



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

WINTER 2023
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



Viking Lodge 735 annual Lucia Fest in the chapel at Muhlenberg College in Allentown PA. Photo: Jack Hanright, Grand Master.

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season. Inger and I visited with many lodges throughout the fall and early winter. In November we took



part in the annual outdoor Christmas Market at NJ Vasa Park. The weather was outstanding, and the park had a record turnout. Swedish handcrafts and gifts sold almost as quickly as the Glogg. Later in November we attended Jul Dans at Vasa Park. An annual dinner dance complete with Swedish ring dancing around the Christmas tree.

Next was Skansen Children's Club Lucia. The club continues to do well, and the young dancers entertained with various folkdance and music. After a long shutdown due to COVID, Viking Lodge 735 returned with their annual Lucia Fest at Muhlenberg College in Allentown PA. Viking Lodge works in conjunction with the staff at Muhlen-

berg and the Lucia participants are children of those staff members. Viking Lodge performs choir singing. The Chapel is spectacular. New York DL-4 held their Christmas party hosted by Lindberg Lodge No. 505. In attendance were several local lodges of Sons of Norway. It was quite an occasion to
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National Archive News

Upcoming events at the Vasa National Archives and a reminder about remembering the archives as you plan for the future / p3

Grand Lodge News

Scholarship recipients on how Swedish music and traditional holidays influenced their time with Vasa ... / p5-7

Local Lodge News

Activities are definitely back to normal in most parts of Vasa—here's to catching up with friends all over the U.S. / p9

Swedish Lodge News

Our sister lodges in Sweden may have gone through tough times during the pandemic but seem enthusiastic once again. / p15

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Spring greetings everyone



DEAR READERS,
 Vasa is, among other things, a club that reveres heritage. I can remember, back in 1995, writing my first scholarship essay on

what my heritage meant to me. While many of those traditions and family stories I still hold dear, I am thankful our organization, and Swedes in general, have living traditions that manage to adapt to current times. This year provided a particularly special reminder of this.

I'd been looking forward to attending the Lucia Fest in person, at my local lodge, for the first time since pre-COVID. Imagine my disappointment when a conflict arose. Our Lucia Fest was the same day as my niece's Winter Solstice ice skating performance and the two were many miles apart! Imagine my delight when I found that the Portland Scanfair was the same weekend and I could attend both that Lucia Fest and the skating extravaganza in nearby Sherwood, OR. It was fun buying Swedish peas from Harmony Lodge #472, shopping for Christmas gifts, and then seeing the Lucia Bride with her crown of light, snowy white gown, and red sash.

The whole court was lovely, and the star boys didn't disappoint. What made this year special was an attendant whose hair glowed with pink highlights. I remember thinking it was amazing to see someone who was so modern, so enthusiastic to participate in such a traditional event. It also made me realize how open our society had become and that our openness

has led to our traditions becoming timeless and widely shared outside of Sweden, in fact, all across the globe.

During the holidays I also had the joy of attending the Lutfisk Dinner at the Swedish Club in Seattle, WA. When I was in college I used to serve at that dinner, but hadn't been back for about twenty years. This time I was accompanied by a colleague who happens to be an immigrant himself, and on the way to the dinner he was telling me that when you left somewhere you had a perfect memory of how your country or city was, but that over time it was hard to return because it had all changed so much. I mulled this over as we rode along and finally said "well I haven't been to this event in twenty years. We'll see how much it has changed." Admittedly there were changes, but the key ingredients, and I'm not talking about the lutfisk, were still there. There was fellowship, there was singing, we had drama when one woman accidentally lit her raffle tickets on fire, and there was laughter when she used her water glass to put them out. Mostly we had generations of friends, neighbors and new acquaintances gathered together to enjoy one of the historic peculiarities of Swedish culture. I have confidence that this will continue as long as there are people and fish.

As we look to the springtime and new beginnings, I delight in the fact that these new beginnings are like perennial plants rising from strong roots. Visible or invisible, our traditions wait for us to bring them to light and celebrate anew. Skål!

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
 CHRISTA SVENSSON

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Br Ingmar Hansson, Br Per Johansson och Sy Kerstin Karlsson på årets första möte. / p16



Marcus Felde plays traditional Nordic folk tunes at Linne's South Bend meeting. / p10



A special treat at Glenn T Seaborg's most recent Nobel dinner—A Chocolate Nobel coin / p13



Evening Star No. 426 Lucia Emma Chiarelli, is the granddaughter of Gary and Gunlog Spaberg. / p11

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HEADQUARTERS
Grand Secretary / Marlene Patient
 337 River St.
 Leicester, MA 01524
 508-769-5780
 marlene.patient@gmail.com

Grand Master / John Hanright
 47 Scandia Rd.
 Hackettstown, NJ 07840
 973-262-2412
 johnhanright@gmail.com

Editor / Christa Svensson
Managing Editor / Liza Ekstrand

Send articles, photos & memorials to:
 The Vasa Star
 PO Box 510632
 New Berlin WI 53151-0632
 vasaeditor@gmail.com

Circulation Manager / Marlene Patient
 337 River St.
 Leicester, MA 01524
 508-769-5780
 marlene.patient@gmail.com
 Send **address changes** and bottom section of application for new members to Marlene Patient.

Membership Chairman / Antonio Spargo
 antonio.spargo.VOA@gmail.com

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Send your donations to: Vasa Order of America, Marlene Patient, Grand Secretary,
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ARCHIVES NEWS

A message from the president of Vasa National Archives

MY DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW VASA MEMBERS,

Thank you to all those who donated generously to the Julgran Fundraiser in December. Some of you or your lodges made significant donations for which I'm very grateful. Your support is appreciated and important. As with all donations, I want to assure you that your financial gifts will be used responsibly.

The Archives in Bishop Hill has been chosen as the site for the next Grand Lodge and Archives Board meetings in late March. Many of the new GL Board have not had the opportunity to visit the Archives. Grand Master, Jack Hanright and I believe it's important for them to see the facility and the village of Bishop

Hill in order to understand our Archivist's work and the challenges she faces. While visiting, the Boards have been graciously invited to join Bishop Hill's LL #683 for their Pea Soup & Pancake dinner. Winter is a quiet time for the Archives and the village of Bishop Hill but our archivist, Kathy Cuff and I are planning short tours of historical sites for Board members' spouses. This is an exciting opportunity for greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of a Vasa "Home" for displays, learning and research.

I'm focused during this time as President on helping Kathy get the tools she needs to do her work including replacing old computers and securing cost

effective storage solutions. Meanwhile maintenance challenges continue just as they do for all of us in our personal lives therefore I'm seeking your support regarding donations for specific upgrades to the building. We all still face the concerns in the investment arena but I'm choosing to be optimistic.

I would like to encourage you to remember the Vasa National Archives in your estate plan. Should you decide to make that important decision I would love to know so I can say thank you while you are living. If you would like counsel or have questions on how to use your accumulated wealth to provide much needed support for the VNA please call or email me (810-252-7038

or sheilal1948@live.com) or our Treasurer, Kevin Defeo (973-714-9469 or kdefeo67@optonline.net).

I've heard Spring will actually come! Meanwhile I'm living in subzero weather with high wind chills but it's still beautiful and dear friends, there are so many things for which to be grateful.



IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
SHEILA LUNDQUIST
PRESIDENT VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Greetings from the Vasa National Archives

GREETINGS VASA SISTERS AND BROTHERS, Bishop Hill is quietly blanketed in snow and we've had a mild winter so far. Game nights here in the Archive have been going well. We've had a couple of families with kids come play with us. We've been busy catching up on various projects around the office and making plans for the tourist season.

If your winter plans included weeding your lodge or district collections, we want to remind you what you should send to the archive. Minutes contain a wealth of information about your lodge, events and members. Pictures of the different events show

what your lodge and members did over the years.

Activity or minute books from Ladies Auxiliary, children's club, bowling league, or other group associated with your lodge. Information on your members like news clippings, directories, newsletters, etc. Charters, regalia, and other items from the lodge are also valued treasures at the Vasa National Archive.

There are some published items that we have plenty of, such as certain editions of the Vasa Star. Some District and Grand Lodge books are well represented and we have a reserve

here for those needing a copy. We also have some pieces of regalia that are available if your lodge or district misplaces a piece.

We advise making a list of your materials and sending us the list so we can advise on what we want. This is to save you money on shipping costs. If you have any questions, please call or email the Vasa National Archive and we'll gladly answer as best we can. 309-937-3898 or VasaArchivist@gmail.com

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



The wicker back pack will be included in this summer's exhibit, A Sampling of Our Samling.

Vasa Star – Article & Picture Submission Guidelines

Submit articles in a format that ENHANCES FUTURE events.

Please submit articles that enhance future events. Your 150-200 word article should include information about events that will take place within 60 days after the issue's deadline or within the next 90-180 days. There is nothing wrong with covering events more than once; big events such as milestone anniversaries and convention dates can be announced a year or more in advance.

Submit pictures of SUCCESSFUL PAST events, include names for captions.

Submitted photos should represent past events, with a caption describing the event, and naming the people in the picture. It is not necessary for readers to know if your meeting was on a Saturday or a Thursday, or if it was on the 10th or the 11th of a month. Lodges typically submit 1-2 pictures (you can send more, and we will select the best ones, but we can never guarantee they will all be published). Please submit in jpg-format for best quality.

Submit to: vasaeditor@gmail.com or Vasa Star • PO Box 13331 • New Berlin WI 53151-0632

GRAND LODGE NEWS

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



have members of these Scandinavian Fraternal orders celebrating together. Past Grand Master Art and First Lady Nancy also attended this event. We attended Jul Bord at Vasa Park and on the 21st we held our annual Winter Solstice Party at our home. As I write this, we are planning on attending

Freja Lodge No. 100 in New York for their Julgransplundring. It has been a busy season for us, and we have enjoyed every event we have attended. Scholarship applications are due by February 15th and Vice Grand Master Tom Cleveland will be processing the applications and making scholarship awards. Our educational assistance program is a very important part of our organization and I encourage every member to make donations to this program. The program includes scholastic educational scholarships as well as language camp scholarships to Sjolunden Language Camp in Bemidji, Minnesota. The camp is run by Concordia Language Villages. One of the many duties of The Grand Master is to send special birthday greetings to elder members. Our Grand Lodge Deputies and District Secretaries have supplied

me with members names and birthdates for this program. The greetings are sent to members turning 80, 85, 90,95 and every year after 95. It is a fun program, and I would ask any district lodges that have not already done so to supply me with members information that fall in to these dates. We average 10 to 15 cards every month. A few very notable birthdays during this edition are, Aino Backstrand, Yonkers NY turning 102 in February, and Marjorie Jothan of Milwaukee WI who turns 104 in March. An exciting announcement is that our next Grand Lodge convention in 2026 will be hosted by Lake Michigan District Eight. A planning committee has been formed and we look forward to more news as the planning continues. Our Grand Lodge Executive Board and National Archives Board will be meeting in March at the National Archives



in Bishop Hill, IL. Due to COVID we have missed meeting there and I look forward to our new executive board members learning more about Bishop Hill and seeing the excellent work our Archivist Kathy Cuff has done. If you haven't visited our National Archives I strongly recommend taking a trip out there and seeing everything Bishop Hill has to offer. It's simply a delightful community.

IN GENEROSITY TRUTH AND UNITY
JOHN HANRIGHT (JACK)
GRAND MASTER

New Members November 2021-December 2022

These are **SOME** of the new members who have joined the Vasa Order of America during the COVID-19 years. Welcome to each of you!

DL MASSACHUSETTS No. 2 Ingeborg Lodge No. 66 Elizabeth Munnick Lyn Ruth Nelson Nordic Lodge No. 611 Charles FM Anderson Hans Berg Edith Levin Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge No. 703 Stanley Dale	Suzanne Kohlberg Cody Lindholm Eugene Russell-Kennedy Thule Lodge No. 127 Vicki A. Aiken Lorinda K. Johnson	DL LAKE MICHIGAN No. 8 Linné Lodge No. 153 Virginia M. Brummitt Christine Felde Marcus Felde Carol Krizman Kenneth Richard Peterson Bessemer Lodge No. 203 Raymond Edward Lippert Jenae Chanell Poke Brahe Lodge No. 245 Bruce Gerald Erickson Kathleen Ann Erickson Michael A O'Neal Svea Lodge No. 253 Jon Carl Dahlstrom Angelica Maria Granquist Carrie M. Hanni Billie Elaine King Daron W. Olson Susanne Walker Viljan Lodge No. 349 Soren Backe Jason H Holliman Elizabeth G Johnson Janet L. Nicholson Joia Nicholson Austin Lodge No. 466 Mary J. Brooks	Kerry Montes Patricia Ann Morro Marlene E. Ott Almut W. Peters Mary Troupos Radut Valerie Lynn Tibbitts Linde Lodge No. 492 John Allan Elliott Jean Rydberg Erickson Dawn Ann Hogquist-Pociask Satellite Lodge No. 661 Bonnie Sue Deke Jerome (Jerry) Morrell Gruber Bishop Hill Lodge No. 683 Corena Rushing Hagar Lodge No. 721 Janet Nelson Viking Lodge No. 730 Clint Berg Carlson Denise Ann Carlson Madison Anna Carlson Brage Lodge No. 764 Inez Norgard	DL PENNSYLVANIA No. 9 Nobel-Monitor No. 130 Annika Enflo Robert Henry Michael S Patterson	Kay Ellen Rasmusen Svea Lodge No. 296 Gary Joseph Walstrom, Jr. DL SUPERIOR No. 10 Superior Lodge No. 423 Judith Eleanor Martin DL GOLDEN GATE No. 12 Balder Lodge No. 343 Marjorie Jean Smith Svea Lodge No. 348 Craig D Anderson Laura Annika Frieberg Yvette Frojelin Bill Mark Hanna Vicke Ann Johnson Tiffany Pereira Tom Pereira Jenny Lind Lodge No. 388 Andrew Jevert Briana Jevert Stephanie Jevert Norden Lodge No. 684 Kalani Gaviola Skogen Lodge No. 700 Jonathan Edward Harris Patricia Ann Martin Joan N. Walker	Jason Wade Whittingham Stephanie Leanne Whittingham Sierra Kronan Lodge No. 737 Cheryl Seberger DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST No. 13 Astor Lodge No. 215 Lisa Dawn Bergerson Audrey Lynn Cereghino Kaylee June Falleur Linda M Madden Chelsea Mattingly Adam Richard Orton Rebeckah Marie Orton DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST No. 15 North Star Lodge No. 106 Sarah Elizabeth Bloom Julie Anne Dubensky Amy Ruth Kaemon Stefan Pall Skandia Lodge No. 247 Roberta Howard Sophia Skye Lent K. C. Lindberg
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PHOTO: SJOLUNDEN

Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay

by Benjamin Kramer

How has traditional Swedish Music and Folkdance influenced your involvement with The Vasa Order?

Sound has always been the strongest of my senses. From birth until I was a toddler, my dad spent hours each day cradling me in our white rocking chair, singing along with his CDs of 1960s hits as he rocked me with the rhythm of the music. Before I was in kindergarten, I had taken over the half-size electronic keyboard that my sister and I allegedly shared, moved it into my room, and fallen in love with the plethora of synthesizer sounds that I could elicit at the touch of a button. When I was in first grade, I started

taking piano lessons, and the rest is history. Now I'm double-majoring in music and linguistics - the sounds of human languages always enchanted me just as much as musical pitches and tones.

I am certain that my long-standing fascination with anything aural is responsible for my infatuation with the Swedish language. Having landed at Sjolunden, a Swedish immersion program in Minnesota, as a 12- or 13-year-old with no knowledge of the language, I was comforted by the

extent to which music permeated the atmosphere. Wake-ups, cabin chores, starts of meals, ends of meals, starts of activities, ends of activities, and bedtime were all punctuated by songs. They were short chants, but I gradually learned what the words meant, and it made singing them all the more meaningful. Each morning, we sang "Du gamla, du fria" as we raised the Swedish flag on the massive flagpole outside the dining hall, and every evening we sang it again as we lowered it and folded it into a triangle, to rest on the camp director's desk.

These ritualistic chants, which wormed Swedish words into my head along with their melodies, made up only the smallest fraction of music at Sjolunden. Every day, for an hour and a half before dinner, we crowded into

the wooden dansbana for allsång, a theatrical camp sing-along accompanied by skits and dances. Led by the irreplaceable Linda Wallenberg, who has worked at Sjolunden nearly continuously since 1975, daily allsång exposed me to "real" Swedish music: not camp chants, but actual songs that actual Swedish people would listen to across the Atlantic! I was enthralled. Over the years, I internalized Anita Lindblom's 1961 hit "Sant är livet", along with the Midsommar dances that the camp violinists played as we danced around the midsommarstång each summer. After the end of each summer, I simply couldn't stop humming "Små grodorna," "Räven raskar över isen," and "Vi äro musikanter" —even when my parents started to go

Continues on next page

New Members cont ... Welcome to each of you!

Olov G. Lindberg
 Carolyn Tullgren
 Richard Tullgren
 Monica Weisbart
 Jennifer Rachel Weisbart-Moreno
 Viking Lodge No. 256
 Timothy Alessi
 Susan Anderson-Allessi
 Evening Star Lodge No. 426
 Anna Avik
 Elisa Lee Avik
 Hayley K. Bennett

Marissa Grace Chiarelli
 Harry Bror Nystedt
 Marie-Louise Nystedt
 Mayflower Lodge No. 445
 Reagan Laurel Hellberg
 Ralph Squillace
 Lisa Thomas
 Golden Valley Lodge No. 616
 Bryan Amezquita
 Michael Leonardo Barahona
 Sara Joyce Buck
 Charles Steven Bunnell
 Susan Cathy Carlson

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 Valentina Dodd
 Aaron Gomes
 Cynthia Anne Hallstrom
 Jay Donald Halvorson
 Norma Angelica Halvorson
 Aili Luna
 Linda Luna
 Alexandria Lund
 Moores Lund
 Dakota Lee Martinez
 Sandra AnnChristine Pehrsson
 Sami Casper Salo

Michael Shearer
 Merry Shepler
 Zoey Bella Shoemaker
 Connie Sparks
 Kate Stermer
 Ian Wolf
 Theo Wolf
 Teresa Margaux Zales-Shoemaker
 Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719
 Linda Glynn Carlson
 Drew Johnson Kreidler
 Maryanne I. Thomas

Ashley B. Vikander
 Jon Vikander
 DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17
 Omaha Lodge No. 330
 Deanna Joy Hilton
 Laural A. Vogel
 DL ARIZONA NO. 21
 Phoenix Lodge No. 677
 Kevin W. Dykeman
 Lisa Michelle Oakes
 Jessica Ann Recker
 Tucson Lodge No. 691

Bruno Nilsson
 Birgitta Nilsson Norlander
 GRAND LODGE JURISDICTION
 Carl Widen Lodge No. 743
 Craig William Peterson

Grand Lodge Education and Scholarship Fund

Honor Roll of Donors January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 – Thank you for your generosity!

Alexy, Kenneth & Linda	Dahlberg, Deidre		Lindbom, Ron & Dianne	Omaha Lodge No. 330	Smith, Edward
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	Erickson, John	Hultquist, Larry		Peterson, Margaret	Swenson, Susan
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Connelly, Maggie	Green, Dawn	Lewis, Sally	235	Smith, Robert	
	Guidara, June	Liljegren, Joan			



Benjamin Kramer
Linde Lodge No. 492
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Ben is studying at Yale University in New Haven Connecticut where he is a member of the Scandinavian Society, National Merit Scholarship, National winner, Advanced Placement Scholar Award with distinction, 2019, and Candidate for United States Department of Education Presidential Scholar Award.

Continued from previous page

crazy from all of the repetition.

About four years later, the language started to come to me naturally, and a few years after that, as a native speaker, I joined the staff as a counselor, and I immediately signed up to lead allsång with Linda. I wanted to be one of the special few who were responsible for bringing music to life at Sjolunden. Armed with a guitar, a ukulele, and an accordion, I found great excitement in allsång, and I soon started a camp choir to fill the day with even more Swedish music. We counselors joked that there must be more music at Sjolunden than practically anywhere else in the world. I estimate that, between allsång, activities, and all of the chants, we spent around 4 hours each day in song.

Given the extent to which traditional Swedish music had influenced my understanding of Swedish language and culture, I have rarely been as

excited as I was when I stumbled into my first event at our local Vasa Order lodge - a Lucia celebration in 2017 - to hear the same songs being sung as children danced around the julgran. I had read about the event online, and I didn't know anyone there, but I was able to join right in with the music and dancing as if I had been immersed in Swedish culture all my life. I felt like part of a bigger, Swedish-speaking community; even though I don't have Swedish ancestry, I felt connected to the people at the event through the music that coursed through our bodies as we joined hands in dance. I inquired about becoming a member of the lodge that night, and I was inducted just a few days later.

Swedish music remains very important to me. Even though I was unable to return to my teaching duties at Sjolunden this past summer because of pandemic-caused travel complica-

tions, I joined in through virtual sing-alongs, and I spent the past few weeks over winter break learning Swedish gånglåt and valser on the accordion. Playing music with fellow counselors over Zoom has been a cure to the separation facing us throughout the pandemic; it has been a way to build community and remind ourselves of our shared experiences even when we are miles apart. In moments like these, when music is more important than ever, I am reminded of the important role that music has played in my involvement with Sjolunden and with the Vasa Order, and I can't help but think of the lyrics to one of the traditional canons that I learned at allsång as a child:

*Allting på jordens rund måste förgå,
Men vår fru Musica, hon skall bestå!*

*Everything on Earth must pass,
But our lady Music, she will prevail!*



Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay

by Edén Ladouceur

What is your favorite Scandinavian Holiday ...?

Midsommar has been my favorite Scandinavian holiday for as long as I can remember. Perhaps it became this way because I always associated the holiday with warm weather and no school, but I do know for certain that I always look back on previous Midsommar celebrations with a smile. My parents introduced my brother and I to Midsommar, and Vasa as a whole, very early in our lives to teach us about our ancestry. Although I did not care much for the educational and cultural components of the holiday, I did find immense pleasure in meeting other children my age while playing games and winning prizes throughout the day.

My parents finally got to see me appreciate the traditions of Midsommar around 2008 when I was announced as the Princess of Midsommar. This event was the first time I ever received a bouquet of flowers, wore a flower crown, and felt like the Disney princesses I wished to emulate. Shortly after everybody was done taking my picture and congratulating me, the music started for the dances around the Maypole. My parents typically had to persuade my brother and I to participate in this tradition as we just wanted to play with our prizes. However, winning Princess

of Midsommar filled my little heart with so much joy and energy that I was one of the first people up there ready to go. The day concluded perfectly with a Swedish meatball dinner and a nap on the ride home.

The next decade's worth of celebrations followed a similar trajectory aside from me winning Princess of Midsommar. I became very fond of my district's park as well as my Scandinavian heritage. More importantly, my appreciation for my local Vasa organization and the people who operate these events grew exponentially. This was part of what made the cancellation of Midsommar 2020 so devastating for me to hear.

Luckily, Midsommar only had to be cancelled for one year and we were able to return in 2021. My optimism and hope increased during every local lodge meeting leading up to the big day until we realized our Vice Chairman was not going to be able to attend. Additionally, our Vice Chairman had not been to any of the preparation meetings before this epiphany occurred, so we were much further behind where we would normally be at this point. I truly believed I was watching the slow death of our Midsommar tradition right before my eyes during this meeting until

I acknowledged my own capabilities. I realized that the only way to preserve this event was if I volunteered to step up and chair the event, and so I did. Pioneer Lodge made a list of every piece that goes into planning Midsommar and what our rough plans were for these. It was my responsibility to delegate these tasks to others and make all of the final decisions on what we should get and the quantity. By the end of our brief meeting that evening, we were able to make more progress than we had in the past four months.

The day was finally here: June 19, 2021. I was very excited yet nervous to chair my first Vasa event, especially one that held so much importance to my family and me. I feared that I was too young to properly host a large gathering. However, I was pleasantly surprised with the turnout and financial success of our Midsommar. Pioneer Lodge was able to profit a little over \$2,000 which was the most we had made in quite a few years. The most satisfying part of the day was definitely running the children's games and seeing the look of pure joy on their faces while participating. Overall, the day was textbook perfect and reassured me of my potential within the Vasa organization.

One week after my district's Midsommar, my parents and I planned to attend the Meriden, Connecticut Midsommar. My primary focus here was to connect with their board of members that organized the day and see what they do dif-

ferently. Unfortunately, this plan never came to fruition as the traffic on the highway delayed us to the point where we would have arrived two hours late. I still look back on this day with happiness despite not being able to attend the Connecticut Midsommar because it showed once again how my parents have passed down this holiday to me over the years. Initially, this holiday was used to make me intrigued by my heritage but has gradually evolved into me taking an active role in the event and I couldn't be any happier about it.



Edén Ladouceur

Pioneer Lodge No. 506

DL Rhode Island No. 3

Edén is attending Roger Williams University in Bristol RI where she is studying forensic science. Edén has made the Dean's List in all five semesters of college. Edén has been appointed by Pioneer Lodge to serve as representative at Little Rhode Vasa Park and has contributed many hours of service to her local and district lodge.

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL No. 1 Connecticut

District Lodge Connecticut Recently Celebrated The Christmas Season With Two Dinner Parties. The First Dinner Hosted By Kronan Lodge #2 Was Held On Sunday December 4th At Richter Golf Course In Danbury, Ct. Past District Master Britt Cantela Was There And She Was Recognized For Attaining Her 80th Birthday Recently. A Second Dinner With A Nice District Gathering Hosted By Norden Lodge No. 1 Was Held On Wednesday December 7th At Elaine's Restaurant In Wethersfield Ct. Pdm's Sonja Krummrey, Dale Youngstrom, Christine Bongiorno, Linda Steinmiller, Gld And Our Current Dm Lilian Nordstrom Were In Attendance.

SUBMITTED BY LINDA STEINMILLER



District gathering in December.



PDM Britt Cantela on her 80th Birthday - Varmt Grattis / Congratulations!

DL No. 12 Golden Gate

District #12 will celebrate Sweden Day on Saturday, June 3, from 11 am - 3 pm at Roberts Regional Park in Oakland, CA. There will be food, music, fun activities and games for all ages, including a Kubb tournament so start practicing your technique. Come celebrate "Sveriges Nationaldag" with family and friends and meet people who are interested in Sweden and Swedish culture. Check our district's website vasagoldengate.com as it gets closer to the date.

SUBMITTED BY MARY WAHLBERG, DISTRICT 12 SECRETARY

IN MEMORIAM

OHIO

EDWARD WASSEN (April 28, 1939 - Nov 7, 2022) joined Nobel-Monitor No. 130 on Feb.13, 2000. Ed served as an Inner Guard and was a faithful member of the Breakfast Club. He is survived by two daughters and six grandchildren.

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, PO 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.

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 vasaeditor@gmail.com



Vasa Orden av Amerika

En svensk-amerikansk vänskaps- och kulturorganisation
Distriktslogen Norra Sverige nr 19



Inbjuder till Distriktsmöte
19 – 20 maj 2023
Vasakväll 18 maj 2023



Elite Grand hotel, Norrköping

Ett kontantfritt hotell

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

Ingeborg No. 66

HOLBROOK, MA / The lodge began its year with a potluck luncheon in September. A new member, Betty Munnick bringing her beloved Norwegian heritage, was installed. In October, members were instructed in the art of Swedish Folk painting when VASA member Tina Rawson showed us painting a Swedish Kurbits design. In November, Ingeborg joined the Martha Guild at First Lutheran church and participated in their Kaffe Stuga—a Christmas fair held every three years. In December, Ingeborg Lodge and the Viking Club ladies held a luncheon and cookie swap. Ingeborg Lodge member Priscilla Almquist Olsen led us in singing Swedish and American Christmas songs. Breakfast with Tomten was held at the Viking Club. Member Michelle Dolan's hubby Tom was Tomte. After a hearty breakfast with lots of kaffe, Tomten met with the children and gave out Christmas gifts, and it ended with the children making gingerbread houses. Some VASA members have dual membership with the Viking Club and joined them in celebrating at their annual glögg fest and Lucia celebration. December was surely a busy month for us Scandinavians. Looking forward to 2023 and more adventures to come.

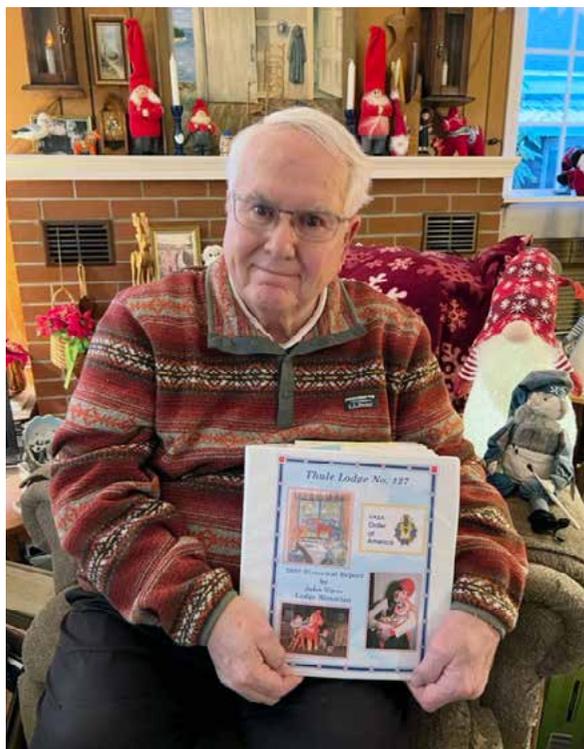
SUBMITTED BY BARBARA DECARLI



Above: Moms and kiddies waiting for Tomten.



Far left to right: Betty Munnick being sworn in - Sept., 2022 / Breakfast with Tomten / Lynne Martin at the cookie swap table



Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN-FALCONER, NY / The Thule lodge completed its 115th year with the well attended annual Dopp i Gryta in December. Chairman Susan Fredrickson Washington Sipos will continue to serve as the lodge chairman in the new year. Assisting her will be vice chairman Stephanie Buccola. Treasurer Loretta Smith will take charge of the annual calendar of events and planning special dinners. Cultural leader Mary Ann Eva Ingrao, who has been to Sweden several times, will continue to bring to the lodge happenings about Sweden. The election of officers was held at the December meeting. Historian John Sipos, who has served in this position for 24 years, continues to preserve lodge records. The Scandinavian Studies program at the Jamestown Community College is well under way with monthly programs of crafts, music, dancing and lectures. Everyone at Thule Lodge wish all a happy new year in 2023..

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS

Thule Lodge 127 historian for 24 years John Sipos is shown with the lodge record book for its 115th year, which he compiled.

Runeberg No. 137

MINNEAPOLIS, MN / The Vasa Junior Folk Dancers and Runeberg Lodge No. 137 held a combined Christmas event on Dec.17th in Minneapolis. The program featured the Lucia pageant and Santa Lucia for 2022, Aanika Reiff, performances by the dancers, a visit from Santa Claus, and a light supper featuring open faced sandwiches. Aanika from Beldenville, WI is the daughter of Erica and Bill Reiff. She is a senior at River Falls High School. Aanika is in her 13th year with the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers joining when she was in kindergarten. More under Youth News.

SUBMITTED BY EUNICE DIETRICH



December program by Gary Amundson and the polar expedition

Linne No. 153

SOUTH BEND, IN / During the final quarter of 2022, we enjoyed a variety of programs from members and closed the year with a traditional sumptuous repast, after which we all went into hibernation until March. It was double-billing in December, as Gary Amundson recounted the polar expedition of Roald Amundsen. The explorer embarked from Norway in June 1910 and, on arrival in Antarctica, continued overland with a dogsled and crew of five, to become the first men to reach the South Pole. "A remarkable fact about the expedition," Gary noted, "is that everyone returned home, safe and sound." Marcus Felde, retired Lutheran pastor and lifelong

violin student, played snippets from half a score of traditional Nordic folk tunes. In November, frequent guest Matt Baumgartner separated fact from the legend of Eric IX, whose claim to the throne seems spurious although he was often mentioned as "king of the Swedes", if not King of Sweden. While never canonized, due to "papal oversight," Eric is recognized as the patron saint of Sweden. Our scheduled presenter for October canceled due to illness, so your humble correspondent read a selection from Swedish Fairy Tales, a collection of fables charmingly illustrated by John Albert Bauer and first published in 1901.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN MILLER



Lucia 2022 Grace Graffius, with Grandmother Linda Graffius

Svea No. 296

ERIE, PA / Svea met November 20th to elect new officers, receive three new members and memorialize three who passed: Sandy Miller, Dorothy Overberg, and Jay Davis. Plans were made for December 11th Santa Lucia, which was interrupted by COVID for the past two years. SVEA 296 member Linda Graffius stands proudly with her granddaughter, Grace Graffius, this year's Santa Lucia at the Fest on at Luther Memorial Church.

SUBMITTED BY GARY LARSON

Bessemer No. 203

OAK LAWN, IL / Bessemer's members and their families met in November at the Park District of LaGrange, Illinois. We enjoyed a delicious Smörgåsbord. The highlight of the event was the presentation of membership

pins to members who received 55-year and 50-year jewels; 30-year tacks; 25-year tack; and 10-year tacks. We had a very enjoyable time.

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINE KILSTROM



Children of Bessemer members.

Svea No. 348



Enjoying the Svea Julbord on the left are Janand Frojelein, her boyfriend Isaac. On the right is Yvette Frojelein and her daughter Tiffany Frojelein.

SAN JOSÉ, CA / December 16, 2022 was the first in-person Julbord, or Swedish Christmas smörgåsbord, for Svea Lodge #348 in San Jose, California since the pandemic began early 2020. Our Julbord committee including Victoria Fedor-Thurman, Marilyn Crawford, Belinda Bright and decorators Pat Nelson, Mette Leuthold, Tim Crawford and Ken Weissenborn worked tirelessly with the North Pole Tomtegubbar to make it all possible. Thirty-seven attendees included many new and familiar faces came to celebrate a "pot luck" smorgasbord, though many items had an assigned patron, from lingonsylt to köttbullar and Jansson's Temptation,

tantalizingly prepared by Mette and Dale Leuthold and others. Kikki and Jan Nordin prepared Julskinka, Christmas ham, in the traditional manner! We enjoyed a musical program by TC Brewitz who sang songs in both Swedish and English, which provided a delightful Jul spirit. We also had a fund-raising basket raffle organized by Bob Homer. Enticing baskets of bounty included generous donors Kaye Bergren, Erika Canion, Aurora Allen, Kris Jacobson, Carolyn Strong, Bob Homer and Ken Weissenborn. Happy new year!

SUBMITTED BY JACK KNUTSON

Superior No. 423



Superior lodge celebrating its 100th Anniversary - Congratulations!

MARQUETTE, MI / Superior lodge of Marquette, MI of DL Superior No. 10, celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a noon luncheon held at Northern Michigan University on November 4, 2022.

SUBMITTED BY MARY HUEBNER

Moving?

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

Evening Star No. 426

LOS ALAMITOS, CA / Evening Star celebrated the 100 year Anniversary with Lucia program and Swedish Smörgåsbord on 12-17-2022 at Mayflower Lodge Hall in Torrance. The Musician was Sandra Pehrsson and the food-preparer was Pernilla Scott. Evening Star was established on December 17, a cold night in Long Beach. Originally, Thirty-two members signed the charter with meetings on Saturdays each month. Meetings were in Swedish until 1947 when they switched to English. We sponsored many District Conventions; the first in 1929 and the last in 2005. Linnea Sewing Club was organized in 1952 and the Sewing Club sponsored annual Lucia Programs. In 1967 Morning Star Children's Club

was organized by Howard and Vernis Allen, helped by Gunlog Spaberg. Howard was the first supervisor of Morning Star, then Gunlog Spaberg in 1972 until 2017 when Morning Star closed. With the start of Morning Star, Evening Star grew in membership; by 1972 to 160 members. Morning Star Charter members included Haakan (current Evening Star Chairman) and Ann Spaberg, Anthony and Johnny Barry. Anita Barry holds the longest membership of 67 years, Gary and Gunlog Spaberg are members for 58 years. In 1946, Evening Star joined the Vasa Park Association by buying a



Lucia Emma Chiarelli, granddaughter of Gary and Gunlog Spaberg and attendants.

bond of \$100.00 and has participated in VPA annual picnics. Evening Star a member of the Swedish-American-Central-Association for years with

members' daughters participating as Midsummer Queen or Princess at the Midsummer Celebrations at Vasa Park. SUBMITTED BY GUNLOG SPABERG

Linnea No. 504

PETALUMA, CA / Linnéa Lodge celebrated Santa Lucia with a fika, musical program and pageant. Elsa Scheftner, granddaughter of members Maiken and Klaus Scheftner was our Lucia. Elsa has been in the pageant since she was three. Elsa and her sister Ayla have shared the tradition at their schools over the years, and their MorMor has made her famous Swedish cinnamon buns for sharing with the children at school. The Lucia crown was also worn by Elsa's mother, aunt and her cousin Luka. Member Johan Ericsson and his family along with his brother Marcus and his family provided the musical entertainment, complete with a fun rendition of Jingle Bells accompanied by members each with their own set of bells to jingle! After a special visit from Santa, we ended the celebration with the singing of Silent Night together. In January, we'll install our 2023 officers and share a meal of pea soup and pancakes and fellowship. We look forward to our magical Midsummer event at a local park under the redwood trees with food, fun, flowers, games and yes, dancing around the maypole!



2022 Linnea Lucia Elsa Scheftner.



Ericsson brothers Johan and Marcus and their families performing at Lucia.

SUBMITTED BY MARY WAHLBERG

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

Joe Harbor No. 534



Joe Harbor Star Boys Lucas Petzke and Wyatt Petzke, Lucia Brooke Henderson and Attendants Finley Petzke and Lilliana Petzke.

ST JOSEPH, MI / Our Lodge hosted a well-attended Santa Lucia Celebration on December 11th, 2022, at Saron Lutheran Church in St. Joseph, Michigan. Our 2022 Lucia was Brooke Henderson. The Attendants were Finley Petzke and Lilliana Petzke. The Star Boys were Lucas Petzke and Wyatt Petzke. Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor at the Church, provided a welcome. The program included stories about St. Lucia, the Swedish tradition of Santa Lucia, and seasonal hymns. Lodge members sang "Santa Lucia" during the procession of Lucia and her court. A quartet sang "Hosianna, David's son" and "Now Shine a Thousand Candles" performed by Colleen and Dennis Lundgren, Craig Nordstrom, and Nancy Wenstrand. Lorelei Gorman, Colleen Lundgren, and Nancy Wenstrand performed a trio, "Jul, Jul". Lodge members sang "Ljuslet i advent", "Nu är det jul igen" and "Tomtarnas julnatt". Refreshments were served after the program.

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS LUNDGREN

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / Luckily, our members are healthy again, COVID was brutal, but we didn't miss a beat. Meetings in October & November held Nominations, and Elections of 2023 Officers, and the Installation will happen in January. Our annual Linde Christmas Luncheon meant many stayed home being sick but it was a wonderful get together for those who were well. Lucia was hosted by the SAHS-WI, and with Linde's help it was a huge success and more beautiful than ever. We had a record of 40+ children in the program, and 170 people watching and partaking in food (we almost ran out of food). We are now looking forward to some changes on the Linde Board: Liza Ekstrand is stepping down from the Chairman position held for 12 years, and Brent Erickson is taking over (he has been the Chairman before). Liza is switching positions with Brent and will now become the Secretary. Milwaukee and the midwest had a miserably bitter-cold week leading up to Christmas with lots of sub-zero temps and all the way to -30-40



2022 Lucia Josie German, daughter, granddaughter and great granddaughter of current and past Linde members Tamara Grobschmidt, Barb Grobschmidt, and Eunice Troyer.

degrees F with windchill. Happy to be above freezing again. All of us in Linde will take the opportunity to Wish all fellow Vasa Members in our entire Vasa Land a Gott Nytt År!.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



Lucia procession of Norden 2022 Lucia, Kalani Gaviola, her attendants & star boys.

Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / Tack så mycket for a lovely afternoon celebrating Lucia at our annual Norden Lodge No. 684 Lucia, December 10th, 2022 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fresno, California. The event began with a "fika", then the dance program with dancers in their Swedish costumes. Immediately afterwards, the Lucia pageant began with the beautiful song, Santa Lucia being played. Then the lights dimmed, and the procession of attendants & star boys led by our 2022 Lucia, Kalani Gaviola with her crown of candles, made their way from the back of the

Fellowship Hall to the stage. Kalani is the granddaughter of Roselind Gaviola from Norden. She is currently a Junior at Paso Robles High School, first in her class with above a 4.5 GPA. Kalani is also editor-in-chief of her school newspaper, leader in the associated student body, runs cross country and track and recently qualified for the California State Cross Country meet. In her spare time, she serves her community through volunteer work, writes short stories and serves on the Mayor of Paso Robles' Youth Commission. Kalani was thankful to represent Lucia, celebrating her Swedish heritage.

SUBMITTED BY CAROLE SELL

Bishop Hill No. 683

BISHOP HILL, IL / Bishop Hill Vasa had its annual Christmas Smörgåsbord on December 3rd at 6:00pm at the Colony School, what a great night; the weather was mildly warm for December. Our night started off with a meal of Swedish meatballs, potato sausage, lutefisk, potatoes, pickled herring, rice pudding and many other favorites. Next was our Lucia program, always a favorite. Our Lucia this year was Paisley Vanek with the help of Deidre & Fiona Light, Chloe Finch and Corbin Strand - they gave out treats to everyone. Paisley is 12 years old and in the 7th grade at Peoria Christian School. She is a middle school cheerleader, likes Gymnastics, enjoys reading, being a good student, spending time with her Goldendoodles, and also volunteers at her church Northwoods Community with the three year old Sunday School class. Paisley is the Daughter of Jeff & Paige (Lindbom) Vanek, Granddaughter of Ron & Dianne Lindbom of Kewanee. We ended the night singing Christmas carols with the help of Debbie Miles. We had our raffle which is always fun to win prizes. A great thank you to the helpers!



SUBMITTED BY JEFF ANDERSON



Music and Dancing by Svenska Kids Dancing Group finding partners & places.

Nordic No. 611

WORCESTER, MA / Our December meeting was a special event. We had a Smörgåsbord, a gift swap, were entertained by Spelmanslag (three members are from Nordic Lodge) and a Lucia pageant. We had lovely decorations of poinsettias, a 9 foot Christmas tree and lights in all of the Scandinavian Athletic Club's windows. No one left hungry, that's for sure. As we enjoyed Spelmanslag playing, we enjoyed desserts and each other's company. Then for the highlight of the night, our Lucia pageant. A huge thank you to our member Sherri Parretti for all the planning, rehearsing and recruiting of members for the Lucia Pageant. Our Lucia was our own Veronica Parretti.

SUBMITTED BY ÅKE JANSSON

The Spelmanslag performing at the Nordic No. 611 December meeting.



Nordic's Lucia Veronica Parretti and her entourage.

Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / Spritz, jelly ring and pepparkakor cookies, coffee ring, cardamom bread and coffee were consumed by our members at our December meeting. Scandinavian Christmas heirlooms were displayed, and family reminiscences were shared. A member brought a heavy lead ball that is as large as a ball used in a softball game and called a köllan. In Sweden, mustard seeds or cardamom seeds were placed in a large bowl with the köllan. The bowl was placed between a person's knees and moved side to side rolling the köllan over the seeds to crush them. "Why did you join Vasa?", was the unique topic shared at our January meeting. The variety of stories helped us to reflect on ways that we can attract new members to our Lodge. We do not meet formally in February and March, but we plan to spend a couple afternoons sifting through our Lodge records and items we have accumulated over the years. The Installation of Officers and the Initiation of two members is planned for April 8.

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN ELLNER KEAN



Delphine Trowbridge, Jon Vikander, and Andrea Tabanelli.

Hagar No. 721

MT PROSPECT, IL / Hagar Lodge held its November meeting on November 11, 2022. Being Veterans' Day, we honored those members present who had served in the Armed Forces. Following our meeting we feasted on a chili buffet. Several members shared their favorite chili recipes and others brought all the fixins', sides, and desserts. We closed the evening with a Hobo Auction. Ed Backman once again served as our "hobo" for the evening with assistance from lodge president, Sherida Magnuson. The money raised from the auction will be included in our Christmas donation to the Night Ministry, a charitable organization that serves the homeless in the city of Chicago. Our next event on December 7, included a traditional Julbord. Carrie Emrickson organized the feast making certain that all the required traditional dishes were on the table. Despite the fact that this is typically our most highly attended meeting,



Hagar's own Viking Hobo, Ed Backman.

all the food could not be eaten. Following the meeting there was a Christmas sing-along. Maj Johnson and Ted Johnson (no relation) led Christmas songs in both Swedish and English while Barry Nelson accompanied on the keyboard.

SUBMITTED BY TED JOHNSON

Glenn T Seaborg No. 719

LAGUNA WOODS, CA / Holding Nobel Banquets has become legendary in our lodge, this year attracting sixty-one guests from throughout the district. On November 5th we held our third Nobel Banquet. We try to make the occasion as upscale as the banquet held in Stockholm. Many come in tuxedos and formals. This year we had a professional harpist play during appetizers and dinner. We also toasted by drinking sparkling cider. Placed on everyone's napkin was a gold chocolate Nobel coin Kin Lindgren purchased at the Nobel Museum. As dessert was served, we dimmed the lights as servers delivered ice cream topped with a burning candle. A cookie resembling a stick of dynamite was served to represent how Alfred Nobel earned his fortune, a portion of which is given away to Nobel Laureates each year. This year's audio-

visual presentation was on twelve of the 115 Laureates since the first prize was given in 1901.

SUBMITTED BY NANCY KINGSTON



The Alfred Nobel dynamite cookie dessert

Carl Larsson No. 739

RALEIGH, NC / On December 3rd the Lodge sponsored its 26th annual “Scandinavian Christmas Fair.” Our Julmarknad features vendors from all over the US and most Nordic countries with live Scandinavian music, Nordic folk dancing, and a Lucia Procession. The event began in 1985 as a Lodge fundraising craft fair (with pea soup!). In 2003 the Julmarknad became the “Scandinavian Christmas Fair” / www.scanfair.org and moved to a large building on the NC Fairgrounds. At that time, we decided to make it a festival of Nordic holiday traditions with live entertainment, a full array of homemade lunches, and a Swedish Fika. The 2022 fair was the largest and most successful with over 2,400 paying adults. The December 2, 2023 Fair will be held at

a larger building. The Lodge meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month, except for July and August, with a social hour beginning at 5:00 pm followed by the meeting at 6:00 pm. The election and installation of officers for 2023 will be at the February meeting followed by a Valentine’s dinner. Come see what’s going on at Carl Larsson Lodge No. 739, Raleigh, NC.

SUBMITTED BY LOIS KLUBENS



Members of Carl Larsson Lodge No. 739 Raleigh, NC at the January meeting.

Far left: The November 2022 Meatball rolling party in preparation for the Julmarknad in December.

Left: The Bake Sale at the Julmarknad at the NC Fairgrounds in Raleigh, December 2022.

Scandia No. 728

PRESCOTT, AZ / Our lodge celebrated the holidays with their annual Smorgasbord and St. Lucia Fest in December. Many of the traditional foods were served on the festive table, including Swedish meatballs, salmon, ham, herring and Jansson’s Temptation, to name a few. The tables were decorated with fresh greenery and Gnome baskets. Door prizes were given to delighted recipients and a Money Tree raffle and



Gift Basket raffle went to lucky winners. Our lovely “Lucia,” member Susan Johnson, glided into the dimly-lit room

with her crown of candles glowing while the Santa Lucia music played. Lucia buns and Christmas cookies were distributed. Members and guests enjoyed being together for this special event. Our January meeting was Installation of officers,

led by Chairman/PDM Joanne DeMent,

and a program was presented by CL Pat Flippen featuring facts and trivia about Denmark. Abbleskiver and other Danish treats were served. Our February program will be given by Assistant CL Doug Hulmes with the Kalmar Pact as the subject. We are happy that our lodge is still surviving after two years of restrictions and uncertainties.

SUBMITTED BY PAT FLIPPEN

YOUTH CLUB NEWS

Kornet No. 16

MINNEAPOLIS, MN / The Vasa Junior Folk Dancers and Runeberg Lodge No. 137 held a combined Christmas event on Dec. 17th. in Minneapolis. The program featured the Lucia pageant and Santa Lucia for 2022, Aanika Reiff, performances by the dancers, a visit from Santa Claus, and a light supper featuring open faced sandwiches. Aanika from Beldenville, WI is the daughter of Erica and Bill Reiff. She is a senior at River Falls High School. Aanika is in her 13th year with the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers joining when she was in kindergarten. Her favorite places to dance have been the Festival of Nations and this past summer’s performance at Gammeln in Scandia MN. Apart from school and dancing she is a lifeguard at the local pool and in the summer a camp counselor at Camp Lebanon. After graduation Aanika plans to attend the University of WI

River Falls and study environmental science.

SUBMITTED BY EUNICE DIETRICH



Kornet Lucia for 2022, Aanika Reiff.

Nordik Folk No. 761

MUNSTER, IN / Nordik Folk No. 761 and Nordikids children’s club No. 208 held their first Luciafest since 2019. Over 60 people attended this fest for a beautiful luncheon at Wicker Park social center in Highland Indiana on Dec. 4th. There were raffles for kids run by Katie Westlund-Ponton, DL8 Youth Director. Linda Tyk, DL HS ran a bake sale with wonderful almond, and cardamom delights baked by our members. Annelise Nelson, DL Culture leader, had a Nordik booth with Swedish goods and antiques. Our Lucia Queen Brooklyn Sinwelski sang “O Helga Natt” for her solo. She is 12 years old and the daughter of Lynnea and Jason Sinwelski and granddaughter of Herb and PDM Lynda Smith. There were 9 Nordikids who sang many traditional Swedish songs under the direction of Abby Ogrentz. It was truly delightful to be able to celebrate this very special Vasa tradition once again!

SUBMITTED BY LYNDA ANN SMITH

Nine Nordikids who sang many traditional Swedish songs. Lucia Brooklyn Sinwelski.



SWEDISH NEWS

Skåne No. 570

MALMÖ, SWEDEN / Logen Skåne nr 570 har genomlevt en dystertid under den gångna hösten på grund av svikande medlemsantal. Dock hade kulturledaren Sy. Marianne inbjudit till ett spännande arrangemang på Slottet Bjärsjölagård den 19 november, Då i Dimman, där vi var och en försökte lösa en mordgåta. Vår ordförande Br.Sivert i vårt sällskap lyckades med uppgiften och blev rikt belönad. På natten drabbades vi av österlensk snöstorm, så nu vet vi vad framtiden kan bära i sitt sköte (se nedan). Slutet på året fortgick med Julfest och Kyrksöndag, medan Styrelsen däremellan

diskuterade fortsatta öden för vår Loge. Januarimötet blev en tripp till gamla tider, men blev också en framtidsvision i sällskap med Logen Tomelilla

631, som det pågått förhandlingar om samgående med. Vi har 23 syskon som följs åt dit. Vårt avslutande och sista styrelsemöte hölls hemma hos ordförandeparet Sivert & Lilian Alexandersson den 30 januari, där man bjöd på glöggfest med pepparkakor och ädelost från Kvibille. D/FÖM Br.Bengt-Arne Åstradsson förevigade händelsen och saknas därför på vårt sista foto från Skåne LL570. Tack alla!

SUBMITTED BY MARIANNE ANDERSSON



Tack och farväl - sista styrelsemötet för Skåne nr 570.



Långdans och julsånger på Tomellillas julfest

Tomelilla No. 631

TOMELILLA, SWEDEN / I november firade Logen traditionsenligt första advent med att besöka någon kyrka som i år blev Smedstorp. Därefter åkte 17 logesyskon till Normans Konditori Gärsnäs för adventskaffe. Decembers logemöte med julfest hölls i Kverrestads Bygdegård där ett 40 tal Logesyskon samlats. På mötet klubbades budgeten och valet av tjänstemän för år 2023. Kulturledaren Anne-Maj Råberg kåserade om myten och traditionerna kring Märten Gås firandet förr och i våra dagar. Efter mötet inleddes det med glöggmingel och därefter julbordets olika läckerheter. Några av styrelsens medlemmar stod för luciafirandet. Tyvärr hade Lucian blivit sjuk, men det

fanns tärnor, bagare, stjärngossar och tomtar. Tom-Inge Wahlqvist tog fram dragspelet och tomtefar drog igång långdansen och de vanliga julsångerna sjöngs med inlevelse av alla. Tomtefar delade ut julklappar och gottepåsar till barnen. Sen blev det gröt och saftsås. Bengt-Arne Åstradsson och Gert Lantz auktionerade ut de många skänkta sakerna. Därefter blev det kaffe med mandelmussla med grädde och sylt samt övrigt gottebord med frukt. Som avslutning får vi inte glömma årets sista närvarolotteri innan det var dags att önska varandra God Jul och ett Gott Nytt År och bege sig hemåt efter en mycket trevlig vasakväll.

SUBMITTED BY ANNE-MAJ RÅBERG

Christian No. 617



Festligt klädda gäster på Christian nr. 617's 75-åriga Jubileumsfest

KRISTIANSTAD, SWEDEN / I oktober firade vår loge 75 år. Vi hade en bejublad Jubileumsfest i vår loge. Gäster, våra logesyskon såväl som gäster från andra loger besökte oss. Det blev en uppskattad kväll med god mat, härlig stämning samt trevlig underhållning. Musik från musikalen "Kristina från Duvemåla", framfört av tre duktiga musiker. Några syskon från Tomelilla nr 631, framförde en fantastisk och proffsig utförd Fanparad. Alla njöt. Som brukligt firar vi Advents/Julfest i november. En mysig adventsfest och festsal som var vackert och juligt dekorerad av duktiga logesyskon. Det bjöds på härligt julbord, där såväl skinka och Jansons frestelse fanns och jättegod julgröt som traditionen säger. De kända julsångerna sjöngs, dikten "Tomten" av Viktor Rydberg lästes....ja allt var som vanligt denna kväll. Nu, januari, och vi har haft vårt första logemöte i år. Christian Bröderna bjöd in sina Systrar till, "Brödernas afton". Menyn för kvällen var Gubbröra, Pytt i panna med stekta ägg och rödbetor, Efterrätt och Kaffe. Tillagat av våra duktiga Bröder. Br Tommy Göthe stod för underhållningen. Ett underhållande fråge-Qwiss som satte igång hjärncellerna. Svaren till de olika frågorna presenterades på ett intressant sätt av Br Tommy. Det blev verkligen en härlig kväll.

SUBMITTED BY GUNNEL OLSSON

SWEDISH NEWS

Till höger: Den nyinstallerade styrelsen.

Nedan: Br Leif och Sy Bodil Larsson och Br Gunnar Lindstrand väntar på mötet.



Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Ett högtidligt möte med installation av nyvalda tjänstemän inledde det nya året. Vår DD Br Rolf Hansson med stab från LL Nybyggarna nr 698 infördes i logen och hälsades välkomna. Även gästande Ordenssyskon från LL Kärnan nr 608 välkomnades. Efter att Br Rolf avslutat årsmötesförhandlingarna, installerades tjänstemännen på ett värdigt sätt. Kl Sy Agneta framförde hälsningar från våra vänloger på andra sidan Atlanten och läste sedan några roliga anekdoter. LH Br Hans berättade om ett par gruvarbetares vardag i kolgruvorna i Höganäs. Mötet avslutades med vacker ljussläckning. Vi tog plats vid de festdukade borden och bjöds på en fantastisk god fläskfilégratäng och en läcker pannacotta med färsk frukt. Som traditionen bjuder utbringades kvällens första skål till HM Konung Carl XVI Gustav och kungssången sjöngs. Till kaffet med hembakta kakor underhölls vi av en fantastisk gitarrvirtuos, Axel, barnbarn till en av våra medlemmar. Han tackades med varma applåder och en stor chokladkartong. Efter lotteridragning med många fina vinster var det dags att dra sig hemåt efter ännu en härlig Vasakväll. Den 18 mars är det dags för Systrarnas afton då vi förväntar oss en rolig och underhållande stund.

SUBMITTED BY BERIT OCH HANS BOGREN



Gästande Ordenssyskon från LL 608 och 698.



STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASA BRÖDER OCH SYSTRAR,

Gott Nytt År! Hop-pas alla hade en trygg och trevlig helgdags-sång. Inger och jag besökte många Loger under höstens och förvinterns lopp. I November deltog vi i den årliga Julmarknaden i Vasa Park, New Jersey. Vädret var vackert, och vi hade många gäster i parken. Svenskt handarbete och slöjd såldes nästan lika snabbt som glögen. Senare i samma månad var vi med på JulDans, också i Vasa-parken. En årlig fest med middag, musik och dans kring granen. Nästa tillfälle var Skansens Barnklubbs Lucia. Klubben klarar sig bra, och barnen underhöll med folkdans och musik. Efter inställning pga covid, kom Logen Viking 735 tillbaka till sin årliga Lucia fest på Muhlenberg College



i Allentown, Pennsylvania. Logen samarbetar med anställda i skolan och en del av barnen som deltar i Lucian är deras barn. Logen ställer upp med körsång. Kapellet är dekorerat mycket vackert till Jul.

New York DL-4 höll sin Julfest, sponsrad av Loge Lindberg 505. Flera lokalloger från "Sons of Norway" deltog i den. Verkligen roligt att se bägge organisationerna fira tillsammans! Före detta Stormästare Art Bjorkner och hans fru Nancy var också med där.

Vi hade Julbord i Vasa Park med många gäster, och den 21a December firade vi Vintersolståndet hemma hos oss.

I skrivande stund planerar vi att vara med på Loge Freja 100s julgransplundring. Det har varit en intensiv period för oss, men vi har haft väldigt roligt vid varje tillfälle!

Ansökningar för stipendier måste vara inlämnade senast den 15:e Februari och

Vice Stormästare, Tom Cleveland, tar hand om dem. Vårt stödprogram för utbildning är en viktig del av vår organisation, och alla uppmantras till att donera för att stödja det. Programmet inkluderar skol stipendier samt stipendier för språkstuderande till Sjölundens språkläger i Minnesota, anordnat av Concordia Språkbyrå.

En av många uppgifter för Stormästaren, är att skicka gratulationer till äldre medlemmar med speciella födelsedagar. Våra Storloge-deputerade och Distriktssekreterarna har skickat uppgifter till mig om medlemmar som fyller 80, 85, 90, 95 och varje år efter 95. Det är en rolig uppgift, och jag ber alla distrikt att skicka den informationen om det inte redan har gjorts. Vi skickar ut ca 10-15 kort varje månad. Ett par värt att nämna är, Aino Backstrand i Yonkers, New York som fyller 102 i Februari och

Marjorie Johten i Milwaukee, Wisconsin som fyller 104 i Mars!!

Vi kan också nämna att nästa Storlogemöte 2026 kommer att sponsras av Distrikt Lake Michigan 8. En planeringskommitté har valts och vi ser fram emot mera nyheter allteftersom de jobbar med det.

Vårt Exekutiva råd och Arkivledamöterna kommer att träffas i Mars i Nationalarbivet i Bishop Hill. Det är längesen vi möttes där pga covidrestrktioner, och vi ser fram emot att alla medlemmar av exekutiva rådet får en chans att se och lära om arkivet, och ta del av vår arkivarie Kathy Cuffs arbete. Om ni inte har hälsat på där, så rekommenderar jag varmt ett besök. Det är verkligen ett unikt litet samhälle.

MED GENEROSITET, I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
JOHN HANRIGHT (JACK)
STORMÄSTARE