



# THE VASA STAR

## VASASTJÄRNAN

SPRING 2016  
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



Sweden's favorite sign of spring, the wood anemone (vitsippa). It's finally here, inviting everyone to enjoy a host of spring opportunities, activities and events across Swedish America, shared throughout this issue of the Vasa Star.

## THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,  
By the time you read this, we will have attended four District Conventions: Pacific Southwest #15 in Woodland Hills,

CA; our own Golden Gate #12 held in Visalia, CA; Arizona #21 in Prescott, AZ; and Lake Michigan #8 held in Frankenmuth, MI. It is always great to renew our friendships with the members of the different Districts. It is also interesting to observe how each District is just a little different in how things are done. Not that they don't adhere to the Constitution or follow the rituals, but besides having different levels of formality there is of course also different business to attend to. Some have a Vasa Park that requires attention and many have scholarship programs, where the winners are introduced and the awards are presented, often at a concluding banquet.

The next Grand Lodge Convention is coming up. Well, it's still two years away, but action is required for Districts that hold their Conventions in even years.

If you do, it's time to elect your Grand Lodge Delegate(s) this year. Delegate information has to be submitted to the Grand Secretary no later than four months prior to the Convention. That means the information has to reach GS Joan by the end of February 2018. It is critical that you elect delegates who are willing and able to run for Grand Lodge positions. All GL positions are filled by delegates and current officers. Positions to consider include Treasurer, Vice Grand Secretary and the members of the Executive Board for all five regions. Some appointed positions including Grand Lodge Deputies are often filled by Delegates as well. While this is not mandated, the incoming Grand Master, who makes these appointments, will get to know the delegates pretty well during the Convention.

Over the last few weeks, GS Joan, PGM Eric, Birgitta and I have been taking inventory of printed material that has been in storage. Of particular interest are a number of 100 Year Vasa Books. These Centennial Books were likely printed 1998 or 1999, though there is unfortunately no print date to be found in the book.

These books are of "coffee table book" quality and should be on every Vasa member's coffee table. The Centennial Books tell the story of the Vasa Order of America from the institution in 1896 and all the way through its 100th year in 1996. You will find stories from every District Lodge and from many Local Lodges. We are now selling them for a bargain \$20 each, including shipping in the U.S.

For delivery to Canada or Sweden, the price is \$50 to cover /continued on p5

### Archive News

Archivist Kathy Cuff had a busy winter and opened the Archives in Bishop Hill for the season on April 1. She also became a Vasa lodge member and is ready to take her talk on the road. / p3

### Grand Lodge News

The new Vice Grand Secretary and the new Grand Lodge Cultural Director introduce themselves and explain how our Order was important in the lives of Swedish immigrants when they arrived. / p5

### Trip of a Lifetime

On special assignment was Executive Board Member for Canada, Fae Doty, who spent time in Southeast Asia with her husband, Lee, and wrote an account of her once-in-a-lifetime trip. / p8

### Local Lodge News

This seems to be a year of milestone anniversaries. Parties and celebrations are happening in lodges all over the country, often with special events, dinners and visits from the GM Tore Kellgren. / p9

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Amanda Olson Robison

Spring has finally come, as seen in the beautiful photo of vitsippa on the previous page. Spring, and specifically as I write this today, May 12, brings with it the birthday of Vasa's namesake, King Gustav I Vasa of Sweden, whose 520th birthday is today. He was born in 1496 and is known as the Father of Sweden, the one who laid the foundation of a more efficient government for modern Sweden.

Spring is perfect timing for us, the staff of the Vasa Star, to renew our efforts of producing an efficient and effective newspaper for the modern Vasa Order – for all our readers, old and new, royal and otherwise! (And as many of you know, Swedish royalty DOES know about the Vasa Order and reads the Vasa Star!)

To that end, we are planning some minor changes, small improvements that may be both easier for submitting information as well as more appealing to read:

Simply, we hope to receive more digital PHOTOS to highlight recent

events and TEXTS to advertise the activities you've got coming up!

As Grand Master Tore Kellgren encourages us to host interesting events so we "don't be boring" and do what we can to grow membership, we should share those interesting events here in the Vasa Star. You can read the Grand Master's message in English on page 1 (or test your Swedish on page 15).

My curiosity was piqued when I read Karen Snowberg's article on page 6. I intended to write a little about the origins of my own family name, but it's likely that the story of the name Olsson – like many Swedish surnames – starts and stops with the fact that one of my ancestors was the son of Ole. However, all of my forebears came from Sweden and found other Swedes and Swedish Americans to marry, so I may have an interesting story about one of them to share another time. Maybe you'll also be inspired to share the history of your family's Swedish name, or even host a genealogy event. If you do, please share it with us!

Tack så mycket,

AMANDA OLSON ROBISON  
VASAEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Vice Grand Secretary Lee-Ann Anderson Hurtubise of Rhode Island. / p5



New Diana Birger Jarl member Christopher Barslund Mårtensson receives the Vasa pin from his mother. / p9



An evening of magic with the sisters of Höganäs No. 634. / p16

## Deadlines for The Vasa Star

Summer Deadline » **September 1**  
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 of 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. Now available digitally at [www.nordstjernan.com](http://www.nordstjernan.com) - Digital Issues (including one year of back copies with the Vasa Star)

**Kenneth T. Jackson**, Professor of History at Columbia University and Editor-in-chief, *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, said it best:

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

[www.nordstjernan.com](http://www.nordstjernan.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

## THE VASA STAR

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[www.vasaorder.com](http://www.vasaorder.com)

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

### Membership Chairman / Bruce Elfvin

3231 E. Overlook Road  
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### Advertising

Call 1.800.827.9333, ask for Vasa Star rates  
[vasaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:vasaeditor@gmail.com)

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## 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

## ARCHIVES NEWS

### Spring has sprung in Bishop Hill

HELLO VASA MEMBERS,

Spring has finally arrived in Bishop Hill. The shops, museums and restaurants in town have opened for their summer hours and visitors arrive in increasing numbers. We celebrated Spring Jubilee on April 2 with an Opening Reception for the new exhibits which were praised by all our visitors. Considering we held the reception later in the day and had 45-60 mph winds all day, we had a great turn-out. We posted pictures of the exhibit opening on Facebook at VASA Archives, Bishop Hill. We have eight more events planned this season and expect continued success this summer.

With the office space and the main collection areas straightened up, we turn our focus to the collections stored in the basement and the attic. The basement storage area has not been organized and there is no listing of what is down there. We are proceeding with a box-by-box survey of what is there and looking for any

water damage, mold or other problems. The results will be added to our database facilitating retrieval of requested items.

The next big project will be removing items from the attic. Attics, barns, storage buildings, and other areas are common places to put items. Most of these areas generally lack climate controls and insect monitors. Fortunately, the attic on the archives has screens covering the windows so there probably won't be much of an insect problem. Our concern is the potential for mold on collections, which is easily removed and taken care of.

Our goal is to spend at least one day a week working on these projects so that we can also get our administrative work done. We now have a volunteer helping us on Tuesdays and you are more than welcomed to join us.

Recently I went to the Jubileum Lodge #755's Spring Jubilee meeting in Madison, WI.

We provided a brief talk about Bishop Hill and the Vasa National Archives. If you would like for me to provide a talk to your lodge, let me know. I can travel to you or perhaps come up with something online.

By the time you read this we will have had our Valborg bonfire and Wiener Roast. The neighborhood was adding to the bonfire and we had quite a good-sized brush pile to burn this year. On June 7 we are hosting Swedish musicians, Hans Wilhelm and Birgitta. The time has yet to be announced, but we will let you know as soon as we find out. We're hoping for nice weather so they can perform outside. They have four other venues selected in the Chicago area and in Chesterton, Indiana. Contact James Nelson at jamesnelson@msn.com for more information. Their websites are barokoko.se and wilhelmochbirgitta.nu.

June 18 is our Midsommar Respite during

the Midsommar Music Festival. The music festival will be in the Bishop Hill park and fika will be a block away in the Archives. We will be offering tea and cookies for fika and a make-and-take clay sculpture station for children.

If you have any questions about the collections or the archives, feel free to contact me at VasaArchivist@gmail.com or at 309-927-3898.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,  
KATHY CUFF, CA  
VASA ARCHIVIST



Kathy Cuff, Vasa Archivist

### A Message from the President of Vasa National Archives

DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

The Archives in Bishop Hill reopened April 1 for the 2016 season. Archivist Kathy and Archives Board Member Sten Hult and his wife, Nancy, were there to greet many visitors that weekend. Kathy has been busy working in the Archives, getting acclimated to the quiet winter in the small community and making friends throughout the village. Her winter work included learning about the Vasa Order, researching and reviewing the condition of all items in the Archives and planning exhibits and programs. She will expound on future exhibits on Facebook, vasaarchivist, bishop hill, in her articles in the Vasa Star and in person.

Kathy made her first visit to a local lodge, Jubileum No. 755, to share news on the Archives, Bishop Hill and her plans for the future. The group was excited to learn about the programs

and exhibits, and many members expressed an interest in taking a road trip to visit the Archives and the other historical sites in the area. Kathy is eager to give programs such as this to all local and district lodges. Those of you not located within a reasonable driving distance will need to offer her alternative paid transportation, and she would be an exciting presenter at one of your District Conventions.

As you know, one of our goals is making the Archives accessible to members and others who may never actually visit Bishop Hill, and we're not alone. Even museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which employs hundreds of curators, graduate students and technical support staff, is experiencing this challenge. We have but one Archivist to help us move forward but we have confidence we will succeed.

In the future Kathy will share our collec-

tion policies with all of you. The Archives is interested in items pertinent to the history of our Order and the immigration of Swedish people to the United States as well as valuable artifacts, art, books and periodicals. As we age it becomes important for us to review what we own, store and display. Are you storing your things safely? Who best will benefit and cherish your precious items when you are no longer able to? How long do you really want to store and keep track of these things? Our members and lodges are aging too, making it urgent that we all review personal collections and items related to the history of the Vasa Order before they're lost. You may be the only person who can explain and describe items you have, where you received them and their importance to you. Please contact Kathy or me with your questions. We can safely store, care for and display your items properly.

Thank you for the support you have given and continue to give me as I serve the Order in leadership roles. My wife, Sheila and I wish you success as you begin your busy year of District Conventions. Please continue to remember the Vasa National Archives in your deliberations or as you conduct your personal financial planning. We will thankfully accept monetary gifts as we continue to work to rebuild the Archives Endowment Fund.

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



Bill Lundquist

# WANTED: PHOTOS & TEXT!

As we lay the foundation for an increasingly interesting newspaper for readers old and new, we are asking that you please send:

**PHOTOS** (of past events):  
your high-resolution digital photographs from great lodge events of the previous few months, including captions.

**TEXTS** (of future events):  
brief information about programs, lectures, theme parties and other great lodge events you've got coming up in the next few months



The Vasa Star is published four times a year in Swedish America's only newspaper, Nordstjernen. The deadline for submitting assets to the Vasa Star may change slightly, giving contributors more time closer to each issue's publication date; see page 2 for dates.

As always, please send as much information as you can electronically, to vasaeditor@gmail.com.

Our snail mail address is PO Box 13331, Milwaukee, WI 53213-0331

# 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 3231 E. Overlook Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118-2434, bruce@ekrtlaw.com

## DL CONNECTICUT NO. 1

**Kronan Lodge No. 2**

Ann Rudolf

Jan M. Schneider

**Diana Birger Jarl No. 3**

Christopher Mårtensson

## DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

**Ingeborg Lodge No. 66**

Erik Provost

**Nordic Lodge No. 611**

Christine A. Bilodeau

Adam K. Chiancola

Brian K. Chiancola

Anna Lisa Gotschlich

JoAnn Hester

Suzanne Fields Steinbach

## DL NEW YORK NO. 4

**Tegner Lodge No. 109**

Roger E. Benson

Jamie S. Cooke

Kati Maria Cooke

Ellen Hillander

Nicolas S. La Vare

Robert Alton Lindberg

**Olympic Lodge No. 235**

David Antonson

Jane Antonson

## DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

**Arlington Lodge No. 62**

Jeanne Andersen

Joseph Bailey

Sonja Jean Bensen

Robert E. Bruin

Ashley Kim Eevardi

Diane Nordstrom Eriksson

Walter Eriksson

Sarah Haines

William Hardy

Catherine Kastning

Kevin Richard Krause

Marjorie McClelland

Todd Alan McClelland

Jonathon Joseph Melancon

Allison Nething

Michelle Norrman

Eric Ponczek

Lillian C. Spallone

Barry Seifert

Chad R. Widman

Tara Widman

**Frithiof Lodge No. 63**

Kristine Edwards

Peter B. Skolsky

Virginia Arlynne (Illig) Skolsky

Felicity Louise Solberg

Fritz Arthur Solberg

**Linne Lodge No. 429**

Lars Jay Kronberg

Virginia Rapp

William K. Rapp

John F. Rasmussen

**Gothiold Lodge No. 486**

Robert James Burek

Michael Louis Ferenc

Christy Kitta

**Lyckan Lodge No. 507**

Laureen Lynne Anderson

Nickolaus G. Anderson

**Three Crowns Lodge No. 704**

Carole Veronica Basinski

Heather Ann Beeson-Mazzone

Anita Karin Berger

Jance Ann Denzler

Kristina Megan Denzler

William Carl Denzler

Chris George Mazzone

Lindsey Ann Ryan

Bjorn Sandhaaland

Dorothy Jean Tureson

Eric W. Tureson

Ethan C. Tureson

Lloyd William Tureson

**Dalahäst Lodge No. 742**

Lillian Anne Nemcik

## DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

**Linne Lodge No. 153**

Bethany Kemble

**Bessemer Lodge No. 203**

Layla Grace Gershon

Viljan Lodge No. 349

Marilyn Kay Overgaard

Thomas Lawrence Wright

Wendy Lundeen Wright

**Linde Lodge No. 492**

Sophie Elizabeth Andersson

Mary Hahn

## DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

**Nobel-Monitor Lodge No. 130**

Fawn Rosina O'Hara

**Svea Lodge No. 296**

Martha Sandstrom Stickner

**Drott Lodge No. 168**

Ann N. Black

Shalonda Brockington

Virginia Cain

Joseph R. Coelho

Lydia Claire Custer

Timothy R. Holland

Victoria Smith Howard

Marit R. Knollmueller

Kristen Peterson Leedom

Maxine McCarrick-Randolph

Linda Olson

Peter Olson

Susan R Emmert

Lara Ring

William Ring

Keith Shoemaker

Wendy Shoemaker

## DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

**Tegner Lodge No. 149**

Therese Mary Brewitz

Olivia Siobhan Simms

Susan Carol Simms

**Svea Lodge No. 348**

Birgitta Ackley

Carolyn Fedor-Thurman

Karen Christianna Jenvey

Ean Montoya

**Framåt Lodge No. 405**

Arvalea Jane Nelson

**Sveaborg Lodge No. 449**

Linda S. Keilch

Sharon Klein

**Lindbergh Lodge No. 494**

Lynne Eloise Bramlett

Marsha Dawn Brashear

Gina Peterson

Theodore Alan Peterson

Dianne P. Wiklander

Robert Anton Wiklander

Frida Maria Rebecka Willis

**Linnea Lodge No. 504**

Sven G. Ericsson

Lindsey Lisa Provenzano

**Norden Lodge No. 684**

Charla Erica Castro

Dennis Donnelly

Bo Gunnar Hammarling

Aaron David Holt

Christin E. Holt

Rebecca Elisabeth Holt

Kenneth O'Rand

Audre J. Smith

**Skogen Lodge No. 700**

Thomas D. Courtemarche

Diana L. Kelly

Elly Q. Nystrom

Jerry P. Nystrom

Janice M. Portukalian

Bonnie A. Richards

Wayne E. Richards

## DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

**North Star Lodge No. 145**

Eric Noel Bowles

Mirjam Ingrid Bowles

Lensa A. Etana

Ingo Helena Janke

Ingrid Elisabeth Julagay

Frank Allan White

Mary Vincent White

**Nobel Lodge No. 184**

Samantha Mary Baker

Richard A. Easton

Astor Lodge No. 215

Ashley Obryant

Denele M. Sweet

Megan E. Sweet

Raymond V. Utterback

**Skogsblomman Lodge No. 378**

Thomas W. McKown

Aurora Shiloh Newcomb

**Olympia Lodge No. 550**

Hanna Maria Bränström

Diane Marie Riggan

Yvonne Marie Svasand

## DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

**North Star Lodge No. 106**

Tara Rae Pitts

**Skandia Lodge No. 249**

Marie Ibsen

Jillian Marie Risigari-Gai

**Viking Lodge No. 256**

Daryl Thomas Borisenko

Melinda Lee Borisenko

Ann Kristine Hellgren

**Evening Star Lodge No. 426**

Myra G. Posert

**Mayflower Lodge No. 445**

Erik Staffan Eklund

Maj-Lena Kristina Eklund

Gun Olsson Fagin

Joseph Fagin

Cheryl M. Johnson

Al A. Suero

Monal Ingegars Suero

Gunilla Windon

**Golden Valley Lodge No. 616**

Britt Inger Anderson

Thomas Bernard Anderson

Hailey Stuart Carlson

Kent James Carlson

Lisa Michelle Eklund

Cheryl B. Haggerty

Elisabit Perez

Christina Poe

Carolyn Sophia Schultz

Inger V. Stephens

Tiffany Christina Storch

Laila Larsson Weitz

Mark Joey Weitz

**Scandinavian Lodge No. 667**

Jean Ellen Johnson

**Desert Viking Lodge No. 682**

Lennea Deyo

Sharon Seraphin Heitman

David Kantar

Farhad Kiani

Chris McGowan

Emily McGowan

Phalyn Lunstrum

Monica Weisbart

Jennifer R. Weisbart-Moreno

Claudia Wikman

David Stig Wikman

Jacob Thomas Wikman

Rachel May-Britt Wikman

Thomas Stig Wikman

Mary Wright

**Oak Leaf Lodge No. 685**

Jason Aaron Blohm

Brian Keith Compton

Eva D. Hilborn

Howard B. Hilborn

Bengt Johansson

Gina Johansson

Ji Hye (Kim) Jonsson

Marcus Daniel Jonsson

John R. O'Leary

Madeleine Ann Person

Tal C. Ross

Talese S. Shertzeh

Annukka Thoren

Nils Thoren

Flower P. Vandervelde-Person

**Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719**

Cathy Ann Thielen

**Kern River Lodge No. 763**

(new lodge, instituted 12/30/15)

Jennifer Dewey

Mark Dewey

Laila Jensen

Lisa Lawson

Jens Mikkelsen

Keri Mikkelsen

Kevin Mikkelsen

Natalie Mikkelsen

Rebecca Mikkelsen

Justin Reynolds

Tallie Reynolds

Alexander Santana

Brandon Santana

Jessica Santana

Kayla Santana

## DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17

**Omaha Lodge No. 330**

Gerald L. Anderson

Sharon Lee Bennet

Doris Elaine Kummer

Dennis Elwood Olsen

Eleanor Lorraine Rosenquist

**Norrskenet Lodge No. 331**

Richard Warren Lindblom

Jenny Susan Rudberg

Ted L. Rudberg

## DL ARIZONA NO. 21

**Phoenix Lodge No. 677**

Wendy May (Hurley) Cook

Lilliana Mae Hermsillo

Priscilla Jane Lewin

Sophie L. Martinez

Tarja Jaana Nummela

Diane Lynn Schneider

Deja Marie Taggart

Barrett Morris Westberg

Emily Joy Noelle Wood

Phyllis Louise Zubick

**Tucson Lodge No. 691**

Rebecca Block

Emelie Elisabet Cooper

Phyllis A. Gracy

Kimberly K. King

Niklas Osterman

**Solstad Lodge No. 709**

Caisa I. Dragland

Evelyn Anne Laws

Karin Olsen

**Scandia Lodge No. 728**

Gary Glen Anderson

Joan Anderson

Jan Beam

Hanna Hollander

Barbara Ann Jacobsen

John D. Sandeen

Mary Ellen Sandeen

## CENTRAL REGION

**Facklan Lodge No. 248**

Eric A. Markham

Annika Elaine Messmer

Ann L. Nelson

**Carl XVI Gustaf Lodge No. 716**

Maureen Karen Baricelli

**Carl Widen Lodge No. 743**

Boone Stevenson Denton

Kathy Alayne Denton

**New Members—Sweden**

DISTRICT LODGE NO 20

**Kärnan No 608**

Barbro Nilsson, Ingemar Nilsson, Eva

Tullberg, Roland Magnusson

**Christian No 617**

## GRAND LODGE NEWS

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

shipping. This is your opportunity to get one of these keepsake books. For delivery in the USA or Canada send your check \$20 (USA) or \$50



US (Canada) payable to VOA to GS Joan (see address elsewhere in Vasa Star under the heading "The Vasa Star") with a note saying you want a Centennial Book. We will send it to the address on the check unless noted to send to other address. For delivery in Sweden, please contact me for method of payment.

The Education Stamp fundraiser this year will be in August. It has been a good fundraiser for many years and I am convinced it will continue to be so. I urge you to donate to continue supporting our scholarship programs.

MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO BE OUR NUMBER ONE CHALLENGE.

### 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

This has been my mantra for a while and will continue to be so. Your Lodge should have a Membership Chairman, though this is not the only person in charge of membership retention and recruitment - YOU ALL ARE! By retaining your members and getting new members, your Lodge can grow and thrive. For this to happen, an exciting Lodge Meeting is essential. **Don't be boring!** The competition for your current and prospective members' time is stiff. You have to have food at your meetings and put on programs that engage. Cultural Leaders, I challenge all of you to research an exciting subject and

develop a program around it. Work with your District Cultural Leader and share ideas between Lodges. The Internet is a vast source of information on Swedish and other Nordic countries' culture and heritage. Work with your Lodge members. It is every member's job to make the meetings attractive to current and future members. ONE new member is all I ask from each one of you. Keep your current members! It bears repeating: **Don't be boring!**

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,  
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER

### 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

## Moving?

Be sure to send address changes to

circulationvasastar@gmail.com

## Vice Grand Secretary of Vasa Order of America

GREETINGS TO ALL OF YOU!

I am Lee-Ann Anderson Hurtubise. I was born in Rhode Island and have lived here all my life. I lived in Warwick growing up, where I enjoyed playing sports. In high school I played field hockey, basketball, volleyball and softball. Playing sports helped me learn to work together with others to achieve a common goal. This interest led me to the University of Rhode Island where I received my Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education with a minor in Biology as well as my Master's of Science in Physical Education.

I worked as a teacher in Physical Education for 34 years in Warwick, RI and I loved it! I am also a lifetime Girl Scout who worked at Camp Hoffman Girl Scout Camp during college summers. This helped me practice for my teaching degree and I made friends for life.

I am a 31-year member of the Scandinavian Women's Chorus of Rhode Island and the American Union of Swedish Singers.

I met my husband during a the Warwick

Players production of The Sound of Music, in which I was Maria and he was Rolf. We were married in 1991 - July 20 will be our 25th wedding anniversary!

I became a member of Vasa after Beverly Jernquist Cianfarani asked if my son, Jon-Erik, could join the Vasa Children's group. We got him to join, then she said, "It would be very nice if Jon-Erik could say his parents were Vasa members too!" So we joined! In Rhode Island DL #3, I am the Chairman of Quahog Lodge #725 and I belong to Star Lodge #56. During the time I was District Master (2009-2011) I sold beads as a fundraiser for the district. I called them "Swede Beads" and they were in the shape of the Swedish flag. They raised a good deal of money for the district.

On Thursdays from late April until mid-October I work at Little Rhody Vasa Park in Foster, RI with a number of others. We do maintenance outside and inside the building. Last fall was the 50th anniversary of the park and we celebrated - it was a great time! I was elected to the position of Vice Grand Secretary at the



Lee-Ann Anderson Hurtubise, VGS

last Grand Lodge Convention and am on the constitution committee. You can come to me for ordering books, jewelry and supplies.

Thank you for your confidence in me!

IN GENEROSITY, TRUTH AND UNITY,  
LEE-ANN ANDERSON HURTUBISE

## 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.

# Heritage and Acculturation and The Vasa Order



When I was a young student, I was told that the United States was the “Melting Pot of Nations.” People had come here from countries all around the world to live and work together to form a great nation. In the process, they had to learn to speak English and to conform to American ways and customs. This process is known as acculturation.

When my grandparents came to this country at the end of the 1800s, it was with great pride that they learned English and worked hard to become citizens. My grandparents were proud to become Americans, and even as a young student, I was equally proud of being a second-generation Swedish American.

Living as I do near New York City, I hear a wealth of languages being spoken all around me. I realize some of these people

are vacationing here, but the majority are actually people who live here and aren’t able to speak English or do not wish to do so. It amazes me that some of my neighbors have lived here for 20 years or more and are only able to speak a little English.

Years ago, acculturation occurred more slowly in rural areas than it did in the cities. My father told me

that although he was born in this country, his family only spoke Swedish at home when he was growing up. He was raised just outside a small, rural town in northern Wisconsin, where many people in the area were Swedish and the acculturation process moved very slowly. Consequently, when he began school at age 6, the teacher had to assign a boy to sit next to him to help him learn English because he had never spoken a word of it before.

My mother, on the other hand, was born and raised in Minneapolis. Although her mother occasionally spoke Swedish at home, the family used English normally. By the time my parents married and were raising us kids, the only time they spoke Swedish was when they wanted to keep a secret from us. I think that was the general trend in many families.

During the Great Swedish Migration of 1879-1900, people may have been drawn to others from their country, however, they helped each other make the transition to the new culture. The Vasa Order was formed at this time, and it helped with the acculturation process. In the minutes of my home lodge, Freja #100 of White Plains, New York, there are indications they even offered English classes. However, this was not quite as important as the role the lodge played in providing a social outlet for Swedish Americans and, equally importantly, a means of providing insurance for health and death benefits.

## Vasa evolves to preserve culture and traditions

With assimilation and acculturation came a renewed interest in Swedish history and culture as children and grandchildren of immigrants sought to preserve some traditions of their ancestral homeland. The Vasa Order was joined by other newly established historical societies, museums and foundations.

It was this dynamic that historian Marcus Hansen observed in his own generation, and which prompted his famous axiom, “What the son wishes to forget, the grandson wishes to remember” (The Problem of the Third Generation Immigrant, 1938).

More than 100 years after The Vasa Order was founded, the needs of our members have changed considerably. Now many lodges

offer Swedish lessons, and social events are more desired by their members than formal lodge meetings.

About eight years ago, the future of our lodge was in jeopardy. Membership had dwindled and we really didn’t have enough people to cover all the positions needed to run the lodge. Some people took on two leadership positions, and there were many meetings where we did not have a quorum.

When I took over as chairman, I thought it certainly couldn’t hurt to try an experiment in streamlining the meetings. Over the course of just a few years, more and more people gradually started attending our meetings. Eight years ago, average attendance was 6 to 10 people; this past season our average attendance was 20 to 30. We’re headed in the right direction!

By making the meetings less formal, our members have had more time to socialize and to become not just friends, but family. Our members very genuinely care for each other. We are aunts, uncles, grandparents to the younger members and they are like nieces, nephews and grandchildren to us. Many of us do not have relatives in the area and it is a great source of comfort to have such a group of caring people in our lives. The word “unity” in our motto has never meant so much before.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,  
KAREN SNOWBERG, GLCD - USA & CANADA

## Grand Lodge Cultural Director for Canada and the United States

GREETINGS TO VASA MEMBERS NEAR AND FAR!

I’d like to introduce myself to you - my name is Karen Snowberg, and I am your new Grand Lodge Cultural Director for Canada and the United States.

The name may tell you I am of Swedish descent. (A name can be a misleading definer of heritage, however - for example, my partner’s last name is Nelson, which is a common Scandinavian name, but his ancestors are from Russia.) I’ve always been intrigued to learn someone’s name and to try to guess what country their ancestors came from. Sometimes it’s fairly obvious, but not always. Snowberg has often been mistaken for German and Jewish instead of Swedish.

Both my parents came from the same family line as they were second cousins. Our family surname was actually Snöberg, but the spelling was Americanized when our relatives first came to this country from Karlskoga and then Degerhamn, Sweden. I am proud to be a blond, blue-eyed, 100% Swedish woman.

About the same time I joined the Vasa Order, I also became interested in genealogy. I was fortunate to have a retired relative from Huskvarna undertake the task of tracing our family tree in Sweden. It was a thrill to meet him and receive a copy of his research. My brother and I also made a trip to Karlskoga where we met a historian who was able to take us to Snöbergshult, the place from which our family took its name. There wasn’t a snowy mountain in sight, but we were told that in old Swedish “snöberg” meant “bad land” as the land in this area would not support farming. The men of our family were alum miners, charcoal producers and lumbermen, and when the mines began to fail, the miners migrated to Degerhamn

on Öland where there was more work. Eventually two brothers from the Karlskoga area and two sisters from Degerhamn immigrated to the United States, met other Swedes to marry, and started families in this country.

There are not many Snowbergs in the world, and it is my understanding that I am related to all of them! Since joining the Vasa Order it’s been my good fortune to travel to Sweden 10 times and I’ve met many relatives there. How exciting it was to share my love of music with some of my relatives, as well as to exchange mystery books and craft ideas with several of my cousins. And all the wonderful recipes we’ve shared!

Finding out more about my family was a logical first step to take in learning about my own “Swedishness.” I hope you, too, are intrigued and you are investigating your family name.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,  
KAREN SNOWBERG, GLCD - USA & CANADA

Aside from being a proud Swedish American, I have roots in the Midwest and graduated from a Norwegian Lutheran college in Iowa. I was an instrumental music teacher and am now a specialist in the performance of Renaissance and Baroque music as well as a Lutheran church choir director. I’ve worked for the past 26 years for a small marketing research company owned by my partner Ron. We tried to retire this past year, but it didn’t take! I love doing historical research, knit, crochet and read. And, as my friends will attest, I love to cook and bake.

Karen



Karen Snowberg

# Spring time in Sweden

Spring – what a beautiful time of the year! Taking a walk in the woods in Småland on sunny spring day is very special. Nature is full of interesting things. The birds sing and the first flowers have woken up after a long winter.

To the left below is blue anemone, also called hepatica or liverleaf, and to the right wood anemone also called windflower.

In May-June we can admire the beautiful lily-of-the-valley. It is the province flower of Gästrikland. Last year this flower was also on the Vasa stamp. I do hope many Vasa members use the stamps on their letters.

Greetings from Jönköping, Sweden!

MAUREEN BENGTSOON  
GL CULTURAL DIRECTOR –SWEDEN



**Moving?**  
Be sure to send address changes to  
circulationvasastar@gmail.com

## DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

### Connecticut No. 1



It was a beautiful day for the annual Christmas in the Village Celebration on Main Street (Vasa Park Rd.) in South Meriden, Connecticut. It started with a Jul parade, and Tomte Linda (District Master Linda Johnson Steinmiller), Tomte Joe (Park Board Chairman PDM Joseph O’Leary) and a couple of tomte helpers manned the booth, passing out Swedish delights (refreshments). Many people stopped for the dopp and others were curious about the Vasa Order of America. Perhaps we picked up some new members!



### Pacific Southwest No. 15

Thirteen Lodges sent Delegates to DLPSW No 15’s Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Woodland Hills, California. After registration on February 26, there was a seminar on Swedish Nobility by the District’s Cultural Leader Nancy Kingston. This was followed by another seminar, “Nordic Vision Travlogue” by PDM Birgitta Roodsari. In the evening Golden Valley Lodge No 616 held a very nice reception for “their” District Master Bertil Winther. There was plenty to eat and drink for happy members. The next day opened with registration for late comers, and a good part of the morning was spent in meetings and special introductions that included Grand Master Tore Kellgren

and his wife Birgitta. One resolution, which failed, was presented. Otherwise most of the time was taken up by nominations. Three officers of the four top offices retired which left a bit of a tumult. The nominating committee had worked hard to fill the positions before the Convention but only so much can be done if nobody is willing to step up. DT Bob Solt retired after 21 years in the Office and received the honorable title Honorary Life Member of District 15. New District Master Peter Lindgren and his mostly new staff are wished all the best for the coming year. The

Front Row, left to right: Lori Wennbo, Auditor; Inga Francis, Chaplain; Haakan Spaberg, Vice District Master; Linda Kosvic, Ass’t Secretary; Peter Lindgren, District Master; Bertil Winther, Past District Master; Valerie Larson, EBM; Susan Premo, Grand Lodge Deputy; Ann Hellgren, Trustee. Back Row, left to right: Gunlog Spaberg, Trustee; Russel Almquist, Trustee; Ernie Mauritson, Auditor; Delphine Trowbridge, Secretary; Anita Hedlund, Inner Guard; Nathaniel Walker, Outer Guard; Nancy Kingston, Cultural Leader; Carol Kerr, Ass’t Master of Ceremonies; Maidie Karling, Master of Ceremonies; Lisa Dackow; Kristine Hofve, EBM. Photo by Joan Johnson



Grand Lodge Deputy Susan Premo and District Master Bertil Winther conducted the ceremonies at District 15’s Joint Installation.

evening offered a nice banquet and dancing. The main events on Sunday was the Memorial Service by DC Maidie Karling and Vasa Choir led by LeRoy Anderson. This was followed by the always enjoyable Sunday lunch with schol-

arships and drawing of popular raffle items. It was a good weekend and we are already looking forward to 2017’s Convention.

SUBMITTED BY NEL SOLT  
DLPSW NO 15

# A Trip of a lifetime



Fae Doty on an elephant ride.

**Grand Lodge Executive Board Member for Canada, Fae Doty, and her husband, Lee, recently returned from a 5-week trip to Southeast Asia – Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Singapore. This is Fae's account of the trip.**

Planning started two years earlier and the tour company was invaluable in finalizing the itinerary. The trip was a private tour with guides and drivers, which was surprisingly affordable and maximized our time in a safe and comfortable way.

We flew from Canada to Singapore, then continued on to Hanoi arriving on the eve of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year and the major holiday season of the year. Staying in the old quarter, we enjoyed the sights and sounds of this vibrant city. Motor scooters rule the road and there are thousands of them to be dodged by pedestrians. Vietnamese throughout the country want “fresh” so markets abound and people shop for vegetables, fish and meat on a daily basis.

In Hanoi we took in a performance of water puppets, a traditional art form only seen there. A highlight was an overnight boat trip on Halong Bay, a 3- or 4-hour drive from Hanoi. This 600 square mile bay, a UNESCO world heritage site, contains 1900 limestone islands called karsts, many of which have caves eroded in them. The karsts are like vegetated pillars, about 50-300 feet high, and are amazing.

We flew south to Hue, Da Nang and Hoi An in the center of Vietnam, the home of ancient civilizations and ruins, kings and the seat of government until 1945. It was also the demarcation between north and south Vietnam and a major battleground during the American War. We saw U.S. bunkers from the 1960s on the road into Da Nang and

the old U.S. airbase there. “China Beach” is now called “Holiday Beach” and is lined with hotels and high end resorts and golf courses. Buddhism is the major religion and as in the other countries we visited, shrines and temples are ubiquitous.

Then off to Ho Chi Minh, also called Saigon even today, where we visited the Cu Chi tunnels, an ingenious complex of tunnels in the jungle up to 35 feet deep from which the Viet Cong fought. Camouflaged, it was almost impossible to see the openings to these or the man traps that were set. This would have been a truly terrifying battleground for U.S. soldiers. We visited the war remnants museum, which provides various accounts of the war and a collection of captured military hardware. There is very little residual resentment of the U.S. and we saw many Americans touring.

Then it was off to Siem Reap in Cambodia where we visited Angkor and the various temples there, most dating to about 1000 AD. This is a huge area with many temples built over several hundred years. Hinduism kind of morphed into Buddhism over the centuries so one sees symbols from both religions. Many of the temples in the area have been badly damaged, not so much by war but rather by the encroachment of the jungle, and many have been or are being restored. Another world heritage site and another highlight of our trip.

We visited Lake Tonle Sap, a huge flood plain on the Mekong River. When we were there, the lake was very low, probably 3- to 5-feet deep, and contracted in area to perhaps 1000 square miles (during the rainy season it



Angkor Wat.



Halong Bay at Sunrise.

can be 50 feet deep and 6000 square miles). We visited a floating village with houses, stores, schools and churches all on floating pontoons.

Perhaps the most poignant memories of Cambodia are the stories our guide told of life during the Pol Pot regime. Pol Pot was an evil dictator who slaughtered two million of his countrymen - one quarter of the population of Cambodia - before he was ejected in 1979 by Vietnam. Our guide talked of being put to work in the fields as a young boy, living on whatever he and his family could find, hiding in a ditch when the liberation came and of becoming a Buddhist monk in order to get an education.

We flew to Bangkok, which is a huge, crowded city but with an abundance of temples and shrines. The main obstacle is getting anywhere in traffic. After a couple days, we flew to Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. This is a smaller, old city that is a center for harvesting teak. Naturally occurring teak was almost obliterated and illegal to cut so teak is now grown on plantations. Elephants had been used in the harvesting of natural teak but found themselves out of work, so we visited an elephant training center where we saw the amazing things these strong animals can do, and where we took a one-hour ride through the jungle and down the Ping River on them. It was an absolutely fabulous day and certainly a highlight.

Our last stop in Thailand was Phuket. We planned a few days at a beach resort to re-

charge and it was a good thing we did – the previous four weeks, while great, were pretty hectic and very tiring, particularly given that for most of the trip both the temperature and the humidity were close to 100.

Finally we spent a couple days in Singapore, the opposite of the other places we visited. It is a very clean, expensive and well organized city. The public works there (roadways, tunnels, cable cars, gardens, buildings, etc) are absolutely spectacular. Although there are over six million people in a very small area, there is a lot of undeveloped land, and parks and flowers abound. It is now also the most expensive city in which to live in the world.

We had an amazing trip, probably once in a lifetime. Besides the awesome things we saw and did, our main memory is of the people we encountered. Generally they are very poor by western standards but they are very happy. They are by and large very gentle and thoughtful people who value their families and relationships. Attention to service in hotels, airports and attractions was generally much higher than you would find in North America, particularly, if like us, you have grey hair. The food was very good, though after five weeks we both craved a North American menu. We always felt safe and the tour company we used was honest, ethical, dependable and affordable. Suffice it to say, it was fantastic. If anyone would like information or contacts, feel free to contact me.

SUBMITTED BY FAE DOTY

# LOCAL LODGE NEWS

## Diana Birger Jarl No. 3

NEW HAVEN, CT / Our meeting on February 27 saw the initiation of 18-year-old Christopher Mårten Barslund Mårtensson. Maryann O’Leary, Chair and VDM DL1 assisted by Past Chair Paul Ljunggren, initiated Christopher. The new member is an honors student at Center for Global Studies at the Brian McMahon High School in Norwalk, Connecticut.

School and crew takes up most of the time for this bilingual young man who competes at regattas every weekend during April and May. With the tutoring that comes with be-

ing a member of the National Honor Society and three hours of rowing practice six days a week as team captain at Norwalk River Rowing Association not a lot of time remains for other activities. He graduates this summer and will begin the CSB program at Lehigh University in the fall.

Our new member - who we hear makes his own Swedish pancakes at home - gave thumbs up for Paul Ljunggren’s classic pea soup recipe and the accompanying pancakes.

SUBMITTED BY JOE O’LEARY



Christopher Mårtensson is initiated at the February meeting of Diana Birger Jarl. Maryann O’Leary and Paul Ljunggren officiating.



Tegner No. 109 installation

## Tegner No. 109

SCOTIA, NY / We celebrated our 109th anniversary and the installation of eight new members in February. We also reinstated one former member and mourned the death of Carolyn Hekenham. Carolyn (3/20/1945 - 2/17/2016) was a long-time Tegner member, and we will miss her. The Lodge’s semi-annual Swedish-American Pancake fundraiser is scheduled for May 15, always a great event.

SUBMITTED BY ANNA KARLSSON



## Fylgia No. 119

SAN FRANCISCO, CA / Our lodge sponsors the cooking classes for Vasa District No. 12, so in February Vicki Peterson from Nordic House taught us how to make semlor, the delightful Swedish pastry enjoyed during Lent. In March, Cecilia Froberg, originally from Skåne, taught us her family’s recipe for kåldomar, or cabbage rolls. April brought two opportunities to infuse vodka with spices and fruit to create “aquavit”! (Those who have the competitive urge are encouraged to enter their aquavit in the International Aquavit Competition at Sweden Day Celebration at Sveadal in June.) April also

brought an open house and tour of the Swedish-American Hall in San Francisco - which is the home for Fylgia - and along with food and beverages, a presentation of the history of the Hall and its meaning to the local Swedish American population. In May we gather at Nordic House to create gravad lax.

SUBMITTED BY DIANNE DAHLBERG



Pretty kåldomar in frying pan



Kåldomar being prepared by happy members (L-R) Bob Olson, Chris Olson, Cecilia Froberg, Katherine Lipscomb and a partial Chuck Lipscomb. / Inset on top: Semlor for dessert.

## Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN, NY / Spring is here, and we are seeing the rebirth of flowers and trees, and the beginning of our 109th year. We met in March for the opening meeting of the year, and John Sipos, lodge historian, presented a record of last year’s events and activities with many photographs and write-ups. Children’s dance leader Donna Johnson announced that the children’s dance team is now in its 75th year, and a special recognition event will be held to commemorate this date. A Swedish dinner was held at the end of April - pea soup, ham, rotmos, korv

and a dessert. More dinners are being planned for the year, along with movie nights and workshops. We meet at our lodge, located at 4123 Pancake Hill in Bemus Point, and welcomes visitors. If you are in our area, stop and visit us. “God dag!”

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS, HISTORIAN

Presenting the 2015 historical report is John Sipos, lodge historian, Tom Eckberg, lodge chairman, and 56-year member Don Sandy.





L-R: Ellen Morrison; Diane Eatherly; Elsy Mattsson; Mimi Holtermann; Ingrid Andersson; Jan Norberg.  
Photo: Elizabeth Madaras

## Tegner No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / In January, Tegner members enjoyed Swedish pea soup made by Kitty Hughes and Richard Orlando and pancakes prepared by Elsy Mattsson, Ingrid Andersson, and Diane Eatherly. After a short business meeting, we watched the 2009 Swedish movie "Everlasting Moments" starring Maria Heiskanen. In February, we had a salmon dinner and then Randy Grandin of

Framåt Lodge No. 405, gave a report of his Swedish ancestors settling in Kingsburg, CA. Our March meeting had Easter decorations and Elsy Mattsson put out her friend Evy Ryden's Easter tree with a wonderful variety of items hanging from its branches. After dinner, Tim Ruen presented a program about music played by the Swedes after they arrived in America.

SUBMITTED BY ANN TENNIS

## Svea No. 253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / In February, Jeannie Regan-Dinius presented "Kyrkogård - Marking Graves the Swedish Way," a history of design and administration of cemeteries in Sweden and the United States. She gave information about finding gravestones and included interesting historical and cultural

tidbits. In March, Glenn Sweitzer presented "Sweden's Evolving Immigration: Patterns, Policies and Politics," beginning with a history of the waves of immigration throughout Sweden's history. He then described the present flood of immigrants and its impact on Swedish society. In April, Paul Mullins presented "The Archaeology of World War II in Finland," a description of the culture of Nazis mingling with Finns, their culture and history. Many thanks to our presenters and to all hostesses, officers and members who participated this spring!

SUBMITTED BY JAMES HOOK



Paul Mullins talking with members after the April meeting.



Members enjoying the smörgåsbord during the February meeting.

## Brahe No. 245

ROCKFORD, IL / Highlights of the January meeting were when District Deputy Marianne Ekstrand conducted the installation of our 2016 officers, and when Dennis Eksten was awarded his 50-year membership pin. (When Dennis joined in December 1965, Brahe had many members who had been born in Sweden and some programs were held in Swedish.) Cultural Leader Betty Rottman read an article about the political and emigrant problems in Sweden today, and delicious refreshments were provided by Charlotte Tollin and Donald Erickson. In March, 10 members met at VASA Park. Swedish refreshments were provided by Gunnel Stewart (semlor with marzipan and whipped cream) and Jean Berggren (open-faced sandwiches). Roy Ylitalo, VASA Park Board, reported that Gambino Realtors had two different prospective buyers view the park, and a sale sign will be placed



Gunnel Stewart (left) and Jean Berggren.



Marianne Ekstrand and Dennis Eksten.

on Blackhawk Road. Park clean-ups were scheduled for April and May.

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS G. EKSTEN

## Svea No. 348

SAN JOSE, CA / Our lodge hosted the joint installation of officers with Lindbergh 494 in January. The February presentation of "Scotland Then and Now" by members Niels Kjaer-Pedersen and Joan Kjemtrup was accompanied by Mary Hanner on bagpipes! Mary Hanner added a cross-cultural flavor with her homemade Scotch Shortbread cookies, and semlor were prepared by Emma Hanlon and Kikki Nordin. Scandinavian fiddlers Anders Holtsberg and Jeanne Sawyer headlined the March meeting with a lively and memorable performance. Zaida Binetti, assisted by Berit Morgan and Victoria Fedor-Thurman provided a Swedish meatball dinner to the fortunate attendees. Lodge members and guests looked forward to the traditional Valborgsmässoafton Celebration and pea soup dinner with singing around the bonfire at the end of April.



Svea member Mary Hanner on bagpipes.

The historic Midsummer Festival at Sveadal will be special for Svea Lodge 348: Member Sarah Lipscomb is Midsummer Queen. Sarah is the granddaughter of Violet

DeGaston, and her whole family is active in Svea 348. Sarah and her sister Amelia have both been recipients of Golden Gate District 12 scholarships.

SUBMITTED BY EMMA HANLON

## Solidaritet No. 396

MOUNT VERNON, WA / On March 13 members of the local Sons of Norway joined Solidaritet for a dinner party. Boy, was it festive: There was music, food, dancing and desserts. The photo from the dinner tells it all.



SUBMITTED BY JAMES ANDERSSON



Linde's 2016 elected officers (L-R): Jan Kamholtz, Elaine Johnson, Marianne Ekstrand, Cris Rosario, Rolf Ekstrand, Liza Ekstrand, Brent Erickson, Susanna Rosario, District Deputy David Tollin and wife Charlotte, Marge Gruel, and newest member Sophie Andersson.



Marion Bruce and her daughter Caroline Johnson look over the treat table.

## Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / Our installation meeting in January also included the initiation of new member Sophie Andersson, former Skansen CC member. Along with the meeting we had wonderful refreshments and a fun time just being together. Our March meeting was short, but the social program was a wonderful Dalahäst presentation by CL Susanna Rosario. The icing on the cake was that every member brought a Dalahäst or a version of one - we had a full horse corral. As always the coffee hour held lots of treats, even a Dalahäst cake. The

April meeting was a visit to our Norwegian friends as we joined them for their monthly Torsk Dinner (meatballs for non-fish lovers). We had 30 members and guests at our tables. The May meeting was skipped in lieu of sending delegates to the District convention in Frankenmuth, MI, and in June we meet for lunch at a restaurant and get convention updates. Midsommar at Old World Wisconsin will be celebrated on June 19. Call us 262.366.9152 if you like to come to our Krätskiva on August 27 or to Scandinavian Festival on October 8.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



Dalahäst program and members (from left) Ray Shoberg, Rolf Ekstrand (9 days post knee replacement), Marion Bruce, Brent Erickson, Marianne Ekstrand, Karin Konrad, Marge Gruel, Elaine Johnson, Susanna Rosario, Allan Stenmark and Marge Jothen.

## Linnea No. 504

PETALUMA, CA / This is a belated report, but what a festive Lucia celebration it was with 206 people in the audience at our 2015 Lucia Fest! Our lovely St. Lucia was Emily Koagedal, granddaughter of members Linnea and Lorentz Koagedal. A fabulous julbord was catered by members Tony Johansson and Anna Scholin, and glögg was made by the Koagedals and Kris Palo. Cultural Leader Oscar Carlson and his talented family entertained us with their singing and guitar music, and Natasha Scholin, our 2014 Lucia, also sang. Linnea Lodge made Lucia part of the Christmas celebration for the first time in 1971 when members Sylvia Anderson and Linnea Koagedal brought the tradition to us.

SUBMITTED BY MARY WAHLBERG



St. Lucia 2015 Emily Koagedal, Linnea Lodge 504.



Marilyn Johnson, our culinary expert in charge of the monthly food, and Keith Anderson, our chairperson.

## Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / In January, DC Joanne DeMent installed new and re-elected officers. The program introduced us to an old-fashioned "fika" (coffee break). Before that we had Swedish pea soup for lunch. In our February "All About Trolls" program, we learned how many different trolls there are and even the "visiting" trolls brought by members enjoyed themselves. We agreed to give a \$200 Nordic Language Camp scholarship to a deserving member.

Storyteller Harriet Cole came in March and shared some tall tales such as "How the

Bear Got His Stubby Tail." April held a celebration of our 52nd anniversary, reviewing a bit of our history and honoring long-time members with certificates or pins, Swedish music, Maypole dancing and special foods. May will highlight author Sharyl Bales' mystery/suspense books called "The Signe Series" based upon Signe Carlson, her maternal grandmother as the heroine. This is our last meeting before summer when some lucky members depart for cooler climes.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON

Maypole and Katarina Ivarsson, membership chair, and Ken Ahlberg, vice chair.



The folk dance group helped us out and the Maypole was made by our own Katarina and Per Ivarsson.



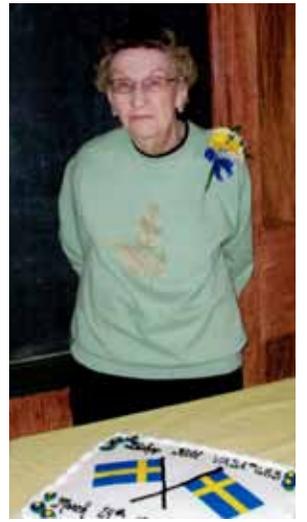
# Bishop Hill No. 683

BISHOP HILL, IL / Our lodge has had a busy few months. The February meeting at the VASA Archives was well attended, and we initiated new members Kathryn Cuff and Lisa Widmark. During our meeting, Kathryn Cuff, Archivist, gave a short talk about Archive plans. The March meeting at the Colony School was our 48th anniversary party with pea soup and Swedish pancakes, cake and coffee. Cheryl Dowell said the Swedish table prayer and we had great dinner music by Jazz On The Side. Lloyd and Donna Anderson were given 40-year membership awards, and Helen Anderson was honored as our only charter member and on becoming a life member. Delegates were elected for the convention, Sue Schulz gave a program on Sweden at Easter, and Alivia and Leah Anderson dressed up as Easter witches. What a great nights thanks to Judy and the committee.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF ANDERSON



Officer 2016 (front row L to R) Denise Menken, Janene Lourdeau, Judy Anderson, Mary Bjorling, Diane Lindbom. Second row: Sue Schulz, Karl Johnson, Roger Anderson, Randy Anderson and Warren Schulz.



Remaining charter member Helen Anderson



New Members from left: Kathryn Cuff, Lisa Widmark and new Chairman Judy Anderson



40-year membership pins handed out to Lloyd and Donna Anderson by Judy Anderson



Cutest Easter witches Alivia & Leah Anderson

# Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / We celebrated "påsk" (Easter) at our April meeting with open-faced sandwiches, salads and desserts. Many members dressed up as old hags with aprons and scarves on their heads, according to the Easter witch tradition. Baskets with chocolates were on each table, and Monica Shipley, our Cultural Leader, explained the Easter celebration in Sweden as she remembers it.

SUBMITTED BY BY CLYDA DEHN



Easter in Sweden.



Open-faced sandwiches.



Katie Gentry, Arthur Mills, Cathy Mills, Wayne and Margaret Mills.

# Skogen No. 700

REDDING, CA / We have enjoyed our recent 2016 events! In March, we held our famous Pea Soup and Pancake Dinner. Many guests joined us for a delicious repast, and a member spoke on Wilhelm Moberg's books on The Emigrants. On April 9, we held a Celebration of Life Memorial for our dear friend, Hazelle Mills, who passed away February 1, 2016, at the age of 95. She was a thoughtful, kind, and generous lady whom we will all greatly miss. She was the "Grand Dame"

of Skogen Lodge, participating actively in all Lodge doings, and attending 37 VASA Conventions. She is survived by her sons and their families. We enjoyed time together to share stories and memories of Hazelle. For our April lodge gathering, we enjoyed Game Night! Members gathered with favorite games and snacks for a rip-roaring evening of fun and laughter.

Upcoming summer events may be a boat trip on Whiskeytown Lake, and a picnic at Mt. Lassen National Park

SUBMITTED BY BY KRISTI BETTS



Jessica and Justin Mills, Ken and Anna Mills.



Kathryn Matthews receives her Past Chairman pin.

## Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA /Our January Installation of Officers was postponed to February as members attended the funeral of our dedicated and devoted Chairman Marilyn Sohoel. In February, District Master Marlene Ekstrand and our District Deputy Larry Stidsen led our Installation.

Larry gave a presentation of the wonderful traditional music of Smorgasbandet, a Scandinavian group popular in New York, New Jersey and New England. Friendship, fellowship and outreach to our members are significant strengths of our Lodge.

We continue to build on these supporting pillars. Goofy as can be, we donned cre-



In our Hat Parade bonnets: Clara Buttrick, Dorothy Kean, Judith Peterson, Virginia McNamara and Janice Anderson.

ative bonnets for a Hat Parade following our March meeting. Some were decorated for Easter and one was an inverted colander with kitchen tools suspended from it. In the upcoming months, we plan to enjoy meals together, socialize, share our family heri-

tage and celebrate our cultural traditions.

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN-ELLNER KEAN

## Sierra Kronan No. 737

ROSEVILLE, CA /In February, Sierra Kronan proudly celebrated its 30th anniversary with members and a number of esteemed guests. We had a wonderful time lunching with friends from fellow lodges, the District, and the Grand Lodge. We were thrilled to enjoy the presence of both our District Master Mike Peterson and his wife Corky, and our Grand Master Tore Kellgren and his wife Birgitta. March saw our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner and April brought our Påsk potluck, two Sierra Kronan traditions we all enjoy. Our April meeting also featured a cultural presentation on Easter in Sweden, and included a fun and challenging word search that kept everyone hunting until the last minute. Recently we heartily welcomed three new members to our lodge: Marra P. Swan, Denise Gibson, and Le Viksten! We are now looking forward to our summer and fall activities, including the upcoming District #12 Convention, our annual summer picnic and the Sacramento Scandinavian Festival.

SUBMITTED BY ELISSA SILVEIRA



GM Tore Kellgren presents Sierra Kronan, on its 30th anniversary, with a congratulatory message from the Grand Lodge.

## Stenland No. 727

ROCKLAND COUNTY, NY /We celebrated our 36th anniversary in March with a delicious dinner at the 76 House in Old Tappan. We were especially pleased to have VASA officers as well as members of Lodge Freja and Lodge Lindbergh and other guests join us in the celebration.

It was a festive afternoon with beautiful floral arrangements provided by Stenland members June Sundvik and Stina Malm and a wonderful presentation on the life of Lodge Stenland given by Gail Olson, Dist. 4 secretary, PDM and our Grand Lodge Deputy.

It was a happy occasion with laughter and the clinking of glasses. Tack så mycket to members on the dinner committee. Chairman Robert Rasmussen announced that we would have a joint installation of officers with Lodge Freja in April.

SUBMITTED BY BETTY LANGBERG



Anniversary dinner at the 76 House in Old Tappan.

Above, left: Inger Terzakis, Ingrid Allison, Ron Nelson, Karen Snowberg.

Left: Lynn Casey-Larson, Chairman Robert Rasmussen, Beatrice Rasmussen and Evelyn Larson.

# VASA DAY, USA!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016**

**VASA PARK, NEW JERSEY**

*All-day summer picnic with Vasa Order of America members & friends, workshops, seminars, Olympic-size pool, Swedish and American food, Viking Bar, Music Jam-sessions, Children's games & playground, Folkdancing, Raffles, Prizes – meet old friends, make new friends, Open-Dancing at night under the pavilion, Afterglow firepit patio party at the Vasa Tiki Bar, on Sunday a Swedish church service and brunch. Immerse yourself in Swedish-American camaraderie! VÄLKOMNA!*

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

**NEAR & FAR!**

**HOTELS NEARBY!**

[www.VasaNewYork.com](http://www.VasaNewYork.com)

[www.Facebook.com/DistrictFour](http://www.Facebook.com/DistrictFour)

[Dragspel@aol.com](mailto:Dragspel@aol.com) ~ 718-415-0602

## Review: "Second Love After 50"

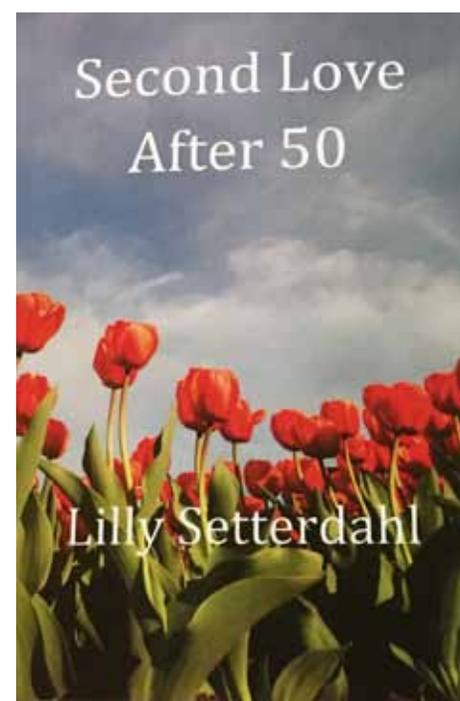
written by Lilly Setterdahl, published in 2015

The book *Second Love After 50* is a contemporary love story, a very different book than what we are used to from Lilly Setterdahl. She usually bases her books on facts in immigration and genealogy of mostly Swedes. The love story is light hearted but certainly addresses what many of us are facing when couples age and one is left behind – in this case it's a young widow at 52 years old.

The main character Andrea Holm, certainly a name that reminds us of Sweden, lives in Illinois, where the story takes place. Andrea finds herself in a three-car accident, rear-ended. She is hurt and confused, and Charlie, the man in the car that hit her, continues to play a role in her life. There are other men showing their interest in her, too – for instance her brother-in-law from Denmark.

All along she is also trying to function normally as a mother to an adult daughter, without being a burden on her and her relationship. Andrea has an elderly mother, and although she has two sisters, she is the one who tends to her mother's needs the most. Not that she minds, but as she also works full-time, it would be nice if there could be more assistance from her sisters. If you then add other distractions such as illnesses and heartbreaks, it becomes an interesting story.

In other words, these are not uncommon situations and many of us can relate to Andrea's thoughts and actions. And the scenarios are not typical for very young love, as love the first time around doesn't usually have to deal with children and aging parents. The book is a well written, easy to read, sweet romance but leaves the more intimate situations to the reader's imagination. Lilly does some very entertaining descriptions of Denmark where her late husband came from and inserts of Swedish or Danish words makes it fun to read. A love story I loved reading.



As most of you may know, Lilly Setterdahl is very special to us Vasa Star readers, as she is one of us. Lilly is a member of Nobel Lodge #288 in Moline, IL. Lilly was born, raised and married in Sweden before she moved from Frändefors to the USA in 1959 to join her husband who had come over before her.

This book is of course not the only one written by Lilly. She is a pro at this and has written almost 20 books. Most notable is "Not my time to die – Titanic and the Swedes on board," which she was promoting at District 8's Convention in Rockford, IL in 2013 where I personally got to meet this wonderful and talented lady. Her books can be found on Amazon.com.

BY LIZA EKSTRAND

## 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](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

**LORETTA OLSON** was a DM in DL 21 AZ, and energetic leader for 40 years in Tucson No. 691. She started Leikarringen Dance group, and was recognized in an Arizona Daily Star article for her Nordic enthusiasm. Born of Scandinavian parents in 1928, she grew up in Minnesota, was a teacher, married and had three sons. She died on March 12, 2016.

### CALIFORNIA

**JESSIE OLSSON** June 23, 1915 - January 25, 2016. Jessie was born into a Swedish family in Nebraska

and moved to Hilmar, California at age 5, where she resided until moving to Washington 10 years ago to be near her family. VASA was an important part of her life, being a 75 year member of Jenny Lind No. 388 in Turlock, CA. She met her husband Arthur at a VASA picnic. They were both PDMs of Golden Gate District. Jessie was also an Honorary Life Member. Another important part of her life was her 25-year teaching career, giving first graders a solid start. She will be thoroughly missed by her daughter Jan Ohman (John), granddaughter Julie Heimbigner (Drew) and great-grandchildren Odin and Signe.

**MAURICE "Maury" SEGERBERG**, 90. Maury was a 73-year member of Framåt No. 405. Maury was born and lived all his life in Albany, California. He joined Framåt Lodge in Berkeley at 17, and held many offices. Maury and his wife Yvonne were presented with Honorary Life Membership in 2011. He is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter, four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He died on February 18, 2016.

### TEXAS

**RICHARD OLIN**, born February 12, 1931; died March 24, 2016. He was a long time member of the Carl XVI Gustaf Lodge No. 716 and served as Assistant Financial Secretary. Richard was very enthusiastic about his Swedish heritage.

**MAJ-BRITT GAZDA** born June 30, 1941 in Stockholm, Sweden and died March 8, 2016 at the age of 74. She was very proud of her Swedish heritage and was a member of SWEA. She was a Past Chairman and long time member of Carl XVI Gustaf Lodge No. 716.

### WASHINGTON

**GRACE BREDESON**, our dear member died on December 10, 2015 at age 88. She was a wife, a mother to six sons and had many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was a member of Lodge Norden No. 233 since 2001, and will be greatly missed.

### WISCONSIN

**FAY MACKENZIE**, 83, died on February 23, 2016. She was a Linde Lodge No. 492 member since 1980. For 50+ years, Fay loved to play the piano. As a young woman she was also a skater. She will remain in our hearts.

### CANADA

**ERLAND SVEN MARKSTROM**, 93, died on February 10, 2016, in Calgary, Alberta. He is dearly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife, Ethel, his son, Kurt, and his wife, Jackie, and granddaughters Emma and Victoria; and his daughter, Carol, and her husband, Doug Bigland. He also leaves behind many extended family members and friends. Erland was an Honorary Life Member of Local Lodge Skandia No. 549, Edmonton, Alberta, having joined on April 6, 1957.

**JAMES (JIM) AXEL MICKELSEN**, 87, died on April 6, 2016, in Athabasca, Alberta. He is survived by his loving wife, Doreen, three sons and two daughters: Chris (Pauline); Marianne (Roy) Andresen; Peter (Arlene); Heather (Ken) Struski; and Carl; one sister, Karen; and 14 grandchildren. Jim was an Honorary Life Member of Local Lodge Skandia No. 549, Edmonton, Alberta, having joined on March 6, 1950.

### 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)

# Svenska Språkhörnan – The Swedish Language Corner

## Svenska Tungvrickare - Swedish Tongue Twisters

Try to say these tongue twisters as fast as you can..I guarantee it will bring lots of laughter.

Flyg fula fluga flyg och den fula flugan flög. Fly ugly fly fly and the ugly fly flew.

Jag såg en såg och vart jag såg så såg jag bara såg vid såg. I saw a saw and wherever I saw all I saw was saw by saw.

Knut satt vid en knut och knöt en knut. När Knut knutit knuten var knuten knuten. Knut sat by a (house) corner and tied a knot. When Knut had tied the knot the knot was tied.

Tändstickstricks. Matchstick tricks.

Får får får? Nej, får får inte får, får får lamm. Do sheep have sheep? No, sheep do not have sheep, sheep have lambs..

Sotaren Selma samlar semlor. Se så många semlor Selma samlat. The chimney sweeper Selma collects semlor. Look how many semlor Selma has collected.

Sex laxar i en lackask. Six (pieces of) salmon in a lackered box. Plocka pepparkorn i en kopparpanna. Pick peppercorn in a copper pan.

If you feel like twisting your tongue some more, go to <http://www.sagokistan.se/tungvrickare.htm> or 1st International Collection of Tongue Twisters [www.uebersetzung.at/twister/sv.htm](http://www.uebersetzung.at/twister/sv.htm) © 1996-2015 by Mr.Twister

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

Swedish Language Keyboard

In case you have not been able to use your keyboard to type in Swedish, here is some help:

1. Swedish On-screen Keyboard
2. The special characters can be typed with the key [alt] and this code:

Å	Ä	Ö
0197	0196	0214
143	142	153
å	ä	ö
0229	0228	0246
134	132	148

3. To type Swedish characters without a Swedish keyboard: <http://swedish.typeit.org/>
4. To add a keyboard input language in Windows go to Control Panel and follow the instructions for "Language".

A couple of jokes to finish off this Language Corner: Vad sa´ matteboken till historieboken? "Jag har massor av problem"! (What did the math book say to the history book? "I have lots of problems"!)

Spegel spegel på väggen där...Skrik från ovanvåningen avslöjade att mina enäggstvillingar Sanna och Hanna bråkade.

-Vad är det nu, frågade jag. -Hanna säger att jag är ful, berättade Sanna gråtande. (Mirror mirror on the wall...Shouts from the upstairs revealed that my fraternal twins Sanna and Hanna were fighting. -What is it now, I asked. -Hanna says that I am ugly, Sanna told me, crying.

## THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE (SWEDISH)

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

När du läser detta, har vi redan deltagit i fyra distriktmöten, Pacific Southwest #15 i Woodland Hills, Kalifornien, vår eget Golden Gate #12 i Visalia Kalifornien, Arizona #21 i Prescott, Arizona och Lake Michigan #8 i Frankenmuth, Michigan. Det är alltid roligt att förnya vänskapen med medlemmar i de olika distrikten. Det är också intressant att följa hur varje distrikt är lite annorlunda i hur saker och ting görs. Ingen bryter mot konstitutionen eller ritualen, men förutom att ha olika öppningsceremonier och olika nivåer av formalitet finns det ju också olika angelägenheter att sköta om. Vissa distrikt har t. ex. en Vasapark som kräver diskussioner och beslut och många har stipendieprogram, där vinnarna introduceras och stipendierna presenteras vid den avslutande banketten.

Nästa Storlogemöte är inte långt borta. Det är ju fortfarande förstås två år tills dess, men det krävs åtgärder för de distrikt som håller sina möten under jämna år. För dem är det dags att välja Storlogedelegat i år. Information om delegaten måste skickas till Storlogens sekreterare senast 4 månader innan mötet. Det innebär att informationen måste nå GS Joan Graham senast i slutet av februari 2018. Det är viktigt att välja delegater som är villiga att söka och kapabla att ta en storlogetjänst.

Alla storlogetjänster fylls av delegater och nuvarande tjänstemän. Tjänster att tänka på är bland annat Storlogekassör, Vice Storlogesekreterare och ER Medlemmar för alla fem regionerna. Några tillsatta tjänster, inklusive Storlogedeputerade, är ofta fyllda av delegater. Detta är inte något krav, men den inkommande Stormästaren, som gör dessa utnämningar, lär känna delegaterna ganska bra under mötet.

Under de senaste veckorna har GS Joan, PGM Eric, Birgitta och jag gjort en inventering av tryckt material som har legat på lager. Av särskilt intresse är att vi har ett antal 100-års Vasaböcker. Dessa "Centennial" böcker trycktes i slutet på 1900-talet. Det finns tyvärr inget tryckår i boken. Dessa böcker är av hög kvalitet och bör ligga på alla Vasamedlemmars soffbord. Boken berättar historien om Vasa Orden av Amerika från 1896 och hela vägen till dess 100:e år 1996. Det finns berättelser från alla distriktsloger och från många lokalloger. Vi säljer nu ut dem för \$20 inklusive frakt i USA. För leverans till Sverige och Kanada är priset \$50 US, varav närmare \$35 går till frakt. Här har du möjlighet att få en av dessa souvenirböcker. I USA och Kanada kan du skicka en check till GS Joan för \$20 (USA) eller \$50 US (Kanada) (Ställ ut checken till "Vasa Order GG No. 12" och adressen till

GS Joan finns på annan plats i Vasastjärnan under rubriken "The Vasa Star"), och med en anteckning som säger att du vill ha en Centennial bok och vart den skall skickas. Kontakta mig om hur betalning skall ske för leverans till Sverige.

Fundraisern Vasafrimärket kommer i år att vara i augusti. Det har varit en bra fundraiser i många år, jag är övertygad om att det kommer att fortsätta att vara så. En donation är ditt stöd till Storlogens stipendieprogram.

MEDLEMSKAP FORTSÄTTER ATT VARA VÅR FRÄMSTA UTMANING. Detta har varit min mantra ett tag och kommer att fortsätta att vara så. Din Loge har en medlemsvårdskommite, eller bör ha en sådan. Detta är inte de enda som ansvarar för medlemsvård och rekrytering. NI ALLA ÄR DET! Genom att behålla de nuvarande medlemmarna och få in nya medlemmar kan din Loge växa. För att detta ska hända, är ett intressant Logemöte viktigt. Var inte tråkiga! Konkurrenten om dina nuvarande och blivande medlemmars tid är hård. Ni måste ha mat på era möten och presentera ett program som engagerar. Kulturledare, jag utmanar er alla att hitta ett intressant ämne och utveckla ett program runt detta. Arbeta med din distriktskulturredare och dela idéer med andra loger. Internet är en rik källa för information om



Amerikansk, Svensk och alla andra nordiska länders kultur och kulturarv. Arbeta med dina Logemedlemmar. Det är alla medlemmars jobb att göra mötena attraktiva för nuvarande och framtida medlemmar. EN ny medlem är allt jag ber från var och en av er. Behåll era nuvarande medlemmar! Det tål att upprepas: **Var inte tråkiga!**

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,  
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER

## MEMBERSHIP - WWW.VASAORDER.COM

Membership has its privileges: First and foremost, as a member of Vasa you become an instant member of an extended family—wherever you go, where there's a lodge, there are friends, regular meetings and a multitude of events and activities to join, share in and carry over to other members of your immediate family.

Inquire about membership and your local district through [vasajlg@aol.com](mailto:vasajlg@aol.com) (Joanie Graham, GL Secretary) or [membership@vasaorder.com](mailto:membership@vasaorder.com) (Bruce Elfvin, Membership Chairman) - Subject: Membership. Or, write Grand Lodge Membership Chairman Bruce Elfvin, 3221 E Overlook Rd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118-2113 USA

# SWEDISH NEWS



Arbetsgruppen sjunger en välkomstsång. Från vänster: Anna-Lisen Levin (sittande), Leena Gröhn, Britt-Mörck, Gunnie Sundqvist-Söderman, Kerstin Lindh, Iréne Karlsson och Britt-Marie Olofsson.

## Engelbrett No. 619

VÄSTERÅS, SWEDEN / Logen hade sitt mars månadsmöte i Odd Fellow-huset. Kvällen inleddes med ett logemöte. Efterkapitlet, gick under benämningen Systrarnas Afton med underrubriken "Kvinnor i tiden". Arbetsgruppen, för kvällen enbart Systrar, under ledning av Kerstin Lindh serverade en välsmakande supé bestående av: Anjovistårta med romtoppar, Viltfärsbiff med potatispuré och råörda lingon, Passionsfruktmouse. Till kvällens programpunkt hade nyutnämnde landshövdingen Mino Akhtarzand bjudits in. Hon berättade om sig själv och om sin spännande resa från tonåring i Iran, via studier i Sverige, till landshövding i Västmanlands län. Hon avslutade med att tacka arbetsgruppen för god mat och en trevlig kväll. Kvällen avslutades med lotteri och dans. Lite mer information om Landshövdingen Mino Akhtarzand. Hon berättade om sig själv och sin väg till dagens landshövdingsjobb. Började skolan som

5-åring i Teheran, Iran. Hon kom till Sverige som 17-åring. Utbildade sig till elektroingenjör. Gick på KTH. Hon har arbetat inom energibranschen i 26 år, bland annat som dotterbolagschef och affärsansvarig inom Vattenfall. Akhtarzand har också tjänstgjort som länsarbetsdirektör i Uppsala län och varit generaldirektör vid Banverket. Mino hade varit landshövding i Jönköping i 5,5 år när hon fick frågan om hon ville flytta till Västerås. Detta kunde hon inte motstå. Hon avslutade med att tacka för en underbar måltid.

SUBMITTED BY BRITT-MARIE KARLSSON



Landshövdingen Mino Akhtarzand

## Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Systrarnas afton lockade inte mindre än 72 Vasasyskon, varav 25 gästande Ordenssyskon från LL 608 och LL 698. O Birgit Olsson hälsade alla varmt välkomna. Ballotering utfördes för medlem som önskat överflyttning från annan loge. Under punkten Kontakt Amerika berättade KL Hans Bogren om uppfinningen av nylon och succén med nylonstrumpor. LH LarsOlof Strufve hade läst gamla protokoll från början av 2000talet och talade bl.a om att Logen då fick sin första kvinnliga ordförande. Efter sedvanlig ljussläckningsceremoni avslutade O mötet. Efter en utsökt middag serverades kaffe med kaka och Systrarna, som utlovat en magisk afton, uppenbarade sig i höga hattar och presenterade en äkta magiker, Jozima. Vi fick se många ofattbara trick och Jozima lockade fram många skratt och applåder med sitt skämtsamma framförande. Några Vasasyskon fick assistera på scenen, och de blev lika förbluffade som alla vi andra. Sy Ewy Blomgren uppvaktades på sin födelsedag med blommor, sång och hurrarop. Dansen tog vid till toner från vårt husband, lotterivinsterna fann sina vinnare och även denna magiska kväll tog slut.

SUBMITTED BY HANS BOGREN  
KULTURLEDARE



Underhållning av Systrarna.



Gästande Ordenssyskon från Logerna Kärnan Nr. 608 och Nybyggarna Nr. 698

## Nybyggarna No. 698



Förre Ambassadören Jonas Hafström

ÄNGELHOLM, SWEDEN / Till det sista Logemötet före sommaren, hade det samlats ett 80-tal logesyskon. Gästande logesyskon, som DM Karl-Axel Bengtsson, DD Sven Olov Stigsson, MDER Hans-Åke Rytterdahl och HM i DL20 Knut Rosenkvist, samt ytterligare 23 syskon var där. Logemötet öppnades av O Mats Holmberg, som hälsade alla varmt välkomna. Inbjudningar från loger, ekonomiska-kulturledarens- och logehistorikernas rapporter presenterades, därefter ordens väl. Avslutning med vår fina ljussläckningsceremoni, och vi tillönskades en trevlig sommar.

Efterkapitlet gick i Sverige/Amerika tecken, med nya

SUBMITTED BY CLAES  
JOHANSSON



Värmiddag med Nybyggarna No. 698