



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

SPRING 2019
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*

'Vasa Wedding' in DL No. 8, Lake Michigan



Vasa bliss. Viljan member Kristina Karl wore the Vasa bridal crown at her February wedding to Michael Wicks, the same crown her mother Marguerite Karl wore at her wedding many years ago.

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

DEAR VASA MEMBERS,

Greetings to all in the Vasa Universe. Spring has sprung, flowers are starting to bloom here in Vasa Park New Jersey, and, as the safest sign of all, the rain showers continue.



Nancy and I were able to take a break from the New Jersey winter to attend the DL Pacific Southwest No. 15 Convention in Woodlands outside of Los Angeles in February. We flew from Tampa instead of from the New York the area. That was good planning, because a winter storm developed off

the East Coast the day we were flying! Early April we had a Grand Lodge Executive Board meeting and an Archives Board meeting in Warwick, Rhode Island in conjunction with Rhode Island District No. 3 Convention. It was a delight to renew acquaintances with our many friends. We congratulate the new officers in DL 15 and DL 3 and give thanks to the retiring officers! I ap-

preciate the hard work you do for Vasa.

Next, we will be attending New Jersey District No. 6 Convention in sunny Cape May, New Jersey and then off to District No. 19 and District No. 20 in Sweden. Upon returning to the USA my suitcase manager will be busy because in three days I'll be off to District No. 18 Alberta, Canada!

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Vårhälsningar – spring greetings – to you, all our Vasa members and readers old and new. According to our records, many

lodges have welcomed and initiated new members and officers during the last few months in both Sweden and America. I think it's fair to wish you a collective "welcome" from all your Vasa brothers and sisters.

This issue emphasizes the special community we have in Vasa. It's always a source of pride to share the victories and joys of our Swedish forebears, not least is the great Swedish engineer and inventor who could be said to have single-handedly transformed the maritime industry; read about the long and lasting legacy John Ericsson left in both the land of his childhood as well as his adopted America on page 4.

Learn about the traveling Swedish bridal crown on pages 1 and 11. Did you know the Vasa Order of America has several bridal crowns to lends to its brides around the U.S.? And we

all are invited to Swedish American summer events in Sweden as well as a very special anniversary party in September – if you're making travel plans, be sure to see pages 14 and 16.

Now, with winter finally behind us (I'm from Wisconsin, where I hope such a comment isn't just wishful thinking after two April snow storms), plans are in full swing for enjoying the coming festival season: Midsommar, Swedish celebrations and Scandinavian fests of all kinds will be filling our calendars from now through fall. The dates for most such events are already set and published, so be sure to check your local listings and the Vasa website, and mark you calendars so you don't miss them. This is perfect timing to remind you to snap and send us digital photos as much as possible so we can share your recent events, and send us information for your written submissions about the events you have coming up, so we can advertise and encourage others to join you!

Tack så mycket –

Have a wonderful spring,
Amanda Olson Robison, co-editor

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Norden Lodge member Mary Morton is served tea by Greg Jonson. / p12



The results after a Dala horse workshop with Norden No. 684. / p12



With a cake (or "tårta") like this for fika, how can you go wrong? You can't. / p7



Swedish-American and Vasa related events in Sweden this summer. / p14

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For our next issue:

By August 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

GREETINGS FELLOW VASA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES,

Recently, you, your Districts and your Local Lodges received my heartfelt, time-sensitive request to donate match funding of a grant to help the Archives begin the ambitious project of digitizing records to make them accessible to all members from home computers. I'm proud to report we exceeded our goal! Thank you for your support. The cost of the total project could exceed \$90,000. We may be only 10% into the necessary total funding but with this solid start the process will begin.

Securing grants to help fund special projects is one of my major goals for the Archives now and in the coming years. A library assistant intern will be hired this summer via support of

another grant. This intern will assist Archivist Kathy Cuff by inspecting each book in the 4,000+ collection; the collection will be preserved and organized according to archival standards.

The Archives continues to receive historic records and other donations from lodges that dissolve. When making this difficult final decision to close, I urge you to remember the Vasa National Archives with a financial donation that will memorialize your Local Lodge with a plaque on display at the Archives. You will receive patron recognition status with a donation of \$1,000, benefactor status with \$5,000, or visionary status with \$10,000.

Soon you will receive the Heritage Fundraiser information. It's disappointing that less than 5% of our total

membership donates to the annual fundraisers. Think of the difference members could make for the Archives if all members simply donated five to 10 dollars to each fundraiser. Many of us buy coffee, fast food, a magazine or newspaper each week that costs more than that! I challenge all members and friends of Vasa to look at the advantages of having a "Home for the Vasa Order" at the VNA. We all deal with storage of things we consider valuable in our personal lives and the Archives provides that for the history of the Vasa Order. Without the Archives we would lose what members worked hard to protect since Vasa was instituted in 1896, not to mention a large part of Swedish immigration history.

The Vasa National Archives is a

branch of the Vasa Order of America, and the Grand Lodge provides significant financial support for its daily operation. This financial support is imperative for the sustainability of the Archives, but membership support via donations is essential for programs and projects such as digitizing historic records and library, textile and art preservation.

Thank you again for your support and please consider remembering the Vasa National Archives in your personal estate planning.



IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
BILL LUNDQUIST
PRESIDENT VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Katie Woodenclark from the Fairy Tale exhibit.

News from the Archive

The past few months have been filled with hard work and pleasant surprises. We have submitted several applications for grants that will help us with outreach and preservation projects around the archive. The Vasa Archive staff and Board members wish to thank every lodge, district and member who donated and pledged money for the matching-funds grant. This grant will

match up to \$5,000 and will be applied to digitizing the microfilms. We had expected \$3,000, but the donations now total over \$8,000! This will not be enough to complete the microfilm digitization, but it will get us started. We will continue to work on securing additional grants to complete this project and will use any remaining donations for other matching-funds grants. Please consider donating toward our next matching-funds grant at any time.

Our exhibit on Nordic Fairy Tales opened March 29 and runs through the 2019-2020 tourist seasons. The exhibit offers information on characters found in fairy tales, where fairy tales come from and how fairy tales influence our daily lives. A selection of Nordic fairy tales are available for visitors to read while visiting the archive. A special story and craft time was held during the opening weekend and will be again on occasions throughout the year.

We celebrated spring's return with Valborg and a wiener roast on April 26. The ancient Swedish tradition included a bonfire, hot dogs and yard games for the whole family.

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

Upcoming events at the Archives

• **Midsummer Respite** (June 22, 10–6, during Midsummer) – If you get too hot or dry while exploring Bishop Hill during this summer celebration, the Vasa National Archives invites you to take a break and enjoy fika with us. Fika is a Swedish custom of offering visitors a drink and a snack. To help pass the time while you cool off, we have a make-and-take clay sculpture station for you.

• **Butter Making** (Sept. 28-29, 10–5, during Jordbruksdagarna) – Bishop Hill colonists, like many Swedes, were excellent butter and cheese makers. Stop by our booth in the demonstration area to learn about butter making and make your own butter to take home.



Elf bonfires Iceland from the Nordic Fairy Tale exhibit.

information on Bishop Hill or the Vasa National Archives, like us on Facebook..

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

Engineer, inventor, renaissance man

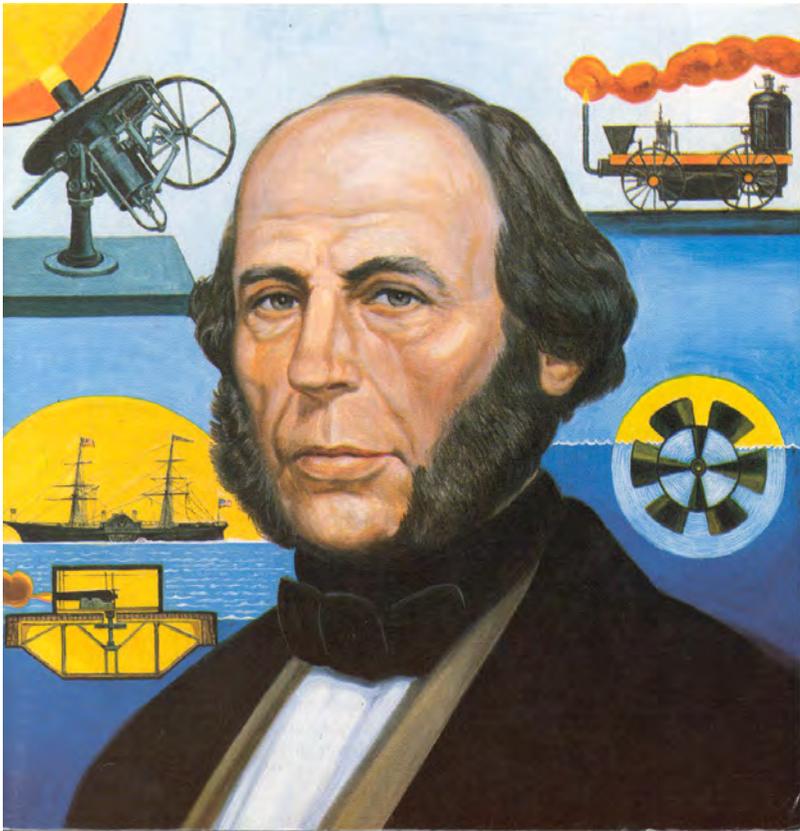


Illustration courtesy of the Kinship Center, Karlstad.

From time to time an inventor comes along who transforms an entire industry. Such a man was Captain John Ericsson. His inventions, notably incorporated in the Civil War battleship USS Monitor, marked a turning point in shipbuilding and the maritime industry. As an engineer and inventor in the mid-1800s, his research and innovations in propeller design, hot air engines and solar energy are relevant to 21st century issues.

John Ericsson is surprisingly unknown in Sweden, but here in America he's noted for being one of the 19th century's most creative engineers and inventors. His inventions, notably incorporated in the Civil War battleship USS Monitor, marked a turning point in shipbuilding and transformed the maritime industry.

The amount of work John Ericsson did in his lifetime is mind boggling, and he remained active until shortly before his death from a kidney illness. The list of his inventions is amazing and his influence on the world and the development of science was considered incalculable during his lifetime.

John Ericsson died in his lower Manhattan Beach Street home on March 8, 1889 at age 85. Several American and foreign dignitaries, various Swedish groups (some in colorful provincial costumes), proceeded in a cortege from Beach Street to the old historic Trinity Church on lower Broadway opposite the western end of Wall Street.

Upon Ericsson's death, President Harrison said, "Great men are the product of great peoples. We should fail in our understanding of Ericsson unless we first understand the Swedish people."

A strong start

He was born in Långbanshyttan in Värmland on July 31, 1803. His father, Olof, was a mining proprietor, his mother, Sophie, the daughter of an iron master. His brother Baron Nils Ericson, was a colonel of engineers and became chief of the Swedish railways.

The influences of early life helped develop his taste for engineering. At age 10 Ericsson constructed a miniature sawmill and pumping machine that attracted the attention of Baltzar von Platen, who built the Göta Kanal, and two years later he made a lock on the canal. At 17 he entered the army and quickly became a lieutenant for his fine military maps, catching the attention of the first Bernadotte, King Karl XIV Johan.

Ericsson constructed a flame engine of 10 horsepower and journeyed to London on leave in 1826 to introduce it. There he resigned his commission in the Swedish army, which was accepted but not until he had been promoted to captain. During the next few years Ericsson produced about 40 machines of various kinds, among them a file-cutting device, a hydrostatic weighing machine and an apparatus for making salt from brine, a pumping engine, a rotary steam engine and a system of artificial draught for steam boilers, which dispensed with huge smokestacks and economized fuel. In 1828 he applied the principle of condensing steam and returning the water to the boiler to the steamship Victory. The next year, in just seven weeks, the ingenious inventor planned and completed the Novelty engine—the lightest, most elegant and fastest locomotive up to that time. It attained the amazing speed of 30 miles an hour. In the same year he also invented a steam fire engine, which became a sensation in London and for which in 1840 he received the great gold medal of the Mechanics' Institute in New York.

All of this was accomplished during John Ericsson's first 25 years.

Scientific sensation

In 1830 Ericsson introduced "linked motion" for the reversing of engines; a modification of this device was used on locomotives until the late 1800s. In 1833 he engineered the caloric engine—the scientific world was astonished, and lectures on the invention were delivered everywhere.

In 1836 he invented and patented the screw propeller, which would revolutionize navigation at sea. Although the usefulness of this inven-

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= 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.

CALIFORNIA

NELLIE HANSON died January 20, 2019 in Eureka, the day after her 92nd birthday. She joined Balder Lodge No. 343 on July 12, 1986, and was also secretary of the local Scandinavian Midsummer Festival. She will be greatly missed.

KENTUCKY

DR. JOAN WALSON, 83, who lived in Florence, died on March 2, 2019. She was predeceased by her husband James and her parents Knute and Irma Carlson, whom she memorialized through the Vasa scholarship program. Extremely proud of her Swedish heritage, Joan was a member of Vasa since she was 16 years old, originally joining Nobel Lodge 130. Her family continues to celebrate its roots through their membership in the Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati, where her eldest granddaughter led the Lucia procession this winter. Joan is lovingly remembered and sorely missed by her sister Ingrid, her sons Matt and Jon, her stepson Jeff, her niece, nephew and grandchildren, as well as many other extended family members and friends.

OHIO

LENNART GOTRICH, 73, died February 5, 2019. Born in Karlshamn, Sweden, he immigrated to USA in 1960. He joined Nobel-Monitor No. 130 in 1983, making him a 35-year member. He served as Chaplain 2006-2010. Dear husband of Marianne, both of whom sang with the Vasa Voices. He was preceded in death by his first wife Ingrid Carlson Gotrich in 1990, also a member of the lodge and Vasa Voices.

Moving?

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

tion was practical, it was refused by the British Admiralty on the grounds that a vessel could not be steered with the motive power applied at the stern. This refusal was indirectly the cause of Ericsson's journey to the U.S.

In 1838 he constructed the iron screw steamer, "Robert E. Stockton," which crossed the Atlantic in 1839 and was later used as a tugboat on the Delaware River. In November of that year, the inventor came to America at the invitation of Commodore Robert F. Stockton, U.S. Navy. The United States Government readily recognized the genius of Ericsson, and under an order from the Navy Department in 1841, he furnished designs for the warship Princeton—the first vessel with propelling machinery below the water line and out of reach of hostile fire. Besides her propeller, the Princeton carried other inventions by Ericsson: a direct acting steam engine, a telescope smokestack, a centrifugal blower, a gun carriage with machinery for taking up the recoil and the self-fastening lock allowing the gun to be fired.

A monumental life

The story of the Monitor and the Merrimack isn't new but that of the building of the former is not so familiar. When Ericsson's plan for this strange craft was submitted to the authorities it was deemed impractical and refused. It was only after the intervention of the railroad executive and shipbuilder C.S. Bushnell of

New Haven, Connecticut and other influential citizens that an order was obtained for the construction of the Monitor. And then the work was pushed forward so quickly that the ship was complete in 100 working days from the laying of the keel plate.

And just in time too, for the Confederate iron-clad Merrimack had destroyed the Cumberland and Congress warships and practically had the rest of the government's wooden fleet at her mercy. Had it not been for the Monitor, the whole course of the war might have changed. But after the victory at Hampton Roads, a fleet of Monitors was quickly built and the Confederate navy was destroyed. On the day of the famous battle, March 9, 1862, the crew included three Swedes: M.T Sundström, Hans Anderson and Charles Peterson.

In spite of being the creator of so many inventions, Ericsson disliked being called an inventor. "Anybody can invent," he allegedly said, "but it takes a man of brains to be an engineer." His later years were devoted to the development of a sun engine, and the use of the sun's radiant heat for the production of motive power.

John Ericsson never returned to his native land. He was proud of being an American but he was also proud of his Swedish heritage and wished to rest in Swedish soil.

This was fulfilled in 1890 when his remains were carried with full military honors on board the Baltimore to the land where he was born. On the casket was placed the American

Continues on next page

John Ericsson Day, commemorating the ingenious Swedish born inventor and engineer is celebrated near Filipstad, the town of his birth every year. The celebration, which coincides with the honoring of the year's Swedish American of the year includes a solemn moment at the mausoleum built to honor the man, who saved the Union. Then later, a reenactment of the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimack at Hampton Roads, this year on August 3, 2019.



Above: The reenactment of the battle at Hampton Roads in Filipstad. The replica of the Monitor to the right makes us understand the depiction of the ship as "a cheese box on a raft" by the media of its time. Top: The magnificent monument that was erected over John Ericsson's burial place, dedicated 1895.

GRAND LODGE NEWS

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

This time of year, May and June, Vasa activities pick up in earnest as there are festivals and parades. Great time to join in and advertise VASA.

The new Grand Lodge website is up and running but still needs work from all Districts and Lodges to become current. We are asking all Districts and Local Lodges to appoint a member to maintain their respective web pages with current officers and an up-dated event calendar. To get started, contact

the Grand Lodge Webmaster Robert (Bob) Anderson and request assistance in setting up a user name, password and a tutorial in managing the web page.

Don't forget the Grand Lodge is on most social media platforms. I enjoy seeing many Lodges putting information and pictures on Facebook.

This year the Grand Lodge provided 17 college scholarships and 10 language camp scholarships to Sjölund. Your generous donations help make

this possible.

At the Executive Board Meeting, the following are some of the interesting topics that were addressed:

The OAB form and matrix has been revised. Both are available from the GL Secretary.

The GL Historian Alice Iverson, 285 23rd St. Astoria, OR 97103 requests material for the 125th Vasa anniversary book. Articles and pictures from 1995-present can be sent.

Convention lapel pins for the 2022 Convention are on sale at \$5 each. All members of GLEB have pins for sale, or contact me.

Remember the Order wants a **VIBRANT, ENTHUSIASIC MEMBERSHIP – GET THE WORD OUT! TV TV TV** (Talk Vasa) with **ENTHUSIASM!**

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
ART BJORKNER, GRAND MASTER

Continued from previous page



flag that flew on the Monitor during its battle with the Merrimack.

The Baltimore arrived in Stockholm under solemn ceremonies arranged in front of Kungsträdgården on Sept. 14, 1890. William W. Thomas, American ambassador to Sweden and Norway delivered the remains to Sweden's Admiral Peyron. He concluded his speech with the following words: "The body of Ericsson we restore to you, but his memory we shall ever remain in sacred keeping; or rather we will share it with you, and with the whole world."

Numerous monuments have been erected to honor John Ericsson. One of the better known monuments in the United States is at the tip of Manhattan in Battery Park where a statue by Jonathan Scott Hartley was unveiled on April 26, 1893; another was erected in his honor in Washington, DC in 1926. Next time you're in Stockholm, visit Berzeli Park at Nybroplan, just across from Dramaten, for a look at the Ericsson Memorial there.

UBM

Sources:
Nordstjernan 1889-1890
The New York Times, 03.09.1889
Harper's Weekly, August, 1890
"Captain John Ericsson," 1988



The John Ericsson monument in Stockholm.

Page one of Nordstjernan of Aug. 21, 1890, above, became a call to every Swede to join in the procession to bid farewell to their countryman John Ericsson two days later. Following his death, the remains of John Ericsson received special honorary treatment by the U.S. Navy, who used the US Baltimore to transport his coffin back to Sweden. A later report on the events of Aug. 23 had the following to say: "This city was the scene yesterday of one of the most remarkable tributes ever paid by a people to the memory of a great man. It was the appointed day for the removal of the remains of Capt. John Ericsson from this country, which he loved so well and for which he did so much, to the land of his birth, where he was held in as high esteem as here. Ceremonies ... taken part in by more than 100,000 persons."

In this issue from the early part of the 1890s, notice the amount of subjects which are covered in small text, which is a common feature of Nordstjernan during the era. As conditions improved back in Sweden, the mass volumes of immigrants had sunk in numbers to less than half, about 20,000 per year, of that from the previous decade. Meanwhile, Swedes had spread across America. However, Nordstjernan's reporting of incidents according to towns and districts in Sweden is an indication that the immigrants retained keen interest and strong ties to their homeland. A few weeks later, Captain Ericsson's life merited a special supplement in Nordstjernan which marked the first time the broadsheet publication had exceeded eight, as it swelled to 10 pages in length. More than a decade later, in 1903, the

centennial celebration of his birthday merited Nordstjernan's largest issue to that date, when the July 30 issue expanded to 24 pages. Ericsson's contributions to the United States during his lifetime gave a much-needed uplift to Swedish pride. The newspaper offered free portraits of this famous Swedish American to new subscribers in a special front page box that ran uninterrupted for three years, until the paper moved to new offices on Park Row in 1893. This was the first time that Nordstjernan has utilized a premium gift to attract subscribers, and in the future, such practical incentive items as Swedish-English dictionaries and Swedish language guides to everyday American law, as well as books covering religious and historical topics, were offered to new and renewing subscribers.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS



Mimi Holtermann, Hannah Johansson and Kathy Holtermann at Fylgia-sponsored cooking class held at Nordic House in Berkeley, CA.



Ted Olsson and Dr. Linda Rugg of the Scandinavian Studies program at UC Berkeley, who came in March to discuss botany and the healing practices that Native Americans taught the Swedes who colonized the New World.

Fylgia No. 119

SAN FRANCISCO, CA / 2019 began with fika and we hosted another in March at the Swedish American Hall. We invite all the Swedish groups that use the hall to join us. In March, we learned how Native Americans helped Swedish

immigrants, and we joined the Young Scandinavians and members of Svea Lodge at the Napa Valley vineyards started by Swedes (Larsons and West Winery), after which we had a Gatukok dinner at Stockhome restaurant. In April we had a Påskris gathering for

Easter, and in May Erdmann Rogge is discussing subduction zones in San Francisco. Of course May also brings the traditional Aquavit Infusion event in preparation for Midsummer at Sveadal.

SUBMITTED BY DIANNE DAHLBERG

Linné No. 153

SOUTH BEND, IN / We had no meetings in January or February due to the weather. In March, Matt Baumgartner discussed the Hanseatic League and we elected officers. Gordon and Marlene Westergren will be our delegates for the district convention, which is in May.

SUBMITTED BY LORI COOPER



Matt Baumgartner, guest speaker at the March meeting, talked about the Hanseatic League.

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN/BEMUS POINT, NY / Our lodge is beginning its 112th year. We continue to preserve our Swedish heritage through events and activities throughout the year, and regular meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Visitors are always welcome. We had an Easter Egg Sexa, and Lodge Historian John Sipos presented a historical book of the lodge's annual events and activities. He has been the lodge historian for 20 years. Susan W. Sipos, vice chairman of the lodge, used her computer talents to create a Swedish cover and title page. God dag to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS



Historian John Sipos, past chairman Ralph Veights, assistant mistress of ceremony Bernice Veights and member Karen Johnson.



Karen Snowberg, Past Grand Lodge Cultural Director for USA and Canada.

Enighet No. 178

DENVER, CO / At the 2018 Grand Lodge Convention, I had the pleasure of meeting Karen Snowberg of D.L. New York No. 4 and Past Grand Lodge Cultural Director for USA and Canada. For four years Karen spent many hours reading, researching and writing materials for the "Book of Cultural Reports." Her goal for this book was to be a ready-to-use cultural presentation for any Local Lodge Cultural Leader to use at monthly meetings. It is now eight months since Karen handed out the books during the convention.

At Enighet of Denver, I'm proud to report that Cultural Leader Sister Marie-Louise Wood chooses a subject to read from the book, and our members all gather around to listen. Eight of our lodge members have emigrated from Sweden, yet this information made a great impact on them and was greatly appreciated. On behalf of all the members of Enighet, TUSEN TACK to Sister Karen Snowberg.

SUBMITTED BY BILL STROOK



Bessemer met for a special lunch meeting in April at Oak Lawn Hilton.

Bessemer No. 203

OAK LAWN, IL / In February we installed both Bessemer and Thor officers at Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church. We were treated to a delicious lunch by Sr. Patricia Pelzman. The March meeting was St. Patrick focused, and we had a visit from our District Master, Lynda Smith. In

April, our members met at the Oak Lawn Hilton for a special lunch and meeting. It was a joy to initiate a new member into Bessemer: Jaiden Gershon, grandson to our Financial Secretary Barbara Olson, became our newest member.

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINE KILSTROM



Jim Pelzman initiates Jaiden Gershon.



March meeting: Sitting (L-R) Jim and Pat Pelzman, DM Lynda Smith and Linda Tylk; standing (L-R) Hailey Gershon, Brian Anderson, Barb Olson and Herb Smith.

Nobel No. 184

PORTLAND, OR / We are very proud of our member Anna Kienberger, who was awarded a Grand Lodge Scholarship.

Anna is finishing her freshman year in the prestigious Honors College at Portland State University where she is studying art history and women's studies. When her family lived abroad, she attended schools in Norway and Germany, where she sang in school choirs, was a member of the National Honor Society, and displayed her art in art shows. We

wish her the best for her continued success.

Nobel celebrates its 108th anniversary May 19. Although our anniversary was in February, we delayed the banquet for milder weather. Please join us on June 8 for the 91st annual Portland Midsummer Festival produced by the League of Swedish Societies, at the Oaks Amusement Park in Portland, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., with the raising of the Midsommar Stång at 2 p.m. Entertainment, food and activities all day long.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF KLEIN



Grand Lodge Scholarship winner Anna Kienberger with her grandmother and Nobel Lodge Chairman Alice Iverson.

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

WWW.VASAORDER.COM



A great lunch with members and friends (L to R): Marianne Ekstrand, Charlotte and David Tollin, Dennis Eksten, Gunnel Stewart, Ingeborg and Stan Steinke, Ina Miller, Jean Berggren, Roy Ylitalo, Will Rottman, Gary and Carol Johnson, Joyce Anderson and Marge Gruel. Second table, Don and Angie Erickson.



Chairman Gary Johnson presented 50-year membership pins to Ingeborg and Stanley Steinke with congratulations.

Svea No. 296

ERIE, PA / We had a change of leadership of our lodge and our new Chairman is Cheryl Brown; she will take over from Lorraine Johnson. We also have new members - welcome Cynthia and Abigel Treiber. Congratulations Cheryl, and thank you Lorraine for your work.

SUBMITTED BY GARY LARSON



Past Chairman Lorraine Johnson welcomes new Chairman Cheryl Brown as new members Cynthia and Abigel Treiber look on.

Brahe No. 245

ROCKFORD, IL / Because of bad weather our January meeting was postponed to March when we met at the Olive Garden for our annual installation of officers. All officers were reinstalled, and District Deputy Marianne Ekstrand made sure it was done by the book. Convention delegates will be Gary and Carol Johnson. Chairman Gary Johnson presented 50-year membership pins to Ingeborg and Stanley Steinke. Marianne brought along Linde Lodge members - her mom Liza Ekstrand and dear friend Marge Gruel.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL JOHNSON



Who wouldn't run 40 miles for this treat at the finish line?

Balder No. 343

FERNDALE, CA / Once again, Balder Lodge's pancake breakfast offers Swedish pancakes, ham, fresh fruit and beverages the morning of Mon-

day, May 27. On that day, people usually fill Ferndale's Main Street at the finish line of a 3-day, 40-plus mile race that takes place over pavement, sand and through bay and river waters. Balder members HansKristian Christensen and Kristina Watson pedal a huge six-wheeled steel "sculpture" and Cultural Leader Chuck Holm makes delightful presentations of Swedish customs, language and proper pronunciation. Members of Balder, together with those from Sons of Norway and the Danish lodges of Ferndale will host the 69th Scandinavian Midsummer Festival at Rohner Park in Fortuna on June 23, starting at noon. Come for a barbecue and potluck of Scandinavian-style dishes, followed by a flag ceremony, accordion music and folk dancing.

Balder's 103rd anniversary dinner is July 20 at the Steelhead Lodge, an hour north of Eureka.

SUBMITTED BY DON CHRISTENSEN

Svea No. 348

SAN JOSE, CA / We have a zesty active hiking club. Here are some stalwart hikers at a recent hike at the San Francisco Bay Area shoreline. We hiked a few miles in the misty morning and encountered beautiful egrets and Canada geese.

SUBMITTED BY JACK KNUTSON



Right: Egret posing for the Svea No. 348 hikers.



Hikers Kirsten Clute, Mona Clements, Ulla Forsler, Mette Leuthold, Jerry Clements and Dale Leuthold before a brunch repast including beer and coffee at the Shoreline American Bistro Café. Jack Knutson AKA "the hiker meister" was holding the camera.



Vasa Bridal Crown

One of the cultural mementos from the early days in Sweden is the bridal wedding crown worn for the marriage ceremony. The Vasa Order of America has several bridal crowns which it proudly lends to its brides.

Many years ago, Dr. William Borgström, a Vasa member in Stockholm Sweden, donated a number of these beautiful crowns to the Vasa Order in memory of Helga Hoving, the founder of the children's clubs. The crowns were placed in 10 districts, and the Grand Lodge has an extra crown which is available for loan to those districts that do not have one. Should a Vasa member wish to borrow a Vasa bridal crown, please contact the Grand Secretary.

The tradition of wearing a wedding crown, not so common anymore in Sweden, dates back to the Catholic times of the Middle Ages. The crown was a symbol of chastity and virginity as part of the traditions surrounding the Virgin Mary.

Viljan No. 349

BATAVIA, IL / Our January meeting was cancelled due to the extreme weather during our "polar vortex." The February meeting was a busy one filled with remembering past members, welcoming new members and the installation of the new officers. Finally Tom Cleveland gave a powerpoint presentation about Scandinavian Park, Inc. (Vasa Park in South Elgin, IL). On February 9, Michael Wicks married Viljan member Kristina Karl, who wore the bridal crown from Vasa's District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8. This was the same crown her mother Marguerite Karl (also a Vasa member) wore when she was married.

SUBMITTED BY KRISTINA WICKS

Frihet No. 401

SEATTLE, WA / Our new chairman, Brenda Bard, has been busy setting up events. Our past chairman, Barrett Monsass, who also did a great job, is now the District Master in DL 13. We celebrated St. Patrick's day with corned beef and the trimmings with a Swedish twist. After all, the Vikings left their mark in Ireland and everyone I know who goes there says the evidence is apparent.

We were invited to Skogsblomman No 378's 100th anniversary celebration.

What a great day in their charming Swedish Hall in the foothills of the Cascades. Valuable history, folk dancing and conviviality was shared by all. Member Vanessa Jackson is graduating from Penn State on May 3 with thanks to Frihet, District and Grand Lodge scholarships for helping make it possible.

Midsommar will soon be here, and Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish is a focal point for all the participating lodges.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN RISTON

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / Our January meeting was canceled due to weather, so we installed new officers in March instead, including new Cultural Leader Nancy Fletcher. Member Birgit Moxon and her son Andy discussed their recent trip to Sweden and Norway. Their lodging in Stockholm was at Långholmen (previously a prison and now a hostel), and they visited Öland then Svalbard in the Arctic north of Norway. Everyone enjoyed the journey, and we had a soup luncheon. We also celebrated member Marge Jothen who turned 100 years old that week! In April we celebrated

Easter traditions with special Swedish Easter dishes.

We have a DL convention in May and will meet for lunch on June 2 at Ikea Oak Creek. June 23 is Midsommar at Heidelberg Park in Milwaukee - please join us!

The Ekstrand's annual kräftskiva is on August 24, and we are planning Linde's annual roadtrip on Sept. 8-9 to Andersonville, Geneva and South Elgin, Illinois. Mark your calendars for Scandinavian Festival on Oct. 5 in New Berlin, WI: headliner entertainment is SmörgåsBandet!

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



2019 officers of Linde No. 492 installed by DD David Tollin (L to R): Liza Ekstrand, David Tollin, Marge Gruel, Marianne Ekstrand, Jan Kamholtz and Nancy Fletcher.



Svalbard—3,581 miles from Milwaukee.



Celebrating Marge Jothen's 100 birthday - what a lady, she is very involved and usually drives herself to lodge meetings. Ja må du leva i tvåhundra år!



SmörgåsBandet is the headliner entertainment at 2019 Scandinavian Festival in New Berlin, WI on October 5 - Tjo Ho!

Linnéa No. 504



New members Mike Bowman and Diane Savory were initiated in February 2019.

PETALUMA, CA / Välkommen to our two newest lodge members, Mike Bowman and Diane Savory, initiated at our February Pea Soup & Pancake meeting. Diane is a retired

graphic designer originally from Seattle and lives in Santa Rosa. She learned about Vasa by attending our Lucia Festivals. Mike is a longtime friend of Linnéa Lodge No. 504 and Vasa, he attends meetings with his wife Sandra and is a dedicated event volunteer. His mother-in-law, Ruth Duffy, is a lifetime member of Vasa. Our next gathering will be a Pizza Social on May 11, and then on June 22 is Midsommar - with dancing around the Maypole, Swedish costumes, lots of delicious food to go around and fellowship with old and new friends!

SUBMITTED BY MARY WAHLBERG



Our February meeting was about the history of Swedish (Vasaloppet) and Norwegian (Birkebeiner) ski races. Information on the American Birkebeiner along with snowshoeing and skiing history was also shared as many areas of Arizona received record snowfalls this year.

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / Spring is moving right along, and summer isn't far behind. In March we heard about the "Prairie Utopia" of Bishop Hill, Illinois by John E. Norton, and in April we celebrated Phoenix Lodge's 55th anniversary with a Swedish language program, music and dancing. Our final meeting before our summer hiatus is on May 18 with the theme "Finland 100 years independent"

by the Finns & Friends Group. Our afternoon meetings are always preceded by a tasty lunch, and even though we have no meetings during the summer months, our social luncheons at various restaurants continue. The information can be found on Facebook and our website www.vasaorder.net/?lodge=677. We will also publish our calendar in our September issue of Bladet.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON



Ann Heinstdt accepted her son Lars Heinstdt's GL Scholarship Certificate from Grand Lodge Deputy Bertil (Bert) Winther.

Golden Valley No. 616

VAN NUYS, CA / At our April business meeting and dinner we had the pleasure of presenting one of four GL Scholarship Certificates. Lars Heinstdt is attending college in another state and wasn't able to accept the certificate in person, so his mother Ann Heinstdt proudly accepted it. Whenever possible Lars volunteers

his help in the lodge and has done wonders for our Youth Committee. His parents, Ann and Richard, are the driving forces behind Viking Village and our Vasa Park Association.

SUBMITTED BY BERTIL (BERT) WINTHER

Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / We shared our recollections of Scandinavian traditions, customs and celebrations in April. Our annual Midsummerfest is June 15 - everyone should bring their own picnic lunches and a dessert to share. Beverages and watermelon will be provided. MA District No. 2 will participate in the Midsummerfest at SAC Park in Shrewsbury on June 22, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. On July 10, we will observe Vinland's 45th anniversary with a dinner at the Riverway Lobster House in South Yarmouth. Everyone is welcome!

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN ELLNER KEAN

Traditional Midsummer pole at Vinland's celebration, this year on June 15.



Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / We met at Dennis and Dee Donnelly's home for a "Dala Horse Workshop." Dennis cut out and prepared 29 horses for us to paint, and he and Dee served a pizza lunch with salads and dessert. The District Lodge had commissioned the Dala horses to be table decorations at the convention in April.

Mats Hellgren, a Swedish chef, spoke at our March meeting. Mats has over 20 seasons of experience as head chef at Framnäs Vacation Resort in Gränna, Sweden, and his local restaurant is FarFars Swedish Dining in the Colony Covenant Church on Rose Avenue in Kingsburg. Many Norden Lodge members have raved about his outstanding food and how much they enjoyed the experience.

Every April at our Vasa meeting, we enjoy open face sandwiches, and we are entertained by our Svenska Kids Musik Club. It is always fun to watch how enthusiastically they perform.

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN



The Vasa group painting Dala horses—as it looks, a definite future competition for the original Nunsdäs, Dalarna crafts people.

Left: Chef Mats Hellgren's restaurant, FarFars Swedish Dining, is located in the Colony Covenant Church of Kingsburg.



Oak Leaf No. 685

THOUSAND OAKS, CA / Twenty-five members participated in the 44th Scandinavian Festival with a food booth in April at California Lutheran University. We served Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, red cabbage and lingonberries. This is an annual fundraiser for our lodge.

SUBMITTED BY KEN KENYON JR.

Customers lined-up for the Oak Leaf Lodge's Swedish food booth at the Scandinavian Festival in Thousand Oaks, CA, where Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, red cabbage and lingonberries were offered along with herring, hard-boiled eggs, cheese, limpa and knäckebröd.



Evert Taube

Stenland No. 727

CENTRAL NYACK, NY / In March, Co-Grand Lodge Cultural Leader and District Master of NY, Jeanne Eriksson Widman Andersen and Vice District Master NY, Wayne Soderlund presented a cultural evening for Stenland Lodge about the life and music of Evert Taube, Sweden's famous troubadour (who would have been 129 on March 12). It was an outstanding presentation with an evening of music, including accordion music by Smörgåsbandet. We would love to have them back! In April we celebrated Stenland's 39th anniversary at The Old '76 House in Tappan, NY, an historical restaurant from the Revolutionary War era.

SUBMITTED BY INGRID ALLISON



Stenland members enjoying the Taube event.

Vasa questions?

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



Two new members: Ava Tomky & Krissy Pearson. You can tell their Swedish pride by their big smiles!



Nordik Folk's newly elected officers - all females (front row): Annelise Nelson, Beth Raddatz, Elizabeth Allen, Linnea Ogrentz and Shelly Westlund (back row): Jean Ogrentz, Chairman Shana Chelich, Janice Tomky and Tonia Tomky.

Top, right: Members working on mailings for May's DL Convention. (Left side of table, front to back): Carolyn Kuzminski, Karin Schaffer and Steve Westlund (Right side of table, front to back): Janice Tomky, Lisa Pearson, Jean Ogrentz, Shelly Westlund, Kristen Lindemulder, John Twohy.

Nordik Folk No. 761

MUNSTER, IN / Notice anything different about our new officers? THEY ARE ALL FEMALES! We are riding the tide of the future here. Nobody even realized it until we had everyone gathered for a photo at our installation and one of the officers started grinning as she pointed at the group and asked if we noticed anything "unusual." Nordik Folk Lodge members showed up another Monday - not even a meeting night - to help

compile and organize the mailing for the District Convention raffle. There were letters to fold, envelopes to stuff, and address labels and stamps to affix, but many hands made light work. Our two newest members, Ava and Krissy, have been members of Nordikids for many years and since they turned 14, they have joined Nordik Folk as official members.

SUBMITTED BY LYNDA ANN SMITH

YOUTH NEWS

Vasa Blad No. 119

CONCORD, CA / The children's club of Sveaborg No. 449 performed Swedish folkdances at a senior living home in Concord on March 10. The performance was well attended and appreciated by the audience. They were accompanied on the violin by Sveaborg member Sven Chilton and pianist Sabrina Lewis, under the leadership of Rosemary Fassl and dance leader Rachel Fassl. Vasa Blad in Concord is the only active children's club in San Francisco Bay Area and includes children from as far away as San Jose. For information on Vasa Blad, contact Rosemary Fassl rfassl@att.net

SUBMITTED BY SVEN-OVE WESTERBERG

Vasa Blad dance performance.



SWEDISH NEWS

Skåne No. 570

MALMÖ, SWEDEN / Vårterminen avslutades med ett föredrag av före detta fängelse-direktören Leif Carselid. Han berättade fängslande om de berömda fångar, som han lärde känna genom sitt yrke. Logens programkommitté har träffats och vi kom fram till många intressanta efterkapitel men allt är inte klart vid denna pressläggningen. Den 13 september 2019 ska vi ha en "kräftskiva" och Carl-Adam Landström kommer för att underhålla oss. Men denna gången utan medhavd egen dryck och mat. Istället ska vi använda Romelebygdens meny och bar. Den 12 oktober 2019 planerar vi att lyssna på ett föredrag om "Gryningspyromanen." Vi hälsar gäster varmt välkomna till våra sammankomster. Besök vår hemsida <https://sites.google.com/site/vasaorden1570> för mer information. Malmö är en trevlig stad att besöka och så finns ju Logen Skåne där. Strax norr om Malmö ligger Alnarp lantbruksuniversitet med slott och en stor fin park. Unna er gärna en stund i Alnarp också..

SUBMITTED BY BO VÄSTERSTJÄRNA



Gabriel 7 år framför dammen i Alnarp utanför Malmö. Här är det karneval den 1 maj varje år.



Olle Wickström och Lena Friberg gratuleras med blommor av ordförande Marie Wickström.

Göteborg No. 452

GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN / Welcome to Sweden! In 2019 the Vasa Lodge Göteborg No. 452 will celebrate its 95th anniversary. In September 1924 the first lodge in Sweden was established here. From the Grand Lodge participated Johannes and Helga Hoving. They traveled over the Atlantic Ocean on the M/S Drottningholm. This is an early notice that we will celebrate this important event on September 7, 2019 in Göteborg (Gothenburg). Welcome! Visit our webpage at 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 long journey to America 1860-1920.



Före detta fängelsedirektören Leif Carselid berättade med inlevelse.

NEW MEMBERS IN SWEDEN

On behalf of the Grand Lodge and members of the Vasa Order of America, I am pleased to welcome you to membership in these local Vasa lodges. If you are new to the Vasa Order, we bid you welcome. If you are transferring or are a dual member, your new lodge bids you welcome. We hope you will enjoy your membership and will participate in all of the activities planned for you. ~ Ed Netzel, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman, ednetzel@att.net

LL Stockholm Nr 589

Carl-Uno Manros

LL Gotland Nr 624

Stina Jörnhammar

Lars-Gunnar Werkelin

Ragnar Öberg

LL Skövde Nr 626

Sören Andrén

Britt-Marie Magnusson Brinck

Inga-Lill Mikkelsen

LL Karlstad Nr 632

Göran Franzén

Gunhild Hjalmarsson

Eva Larhult

Maud Mithander

LL Eskilstuna Nr 633

Elsa Arvidsson

Gunn Malmgren

LL Lidköping Nr 636

Eleonor Larsegård

Stig Larsegård

Birgitta Lundell

Iréne Weiner

LL Uddevalla Nr 638

Lena Boustedt

Britt Bäckman Hamby

Dennis Bäckman

Britt-Marie Dahle

Karl-Johan Ferm

Annika Gustavsson

Lena Anderzon-Holm

Peter Holm

Bjarne Svensson

LL Härnösand Nr 673

Alvar Bergquist

Lisbeth Bergquist

LL Kongahälla Nr 702

Marianne Olsson

LL Filbyter Nr 714

Laila Hammarlund

Thomas Hammarlund

Marianne Nilsson

LL Knallen Nr 745

Dick Andreasson

Elisabet Hedblom

Göran Hedblom

Monica Johansson

Siv Minell

Christina Nordmark

Barbro Perleroth

Bernt-Åke Sandberg

LL Bråviken Nr 751

Aulikki Lagerwall

Christian Lagerwall

Anita Pettersson

Leif Pettersson

Christian No. 617

KRISTIANSTAD, SWEDEN / I vår loge firar vi alltid sista logemötet för året i november. Då inbjuder vi våra syskon till ett logemöte med JULTEMA, en liten försmak inför den kommande stora helg JULEN. Vi startar alltid förberedelserna dagen före logemötet med att pynta upp festsalen så högtidligt som möjligt. Kvällens meny började med tre olika sill sorter, kokt ägg och hembakat bröd, öl, vatten och snaps. Därefter sattes det fram både ärtsoppa och kräftsoppa som alternativ. Båda sopporna äts med god aptit. Desserten bestod av pannkakor, jordgubbssylt o vispad grädd. Sist men inte minst serverades kaffe och kaka. Till denna kväll hade bröderna bjudit in en Revyprimadonna, som underhöll oss alla med härliga kupletter till dragspels ackompanjemang. Det inbjöds också till allsång, vilka alla deltog i med hjärtans lust. En fantastiskt trivsamt kväll i god Vasa anda.

SUBMITTED BY GUNNEL OLSSON



Ovan till vänster: Här är det Sy Gudrun, Sy Eva N, Sy Eva B, Sy Ursula och Sy Ann som börjat förberedelserna.

Ovan: Vårt DD par Sy Ann o Br Jan-Anders Ingvarsson från logen Tomelilla, våra alltid så trogna gäster.

Till vänster: Vårt söta och duktiga Luciatåg med flickor från Åhus förgyllde kvällen för oss.

Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Årets första Logemöte omfattade både årsmötesförhandlingar och installation av tjänstemän. Vid detta Högtidsmöte hölls även parentation över Logens hedersmedlem Br Ove Thornblad. Efter att årsmötesförhandlingar avslutats, installerades tjänstemännen för 2019 av DD Br Rolf Hansson med stab. Utmärkelser: Sy Anita Bengtsson avtackades för sin tid som Kaplan. Sy Inger Bengtsson och Br Calle Nilsson tilldelades Logens förtjänsttecken. Sy Inger fick också PC-märket efter sitt första år som ordförande. Efter ett traditionellt efterkapitel vid högtidsmötet, med god

mat, lotteri och dans gick vi nöjda hem i vinternatten. Systrarnas afton firades i mars. Temat var Examen i Vasaby skola. Skolfröken kom in och ringde in "skolbarnen," som högljudna tågade in i klassrummet. När det blev ordning i klassen kunde läxförhöret börja. Vissa av frågorna så svåra för "skolbarnen," fick ta till en livlina d.v.s. publiken fick hjälpa till. Efter lite sång och bus önskade Fröken "skolbarnen" ett skönt sommarlov. Kvällen avslutades med dans och alla gick hem med ett leende på läpparna och ser fram mot nästa Vasa-möte, Kulturmötet den 13 april. Till Kulturmötet är polisens informatör Eva-Gun Westford inbjuden.

SUBMITTED BY OLA SANDBERG



De duktiga men busiga "skolbarnen" och skolfröken - Fr.v.: Gun-Britt Hassleryd, Evy Lindstrand, Christina Magneklint, Ulla Johansson, Inger Bengtsson, Märta Thornblad, Berit Bogren.



De installerade tjänstemännen för år 2019 - Stående fr.v: Yngve Hult, Ola Sandberg, Mai Sandberg, Kerstin Nilsson, Sixten Bengtsson, Agneta Hult. Sittande fr. v: Ingrid Berg, Calle Nilsson, Inger Bengtsson, Karl-Axel Bengtsson, Anna-Brita Martinsson.

Lidköping No. 636

LIDKÖPING, SWEDEN / Uppvaktade logens Chartermedlem Inga Johansson som fyllde 100 år. Den 5:e februari besökte SLD DL 19 Einar Savolainen Grön och logen Lidköpings ordförande Östen Larsson och BPS Birgitta Bylander Sy Inga. Inga uppvaktas med en vacker blombukett och telegram från Logen Lidköping Nr 636. Från hovet har det kommit telegram med gratulationer från HMK Carl XIV Gustav och Drottning Silvia. Från Storlogen har Inga motagit telegram från Stormästare Art Björkner. Inga var med då logen Lidköping Nr 636 bildades den 17 november 1956. Fadderlogen var Skövde Nr 626. Inga kan berätta att Lidköpingslogen och deras medlemmar var mycket aktiva. Damerna tillverkade dukar och regalier. Standar kom till Logen från USA. Kvällarna avslutades nästan alltid med dans.



Inga Johansson 100 år - Grattis!

Sy Inga kan inte längre besöka logen men uppskattar besöken vid jul och påsk då Br. Einar kommer med en blomma och berättar lite om vad som händer i logen. Inga har också besök av släkt och vänner. Alla bjuds på mat, kaffe, goda kakor och tårta. En trevlig eftermiddag som också ger tillfälle att informera om Vasa Orden då besökarna ser telegram och ställer frågor. Vasa Orden önskar Sy Inga ett fortsatt friskt och gott liv.

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE GRÖN

SWEDISH-AMERICAN EVENTS IN SWEDEN

Sverige-Amerikadagen in Kalmar

Sunday, June 9

2 p.m. in Kalmar Castle

Around 4.30 p.m. the program will continue in the Krusenstierska Garden



American Festival in Kinda and Ydre Friday, July 19

Festival opening in Kisa, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Vråken and Kisa hembygdsgård. 3-6 p.m. Andrew Peterson Museum in Asby open

Saturday, July 20

9.30 a.m.-3 p.m. Peter Cassel day, opening of the Kisa Emigration Museum
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Andrew Peterson museum in Asby open

Sunday, July 21 Garden party in Asby

10 a.m.-4 p.m. School & Andrew Peterson museum open
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Kisa Emigrant museum open
1-4 p.m. Cruise with M/S Kind on Lake Åsunden,
4 p.m. Gospel choir Delight sings in Asby church

Monday, July 22

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Kisa Emigrant museum open
10 a.m.-4 p.m. M/S Kind, Rimforsa-Linköping guided tour
2-6 p.m. Genealogy at Rimforsa library
3-5 p.m. Andrew Peterson museum in Asby open

Tuesday, July 23

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Kisa Emigrant museum open
3-5 p.m. Andrew Peterson museum in Asby open
4 p.m. Genealogy lecture by Ted Rosvall at Ydre library. SEK 50
7 p.m. Sing-along at Kisa Local Heritage museum

Wednesday, July 24

10 a.m.-8 pm Kisa Emigrant museum open
10 a.m.-1.30 pm Boxholm II steamship tour, Torpön
2 p.m. Talk show with Zacheriah & Krisitin Kramers "Our attempt to live a good life," Rydsnäs
3-5 p.m. Andrew Peterson museum in Asby open
4-7 p.m. Waffle café and guided tours at Kisa Local Heritage museum
6 p.m. "Kristina from Duvemåla" Musical theatre play at Tidarsrum Local Heritage museum
6-9 p.m. Cruise with Boxholm II, storyteller Johan Birath
6.30 p.m. Peter Cassel at Kisa Emigrant museum. Role play
7-8.30 p.m. The Emigration to North America, movie at Valö

Thursday, July 25

10 a.m.-6 pm Kisa Emigrant museum open
10.30 a.m.-1.30 pm Boxholm II, 2-hour tour Hätte
2 p.m. Christian Julisson: "Origins of the Cassel family – puzzle solved with the help of DNA?" Lecture at Kisa library
3-5 p.m. Andrew Peterson museum in Asby open
3-6.30 p.m. Genealogy at Ydre library
4-6 p.m. Boxholm II Guided nature tour, Malexander
7 p.m. Kulturcentrum in Österbymo Admission 50 SEK
Talk show (30 minutes) about emigration
Musical slide show from "The Emigrants to Last Letter Home"

Friday, July 26

10 a.m.-6 pm Kisa Emigrant museum open
3-5 p.m. Andrew Peterson museum in Asby open
7-9.30 p.m. Rockabilly festival at Valö
When the sun sets: Outdoor cinema, Åsundabadet, Rimforsa
Hembygdsgäst i Barkeryds Hembygdsgård
Barkeryd (1 km from Barkeryds Church)
Sunday August 4 at 2 p.m.
"Texas Lucia" 2018 from The Swedish Club of Houston

STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASASYSKON,
Hälsningar till alla i Vasavärlden. Våren har kommit, blomorna blommar här i Vasa Park New Jersey och regnskurarna fortsätter.



Nancy och jag tog ett uppehåll från vintern i New Jersey för att delta i distriktsmöte för DL Pacific Southwest No. 15 i Woodlands utanför Los Angeles i februari. Vi flög från Tampa istället för New York området. Det visade sig vara bra planerat, eftersom en vinterstorm utvecklades utanför östkusten den dag vi flög! Förra veckan hade vi ett Grand Lodge Executive Board möte och ett styrelsemöte för vårt arkiv i Warwick, Rhode Island i samband med distriktsmöte för Rhode

Island Distrikt 3. Det var en glädje att åter igen träffa våra många vänner på mötena. Vi gratulerar de nya tjänstemännen i DL 15 och DL 3 och tackar de utgående. Jag uppskattar det hårda arbete ni gör för Vasa.

Härnäst kommer vi att delta i distriktsmötet för New Jersey Distrikt 6 i soliga Cape May New Jersey och sedan iväg till Distrikt 19 och 20 i Sverige. När jag återvänder till USA kommer min garderobschef att vara fullt sysselsatt eftersom det efter bara tre dagar bär iväg till Distrikt No. 18 i Alberta, Kanada!

Vid denna tid på året, maj och juni, börjar Vasa aktiviteter på allvar att öka; eftersom det blir många festivaler och parader. Bra tillfällen att delta och presentera VASA.

Den nya webbplatsen för Storlogen

är igång men behöver fortfarande insatser från alla distrikt och loger för att bli aktuell. Vi ber alla distrikt och lokala loger att utse en medlem för att till att börja med uppdatera sina respektive webbsidor med tjänstemän och en aktuell kalender. För att komma igång, kontakta Grand Lodge Webmaster Robert (Bob) Anderson och be om hjälp med att skapa ett användarnamn, lösenord och en handledning i hanteringen av webbsidan.

Glöm inte att Grand Lodge ligger på alla Sociala Media-plattformar. Jag gillar att se många loger publicera information och bilder på Facebook.

I år gav Grand Lodge 17 stipendier och 10 stipendier till Sjölund. Dina generösa donationer hjälper till att göra det möjligt.

Några av de intressanta ämnen som

togs upp på styrelsemötet:

1. OAB-formuläret och matrisen har reviderats. Båda är tillgängliga från GL-sekreteraren.

2. GL historiker Alice Iverson, 285 23rd St, Astoria, OR 97103 söker material till boken om Vasa inför 125-årsjubileet. Artiklar och bilder från 1995 till aktuell tid kan skickas in.

3. Storlogemötets knappnål för 2022-mötet säljs för 5 dollar per styck. Alla medlemmar i GLEB har dessa nålar till salu eller kontakta mig.

Kom ihåg att vår Order vill se ett **VITALT och ENTUSIASISKT MEDLEMSKAP, SPRID VÅRT NAMN! TV-TV** (Talk Vasa) – eller **PV-PV** (Prata Vasa) med **ENTUSIASM!**

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
ART BKORKNER, GRAND MASTER