



# THE VASA STAR

## VASASTJÄRNAN

SPRING 2015  
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



*Vasa Order of America District Lodge Rhode Island #3 Convention on March 28, 2015— Front row: Vice Grand Secretary Lee-Ann Anderson Hurtubise, Grand Master Tore Kellgren, Grand Lodge Deputy Carol Olson. Second row: Past District Master Viviane Valentine, Birgitta Kellgren, and the new District Master Jim Ladouceur. Photography: Karen Kane. /Page 5*

## THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,  
The “Convention Season” is in full swing. When you read this, Birgitta

and I have already attended five District Conventions and possibly even a sixth. We are just back from the District Rhode Island #3 Convention that was held in Saunderstown, RI the last weekend in March. A delightful place not far from the Atlantic coast. We encountered a little snowfall between Saturday and Sunday. For us quite a delight, as we rarely see snow on the ground. However, our hosts did not quite understand our enthusiasm, after a really long winter.

Birgitta and I are now looking forward to our own District Convention here in northern California followed by a trip to Sweden where we will be attending both of their Conventions. We will also have a little time for visiting family and friends.

I hope you are putting on good and interesting programs at your Lodge meetings. I know I have said this before,

but I think it’s worth repeating: It is so important to have programs that engage your members and guests. I also hope that you keep your members informed of your programs for all your meetings of the year. You may also want to consider putting an ad in your local paper under community events. It’s almost always free to do, and although a newspaper ad may seem a little old fashioned for this type of publicity, many community members are used to this and may be reached this way.

I read all your reports in *Vasa Star* and see that you have a lot of good programs and are enjoying a lot of good food at your meetings. However, I rarely, if ever, see that you talk about what you are planning to do at future meetings. This is such a good opportunity for free publicity and I highly recommend that

you take advantage of it. Just remember, you have to think 3 – 6 months into the future when you write it. With *Vasa Star* now being published with *Nordstjernen*, you should know that there are 10,000 non-Vasa member subscribers that may see what you write. Maybe someone who doesn’t know much about Vasa will read your column and decide to check it out.

Our new *Vasa Database* is ready to be put to use. To that end I will be asking all District Secretaries to provide member information. Each Local Lodge then will be able to maintain their membership information using this database. It will be accessible on the web where password protected information can easily be updated and retrieved. With the database in place, annual reporting of membership can be done automatically.

/ continued on p4

### Grand Lodge News

New Jersey son John Hanright, who’s picked up folk dancing and faithful Vasa membership as an “adopted Swede.” A presentation of the Grand Lodge Executive Board Member, Eastern Region, / p4

### District Lodge News

The nominations for new officers at the Rhode Island District Lodge No. 3 meeting held a surprise: For the first time in ten years there was more than one person nominated for a position / p5

### Local Lodge News

Eastern lodge meeting discovers the link between Gothenburg, trade with India, the Swedish East India Company, Swedish punsch and pea soup and pancakes / p6

### Swedish Song Contest

It’s never too early to start the creative process: Atlanta’s Nordic Lodge No. 708 has announced the fifth annual Schnapps Song Contest—submit your entry before August 15 / p10

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Amanda Olson Robison

Vårhälsningar – spring greetings – to you, all our Vasa members and readers, old and new. According to our records, many lodges have welcomed and initiated new members into their local lodges during the last few months (see the list on p. 3), and I think it's fair to wish you a collective "welcome" from all your Vasa brothers and sisters. I am among you as a newest member, too. In March, I was finally, officially initiated into Linde Lodge #492 - I say "finally" in part because it isn't altogether new to me; I have been affiliated with it through Skansen Children's Club, in which my children participated when they were young. Now I am happily, officially sworn in as a Vasa lodge member. (I'm not sure whether other local lodges still have the very formal swearing-in ceremony that was common in times past, but this trending, more casual approach to my official membership definitely felt friendly, perhaps even more Swedish.)

Now, with winter finally behind us (I'm from Wisconsin, where I hope such a comment isn't just wishful thinking), all of us Swedes and Swedish

Americans are making plans for enjoying the coming festival season: Midsommar, Swedish celebrations and Scandinavian feasts of all kinds will be filling our calendars from now through fall. The dates for most such events are already set and published, so be sure to check your local lodge listings (starting on p. 6), and mark your calendars so you don't miss them. Many lodges have been adding some really interesting events to their meetings, too – be sure to read what other lodges are doing as well; they might inspire you!

Don't forget that 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 to our new mailbox at:

P.O. Box 13331  
Milwaukee, WI 53213-0331  
We would all love to hear from you!  
Tack så mycket,

AMANDA OLSON ROBISON  
VASAEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



A 101st convention for District Pacific Southwest No. 15. / p6



Drott members had a busy program this spring with members learning how to make their own knäckebröd / p8



"Högtidsmöte," solemn holiday meeting at Höganäs No. 634. / p12

## Deadlines for The Vasa Star

Summer Deadline » **August 15**  
Fall Deadline » **November 1**

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

## 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. *Nordstjernen* 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 Nordstjernen 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.nordstjernen.com](http://www.nordstjernen.com) • 1.800.827.9333 ext. 12

### 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](mailto: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

## THE VASA STAR

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# ARCHIVES NEWS

## Summer Greetings



It's time to write a few lines again. After a long and cold winter here in Bishop Hill, everything seems easier when we can wake up to sunshine and blue skies and observe how nature

and all its creatures are getting ready for the coming summer. That's also what we are doing here at the archives.

During the summer months, we will show films about the large influx of immigrants to El-

lis Island. We have three films to show: "Island of Hope Island of Tears," "Destination America" and "Ellis Island."

Our visitors will be able to do family research on their own with the help of our computer programs and books. For family research, we ask you to reserve time in advance.

Lilly Setterdahl has a new book out, Minnesota Swedes Vol. I: The Emigration from Trolle Ljungby to Goodhue County, 1855-1912. The book is a second edition, revised, of the first volume that came out in 1996. We hope she can be here and show her many books about the emigration from Sweden on June 6.

A hearty welcome to our summer events.

Så var det dags att skriva några rader igen. Efter en lång och kall vinter här i Bishop Hill så känns allt mycket lättare när man vaknar upp till solsken och blå himmel, och man ser hur naturen och alla väsen gör sig redo för den kommande sommaren. Det är vad vi gör också här på Arkivet!

Under sommarmånaderna kommer vi att visa filmer om invandringen till Ellis Island. Vi har tre filmer att erbjuda, Island of Hope Island of tears, Destination America och Ellis Island. Besökare har också möjlighet att släktforska på egen hand på våra datorer med tillgång till våra programvaror och böcker. När det gäller släktforskningen ber vi er boka tid i förväg.

Lilly Setterdahl har kommet ut med ännu en intressant bok: Minnesota Swedes Vol. I: The Emigration from Trolle Ljungby to Goodhue County, 1855-1912. Detta är en andra reviderad utgåva efter den första som gavs ut 1996. Efterfrågan har varit så stor att Lilly beslutade sig för att skriva en andra upplaga. Vi på Arkivet har bjudit in Lilly den 6 juni för att berätta om sina böcker om våra Svenska emigranter.

Arkivet önskar våra besökare hjärtligt välkomna till sommarens arrangemang!

VIKTORIA ALMGREN

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

### DL CONNECTICUT NO. 1

#### Norden Lodge No. 1

Judith Anderson  
Paul Berg  
Erling Johnson  
Judy Mitrowski  
June Roncarti  
Lilija Strazinskis

#### Kronan Lodge No. 2

Barbro Babcock  
Barbara Gardedei  
Kathryn Hoffman  
Shirley Leopold  
George Lukach  
Ingrid Lukach  
Richard Olson  
Ethel Thomas  
Linda Thompson

### DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

#### Brage-Iduna Lodge No. 9

Michael Caine

#### Nordic Lodge No. 611

James W. Adams  
Michael E. Adams  
Elizabeth Axelsson  
Pauline Belanger  
Barbara Elizabeth Grusell  
Richard Harry Grusell  
Marilyn Elizabeth Hildick  
Mary Dolores Mangsen  
Lois E. Mangesen-Pakula  
Viola B. Palmgren  
Cynthia Mae Stark  
Linda May Walsh

#### Viking Lodge No. 756

Gustav E. Kohlin

### DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3

#### Johan Baner Lodge No. 36

Franklin DeWitt  
Ben Curtis Jackson  
Linda D. Johnson  
June P. McCrillis

#### Star Lodge No. 56

Elna Louise Bingham  
Sonja Milburn  
Gungerd Astrid Riggs  
Sandra Stickle  
Linda Young

#### Svea Lodge No. 362

Jonathan Peter Caruso

### DL NEW YORK NO. 4

#### Freja Lodge No. 100

Beverly Dyckman  
Warren Dyckman  
Eric Holmquist  
Ragnhild Holmquist

#### Thule Lodge No. 127

Kathleen A. Cooper  
Donna A. Dort  
Dennis A. Johnson  
Olympic Lodge No. 235  
Robert Tor Prasso

#### Stenland Lodge No. 727

Ingrid M. Anderson

### DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

#### Arlington Lodge No. 62

Jennifer Ann Cranmer  
Brian DiAlfonso  
Suzanne DiAlfonso  
Eric W. Eevardi  
Denise Louise Ericksson  
Colleen Ann Labow  
Robert Katchen  
Dan Jason Nelsen  
Laura Kate Nelsen  
Chester Monroe Stephens  
Patrick Ryan Tucker Jr.

#### Linne Lodge No. 429

Clifton O. Carlson  
Ellen Slattery Carlson  
Birthe Jensen  
Courtney E. Lynch  
Brian J. Meehan  
Sandra L. Piccione  
Vågen Lodge No. 588  
Jeanne Swenson  
Russell Swenson

#### Three Crowns Lodge No. 704

Holly Cardona  
Kim Arnold Johnson  
Kenneth L. Pierson, Jr.  
John Henry Stracker

#### Dalahäst Lodge No. 742

Kelvin Burseth

### DL MINNESOTA NO. 7

#### Kronan Lodge No. 433

Sharon Louise Docksteaker

### DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

#### Svea Lodge No. 253

Glenn S. Carlstrand

Marissa Childs

Kirsten Grosz

Lois A. Klubens

Bucky Shogren Poppleton

Rebecca Barbro Wiebke

#### Viljan Lodge No. 349

Earl Walter Button  
Susan Lynn Button  
Donna Lynn Malsberry  
William A. Lundeen  
Carol Marie Van Dine

#### Austin Lodge No. 466

Richard W. Adams

#### Linde Lodge No. 492

Amanda Robison

#### Lindgren Lodge No. 754

Linda J. Surowiec

#### Jubileum Lodge No. 755

Joyce E. Petty  
Linnéa Dagmar Törnqvist

### DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

#### Nobel-Monitor Lodge No. 130

Donna Reynolds  
Frank Reynolds

### DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

#### Tegner Lodge No. 149

Elizabeth Anne Madaras

#### Svea Lodge No. 348

Trude Conrotto  
Kristen Aurora Hanlon  
Lauren Emma Hanlon  
Ron Eric Holst  
Greta Kerstin Anna Hutchison  
Isabella Britta Jones  
Hans Gösta Ringertz

#### Nord Lodge No. 392

Elaine Beverly Hicks  
Crystal Stacy Hosker  
Timothy Michael Hosker

#### Sveaborg Lodge No. 449

David Bilyeu  
Mau Mai Loken  
Christopher Scott Talerico  
Sarah Linnea Talerico

#### Lindbergh Lodge No. 494

Albin Taro Broman-Takami  
Ross Richard Blaufarb  
Margaret Filson  
Johannes Hartman  
Gustav Karl Larsson  
Josefine Shu Larsson  
Marian Elaine Lofgren  
Margene Lynn Nilson  
Jenny Kristina Nilson-Posch

William Robert Posch

#### Norden Lodge No. 684

Barbara LaRae Brown  
Ben Brown  
Dillon Johnson  
Roberta A. Krugman

#### Sierra Kronan Lodge No. 737

Michael Brian Wochnick

### DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

#### North Star Lodge No. 145

Ryan Andrew Barone  
Jerry Robert Highland  
Pia Maria Hooks  
Patricia Ann (Wicklund) Horner  
William Andrew Hustrulid  
CAI Carl Axel Kabrell  
Curtis Reed Mahon  
Raina Nicole Mahon  
Jeanette M. McDonald Olson  
Anthony Warren Olson

#### Nobel Lodge No. 184

Anne E. Barber-Shams  
Anna Serena Kienberger  
Elsa Stina Kienberger  
Kirsten E. Kienberger  
Stephan Mark Kienberger  
Trygve Anders Nordby

#### Astor Lodge No. 215

Lindsey D. Hagglund  
Kristina Brita Kjellberg  
Ashley O'Bryant

### DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

#### Evening Star Lodge No. 426

Kaelin Lily Den Hertog  
Lynnea Ann Den Hertog  
Evelena Yojana Jahn  
Glenn Hisaak Nakano  
Alexander Scott  
Daniel Scott  
Amelia Katherine Vance

#### Mayflower Lodge No. 445

Annie Maria Andersson  
Annika Haghighi  
Max Haghighi  
Håkan Thor Holm  
Marianne Inger Holm  
Andrea Lee Lingman  
David Peter Lingman  
Victor H. Long  
Gunell Karin Nakano  
Sonja Lisbeth Pouncey  
Alexander Christopher Scott  
Daniel F. Scott  
Diana Christina Sevilla  
Daniel Stephens  
Sarah Stephens

Bertil Allan Winther

#### Scandinavian Lodge No. 667

Dorothy Lowry Cunningham  
Desiree Andrea Greene  
Kirsten Muriel Greene  
Melanie Anne Swanson

#### Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719

Thora Elyn Ericson  
Carol Kerr  
Shirley Patricia Mattson Olson  
Karen Jean Yagher

### DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17

#### Omaha Lodge No. 330

Del E. Stites  
Ingrid M. Stites

#### Norrskenet Lodge No. 331

Marjorie Elaine Anderson  
Carol Johnson  
Benita Leff  
Roger Leff  
Marie Shattuck  
William Earl Utter

### DL ALBERTA NO. 18

#### Skandia Lodge No. 549

Kevin Jason Comeau  
Kennedy Lynn Getson  
Ray William Law  
Sherri Lynn Law  
Kelsie Lynn Lindberg

### DL ARIZONA NO. 21

#### Phoenix Lodge No. 677

Sharyl Bales  
Bruce Paul Grier  
Deanna Sue Grier  
Stephanie O'Connell  
Mattias Stolpe  
Kerstin Nystrom Wilson

#### Stolstad Lodge No. 709

Karen Wahlund  
Kathy Ann Yagami

#### Scandia Lodge No. 728

Raili Oma Delaloye  
Delmar Gusenius  
Karen Gusenius  
Jeri Montgomery  
Liisa Marianna Raikkonen  
Marjut Katriina Schruher  
Gina Staltari  
Pamela Timm

### CENTRAL REGION

#### Carl Widen Lodge No. 743

Joyce Helen Campbell

## GRAND LODGE NEWS

### The Grand Master's Message (continued)

You will also have a place to announce your upcoming events and have your members RSVP to meetings where that would be appropriate. We will provide much more information about this as we roll out this new feature.



It is my pleasure to announce that we are working with Swedish companies on getting special value programs for our members. The details of these will be published directly to District Secretaries for distribution to the Local Lodges. By the time you read this you may already have heard about one of these programs.

As I have stated in several previous messages, we need to update our website. To that end I am again asking if we have a web designer in Vasa Land who is interested in designing a new website and integrating it with our new web-based

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PO Box 101  
Bishop Hill, IL 61419

database (see above). The first task is writing a specification in cooperation with our database designer and our database director. No need to be an expert in writing 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 and able to take this on for the Good of the Order. If you are interested or you know a 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

### John Hanright, Grand Lodge Executive Board Member, Eastern Region

Greetings. My name is John Hanright (Jack). I was born in May 1958 and raised in New Jersey, the second of four boys. I grew up most of my life in a very rural town in northwest part of New Jersey called Green Pond. I spent most of my younger years on the lake, sailing and swimming, and a great deal of time in the woods, camping, hiking and riding dirt bikes.

I married Inger Gustavsson of Gothenburg, Sweden in 1980. Inger had been visiting with her girlfriends during a summer vacation and was staying with a high school friend of mine when we met. In 1983 our son Patrick joined us and we lived in the Oak Ridge section of Morris County, New Jersey for a number of years. We purchased a home and moved to Vasa Park in Mount Olive, New Jersey in 2006 where we currently reside. In my spare time I enjoy sailing, and Inger and I have been members of The Swedish

Folk Dancers of New York for more than a dozen years. We enjoy folk dancing and cultural events around the NY, NJ area. We also love to visit with Inger's family in Gothenburg as often as we can.

In my professional life I work as a construction manager for Nordic Contracting Co. of Ledgewood, NJ. I specialize in reinforced structural concrete. Nordic Contracting has built the structural concrete foundations and superstructures for many schools, hospitals, corporate buildings and sports arenas in addition to countless high-end concrete projects. Many of our projects have received awards for excellence from the American Concrete Institute. I am very proud to be a part of the team at Nordic Contracting.

I joined Frithiof Lodge #63 in Dover, NJ in 1999. I have served as Master of Ceremonies, Vice Chairman and am currently Lodge Chairman of Frithiof #63. I joined



John Hanright

New Jersey District Lodge #6 a while later, beginning as a Guard, moving up to Auditor, Executive Board Member, Vice District Master and then District Master for the 2011 term. I am currently Vice President of the Past District Masters Club of New Jersey. I have also served on the Board of Trustees at New Jersey Vasa Park and am completing my fourth concurrent three-year term in May (12 years.) Inger has also held many offices in our local lodge, district lodge, NJ Vasa Park board as well as two, four-year terms as Grand Lodge Cultural Director alongside PGMs Rolf Bergman and William Lundquist. I have been very fortunate to have shared as much time with these PGMs and their board members. This past July I was

selected to represent NJ District 6 as the delegate to Grand Lodge convention. I have been elected to the position of Grand Lodge Executive Board Member, Eastern Region and as a member of the finance committee.

Thank you for your confidence in me and a huge thank-you to all of the many members that have spent so much of their time to steward me and help me be a productive member of The Vasa Order of America.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,  
JOHN C. HANRIGHT

## 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](mailto:vasajlg@aol.com) and then watch for the FAQ Column in The Vasa Star.

## DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

### Rhode Island No. 3

In the midst of the last snow of the season the District Meeting of Rhode Island #3 VASA Order of America opened. It was held at the Holiday Inn in South Kingstown, Rhode Island on Saturday, March 28, 2015.

In attendance were the Grand Master Tore Kellgren and his wonderful wife Birgitta Kellgren. This was their first visit to Rhode Island and as you can imagine we wanted it to be enjoyable for them as well as “official”, so everyone was on their best behavior. During the registration period a continental breakfast was offered to all and no one was shy about partaking. The meeting kicked off exactly at 10 a.m. by District Master Viviane Valentine who started the meeting with the official introduction of guests from California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island.



Accordionist Dan Mackowiak was there to give charm and a marching flair to all of the entrances. Once the official Reception Committee, Linda Johnson PDM and Kenneth R. Johnson Sr. PDM and PGLD, had beautifully completed their duties it was time for the flag ceremony. Shirley Halvarson, PDM and PGLD brought majesty to the readings as members of the Past District Master Club carried the flags. All of the flags were introduced with anthems being sung for the American, Swedish, and Canadian. In Rhode Island it is traditional to make sure that new members learn the Swedish Anthem to be ready for the next event coming up whether it be a convention, Mid-sommar, or VASA Day – two verses! It is always interesting to hear the pronunciations the very first time but the heart is always sure. The morning part of the meeting moved along smoothly and then it was time for lunch. The meal was an abundant lunch buffet by the 300 North Restaurant but the dessert were cookies made by District members which included the Vice District Master James Ladouceur – he made delightful and delicious cookies made in the shape of a Dala Horse. At 1:15 p.m. the Memorial Service began with Shirley Halvarson PDM and PGLD officiating with the assistance of District Chaplain Janice Post. Lee-Ann Anderson Hurtubise PDM and Vice Grand Secretary played guitar and led songs with District Secretary Carl Hurtubise. A particular highlight was when Lee-Ann sang the first verses of Tryggare kan ingen vara (Children of the Heavenly Father) in Swedish. (Lee-Ann is a member of the Scandinavian Women’s Chorus of Rhode Island.) It was a beautiful and touching service that remembered our members who passed since our last District Meeting in April of 2013.

Following the Memorial Service, District Master Viviane Valentine officially re-

opened the meeting and the second voting member count of the day was taken. You can imagine the relief as the last person sat down and the count was accurate! The nominations took place and then it happened, for the first time in ten years there was more than one person nominated for a position but without missing a beat District Master Viviane arranged for the voting and at the end a winner was declared. Installation followed and Viviane Valentine received her PDM pin and she took her position as the Junior PDM. Our new District Master James Ladouceur (the first male District Master since 2005) swore in the new District Deputies and then declared the meeting closed. It was at that point we all made a sigh of relief in realizing that the Grand Master Tore did not have to step in and point out that we had done something incorrect. In fact, he shared some wonderful, inspirational words and we knew that VASA was in good hands. Then the fun began as pictures were taken with the former and new officers. Grand Master Tore and the new District Master James Ladouceur put the nautical hats, presented by Merlene Mayette PDM, to work in the photos. Sometimes it was quite a job to get the picture by our photographer, Executive Board Member Karen Kane, everyone was having such a good time.

The banquet that evening was very enjoyable. The centerpieces were blue tall stemmed drinking glasses hand painted by Kris Zarli – Bloomquist PDM and PGLD sitting on a large blue napkin embroidered by District Master Viviane Valentine – it was a stunning display. The dinner was delicious and the fellowship was Grand! It was the perfect ending to a successful convention.

SUBMITTED BY CARL HURTUBISE

*Clockwise from right: First Lady Birgitta Kellgren, Grand Master Tore Kellgren, Grand Lodge Deputy Carol Olson.*

*The Swedish Flag being presented by Karen Soderberg-Gomez PDM and PGLD.*

*A view of what the cultural table and what Merlene Mayette PDM felt the Nobel Peace Prize settings would look like.*

Photos by Karen Kane



### Golden Gate No. 12



We are busy planning and preparing for several upcoming events. The 100th annual District Convention will take place in Stockton, CA on April 24-26, 2015. Nord Lodge #392 is the host lodge for this significant meeting. The annual convention is always a wonderful combination of ceremonies, reports, elections, new business and social events. We pack a lot into just a few days!

Our annual Sweden Day is a gathering to celebrate our heritage. This year it is scheduled for May 30, 2015, at Sveadal, a resort in the Santa Cruz mountains. Plans include activities and games, cultural

events, tours of the facility and hikes in the surrounding hills, and lots of good food. This year, we will be presenting the first World Champion Akvavit Competition to be judged by three distinguished gentlemen who all come from Sweden and have culinary training and experience. Awards will be presented for Most Traditional, Best Tasting and Best Presentation.

Finally, the Lodge is already gearing up to host the Grand Lodge Convention in 2018. You will be hearing a lot more about that in the future.

SUBMITTED BY JUDY HARLESS

## Pacific Southwest No. 15

On January 18th Skandia Lodge No 247, Pasadena, California was jumping with joy.

DLPSW No 15 was putting on a party for all of 2015's incoming Local Lodge officers. It started at 1 p.m. with a social. Everybody was drinking, nibbling goodies and talking. District Master Russell Almquist and his two ladies, wife Karin and young daughter Britt-Marie, were busy in the kitchen cooking up a terrific meal. Pot roast, meatballs and all kinds of greens and reds and taters, of course. Who cooks an "almost Swedish meal" without jordpäron?

More members could certainly have attended this fund raising event, but as we all know it is not the size that matters. We were our own entertainment and nobody hushed us. As PDM Gary Spaberg said: we need more of this!

DM Russell had some wise words before the installation which was handled by GLD Susan Premo. Everything went nicely, smooth and with a smile. Just the way we like it!

District 15's next event was the yearly Convention, held at the Hilton Hotel in Woodland Hills, February 20, 21 and 22.

SUBMITTED BY NEL SOLT  
PHOTO BY JOAN JOHNSON



## Our 101st Convention!

Time flies when you are having fun! The District's annual Convention is always enjoyable. There are so many great friends to enjoy and so many new friends to be made! This year we were honored to have the company of GM Tore Kellgren and wife Birgitta. PDMs Ulf Brynjestad, Erik Johnson and George Nord flew solo as did GH Alice Iverson, GLD DL PNW No13 Judy Rust, MEB Western region Jeff Klein and our own GLD Susan Premo. Grand Language Director Siv Swan-Pierson, from District 15, attended with husband PDM Wayne Pierson.

New District officers were elected. Outgoing DM Russell Almquist of G.T.Seaborg lodge stepped aside for incoming Bertil Winther of Golden Valley lodge. Congratulations to both, for what has been and for what will be.

Eleven resolutions were presented and one, a minor one, passed.

Friday afternoon offered two seminars, one on Sweden by PGM Ulf Brynjestad and one on Svenska Kyrkan in Los Angeles, earlier known as St Erik's Church, by Pastor Staffan Eklund.

Many attended the District Master's Reception. It was a rather large and noisy affair with a lot of goodies. The party was hosted by North Star, Skandia, G.T.Seaborg, Golden Valley, Mayflower and Evening Star lodges.

Saturday's banquet was another winner with good food and a great DJ. Many members turned into teens once again showing off many different "dance styles".

Sunday's lunch is another highlight with scholarship recipients receiving their Diplomas and the results of two popular opportunity drawings.

SUBMITTED BY NEL SOLT



2015 District Officers: Back row (l to r) Inga Francis, Chuck Pages, Maidie Karling, Ernie Mauritsen, Nancy Kingston, Bob Solt, Peter Lindgren, DM Bertil Winther, Russell Almquist, Isabella Muscarella, Nel Solt, Gunlog Spaberg, Delphine Trowbridge, Anita Hedlund Front Row (l to r) Ann Heinstedt, Lori Wennbo, Kristine Hofve, Linda Kosvic, Elliott Coddling, Valerie Larson, Susan Premo, Ann Hellgren. Photo by: John Vikander

## LOCAL LODGE NEWS

### Arlington No. 62

BUDD LAKE, NJ / On January 2, 2015, Alex Brattstrom a member of Lodge Arlington No. 62, and a Eagle Scout Candidate with Boy Scout Troop 312 in Budd Lake, New Jersey presented his completed Eagle Scout Service Project to Vasa Park President, Mr. Jack Hanright and Vasa Park Pool Chairman, Mr. Ken Kallman.

Alex's project consists of building two Emergency Life Safety Stations located at the Vasa Park Pool. The stations consist of a Ring buoy and protective case, a 50 foot throw rope, a 16 foot reaching pole with a Life hook and a First Aid kit all mounted on a 6x6 pole with a Solar powered light fixture on top.

The cost of the project is being paid for with donations and all donations raised for the project will go to the project and to Vasa Park.

Anyone interested in making a donation to the project may send a donation to:

Alex Brattstrom  
9 Skansen Drive  
Hackettstown, NJ, 07840

Please make check payable to: Boy Scout Troop 312. All donations are greatly appreciated.

SUBMITTED BY BRUCE BRATTSTROM

*Pictured from left to right: Alex Brattstrom, Mr. Ken Kallman - Vasa Park Pool Chairman and Mr. Jack Hanright - President of Vasa Park.*



# Diana Birger Jarl No. 3

NEW HAVEN, CT / February 27th was our first meeting this year. Presentation by Stephen Bartkus, Curator of Gunn Museum, in Washington, CT. Washington had a large number of Swedes who settled there. He discussed the exhibit and reviewed its content with many items in the exhibit provided by descendants of the original Swedes. The exhibit ran from May 2013 to January 2014. Talks included Swedish history, culture, and Vasa. The area was home to Local Lodge Ankaret No. 380. The exhibit may be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/GunnMuseum>. Afterwards we enjoyed coffee and dessert with a Dalahäst cake followed by the installation of a new slate of officers. The March meeting featured "Discover the link between Gothenburg, the Swedish

East India Company, and Pea Soup and Pancakes". The evening commenced with a pea soup pancake dinner. Discussing the history of Gothenburg's founding and Gothenburg today. Next, the Swedish East India Company which sent ships to China and other Far East ports beginning 1731. It was dissolved in 1813 with all books being burned. Finally, a discussion of Thursday's pea soup and pancake dinner with the link... Swedish Punsch (Arrack) a Hindi liquor brought back to Gothenburg from these voyages to the Far East. Punsch means 5 in Hindi and is the number of ingredients in Arrack. What would pea soup and pancakes be without Punsch?

SUBMITTED BY PAUL LJUNGGREN



Stephen Bartkus of the Gunn Museum, Washington, CT



The new Swedish East Indiaman, Gothenburg III.



Inger (Burström) Capalbo wears her traditional dress of the Västerbotten region of northern Sweden at the lodge's midsummer festival and for various other events.



Landskaps brosch



Tyger för Västerbottensdräkt.

# Tegner No. 109

SCOTIA, NY / One of the joys of Tegner #109's Midsummer Festival is enjoying the expression of cultural tradition various members bring to the event.

One of our cultural leaders, Inger Capalbo (nee Burström), born 1955 in Jörn in the geographical area of Västerbotten, dons her landskaps dräkt and leads the children in song as we raise and dance around the midsommarstång.

"Each geographical area (Landskap) in Sweden has their own specific outfit," says Inger, "with special rules for how it is made and what materials are to be used. My parents gave each one of us four siblings some money when we graduated from school (9th grade), to be used for something special. I ended up ordering my landskaps dräkt to be made."

Much of her outfit is of wool with intricate weaving showing lovely Swedish design. The skirt is black wool, the apron sports a striped half-wool Holmöweave of colorful stripes, the square scarf is plaid mercerized cotton, the bodice/vest is striped mostly in blue, the shirt is of linen, and the bind hat is dark blue silk with tambursöm embroidery and trimmed with handmade lace. Black wool socks and sturdy leather shoes complete the outfit along with a special brooch. The brooch Inger wears presents an image of a regional flower of Västerbottens, the "Kung Karls Spira."

Happy midsummer to all!

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA JOHNSON NAPLE

# Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN, NY / Hello from Thule Lodge #127 in Jamestown/Bemus Point New York. The winter season has been a long and cold time for everyone, and all those in the Thule Lodge are looking forward to the warmer season. The officers met in the beginning of the year to make plans for the new season of 2015. Thule Lodge has been on a winter break, and the first meeting of the year will be in late March. The Thule Lodge #127 was organized 107 years ago to help the Swedish immigrants with their move to the United States and become settled. Many Swedish immigrants settled in the Jamestown, NY area finding employ-

ment in various industries such as the many furniture factories. Today, the Thule lodge continues with its purpose to preserve the Swedish heritage through events and activities during the year. The officers for the new year were recently installed.

Our lodge is located at 4123 Pancake Hill Road in Bemus Point, and welcomes visitors. All those in the Thule Lodge wish everyone a wonderful spring and summer season. If you are in our area, stop and visit us. "God dag" to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS, HISTORIAN



Back row: Edwin Sandberg, past chairman and past New York District master; Diane Shaw, lodge chaplain; Bernice Veights, assistant mistress of ceremony; Ralph Veights, Wayne Nelson and Tim Miller, all trustee/auditors; and Donna Johnson, mistress of ceremony. Front row: Sonja Pascatore, cultural leader; Lynne Meyers, recording secretary; Tom Eckberg, lodge chairman; Susan W. Sipos, lodge vice chairman; Loretta Smith, financial secretary/treasurer. John Sipos will continue as the lodge historian.



Delicious Lenten Buns, "Semlor" made by Tegner #149 members Elsy Mattsson and Ingrid Andersson

## Tegner No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / Tegner Lodge had a very enjoyable program in January. Rosemarie Delahaye and Mark Ryken, dressed in Swedish costumes, presented six different Scandinavian dances, mainly polska and schottis. Their musician was violinist Tim Rued.

In February, Randy Grandin talked about Alfred Nobel, his life, his accomplishments, and the Nobel prizes. Randy had interesting pictures to accompany his presentation. In keeping with the season, desserts for our March meeting were delicious semlor, baked by members Elsy Mattsson and Ingrid Andersson. Then Carol Madigan, daughter of the late Ruby and Fred Nichelini, gave a very interesting talk and showed pictures about her Swedish connections. Her maternal grandparents came to America from the island of Öland, Sweden. When Carol's mother Ruby was 14 years old, Ruby and her mother went to Sweden to visit relatives. Forty years later, when Carol was 14, Carol's mother took her to meet the relatives and to see Sweden. Then last summer, about 40 years after her first trip to Sweden, Carol, her husband, and two sons went to Sweden to retrace Carol's former trip and meet the relatives. A wonderful trip for all of them.

SUBMITTED BY ANN TENNIS

## North Star No. 145

SPOKANE, WA / On February 21, 2015, our members and guests gathered to watch a historical event. The impressive Initiation Ceremony was performed for eight new members: Tony & Jeanette Olson; Cai Kabrell; Bill Hustrulid; Patty Horne; Jerry Highland; Raina & Curtis Mahon. Three of the new members are all from one family, representing three different generations. Since Sharon Highland joined our lodge two years ago, her grandson, Curtis, has participated in our Midsommar and Lucia programs.

When he turned fourteen, he applied for membership and encouraged his grandfather, Jerry, and mother, Raina to also apply, and it quickly became a family affair. It was extra special for our members to witness this, when Sharon became Vice Chairman Pro Tem and administered the solemn promise to all the candidates.

With these eight latest members and another four applicants to initiate in May, we've added 18 new members since Feb 2014. North Star #145 is growing stronger, staying active, and enjoying all our Swedish programs.

SUBMITTED BY STEVE AND MARY MATTHEWS



Jerry & Sharon Highland, daughter Raina Mahon and grandson Curtis.



Left to right: Raina Mahon & son Curtis; grandfather Jerry Highland; Patty Horne; Sharon Highland (Vice Chair Pro Tem); Bill Hustrulid; Cai Kabrell; Jeanette & Tony Olson

## Drott No. 168

WASHINGTON, D.C. / We had three interesting cultural presentations, a pea soup and plättar dinner, and a social outing in early

spring. Eva Dunhem led a baking session where members made knäckebröd far different from the dark pock-marked variety we are used to.



From left is Sofia Strömberg, visitor, Karin McCabe, next to her is her granddaughter Ellie McCabe, and Lodge Chairman Eric Randolph.

We then enjoyed it with toppings beyond the usual herring or cheese – cottage cheese with avocado, pate and cucumbers, salami with Brie and sliced red pepper, Kalles Kavlar and sliced boiled egg. Ione Linke told us about the Swedish immigrant community of Albert City, Iowa, where she grew up and still has connections to family farms going back generations. District Master Margaret Bergvall Schueman presented her research about the "Forest Finns" in northern Sweden and the important role they played in Swedish history.

A social outing to the Flying Dog Brewery in Frederick, Maryland, was led by Rodney Rydlun, a home brewer and member of BURP (Brewers United for Real Potables). He discussed the history of brewing in the U.S. as we waited for the formal tour. The group lunched together at Brewers' Alley restaurant, where some enjoyed more than just the five beer samplings offered at the brewery.

Five new members were initiated at the April meeting.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL WHITLEY

A smiling Gunnel Stewart with her semlor and fruit dish at April's Brahe Lodge meeting.



## Brahe No. 245

ROCKFORD, IL / Fifteen members of our VASA Brahe Lodge #245 met at VASA Park in Rockford on a beautiful spring afternoon on April 26, 2015. After a business meeting, David Tollin, auditor, also reviewed the VASA Park insurance, announcing reductions on lesser buildings which will reduce our annual insurance bill. A potential buyer was interested in viewing the park but it was "snowed in" so was not able to do so. We remembered 97-year-old Susana Turning, who died recently. She had been a faithful

member for many years, holding the post of Chaplain. Cultural Leader Betty Rottman showed photos of the 150th anniversary in 2002 of the arrival of the first Swedish immigrants to Rockford and spoke about 1952's 100th anniversary of the arrival of Rockford's first Swedish immigrants. Refreshments were provided by Gunnel Stewart and Jean Berggren. The District #8 Convention in Kalamazoo, MI falls in May, so there won't be a lodge meeting; the next Brahe Lodge meeting will be at VASA Park at 2 p.m. on June 28, 2015.

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS G. EKSTEN



Clockwise from above: Brenda Miller presented "A Selection Of Popular Swedish Literature In English" / Carin Young presented "Facts About Sweden, Swedes, and Interesting Swedish Trivia" / Annette Johansson presented "Swedish Summers by Lake Vättern."

## Svea No. 253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / Bucky Poppleton was initiated in January; the charter was draped for Sophia Anderson, who died in December. Officers for 2015 were installed. The program consisted of facts, news and topics that every Swede should know. Find Scandinavians in Indianapolis on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/svea253>. Amy Johnson is manager: [archaeoalj@gmail.com](mailto:archaeoalj@gmail.com). The Luncheon Group dined at the Castleton Grill.

Rebecca Wiebke, born in Varberg, Sweden, was initiated in February. She is the daughter of Ingrid Wiebke. Delegates for the 2015 District Convention are: Jean Tygum, Dennis Danielson, Scott Clarkson and Carol Clarkson. Brenda Miller presented "A Selection Of Popular Swedish Literature

In English" and included information about prizewinners, bestsellers, famous Swedish authors. The Luncheon Group met at Mike's Café.

Glenn Carlstrand was initiated in March. Annette Johansson presented "Swedish Summers by Lake Vättern". It is a long, finger-shaped body of fresh water in south central Sweden, famous for its pure and transparent water, and known for the annual cycling race Vätternrundan, which attracts 20,000 participants to the 300 km trip along the lakeshore. The Luncheon Group met at Rolling In The Dough.

SUBMITTED BY JOELLA HULTGREN



The entire Lucia procession (youth from Lutheran Memorial) at the festive table including Lucia Ellie Cadden and star boy Brennan Coleman.

## Svea No. 296

ERIE, PA / The annual Lucia festival was held December 14, 2014, at Luther Memorial Church in Erie. Les Fobes, delightful tomte, and his little tomtar always charm the congregation and get them in the spirit of a Swedish Christmas celebration. As always a special afternoon of hymns, legends, songs and the Lucia procession.

A gift was offered by the lodge in honor of Linda Collin, former Svea Lodge Vasa Star reporter, who died December 23, 2013. A check for \$492 was raised at our Luciafest, thanks to Lodge member Joanne Dahlstrand and the Take Action fundraising offered by Thrivent Financial. This provided refreshments for the celebration and allowed the entire freewill offering to go to our youth for their National Youth Gathering trip to Detroit, Michigan in July 2015. The youth at Luther Memorial play an important part of our Luciafest and without them this event would not be successful. We are proud to be able to help the youth who could be future VASA members.

SVEA Lodge is proud to introduce our newest member, Tyler Richard Keller. Tyler has been active in the lodge, participating in Luciafests since he was very young. He is the grandson of past Grand Treasurer, C. Richard Overberg. Tyler is graduating from McDowell High School and plans to attend Penn State Behrend this fall.

SUBMITTED BY LUCIA DOYLE AND DOROTHY OVERBERG



Jerry Keller, Beth Keller, Tyler Keller, Cheryl Brown, Dorothy Overberg.



Maria Brown, Caleb DiCenzo, Hannah Heutsche, Rebecca Brown, Sara Prylinski, Chase Rowland, Beth Keller, Terry Hokaj

## Kronan No. 433

ST PAUL, MN / As part of Minnesota District No. 7, Kronan Lodge celebrated its 92nd year at the annual holiday gathering on Dec. 13, 2014. We met for brunch at Perkin's Restaurant in Vadnais Heights, and as the pictures tell you, everyone had a grand time celebrating. The cake looked and tasted marvelous.

SUBMITTED BY KENDRA NIELSEN  
PHOTOGRAPHY: BRUCE NIELSEN





Names of 2015 Officers (from left) Elaine Johnson, Cris and Susanna Rosario, Delores Gildea, Liza Ekstrand—Chairman, Marianne Ekstrand, Jan Kamholtz, Brent Erickson, Rolf Ekstrand, Les Touve, Dave Tollin—District Deputy. Missing Marge Gruel.

## Klippan No. 228 and Frihet Lodge No. 401



SEATTLE, WA / The 2014 Lucia event featured Lucia Mia Cantu and her Lucia-Tärnor and Stjärngosse at the Frihet Lodge No 401 and Klippan No 228 event in Seattle.

SUBMITTED BY MS. ALANA BRANDSTROM

## Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / While the lodge is keeping a low profile during the winter we have been busy preparing reports: financial, historical and cultural reports for 2014 that have all been submitted to the District. But more so, our new Culture Leaders Cris and Susanna Rosario have been busy helping prepare an interesting agenda for 2015. Topics such as Scandinavian Design/Architecture, Carl Larsson's life and work, and Moomin Trolen are just a few examples. We are also hoping a road trip to Minneapolis

in September will materialize.

A Kräftskiva on August 22 and Scandinavian Festival with an ABBA Salute on October 3 are well attended events and open for the public. Both these events in New Berlin, WI.

At our March meeting, we welcomed our new member Amanda Robison, the well-known Vasa Star editor. Installation of officers took place, too. Members Allan and Linda Stemark are planning an 8-day Göta Kanal trip in Sweden this summer, and we look forward to their report. Let us know if you want to join us (as you are always



Amanda Robison initiated by Past Chairman Brent Erickson and Chairman Liza Ekstrand.

welcome) at any of these events: lekstrand@wi.vr.com or (262) 366-9152.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND

## Lindbergh No. 494

LOS ALTOS, CA / December 18 the Jul festivities began with over 100 members and guests sharing glögg and holiday greetings. After a brief business meeting, and introductions of the many guests, the slate of officer nominations was presented, accepted and unanimously approved. In the dining room a large decorated julgran stood at the front, decorated dining tables held green garlands and tea lights, and two tables of Swedish specialties created the smörgåsbord. Lights were dimmed and the Lucia procession entered singing Santa Lucia. St. Niklas also arrived and gave a gift to each child. Dancing around the Christmas tree and singing completed the occasion.

Over 60 members and guests attended the meeting January 9. After the meal, the incoming officers from Lindbergh and Svea Lodges were brought to the front of the hall and the oaths of office administered. Grand Master, Tore Kellgren, presented the new password. After the meeting on February 13, some 60 members and guests adjourned to the dining hall to enjoy a supper of Swedish yellow pea soup with strawberries for dessert. Our guest speaker, author Stina Katchadourian, reported her experiences as a child during World War II in Scandinavia. These experiences had inspired her to write The Lapp King's Daughter.

SUBMITTED BY BETSY NILSON



Filling the chairs for installation



Members from two lodges line up for food

## Atlanta's Fifth Annual Swedish Schnapps Song Contest Nordic No. 708

ATLANTA, GA / It's that time again! Well, entries do not need to be provided to us until August 15th, but it's never too early to start thinking about them!

This is the fifth time that Atlanta's Nordic Lodge # 708 announces this contest. The interest in writing Swedish "snapsvisor" in English is widening every year. Two years ago the winning schnapps song came from Illinois. Last year the winner was from California. What about Canada this time? Or Alaska. Or Hawaii. Or maybe Atlanta. After all, the vast majority of incoming entries come from our own city.

The result will be revealed at the Nordic Lodge Crawfish party on August 22nd, 2015, in Atlanta.

Consequently the theme of this year's contest will be "crawfish", which means that the

word "crawfish" (or crayfish) must be included in the text. And we can promise that the participants at this crawfish party will do their best in singing as many of the incoming entries as possible!

Here are the rules:

- \* Write a Swedish Style Schnapps Song, in English.
- \* Theme: The word "crawfish" or "crayfish" must be included in the text.
- \* You are welcome to provide more than one entry.
- \* Requirements for a good Swedish "snapsvisa":

1. It must be written to a well-known melody so that everyone can sing along, Swedes as well as Americans.

2. It must be short. Between four and eight lines is good, more than that is too long.

3. It should be about schnapps, or at least related to the drinking of a schnapps. Don't

write about whisky, beer or wine!

4. The lines should be put into rhyme. (Reasonably).

The winner will receive a check in the amount of \$50.00.

The judges this year will be Prof. Jay Lutz and Dr. Sten Ekberg.

Entries must be received by Saturday August 15th, 2015.

Do this:

Put your entry – but NOT your name on that sheet! – in an envelope without the sender's name and mail it to Jan Rygert, 4390 Ivywood Dr, NE, Marietta, GA 30062.

Include a smaller envelope including the title of the song outside, and your name and address and email inside.

SUBMITTED BY GÖRAN RYGERT

## Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / January meeting had installation of officers, welcoming Keith Anderson as the new chairman of Phoenix Lodge 677, and our new chaplain Carl Bender. Our program was an array of crafts made in Sweden brought for viewing by members.

February a special program as the Scandinavian Dancers performed their spirited dances for an appreciative audience. It was a treat for us, and the dancers seemed to have as much fun as the members had watching. The final ring dance included some of our members. Along with the entertainment we had a tasty potluck lunch.

March featured an interesting program by Ann Levig from Solstad Lodge in Sun City. Ann had visited the northern part of Sweden, home to the Sami people. The Sami live in four different countries, northern Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia, speaking the language of the country lived in. They call their land Sápmi and are united in their colorful costumes and traditions.

Our April meeting will present the 51st Anniversary celebration with traditional openfaced sandwiches and special cake to commemorate the occasion. Memberships will be celebrated with certificates or pins denoting the years of belonging to VASA.

May will be the last meeting before summer break. We will serve a salad bar and a video about the National Archives in Bishop Hill.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON

## Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / On a frigid January day, Massachusetts District No. 2 Deputy Larry Stidsen conducted our 2015 Installation of Officers. We welcomed Marilyn Sohoel, Dorothy Kean, Gerd Hedlund, Jan Voelker, Virginia MacNamara, Dorothy Kean, Lorraine Young, Cameron Blomdahl and Judith Peterson. Marilyn thanked Judith Peterson for her wonderful and inspiring leadership as Chairman for four terms.

Ed and Cameron Blomdahl, our seasoned auctioneers, conducted our Pound, Pint, and Yard Auction. There were many laughs and surprising gifts of i.e. Swedish beverages and bananas! A winter storm caused us to cancel our February meeting, but for the 15th year we proudly shared our Scandinavian



heritage at the Multi-Cultural Fair at Cape Cod Community College on February 28. We distributed 80 packets of travel brochures and explained cultural items, books and foods as our tall Maypole attracted visitors.

We initiated new member, Karen Anderson, at our March meeting, and Gerd Hedlund presented a narrative of her childhood memories of Lent and Easter in Sweden.

At our April meeting, Lynne Martin provided information on September's District

Convention, and handbell choir director and musician Thom Dutton enthralled us with folk music and Viking influence on his harp. Our Jelly Belly Candy Walk benefitted our Lodge Scholarship Fund amid giggles and surprises.

Upcoming events: Annual Swedish meatball luncheon in May and June Midsummer Fest.

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN-ELLNER KEAN

## Valhalla No. 715

LAS VEGAS, NV / The few members and former members of our lodge would like to formally say "Thank You" to Carl-Uno Manros for all he has done in trying to keep Valhalla #715 "in business." He has gone over and above in this regard but came up against "no new members," with the old ones

getting OLDER and not being able to support the lodge, with their attendance or with finances. He is still keeping us informed over the Internet about what goes on here in the USA, Sweden and the other Scandinavian countries, and it is very much appreciated by those of us who are still here.

So we say TACK SÅ MYCKET CARL-UNO!

(Lodge Valhalla #715 started in 1975 and dissolved at the end of 2012. Carl-Uno was the Chairman.)

SUBMITTED BY ISABELLA MUSCARELLA, DISTRICT SECRETARY PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO 15 AND EVY HANNELIUS AND INGA-BRITT BARNES, LAS VEGAS



Wishing all Vasa brothers and sisters  
**Glad Midsommar!**  
Lake Michigan District 8



### 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](mailto:swedengen@telia.com)

## IN MEMORIAM

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, PO Box 13331, Milwaukee, WI 53213-0331. Email: [vasaeditor@gmail.com](mailto: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..

### ARIZONA

**PATRICIA ANN DAHLIN**, age 79, died on March 4, 2015. She was buried in The National Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix. She leaves behind her husband, Don, of Prescott, AZ and many other family members in Illinois. She was a member of the Scandia Lodge #728 since January of 2003.

### ILLINOIS

**JEROME F. ANDERSON**, age 90, died November 27, 2014 in Batavia. He was born January 21, 1924 in Elgin, IL. He joined Viljan Lodge #349, Batavia in January 1996 and was an

active member. He is survived by his wife Helen, five children, 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**STIG INGVAR ANDERSON**, a member of Nobel Lodge #288 since 1990, died on September 28, 2014. Stig was born February 29, 1932 in Arvika, Sweden to Julius and Ellen Andersson. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1950 and owned Stig Anderson and Son Painting and Decorating Co. for more than 40 years. He was active in Nobel Lodge and served as a guard and trustee for many years. He was a woodworker, he loved to cook, and he played several instruments - including the accordion, his favorite, at many events. Stig is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Florence, and five brothers and sisters. He is survived by two sisters in Sweden, his son and daughter, five granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

### NORTH CAROLINA

**JOHN ALLINGER**, 83, died on May 27, 2014. Born in Stockholm

in 1930, he as a young man served in the Royal Cavalry, proudly guarding the King's Palace in Gamla Stan. He immigrated to Canada and then to Arizona where he became a U.S. citizen, went to college and taught English. John joined Phoenix Lodge #677 during its first year and then was active in Scandinavian groups in Raleigh where he moved to in 1977. With his third wife, Ruth, he founded Carl Larsson Lodge #739 in 1986, and served in many leadership roles. He was beloved by many, and he shared his love for Sweden with everyone in Vasa - his Swedish home in America. John is survived by his son, James, his brother, Bosse and his family in Sweden.

### OHIO

**ANNABELLE J. LARSON**, age 89, beloved wife of the late Paul W. Larson. Dear mother of Amy E Johnson, James E. Larson, and the late Kurt A. Larson. dear grandmother of Christopher P. Johnson, Andres R. Johnson and Benjamin P. Johnson, Sophia M. Larson and John Paul

Larson. She joined Nobel-Monitor #130 in Cleveland OH on November 11, 1990.

### OREGON

**ROZETTA CARPENTER** died Jan. 27, 2015 in Forest Grove and was born in Iowa on Oct. 11, 1922. She joined Nobel Lodge #184 in Portland on Dec. 5, 1980 and was an active and enthusiastic member serving as Chairman, Recording Secretary, Vasa Star Rep. and Master of Ceremonies.

### TEXAS

**JAMES WALENTA** died January 15, 2015 at the age of 88. He was born in Elroy, TX. He joined Carl Widen Lodge #743 on Oct 22, 2001. He served as chaplain for seven years, a trustee and auditor. He is survived by wife Nelda, two sons and two grandchildren.

### WASHINGTON

**ELVERA NOLDE** died on Oct. 27, 2014 in Olympia. She was born in Portland, OR on July 28, 1924 and

was a member of Nobel Lodge #184, joining December 17, 1976. As an active member, Elvera held many offices. To be closer to her daughter, she moved to Olympia and became a dual member in Vasa by joining Olympia Lodge #550.

### CANADA

**RUTH K. BERGQUIST**, 98, died February 7, 2015, at Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Ruth is survived by her daughter, Anna (Ken) Cook of Blaine, WA, seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband Edvin, son Gerald, daughter and son-in-law Evelyn and Don Hazlewood, grandson David and sister Mildred. She will be remembered for the many years she served as a Cultural Leader for the Children's Club and Vasa Children's Camp, where she provided Swedish language instruction and accompanied singers and folk dancers on her violin. Ruth joined Local Lodge Skandia #549 on October 1, 1938.

# SWEDISH NEWS

## Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Logen i Höganäs höll årets första möte lördagen den 24 januari 2015, med installation av nyvalda tjänstemän. O Br Karl-Axel Bengtsson hälsade vår DD Br Rolf Hansson med stab från Nybyggarna nr 698 välkomna till högtidsmötet.

En tyst minut påbjöds för avlidne Broder Bo Högstedt.

Installation av nya tjänstemän och ordförande Sy Birgit Olsson fick mottaga ordförandeklubban. Sy Birgit tackade för en stilfull installation. Avgående tjänstemän mottog en blomsterbukett av nyinstallerade ordföranden. Mötet avslutades med högtidlig ljussläkningsceremoni. Traditionsenligt utbringade nyvalda VO Sy Inger Bengtsson kvällens första skål för Konung, Karl XVI Gustav, och Kungssången sjöngs. Stämningen var hög vid borden och snart tog dansen vid.

Systrarnas afton den 14 mars 2015

O Sy Birgit öppnade mötet och välkomnade 62 Vasasyskon och Ordenssyskon från Kärnan nr 608 och Nybyggarna nr 698. KL Br Hans Bogren rapporterade från vår och grannlogernas satsning att marknadsföra Orden på Väla köpcenter. Aktiviteten pågick under två dagar och många intresserade tog del av Vasa Ordens mål och syfte. Förhoppningsvis kan detta tillföra logerna nya medlemmar. Han framförde hälsningar från vänlogen Golden Valley nr 616 i Californien.

BLH Br Lars-Olof Strufve berättade om betydelser av namnet Ferguson i USA.

En läcker vårsupé av lax med citronsås, kaffe och kaka intogs.

Systrarna gjorde en bejublad entré med ett frågesport program från olika år. Alla gissade vilt under glada skratt. Efter dans och lottdragning avslutade vi en trevlig vasakväll.



Gäster införes vid högtidsmötet



Finanssekreterare och kassör



Standarbärare och Vice Ordförande

SUBMITTED BY HANS BOGREN  
KULTURLEDARE

## THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE (SWEDISH)

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

"Säsongen för Distriktsmöten" är i full gång. När du läser detta har Birgitta och jag i år redan besökt fem eller sex distriktsmöten. I skrivande stund har vi just kommit hem från distriktsmötet Rhode Island #3, vilket hölls sista helgen i mars i Saunderstown RI. En härlig plats inte långt från Atlantkusten. Vi fick lite snö mellan lördag och söndag vilket för oss var en rolig upplevelse, eftersom vi annars nästan aldrig ser snö på marken. Men våra värdar förstod nog inte riktigt vår entusiasm, efter deras väldigt långa vinter i år.

Birgitta och jag ser nu fram emot vårt distriktsmöte här i norra Kalifornien och sedan resan till Sverige där vi kommer att övervara båda distriktsmötena. Vi kommer också ha lite tid att se släkt och vänner.

Jag hoppas att ni alla presenterar bra och intressanta program på era möten. Jag vet att jag har sagt det tidigare, men jag tycker det är värt att upprepa. Det är viktigt att ha program som engagerar medlemmar och gäster. Jag hoppas också att ni håller era medlemmar informerade om alla planerade program för året. Tänk också på att annonsera i er lokaltidning. Det är ofta gratis, och även om en tidningsannons kan tyckas lite gammalmodigt, så finns det många som kommer

att se den och då kan nås på detta sätt.

Jag läser alla era rapporter i Vasastjärnan och ser att ni har haft många bra program och avnjutet god mat på era möten. Jag ser däremot sällan, om någonsin, att ni nämner vad ni planerar att göra på framtida möten. En artikel i Vasastjärnan är ett bra tillfälle för gratis publicitet och jag rekommenderar det verkligen. Kom bara ihåg, du som skriver, att du måste tänka 3-6 månader in i framtiden för att informationen fortfarande skall vara aktuellt när tidningen kommer ut.

Vår nya Vasa databas är redo att tas i bruk. Därför kommer jag att be alla distriktssekreterare att fylla i och skicka in medlemsinformation. Varje lokal Loge kommer sedan att ha tillgång till sin medlemsinformation på databasen. Den kommer att vara tillgänglig på webben där den lösenordsskyddade informationen kan enkelt uppdateras och användas. Med databasen kommer den årliga rapporteringen om medlemskap att kunna göras automatiskt. Logen har också en plats att annonsera kommande evenemang och ha möjlighet att sätta upp OSA till möten där det är lämpligt. Vi kommer att ge ut mycket mer information om detta när denna nya funktion kommer igång.

I USA arbetar vi med svenska företag för att

få specialerbjudanden för våra medlemmar. Detaljer om detta kommer att publiceras direkt till distriktssekreterarna för distribution till alla loger. Dessvärre har vi hittills inte fått fram något liknande i Sverige eller i Kanada.

Som jag sagt i flera tidigare meddelanden måste vi uppdatera vår hemsida. Därför frågar jag igen om vi har en webbdesigner inom Vasa som är intresserad av att utforma en ny webbplats och integrera den med vår nya webb databas (se ovan). Den första uppgiften är att skriva en specifikation i samarbete med våra Database Designer och vår Database Director. Det finns inget krav på att vara expert på HTML. Vi har ett företag som kommer att ta hand om det till ett mycket rimligt pris.

Vi måste också hitta någon som kan arbeta med vår nuvarande Web Master med avsikt att ta över den positionen i framtiden. Jag hoppas någon är villig och kapabel att göra detta för Orderns Vål. Om du är intresserad eller om du vet någon medlem som kan vara intresserad i endera av dessa positioner, kontakta mig eller låt mig veta vem jag ska kontakta.

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,  
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER

### 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](mailto:swedengen@telia.com)



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