



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

Fall 2020
Publication of The Vasa Order of America



One of our 2020 scholarship recipients went to Jokkmokk market, a 414 years old tradition held in Jokkmokk in northern Sweden. / p4

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

DEAR VASA MEMBERS,
This has been a year of unexpected events – events that have tested everyone. We have not, unfortunately, seen the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our lives. We have, however, seen some remark-



able examples of resilience and adaptability of our members. While it's impossible to know how long this crisis will last, I know optimism and **ENTHUSIASM** are essential ingredients to the success of an organization.

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National Archive News

Find out more on holiday events at the archives and in Bishop Hill - with all precautions to keep everyone safe. / p3

Grand Lodge News

Looking for ideas on how to engage lodge members? GM Art Bjorkner's message delivers. / p4

Scholarship essays

Highlighting two of last year's winning scholarship essays - on a winter market in Sweden and on how to engage youth. / p4-6

Local Lodges

Local lodges across the country and in Sweden are sharing Jul greetings and celebrating members who have Vasa spirit. / p9

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



DEAR READERS,
I have been a member of Vasa since I was old enough to join. As a past scholarship recipient, and a Vasa cultural youth

exchange participant to Sweden in the mid 1990's, both scholarship essays in this issue of the Vasa Star are dear to my heart. Ben Kramer's essay highlights the importance of sharing our culture and community with others in times of darkness and is poignant against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also a welcoming reminder that light and joy are coming.

Equally vital are Sara Melendez's ideas for how to engage youth within our organization. I agree with our Grand Master, we need to talk Vasa. We also need to provide meaningful ways for new and younger members to participate. So often we think young people are not interested or are too busy. In making that assumption we are denying them and our organization shared traditions and memories yet to come. Young people are busy, and might not be able to attend many meetings, but there are valuable ways they can contribute. Membership in Vasa not only provides dues that allow us to fulfill our mission, but it also

provides a connection to others who are interested in all people and things Swedish. Busy young people can fill roles that many of them have only dreamed of, such as editor or content developer for social media accounts or, dare I say, a Vasa app creator? I can personally attest to being one of these busy young people. My work schedule prevents my attending meetings, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to participate more fully in Vasa as editor of the Vasa Star.

I am looking forward to continuing the conversation of how to get members and prospective members more excited about the Vasa Order, and to hearing from you, your ideas for what's working to create more community, fun and opportunities to share Vasa with others. As a gentle reminder, as the year closes, please remember both the National Archives and the Vasa Scholarship program as you make decisions about charitable giving. As a past Grand Lodge Scholarship recipient, I'll close by saying thank you! Thank you to each and every member who contributes their time, energy and creativity but most of all thank you for your commitment to supporting Vasa.

Wishing you all safe holidays, en God Jul och ett Gott Nytt År!

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
CHRISTA SVENSSON

Cover image: Jokkmokk Market has been around for more than 400 years. The first Thursday in February every year, people gather in Jokkmokk in Swedish Lapland (Sápmi) for concerts, exhibitions and trade. Jokkmokk Market is one of the most important social events for the Sámi people in Sápmi. Photo: Asaf Kliger/im-agebank.sweden

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



God Jul – this was at the Wisconsin Governor's Mansion in 1990 when Linde lodge was invited to decorate a Swedish Christmas tree. Les Touve on top of the ladder, and Lillemor and Richard Horngren watching. Linde No. 492. /p9



Gayle Anderson (left) in the Roaring 20's dress and her Mama Dorothy. Tuscon #691. /p13



Maureen Bengtsson, cultural leader of Småland No. 618 talked about Seattle based glass artist Dale Chihuly. /p14

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For our next issue:

By January 25

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

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

ARCHIVES NEWS

A message from the president of Vasa National Archives

DEAR FELLOW VASA MEMBERS, FRIENDS, This is a year in which we experienced so much loss from Covid-19, wildfires on the West Coast and flooding in the South. So many of our members have been deeply affected. We have lost friends and family members and suffered isolation and loneliness. There is still much to be grateful for. You won't read my message until close to Christmas but I'm writing as Thanksgiving

approaches and like you, I'm feeling especially thankful for all the dedicated frontline workers in hospitals and first responders. I'm grateful for health, home and sharing time with family and friends even while socially distancing. This pandemic has changed us and our families.

Please read our archivist, Kathy Cuff's article to learn what events are still happening in Bishop Hill this holiday

season. Although things are "different" we can still share with the people we love.

I'm very grateful for our Vasa members who continue to support the Vasa National Archive. Daily remembrance "bulbs" come by mail to the Archive in support of the Julgran Fundraiser. Please continue to hold Vasa memories in your hearts.

Reach out safely to our fellow mem-

bers and enjoy each day. Life is precious. Stay safe and Merry Christmas.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
BILL LUNDQUIST
PGM AND
PRESIDENT VNA



Greetings from the Vasa National Archives

Despite things changing on us, we keep going. The Vasa National Archive, along with the Bishop Hill community, eagerly looks forward to the coming holiday season with all the precautions to keep everyone safe. The village's Julmarknad will continue with each business and museum following their own guidelines and regulations. The archive has cancelled the Community Paint Project that was scheduled for Nov. 27-29.

The village Lucia is still planned for Dec. 11-13 with the businesses and museums open all day until 9 pm. The Vasa Archive will be open with our closing reception to say goodbye to the Scandinavian Fairytale exhibit. Unlike past closing receptions, we will not have refreshments available to visitors, but will have 20% off items in the gift shop. We will have Dala Horse Take and Make kits available for purchase during the holiday events.

The Vasa National Archive staff continues to stay busy re-organizing the collections and reducing the number of redundant copies of books and documents to a manageable amount while planning and taking part in this year's holiday events. The archive staff lead the charge for a village-wide Bountiful Bargain Hunter Weekend when various stores, restaurants and museums offered special discounts and activities. Judy, our creative volunteer at the Archive packaged candy for visitors and created a lovely scarecrow for the Archive to enter in the village-wide scarecrow contest. Sadly, we did not

win after a month of voting. The Vasa National Archives is available to attend your virtual meetings if you let us know when, which app you are using, and the ID/password. If you have any questions about collections, events or the gift shop at the Vasa National Archive, feel free to contact us at 309-927-3898 or VasaArchivist@gmail.com.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
KATHY CUFF, MANAGER-ARCHIVIST
VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES

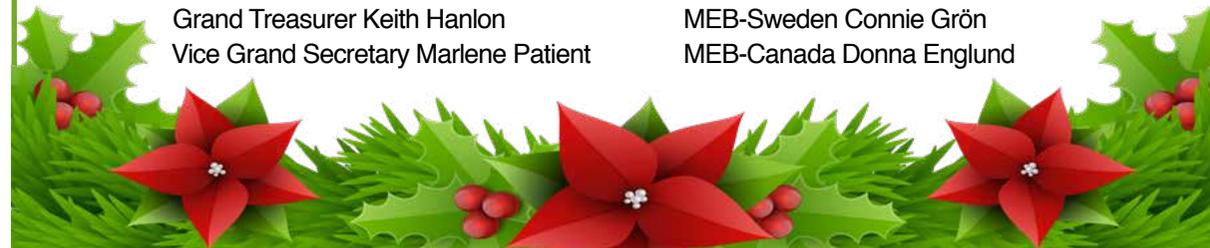


God Jul och Gott Nytt År

Vasa Order of America Grand Lodge Executive Board

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Vice Grand Master Jack Hanright
Grand Secretary Joanie Graham
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Vice Grand Secretary Marlene Patient

MEB-Eastern Region Deborah Larsson
MEB-Midwest Region Tom Cleveland
MEB-Western Region Ed Netzel
MEB-Sweden Connie Grön
MEB-Canada Donna Englund



God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

To all our VASA friends
From Linnéa Lodge No. 504
Petaluma, CA

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

önskar
Nordic Lodge No. 708, Atlanta

GRAND LODGE NEWS

The Grand Master's Message (continued from page 1)

Many Lodges have been replacing “In Person” meetings with “Virtual” meetings. We do advise having a strong and significant online presence in the absence of “in person” meetings, but please ensure that you also maintain some other regular communication with your members about your Lodge plans, including Vasa news, Lodge announcements and the latest guidance on health/safety. Keep in mind that not all members are computer



savvy; perhaps a newsletter would be appreciated. If you are having virtual meetings, and I know many already are, ensure consistency of your messaging by involving all Lodge Officers in the arrangements for these meetings. Clear and concise meetings give confidence and encourage good attendance. If you have a new strategy that’s working for you, please share with the Order. Any ideas appreciated! Nancy and I attended a local Lodge home picnic meeting, and everyone brought chairs and refreshments.

All was going well until the rain came! No problem, everyone ran to their vehicle, retrieved an umbrella, picked up a refreshment plate and returned to their seat outside under the umbrella. The meeting continued in the rain. This shows that we are resilient! It was a good meeting! The GL Co-Cultural Leaders have been busy on Facebook. They are posting great Cultural reports on subjects that provide Local Lodges with wonderful information for a meeting. Don’t forget the Podcast called “Scandinavian Echoes”, which presents one hour of music and stories airing on the internet weekly. Go to “Scandinavian Echoes” on Facebook, click LIKE and SHARE with members and friends. If one is not on Facebook, one can find “Scandi-

navian Echoes” shows on YouTube. Again, great to listen to at a meeting! As Christmas draws near, I send best wishes to each of you for a God Jul och Gott Nytt År! Our 2020 celebrations will be much different this year, but let’s not forget why we do celebrate and make the best of our holiday circumstances enjoying good health through safe practices and the friendships of our Vasa Order. Remember the Order needs a **VIBRANT, ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBERSHIP – GET THE WORD OUT! TV TV TV (Talk Vasa) with ENTHUSIASM! We heartily welcome new members!**

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
ART BJORKNER, GRAND MASTER

Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay by Benjamin Kramer

Jokkmokk is a living representation of the chilly Scandinavian rawness of the far north. At first glance, it would seem impossible that humanity could have taken root in such an unwelcoming place; a dense, icy snow lies over an impenetrable layer of permafrost for over half of the year, and even the hardy reindeer are said to shiver in the piercing cold of December and January. And yet, here,

40,000 brave souls gather together on the first Thursday of February every year to celebrate the opening of the Jokkmokk Winter Market and Festival, the most important center of culture of the Sami, the indigenous people of Scandinavia, in the world. Life floods into this Arctic town with an energetic jolt, and what amounts to nothing more than a quaint, inaccessible municipality in

Within the Nordic countries, choose a popular tourist attraction and provide your thoughts on its appeal.

the spring, summer, and fall is transformed into a winter wonderland just as the cold reaches its peak. Tourists from all around the world rush to Lapland to witness this magical rebirth of light and life in the darkest of months, as if to glean hope that they, too, will be able to find light when they are in darkness. All the hubbub is centered around the market, with hundreds of vendors

selling a wider variety of reindeer products than possibly imaginable: reindeer meatballs, reindeer stew, reindeer antler jewelry, reindeer hides, reindeer burgers, reindeer steak. But the vendors also sell hand-sewn dresses and hats, berries and herbs that they have managed to find peeking out above the snowline, and fish that haven’t made the journey
Continues on next page



Vasa Questions?

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



Jokkmokk market a 411 years old tradition held in Jokkmokk, Sweden The winter market is frequented visited by tourists from near and far. Photo: Lasse Lund

Continued from previous page

down to Dalarna through the system of rivers and streams that connects the north to the south. Although the market has seen a rise in luxuries like mass-produced lingonberry jams and factory-made textiles for sale in the last decade to accommodate the needs of increasingly upper-class clientele, the winter market, since its founding over 400 years ago, remains a celebration of the hand-wrought, the small, and the natural.

But the sprawling market is not the only part of the celebration in Jokkmokk. Competitions in reindeer racing, folk dancing, dog sledding, and joiking (Sami yodeling) are integral to the joyful mood and give the market-goers a much-needed impetus to get their blood flowing in the below-zero temperatures. The festivities take over nearly every street of the town, but Jokkmokk doesn't buckle under the weight of the thousands of visitors and vendors that double its population for the month. Rather, it rises up, feeding

off the energy and excitement of its shivering guests to put forth a celebration far more lively than what a municipality of its size could ever be expected to rally. It's a village-wide effort that the inhabitants of the town look forward to all year, both as a chance to sell their wares to hungry tourists, but also as an opportunity to celebrate their Sami culture, which is underrepresented and often overlooked as a distinct indigenous Scandinavian identity, partly as a result of the great physical distance between the more populated parts of Sweden and the northern lands that the Sami call home.

Perhaps it is specifically thanks to this great distance that so many people are drawn to Jokkmokk. There is something magical about escaping the metropolitan bustle, making the 12-hour pilgrimage on the E4 highway from Stockholm, and arriving at a tiny, tiny dot on the map where culture is somehow just as alive in the middle of the tundra as in the city. Maybe it's the sheer improbability of the fact that

life would choose to exist in such a faraway place that draws us to go so far away ourselves. Maybe we need a pilgrimage of this kind to clear our minds and to create a chasm of space between ourselves and our problems back in the city. Or maybe we just have nothing better to do in the frigid February weather; we figure we may as well go somewhere even further north, even colder.

And when we arrive at this impossibly faraway place, we are liberated.

We are in a different world now: a world both Sami and Swedish, a world where reindeer outnumber people, a world where light temporarily fills the void that the winter darkness forces open. Even as society changes, the beautiful isolation of Jokkmokk will continue to beckon, and the Winter Market and Festival will certainly continue to be a destination and sanctuary for the amateur adventurers willing to make the trek for many centuries to come.

2020 scholarship recipient Ben is studying at Yale University in New Haven, CT where he is a member of the Scandinavian Society and plays the clarinet in the Yale Concert Band. His plans for the future include grad school and eventually working as an educator of music and language. Ben has worked as a language teacher and counselor at Sjolunden, Concordia Language Village immersion program. He has also worked as a volunteer course contributor and forum moderator for the popular language education platform Duolingo where his work has directly impacted 1.2 million people learning Swedish through this platform. Ben is an active member in his local Vasa lodge where he has served as a leader of children's activities. He is dedicated to his work in preserving and promoting Swedish culture and heritage.



**Benjamin
Kramer**

Linde Lodge #492 /
DL No. 8
District Lodge No. 8
Scholarship \$1,000

Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay

by Sara Melendez

While I believe that youths have many possible roles and skills that they can offer to the Vasa Order of America, to ask them what their role is, is the wrong question. The question to ask is not what the role of youth's in the Vasa Order of America is, rather what is the role of Vasa within youth's lives. By phrasing a question as what the youths should be doing for somebody, or some organization, you are giving them a job to do. Answering a question such as this can be quite daunting, because while many people may want to ignore all that youths do already, most have a lot of things going on. Whether it be school pressures, mental health concerns, family tensions, applying for colleges, having a part time job, or a combination of these things. Thus, Vasa should not be something that a teenager may have to add to their list of things to do.

Instead, Vasa must become something that a teenager wants to do, the thing that they put away their free time for.

First, Vasa needs to pull teenagers in, give them something that makes them want to participate and makes them actually interested in the Swedish Culture. Many teenagers nowadays refuse to accept something as true just because they see their parents or grandparents believe or do it. In stating this, I mean that many teenagers will not simply accept that Scandinavian heritage is interesting because their parents or grandparents say so, they need to be taught first-hand. I think the main turning point of myself become extremely interested in Swedish heritage and culture was my trip to Sjolunden, courtesy of Vasa. Through this trip, I learned an incredible amount of language and culture, and it was all

What do you consider to be a role youth can and should play in Vasa?

sponsored by Vasa. Obviously, this doesn't have to be the only method though. Events can be made more appealing to youth's through many methods, including giving Vasa a larger social media presence to really get the word out there.

Once teens have been pulled in to see how exciting and interesting Scandinavian culture can be, it will no longer be a matter of telling teens what to do for Vasa, rather it will be that they truly want to do things for Vasa and to have a greater role in the community.

There are many things that teens could do for Vasa. They may want to lead youth groups or trips to further educate people about Swedish Heritage. I know, personally, that I have done this with my friends by taking them through Andersonville of Chicago (which is the Swedish Village) and showing them Lost Larsson, a

small Swedish cafe there. I am sure that there are many teens who would be interested in leading similar things.

By doing this for Vasa, they are increasing awareness and interest in Swedish culture, and thus possibly pulling more members in. Furthermore, Vasa could create youth groups for teens. By creating youth groups, Vasa would be giving teens a safe space, other role models or mentors, and ensuring that they have somebody within the Vasa community that they can truly relate to. Teenagers are more likely to want to do something if their friends are also doing it.

Thus, overall, the question should not be what teens can do for Vasa. Instead the question should be what Vasa can do for teens. To figure out the answer to this question, teens must actively be recruited. And then once they see that Vasahas a great role in their lives and is fun and exciting and opens the door for many future experiences, they will want to participate in Vasa, and they will show naturally what their role is within the community. It's the Swedish community coming together, all ages, that will help promote and sustain the Swedish culture.



Sara Melendez

Karl XII Lodge No. 103 / DL # 1
Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1,000

2020 scholarship recipient Sara is studying at Loyola University where she is majoring in neuroscience. She has been named to the Dean's List and is a member of the Loyola University, Chicago Honors Program. Sara has done research with the University of Chicago on diffusing large B cell lymphoma and has been working rounds with doctors in hospitals and during clinic hours. Sara volunteers as a homework helper in Chicago area schools and is a hard-working Vasa member who has great interest in her studies of Scandinavian culture and history. Her plans for the future are to attend medical school and specialize in neonatology or obstetrics/gynecology.

The Grand Lodge 2021 Scholarship and Essay Contest

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

Applicants for the above scholarships must have become a Vasa member prior to February 15, 2020. Applications are available at the Vasa website until January 15, 2021.

To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2021 to be considered.

1. Completed application with enclosures MUST be postmarked no later than 15 February 2021.
2. Complete "OFFICIAL" transcripts of grades through the first half of the senior year for high school students or fall semester of current academic year for college students.
3. Current photo headshot (at least 4"x6") or email a digital headshot photo to vgm@vasaorder.org.
4. A letter of recommendation from applicant's Local Lodge with date of initiation.
5. Letters of recommendation from two personal references dated within last six months.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor, dated within last six months.
7. An original, typed essay, not to exceed 1,000 words. Cannot have been submitted in prior years.

Please put in one envelope if possible. Choose an essay subject from the following list:

1. What do you consider to be a role youth can and should play in Vasa?
2. If you have visited a Nordic Country, what was the most impressive element of your visit and why?
3. How has traditional Swedish music and folkdance influenced your involvement with the Vasa Order?
4. What is your favorite Scandinavian Holiday and how has it been passed through your family?
5. Describe your Local Vasa Lodge and how it has played a role in your life.
6. Within the Nordic countries, choose a popular tourist attraction and provide your thoughts on its appeal.
7. What Nordic invention appeals to you as being most important to mankind and why?

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

John Hanright, Vice Grand Master
47 Scandia Rd.
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Phone: (973) 262-2412
E-mail: vgm@vasaorder.org

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL No. 8 Lake Michigan Past District Master, Nancy Hult

Our dear NANCY (LINDMARK) HULT has passed away – see more info “In Memoriam”.

Algot and Karin Lindmark, Swedish immigrants welcomed daughter, Nancy into their lives on May 27, 1935 in Chicago. Nancy joined brother Algot Clarence and sister Dorothy where they enjoyed a happy life together on Chicago’s south side. Nancy graduated from Hirsh High School and briefly lived in Michigan. After returning to the Chicago area she met Sten Hult, whom she fell



Nancy Hult

deeply in love with and married on May 23, 1983. Nancy and Sten resided in suburban Chicago during their

37-year marriage. Nancy enjoyed her employment at Clark Equipment and Volvo for many decades. Nancy and Sten traveled and enjoyed their times with loved family and friends including many trips to Sweden. She took great pride in her Swedish heritage and belonged to several fraternal organizations as a member and leader including the Vasa Order of America (Siljan-Mora-Tuna Lodge Nr. 134 and District Lodge Lake Michigan Nr. 8), the Harald Viking Lodge Nr. 13 IOV and the Danish Brotherhood Lodge Nr. 35. Nancy was currently serving as secretary of Siljan-Mora-Tuna which she joined in 1971 and PDM of VOA DL Nr. 8. Nancy was a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Oak Forest, IL. She is survived by her loving and de-

voted husband, Sten Hult, and other family. Nancy was predeceased by her parents, stepdaughter, Susann and brother-in-law, Rev. Stewart Lundahl. Nancy enjoyed the love and companionship of her husband, family and friends and the many phone conversations with family and friends while at home prior to her unexpected death. She loved God, children, animals and birds and especially her lovely garden. She was truly one of God’s angels who touched thousands of lives in special ways.

“Loved and remembered forever and always”.

SUBMITTED BY STEN HULT

DL Alberta No. 18 - Canada

A September gathering was organized by Branting No. 417 in Calgary, Alberta to honor long-time member, Br. Bert (Bertil) Johnsson. With pleasure, DM Carol Banks presented Bert with the Vasa Order Distinguished Service Emblem, awarded by GL VOA for outstanding service to the Order. Bert joined Branting in 1951 and has been active and dedicated. Subsequently initiated into two other Lodges; Lethbridge No. 579 in Lethbridge, Alberta 1955; and Strindberg No. 259 in Winnipeg, Manitoba 1960, he resumed active membership in Branting in 1963. Bert served as Chairman of all three Lodges. Additionally, he held the offices of PC, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Outer Guard, Auditor and Trustee in Branting. He is very active in District Alberta, having held the offices of VDM, DM, DS, DT, and DL Delegate to the 1970 Minneapolis GL Convention. Bert served on the GL Executive Board as Member for Canada and as GL Deputy for DL Alberta. He is active on the Bishop Hill Archives Committee and was a Board member for several years. Bert and his wife, the late Sr. Hilda Johnsson, dedicated much time and effort to their Lodge. As a member

and serving as an Officer at all levels of the VOA, Bert’s dedication has been unwavering. Fulfilling the duties with full attention and in the best interest of the Order and its members. He attended and helped organize meetings and conventions in a manner reflecting the highest standards of the Order. Bert will have completed 70 years of membership in February of 2021. While all activities within District 18 have been cancelled/postponed to an unknown date due to COVID-19 restrictions, presentation of this award was a priority for both Branting and District 18. The event was held in accordance with Public Health guidelines and it was a truly happy occasion for all in attendance. District 18 extends its sincere thanks to Branting for planning this event.

SUBMITTED BY FAE DOTY



Sr. Carol Banks, District Master, DL Alberta No. 18; Br. Bert Johnsson PGLO; and Sr. Donna Englund, GLEBM – Canada.

Dear Friends,
I wish to thank everyone for your recent condolences, thoughts and prayers since the passing of my beloved wife and best friend,
Nancy Hult.
Our shared grief and sorrow is the result of our love for Nancy.
The sympathy you have shared, from the many cards, emails, and phone calls has supported me, and I will always be thankful.
God Bless
Sten Hult

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



Vasa Orden av Amerika
En svensk-amerikansk vänskaps- och kulturorganisation
Distriktslogen Norra Sverige nr 19

Inbjuder till Distriktsmöte
14 – 15 maj 2021
Vasakväll 13 maj 2021

Elite Grand Hotel, Norrköping

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
önskar
Heidi och Mats Holmberg
LL Nybyggarna #698, Ängelholm VDM DL 20

*May the special warmth of Christmas
be with you always.*

Logen Kärnan # 608 Helsingborg
önskar
GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

Logen Tomelilla No. 631
Önskar alla Vasasyskon
GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

**Lodge Olympic No. 235 and
Barnklubben Elsa Rix No. 1**
wishes you
GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
Tillönskas alla vasasyskon
Berit och Hans Bogren
LL Höganäs # 634

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Ulf & Ingegerd Alderlöv
SLD/FÖM DL 20
LL Ronneby # 630

God Jul och Gott Nytt Vasaår
Merry Christmas and a happy New Year
Olle & Marie Wickström
DM DL 20, Chairman LL Skåne # 570

Distriktslogen Södra Sverige Nr 20
tillönskar alla Vasasyskon

**God Jul
och
Gott Nytt År**

DM Olle Wickström • VDM Mats Holmberg • DS Bo Västerstjärna
• VDS Claes Johansson • DK Bengt Åberg • MDER Hans-Åke Rytterdahl • DKL Eva Newin
• DH Sandra Eriksson
• SLD Ulf Alderlöv
• SLKL Maureen Bengtsson
FDM Catherine Bringselius Nilsson

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
Hans & Ingrid Rytterdahl
MDER DL 20 LL Ronneby # 630

Logen Höganäs # 634
önskar
GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Maureen & Göte Bengtsson
SLKL Sverige
O LL Småland # 618

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Från / From
Logen Skåne #570, DL 20

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Connie Grön och Einar Savolainen Grön
MSLER Sverige, SLD DL 19

Logen Ronneby # 630
önskar sina Vasasyskon och vänloger
En God Vasa Jul och ett Gott Nytt Vasa År

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
önskar
Maggie Ann Tehlin och Kurt Tehlin
DM DL19, LL Bråviken #636

Logen Christian #617 Kristianstad
önskar alla Vasasyskon
God Jul och ett Gott Nytt År

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Catherine & Göran Bringselius Nilsson
FDM DL 20/, LH LL #678

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

Ingeborg No. 66

BROCTON, MA / For the most part sadly, VASA has been on hold because of Covid-19. No Lodge meetings. Everything shut down. We have been quarantined since last March and miss our VASA friends. In July, I set up a Google Duo account, which is similar to Zoom, whereby we can all get together in the safety of our homes. Plans for the future have been discussed for when we can meet in person, including Swedish language

classes, rosemaling, decorating gingerbread houses to name a few. During the quarantine, we lost one of our long-time sisters – Sonia Sigren. A graveside service was held with yours truly reading the Viking prayer and the Mourning Song. Roses were placed on her grave by Sister Alice Carlson ... Farväl kära vän Sonia. Hopefully by the next edition of the Vasa Star, meetings in person will have been resumed.

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA DECARLI

Bessemer No. 203



Holy Communion for Gianna Marie Dinon with her parents and siblings.



Graduation celebration for Julia and Layla Gershon with their grandmother Barbara Olson (center)

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN/FALCONER NY / The Thule Lodge held a catered Harvest dinner in the Falcon's Nest in Falconer, which included a full turkey dinner. All precautions were taken with everyone wearing their masks and tables were spaced apart. The event was organized by treasurer Loretta Smith and membership chairman Bernice Veights. Lodge chairman Tom Eckberg welcomed all, and chaplain Diane K. Shaw gave the invocation. Historian John Sipos introduced all, and told of some of the decorations. Fall decorations were on display by vice chairman



Thule members at the catered Harvest dinner.

Susan W. Sipos. The annual Dopp i Grytan will be held in December. Thule Lodge encourages everyone to stay healthy during this time of our lives. "God dag" to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS

OAK LAWN, IL / This past year, has been a time of special celebrations for our members and their families from Installations of Officers, to Graduations, First Holy Communions, Special Sports Events, Weddings, and Birthdays. Bessemer and Thor Lodge No. 147 held a joint installation of officers at the Bessemer's February meeting. Sandy Fletcher is the District Deputy to Bessemer and Christine Kilstrom is the District Deputy to Thor. There were special Graduation Celebrations of Bessemer members Julia and Layla Gershon. Julia graduated from Troy Middle School and Layla graduated from Oak Lawn Community High School. Gianna Marie Dinon, daughter of members



Installation of Officers in Bessemer L-R: Barbara Olson, Vice Chairman; James Pelzman, Chairman; and Sandy Fletcher, District Deputy.

Derek and Lisa Dinon, received her First Holy Communion in August at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Aurora, Illinois. This summer, Bessemer began lessons in Swedish. We covered pronunciation of basic words, numbers, colors, months of the year, days of the week, common phrases, and family.

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINE KILSTROM

Svea No. 296

ERIE, PA / ... hasn't met since last February, but they did in October, with masks and social distancing to receive new member Donna Sedelmyer. The lodge also decided to tweek traditional St. Lucia by having a horse drawn wagon go through the streets of Erie, Pa. while attendees sing Swedish and English carols, our gift to the neighborhood and children. We also shared joy with former chair Lorraine Johnson, whose granddaughter, Penny Denelsbeck



First Svea 296 meeting since February - finally in October. was selected to go to Swedish camp in Minnesota (next year).

SUBMITTED BY GARY LARSON

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, MI / Our lodge is trying its best to keep "business as usual", although without any meetings or events. Our connections are typically regular newsletter – with not much to bring up, but pictures are always appreciated, listing of birthdays, health updates, and other things that have

happened. Emails catch up members on lodge decision by officers. We have yet to learn how to do a Zoom meeting, and are afraid that many of our members would not be able to participate. It's sad to have to cancel all holiday events, they are always so special. And as Linde was supposed to host the 2021 DL No. 8 Convention, it's equally sad to announce that

it has already been postponed to 2022. That obviously has a lot to do with practical things, and penalties to cancel too close to the event. We certainly are hoping that 2021 will quickly get us back to normalcy. One thing our lodge decided, was to cut our annual member dues in half, as our membership has not been able to take advantage of our usual programs. We wish all our Vasa sister and brothers a healthy and prosperous and more than anything a lot of togetherness in 2021.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



Liza Ekstrand (not in picture) and Birgit Moxon visited member Les Touve at his retirement home. He is a Covid-19 survivor, and we enjoyed Fika outside.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

God Jul och Gott Nytt Hälsosamt År!
 To all Vasa-land friends in
 Sweden, Canada and USA
 Liza and Rolf Ekstrand & family

God Jul
 & Gott Nytt År
 Wishes to all Vasa Friends from
District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8
 DM Lynda Smith • VDM Gene Kiesel
 DS Lois Klubens • DT Linda Christensen
 ADS Janet Nelson • HFS Linda Tylk
 DCL Annelise Nelson • DLYS Michael Pearson Jr.
 EBM's Timothy Ogrenz • Katie Westlund
 PDM Sue Cleveland

Happy Holidays
 from
 Mary Ann and Bob Nichelini

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 To all our VASA friends
 from
Connecticut District No.1
 Linda Steinmiller - Grand Lodge Deputy
 Christine Bongiorno, District Master • Lilian Nordstrom, Vice District Master
 Lisa Starks, District Secretary • William Parsons, Vice District Secretary
 Karen Lovequist, District Treasurer • Sonja Krummrey, Board Member
 Marta Sylvan, Board Member • Dale Youngstrom, Board Member

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!
 önskar
 Gary och Gunlog Spaberg
 Haakan Spaberg, Björn Spaberg
 Evening Star Lodge No. 426

**God Jul och
 Gott Nytt År**
 Greetings from
District Lodge Arizona No. 21
 Gayle Anderson - District Master
 Mia Ackley - Vice District Master
 Lillian More - District Secretary
 Nancy Anderson - Asst. District Secretary
 June Ostrom - District Treasurer
 Anne Levig - District Cultural Leader
 Sandra Fogarty - District Historian

**GOD JUL OCH
 GOTT NYTT ÅR**
 to all our VASA friends
 from
District Lodge PA No. 9
 Julie Lynn Olson - District Master
 Darlene Nelson - Vice District Master
 Pat Bellingham - District Secretary
 Richard Erickson - District Treasurer
 Arne Dunhem - Executive Board
 Bo Carlsson - Executive Board
 Marit Knollmueller - District Cultural Leader
 Karen Chilcote - District Historian
 Berit Benacci - District Chaplain
 Nobel Monitor Lodge #130 - Ohio
 Drott Lodge #168 - DC/Maryland
 Svea Lodge #296 - Pennsylvania

**God Jul
 och
 Gott Nytt År**
FRIHET LODGE NO. 401
 SEATTLE, WA
 AKA BALLARD

och
Gott Nytt År
 to all our VASA friends
 and families from
**Bessemer Lodge
 #203**
 Oak Lawn, Illinois

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!
 from
 Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719
 Pacific Southwest District No. 15

Christmas Greeting ★
 From Tegner Lodge No. 149 VOA
 Oakland, CA ★

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
 A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization
DISTRICT LODGE GOLDEN GATE No. 12
 (Instituted August 6, 1911)

**Happy Holidays from
 Sveaborg Lodge 449**

Sveaborg Lodge 449 wishes you all a safe and healthy holiday season. We are still here and looking forward to the time when we can all come together once again. But, until then, we remain strong and connected in spirit!

District Lodge Pacific SW #15
 Wishes you and yours all the joys of the season

*God Jul
 and a
 Very Merry Christmas*

Gott Nytt År  *Happy New Year*

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 önskar
 Kronan lodge No. 2
 Connecticut District No. 1

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 önskar
 Norden Lodge No. 1
 Connecticut District No. 1



Linnéa No. 504 celebrating Halloween and Oktoberfest at their October "meeting".

Linnea No. 504

PETALUMA, CA / 2020 gave "Vases!" new meaning. We've only been meeting virtually since stay at home orders were enacted. We initiated new member Heidi Hochrein in August. Sister Heidi, a retired teacher, is of Swedish, German and English ancestry and enjoys knit-

ting, dancing, singing and travel. The Lodge celebrated Leif Erikson's Day online together. We dusted off our costumes and beer steins for our Halloween and Oktoberfest meeting. Best costume was a tie between Nick Provenzano and the Bowmans (Sandra and Mike). We celebrate our 93rd Anniversary in November recognizing milestone anniversaries for

Sylvia Anderson (60), Saga Thovtrup (50), Karin Calleja (25) and Astrid Haugaard (25). We're brainstorming creative ways to celebrate Lucia Fest, albeit online! The downside is not all members have access, but they're there in spirit. We look forward to getting back to business sometime next year.

SUBMITTED BY MARY WAHLBERG

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / With the virus still putting crimps into our in person meetings, the first membership Zoom meeting was held on the 17th of October. Twenty-one members participated in a lively discussion, along with "Show-and-Tell" items presented by various attendees. We hope, since the first meeting on Zoom went pretty well, more of our friends will join us for our November meeting on the 21st. We have an outstanding program planned. Our speaker, Ruben Parson, Ph.D., will talk about his book, "Ever the Land", a historical chronicle about Swedish Immigrants to Minnesota. Sadly, our Jul Bazaar and Lucia Pageant were canceled this year. Our new meeting place is not yet open to group meetings, and there is no indication of when we might resume such events. We decided that we would publish our Bladet monthly. Normally, the summer months give a much needed rest to our editor of the Bladet, Carol Blackwell. We all appreciate the efforts by our board for the monthly meetings they have held during these trying times. We have also tried to keep in touch by email/telephone with our members.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON

Glenn T Seaborg No. 719

LAGUNA WOODS, CA / Since our lodge has not been able to meet in person due to Covid, we started a book discussion group. We have been reading the five novels by Per Anders Fogelström tracing the three generations of the Henning Nilsson family from 1860 to 1968. We meet over Zoom once per month to discuss the books. Fogelström vividly brings to life stories about the working class families in early Södermalm, Gamla Stan, and Djurgården and later Stockholm. Enthusiasm for reading these books has been high. Contact our

lodge if you would like to be sent a book discussion outline. The books are:
 I. "City of My Dreams" 1860-1880 ISBN: 1-57216-088-8
 II. "Children of Their City" 1880-1900 ISBN: 978-193204348-8
 III. "Remember the City" 1900-1925 ISBN: 978-1-932043-68-6
 IV. "In a City Transformed" 1925-1945 ISBN: 978-1-932043-83-9
 V. "City in the World" 1945-1968 ISBN: 978-1-57216-114-6.

SUBMITTED BY NANCY KINGSTON



Zoom book discussion group by Seaborg No. 719 members

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 (Joanie Graham, GL Secretary) or membership@vasaorder.com (Ed Netzel, Membership Chairman) - Subject: Membership. Or, write Grand Lodge Membership Chairman Ed Netzel, 2576 Old Kemare Rd, Lincoln, CA 95648 / edlnetzel@att.net

Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / This is an update on Mike Peterson. Mike is at home and recovering nicely. We lost Fran Johnson, our Financial Secretary for Norden Lodge. She fell at home and hit her head. Her daughter is Sherri Johnson, a member of our Norden Lodge.

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

★ ★
Harmoni Lodge No. 472
 Portland, Oregon
*vill önska alla våra
 Vasa bröder och systrar
 en riktigt*
God Jul och Gott Nytt År
*Vi hoppas att 2021 blir ett fint år utan
 coronavirus så vi kan alla träffas igen.*

**God Jul, Hyvää Joulua,
 Gleðileg jóll, Glædelig jul
 Och
 Gott Nytt År To All!**
 From Ingeborg No. 66
 Brockton MA.

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
 to all our Vasa friends
Linde Lodge No. 492
 Milwaukee, WI

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR!
 Runeberg Lodge #137
 MN DL #7

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
to all our Vasa friends from
SVEA Lodge No. 296, Erie, PA
 Sharon Olsen - Chair
 Berit Benacci – Vice Chair
 Nancy Serwinski – Recording Secretary
 Martha Stickner – Financial Secretary
 Pat Bellingham – Treasurer
 Linda Graffius – Cultural Leader

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!
 Frithiof Lodge #63
 VOA DL #6

Greetings from
 Nordic Lodge No.611
 Worcester, Massachussetts

*God Jul
 och Gott Nytt År!*

*Best wishes for a
 Joyous New Year,
 filled with Good Health,
 Good Friends & Good Will
 from DL Golden Gate No. 12*

Holiday Greetings and hope for a
 Happy New Year!

Astor Lodge No. 215
 Astoria, Oregon

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!
 Norden Lodge No. 233
 Tacoma, WA

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 To All our VASA Friends in the U.S.A.,
 Canada & Sverige
 ★ ★
 From
MAYFLOWER LODGE NO. 445
DL NO. 15
 Torrance, California USA

**Christmas Greetings
 from
 Nobel-Monitor Lodge**
 Karen Chilcote, Chairman
 Marty Bergman, Vice Chairman
 Ejjana Miklos, Secretary
 Sharen Tizzano, Financial Secretary
 Dick Erickson, Treasurer
 Rolf Bergman, Cultural Leader
 Twyla Sales, Chaplain
 Bruce Elfvyn & Darlene Nelson, Trustees
 Ann Mari Pearson, Auditor
 Carolyn Anderson, Historian
 Ralph Johnson, Master of Ceremonies
**God Jul
 och
 Gott Nytt År**

God Jul
 Vänner Tillsammans
och Gott Nytt År!
 Vinland Lodge No. 703

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!
 Wishing ALL a Healthy New Year
 Brage No. 764

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 To all our Vasa Family
 From Framåt Lodge No 405
 El Cerrito, California
 Celebrating 99 years and
 Meeting via Zoom during 2020
 Stay Safe and Stay Well
 vasajlg@aol.com


 Greetings to all our Vasa friends
DL No. 7 Minnesota
 GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

Tuscon No. 691

TUSCON, AZ / Nothing like a pandemic putting a “käpp i hjulet” (a stick in the wheel) when the planned make-believe “trip” on MS Kungsholm was going to take place as a lodge event in March. Cancelled, like so much else this year - but we got it finally done in October, and what a fest it was - with all the prescribed restrictions and face-masks. A New York-Gothenburg cruise invite and special invites to the Captian’s luncheon had gone out. About 50% from the original count joined us. Anyone could try to dress in authentic wares from the times - anything from 1920 -1970, and many did. Sing-alongs with En gång jag seglar i hamn, Hälsa dem därhemma, Vår Svenska Födelsedagssång, and the band Aurora Borealis finished with Dancing Queen by ABBA. Our lodge is planning Lilla Julafton on 11/14/20 at 11:30 at Coyotes, and Lucia on 12/12/20 at place TBD. Contact us if you’d like to join. Other meetings are cancelled until 2021.

SUBMITTED BY GAYLE ANDERSON



Dance group: Kneeling, Phyllis Gracy, O’Dani Keiko (Aurora Borealis). Standing: David Pauch (Aurora Borealis), Sven Iverson, Andy Ingerson, Nicole Deere, Gayle Anderson, Denis Higbie.

Viking No. 756

GREENFIELD, MA / Our lodge held its 20th anniversary meeting on September 14, 2020 at St Paul’s Lutheran Church. We have not held meetings since March because the church is closed. We held our meeting on the back lawn of the church and maintained distance while we enjoyed coffee and treats. Our business meeting was brief, and we enjoyed our District Master’s visit. She is a member of the lodge, so a visit is not unusual. Since this was our 20th Anniversary, we decided to pose for a quick photo without masks, then quickly put them back on. We had 8 members present, 7 Charter Members (standing) and our newest member seated.

SUBMITTED BY PHILIP JOHNSON

Below: Viking #756 meeting on Sept. 14. L to R: Philip Johnson, DM Esther Johnson, Carol Walker, Bill Walker, Margareta Athey, Martha Morrison, AnneMarie Kogos, seated Betsy Moschella.



1960 style Dave & Phyllis Gracy, and 1970s style Nicole Deere and Mitch Towner.



Gayle Anderson (left) in the Roaring 20’s dress and her Mama Dorothy.



God Jul, Gott Nytt År!

Önskar vi er alla
 Freja Lodge, No. 100
 Pleasantville, NY

THE VASA ORDER IS
AMERICA'S LARGEST FRIENDSHIP AND
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
FOR NORDICS IN NORTH AMERICA.
WWW.VASAORDER.COM

SWEDISH NEWS

Göteborg No. 452

GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN / Just before Corona arrived in Sweden and restrictions took over this spring, we managed to start up the genealogy group for our lodge. We meet in one of Sverige Kontakt's meeting rooms with a projector. When the room is vacant, we rent and meet for a few hours in the afternoon. Met a few times, then paused for the time being. In September meetings resumed but the group had decreased for obvious reasons - fear of infection. The fact that we are fewer, allows plenty of distance between us. The group has various genealogy knowledge, and some are beginners. Not everyone uses computers, some use paper which works well to enter information on.

We had a review of what genealogy is and all participants got brochures on genealogy. The brochures contain useful internet references and what information the websites contain. One brochure contained a template that you fill in with your own family dates back four generations. The brochure is good since it gives an overview after you filled in your information. Now we are learning how we can continue to find more on our family history. The idea is also that we will visit archives, libraries and museums here in Gothenburg, but it'll wait until further notice!

SUBMITTED BY CHARLOTTE BÖRJESSON, DEPUTY CULTURAL LEADER FOR LL GÖTEBORG NR. 452, DL NORRA SVERIGE NR. 19

Skåne No. 570

MALMÖ, SWEDEN / Vårt senaste möte i logen var den 13 mars 2020 och nu har vi sagt att vi håller stängt året ut. Nytt beslut kommer inför logemötet i januari 2021. Aktuell information

Krysantemum i full blom i skribentens trädgård den 4 november.

Småland No. 618

JÖNKÖPING, SWEDEN / Det här året har verkligen varit ett annorlunda år. Vår loge har bara haft två logemöten innan Covid-19 satte stopp. På årets första möte i januari var det årsmöte och installation av tjänstemän. Under efterkapitlet visade Kulturledaren sy Maureen ett bildspel och berättade om den berömda glaskonstnären Dale Chihuly från Seattle. Hans verk består av stora och fantasifulla skapelser i regnbågens alla färger. På logemötet i februari läste Logehistorikern br Bo Ahlsgård Utvandrarernas visa, skriven av den svenske poeten Vilhelm von Braun och publicerad i Karlshamn 1868. Under efterkapitlet berättade Tore Sand från Eksjö om emigranter och svenskättlingar i USA med rötter på småländska höglandet och andra ställen i Småland. Till alla Vasasyskon i USA, Kanada och Sverige skickar vi en hälsning och önskar God Jul och

kommer att finnas på vår hemsida som kan nås via www.vasaorden.se. I brist på nya bilder från logen så bifogar jag en aktuell bild hemma från Lomma.



Julkortsmotiv från 40-talet av glaskonstnären Dale Chihuly från Seattle.

Gott Nytt År.
Var rädda om Er, så ses vi på det nya året.

SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN BENGTTSSON

LOGEN SKÅNE hälsar alla Vasasyskon och önskar en GOD JUL och ett GOTT NYTT ÅR!

SUBMITTED BY BO VÄSTERSTJÄRNA



IN MEMORIAM

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, P.O. Box 510632, New Berlin, WI 53151-0632. Email: vasaeditor@gmail.com. The fee is \$10=max. 40-45 words, and \$25= longer obituaries of 50-120 words. 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.

ILLINOIS

NANCY MAY (LINDMARK) HULT passed away on August 3, 2020 in her sleep at her home in Midlothian, IL at the age of 85 following a brief illness. She took great pride in her Swedish heritage. She belonged to and was an esteemed leader in the Vasa Order of America Siljan-Mora-Tuna Lodge Nr. 134 and DL Lake Michigan Nr. 8. Nancy was currently serving as secretary of Siljan-Mora-Tuna which she joined in 1971 and as Past District Master of VOA DL 8. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Sten Hult, brother, Algot Clarence Lindmark of Cable, WI and sister, Dorothy Lundahl of Seattle,

WA, many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and sister-in-law May-Britt Hult, Sweden.

OHIO

VIVIAN ADUFFY, 89, born in Cleveland on 07-11-1929, died on 10-15-2019. She joined Nobel-Monitor No. 130 in February 2009. Her husband James, also a Vasa member, died in 1993.

ALFREDAL HELD, 86, 5-31-1934 to 8-3-2020. Alfreda joined Nobel-Monitor No. 130 in May, 1992. She enjoyed the 200 mile round trip to attend special functions like dinners, mid-summer, and breakfast club.

OREGON

BRIAN DALE WALKER was born August 28, 1956, and passed away on August 24, 2020 in Boise, Idaho during a trip to visit his brother. Brian joined Astor No. 215 in Astoria, OR in January 2003 and became one of our hardest working members. He worked many hours in the kitchen stirring Pea Soup to be served at the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, and he also prepared the ham for Astor's Sankta Lucia celebration, plus many other tasks, always kind, and willing to help. Brian

is survived by his wife Susan.

ELSIE MARGARET NORDBY died August 18, 2020, age 89, in Milwaukie, Ore. She was born September 19, 1931, née Lovgren, in Portland, Ore., and joined Nobel Lodge No. 184 May 15, 1949. She served over 30 years as Nobel's Financial Secretary and Co-culture Leader, she was the original co-editor of the Nobel newsletter and served in that role until her passing. For DL Pacific Northwest No. 13, she served as District Deputy, Culture Leader, and Assistant Secretary. She led trips for Nobel members, co-chaired District convention committees, and in every way made every group activity more enjoyable. She made it a point to greet everyone at every meeting and event. She was named co-Scandinavian of the Year for the greater Portland area for her contributions to Nobel Lodge, the local Swedish community, and Sons of Norway. The members of Nobel Lodge and the greater Portland Scandinavian community will miss her very much.

EIVOR RUTH AIROLO was born in Sweden on June 14, 1927. She passed away August 20, 2020, at the age of 93. She joined the Vasa Order on October 10, 1990, and became a member of No-

bel Lodge No. 184 on June 14, 1996. Eivor served as Master of Ceremonies from 2012-2016 and as Trustee in 2014. She will be remembered for her stylish hats and elegance. Eivor enjoyed baking and shared her talents with lodge members.

WASHINGTON

HELEN (ANDERSON) ALLEN, 93, died on June 16, 2020. Helen and her husband Glen were active Vasa members for 72 years, passing the torch to her children to carry forth. Helen's smile lit up the get togethers with a bit of wit. She was engaging. We are quite sure that Helen and Glen are dancing the Swedish waltz for eternity. Vasa was fortunate to have them and we at Frihet No. 401 miss their mortal participation, but the Vasa spirit carries on.

WISCONSIN

JOSEPH GLASS, 75, died October 14, 2020. Came with friends from Chicago to Linde's crayfish party in 2017, and became a member the same year. He enjoyed the various events such as Midsommar, crayfish, Lucia and lodge trips. He'll be missed by us all.



Gotland Nr 624 medlemmar på höstutflykt till Enholmen

Gotland No. 624

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Logen Gotland har, precis som alla andra samman slutningar, fått rätta sig efter givna rekommendationer. Inga möten har kunnat hållas sedan tiden före Corona. Dock har både boulevards- och golfmästerskapen kunnat spelas. Leif Svensson resp. Bosse Jacobson tog in teckning i vandringspriset. Fram på sensommaren har även den traditionella höstutflykten kunnat genomföras. Denna gång hade vår KL Birgitta Asklander bokat in en tur till Enholmen, försvarsfästningen

utanför inloppet till Slite. Ett 25-tal Vasasyskon åkte till Slite för vidare befordran med båt till Enholmen och Carlsverds fästning. Fästningen anlades 1766 i en tid då våra konungar ägnade sig åt krigföring på främmande mark, och det förde då med sig att utländska makter, främst ryssar och danskar, ständigt låg i fejd med oss. De olika befästningarna har fantasifulle namn som Knappen, Doppskan, Baljan, Fästet och Klingan. De mäktiga kanonerna, två 7 tums bombkanoner och 4 st 24-punds granatkanoner vaktar inloppet. De har dock aldrig

avfyrats mot främmande inkräktare, och får väl därmed anses ha gjort nytta. Krutmagasinet med bombfria valv rymde ca 40 ton. Hur det än var med det bombfria kan diskuteras, för taket rasade in när skutan "Terra Nova" sprängdes på Slite redd 1758.

På Enholmen har man även brutit kalk, och haft karantän för kolera, samt lagrat brännvin. Guiden Sven Sandström gav en intressant inblick i historien under rundvandringen.



Carlsverds fästning, "nybyggnad sedan 1857 men med anor tillbaka till 1600-talet. Avmilitariserad sedan 2011.

Under året har PS Bo Jacobson färdigställt logens Jubileumsskrift, och man passade på att sälja till de medlemmar som ännu inte köpt sitt exemplar, samt skänkte ett exemplar till guiden som tack för en givande visning. Nästa sammankomst planeras till november då vi har ordinarie valmöte, och förhoppningen är att Corona har gett med sig då

SUBMITTED BY BO JACOBSON

Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / I dessa Coronatider är ju alla möten inställda, men på initiativ av Ulla och Stig Johansson träffades 35 Vasasyskon med medhavd kaffekorg i deras trädgård söndagen den 30 augusti. Leif Larsson tog med gitaren och underhöll oss med sång och musik till allas förtjusning, och vi fick en mysig eftermiddag tillsammans i strålende solsken. Den 26 oktober hade logen ett coronasäkert styrelsemöte, då det beslutades att i enlighet med rekommendation från ER i DL 20 ställa in alla resterande möten under 2020. Vi hoppas nu att vi kan träffas igen under januari 2021. Var rädda om varandra och håll ut! Vi önskar alla Vasasyskon en God Jul och ett Gott Nytt År.

SUBMITTED BY BERIT OCH HANS BOGREN



Kjell Green bjuder Jytte Lidenmark på hembakat bröd. / Till vänster: Vasasyskon njuter i solskenet



Kvällens värdar John Ljungkvist och Calle Nilsson bjuder på goda mackor. / Ovan, till vänster: O Inger Bengtsson tackar värdparet Ulla och Stig Johansson med en blomsterbukett.



Distriktsloge Norra Sverige nr 19
vill tacka för allt gott samarbete under detta mycket märkliga år.
Vi önskar er alla fortsatt god hälsa, en riktigt GOD JUL och ett
Lyckosamt GOTT NYTT ÅR 2021

EXEKUTIVA RÅDET



SWEDISH NEWS

Knallen No. 745

BORÅS, SWEDEN / I början av året pågick verksamheten som vanligt, men i mars kom covid19-pandemin över oss och vi fick anpassa oss till Folkhälsomyndighetens råd och rekommendationer. Vi hade ingen Lock-down i Sverige, men krav på att hålla avstånd och undvika större sociala sammankomster förhindrade oss från att hålla vanliga logemöten. I augusti minskade smittspridningen dramatiskt. Vasasyskonen ville träffas och i slutet av augusti kallade styrelsen till möte. Ett möte med icke uppställd loge. Br O Jan Elquist hälsade 30 deltagare välkomna ute i solen på innergården i ett anrikt gammalt trähus mitt i staden. Där blev det många glada återseenden och mycket prat om karantänstiden. Mötesförhandlingarna hölls inomhus. Man beslöt bland annat att styrelsen skulle kalla till ett "vanligt" logemöte i oktober. Efter förhandlingarna bjöds vi på kaffe med dopp och en knepig



frågetävling, som Sy VO Birgit Hellström hade ställt samman. Efter samvaron skildes vi med en känsla av att ha upplevt en lyckad återstart på vår verksamhet. Styrelsen skickade ut inbjudan till logemötet i oktober. Men strax därefter ökade smittspridningen igen, vilket medförde att mötet blev



STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASASYSKON,
Det här året saknar motstycke—vi går igenom en prövande tid för oss alla. Vi kan heller inte se slutet på hur covid-19 påverkar och kommer att påverka våra liv. Samtidigt har vi sett prov på en enastående förmåga till anpassning och motståndskraft hos våra medlemmar. Även om det är omöjligt att veta hur länge krisen kommer att vara, vet jag att optimism och **ENTUSIASM** är viktiga ingredienser för en organisations framgång.



Många loger har ersatt möten "In Person" med "Virtuella" möten. Vi rekommenderar att du har en stark och betydande närvaro över internet i avsaknad av "personliga" möten. Se bara till att ni också upprätthåller någon annan regelbunden kommunikation med era medlemmar—om planer för logen, inklusive Vasa-nyheter, loge-meddelanden och senaste rekommendationer från hälsomyndigheter. Tänk på att inte alla medlemmar är

datorkunniga; kanske uppskattas ett nyhetsbrev i posten.

Om ni har virtuella möten och jag vet att många redan har det, se till att all kommunikation följer samma mönster genom att involvera alla loge-officerare i planerna. Tydliga och kortfattade möten ger förtroende och uppmuntrar till närvaro. Dela med dig till oss andra inom Vasa om ni startar en ny strategi som fungerar för er. Alla idéer är välkomna!

Nancy och jag deltog i ett lokalt picknick-möte i en loge, och alla tog med stolar och egna förfriskningar. Allt gick bra tills regnet kom! Inga problem eftersom alla sprang till sina bilar och hämtade ett paraply, plockade upp nya förfriskningar och återvände till sin plats utomhus, nu under paraplyet. Mötet fortsatte alltså i regnet. Vi anpassar oss och är motståndskraftiga. Det var ett bra möte!

Storlogens Co-Cultural Leaders har varit aktiva på Facebook. De lägger ut intressanta kulturrapporter om ämnen

som ger lokala loger perfekt information för ett möte. Glöm inte den Podcast som heter Scandinavian Echoes. En timmes musik och berättelser sänds på internet varje vecka. Gå till "Scandinavian Echoes" på Facebook, klicka på LIKE och DELA med medlemmar och vänner. Om man inte är på Facebook, hittar man "Scandinavian Echoes"-program på YouTube. Återigen, riktigt bra att lyssna på vid ett möte.

När nu julen närmar sig vill jag sända en hälsning till er alla. Vårt firande 2020 kommer att vara mycket annorlunda än tidigare år, men låt oss inte glömma varför vi firar och göra det bästa av helgerna. Kom ihåg att vara försiktiga om hälsan och om vänskapen i vår Vasa Order.

Minns att, vår orden behöver **LIV-LIGA OCH ENTUSIASTISKA MEDLEMMAR - SPRID ORDET! PVPV PV** (Prata om Vasa) och gör det **ENTUSIASTISKT!**

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
ART BJORKNER, STORMÄSTARE

inställt. När detta skrivs är smittspridningen fortfarande oroväckande stor och vi är ännu osäkra på om vi kan genomföra en sammankomst vid årets Thanksgiving Day.

SUBMITTED BY BENGT OLSSON

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