vice Grand Master

Art was born and raised in New Jersey. Upon graduating New York Maritime College and receiving a degree in Marine Transportation and an Officer Deck License in the Merchant Marine, Art was commissioned an Officer in the Navy and married Nancy four days later.

The journey commenced. Art spent 20 years active duty in the Navy (submarines) and retired. During his Navy career, Art earned his Master's degree in business.

Art went on active service in the U.S. Merchant Marine for the next 10 years serving as a captain on numerous ships sailing the world, before settling down to manage a fleet of worldwide ships for a company in Philadelphia. This shore position lasted about 15 years, and he retired again. After two more years, Art accepted

a position to manage an International Ships Registry in New York City where he became the Deputy Maritime Commissioner with registry offices around the world. As Commissioner he oversees the managing of 700+ ships sailing the world.

Art is still a Merchant Marine Officer licensed to serve as captain on any size vessel anywhere in the world. He is also member of prestigious professional organizations such as National Cargo Bureau, Council of American Master Mariners and Marine Society of New York, which dates back to 1770s.

Art and Nancy have moved 14 times, lived in six states — sometimes more than once — and Canada. They have three children: Kurt, born in New Jersey and living with his family in Florida; Erik born

in Virginia and living with his family in Alabama; Berit Michelle born in Canada and living with her family in New Jersey. Of their six grandchildren, the four oldest are presently Vasa members. Art and Nancy travel to Sweden often to visit family and relax at the summer house on the Baltic near Gävle.

Art's hobbies include collecting Volvos and playing the trombone. He has played with bands in New York, Memphis, Pensacola, England, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Portugal, France, Italy and Bermuda.

Though his father was a member of Arlington #62 for 49 years, Art was not able to join Vasa due to his many moves. Nancy and Art now have been members of Sveaborg #446 for almost 20 years. Art

held many local lodge offices including chairman. In the District he spent four years on the Executive Board before becoming District Master. After DM he became president of New Jersey Vasa Home (Vasa Park). Art was elected in 2010 to the Grand Lodge Executive Board Eastern Region, membership chairman, and member of the Finance Committee.

As membership chairman, Art authored the first Vasa Membership Guide for lodges to use as a reference. This can be downloaded from the main page of the Vasa site www.vasaorder.com. For the future we have to continue to support our members. Membership growth is essential and sustaining the members we have is paramount.

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.

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

Golden Gate No. 12

District Lodge Master Paul Jevert celebrated the holidays with Grand Master Tore Kellgren and Vice District Master Mike Peterson. These officers hail from diverse parts of the district. Paul is from the Jenny Lind Lodge #388 in Turlock, CA, in the middle of the district. Tore is from Lindbergh Lodge #494 in Palo Alto, CA, in the western part of the district. And Mike is from Norden Lodge

#684 in Fresno, CA, in the southern part of the district.

There was plenty of Lucia spirit to fill up the entire district as they enjoyed a traditional Swedish meal of lutfisk, meatballs, potatoes, beets, cabbage, herring, breads and cookies, and all the glögg they could drink.

SUBMITTED BY JUDY HARLESS



L-R: Grand Master Tore Kellgren, Vice District Master Mike Peterson and District Master Paul Jevert celebrating the holidays.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

Diana Birger Jarl No. 3

NEW HAVEN, CT / The October 2014 meeting of Diana Birger Jarl #3 featured a presentation by Sara Melendez on her experiences at Sjolunden Swedish Language Camp in Bemidji, MN. Sara was the winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship to attend the camp. She is the daughter of Kari and Juan Melendez and the granddaughter of Arthur and Arlene Ogonoski.

Sara described the immersion process used to teach Swedish language skills from having to take a Swedish name, make a name tag with that name, to depositing money in the bank and obtain Kronor, purchasing items in the camp store, and to the meals in which the food had to be requested in Swedish. This was followed by her entertaining us with two songs which she sang in Swedish and then sought to engage lodge members in singing a third song. On a side note Sara has a lovely voice. Her talk was quite engaging. It is clear she had a wonderful experience, meeting with other campers from across the country. Sara expressed an interest in attending the camp a second time in the future.

Next up in November 2014 was our annual korv making hosted by Lars and Vivian Edeen.

SUBMITTED BY PAUL LJUNGGREN



Clockwise from above: Sara Melendez during her presentation at the meeting. L-R: Paul Ljunggren, Gordon Reimer Art Thorsen preparing for another batch of korv; The Edeen brothers, John and Lars at work with the korv mixer.



Kornet No. 16

MINNEAPOLIS, MN / St. Lucia was Caroline Wallace, who is 13 years old and lives in Eagan, MN. She is in 8th grade at Dakota Hills Middle School. Caroline's Swedish heritage comes from her mom's side of the family; her great-great-grandparents came to Minnesota from the Småland province. She began dancing with the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers six years ago after seeing the group perform at Svenskarnasdag.

At Dakota Hills, Caroline is on the tennis and speech teams and plays oboe in the band. This summer she began taking harp lessons as well. Caroline attends Augustana Lutheran Church where she sings in the Girls Choir and is active in their bi-annual

Scandinavian Christmas Festival. She has been a Girl Scout for 9 years. Caroline loves to dance and after taking tap and jazz for several years, she now focuses on Irish step dancing. She is in her 6th year of dancing with the Rince na Chroi School of Irish Dance in St. Paul, MN, performing often throughout the Twin Cities.

The annual Vasa Christmas Party of the Twin Cities lodges was held on Sunday, December 7, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. The program featured the St. Lucia pageant, Vasa Junior Folk Dancers performing, and a visit from Santa Claus. There were homemade Christmas cookies and coffee for everyone. A festive afternoon.

SUBMITTED BY JOANN THOREN



Caroline Wallace

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

Tegner No. 109

SCOTIA, NY / Tegner #109's Lucia was a lovely affair, with more than 85 people in attendance. Before we settled into a fabulous dinner of ham, Jansson's temptation, pickled cucumbers and many other dishes, we were treated to verse and Advent readings in Swedish and English by our cultural leaders, Caroline Simpson and Inger Capalbo.

Here's a sampling of the verse:
Lucias Vers: O jag hälsar er alla som förr
mången gang / Med ljus i min krona och
stämningfull sang / Jag kommer när mör-
kast det är här i Norden / när allt synes dött
och förfruset på jorden. / Du eviga stråle, du
sol över allt / träng in i vart bröst där det nu
känns så kallt. / Jag hälsar er alla som förr

mången gang / med ljus i min krona, med
stämningfull sang.

In English: *I greet all of you, like many
times before / With light in my crown and
evocative song / I arrive when Nordic dark-
ness surround us / When all seems dead and
frozen on earth. / You eternal ray of light,
sun over all / Bring warmth and light to man,
where it now feels so cold. / I greet all of
you, like many times before / With light in
my crown and evocative song.*

Thus prepared for the coming year, we
toasted with glögg and enjoyed our meal.

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA JOHNSON NAPLE



Starting off their Lucia celebration right, Tegner #109's parade included more than 13 children led by their own Lucia, 15-year-old Helen Wadja of Schenectady, NY.



Celebrating th Fylgia No. 119 julbord in 2014.

Fylgia No. 119

SAN FRANCISCO, CA / What do we all do for the holidays? We eat, visit with our families, buy Christmas gifts for our friends and family, travel, try to relax, volunteer at non-profits, and we try to remember what the holidays are about. If you are Swedish-American, in addition to the above, you celebrate with a julbord. Since Fylgia has not been meeting at the Swedish-American hall for all of 2014, we had to find another venue for our julbord. So we gathered at Plaj in San Francisco for a five course julbord dinner that was superb in an elegant setting.

We were joined by members of other District 12 lodges, so it was a grand event!

Looking forward to 2015 we are anticipating a great and eventful year: In February we will enjoy a symposium on Swedish immigration; in March there is a cooking class on semlor; and in May we will have our aquavit tasting dinner after which we are off to Sveadal for Sweden Days at the end of the month. Have a wonderful and prosperous New Year!

SUBMITTED BY DIANNE DAHLBERG

Stenbock No. 138



MINNEAPOLIS, MN / David G. Anderson was conferred the 50-year membership pin at the October lodge meeting. His Swedish heritage comes from Västmanland, and Öland. Congratulations, Dave.

SUBMITTED BY JOANN THOREEN,
SECRETARY

Drott No. 168

WASHINGTON, D.C. / December 14 dawned with beautiful weather and Julfest would go on. The lovely Kara Fagerstrom would finally have her chance to be Lucia. Just as it was getting dark, a hush came over the room as the Drott Adult Chorus took its place and an introduction of Lucia history and tradition began.

Kara led the procession with two star

Tegner No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / The Lucia program and smorgasbord was held at Bjornson Hall on Dec. 9, the 16th birthday of our Lucia, Olivia Siobhan Simms. Olivia is the daughter of Dan and Susan Simms of San Ramon, CA and is the great-granddaughter of the late John and Gladys Peterson, granddaughter of the late Jean Ann Peterson Brooks, and great niece of the late Charlotte Weissenborn and our chairman, Ken Weissenborn.

Olivia is a sophomore at Dougherty Valley High School. She loves photography and plays the piano and guitar. She is on the Varsity swim team and has swam at the Junior Olympics twice. She was a recipient of the 2012 Beroza Essay Contest at Sveadal and has a poem published in a book of student poetry.

boys, two tomtar, and 12 attendants, all singing "The Lucia Song." The program included more songs, readings, children placing straw ornaments on the Christmas tree, and the passing of the light of Bethlehem while the adults sang "Nu Tändas Tusen Julejus" (We Light a Thousand Christmas Lights). Afterward, everyone danced around the Christmas tree and enjoyed a generous smörgåsbord and a visit from Jultomten.

Kara, our Lucia, is the second of four children. A 9th grader who loves science and architectural drafting, she is a dedicated reader and avid circus arts performer who specializes in aerials, balance tricks and clowning.

The other main activity for Drott members during the last quarter of 2014 were the bazaars — Drott hosted its 35th An-

nual Swedish Bazaar on November 1 and participated in the SWEA Bazaar and the ASA Bazaar in December.

Lucia's attendants were Annika Zamora, Joacim Zamora, Emily Sarraon and Alexander Sarraon. Carol Madigan told the Lucia story and T.C. Brevitz provided musical accompaniment; the Tegner Singers, plus Grand Master Tore Kellgren, led a sing-along. Former member Laura Nordendahl made the saffron buns for Lucia to pass out. After the raffle, guests participated in a long dance and some ring dances.

In November, Tegner Lodge celebrated its 106th Anniversary with a catered dinner at Bjornson Hall. The program was provided by Tim Rued, nyckelharpa player.

nual Swedish Bazaar on November 1 and participated in the SWEA Bazaar and the ASA Bazaar in December.



SUBMITTED BY CAROL WHITLEY



Monitor No. 218

SACRAMENTO, CA / Monitors' fall activities began with participation in the 31st annual Scandinavian Festival in Sacramento — a banner year with almost 1000 attendees. Monitor was responsible for Swedish pancakes (9 gallons of mix made into a delicious product) and sandwiches. There were over 20 vendors with Scandinavian products, baked goods and other foods, folk dancing with Barry Moore, fiddlers and musical programs.

Our annual Smorgasbord on Nov. 15 had over 80 in attendance and with what one participant exclaimed "was the best she had ever been to, including ones in Sweden." Peggy Carlson and DeeDee Dahlberg did their usual excellent job.

This year's Santa Lucia program was held as a separate event in order to produce a more extensive program, and this idea proved out. It was choreographed by Karin Johnson with the help of many hands. Our Lucia was Megan Leaman, daughter of Lincoln and Erica Leaman, granddaughter of Ed and Judy Netzel.

2014 proved to be most successful with the addition of new members bringing our total to 250 and with good attendance at a variety of programs.

SUBMITTED BY ARLIE VEIS



Astor No. 215

ASTORIA, OR / What a happy group to celebrate Lucia in 2014!

SUBMITTED BY TERRY ARNALL



Olympic Lucia Heidi Ahlm Abrahamsen

Olympic No. 235

GARDEN CITY, NY / The 2014 Lucia was Heidi Ahlm Abrahamsen. She sang "O Helga Natt" so beautifully, her angelic voice brought tears to our eyes. In each of the three pageants performed, Heidi was supported by current and alumni Barnklubben Elsa Rix No. 1 members.

The big star was carried by Robert Prasso, the candle girls Freja Gillen-Goldstein and Colleen Williamsen spoke their Swedish lines well, and the maidens looked so festive and beautiful singing in their white gowns, silver belts and garland hair pieces with candles flickering. The tomtarna were so cute stomping their feet to Tipp Topp. Past Lucias, including Miss Sweden Day Linnea Abrahamsen (Heidi's sister), were present at each performance and looked so lovely with their red sashes.

Heidi, 16, is a member of NY Olympic Lodge #235 and has been dancing in Barnklubben Elsa Rix since she was 2. She was so touched and thankful for all the alumni families of Elsa Rix that came to help make each pageant a joy for all who attended. The club members then donned their folk costumes and performed traditional and ring dances for the guests.

SUBMITTED BY ROBIN ABRAHAMSEN

Brahe No. 245

ROCKFORD, IL / Twelve members of our lodge met on Jan. 18, 2015 for our monthly meeting in the Cherry Valley Public Library meeting room. Pictured are the 2015 VASA officers who were present. In the front row, left to right, are: Charlotte Tollin, financial secretary/treasurer and Tess Anderson, recording secretary. In the rear row, left to right, are: Marlyn Ryall, guard/trustee; Donald Erickson, chaplain; Marianne Ekstrand, District 8 Lodge Lake Michigan official; Gary Johnson, chairman; and David Tollin, auditor/park board.

Tess Anderson read minutes of the Dec. 2014 meeting; Charlotte Tollin read obituaries of Astrid Nelson and Conrad Johnson, and an explanation of future per capita VASA dues; David Tollin discussed VASA Park income/expenses including annual property taxes and insurance of \$11,000, etc. Refreshments were provided by Tess Anderson. Our next meeting will be on Feb. 15 in the CV Library.

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS G. EKSTEN



Gary Johnson, elected chairman, and Tess Anderson, elected recording secretary of Brahe #245. Retiring 2014 Chairman Scott Johnson agreed to be 2015 Vice Chairman.



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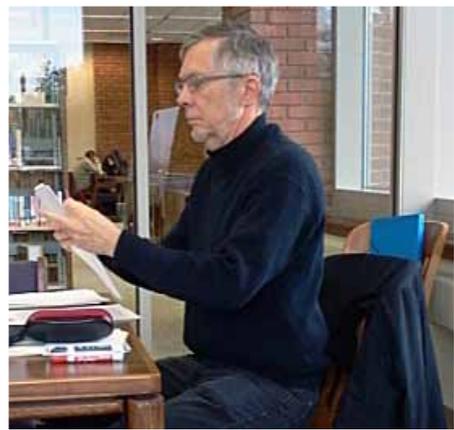
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Students of the Swedish Class, October 18, 2014: John Gundersen, Jean Tygum, Brenda Miller, Marvin Anderson, Amy Johnson, Irene Nelson, and Jim Nelson



Member Jim Nelson, teaching the Swedish Class, October 18, 2014

Svea No. 348

SAN JOSE, CA / November and December had traditional cultural celebrations graced with multi-cultural participation. In November, the Nordahl Grieg Lekarring Dance Group performed an amazing set of Scandinavian dances and songs for appreciative Svea Lodge members and guests. After their formal performance, group members presented their Nordic backgrounds and costumes. Then they led the audience in dances and song. Everyone had a very pleasant evening.

The traditional Swedish dishes for December's jul dinner were outstanding as usual with table centerpieces of unique Swedish log houses and tomtar. The music program presented by the Lynbrook High

School Jazz Choir highlighted the evening. The program was a youthful, joyful vocal program of traditional and contemporary holiday music. The event was as ethnically diverse as the Bay Area itself. Members and guests enjoyed dinner, refreshments and conversation. Particularly enjoyable for all was District Honorary Life members Jan and Kikki Nordin leading the young choraliars and lodge members in traditional Swedish folk dances around the Christmas tree, with Jan expertly leading the dancers to Kikki's violin music. To the somewhat amazed elders, the high schoolers enthusiastically followed Jan and had a ball.

SUBMITTED BY EMMA HANLON



Lindbergh No. 494

LOS ALTOS, CA / Fifty-four members and guests gathered for our special Membership Appreciation Banquet in September. After a delightful social hour and short meeting, members and guests enjoyed a feast of beef, ham, turkey and sides. The band played dancing music and the raffle yielded prizes to many winners! The evening's highlight was the announcement our Lindbergh Laureate: Chuck Wallin! Chuck has worn many hats in service of the Lodge. Tusen tack, Chuck!

Lindbergh Lodge celebrated October Fest with a great meal of sausages, sauerkraut, potato salad and strudel. Chairman Omander introduced the new Grandmaster and spouse, our own Tore and Birgitta Kellgren. We were reminded of the coming District Cultural Event on Genealogy at Sveadal. Verlene Schermer's presentation and performance on Swedish stringed instruments was both informative and entertaining.

In November, we celebrated our own Thanksgiving celebration, "Tacksägelse." After a social hour and brief meeting, the group adjourned to the dining room for a great meal of Anna's famous salmon soup.

Svea No. 253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / Carol Clarkson presented "Early Celtic And Scandinavian Design". An accomplished artist and teacher, Carol discussed Celtic influences in Viking designs in Nordic jewelry, helmets, swords, chain mail, horse trappings, and decorations.

Jim Nelson taught Svenska Klass / Introductory Swedish Language and Nordic Culture in October, sharing history, folklore, culture, poetry, and music. Christmas Customs in Sweden and Norway in November included carols, recipes, and the Christmas story in Swedish and Norwegian.

Judith Gustafson presented "Unwritten Rules Of Being Swedish" in November, the subject of her Heritage Essay.

LuciaFest in December welcomed 109 guests for Julmiddag smörgåsbord, Lucia Procession, efterrätt, raffles, and Jultomte. Julbord included a complete array of fish, meat, relishes, vegetables, and desserts.

Lucia was Annika Björk - Griffith, daughter of Barbara Griffith and Ulf Jonas Björk. An 8th grader at Westlane Middle School in Indianapolis, Annika plays saxophone in the school band, sings and dances

in the Blu'ettes show choir, and plays on the tennis team. She spent spring semester 2012 in Stockholm, where she attended a local school and learned the north Stockholm dialect. Eija Vesterqvist led the Svea Singers, Barbara Griffith and Ulf Jonas Björk coordinated the Lucia attendants and stjärngossar.

SUBMITTED BY JOELLA HULTGREN



Lucia 2014: Annika Bjork - Griffith.

Skogsblomman No. 378

UPPER PRESTON, WA / As we look back at the year behind us we are grateful for all we enjoyed as members of Skogsblomman lodge. Besides our monthly meetings and lunches, our lodge benefitted from many activities and responsibilities, including fundraiser meatball dinners and flea markets, Lefsefest and Vasa Park's Midsommer celebration where we hosted the Swedish pancake breakfast and coffee garden. Skogsblomman members also had fun together at our bingo/potluck chili night and summer picnic at the culmination of our week-long Vasa Children's Camp. The hard work of our lodge members has resulted in a sturdier and prettier lodge for all of us to enjoy.

The end of the year arrived and we enjoyed yet another wonderful Julfest, a chance for members and their family and friends to celebrate. It was a beautiful, delicious and musical affair, with a Lucia program and wonderful skit put on by the children's group. Our Lucia was Erica Larson from Tacoma, Washington; she did a marvelous job in helping Skogsblomman Lodge usher in the Christmas holidays!

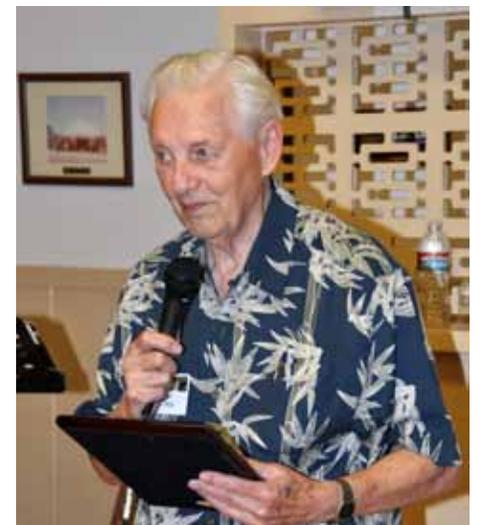
SUBMITTED BY EMMA WILMOT

New members were initiated. Tore spoke and showed a video about Vasa National Archives at Bishop Hill providing a clear idea of the full mission of the Archives.

SUBMITTED BY ELIZABETH BRITTEN NILSON



(Above) Isabella Jones, the 2014 Lucia of Lindbergh Lodge #494. (Top Right) Verlene Schermer captivating us playing her Nyckelharpa. (Bottom Right) Chuck Wallin after being rewarded his Lindbergh Laureate.



Bishop Hill No. 683

BISHOP HILL, IL / Our 2014 Christmas Smörgåsbord on December 6 was in the Colony School. Around 90 people were in attendance. The evening started with a Swedish prayer offered by Morris Nelson. All enjoyed the smörgåsbord food with Swedish meatballs, potato sausage, lut-fisk, boiled potatoes, pickled herring, rice pudding, custard and many other Swedish dishes.

Santa made his visit after the meal and handed out candy and oranges to all the good children (young and old). Next we had our Lucia Program.

Jennalynn Cisna was our Lucia. She is the 13-year-old daughter of Shawn and Lisa Cisna and lives in rural Galva. Jennalynn is a member of the First United Methodist Church, where she is active in the handbell choir, voice choir and youth group. She is a 4-H member and a member of a horse bowl team. She enjoys playing the piano, organ and guitar.

Next we sang Christmas songs with Shawn Cisna at the piano. Among our guests were officers from the VASA Archives with their spouses, Bill and Shelia Lundquist,

Tom and Sue Cleveland, Sten and Nancy Hult, Gene Kiesel and his wife. The night ended with a raffle — we had many happy winners.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF ANDERSON



Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / On December 13, 2014 we celebrated Lucia at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fresno. Tiffany Johnson was our Lucia. She did an excellent job of portraying Lucia, and she danced with all the children around the Christmas tree. The children later served Lucia buns to everyone who attended the Lutfisk Dinner. Annika and Anastasiya were two of the other children who were serving the Lucia buns. It was a special evening for the 152 people who enjoyed the Swedish smörgåsbord.

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN



Linnea No. 504

PETALUMA, CA / New member Harold Anderson and his wife, Connie, attended our Oktoberfest, which was filled with lots of good food, Halloween costumes and costume winners: Natasha Scholin wore the scariest costume and Ann Christensen's was the most original. Cultural Leader Oscar Carlson gave a presentation on one of our favorite subjects — the tall, blonde, blue-eyed Vikings.

This year we celebrated our 87th anniversary! We were very pleased that our District 12 Master, Paul Jevert from Jenny Lind Lodge #388, celebrated with us. He drove 200 miles just to be there!

Our 2014 Lucia celebration started with glögg, lemonade and coffee. Chairman Anita Lees welcomed everyone and was presented with her Past Chairman's pin by Don Christensen. Then we had a dinner of Janssons frestelse, herring, ham, meatballs, deviled eggs, sill salad and lingonberries. Wonderful music was shared by Oscar Carlson and his daughter Linnea Spelman. Next was the Santa Lucia pageant with Lucia and her court. Our 2014 Lucia was Natasha Scholin, an active lodge member for years. There was dancing around the Christmas tree, cookies, and soon Santa and the Tom-

tenissarna arrived! The evening closed with everyone holding hands and singing "Silent Night" together. A wonderful time was had by all.

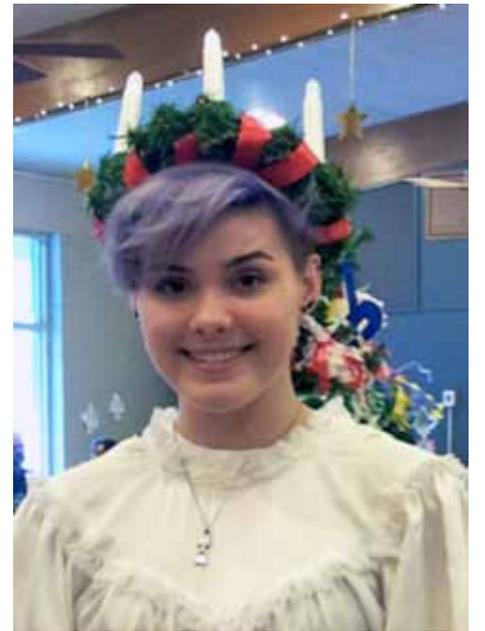
SUBMITTED BY LINDA OLSON PEARL



Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / We had an inspiring Lucia celebration on December 13, 2014. Our Lucia, Greta Westberg, is the daughter of our pageant leader Sindi Westberg. Greta Florence Westberg is 15 and studies chemistry, pre-calculus, writing, french and art at Phoenix College. She also works in the digital music lab at Music Works Academy, where she has studied piano for eleven years. Greta traveled to Sweden in 2013 to visit relatives in Östersund on the island of Öland; and in Lessebo near Växjö where she attended Midsommarfest. She has been singing in the Phoenix Lucia pageant since 2004, and is a beautiful and gracious representative of our Lucia tradition.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON



Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / What is a plural form of St. Lucia? Twin sisters Ashley and Arianna Klimczyk, granddaughters of Kathleen and Peter Klimczyk, led our St. Lucia Procession on Dec. 13. The attendants processed perfectly under the tutelage of Emma Brimdyr. George Hedlund provided accordion accompaniment as children and adults sang and danced around the Christmas tree. Svea Peterson read the St. Lucia Story and Kathleen Klimczyk read The Night Before Christmas to the children. Our festive holiday gifts were raffled off and we devoured special holiday sandwiches, inlagd sill and numerous desserts. Marilyn Sohoel and her Lucia Committee received many compliments from members who enjoyed reliving their Scandinavian Christmas traditions.

Following our November meeting, we reviewed aspects of Norse mythology that generated much interest. We also shared travel experiences both amusing and horrific. Louise Feitz displayed photographs of Lucia processions from previous years. In October we learned about famous/infamous relatives as members retold family tales.

At our Jan. 17 Installation of Officers, we welcomed Marilyn Sohoel as chairman, Dorothy Kean as vice chairman, Lorraine Young as assistant recording secretary and Gerd Hedlund as cultural leader. Our popular Pound, Pint, Yard Auction followed and benefitted our Lodge Scholarship Fund.

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN-ELLNER KEAN



Nordikfolk No. 761

MUNSTER, IN / We continue to host our Viking Lectures at the local library. Author Kenneth J. Schoon spoke to us with many stories he's come across in his research for his current project on the Scandinavian immigration and its continued influence into Northwest Indiana.

We started a club at Michael's for crafters interested in selling at our events, Herb Smith continues to help us all with his knowledge on genealogy, and we hosted our annual Viking Potluck with much success, sharing many special Scandinavian dishes passed down from generation to generation. Guests wore costumes, we danced around the tables to celebrate, and Mike Pearson displayed his impressive Scandinavian artifacts collection.

Our Santa Lucia Fest was held at Wicker Park in Highland. Our Lucia Queen was Kristine Pearson, who graced us with a beautiful song. The Nordikids sang many Swedish holiday songs and a few songs from "Frozen," which was the theme. We are so thankful for our director, Lynnea Sinwelski who spent many hours teaching them. We are also thankful for Fred Raddatz who dazzles us every year with a wooden background set for the Nordikids. A making-of-the-glogg party had been held at the Smith's house. It was a fun get together and great fundraiser for our Lodge.

SUBMITTED BY JEAN OGRENTZ

Sierra Kronan No. 737

ROSEVILLE, CA / At our Lucia celebration, we had a special opportunity to watch the video presentation of an opening procession and Sankta Lucia song from a Lucia morning program held in Stockholm at Kungsholms Church. It was very moving and everyone agreed the youngsters sang beautifully; we were left with feelings of peace, quiet and calm.

For culture, we learned about "Sju Sorters Kakor," a Swedish tradition in which the hostess serves no less than seven different kinds of cookies at social gatherings. In the early 1800s wheat was introduced to Sweden, fostering a competitive spirit among bakers to create more cookie recipes. And when coffee again became legal in 1822, after being prohibited for years, the custom of serving "småkakor" or little cookies with coffee soon followed. Why seven kinds? One theory reasons that the number seven seems to have a special, even magical meaning. But it's anyone's guess.

We had a lively discussion about modern traditions of Lucia celebrations as well as about the story of Lucia, which combines traces in history, various legends, and ties to pagan folklore. It's unclear how St. Lucia became a traditional sensation in Sweden, but the celebration is definitely associated with bringing light into the long dark days of winter.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL NESEWICH

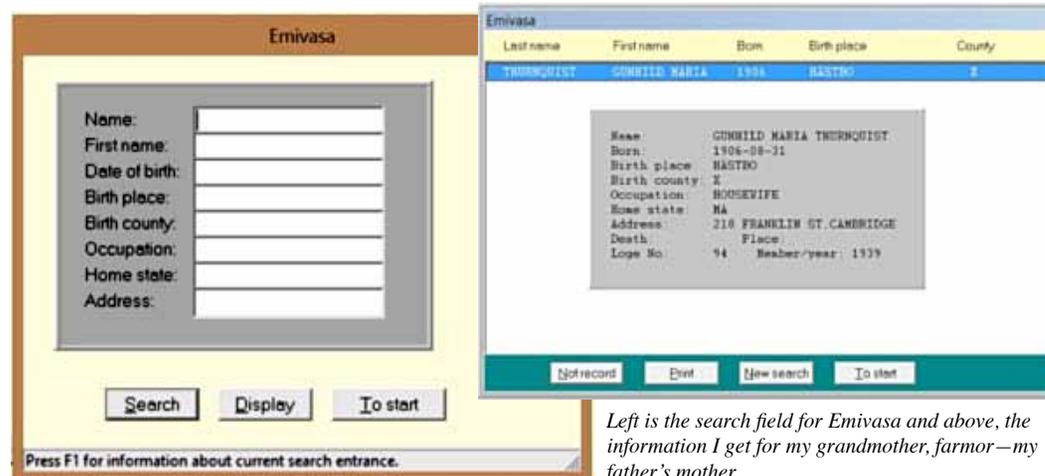
Searching for early Vasa members?

Emivasa on the CD *The Swedish Emigrant 2001*:

This CD came out 2002 in two versions, one in Swedish and one in English. The CD has a separate database with about 43,000 Vasa lodge members in USA.

The Swedish Emigrant was a joint project of The Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö, The Emigrant Register in Karlstad and The Gothenburg Emigrant in Gothenburg. They also have the copyright.

The Vasa database is made from the information the National Archives had of the lodge members. All lodges are not included in the database. Be aware that the database may contain information that is not consistent with the reality of a member. The CD is sold out but some societies in the U.S.



Left is the search field for Emivasa and above, the information I get for my grandmother, farmor—my father's mother.

can have it available for searches, possibly including the Vasa Archives. I know the Family History Library in Salt Lake City

has it. The database is not on the Internet, probably because living people may be included in the database.

I have the CD so please contact me if you want me to search Emivasa for a lodge member in the U.S. Send me an email with all the information you know of the person you want me to search for: charlotte.borjesson@telia.com

In these pictures you can see the search form and whatever information I can get about a member. Not every member has information, however.

SUBMITTED BY CHARLOTTE BÖRJESSON, DISTRICT CULTURE LEADER IN NORRA SVERIGE NO 19

Op-Ed

Wonder what the immigrants of yore would think about Facebook? Wonder what your mormor and farfar would think about finding out information quicker than you could say Gud som haver barnen kär? When the Vasa Order of America was born over a century ago, with the purpose of uniting and taking care of those who came from Sweden during "Amerika Feber," communications were in the form of letter writing, sent by boat, taking weeks to go one way. When airplanes became more popular than sailing on the Kungsholm or the Gripsholm, letters to the old country or vice versa were marked "Air Mail." How exciting to receive in your

mailbox an envelope with the striped design around the edges. Now it takes only a week for a letter to cross the Atlantic. Progress! The postal service improved, and then computers were born, and soon everyone, well almost everyone, proudly had their own computer. Email was born and people were finding their families and old friends, and communicating so much easier and quicker! Fast forward to the new millennium, and now we've got social media in many forms, the most popular being Facebook.

As the administrator of the Facebook page for Vasa New York District No. 4, I pose the question to all of you reading this:

Do you have a Facebook page for your district or for your lodge, activities group, or other within your Vasa Lodge? Let's unite! It's a fantastic way to share news, upcoming events, photos, videos, old and new, keeping current and up-to-date with each other in real time. Find us at www.facebook.com/districtfour.

There's a new Facebook page of interest and hot topics, providing us the opportunity to talk about the Vasa Order in "real time," where one can feel a resurgence of energy and encouragement with ideas, suggestions, do's and don'ts, specific subjects such as Old Age Benefits, the Archives, conven-

tions, and a very important topic — membership. While we love the Vasa Star and seeing our events and photos published, this is different. It gives us a chance to discuss anything Vasa-related, across the universe today — NOW! Please note that it is not an "official" Vasa Order of America Facebook page, but it sure is current and as spicy as glögg! It's called "Vasa Members Online Discussion Group." Find it at www.facebook.com/groups/VasaOrderOfAmerica/.

SUBMITTED BY JEANNE ERIKSSON W. A. NY DISTRICT NO. 4 CULTURAL LEADER CHAIRMAN, LINDBERGH LODGE #505

Torsten Olsson's creations earn him recognition as Outstanding Scandinavian American

When Torsten Olsson of Thousand Oaks, California was honored as an Outstanding Scandinavian American several months ago by the Scandinavian American Cultural & Historical Foundation (SACHF), his name plate went on a special wood panel he had prepared for display in the Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University.

The organization honored him especially for his years of serving as the Swedish craftsman who has created an array of improvements at the Scan Center. And the addition of his name to the wood panel of honored Scandinavian Americans provided literal and symbolic evidence of his extensive craft involvement — the recognition board serves as symbolic and literal testimony as it hangs in the Scan Center. And, in a link to Torsten's Swedish roots, he cut the panel from a large pine piece acquired from IKEA.

Torsten's many contributions to the Scan Center began some 15 years ago, when he helped as a volunteer. At that time, he worked as the service-department manager of the Ford dealership in Santa Monica. Even his connection with Ford had started when he lived in Sweden, when the company he worked for assembled cars from shipments of Ford components. After immigrating to America, he connected again with Ford at a dealership in Utah. Then he moved farther west to Los Angeles, to service "cars of the stars." Indirectly, that led him to being an "extra" in films.

Many of his improvements at the Scan Center have been routine modifications, but he has applied what he calls his "dream system" to think up project ideas. That

system, he has explained, involves thinking about design challenges, then sleeping on them. Ergo, the dream solves the problem. Some of those might even be considered "night-mares," such as his Dala horses at the Scan Center. Those include the 6-foot-tall "Trojan horse" (as identified by some of the university students who obviously lack knowledge of Sweden) that we pull (it's on wheels) out in front of the Scan Center to indicate when an event is scheduled there. But a recent "nightmare" led to his carving of a fearsome 3-foot-tall troll!

Torsten has been recognized in various ways at the Scan Center, including being honored during one of our weekly Brown-Bag Lunches. While there to be honored, Torsten was surrounded in the meeting room by some of his many creations: Swedish author Selma Lagerlof's Nils on his goose (with 8-foot-wingspan) hanging from the ceiling, a Sami sled (also suspended from

the ceiling), a movable display rack, a case for an antique violin, a cabinet for the large television screen, a tall Swedish Mora clock, and a wall rack to display photos about Vigeland sculpture. Out the window: the "Torsten Hus" sign for the shed he helped build, another structure (a relocated office) he helped install, and his benches on a patio he helped create.

By following our self-guided tour brochure, visitors can see more of Torsten's creations, including his tour de force, a 5-foot-tall model of a Norwegian stave church. He created his detailed model based on a series of photos about the construction of a replica in South Dakota. Torsten said he was also inspired by actual stave churches he had seen in Sweden and Norway, as well as the replicas in Minot, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota. His large Viking ship

decorates the ScanCenter office, and rails in the kitchen hold plates honoring Swedish royalty.

Naturally, Torsten's heritage and interests led him to extensive involvement in Scandinavian lodges. He has been active in the local VASA lodge for many years, including a stint as president. For many years, he flipped pancakes as part of the VASA participation in the annual Scandinavian Festival on the campus of California Lutheran University. Also for the Scan Fest, he has shaped hundreds of wood butter knives for kids to finish by sanding (on special saw horses he made for that purpose).

P.S. He's also active in the local Sons of Norway lodge. His wife Lorraine is Norwegian-American.



(Top Row Left) As a reminder of his home near Mora, Sweden, Torsten Olsson made this Mora clock for the Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA Ingrid Nordgren-Pratt (shown with Torsten) added rose-malling to the clock. The clock is one of many Scandinavian items created by Torsten Olsson for the Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Top Row Center) Torsten Olsson shows the stave church at a later stage of development. In its finished form, it is on display at the Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Top Row Right) To call attention to the story of Nils Holgersson and his goose by Swedish writer Selma Lagerlof, Torsten Olsson of Thousand Oaks, Calif., created this model, with the design based on the toy he is holding. (Middle Row Right) Lorraine Olsson (left) sits next to her husband, Torsten Olsson, as he waits to be honored by the Scandinavian Cultural & Historical Foundation (SACHF) of Thousand Oaks, CA as its Outstanding Scandinavian American. More of Torsten's family are to his left: their daughter Becky and her husband Nick Mendoza. (Middle Row Right) Larry Ashim (left), president of the Scandinavian Cultural & Historical Foundation, presents the Outstanding Scandinavian American award to Torsten Olsson. (Bottom Row Right) Torsten also built the Dala horse, which is rolled out (it's on wheels) in front of the Scandinavian Center on the campus of California Lutheran University to show that the Scan Center is open for the weekly Brown-Bag Lunch presentation (and other events).

Vasa questions?

Most questions can be answered by your district or regional officers. You're also welcome to send your questions about anything Vasa-related to vasajlg@aol.com and then watch for the FAQ Column in The Vasa Star.



Svenska Språkhörnan – The Swedish Language Corner

A Guide to Pronunciation. Part 1 of 2

The Standard Swedish dealt with in these chapters is the official language used in radio and TV. There are other variants or dialects, but nowadays most of them differ mainly in their pronunciation. The Swedish language has some unusual sounds and the pronunciation is on the whole not as regular as one might wish, but you do not have to master all the peculiarities of this noble tongue to be able to communicate, to understand or to make yourself understood. Spoken Swedish comprises a broad variety of pronunciations and you would be hard pressed to come up with a variant that the average Swede would not be able to interpret.

A characteristic of Swedish is the tone, or pitch, accent, which has disappeared in most other Indo-European languages. It is this tone-accent that gives Swedish its typical 'singsong' rhythm. The two pitches (acute/'high', and grave/'low') are not marked in written Swedish, and must be learned by listening to the spoken language. You should not worry too much about this admittedly difficult feature, since the choice of pitch very rarely would affect the meaning of a word. Something more important when speaking Swedish is to carefully distinguish between short and long vowel. The Swedish words in this introduction have been marked with accent signs to show which syllable should be more stressed than the others, and long vowels have been underlined.

Among other major idiosyncrasies can be mentioned the unexpected changes in pronunciation caused by the letter 'r': the vowels 'ä' and 'ö' change slightly when they are followed by an 'r', and the consonants 's', 'n', 'd', 't', and 'l' when preceded by an 'r' merge with the 'r' to form a new, dull sound (so-called retroflexes). But there are several dialects that do not pay attention to these rules, without being less intelligible.

Like in English some consonants can change when they are followed by a certain vowel (cp. 'city' – 'café'; 'gist' – 'guest'). These so-called soft vowels are the same in Swedish – 'e', 'i', 'y' – with the addition of two other vowels: 'ä', 'ö'.

SIV SWAN-PIERSON, GL LANGUAGE
DIRECTOR, VASASVENSKA@VERIZON.NET

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

Letter	Pronunciation	Examples
a	1. long: <i>a</i> as in <i>bar</i> 2. short: <i>a</i> as in <i>cut</i>	tála [speak, talk]; gläs [glass] ka'ppa [ladies coat]; glass [ice cream]
b	like in English	brö'd [bread]
c	1. before a consonant or a hard vowel (a, o, u, å): as in <i>café</i> ; 2. before a soft vowel (e, i, y, ä, ö): as in <i>city</i>	1. café, kafé; 2. cykel [bike]
d	like in English, but with the tip of the tongue pressed closer to the upper teeth	dag [day]
e	1. long: like <i>e</i> in <i>café</i> ; 2. short: like <i>e</i> in <i>net</i>	1. héta [to be called], se [see]; 2. nej [no]
f	like in English	fredag [Friday]
g	1. before a consonant or a hard vowel (a, o, u, å): as <i>g</i> in <i>go</i> ; 2. before a soft vowel (e, i, y, ä, ö): as <i>y</i> in <i>yes</i>	1. gáta [street]; gå [walk, leave]; 2. gíssa [guess]
h	as <i>h</i> in <i>ham</i>	húvudvä'rk [headache], höst [autumn]
i	1. long: like <i>ee</i> in <i>keep</i> ; 2. short: like in <i>pit</i>	1. kniv [knife]; 2. sprínga [(to) run], tíimme [hour]
j	as <i>y</i> in <i>yes</i> (never as <i>j</i> in <i>jam</i>)	ja [yes], job [work]
k	1. before a hard vowel (a, o, u, å): as <i>k</i> in <i>keep</i> ; 2. before a soft vowel (e, i, y, ä, ö): like <i>ch</i> in <i>check</i> , but without the initial <i>t</i> sound	1. káffe [coffee]; 2. ká'rlék [love]
l	like in English, but with the tip of the tongue straight and pressed closer to the teeth	lö'rdag [Saturday]
m	like in English	má'ndag [Monday], möta [meet]
n	like in English	natt [night], nio [nine]
o	1 A. long: as <i>oo</i> in <i>tool</i> (normal); 1 B. long: as <i>o</i> in <i>fore</i> (exception); 2 A. short: as <i>o</i> in <i>not</i> ; 2 B. short: (a short version of long A)	1. stol [chair], groda [frog]; 2. moln [cloud] 3. kopp [cup], gott [good]; 4. ost [cheese], bonde [farmer]
p	like in English	pris [price, cost], pä'ron [pear]
q	like in English (rarely in use nowadays)	
r	a 'rolled' r, pronounced with a slight quiver of the tongue	rínga [(to) ring], rida [ride]
s	like in English	sóm-mar [summer], sol [sun]
t	like in English, but with the tip of the tongue straight and pressed closer to the teeth	te [tea], torr [dry]
u	long: somewhat similar to <i>u</i> in <i>rude</i> ; short: (no equivalent in English)	1. ut [out], ful [ugly]; 2. únder [under], upp [up]
v	like in English	vår [spring], vînter [winter]
x	as in <i>exceed</i> (never as in <i>example</i>)	till exémpel [for example], växa [grow]
y	No equivalent in English but similar to the French <i>u</i> and German <i>ü</i>	1. dyr [expensive] 2. mycket [much]
z	as <i>s</i> in <i>sing</i>	zoo
å	1. long: rather like <i>o</i> in <i>fore</i> ; 2. short: like <i>o</i> in <i>yonder</i>	1. språk [language], hård [hard]; 2. å'lder [age], blått [blue]
ä	1. long: like <i>ai</i> in <i>fair</i> ; 2. short: as <i>e</i> in <i>best</i>	1. bä'ra [(to) carry], rä'kna [count]; 2. vän [friend], lätt [easy]
ö	1 A. long: as <i>eu</i> in the French <i>deux</i> ; 1 B. long (before an <i>r</i>): like <i>u</i> in <i>fur</i> ; 2. short: like <i>e</i> in <i>her</i> (unstressed: <i>tell her!</i>)	1. röd [red], stöd [support]; 2. kö'ra [(to) drive], hö'ra [hear]; 3. sö'nder [broken, in pieces], sö'ndag [Sunday]

SWEDISH NEWS



Jubileets 18 nya medlemmar tillsammans med Ceremonimästarpar och Ordförande

Tomelilla No. 631

Detta år var ett mycket speciellt år för vår Loge då vi började året med ett öppet hus genom att vi visade upp vår lokal då Logen var uppställd inför ett möte.

Ett 40-tal besökare kom och en del av dessa var intresserade av att veta mer.

Senare bjöd vi in dessa i mindre grupper till samkväm för mera samtal.

Månaderna gick och vi hade 3 möte under våren. Som efterkapitel här hade vi bland annat besök av 2 unga duktiga sångare.

Högtidsmöte med bankett och dans samt sista mötet för våren hade vår egen teatergrupp. Dessa har haft en studiecirkel under några terminer då de har studerat vad som hände

dem som kom över havet till USA. Sammanfattningen av detta gjorde de till en teaterpjäs. Mycket duktiga.

En underbar dag i juni månad hade Logen 60 år jubileum som firades på borgen i Bolserup på Österlen med 110 gäster, därav 18 nya medlemmar, flera av dem kom från öppet hus dagen. Detta var en fantastisk syn att vara med om och det blev ett härligt minne för alla som var med.

Efter en del sommar utflykter kom hösten med kräft-räkafton som efterkapitel med en trevlig tipsrunda. På oktobermötets efterkapitel hade vi polisinformator som berättade om sitt arbete.

I november var det dags igen för högtidsmöte med bankett då vi tog in 2 nya medlemmar och avslutade året med en rejäl julfest med allt man kan tänka sig mat, dans, tomte, sång

och auktion. Som Ordförande är jag riktigt nöjd med detta år och ser fram mot nästa år.

ORDF. GULL-MAY ÅSTRADSSON



Bankett i Borgen på jubileet

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE (SWEDISH)

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

Våren är nästan här när du läser detta. I skrivande stund har helgerna knappt tagit slut och det nya året är bara någon vecka gammalt. Birgitta och jag tillbringade jul och nyår hemma, och hade familjen här på julaf-ton för vårt traditionella svenska Julbord. Jag älskar all den goda maten. Birgitta är så bra på att laga svensk mat. Det är alltid roligt att ha barn och barnbarn på besök. Vi håller på dom svenska traditionerna. Senare under dagen samlades vi som vanligt vid granen och öppnade julkappar.

Det nya Vasa året började med installation av nyvalda tjänstemän. Jag gratulerar er alla och önskar er en framgångsrik termin. Under mötet fick du det nya lösenordet som jag valt för min fyraåriga mandatperiod. Tänk på in-nebörden av detta lösenord. Jag tror att du kommer att finna det lämpligt för vår Order. Jag hoppas att ni publicerar programmen för alla årets möten. Det är viktigt att medlem-marna vet så tidigt som möjligt vad som väntar under det kommande året. Detta för att dom skall få in det i sin kalender och reservera tiden för att komma till mötet. Spännande och engagerande program hjälper till att behålla

medlemmar och får dom att komma till möten. Gäster som du tar med till ett möte är också mer benägna att vilja bli medlemmar om de ser intressanta program.

När du läser detta kommer jag redan att ha deltagit i Distriktslogen Pacific Southwest #15s möte, som avhölls i februari. Detta är den första av många eftersom de flesta distrikt som håller konvention vartannat år gör det på de udda åren. Det gäller både Norra Sverige #19 och Södra Sverige #20 samt Alberta #18 i Kanada och i USA Connecticut #1, Massachusetts #2, Rhode Island #3, New York #4, Superior #10 och Pacific Northwest #13. Några distrikt; New Jersey #6, Lake Michigan #8 och Golden Gate #12 har årliga konventioner och de återstående sex distrik-ten möts under jämna år. Jag kommer att delta i många av dessa konventioner, men det finns tyvärr ett par skedulkonflikter.

När du tittar igenom detta nummer av Vasastjärnan, kommer du att se namnen på alla medlemmar som har donerat till våra fundraisers under det gångna året. "Heritage Fund" och "Ever Living Julgran" båda gynnar Vasa Arkivet. Brevmärket stöder Storlogens stipendieprogram vilket omfattar stipendier

för högre utbildning och "Sjölund Language Camp". Jag tackar er för alla era generösa donationer till dessa viktiga program.

Lite mera personligt; Vasa har igen gjort något extraordinärt för mig. För ett par år sedan, när jag deltog i distriktskonventionen i Norra Sverige som hölls i Lundsbrunn, pekade en medlem som är kunnig i släktforskning ut för mig att en av mina sysslingar var ägare till en handelsträdgård en liten bit ner på gatan där mötet hölls. Gissa min glädje när Birgitta och jag gick de få stegen dit och träffade honom. Alla hans växthus påminde mig så mycket om min barndom när jag växte upp nära min farmor som också drev en handel-strädgård. Vi pratade lite och det var som om vi alltid hade känt varandra. Denna gång kom det extraordinära i form av ett överraskande mail från vår Storlogehistoriker i Sverige, Gunnar Gustafsson. Tack Gunnar! Han skriver att han hade besökt Logen Vänersborg, Norra Sverige #19, och där träffat en av mina kusiner. Jag visste inte riktigt vad jag skulle tro, men eftersom han inte nämnde kusinen vid namn var jag ju tvungen att skriva till honom och fråga. Han svarade att hon heter Christina och är dotter till en av mina fastrar. Då förstod jag

ju vem det var även om vi inte har haft någon kontakt sedan jag var 10 år eller så. För att göra en lång historia kort; vi har sedan skrivit brev till varandra och planerar att träffas när jag besöker Sverige senare i år. Det är helt underbart när man inser att det är Vasa som har gjort detta möjligt.

Som jag har sagt tidigare i denna spalten behöver vi uppdatera vår hemsida. Därför frågar jag om vi har en webbdesigner inom Vasa som kan vara intresserad av att utforma en ny webbplats och integrera den med vår nya webb databas. Den första uppgiften skulle vara att skriva en specifikation i samarbete med våra Database Designer och vår Databasdirektör. Det finns inget krav på att vara expert på HTML eller andra program. Vi har ett företag som kommer att göra det till ett mycket rimligt pris. Vi måste också hitta någon att arbeta med vår nuvarande Web Master med avsikt att ta över efter honom i framtiden. Jag hoppas att någon är villig att ta detta för Ordens Bästa. Kontakta mig gärna om du är intresserad, eller om du vet någon medlem som kan vara intresserad.

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER

YOUTH NEWS

Nordikids No. 208



MUNSTER, IN / December 7 had Nordikids holding their 14th annual Luciafest with 21 young members, ages 2 to 20, on stage singing for an hour. They performed many of the traditional Swedish songs (StaffanS-stalledräng, Nu Tändas, Mössens Julafton ... and some new Nordic songs from the Disney musical "Frozen," including "Let it Go." The young members have been practicing every week since September and their hard work showed! They charmed the crowd of over 120 guests at the Wicker Park Social Center in Highland, Indiana.

Our Lucia was Kristine Pearson. She is 10 years old and a student at St. John Bosco School in Hammond where she loves read-

ing, art and music, and is an honor student. She has been coming to Nordikids since she was born (her four older siblings had been in the group since it started). Kristine sang the solo "Adventstid." Her parents are Mike and Lisa Pearson. Her father is the Vice District Master of Lake Michigan No. 8 as well as a past chairman for Nordik Folk No. 761. Her older brother, Michael, Jr., is currently Nordik Folk chairman.

Smörblomman No. 206



Smörblomman #206 2014 Lucia

RENO, NV / Vasa Youth Club Smörblomman #206, led by Vasa member at large, Ingrid Hedman, held their 14th annual Lucia performance. The event took place on December 5, 2014 at the Danish Society Christmas party with 110 persons in attendance. There were 15 Lucia participants, all American born — they sang the traditional songs in Swedish which was enjoyed by the mostly first- and second-generation Scandinavian audience. Hannah Kidd portrayed Lucia. The following Sunday they performed the Lucia pageant at the Veterans Hospital in Reno as well as at Wynwood Senior Living Center in Sparks, Nevada.

Since we have so many talented youngsters in our group, an annual talent show will take place in the spring.



Nordikids Lucia, Kristine Pearson

SUBMITTED BY INGRID HEDMAN

IN MEMORIAM

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, P.O. Box 13331, Milwaukee, WI 53213-0331. Email: vasaeditor@gmail.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 in a format similar to what you see here. NO newspaper clippings.

If you submitted an Obituary and it is not listed here, please resubmit to be included in the following issue..

MICHIGAN

GLEN RUSSEL CLARK of Grand Blanc, age 87, died Sept 1, 2014, at his residence. Russ was born in Flint, MI on March 26, 1927, son of the late Glenn and Hilda (Wohl) Clark. He married Margaret Edwards on September 29, 1950. Surviving Russ are wife, Margaret, three children, six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sons, Jim and Bruce. Russ served as an Auditor for Viking 730.

OHIO

PETER CARLSSON, age 70, beloved husband of Merryl, died September 24, 2014. He is also survived by two sons. Peter was born in Sweden on May 4, 1944, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 in Cleveland on June 6, 2004.

PENNSYLVANIA

FLORENCE EVANS, a faithful life member of Oscars Borg Lodge #172, Philadelphia, died Sep. 26, 2014, age 94. She joined the lodge in 1978 and served for many years as trustee. Daughter of the late John and Esther Anderson. Wife of the late David Evans, Jr.

MAJ-BRITT GABEL, (nee Karlsson), age 90, born in Stockholm, Sweden, died Oct. 1, 2014, in Lancaster, PA. She joined Oscars Borg Lodge #172, Philadelphia on June 27, 2004, commuting many miles

to attend lodge meetings. Maj-Britt was one of the first female chemists for the Naval Development Center, where she worked for 20 years. She was a member of the American Chemical Society, life member of Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers (STLE), Sigma Delta Epsilon, Sorority Pi-Beta-Phi, American Swedish Historical Museum (Philadelphia), and Lampeter Fire Co. Auxiliary. She was a member of Ascension Lutheran Church, Willow Street, PA, and sang in the choir. She was preceded in death by her husband James Gabel, son Fred and sister Elsa. She is survived by her daughter Sharon (Carl) Beckler of Safety Harbour, FL, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and her sister Ingrid Barnes.

WASHINGTON

MAXINE JESSEN, a member of Svea #469 Longview, died at home on November 20, 2014. She was born

March 28, 1926 in Fairfax, South Dakota to John and Mattie Nelson. She is survived by her sister Beverly Day, daughters Lori Peterson and Valerie Spencer, son Craig Peterson (Debbie) and several grandchildren including Jeremy Peterson (Ingrid). She was preceded in death by her husband Bud Jessen, daughter Mary Jean Knowles, son Ronald Peterson and son-in-law Douglas Williams.

NORMAN ANDERSON, a life-long member of 76 years of Svea #469, died on August 23, 2014. He was born on August 27, 1915 in Astoria, Oregon to Hjalmar and Minnie Peterson Anderson. Norman was a WWII veteran and was a very active member of the Washington State Grange, American Legion and V.F.W. He and Myrtle were married 61 years, raised four sons, and she and one son preceded him in death. A graveside service was held in Rosburg, Washington with full military honors.

WASHINGTON, DC

PATRICIA A. PEARSON of Alexandria, VA died on January 18, 2013 following a long battle with cancer. Born in Rockford, IL on March 10, 1946, Trish is survived by her husband Robert, a son and a daughter, and two grandchildren. She considered her most important career to be that of wife and mother. Trish was a member of Drott Lodge since 1987.

STEN R. RUNIUS, 90, passed away on May 18, 2014 after a brief illness. A WWII Army veteran born in Quincy, MA, he returned there and stayed until 1967, when he moved to Washington, DC and worked for two different federal agencies. After retirement he moved to Rockland. He was a member of Drott Lodge since 1973. Sten is survived by a son and two grandchildren.