



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

SUMMER 2019
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



Vasa friends gathered by Lake Vänern after a luncheon celebrating Eric Nelson, CEO of the Nordic National Museum in Seattle and Swedish American of the Year, 2019.

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



DEAR VASA MEMBERS,

Now that summer has come and gone, we have to get back to our lodges and start planning for the next year of work, fun and camaraderie. Enjoy your membership with ENTHUSIASM. Let us all plan on setting goals for the new year in events, activities and membership enrollments.

Make it fun!

Nancy and I have been busy continuing to visit our Vasa districts. What a wonderful time we had in Sweden with Districts 19 and 20 members followed by District Alberta

Canada. We have since been enjoying "down time" until September when our travel commences with District 13 Pacific Northwest, followed by District 2 Massachusetts, then District 1 Connecticut followed by District 4 New York in November. That concludes our 2019 District Conventions.

It is wonderful seeing all the lodge events now being posted on Facebook! Keep it up but do not forget to list your "future" events. The new website is up awaiting your lodge input of officers and events.

If your lodge has a Sister Lodge and

you have lost communication, please inform your Grand Lodge Deputy who will notify me for correction. Sweden wants to hear from you!

Be sure to purchase the Grand Lodge Viking Pin to release the Viking in you! The pins are available from your Grand Lodge Deputy, a member of the Grand Lodge Executive Board or me. They make great little gifts!

In addition to the normal Vasa Star, online has a special edition that contains the financial statements of
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National Archive News

How grants, volunteers and Swedish Americans keep Swedish and Nordic traditions alive at the Vasa National Archives / p3

Grand Lodge News

Presenting a well deserved award for nurturing the past, present and future of the Vasa Order of America / p4

Scholarship winners

The Grand Lodge announces the winners of this year's awards with information on how to apply for next year / p5

Sweden America Day

The Swedish American of the Year is celebrated on Sweden America Day in Karlstad / p16

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Many of you are catching up after summer vacations and settling in for the fall, a very busy time in Swedish America! Since

I'm virtually just off the plane from a trip that may have been similar to one you took—or hope to take—I thought I'd share it with my Vasa brothers and sisters.

Even 40 years after I left Sweden, I love to visit my family and friends. This visit was unique, though, because I brought my friend Pam, who had never been anywhere in Scandinavia—she was delighted and impressed to no end. And it really made me look at everything from a totally different view. So much we always take for granted. I wanted to share everything about Sweden with her and spent a lot of time with my youngest sister and her family in Simrishamn and Ystad, both towns with so much culture and history ... the cobblestone streets with houses whose doorsteps you almost step on when walking by, the festivals we encountered and the fabulous beaches along the southern coast.

We also drove via Karlshamn and Mönsterås (where we stayed the night at a castle) en route to Stockholm. We spent three days in Gamla Stan and Djurgården and visited everything a tourist must see. The waterways and islands, the Royal Palace with the changing of the guards, the Nobel-, Fotografiska-, Vasa-, ABBA, Spirit-, Nordiska-, and Skansen museums. The wonderful squares and pedestrian streets, not to mention restaurants and places for fika. The sightseeing tours on bus, foot and by boat taught us both a lot.

Then we headed west to Strömstad—from where we could quickly get to Norway long enough to set foot there, and then to Göteborg, and its special attractions like Feskekörka and the Botanical Garden. We finished our road trip with a fun day in Copenhagen, a visit in Mölle and then Malmö with Turning Torso before going back to Simrishamn. There we explored more of Österlen, like Kivik, Åhus and Absolut Distillery, and the wine tasting. It was lovely to show off Sweden and learn so much right along with Pam. I highly recommended a similar itinerary, no matter how long it's been since you were there!

Liza Ekstrand, co-editor

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



DM Lynda Smith receives a check from Bessmer/Solstrålen's Susan Nillson with Ingrid Lesko and Linda Tylk. /p9



Joe Harbor 90th Anniversary cake. /p13



Karen Heinzl turns over the last two objects from Nobel Lodge #288, Moline, to Kathy Cuff to be stored at the Vasa Archives. /p12



Glenn Carlstrand and kräftor at the Svea #253 Kräftska. /p11

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For our next issue:

By November 1

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 FELLOW VASA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF VASA,

Please read Archivist Kathy Cuff's article to learn of the latest progress at the Archives in Bishop Hill. She updates you on the accomplishments of our summer intern related to the library upgrade. Kathy and the staff will work to complete the project in the coming months.

The Illinois State Historic Records Advisory Board grant and your generous donations made it possible to begin the very expensive project of converting microfilmed genealogy information into digital format.

Members have requested digital access to Vasa National Archive material for years and we now have a great start to making that happen. Less than a tenth of the cost of this project was possible with the funding we have. Kathy will work diligently securing all possible grants that can be used to complete this and other programs, and I will continue to ask for member support. The Grand Lodge has budgeted operational support for the Archives which includes some financial assistance for projects and programs but not the total amount needed to accomplish what members have requested.

Bertil Johnson of Calgary, Canada, Branting Lodge No. 417 recently made a very large donation to the VNA Preservation Fund on behalf of his late wife Hilda and his family. Bertil's parents emigrated from Sweden to Canada in 1927 and joined Branting Lodge No. 417 in 1930. Bertil's gift is a big step toward helping the Archives reach its preservation goal.

District Lodge Golden Gate No. 12, District Lodge Alberta No. 18 and Local Lodge Lindgren No. 754 also recently made generous donations.

Thank you again for all the member support of the Vasa National Archives.

Please consider remembering the Archives in your personal estate planning.



IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
BILL LUNDQUIST
PGM AND PRESIDENT VNA

Greetings from the Vasa National Archives

The Vasa National Archives has been busy this summer with several different grant projects to help make our collections more accessible to you and other researchers. Despite some minor setbacks, our grant projects have progressed well.

The Sherrad Foundation grant supplied us with the funds needed to hire a summer intern to help with cataloguing our library and refining our collections. Our first intern backed out at the last minute, but fortunately we were able to hire another one to work on this project. Andy Unangst is studying Scandinavian Studies and expects to graduate summer of 2020 from University of Washington in Seattle. He worked steadily on this project through the summer, and we're just over halfway finished but will not be able to finish before he returns to college this fall; we will continue working on it after he's gone.

Thanks to the hard work of our intern and staff we will have a complete list of every book in our collections, individualizing details (inscriptions, doodles, etc.), donor information and other valuable information. This project will help us better serve researchers, improve our book collections by showing subject areas that are strong or weak, and give us an opportunity to access preservation needs. An added benefit of this internship has been the opportunity for Andy and his grandpar-

ents to get to know each other better. (And his grandparents haven't had to do yard work all summer.)

The Illinois State Historic Records Advisory Board grant allows us to outsource the conversion of our microfilm collection to digital format. This grant, with donations from Vasa members, provided \$10,000 toward this project. We sent 63 films to Peoria for conversion and will be receiving them back in the next month or so. We have over 700 films of Vasa records at the Archives and will seek larger grants and donations to complete this newly started project.

The Swedish Council of America gave the Vasa National Archive \$600 toward hiring a professional storyteller to research Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and give four performances. Two performances will be in local K-12 schools and two will be open to the public this fall in Bishop Hill and Augustana College. We'll keep you posted on when and where. The Asbjørnsen performances will be given as a complement to our Nordic Fairytale exhibit, which will be up until Dec. 2020.

The next exhibit at the Vasa National Archives will focus on how Vasa lodges and members keep Swedish and Nordic traditions alive in the U.S. and Canada. We're interested in how the New World versions of these traditions differ from the Swedish versions. So,

if you're in the U.S. or Canada, we'd love to hear from you about your Lucia, Crayfish parties, Valborg, Midsommar or other events. Our Swedish lodges and members are encouraged to let us know if they have attended Swedish events in the U.S. or Canada and what was the same and different.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Vasa National Archives at VasaArchivist@gmail.com or 309.927.3898

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

Christmas Greetings

Send your lodge or personal Christmas greetings to vasaeditor@gmail.com

Vasa Star

PO Box 13331
Milwaukee WI 53213-0331
One inch greeting - \$10
Larger greetings - \$25

Submit your
greeting no
later than
Nov. 1



Sjölunden Language Camp Awards

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce this year's Sjölunden Language Camp awards: Anna Benson, Svea #348; Aubrey Chelich, Nordikfolk #761; Amelia Colafati, Tegner #109; Dmitriy Hess, Norden #684; Clayton Lekander, Viljan #349; Kristine Pearson, Nordikfolk #761; Melissa Pearson, Nordikfolk #761; Ava Tomky, Nordikfolk #761; Kajsa Woodger, Birka #732; Hannah Zabe, Olympic #235.

Applications for next year's awards MUST be postmarked February 10, 2020. An application online will be available at www.vasaorder.com and in the next issue of the Vasa Star.

GRAND LODGE NEWS

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

the Grand Lodge and National Archives. Be sure to take time and look that over.

This issue of the Vasa Star lists all of the scholarship winners. The Order has great, educated college student members. Let us all support the Education Fund by sending a donation to Grand



Lodge Secretary Joanie Graham. We need to keep this program alive and well off for our YOUTH.

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

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
ART BJORKNER, GRAND MASTER



Grand Master Art Bjorkner and First Lady Nancy introduced at the DL 19 meeting in Sweden.

An honor well deserved

District Lodge Golden Gate No. 12 presented the Vasa Order Junior Club Medal to Rosemary Fassel for her outstanding service as the leader of Vasa Blad Children's Club, Sveaborg Lodge No. 449, Concord, CA.

Rosemary has taught folk dancing for the past 20 years and participates in the selection of recipients of Sveaborg Lodge's scholarships. She organizes rehearsals (often in local retirement communities) and performances for Lucia and other times during the year, including Midsummer. This well deserved honor was presented at the 95th anniversary celebration of Sveaborg Lodge No. 449. Congratulations, Rosemary!

SUBMITTED BY JOANIE GRAHAM



Rosemary Fassel (left) received the VOJC Medal from District Children's Club Supervisor Mimi Holtermann.

Vasa Order Junior Clubs "VOJC" Medal

This award was established in 1950 to recognize District Children's Club supervisors as well as leaders or any other Vasa member who have rendered "any out-of-the-ordinary service to the Children's or Junior Clubs activities." To be considered for this award, the honoree must have served as a District Youth Supervisor or a Children's or Youth Club Leader for

five years or more. An exception can be made for a Vasa member who has contributed greatly to a Children's or Junior Club.

To initiate this award, the District Executive Board requests an application from the Grand Lodge Youth Director or the Grand Secretary. The District then submits the application, giving a complete report on the ac-

tivities of the honoree, to the Grand Lodge Youth Director for approval. The GL Youth Director then submits the approved application to the Grand Lodge for final approval.

SUBMITTED BY JOANIE GRAHAM,
GRAND SECRETARY



WINNERS OF THE 2019 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce the winners of this year's College or Vocational School Scholarship Awards.



Heidi Abrahamsen
Olympic Lodge No. 235,
DL New York No. 4
Ellis Hilner Scholarship \$1500

Heidi is majoring in architecture at New York Institute of Technology. Heidi joined the Vasa Order at age 14 and has been very active in her local and district lodge. Heidi joined Barnklubben Elsa Rix at age 3 and has participated in many events including serving as Miss Sweden Day (2017-18). Heidi is captain of the cross country and track and field teams and a member of the Student Athletic Advisory Board. In addition, Heidi is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society.



Alexandra Bjorkner
Sveaborg Lodge No. 446
DL New Jersey No. 6
Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1500

Alexandra is majoring in occupational therapy at the University of Alabama. She is on the Dean's List and is certified in sensory training for special needs. Alexandra has spent many summers with her grandparents, Art and Nancy at their home in New Jersey and Vasa Park, where she volunteers. Alexandra is a member of the UAB Golden Girls Dance Team. She is a member of the National Honor Society and volunteers in the nursery at Canterbury United Methodist Church. Alexandra's future plans include obtaining a PhD in occupational therapy, specializing in the field of children's needs.



Lars Heinstedt
Golden Valley Lodge No. 616
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15
Einar and Edith Nilsson
Scholarship \$1500

Lars is majoring in environmental science and geospatial analysis at Montana State University. He is on the Dean's List and is a resident advisor where he has worked to build a community on his floor of a large co-ed building. Lars has worked with the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Emerald Bay for the past five years and has been a role model and mentor to incoming staff and scouts. He has been an active member in Golden Valley 616, serving as Master of Ceremonies and Youth Group President. Lars future plans include a career in cartography and digital interactive mapping and hopes to work for the U.S. Forest Service or National Parks Service.



Marissa Childs
Svea Lodge No. 253
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
Edith Gauch/Klinghof
Scholarship \$1500

Marissa is majoring in engineering and physics at Hanover College. Marissa received the 2018 Darryl Steinert Award in Physics and the Conklin Award in Physics. Marissa is active in her local and district lodge where she has had the honor of being Lucia in their annual program and has taken part in Svea Skolan. She is a member of the Hanover Varsity Track and Field (pole vault) and secretary of the geology club. She is currently a physics study group leader and tutor and recently joined the Environmental Stewardship Committee. Marissa's future plans include pursuing a master's degree in a subfield of engineering; her goals include a career in environmental renewable energy where she can achieve designs and processes that will help the world.



Elizabeth Cleveland
Viljan Lodge No. 349
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Elizabeth is majoring in international and comparative politics and minoring in international law at The American University in Paris. Elizabeth is on the Provost List for academic excellence and has been chosen for an internship with the U.S. Embassy for the American delegation at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, a very prestigious post. She will plan briefings for meetings with the ambassador, Deputy Chief of Missions and officers. Elizabeth's plans include pursuing a master's degree in the field of human rights and development. She has been a member of the Vasa Order since age 14 and has served as delegate to her district lodge and attended national conventions as a guest.



Kaelin Den Hartog
Evening Star Lodge No. 426
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15
Bo & Sigrid Bjorling
Scholarship \$1500

Kaelin is attending Michigan State University where she is studying business in the field of hospitality. She has also received honors for her minor in Spanish. Kaelin is a very active member in her lodge and volunteer at Vasa Park in California. She takes part in her Midsummer celebrations and was a 10-year member of the Morning Star Children's Club. She has also served as Lucia in 2012. Kaelin's future plans include becoming a general manager of a hotel.



Catherine Johnson
Viljan Lodge No. 349
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1500

Catherine is attending Illinois State University where she is majoring in education. Catherine has been a

member since 2017 and previously participated in the children's clubs since age 7. She has been involved with the "Cultural Corner," teaching others about language, cooking, clothing and traditional culture of the Scandinavian countries. Catherine volunteers her time to PADS, serving

meals to the homeless, and has spent more than 100 hours each summer on mission trips helping with home repairs, river clean up, building ADA ramps and working with troubled children. Her future plans include working in school systems with underprivileged children.



Eden Ladouceur
Pioneer Lodge No. 506
DL Rhode Island No. 3
Oscar and Mildred Larson
Scholarship \$1500

Eden will begin her college education this fall. She has been a high honor student throughout high school. She joined the theater group as a freshman and has been a member of the prep crew. She has been lead witness in every mock trial since she joined. Eden has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten, a member of ATOMS (accelerated Teaching of Modern Science) and a volunteer at Little RhodeVasa Park. Eden has contributed many hours of service to her local and district lodge. Eden's mother (Robyn) is currently District Master and her father (Jim) is a PDM and current DL Secretary. Eden's future plans are to obtain a degree in forensic science and then apply to medical school to become a medical examiner.



Anna Kienberger
Nobel Lodge No. 184
DL Pacific Northwest No. 13
Gladys & Russel Birtwistle
Scholarship \$1500

Anna is studying sociology at Portland State University and plans on getting master's degrees in sociology and art history. Her future plans include finding a vocation in an art gallery. Anna lived in and attended schools in both Norway and Germany and is fluent in three languages (English, Norwegian and German). She graduated from international school with honors and has displayed her artwork at school art shows. Anna is the assistant director and co-writer of the short film "The Most Misused Word Since Love." She is a member of First Lutheran Church in Astoria and serves as communion assistant, choir member and youth group volunteer.

The Grand Lodge 2020 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, 2019.

Applications are available at the Vasa website until January 15, 2020.

To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2020 to be considered.

1. Completed application with enclosures MUST be postmarked no later than 15 February 2020.
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 within last six months.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor, dated within last six months.
7. An original, typed essay, not to exceed 1,000 words. Cannot have been submitted in prior years.

Please put in one envelope if possible

Choose an essay subject from the following list:

1. What do you consider to be a role youth can and should play in Vasa?
2. If you have visited a Nordic Country, what was the most impressive element of your visit and why?
3. How has traditional Swedish music and folkdance influenced your involvement with the Vasa Order?
4. 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



Benjamin Kramer
Linde Lodge No. 492
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
District Lodge No. 8
Scholarship \$1500

Ben begins his college education this fall. He plans to double major in physics and music, and hopes to study abroad and live in Sweden for some period of time after graduation. Ben has received many scholastic honors including National Merit Semifinalist, AP Scholar Award, National French Contest 1st place winner, National Honors Society and Jerry Awards for high school musical theater. Ben is an active member in his local lodge and has served as leader at the Milwaukee Scandinavian Festival where he designed activities for children to get involved in traditional Swedish arts, crafts and traditions. Ben founded his high school Swedish Club which has grown to 26 students.



Elina Linner

Desert Viking No. 682
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15
Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1500
Elina is studying at San Diego State University where she is majoring in economics and business administration; her future plans are to work in the luxury real estate market. Born in Malmo, Sweden, Elina went to school there through her sophomore year in high school. She continued and graduated from La Quinta High School in California USA in 2016. Elina helped a young Swedish girl who had just moved to the U.S. with understanding English and assignments as well as helping her make new friends and become part of her class. Elina has been an active member of Desert Viking and served as Lucia in 2017. She is a great ambassador for the Vasa Order of America.



Doryn Nyroos

Skandia Lodge No. 549
DL Alberta No. 18
Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1500

Doryn is majoring in biology and minorning in physical education at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Doryn has played a very active role in Skandia Lodge; his family has a long history of involvement with the Vasa Order and he has continued with a passion for the betterment of our order. Doryn has also volunteered his time helping maintain Vasa Park. Doryn is a certified personal trainer and has 1500+ hours of instructional time to his credit. His future plans include a teaching career at the secondary level as well as maintaining his current profession in personal training.



Sophia Martinez

Phoenix Lodge No. 677
DL Arizona No. 21
Irma and Knute Carlson
Scholarship \$1500

Sophie graduated from the Arizona School for the Arts and begins her college education this fall. Sophie studied violin for eight years and currently takes piano and organ lessons. She has been a member of the Phoenix Girls' Choir and performed at Carnegie Hall in NYC. Sophie has been involved with The Vasa Order since she was 4, a member of Tucson Lodge's Barn Ringen Children's Dance Group. She has

participated in Lucia Fest for years for both Phoenix Lodge 677 and Tucson Lodge 691 and was crowned Lucia of Tucson in 2017. Sophie has attended Sjolunden Language Camp the past nine summers and hopes to become a counselor there. Her future plans include Scandinavian studies and working with people with special needs, helping animals and learning more about global culture.



Sara Melendez

Karl XII Lodge No. 103
DL Connecticut No. 1
Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1500

Sara is studying at Loyola University where she is on the Dean's List and majoring in neuroscience. Sara is a hard working Vasa member who has great interest in Scandinavian culture and history. Sara has worked at the Canton Library and helped found the Canton High School Writing Center. She has also volunteered for the Esteem Club, an anti-substance abuse advocate in Canton, CT.



Keely McMacken

Desert Viking Lodge No. 682
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15
Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1500

Keely is studying at Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa where she is majoring in elementary education. She is an academic honors list student as well as teacher education program honors and student athlete. Keely is actively involved with peer mentoring, the house student council leadership program, women's soccer and volunteering at the Valley Restart Homeless Shelter. Her future plans include pursuing a master's degree while teaching elementary school. Keely has been involved with Swedish youth programs for many years and serves her district as Young Adult Liaison.



Robert Prasso

Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No. 4
Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1500

Robert is attending Loyola University of New Orleans where he is majoring in international business. He is on the Dean's List and in Delta Sigma Pi professional business fraternity. Robert has been very involved in the Vasa Order of America - he unofficially joined Barnklubben Elsa Rix#1 at age 11 months. He officially joined at age 3 and took on the role of youth organizational leader as a teenager. Robert helps the leaders during performances, practices and conventions, and has been a strong and positive role model for the younger members. Robert is very proud of his Swedish heritage and has served as a cultural ambassador to Olympic Lodge 235. Roberts's future plans include launching an international based startup company.



Melissa Pearson

Nordikfolk Lodge No. 761
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1500

Melissa begins her college education this fall at Purdue University NW, majoring in civil engineering. Melissa was a member of her high school robotics team and was active on the swim and tennis teams and German club. Melissa has been a steadfast member of Nordikfolk 761, participating in almost every aspect and event. Her love of her Scandinavian heritage and Scandinavian art is very impressive.

Moving?

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

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL No. 4 New York

Sweden Day celebrated its 79th Midsummer event in June at the Manhem Club, Bronx, NY. Gail Olson was the Woman of the Year and was surrounded by family members, friends and new acquaintances. She is a member and co-founder of Stenland Lodge No. 727, District Secretary and Grand Lodge Deputy for NY District No. 4, and Past Grand Lodge Vice Secretary and Past NY District Master. Her mother, Alice Schmutz, a very active Vasa member, was honored at Sweden Day in 2017.

The day included entertainment by Smörgåsbandet, Barnklubben Elsa Rix No. 1, Nina Prasso singing the anthems and other tunes, and Aina Andersson on the ukulele. Aina is visiting from Åland with her mother and father, Nina and Charlie Andersson. Nina's mormor was Henny Anderson, the leader of Barnklubben Elsa Rix No. 1 after Helga Hoving and other leaders. There was

ring dancing around the Maypole, Sweden Day scholarship awards, face painting, the Miss Sweden Day Contest, good food and drinks and people having fun in the beautiful in-ground pool and beachfront. Gail presented three Olympic Lodge No. 235 members with Grand Lodge Scholarships: two for college and one for Sjölundens Swedish Camp. Victoria Magnozzi was crowned Miss Sweden Day 2019, and her mother, sister, brother and mormor from Göteborg attended. The president of the Sweden Day Committee, Dr. Nina Halleson Prasso, is a member of Olympic Lodge; most of the committee members and helpers are Vasa members from several local lodges. Get more info at www.swedendayNY.com, SwedenDayNina@outlook.com or on Facebook.

SUBMITTED BY ELAINE MCGRATH



Above: Woman of the Year Gail Olson with her family

Right: Miss Sweden Day Victoria Magnozzi with her family.



DL No. 12 Golden Gate

SAN FRANCISCO, CA / At the Grand Lodge Convention on June 29, Vasa sponsored a free Swedish genealogy help desk, which was a big success. Charlotte Börjesson from Sweden and Sven-Ove Westberg helped members find their ancestors. Rob Laaback, from Sveaborg Lodge, received help from Charlotte to find his maternal grandfather. Rob describes his experience as follows: "It was a convoluted process using what little I knew of him. While I was born in Washington state (before WWII) in the same town where he had settled, he died before I arrived on the scene. Having left Sweden, he could not be found directly in Swedish records. So all we had to go on was what little my mother had told me, which was the

names of his siblings, particularly one sister whose daughter I had visited in Gothenburg in 1964. In turn, a sibling of that daughter had visited my family in the 1970s in California and I had recalled their names. This was the magic thread! Because they still resided in Sweden, Charlotte was able to find my grandfather by following the trail back of the names I knew."

This is only one example of how some of our Vasa members can help you find your Swedish ancestors. For more information on how to help with your own research, please contact Corky Peterson at corky@mikaelpeterson.net

SUBMITTED BY JAYLENE MORGAN

Scandinavian Festival 2019

Brings you SmörgåsBandet



Saturday October 5, 2019 – 10 AM – 6 PM

CELEBRATE NORDIC HERITAGE

Nordic Shopping, Authentic Nordic Foods, Genealogy, Language, Entertainers, Children's Activities, & more



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AMERICA'S LARGEST FRIENDSHIP AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION FOR NORDICS IN NORTH AMERICA.

WWW.VASAORDER.COM

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

Thule No. 127



Thule Lodge historical items were displayed by Membership Chairman Bernice Veights for the Scandinavian Folk Festival in Jamestown.

JAMESTOWN/BEMUS POINT, NY / We had a beautiful summer season. Thule continues to preserve the Swedish heritage through events and activities. Cultural Leader Mary Ann Eva Ingrao keeps us informed of seasonal Swedish activities, and large notebooks of historical happenings are kept. The annual Scandinavian Folk Festival was held in July, a busy time with much music, dancing and food, along with crafts and souvenirs. A fun time was had by all. Tom Eckberg is our lodge chairman and Susan W. Sipos is the vice chairman.

The annual corn roast and chicken barbecue will be held soon - everyone is invited. "God dag" to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS

Linne No. 153



Our topic of discussion at the May meeting was books and trolls.

SOUTH BEND, IN / Our April meeting was a spring potluck and in May we discussed trolls. We usually travel to Chesterton or another lodge to celebrate Midsummer in June. In July we had our annual picnic. Our Anniversary Scandinavian potluck will be on September 8. Our guest speaker on October 6 will be Matt Baumgartner, who will discuss the Tutonic Knights. Bruce Anderson will discuss Swedish Vikings and their ships at the November 3 meeting. We want to wish a speedy recovery to Marlene Westergren, who is recovering from a broken hip.

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE COOPER



Former "Solstrålar" from Southside Chicago (L to R): Barbara Olson, Nancy Hult, Pat Pelzman, Christine Kilstrom, Lynda Smith, Susan Nilsson, Ingrid Lesko, Linda Tylk, Tim Ogrentz, Jim Pelzman, and Herb Smith.

Bessemer No. 203

OAK LAWN, IL / Members of the Southside lodges that participated in Solstrålen's Children Club presented a check (the Solstrålen's Children's Club No. 17 has disbanded) to the Vasa Order of America Southside Scholarship Fund at the convention. Members of Bessemer went to a White Sox game against the Minnesota Twins.

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINE KILSTROM

Bessemer at a White Sox game (the White Sox won after a 3-hour rain delay).



Cherrie, Carl and Jenae Gershon and Barbara Olson enjoyed lunch in the White Sox "patio" before the game.

Tegner No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / In June, Kathryn Hughes told us about various buildings in downtown Oakland, some of which had been built by the Swedes or had some connections to Swedish immigrants. In July, we enjoyed our yearly tri-lodge picnic. Framåt was the host lodge this year. Sveaborg

Lodge won the kubb tournament and took home the wooden Dala horse trophy for the year. We are now looking forward to our 111th anniversary celebration in November and our Lucia program and dinner in December.

SUBMITTED BY ANN TENNIS



Linda Ryan and Christine Kilstrom



Athena and Alex, 2019 scholarship recipients, hold their locally made commemorative Dalahästs.



Midsommar in Sacramento. Who says the Maypole has to be outside?

Monitor No. 218

SACRAMENTO, CA / Monitor celebrated 107 years with an anniversary luncheon in April and the annual Sill Frukost gathering in May. June brought Midsommar with great food, conversation and company, and the presentation of Monitor Lodge's 2019 scholarship recipients Athena Eriksson and Alex Hopkins. Athena has completed her sophomore year at Embry-Riddle University in Daytona Beach, Florida and is on her way

to earning her pilot license as well. Alex just completed his sophomore year at American River College in Sacramento while putting in many hours of volunteer time building and maintaining websites and databases for local libraries.

We took a break in July but made plans for our annual kräftskiva in mid-August.

SUBMITTED BY CHUCK JOHNSON

Brahe No. 245



Jean Berggren and Gunnel Stewart ready for the brunch and river cruise.

ROCKFORD, IL / In April we returned to the Nicholas Conservatory in Rockford for the butterfly exhibition. Although it was a small group we had a good time observing and feeding the butterflies. On a beautiful June Sunday, eight members took a brunch cruise on our beautiful Rock River aboard the Pride of Oregon. In August we hold our annual corn boil.

SUBMITTED BY GARY JOHNSON



Dave Tollin and Gary Johnson enjoy the beautiful weather and river cruise.

Astor No. 215



Terry Arnall, Chef Stephen Smith, Peter Strandberg - and the mixer and sausage-maker gifts.

ASTORIA, OR / Astor Lodge has a partnership with the local vocational school; students in the culinary training class prepared a Swedish meal for lodge members. The founding partnership instructor had been a Vasa member and the new instructor continues the partnership. This year the students are preparing Swedish pea soup for the lodge to sell at the local Scandinavian festival.

Lodge members and Terry Arnall, District 13 Youth Supervisor, visited the classroom and told students about Sweden and Vasa traditions - and pea soup! This year a professional mixer and a sausage maker attachment were gifts from the lodge, Peter Strandberg and Doug and Terry Arnall. I wonder if the class will make Swedish potato sausage?

SUBMITTED BY DOUG ARNALL



Jean Berggren, Charlotte and David Tollin, and Gary Johnson

Skandia No. 247



Longtime members Bob and Nel Solt with Pacific Southwest 15 District Treasurer Kathryn Martin and Moises Noyola at Skandia's 106th anniversary dinner at the historic Original Farmers Market in Hollywood and catered by Pampas Grill, a Brazilian restaurant.



Skandia Lodge Chairman Ernie Mauritson with scholarship recipient Melissa Demarjian.



Blue and yellow for the Skandia Lodge 107th anniversary centerpiece.

Svea No. 253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / Join us at these upcoming events:

September 8 – Tatting (a type of lacemaking) and other forms of handicrafts in Scandinavian countries will be presented by Amy Johnson

October 6 – “Sound and Light: An Afternoon Adventure into the Sounds and Images of Favorite Swedish Poems” with Annette Johansson and Judi Carlstrand

November 3 – Scandinavian Children’s Literature presented by Crystal Lowery

SUBMITTED BY JAY HOOK



Above, decorating the majstång for Midsommar in June. Right, Jeff Heck teaches curling at our May meeting.



Svea No. 296

ERIE, PA / Svea again welcomed Nobel Monitor No.130 to join in the annual May 5 banquet at the Erie Convention Center. A large crowd feasted upon a delectable luncheon from hostess Martha Strickner. At the piano, both playing and singing, was very talented friend of the lodge, Nicholas Nasibyan. On June 1, we celebrated Midsommar with the Maypole at Presque Isle State Park in Erie. Monti and Shirley Collier also celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at Midsommar this year. Congratulations!

Member Gary Larson published his first book, titled Harbor Yarns, available on Amazon and bookstores. It contains stories of fishermen and sailors, scallywags and characters, their antics, experiences and lifestyle in an imaginary town called Little Cove.

SUBMITTED BY GARY LARSON



Members and guests of Svea 296 celebrate Midsommar in front of the Maypole.



Front row: Sue Schultz, Linnea Thompson, Kathy Cuff, Judy Anderson, Elayne Hogan, Karen Heinzel, Lilly Setterdahl. Back row: Warren Schultz, Kurt Heinzel, Ray "Swede" Swenson, and Roger Anderson. Linnea's husband Al took the group picture.

Nobel No. 288 (now part of Bishop Hill No. 683)

MOLINE, IL / Vasa Friends honored Elayne Hogan as she received her 70-year pin in Moline from the Bishop Hill Lodge. She joined the Nobel Lodge No. 288 Children's Club in Moline in 1942 as Elayne Swanson, and the adult lodge in 1946 together with her husband William Hogan. Now 93, Elayne has outlasted three Moline lodges that she belonged to: Nobel Lodge No. 288, Clara Lodge

of the Vikings (from 1942 until it dissolved a few years ago), and the Scandinavian Fraternity of America. She served as chaplain and secretary for Nobel Lodge for many years until it dissolved in 2017 and merged with Bishop Hill Lodge No. 683. Its chairman, Kathy Cuff, fastened the 70-year pin on Elayne's lapel at a dinner on May 30 with six of her Moline Vasa friends present and six

members from the Bishop Hill area. Elayne was born Feb. 26, 1926 in Moline. Her mother was born in Karlskoga, Värmland, and her father in Hamneda, Småland. She had five siblings, all of whom lived long lives. Her husband and their daughter, Marcia, are deceased.

SUBMITTED BY LILLY SETTERAHL

Svea No. 348

SAN JOSE, CA / Midsummer (Midsummer på svenska) at Sveadal was well attended with about 1000 celebrants at the 125th consecutive Midsummer celebration. The weather was warm and many enjoyed swimming at the newly refurbished pool. Svea Lodge members, led by Victoria and Carolyn Fedor-Thurman and Toni Bray, decorated the Midsummer Stage with flowers and yellow mums in blue pots. Jan and Kikki Nordin led the singing and dancing around the Maypole - they have coordinated the singing and dancing at Midsummer for 40 years.



Above: Toni Bray is busy decorating the Midsummer stage and draping the flags.

Left: Victoria and Carolyn Fedor-Thurman in full Swedish costume

SUBMITTED BY JACK KNUTSON



Phoenix Lodge 677 participating in the Mesa Scandinavian Festival in March of 2019.

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / Not meeting during the hot summer months allows us to catch our breaths to get ready for fall. Here is the agenda for what's coming up:

- September 28** - The Northern Lights presented by Per Annestad, ASU Emeritus
- October 26** - The Julbock and other Christmas symbols
- November 9** - Jul Bazaar
- December 14** - Sankta Lucia Pageant

Evening Star No. 426



Thomas Peter Jahn

LOS ALAMITOS, CA / Our lodge lost a great man - Thomas Peter Jahn (December 5, 1937-April 13, 2019). We are devoting

this article to him. Tom, a loving husband, father and grandfather died peacefully in his home in Huntington Beach after a long courageous battle with lung cancer. He was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and was a Holocaust survivor with a gold star after being in a concentration camp in Germany 1945. Tom and his parents immigrated to the U.S. and lived in Hollywood. He graduated Hollywood High School 1958. Tom met Margareta, a Swede, and they married in 1962. They moved to Downey and had two children, Rolf and Karen.

Tom earned his Bachelor's degree from UCLA in computer design and worked for McDonnell Douglas and Boeing for 30+ years as a senior scientific engineer of ergonomics. He was active in his children's lives and started the American Youth Soccer Organization in southern California. Tom was active in Vasa, and he and Margareta joined Thule Lodge in 1975, then transferred to Evening Star when they moved to Huntington Beach in 2008. He held dual membership with Mayflower No. 445 when he passed away.

Over his 44 years in Vasa he held numerous positions - secretary, chairman of Evening Star, DM of Southwest District No. 15, District Photographer and Chairman of many district conventions. He was a Delegate to Grand Lodge Convention and was a Grand Lodge Deputy. Tom had been active in the Vasa Park Association and Swedish American Central Association.

SUBMITTED BY GUNLOG SPABERG

A lot of preparation is needed for a successful implementation of our programs. We are always thankful for the volunteers who so willingly provide so much. One of our favorite programs of the year is "fika" during which we get to know one another by answering questions prepared by Judith Ahlberg. Another well-liked program is our anniversary celebration that takes place in April. All visitors are welcome.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / Linde delegates enjoyed the DL convention in May and met for a special lunch created by Chef Lars in June at Ikea. In June we also celebrated Midsommar at Heidelberg Park in Milwaukee on a perfect day with only 10 minutes of rain. Going forward, the Ekstrand's annual kräftskiva is on August 24, and we are planning Linde's annual roadtrip for Sept. 7-8 to Andersonville, Geneva and South Elgin, Illinois. Mark your calendars for Scandinavian Festival on Oct. 5 in New Berlin, WI: The headliner entertainment is SmörgåsBandet - see ad in this newsletter! Join us in all the festivities - and maybe consider one or all of our events a CEF event, and apply for funds from the District. For more info contact Liza Ekstrand at 262.366.9152 or lekstrand@wi.r.r.com.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



Linde delegates at the DL Convention (L to R): Brent Erickson, Liza Ekstrand, Marianne Ekstrand, Jan Kamholtz, and Ashley LeBlanc with John White.



"Glada Vänner" Carol Gustafson and Mary Stetson (Linde members) getting ready to lead the Midsommar procession.



The 2019 majstång with an inset of Todd Michalek, who died just a couple days before Midsommar, a celebration he loved so much, even as a Swede "by heart."

Nordic No. 611



Entertainment by Stig and Helen Eriksson from Sweden.

WORCESTER, MA / Our May meeting started with a memorial service, then Cultural Leader Nancy Schultzberg gave a presentation of how to reuse Ikea shopping bags. We had a smörgåsbord and our "svensk afton" (swedish evening) began with singing led by Marian Grundberg, Ana Maja Blodgett and Merryl Havens, and Deb Cologeo on the piano.

Midsummer was held at the Swedish Athletic Club in Shrewsbury. The Swedish National Federation, of which Nordic Lodge is a member, hosts the annual event. Approximately 575 people attended and enjoyed Viking reenactors/ an overnight encampment, Swedish meatballs and entertainment by Stig and Helen Eriksson from Sweden. The Ericssons and their troupe gathered around the Maypole and led the dances. Thanks to all who attended and helped out, a good time was had by all.

SUBMITTED BY ÅKE JANSSON

Joe Harbor No. 534

ST JOSEPH, MI / The Joe-Harbor Lodge celebrated its 90th anniversary with a dinner on May 11. Chairman Alan Wenstrand officiated the celebration with greetings and congratulations from Lake Michigan No. 8 DM Lynda Smith. After sharing the Swedish table prayer, everyone enjoyed a wonderful Swedish dinner, songs, humorous skits, great conversation and remembrances. The Lodge continues to be active in Southwest Michigan

with regular meetings, Midsummer celebrations, cultural trips, Swedish songs, language lessons, and many other activities. Joe-Harbor Lodge met at various locations in Benton Harbor and St. Joseph over the years and currently meets at Saron Lutheran Church at 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, February through December.



(L-R) Chairman Alan Wenstrand with the original Charter, Cultural Leader Nancy Wenstrand and Mary Anderson.

Bishop Hill No. 683

BISHOP HILL, IL / Our lodge celebrated Midsommar on June 22 at the Colony School. What a wonderful day it was, with music in the park all day, putting greens and flowers on the Maypole, and many people there to help. Again this year Ernie Sanquist led the music and Katie Anderson and her son Jack helped with the ring dances, Sma Grodorna, Musikanter, Karusellen and the Rocket. What a wonderful time we had.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF ANDERSON



Nancy Green of Denver, CO wearing her mother Arline's authentic dress from Sweden. In the background is member Roger Anderson.

Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / In June the annual Swedish Midsommar was celebrated in Kingsburg. It was hosted by members Ted and June Hess. A Swedish family traveling through California saw the Kingsburg sign and they stopped to see the activities and stay for dinner. They said it was the best Midsommar celebration they had ever been to. In August was our annual salmon and crayfish dinner at Mike and Corkey Peteron's home in Fresno. We had wonderful food, special friends, and lots of fun visiting together.

On September 7 at 12 noon, we will celebrate our 51st Anniversary Luncheon at the Cattleman's Restaurant in Selma, another opportunity to spend time with our Vasa family over good food.

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN



(L-R): Corkey Peterson, Dennis Donnelly, Dee Donnelly, Helen Fosdick, Marcene Johanssen, Fran Johnson, Nadja Witchez and Ev Yancura.

Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / Our Lodge Midsummerfest on June 15 brought guests from Pennsylvania, Sweden and several off-Cape cities/towns. MA District No. 2 Treasurer Lynne Martin, District Cultural Leader Meryl Havens and dual member Sonja Sigren wore their Swedish costumes. Our Lodge's 45th Anniversary Dinner on July 10 was an occasion to share memories, enjoy a delicious luncheon and encourage us to plan for Vinland's future. Everyone received a door prize from Sweden (provided by Ingrid Miller).

At our September 14 meeting we will construct woven Danish heart baskets from paper. On September 21, MA District No. 2 will hold the biennial Convention in Rockport, MA hosted by Spiran Lodge. On October 19, Lynne Martin will share



Sonja Sigren, Meryl Havens, Thea Antonucci, Lynne Martin at Midsummerfest.

photos and a narrative about her trip to Iceland.

SUBMITTED BY
DOROTHY ANN ELLNER KEAN

Sierra Kronan No. 737

ROSEVILLE, CA / This spring we welcomed Keith Leafdale into membership by transfer from Carl XVI Gustaf Lodge No. 716 in Dallas. Coincidentally, long-time members Sten and Margitha Åkerlund moved to the Dallas area to be near family and are considering transferring to the very same lodge. The Åkerlunds were delighted to receive their membership awards in February: a 40-year pin for Sten and a 50-year jewel for Margitha.

Sierra Kronan has a very active Hems-löjd handicraft group that meets monthly to plan and create items for sale at the annual Scandinavian Festival. Coming up at September's craft meeting: Member Marra Swan will teach vintage card-making. Recently, Carl Pearson introduced the crafters

to the Swedish idiom his family used when getting together after time spent apart. Perhaps we could consider adopting this phrase too, and greet fellow members with "tack för sist" at our lodge meetings: "Thank you for the last time we were together!"

SUBMITTED BY CAROL NESEWICH



Sierra Kronan Chairman Darin Freeland, new member Keith Leafdale, and MC Arthur 'Sarge' Loyd



(L-R) Chairperson Linda Christianson, Marlene Patience, Kajsa Woodger and her mother Tina Rawson

Birka No. 732

HAMILTON, MA / At our April meeting, Marlene Patience presented Kajsa Woodger, daughter of member Tina Rawson, with the Vasa Sjölund Language Village Camp scholarship. This scholarship gave Kajsa a two-week, all-expenses paid experience at the Swedish language camp on Turtle River Lake, near Bemidji, MN. Growing up around the Swedish language of her mother,

grandparents and cousins, she understands most of what she hears, but because English was spoken at home, she doesn't speak Swedish well. She thought the camp would be a great way to improve her speaking skills in an exciting and fun environment.

SUBMITTED BY MARLYS MAHAJAN

IN MEMORIAM

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

THOMAS JAHN, 81, of Huntington Beach, died April 13, 2019. Tom was a member of Evening Star Lodge No. 426 for 44 years. He served as DM in DL No. 15 1993. He held many positions as an officer in Evening Star. He is survived by his son Rolf (Terri) and two granddaughters, daughter Karen (Brian Korbs) and grandson Sam.

JOHN QUIST, a member of North Star Lodge No. 106 in Los Angeles, died on March 24, 2019 in Mission Hills at the age of 88. John was born in LA on January 18, 1931. He became a member of North Star on March 11, 1947. All members of North Star will miss him greatly. John is survived by his wife Jean, two sons, one daughter and four grandchildren.

IOWA

ROGER NETTZ, born January 14, 1940 in Lewis, died March 25, 2019. In 1976 he married Louise Mansson from Linköping, Sweden. They settled on a farm near Casey, IA. Roger was a superintendent at Gus Construction for 33 years, and his interest for construction equipment resulted in a large collection of equipment; he was also on the Board of the Historical Construction Equipment Association. He was a longtime member of Omaha Lodge No. 330 and the American Scandinavian Organization in Des Moines. Roger and Louise made many visits to Sweden. Roger is survived by his wife of 42 years, and her Swedish family. He is preceded in death by his parents Chester and Bertha Netz, and 3-year

old son Patrick. Roger, a very caring and good person, will be missed by family and friends.

OHIO

CAROL J BLAKE, 83, a member of Nobel-Monitor No. 130 since September 2016, died on April 3, 2019. She was known as CJ to all her friends. Her favorite Bible verse was Isaiah 40:31.

CARRIE BROUGHTON, 96, was born in Norge, VA and died on April 19, 2019. She was a faithful, 30-year member of Nobel-Monitor No. 130 and enjoyed attending the lodge's Breakfast Club.

GUNVOR CARLSON, 97, was born 2/25/1922 in Karlskoga, Sweden and died in Cleveland 7/20/2019. She was married 72 years to Burton (deceased 2014). She was the pianist for the Vasa Voices with her daughter Ingrid (deceased) as director. A 36-year member, Gunvor joined Nobel-Monitor May 8, 1983. She was the most faithful member of our weekly Tuesday morning Breakfast Club.

LOIS COOK, 92, was born 7/14/1927 and died 7/20/2019 in Cleveland. Lois was a faithful and quiet member of Nobel-Monitor for 28 years, having joined 2/13/1991. She and Gunvor (Carlson) died the same day.

WASHINGTON

LARRY PRATT born on July 1, 1943, died on April 11, 2019. His career included the Government Printing Office - DC and USPS-Federal Way. He had a passion for art, music, opera, cinema, books, geography, and world history. He was a member of Norden No. 233 since 2009.

WISCONSIN

TODD MICHALEK, died June 18, 2019 at age 62. Todd was involved in many organizations in Milwaukee and took a liking to the Swedish culture and joined Linde No. 492 in 2017. He favored Midsommer, Lucia and the Scandinavian Festival. Family, friends, and the Swedes in Milwaukee will miss him tremendously.

SWEDISH NEWS

Svenska Distriktsmöten

Vasa Orden av Amerika i Sverige har under våren haft Distriktsmöten.

Vasa Orden av Amerika har 2 distrikt i Sverige. I USA och Kanada finns 15 distrikt.

I Sverige har distrikten distriktsmöte vart annat år, dessa möten pågår under 2 dagar. Sveriges södra distrikt DL 20 har sedan många år sina möten i Ljungby på hotell Terazza. Ett fa-



Br. Bertil Winther välkomnades av kvällens ordförande Br. Calle Nilsson.

Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Kulturmötet i April lockade 50 logesyskon. Efter logemötet var det dags för efterkapitlet. Som vanligt serverades mycket god mat. Den här gången var det lättpanerad spättafile med brynta champinjoner och skirat smör. Till kaffet och kakan tog föredragshållaren Ewa-Gun Westford, Skånepolisens informatör kommandot. Alla hade sett fram emot att träffa Ewa-Gun, när hon med ”glimten i ögat” och på bredaste skånska berättade om både lustfyllda och allvarliga händelser ur sitt liv som polis.



Ewa-Gun Westford, Skånepolisens informatör

Ewa-Gun, en fantastisk berättare som trollband åhörarna i en timme, utan manus. Efter det mycket uppskattade föredraget avslutades kvällen med dans och lottdragning.

Årets högtidsmöte Sverige-Amerika-mötet gästades av bl.a. Storlogedeputerad för District



Br Leif Larsson, Sy Agneta Bergström Hult, Br Yngve Hult och Sy Kerstin Nilsson utförde en stilfull och uppskattad fanparad.

Pacific Southwest nr15 i Kalifornien, Br Bertil Winther. Br. Bertil välkomnades av kvällens ordförande Br. Calle Nilsson. Br Leif Larsson, Sy Agneta Bergström Hult, Br Yngve Hult och Sy Kerstin Nilsson utförde en stilfull och uppskattad fanparad. Efter logemötet var det dags sätta sig till bords. Enligt logens tradition bjuds det på lax med tillbehör, glass med jordgubbar och tjock grädde. Innan varmrätten serveras utbringas kvällens första skål till HMK Karl XVI Gustaf.

Efter att Br Bertil Winther tackat för maten bjöds det till dans med Niklas Larssons ”orkester”. Kvällen avslutades med att Br. Leif Larsson sjöng We'll meet again.

SUBMITTED BY OLA SANDBERG



Nyvalda Distriktstjänstemän i D19 med besökande från Storlogen: främre raden: Birgit Hellström (DS), Art Bjorkner (Stormästare) Maggie Ahlin Thelin (DM), Jack Hanright (Vice Stormästare), Charlotte Börjesson (DKL), Gun Särndahl (MDER), Bakre raden: Barbro Hult (VDS), Håkan Holmgren (VDM) och Ann-Sara Liljebadh (DK)

miljeägt hotell som gör allt för att få gästerna att trivas och känna sig väl mottagna.

Helgen efter i samband med Kristihimmelfärdshelgen är det dags för det Norra distriktet DL 19 att ha sitt möte. 2019 förlades detta till Nyköping och Sunlight Hotell. Detta hotell har tidigare varit en tvålfabrik. Många av lokalerna påminner om denna epok. Också detta hotell gjorde allt för att få oss att trivas. Hotellet hade också en härlig SPA avdelning. Vi hälsades välkomna till Nyköping och Gästabud av Kung Birger Jarl.

Vid våra distriktsmöten behandlas motioner inkomna från loger eller enskilda tjänstemän eller medlemmar och det tas beslut för hur vår verksamhet ska bedrivas kommande 2 år. Varje distrikt består av ett antal lokalloger som sänder delegater. Våra distriktsmöten gästas också av representanter från Storlogen i USA. 2019 fick vi besök av Stormästaren Art Bjorkner med Hustru Nancy och Vice stormästaren John Hanright med hustru Inger. De båda distrikten väljer också sina tjänstemän för kommande 2 år. Till Distriktsmästare för DL 20 omvaldes Olle Wickström och för DL 19 Maggie Ahlin Thelin



Golfspelarna Marie Jensen (vinnare av vandringspokalen), Morgan Andersson, Ewa Pilhammar, Håkan Hellström, Kurt Thelin och Tore Kellgren.

Kvällen före invigningen av distriktsmötena träffas många av deltagarna under lättsamma former och vänner från hela Sverige, USA och Kanada träffas. Här skapas många nya kontakter och vänskap uppstår. Efter första dagens möte inbjuds alla till bankett. Deltagarna samlas kring vackert dukade bord, det serveras god mat och dryck. Det bjuds på underhållning och tal.

Vasa Orden av Amerika idag är en kultur och vänskapsorganisation. För mer information om Vasa Orden www.vasaorden.org

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE GRÖN
MEDLEM AV STORLOGENS EXEKUTIVA
RÅD FÖR SVERIGE.

SWEDISH NEWS

Årets Svensk Amerikan

Fredagen den 2 augusti anlände vi till Karlstad där sola sken som brukligt är.

Vi var flera logesyskon från både DL19 och DL20 som träffades i Kinship center till en välkomstbuffé. Vi togs emot av Erik Gustavson och Eva Eriksson Styrelseordförande i Kinship center. Det var med glädje vi hälsade Eric Nelson, Årets Svensk Amerikan 2019, välkommen till Karlstad och denna helgs evenemang. Efter en trivsamt kväll tillsammans vandrade vi till våra hotell.

Lördag förmiddag bilade vi norrut till Filipstad för att fira John Ericsson dagen, vi samlades först till lunch på Hotel Hertig Karl där vi hälsades välkomna av Kommunstyrelsens ordförande, Marina Isaksson. Bland gästerna sågs Årets Svensk Amerikan, Eric Nelson i sällskap av sin mamma Harriet och syster Chris, HM /O FÖM DL19 Ewa Pilhammar med make Morgan, DKL Charlotte Börjesson, DM DL19 Olle Wickström med hustru Marie, SLD DL20 Ulf Alderlöf med hustru Ingegerd, från DL20 Tore & Margareta Tellberg, Ruth Newman från Amerikanska Ambassaden, Alexandra Swalöf, Ordförande i John Ericsson sällskapet samt många Vasavänner. Efter en god måltid tog vi tillsammans med Eric Nelson hans mamma och syster, en promenad till Nils Ferlins staty, innan vi fortsatte till Mausoleet där vi först fick

lyssna till musikkåren, därefter en andaktsstund och mer musik, Tal framfördes av Marina Isaksson, som bl.a berättade om John Ericsson och alla de uppfinningar han gjorde. Kommunstyrelsen ordförande, Ruth Newman Amerikanska ambassaden, Alexandra Swalöf Ordförande John Ericssonsällskapet samt av undertecknad, Maggie Ahlin Thelin, Ordförande i Årets Svensk-amerikan kommitté/

DM DL19. Både Svenska och Amerikanska nationalsångerna sjöngs. En av höjdpunkterna var när Eric Nelson tillsammans med officer från hemvärnet i Värmland förättade kransnedläggning, därefter sköts Svensk lösen och de två skotten hördes lång väg.

Marina Isaksson delade även ut stipendier till två åttondeklasser från teknikprogrammet i Filipstad som gjort mycket bra ifrån sig.

Minnesstunden avslutades med att vi alla stod upp och sjöng Värmlandsvisan. Därefter promenerade vi alla ner till Kyrkviken för att få vara med om rekonstruktionen av det berömda sjöslaget vid Hampton Roads, som ägde rum under det Amerikanska inbördeskriget, John Ericsson konstruerade båten Monitor som anses vara en av spelbrickorna som vände kriget mellan Nord och Sydstaterna till Nordstaterna fördel.



Swedish American of the Year 2019 Eric Nelson, taking a break from the awards celebration in Karlstad this summer.

Så var vi tillbaka i Karlstad och samlades på kvällen i Kinship centers trädgård där vi hälsades välkomna av toastmaster Björn Gustavsson innan vi fick njuta av Gundegabalettens duktiga barn och ungdomar, ledda av Gundega Liede som även är medlem i Karlstad logen.

Uppe i matsalen hälsades vi välkomna till bords av Kinship Centers Ordförande, Eva Eriksson och fin musik spelades av Kinship Centers Folk music band. Vår fantastiska toastmaster Björn höll ordning på oss under kvällen.

Senare under middagen undehölls vi

av PG Öberg och Boel Johansson som spelade och sjöng. Som Ordförande för Sverige-Amerikakommittén presenterade jag Årets Svensk Amerikan, Eric Nelson, tillsammans med kommitté medlemmarna Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, Charlotte Börjeson och DM DL20 Olle Wickstöm överlämnade vi diplom med motiveringen, glas plaket och vackra ljusstakar. Eric Nelson höll därefter ett mycket trevligt tacktal. Kvällen avslutade med att jag tackade musikerna. De fick alla varma applåder. En mycket trevlig kväll gick mot sitt slut, innan vi bröt upp tackade jag för maten och berättade från mitt hjärta min berättelse om "I have a dream".

Söndagen kom och Kinship Center inbjöd oss tillsammans med Eric Nelson och hans familj på en utflykt, vi åkte med buss till Stenudden, en otroligt vacker plats vid Vänerns norra skärgård som ägs av Hembygds-gillet i Karlstad.

Denna söndag avslutade med en middag som Karlstad kommun var värd för.

Vi tackade Eric Nelson för denna trevliga helg, en mycket behaglig, trevlig person som nu även kan titulera sig Årets Svensk Amerikan 2019, utsedd av Vasa Orden av Amerika i Sverige.

(Ni som inte läst presentationen om Eric, gör gärna det)

Ett varmt innerligt Tack till Erik och Elinor Gustavsson för allt otroligt arbete ni lagt ner för att vi alla fick dessa fantastiskt trevliga dagar tillsammans.

MAGGIE AHLIN THELIN, DM DL19
ORDFÖRANDE I ÅRETS SVERIGE
AMERIKANKOMMITTÉ 2019

STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

Nu när sommaren är över är det dags för oss att återgå till logearbetet och planera för årets sammankomster, kamratskap och glada aktiviteter. Var entusiastisk om ditt medlemskap. Låt oss alla sätta mål för årets händelser, aktiviteter och ökat medlemskap. Och ha roligt!

Nancy och jag har fortsatt varit upptagna med logebesök i våra olika distrikt. Vi hade en härlig tid i Sverige med medlemmar av Distrikt 19 och 20 och direkt efteråt med Distrikt Alberta i Kanada. Sedan har vi haft en lugnare tid innan resorna börjar igen i september med Distrikt 13 Pacific Northwest och sedan Distrikt 2 i Massachusetts, Distrikt 1 i Connecticut och så Distrikt 4 i New York i November.



Det senare avslutar årets distriktsmöten.

Det är härligt att se alla logeaktiviteter som nu kommer upp på Facebook! Fortsätt på samma sätt och glöm inte bort att också lista era kommande möten och aktiviteter. Den nya webbsidan väntar på era uppdateringar om tjänstemän och möten.

Om din loge har en systerloge och ni har tappat kontakten med varandra, var snäll informera er Storloge-deputerade så vi kan hjälpa till. Sverige vill gärna höra ifrån er!

Försäkra dig om att du köper vår Grand Lodge Viking pin för att släppa loss din inre viking! Nålar finns tillgängliga hos din Storloge-deputerade, genom alla medlemmar i Storlogen liksom genom mig. Nålar är en tacksam gåva i alla lägen.

I tillägg till den vanliga utgåvan av Vasastjärnan finns på webben en spe-

cialutgåva som innehåller Bokslut och finansrapport för Storlogen och våra Nationella Arkiv. Sätt gärna undan tid för att läsa igenom dessa.

Nuvarande utgåva av Vasastjärnan listar alla årets unga stipendiemottagare. Vår orden har många välutbildade medlemmar som studerar. Låt oss alla stödja Utbildningsfonden genom att sända en donation till storlogens sekreterare Joanie Graham. Vi bör hålla programmet igång och väl understött för våra yngre medlemmar.

Kom ihåg, vår orden behöver vitala och entusiastiska medlemmar - sprid vårt namn. PV PV PV

(Prata Vasa) och gör det entusiastiskt..

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
ART BJORKNER, STORMÄSTARE