



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

FALL 2018

Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



Image from Gysinge Herrgård (Mansion) just north of Uppsala.

Hello Vasa!

We are happy to announce the Vasa Order of America has made the official leap onto social media!

We started earlier in 2017 on Facebook, creating the first official social media page, posting and sharing Vasa moments and events throughout the year. We found this page to have a very positive response from our members and we hope to continue and grow our presence on Facebook.

We need only one thing to continue our growth: YOU! The Vasa Order needs your positive help and input, including liking and following our page and liking the posts

we share. Most importantly we need YOUR original Vasa content, posting and sharing all things Vasa from your local and district lodges, so we can share with the rest of the Vasa community!

We encourage you to take photos at your lodge meetings, of local or district members, social gatherings and activities. This will only help and inspire other lodges and hopefully gather new members to continue Vasa into the future! We also encourage each lodge to create your own Facebook page if you don't have one already. Appointing a social / continued on p5

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

DEAR VASA MEMBERS,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and fall. Nancy and I had an enjoyable first official visit to Nordic #708 in Atlanta. The hospitality provided was GREAT. They have a very enthusiastic membership and we appreciated the invitation to visit. Next, we attended Pennsylvania District #9 convention in Erie. The turnout was good, and a very successful convention was held. We also attended a meeting of NY District #4 members coordinated by Lodge Lindbergh #505. The above is in addition to NJ lodges and events.

By now you have seen our new website. We need you all



to make sure it is up to date with offices and events. Please put your 2019 calendar onto your web page. Members and prospective members always review this for planning purposes. An out-of-date calendar is a turnoff! If you need help on the web please ask. Also, / continued on p4

National Archive News

Submit your family stories so they can be preserved in the official records / p3

Grand Lodge News

Recognizing the special recipients of the Distinguished Service Award / p4

Vasa Order SAY 2018

A Lindsborg and Minneapolis Swede is honored as Swedish American of the Year / p6

Holiday greetings

Brothers and sisters across the U.S. and Sweden share holiday wishes

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



At the 17th century Tant Bruns Kaffestuga in Sigtuna, Sweden, named for Elsa Beskov's character Tant Brun (Aunt Brown) who worked in a kitchen.

It doesn't seem like a quarter of a year has passed since the last Vasa Star was in everyone's mailboxes, since the summer when I was on vacation in Sweden with my husband, who was experiencing the motherland for the first time.

But months have passed, and while the fall was full of festivals and conventions and activities, plans for many holiday traditions were percolating. In this issue of the Vasa Star, our interest – and need – in keeping present our shared Swedish traditions and culture is clear. Be sure to read the request from our archivist about sharing the stories of our past (page 3) and how social media is now ready for us to cast the net even further among us to share all the good things that are going on; turn back (page 31) for more informa-

tion on the Vasa Order of America's official leap into social media. Note: When you are taking photos at your lodge activities to post on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, send a couple our way, too, and we'll consider them for print in the next Vasa Star. Nearly all the content of the Vasa Star comes from you, after all. Your high-resolution photos and photo caption suggestions can be directed to vasaeditor@gmail.com

My "take away" from the texts on the next pages is that it's Vasa that makes celebrating possible. It is our Vasa brothers and sisters who, in many cities, are the ones we can be so thankful for, who bring alive the Swedish traditions we enjoy and need during the holidays. Tack så mycket!

Thank you to you all – I wish you all God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
AMANDA OLSON ROBISON

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Language instructor Annelise Nelson at Nordikids booth in Valparaiso, IN. /p12



Norden member June Hess at her Scandinavian store in Kingsburg. /p9



Two strong symbols of the times we're in.

THE VASA STAR

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

Grand Master / Art Bjorkner
31 Vasa Drive,
Hackettstown NJ 07840-5314
Phone: (973)426-0776
bjorkner@verizon.net

Editor / Amanda Olson Robison
Managing Editor / Liza Ekstrand

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

Circulation Manager / Joan Graham
5838 San Jose Avenue
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 526 5512
circulationvasastar@gmail.com
Send **address changes** and bottom section of application for new members to Joan Graham.

Membership Chairman / Ed Netzel
2576 Old Kenmare Rd, Lincoln, CA 95648
ednetzel@att.net

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

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vasaeditor@gmail.com

Vasa Star PO Box 13331
Milwaukee WI 53213-0331

For our next issue:

By Jan. 15

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

DONATE to the Education & Scholarship Funds

Send your donations to: Vasa Order of America, Joan Graham, Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804

ARCHIVES NEWS

A message from the president of Vasa National Archives

DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
Our year at the Vasa National Archives in Bishop Hill is winding down as winter approaches. There will still be plenty of guests for the activities and shopping in the village before Christmas and the Archives anticipates many interested visitors.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of our members who donated to this year's Heritage Fundraiser. Those donations are directed toward operational needs. The Julgran Fundraiser is currently underway; the tree is up on the

second level of the Archives and the bulbs you send with your donations are placed on the tree as they arrive. Donations to this Fundraiser are earmarked for the Archive Preservation Fund unless you specify another area of interest.

There is a celebration to thank the Bishop Hill Community for its support in 2018 as well as the success of the Julgran Fundraiser on November 30. Many Archive Board Members, Members of Lake Michigan District Lodge No. 8, Members of Bishop Hill Lodge No. 683 and community leaders attend

this celebration. Any donations arriving throughout December and January will be thankfully accepted.

The Vasa National Archives belongs to all members of the Vasa Order and your continued support of our two annual fundraisers is very important to its success. We have received several large monetary gifts from Vasa members this year and we hope these Vasa friends and members will continue to offer this type of support in the coming year. Please remember the Vasa National Archives as you update your wills. Thank you for

your personal support and your support of the Vasa Order of America and the Vasa National Archives.

Sheila and I trust you will enjoy many joyous family and Vasa events and make beautiful memories during this holiday season. Our best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy and prosperous coming year.



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

Greetings from the Vasa National Archives



hope the following suggestions will help. Send us:

- stories about your great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, kids or grandkids
- stories about your childhood or adulthood
- tell us about the games, activities, hobbies or foods you enjoy
- share tales about your pets, friends, vacations, holidays, how you met your spouse, college life, or any milestone in your life
- How did you learn about Vasa? Did you hold any official or unofficial positions?
- Have you been to Sweden to see your ancestral homeland? Did you immigrate?

Do you remember the genealogy papers you submitted? We are scanning them and putting them online at the Upper Mississippi Digital Image Archive. As of right now, we have 1,400 online and have just begun with letter H. We'll be working steadily on this for the rest of the year.

I am fascinated with all the information you have given us. But genealogists want more than names, dates and places, so we are coming to you to help "flesh out" the story of your family. So many family stories are not recorded in the official records, tucked away in archives or lost to time. We are asking you to share your family stories with us and send as many as you want.

This can be a daunting task and we

When you send in your stories, please include your name, address, date and place of birth, occupation (in-

Upcoming Events

- **Community Craft** (Nov. 23-24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. during Julmarknad) Help the Vasa National Archives make a paper mache pepparkakshus (gingerbread house) while visiting beautiful Bishop Hill. On Friday, we will add layers of paper mache to the holiday craft; painting begins on Saturday. This is a community art project open to all ages.
- **Closing Reception** (Dec. 7-8, 6-9 p.m., during Lucia Nights) Say goodbye to the Swedish Folk Art Exhibit, which will be replaced with a new exhibit on Nordic Fairytales in 2019-20. Coffee and cookies will be available to visitors at the Vasa National Archives for the closing reception.

cluding former jobs if you're retired), and your lodge number. Please send your family stories to: Vasa National Archives, PO Box 110, Bishop Hill, IL 61419 or via email to VasaArchivist@gmail.com.

This is a good a moment to remind every Vasa member that your membership allows you an hour of FREE genealogical research. We have several resources available at the archives and all you need to do is send us names, dates and places. The more information you send, the easier it is

to find your family and answer your genealogy questions.

If you have any questions about the collections or the archives, feel free to contact us at VasaArchivist@gmail.com or 309-927-3898. For more current information on Bishop Hill or the Vasa National Archives, like us on Facebook.

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

Grand Master Art Bjorkner	Vice Grand Secretary Marlene Patient	MEB-Sweden Connie Grön
Vice Grand Master John Hanright	MEB-Eastern Region Deborah Larsson	MEB-Canada Donna Englund
Grand Secretary Joanie Graham	MEB-Midwest Region Tom Cleveland	
Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon	MEB-Western Region Ed Netzel	

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Award - 2018



Birgitta Kellgren with GM Tore Kellgren.

The Distinguished Service Emblem is awarded by the Grand Lodge to any lodge member who has made outstanding contributions to the Vasa Order of America. The nomination can be made by a district lodge, its executive board, or by a Grand Lodge member, listing the contributions the member has made to the district and local lodge. The Grand Lodge Executive Board considers and votes on the candidates. Only four awards are presented each Grand Lodge term. Presentations are made at the Grand Lodge Convention or in the member's home district.

Following are the recipients of the Distinguished Service Award for the 2014-2018 term:

Pat Flippan, founding member of Scandia Lodge No. 728 in Prescott, Arizona and helped found Nordic Red Rocks Lodge No. 760 in Sedona, Arizona. Any job that needs doing, Pat is there to do it. During many of the past 40 years, she has held an elected executive board position at the local and district lodge levels and is the district's expert when it comes to the Constitution and District Bylaws.

Birgitta Kellgren, 40-year member of Vasa as a dual member of Svea Lodge No. 348 and Lindbergh Lodge No. 494 in DL Golden Gate No. 12. During that time she has devoted thousands of hours to every activity that has crossed her path, has held elected office in her local lodges and district lodge, including District Master, and is a valuable resource for questions on the Constitution and District Bylaws. Birgitta has been the person-in-charge of the food and the kitchen at her two lodges and has

always been one of the cooks. During the past many years, she has been the "woman behind the man" supporting Tore as he served the Grand Lodge, ultimately as Grand Master.

Carol Swanson recently received her 55-year jewel as a member of Enighet Lodge No. 178 in Denver Colorado, DL Rocky Mountain No. 11, but has attended lodge meetings with her parents since she was just a baby. She has held office as the lodge treasurer and as Assistant District Secretary and has organized, coordinated and prepared dinners with a cheerful attitude and smile for everyone. She is very active in lodge meetings and is quick to offer help when and wherever it is needed. Carol always has a positive attitude and is looked up to as a model member of the lodge.

JoAnn Thoreen, a 60+ year leader or co-leader of the Vasa Jr. Folk Dancers in Minneapolis MN as well as holder of many elected offices in Stenbock Lodge No. 138 and DL Minnesota No. 7, and delegate to the Grand Lodge. For her tireless efforts to preserve and share with others what was instilled in her as a child and carried on throughout adulthood – love of her ancestry, culture, and tradition in the Vasa Order of America and beyond.

Honorary Life Members

The Grand Lodge in session in Sacramento presented Honorary Life Membership to three Vasa members for their exceptional service to the Vasa Order of America: Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon, Grand Secretary Joanie Graham, and Webmaster Robert Anderson.

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

remember **ENTHUSIASM and TV, TV, TV (Talk Vasa)**.

Big news is that NJ District #6 has volunteered to host the next Grand Lodge Convention. The location is Philadelphia, PA, the city of brotherly love, settled by the Swedes (the city colors are still blue and yellow) and the birthplace of the United States. This will be a very exciting convention; start planning to attend (July 2022)!

The scholarship applications are online. And the closing date is soon approaching ...

In February, Nancy and I will be attending the District #15 Convention; in April it's District #3 Convention; May is District #6 Convention followed by Districts #19 and 20 in Sweden, and District #18 Alberta in June. A



busy time, and we are looking forward to representing our Vasa Order.

While the holiday season is quickly approaching, it is always important for us to remind ourselves of the true meaning of the celebrations we enjoy. We can get so caught up in the chaos of preparing that we forget how important it is to just enjoy the special moments we are spending with our family and friends. It is my pleasure to wish each of you a happy and healthy Christmas and a wonderful new year ahead. Be sure to enjoy the local bazaars, the tomtes, Lucias and Julgransplundring.

God Jul! och Gott Nytt År

GREETINGS

From
Hagar No. 721



Carol Swanson with DM Bill Strook.



JoAnn Thoreen with DM Antonio Spargo and Vasa Jr. Folk Dancers.



Pat Flippan, seated, with DM Joanne DeMent.



Honorary Life Membership for their exceptional service to the Vasa Order of America was bestowed upon Grand Secretary Joanie Graham ...



... and Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Us @VasaOrderGL
Facebook, Instagram & Twitter

Continued from page 1

media director for your local lodge may help in keeping your content organized and up to date on all lodge happenings.

When posting all things Vasa on social media, we ask you use the “hashtag” #VasaOrder, or #VasaOrderOfAmerica so it can be easily searched by anyone.

In addition to Facebook, we have recently added two other popular social media platforms, Twitter and Instagram! You can find all three accounts under the name Vasa Order Of America or the username @VasaOrderGL, on all three social media accounts. You can also send a private message to us with questions or your content on Vasa Facebook Page, Twitter Page or Instagram page! Please follow and like these official accounts as it will help create

a stronger presence on social media.

We want to thank the initial Grand Lodge social media director Jack Hanright (recently elected Vice Grand Master) and our newly appointed Grand Lodge social media director, Chad Widman, for their assistance during the last year in getting the Vasa Order of America and the Grand Lodge on board with social media.

This is an important part of our future and must be embraced in order to maintain and advance our membership in “keeping with the times.”

We look forward to seeing your Vasa related posts and content in the near future!

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
GRAND LODGE / VOA

The Swedish American of the Year

“One cannot grow up, as I did, in Lindsborg, Kansas, without gaining a deep appreciation for Sweden and the role of Swedish immigrants in building America. My family was quite proudly Swedish-American and celebrated our heritage at family gatherings and in community festivals throughout my life. I’m deeply honored by the decision of the Vasa Order to add me to the list of those who have been named Swedish American of the Year.”



Bruce Karstadt’s speech at Ljuder Church in Småland.

Bruce Karstadt, recipient of the 2018 Swedish American of the Year award, was celebrated on August 6 in Växjö, Sweden at a reception where representatives of the Vasa Order and Växjö community warmly welcomed him and his company of 17 persons connected to the American Swedish Institute as board members, staff or ASI members.

Since 1990 Bruce Karstadt has been the president and CEO of the American Swedish Institute (ASI) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His dedication to bring the intersection of Sweden and America to success has been fruitful. Last year more than 160,000 visitors (as compared to 40,000 just eight years ago) attended ASI exhibitions and programs.

Bruce’s Swedish roots are traced primarily to Småland and Värmland – his ancestors came to Lindsborg, Kansas in the late 19th century. The American Swedish Institute also has history in Småland. ASI was founded in 1929 by Swan J. Turnblad, who was born near Vislanda, south of Växjö, in 1860. His family immigrated to Vasa, Minnesota in 1868, and Turnblad eventually became the manager of the very successful Swedish-language newspaper Svenska Amerikanska Posten. With that success, he built a grand home for his family and lived there from 1908

until 1929, then turned it over to the American Swedish Institute in 1929 to be its headquarters and public museum.

Swan J. Turnblad made an enormous contribution to Sweden and America when he founded ASI. The American

Swedish Institute has a long history of being a link between our two countries. Bruce Karstadt is a worthy successor, dedicated to the original mission of ASI.

“These past 28 years have been an amazing experience for me, working as I do at the intersection of Sweden and America. There still exists a deep affection among Swedish-Americans for Sweden,” Bruce said.

Award ceremony

The Swedish American of the Year (SAY) award ceremony and banquet took place at the idyllic Restaurant Villa Vik outside Växjö.

“It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the Vasa Order banquet in honor of the Swedish American of the Year 2018, Bruce Karstadt!” said banquet host Catherine Bringselius Nilsson in her opening speech. Catherine also had the pleasure to present three



Bruce Karstadt with host Catherine Bringselius Nilsson.

former SAYs who were attending the banquet: 2006 Agneta Nilsson, 2008 Barbro Osher, 2009 Anne-Charlotte Hanes Harvey, the governor of Kronobergs Län Ingrid Burman, and representatives of the American Embassy, Växjö community, representatives of cultural institutions and museums, the Vasa Order grand lodge, district lodges and the local lodge, along with many friends of Bruce Karstadt. It was a wonderful mix of people, who had gathered to give tribute to SAY 2018. It was quite clear that Bruce was widely admired for his magnificent achievements at ASI.

After the award ceremony Bruce made a speech of thanks .

“My thanks to the Vasa Order for the many years of dedication that it has given in sponsoring this award and for doing so much to link Sweden and North America through friendship and good will,” he said.

SAY 2009 Anne-Charlotte Hanes Harvey finished her tribute speech with a proposal to the audience to sing “Hälsa dem därhemma.” It was a great finale to the banquet, singing a beloved song on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Minnesota Day

There was also a public event to present the Swedish American of the Year, a celebration called Minnesota Day. It took place in Ljuder, east of Växjö. Traditionally it starts with a Swedish American service at the church in Ljuder, followed by lunch, after which the Minnesota Day program is also in the church. A big audience gathered to meet and hear Bruce Karstadt, who made an excellent speech about his Swedish heritage and American identity.

“I will continue to do my best to sustain the good relations that have always marked the ties between Sweden and America,” he said.

Minnesota Day and the SAY celebration in Växjö ended with a dinner for Bruce and his American guests, hosted by Governor Ingrid Burman at the governor’s residence in Växjö.

CATHERINE BRINGSELIUS NILSSON
PDM, CHAIRMAN SAY COMMITTEE



Distriktslogen Södra Sverige Nr 20

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Executive Board Members:

Olle Wickström • Mats Holmberg • Bo Västerstjärna • Bengt Åberg
 Claes Johansson • Hans-Åke Rytterdahl • Sandra Eriksson • Ulf Alderlöf
 Bo Ljungklint • Maureen Bengtsson • Karl-Axel Bengtsson





**God Jul och
Gott Nytt År**

Från
Bishop Hill Lodge No.
683
Bishop Hill, Illinois

Sjölunden Language Camp Awards

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce this year's Sjölunden Language Camp awards.

Bertha Kalm Sjölunden Language Camp Awards were awarded to: Anna Benson, DL #12; Ava Tomky, DL #8; Aubrey Chelich, DL #8; Kristine Pearson, DL #8; Anya Hess, DL #12; Dmitriy Hess, DL #12; Clayton Lekander, DL #8; Katelyn Ogonoski, DL #1

Applications for next year's awards MUST be postmarked February 10, 2019. Applications are available online at www.vasaorder.com.



Grand Master Art Bjorkner with (L-R) Debbie Larsson, Nancy Bjorkner and Inger Hanright at the 58th biennial convention of Pennsylvania District No 9 on September 28-30, 2018. Submitted by Gary Larson

The Grand Lodge 2019 Scholarship and Essay Contest

The Grand Lodge of the Vasa Order of America offers scholarships to member 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, 2018.

Applications are available at the Vasa website until January 15, 2019.

To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2019 to be considered.

1. Completed application with enclosures MUST be postmarked no later than 15 February 2019.
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 passport style 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 2019.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor, dated 2019.
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. Explain the differences in Nordic music written by Sibelius, Kalle Jularbo and ABBA and which best suits you.
4. How would you describe how social programs differ from each other in the Nordic countries?
5. Describe the various economies of the Nordic countries and compare their success.
6. Within the Nordic countries, choose what is a most 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

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!



*Grand Master Art
&
Bjorkner Family*

Moving?

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

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN/BEMUS POINT, NY / Fall is upon us and our activities are now indoors. At the fall meeting, vice chairman Susan W. Sipos talked about Halloween in Sweden. The Swedish people love to dress up and party, and this is one time of the year for that. The Swedes also observe All Saints' Day by putting candles and flowers in cemeteries. Our events have been set with the annual Dopp i Gryta being held in the mid-December. There will be no meetings during the winter months of January and February. We at the Thule Lodge wish everyone a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year in 2019.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS



"Is there Halloween in Sweden?" Thule Lodge Vice Chairman Susan W. Sipos says yes, the custom began in 1900s with people carving turnips and putting candles in them. Pumpkins were introduced later.

Drott No. 168

POTOMAC, MD / A young member, Ashley Mullinax, was one of the Swedish Americans on this year's season of Swedish television's "Allt för Sverige" (The Great Swedish Adventure). Both Ashley and her grandmother Karla Dirst have been members of Drott Lodge for several years. Ashley was not the final competition winner but she says her experience was incredible and a wonderful opportunity to connect with the ancestors she knew little about.

"The show was looking for adventurous Americans with Swedish heritage that were interested in discovering their roots. I decided to apply because visiting Sweden and learning about my ancestry has always been a dream of mine. My dream came true. I was selected to be on the show's 8th season and spent a month in Sweden, traveling all over the country. During my time there, I was able to visit the home of my



This season's cast in the Swedish reality show, Allt för Sverige, includes Ashley Mullinax from Drott Lodge #168 - in the black dress, front row, left.

great-great-grandmother and learn new details about my family history. When I wasn't traveling, filming, and competing, I spent a lot of time in Stockholm, immersed in the culture. I had the most incredible adventure in Sweden, and I have Drott Lodge to thank for this once in a lifetime opportunity and these unforgettable experiences."

The show is very popular in Sweden and airs every Sunday this fall; it can be seen in the United States on Youtube.

SUBMITTED BY LINDA SMITH



Enighet No. 178

DENVER, CO Local Lodge Enighet 178 met for the annual picnic at Grand Lodge Deputy/ Dist. Master Bill and Karin Strook's house. Clockwise from front left: Dist. 11 Secretary Margie Hausburg, Past Grand Lodge Officer/Chairman Roland Nilsson, Randy Ward, Margaretha Magnusson, Rec. Secretary Carolyn Perley, Past District Master 11 Ken Perley, Brian Magnusson, Master of Ceremonies Charles Wood, Cultural Leader Marie-Louise Wood, Inner Guard Raija Nilsson, Cheryl Word and Karin Strook. Submitted by Bill Strook

IN MEMORIAM

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, PO Box 13331, Milwaukee, WI 53213-0331. Email: vasaeditor@gmail.com. The fee is \$10 - max. 40-45 words, and \$25 for 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.

CANADA

RUDY SUND, 89, of Camrose, Alberta, died in October 2018. He was predeceased by his parents Anna and Ottar, brothers Vernor and Roger, granddaughter Tayler Anna Newman, and his second wife Mavis. He will be lovingly remembered by his daughters Gayle (Joe Sullivan) and Janine, sons Murray and Douglas, his first wife Sonja, grandchildren Jesse and Cara, sister Carol Patterson, Mavis's children Cathy, Linda and Dave, as well as many extended family members and friends. Rudy enjoyed travel, golf, swimming and

cards. He was an Honorary Life Member of Local Lodge Skandia No. 549 in Edmonton, having joined on October 3, 1954.

GEORGIA

MARGARETA HAMMARSTRÖM, 92, died June 18, 2018 in Marietta. She was a charter member of Nordic Lodge 708 in Atlanta. She was born in Väderstad, Östergötland, Sweden. In 1956 she accepted a position at Emory Hospital as a technical specialist and retired in 1990. Margareta loved the outdoors and owned a cabin in Blue Ridge. She went skiing in Colorado and even rafted the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. She also sailed as a crewmember with friends in the Caribbean. Margareta was an accomplished bowler and bowled until she was 91. She is survived by two nephews, Anders and Torsten Hammarström, and a niece, Ewa Skeppstedt, in Sweden.

MICHIGAN

FRANCES MARY VICTORIA CONLEY, June 13, 1929 - September 17, 2018. Fran was born in LaPorte, IN. She joined Joe-Harbor Lodge No. 534 in November

1963. She was a very active member. Her daughter Candice joined in January 1983, and grandson Adam plans to join soon; Joe-Harbor will have had three generations of Conleys. Vasa forever!

FRANCES M. CONLEY (nee Johnson), 89, died September 17, 2018, at Masonic Pathways in Alma. She lived in Harbert, MI for 63 years until her move in 2017 to Masonic Pathway where she was lovingly cared for by the staff after having a stroke. She was a member of Joe-Harbor No. 534 for 55 years. Frances will be missed by her son Robert Conley (JoNeil), daughters Candice Conley, Suzanne Kohs (Ken), and Diane Innes (Cameron), seven grandchildren and two great-grandsons. She was preceded in death by her husband Robert Conley, who died in 1997, her parents Alfred and Vendla Johnson, and her brother Kenneth Johnson. Fran will be remembered for her beautiful smile and love of her Swedish heritage. She enjoyed every reason to celebrate her family and will be missed so much.

OHIO

NANCY FAYMON (nee Jacobson) 85, died September 10, 2018. She joined

Nobel-Monitor in Cleveland, Ohio on November 14, 2011.

ELNA FRAVEL (nee Freeburg) 90, died September 28, 2018. She was an active Nobel-Monitor member since November 10, 1985.

OREGON

KRISTI KIENBERGER, age 58, died with her family by her side August 18, 2018 in Astoria. Kristi joined Nobel Lodge No. 184 June 21, 2014. Though with us for a short time, her warmth, willingness and smile are truly missed.

TEXAS

Dr. Vera Littlejohn died October 31, 2018. She was a former president of Carl Gustaf XVI No. 716, and also participated in lodges in California and Illinois. Vera, our Viking history woman, will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Sov i ro kära vän!

Bessemer No. 203

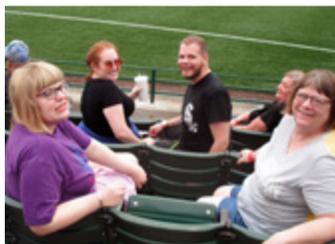


An evening game at the Chicago Windy City Thunderbolts ballgame with the Kilstrom family of Bessemer Lodge No. 203.



At the ball game - the Gershon family.

SUBMITTED BY CHRIS KILSTROM



At the ballgame - the Lipperts family.



Bessemer members enjoyed a summer afternoon on Vice Chairman Susan Nilsson's boat on Lake Michigan: Front (L-R) Ray, Amy and Ruth Lippert, Barb Olson; Back (L-R) Susan Nilsson, Pat Pelzman, Hailey and Layla Gershon, Jim Pelzman

Brahe No. 245

ROCKFORD, IL / We held our annual corn boil in August. Fall plans include a visit to the Nicholas Conservatory in Rockford, a trip to the apple orchard, and a visit to Bishop Hill with members of Linde Lodge.

SUBMITTED BY GARY JOHNSON



Brahe's corn boil in August with (clockwise from bottom left): Dave Tollin, Roy Ylitalo, Don Erickson, Angie Erickson, Gary Johnson, Vivian Anderson and Will Rottman.



Svenska Kids Music Club No. 211

KINGSBURG, CA / Nestled in central California is the small city of Kingsburg, AKA "Little Sweden." It is home to the annual Kingsburg Swedish Festival, in which Norden Lodge #684 members are very involved and visitors enjoy a Swedish pancake breakfast, parade, decorating the Maypole, Swedish dancing and so much more!

Norden member June Hess, who carries a huge selection of Swedish goods at Svensk Butik Gift Shop, works tirelessly to ensure the festival is a success every May. If you would like to experience Sweden culture, plan on traveling to Kingsburg - we would love to see you any time of year. You will not be disappointed! www.kingsburgchamber.com

SUBMITTED BY JAYLENE MORGAN



The Svenska Kids Musik Club dancers.



Carole Sell and Monica Shipley of Norden Lodge #684.

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / Fall meetings kicked off with a traditional kräftskiva at Ekstrand's house, sporting about 50 guests. Members from other lodges came for the event, as did some family members and friends. Ikea's kräftor were unavailable, so that was disappointing, but the baked crayfish cookies became a new favorite. A wonderful trip to Bishop Hill in September was a lot of fun, with culture and fellowship, and then in October we had our most successful Scandinavian Festival in at least 12 years!

Everyone is welcome to Linde's Christmas Brunch on December 2 and Lucia Celebration on December 9. We have a business/installation meeting on January 19 but will take a break in February. Call/email Liza for additional info at 262.366.9152 or lekstrand@wi.rr.com.

Now we are trying to secure a location for the DL 8 Convention that Linde 492 & Brahe 245 will co-host in 2021.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



Linde's trip to Bishop Hill included dinner together.



At Wisconsin's indoor Scandinavian Festival this fall, Linde served the most popular food plates: Swedish meatballs and pancakes.



Crayfish cookies were the memorable favorite at Linde's 2018 kräftskiva.

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / October was outstanding this year - usually one of the driest months, we were blessed with generous amounts of rain and cooler temperatures than anticipated. Our bakers were in full swing for our cookie walk and Jul Bazaar on November 10 at which our lodge also offered authentic Swedish yellow pea soup for an enjoyable lunch. Our Lucia Pageant is on December 8, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

Young people are always welcome to be part of the pageant ... Star Boys and Tomte add to the procession and stage presence. Also featured will be a Christmas tree with shaker treats, glögg, a delicious smörgåsbord and even Jultomten. Guests are welcome. Contact Judy Ahlberg for more information and reservations at Zahlberg2@gmail.com.

Thanks to all members who volunteered to steer our lodge through 2019. To all we wish happy holidays and a healthy 2019.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON

Our special open-faced sandwiches for our anniversary party by Sharyl Bales, Marilyn Johnson and June Ostrom.



Russell and Svea Peterson on Åland, where Svea was born and raised. Åland is an island in the Baltic archipelago which has a Swedish/Finnish history and is now governed independently.



Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / In September, Cultural Leader Kajsa Brimdyr shared information about "Scandinavian Sundays," a series of music and dance workshops. We were also introduced to the book, The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning by Margareta Magnusson, and Dorothy Kean presented "A Systematic Recording of Scandinavian Recollections," after which members were encouraged to use file cards to write about their families, social

events, foods and many other topics. In October, Svea and Russell Peterson shared the experiences of their summer trip to Sweden, and an election of officers was conducted in November. Our annual Luciafest is 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 9 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Harwich, MA. The Lucia program will be followed by traditional music, dancing and refreshments of Swedish coffee bread and cookies.

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN ELLNER KEAN

Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / Our 50th anniversary dinner in September was a great success with great company and good food. The October meeting was exciting with the company and dancing of our new members of the "Svenska Kids Musik Club." Afterward we had a pizza party with salads and desserts, and we discussed our December Lucia Program.

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN

Above right: Norden No. 684 group photo from fall 2018. Sven-Ove Westberg, our District Master of Golden Gate No. 12 from Sveaborg Lodge, attended with his wife Rose-Marie.

Right: Svenska Kids Musik Club



Oak Leaf Lodge No. 685

THOUSAND OAKS, CA / We celebrated Oak Leaf's 50th anniversary with a buffet dinner at the Palm Garden Hotel in September. Seventy Vasa members from Southern California lodges and members' guests attended this event. DL No. 15 DM Bertil Winther gave an encouraging speech about Vasa and the lodge. Charter members Maryann Kenyon, Lorraine Olsson and Aina Dackow were presented with their 50-year membership pins.

SUBMITTED BY KEN KENYON JR.



DL No. 15 DM Bertil Winther giving an encouraging speech about Vasa and Oak Leaf Lodge No. 685 at its 50th anniversary.



Göran Rygert (left) and GM Art Björkner

Nordic No. 708

ATLANTA, GA / The Nordic Lodge celebrated its 44th anniversary with distinguished guests Grand Master Art Björkner and first lady Nancy. This was their first visit to a local lodge – just as it was four years ago for Art's predecessor Tore Kellgren. Professor Jay Lutz spoke about his experience as a delegate to the summer's Grand Lodge convention in Sacramento, California. He shared information about the activities of lodges across the U.S., Canada and Sweden; he told about the group of new delegates, including himself, who were initiated into the Grand Lodge for the first time and about chairing the Membership Committee. The Grand Master added to Jay's comments about getting new members and plans for the future.

SUBMITTED BY GÖRAN RYGERT

Stenland No. 727

CENTRAL NYACK, NY / September's annual Scandinavian Fest in Budd Lake, NJ is the largest Nordic event in the East. The all-day celebration includes Nordic customs and history (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Estonia) with folk dancing, music, lectures, games, and food.

Another meeting in September began with a pizza, then we played bingo which is fun for everyone and



Stenland No. 727, standing (L to R): Ingrid Allison, Ken Olson, Karen Snowberg, Betty Langberg, George Langberg, Beatrice Rasmussen, Robert Rasmussen, Susan Olson, Anna Maria Olsson, Ingrid Anderson. Seated (L to R): Ben Mazer, Martha Torres, Lori Senner.

had a report from Karen Snowberg about the Grand Lodge Convention in California. In October was a potluck dinner, and our November agenda includes making special treats for the children who attend our Lucia. Last year we had 34 children participating.

This year our Lucia program takes place at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Pearl River, NY at 2 p.m. on December 2. Refreshments will be served, \$10/adults, free/under age 16. We invite everyone to join us for this special cultural event.

SUBMITTED BY INGRID ALLISON

Nordikids Children's Club No. 208

MUNSTER, IN / Vasa Children's Club has been busy with rehearsals for our Luciafest on December 2. This year, there are 18 members who range in age from 3 to 21. The Lucia Queen is Ashlyn Sinwelski, who is turning 10 in December. Her mother, Lynnea is the musical director for the group. The group will also be performing in Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry annual Christmas Around the World exhibit on November 24 (Thanksgiving weekend) at 12:25 p.m. The museum hosts trees from over 40 different countries, and thousands of visitors come each year to see them and hear the performances from many countries; Nordikids will be representing Sweden as they sing songs of Lucia and the holiday season.

SUBMITTED BY LYNDA SMITH



The 2018 Nordic Kids group.

Nordik Folk No. 761

MUNSTER, IN / We are busy gearing up to host the 2019 District No. 8 convention in May of 2019. Fundraising is already in full force as lodge members cooked and sold food at the Apples/Apples fest.

November 17 is a glögg making party at the home of Chairman Herb Smith. And the highlight of the season will be our annual Luciafest, held jointly with the Nordikids with a performance by the Children's Club, as well as a Family Style (Swedish inspired) luncheon with craft sales, raffles for adults and children, and dancing around the tree! This event is held at Wicker Park Social Center

in Highland, Indiana (conveniently located one mile south of I-80/94 near the IN/IL state line). Reservations are required: Please RSVP to Lynda Smith 219-741-8875 or LAMSMITH@HOT-MAIL.COM..

SUBMITTED BY LYNDA SMITH

Logen Nobel No. 184
Önskar alla
God Jul och Gott Nytt År

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
to all our Vasa friends from
Local Lodge SVEA No. 296

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
önskar vi er alla
Linde Lodge No. 492
Milwaukee, WI

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
To all our VASA friends from
District Lodge Golden Gate No. 12

*God Jul och
Gott Nytt År*

From Bessemer Lodge No. 203
Oak Lawn, Illinois

To all our Vasa friends and family

James Pelzman, Chairman
Susan Nilsson, Vice Chairman
Christine Kilstrom, Recording Secretary
Pat Pelzman, Asst. Rec. Secretary
Barbara Olson, Financial Secretary
Linda Tylk, Treasurer
Svea Agner, Guard
Britt Nilsson, Past Chairman
Brian Anderson, Trustee
Ruth Lippert, Auditor

Celebrating 97 Years
And wishing all our Vasa Friends
God Jul och Gott Nytt År from
Framåt Lodge No. 405
El Cerrito, California

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
Carl Bender - District Chaplain

**God Jul
och
Gott Nytt År**

Norden Lodge No. 1
CT District No. 1

Where it all began



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS




God Jul och Gott Nytt År



VASA National Archives

Bill Lundquist, President  Bruce Elfvin, Vice President
 Karen Snowberg, Secretary  Keith Hanlon, Treasurer
 Tore Kellgren, Board Member  Art Björkner, Board Member
 Tom Cleveland, Board Member  Jack Hanright, Board Member
 Charlotte Börjesson, Board Member  Sten Hult, Board Member Emeritus
 Kathy Cuff, Archivist

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

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
från Tom & Susan Cleveland
 Members of Viljan No 349 & DL 8

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
Agneta och Bo Västerstjärna
 DS - DL Nr 20
 LL Skåne #570

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Hans & Ingrid Rytterdahl
 MDER DL 20 Södra Sverige
 LL Ronneby # 630

God Jul och Gott Nytt VasaÅr
 tillönskas alla Vasavänner
**Ann-Margreth Ericsson, Björn
 Ericsson, Mikael Arborelius**
 LL Ronneby # 630

Logen Tomelilla # 631
 Önskar alla
 GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 önskar
Berit och Hans Bogren
 LL Höganäs # 634

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 Till alla Vasa Vänner
Lynda & Herb Smith - Munster, IN
 Members of Nordik Folk No. 761

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 önskar
Knut Rosenkvist
 DHM DL 20 & LL Höganäs # 634

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Mats & Heidi Holmberg
 VDM DL 20 & KP

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Claes & Karin Johansson
 VDS DL 20/PS och
 LL Nybyggarna # 698

Merry Christmas & Gott Nytt År
**from Mary Ann Nichelini
 and family**
 Members of Tegner No. 149

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
**Göran och Catherine
 Bringselius Nilsson**
 DHM DL 20, LL Carl von Linné #678

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
Logen Höganäs # 634

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
Logen Filbyter # 714

God jul och Gott Nytt VasaÅr
 tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
DL Norra Sverige #19

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

to all our Vasa friends from

District Lodge Pennsylvania No. 9

Julie Lynn Olson – District Master
 Darlene Nelson – Vice District Master
 Pat Bellingham – District Secretary
 Lisa Jacobson – Assistant District Secretary
 Richard Erickson – District Treasurer
 Bo Carlsson – Member Executive Board
 Arne Dunhem – Member Executive Board
 Marit Knollmueller – District Cultural Leader
 Karen Chilcote – District Historian
 Berit Benacci – District Chaplain

Nobel-Monitor Lodge No. 130 - Cleveland, OH
 Drott Lodge No. 168 - Washington, DC/Maryland
 Svea Lodge No. 296 - Erie, PA



& 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 Ashley LeBlanc • HFS Linda Tylk
 DCL Sue Cleveland • DLYS Michael Pearson Jr.
 EBM's Timothy Ogrentz • Katie Westlund
 DH Marianne Ekstrand
 PDM Nancy Hult

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Maureen och Göte Bengtsson
 SLKL-Sverige / KL och
 LL Småland # 618

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 From Cape Cod
Vinland Lodge 703

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

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
Bo & Heléne Ljungklint
 DKL DL 20
 LL Tomelilla # 631

GOD JUL och GOTT NYTT ÅR
FRIHET LODGE No. 401
 Ballard, Washington

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

GOD JUL
 To all our Vasa friends from
Thule Lodge No. 127
 Jamestown, NY

God Jul from
Tegner Lodge No. 149
 Celebrating 110 years
 in Oakland, Ca

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 to all our Vasa friends from
Phoenix Lodge No. 677

God jul och Gott Nytt VasaÅr
 tillönskas alla Vasavänner
Olle o Marie Wickström
 DM DL 20 / LL Skåne # 570

GOD JUL & GOTT NYTT ÅR
 Alla Underbara VASA Vänner
Liza and Ekstrand Family
 Milwaukee WI
 Members of Linde No. 492

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Linnea Lodge No. 504
 Petaluma, CA

SWEDISH NEWS

Göteborg No. 452

GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN / This is an early notice that Göteborg No. 452 will celebrate its 95th anniversary on September 7, 2019 in Göteborg. Welcome! The first lodge in Sweden was established in Göteborg in September 1924. From the Grand Lodge participated Johannes and Helga Hoving. They travelled over the Atlantic on-board M/S Drottningholm. Visit www.vasaorden.com for more information.

SUBMITTED BY TORSTEN OLSSON



Emigranternas Hus (The House of Emigrants) in Gothenburg. From this building 1,000,000 emigrants began their journey to America 1860-1920.

Skåne No. 570

MALMÖ, SWEDEN / Logemöte i september med efterkapitlet Räk- och Kräftafton, eller vad du vill äta. Det har blivit en uppskattad tradition att göra så på septembarmötet. Stämningen var på topp och vishäften fanns till hands för alla. Sedvanliga dragningar gjordes i gruppens lotteri och medlemslotteriet. På tal om kräftska, så såg jag ett facebookinlägg från en släkting i Minnesota som var på kräftska på American Swedish Institute i Minneapolis. De hade jättetrevligt och sjöng visor på svenska, men visste inte vad de sjöng. Får se om jag får tillfälle att översätta till henne en gång. Detta inlägg kommer i julutgåvan, så Glad Jul till er alla!

SUBMITTED BY BO VÄSTERSTJÄRNA



Tre glada systrar lärde oss hur en snapsvisa ska sjungas. Till vänster: Skånelogens kräftafton.

Lidköping No. 636

LIDKÖPING, SWEDEN / Logen har arrangerat en temakväll om musik och kultur i den amerikanska Södern. Syftet var att värva nya medlemmar. Ett 100-tal personer hälsades välkomna av br. Einar, som också nämnde något om Vasaorden. Därefter presenterade br. Jan-Erik foton och filmer från sin rundresa i den amerikanska Södern. Det första stoppet gjordes i countryns hemstad Nashville. Där besökte man Grand Ole Opry och lyssnade till flera artister. Country Music Hall of Fame innehåller samlingar inom country-musiken. Memphis var nästa stopp. Där ligger Graceland, ett nationellt minnesmärke över Elvis Presley och hans musik. Man gjorde också ett besök vid Sun Records. Det är ett klassiskt skivbolag där många berömda artister som Johnny Cash har spelat in musik. Husbandet spelade därefter några rocklåtar. Br. Jan-Erik avslutade rundresan i New Orleans. I staden pågick French Quarter



Festival. På gator och torg spelades olika slags musik, främst jazz. Flera berömda jazzmusiker kommer från staden, bl.a. Louis Armstrong. Sedan avslutade husbandet sin musikaliska resa med att spela några traditionella jazzlåtar.

Den unika temakvällen har genomförts med bidrag från Distriktslogen, Dina Försäkringar och Vuxenskolan. Storlogen har inte lämnat något bidrag.

SUBMITTED BY JAN-ERIK BJÖRK



Jan-Erik Björk presenterar Musik och Kultur i den Amerikanska Södern. Husbandet "Step by Step" spelade country, rock and roll och jazz.

SWEDISH NEWS

Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Efter ett förhållandevis kort logemöte var det dags för Brödernas efterkapitel 20 oktober. Ett efterkapitel = kräftskiva. Lokalen hade dekorerats med girlanger, lyktor i taket och färgglatt dukade bord.

Bröderna, utklädda till fiskargubbar serverade fantastiska kräftor och välsmakande räkor från en skottkärra. I ljudet av smaskandet från kräftätandet och sång från snapsvisor steg stämningen snabbt. När kräftor och räkor var uppätna var det dags för nästa överraskning. Till kaffet var bjöds det på en variant av Pomp and Circumstance.

Till musiken av "Land of Hope and Glory" kom Bröderna in med flaggor och ballonger. Brödernas entré och musiken lockade alla att stå upp, sjunga, vifta med flaggor och smälla ballonger. Stämningen var som vid Last Night of the Proms i Royal Albert Hall. Bröderna belönades med långa och varma applåder. Därefter var det dags för dans och lottdragning. Även de som inte vann något vid lottdragningen gick hem med ett leende på läpparna efter ett mycket uppskattat Brödernas afton

Nästa möte blir Högtidsmöte 17 november. Med dessa rader vill jag och logen Höganäs önska alla Vasa-vänner GOD JUL och ett GOTT NYTT ÅR.

SUBMITTED BY OLA SANDBERG



Br. Åke Sennström och Br. Berne Jönsson.



Glada kräftätare: Br. Ola Sandberg, Sy. Eva-Marie Carlsson och Br. Leif Larsson.



Fyra nya medlemmar här tillsammans med CM Helge Karlsson, Göran och Elisabet Hedblom, Ordf Kristina Dahlberg-Andersson, Monica Johansson, Barbro Perlerot, CM Bengt Wingborn.

Knallen No. 745

BORÅS, SWEDEN / Verksamheten under året har varit framgångsrik. Vi har behållit vårt medlemsantal runt 100, några har fallit ifrån, andra har kommit till. Årets vårutflykt i maj gick till Hornborgasjön och trakterna däromkring och avslutades hos logemedlemmarna familjen Wingborn på Ågården, där en helstekt gris med tillbehör väntade. Hösten har börjat och vid första logemötet efter sommaren kunde vi hälsa fyra nya medlemmar välkomna till vår krets.

Kontakterna med vår vänloge Diana/Birger Jarl Nr 3 fortsätter och vi utbyter regelbundet information om våra verksamheter. Vi har berättat om Birger Jarl, vem han var, när han levde och vad han utträttade för Sverige, vilket blev mycket uppskattat. En kokbok med recept på gamla svenska maträtter har skickats över. De flesta rätterna kan man laga, problemet är bara att få fram råvaror till björnstek! Under året har vår egen Knallekör åter blivit aktiv och förhöjt stämningen vid våra sammankomster. I dagarna har vi haft vårt oktobermöte, där stadsarkitekt Rickard Mattsson talade om Borås utbyggnad på både längden och höjden. Det finns en viss likhet med Manhattan, även om våra skyskrapor stannar på beskedliga 15-20 våningar. Nu återstår två sammankomster: ThanksGiving med kalkon och presidentens proklamation och så kommer julsammankomsten med Lucia.

SUBMITTED BY HANS HOLMQUIST

STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

Jag hoppas att alla har haft en härlig sommar och höst. Nancy och jag hade ett trevligt första officiellt besök på Nordic #708 i Atlanta. Vi möttes av en makalös gästfrihet.



Medlemmarna är mycket entusiastiska och vi uppskattade att bli inbjudna för vårt besök. Därefter deltog vi i Distriktsmötet Pennsylvania District #9 i Erie. Många medlemmar deltog och det hölls ett mycket framgångsrikt distriktsmöte. Vi deltog också i ett möte med NY District #4's medlemmar som organiserades av Lodge Lindbergh #505. Ovanstående är utöver logemöten och aktiviteter på hemmaplan, i New Jersey.

Vid det här laget har du nog sett vår nya hemsida. Nu måste alla granska informationen om era loger, verifiera att allt är korrekt och tjänstemän och aktiviteter upp-

daterade. Lägg upp er kalender för 2019 på er webbsida. Medlemmar och potentiella medlemmar tittar på informationen här för att planera. En icke uppdaterad kalender är en missad möjlighet! Om du behöver hjälp på webben, fråga. Kom också ihåg att vara **ENTUSIASTISK** och TV, TV, TV (Tala Vasa).

En stor nyhet är att NJ District #6 har erbjudit sig att vara värd för nästa Grand Lodge Konvention. Den kommer att hållas i Philadelphia, PA, Staden om Broderlig Kärlek, som först befolkades av svenskar (stadens färger är fortfarande blått och gult) och Förenata Staternas vagg. Detta kommer att bli en mycket spännande konvention; börja planera ditt deltagande (juli 2022)!

Ansökningsformulär för stipendierna är online. Och förfalldatumet närmar sig ...

I februari kommer Nancy & jag att delta i Distriktsmötet för #15, i april Distriktsmötet för #3, i maj Distriktsmötet för

#6, följt av Distriktsmöten för #19 & 20 i Sverige och District #18 i Alberta, Kanada i juni. En hektisk tid, och vi ser fram emot att representera vår Vasa Orden.

Medan helgerna kommer närmare är det viktigt för oss att bli påmind om den sanna meningen med de firanden vi njuter av. Vi kan bli så överväldigade av kaoset av förberedelser, att vi glömmer hur viktigt det är att bara njuta av de speciella stunder vi spenderar tillsammans med familj och vänner.

Det glädjer mig att önska var och en av er en glad och hälsosam jul och ett gott nytt år framöver. Glöm inte att njuta av de lokala basarena, Tomtama, Luciafiranden och Julgransplundring.

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
ART BJORKNER, GRAND MASTER