



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

WINTER 2021

Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



Photo: Private (Nina Prasso)

Scholarship recipient Robert Prasso with sister Katarina performing at the Midsummer celebration in NYC. Music and dance ... two things that keep us together and bridge generations. /page 5



MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

DEAR VASA MEMBERS,
Looking back on what a challenging year 2020 has been for all of us, we are reminded of the wonderful spirit and good will throughout our Order. Virtual became the catch-phrase of the year, with many meetings and events all going virtual. We are optimistic for

what the future holds for our members. Hopefully very soon we will once again enjoy **ENTHUSIASTIC** camaraderie of regular meetings in person.

Traveling to Europe: Rules meant to come into effect on January 1, 2021, know as the European Travel Information and Authorization System

(ETIAS) won't enter into operation until the end of 2022, and it won't be mandatory for at least six months after that. At that point, all U.S. citizens who want to travel to the 26 members of Europe's Schengen Zone will need to register with the ETIAS or risk being

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National Archive News

With the new year comes new programs and exhibits such as the introduction of Christianity to Sweden / p3

Grand Lodge News

Did you know? Individuals and Local Lodges can make motions for the Grand Lodge. How to / p4

Local Lodge News

Our favorite time of the year may have been different from ever before but here's to catching up with friends all over the U.S. / p12

Swedish American ...

Swedish Nobel Prize laureate Selma Lagerlöf's beloved character Nils Holgersson was real and later became American. / p9

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



DEAR READERS,
Spring is coming, and as we round out a full year of the global pandemic, I feel encouraged. Swedes, both in Sweden

and abroad have made an impact on the response to the challenges of COVID-19. One bright spot has been the British/Swedish firm AstraZeneca which has developed a cost-effective shelf stable vaccine for the virus. Closer to home, our local and district lodges are showing that Generosity, Truth and Unity prevail within our Order by holding virtual meetings and events to celebrate holidays and members' milestones.

In reading this issue's articles, it

occurs to me that our ability to interact online is a gift. Yes, I'm looking forward to when we can physically get together for regular meetings and things become more "normal", but equally helpful is having a quick on-line call to go over documents before presenting them and making changes in "real" time. This will be useful with the motions that lodges and members bring forward for our upcoming convention. I hope we will continue to use our newfound virtual technology to share our meetings and programs. How wonderful for distant members and others who cannot attend meetings to be able to stay connected with friends in our Order without the strain of traveling far.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
CHRISTA SVENSSON

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



The real Nils Holgersson moved to Chicago (by boat however) / p9



New Members of Linde Lodge, Teresa Day-Smith and Gregory Smith / p14



Zoom meeting in January with Norden No. 684 members and guests / p15



Robert Tor Prasso, one of this issue's featured scholarship recipients with sister Katarina, Miss Sweden Day, NY in 2016. / p5

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

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For our next issue:

By April 15

Remember the Vasa Archives
when you are making a memorial donation

Send your donations to:
Vasa National Archives
PO Box 101, Bishop Hill, IL 61419

Family Tree Släktutredningar

I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden.

If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information: **swedengen@telia.com**

DONATE to the Education & Scholarship Funds

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

ARCHIVES NEWS

A message from the president of Vasa National Archives

DEAR FELLOW VASA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES, I know you are as happy as I am as we welcome 2021. We trust the new year will bring relief from the pandemic as a vaccine becomes available. This is the time of the year at the Vasa National Archives (VNA) when our Archivist, Kathy prepares for the year ahead. This year's display will feature the history of Christianity in Sweden. Please read Kathy's article in this edition of the Vasa Star for more information on this new display. Kathy changes displays annually so visitors have a dynamic experience.

In 2021, because of Kathy's outstanding track-record of serving the Swedish-American community, both in the number of individuals impacted and the quality of the programs provided, the Board of Directors of the Swedish Council of America chose the VNA to receive an annual gift from the Swedish Council of America Fund. The Swedish Council of America ceased to exist as of January 1st of 2021, and its endowment was transferred to "the Swedish Council of America Fund". Annual grants will be awarded from the Fund to organizations such as the VNA. The Board of Directors of the VNA is grate-

ful to the Board of the Swedish Council of America for this generous ongoing gift. We are also grateful for Kathy Cuff who has created so many interesting programs and projects during the past five years making us eligible for this gift and other grants. Thank you to all who contributed generously to the recent Julgran Fundraiser. It brought in more than \$10,000.00. The Julgran and Heritage Fundraisers are vital to the programs and projects the VNA offers. Also, please consider making a lasting difference by remembering the VNA in your estate planning. Simply call me at 810-845-5065 if you

have any questions or need assistance. Informative leaflets are enclosed in all fundraising correspondence to assist you. Continue to obey the guidelines of the CDC to keep you and your loved ones safe. When it is safe once again for you to travel please put the Vasa National Archives and Bishop Hill on your list of places to visit in 2021.



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

GREETINGS VASA SISTERS AND BROTHERS, It's finally looking like winter here, and so far winter hasn't been too severe. After the unconventional happenings of 2020, we know this past year has had a tremendous range of challenges for people. We appreciate all the support from our Vasa members and the local community. We are happy to be facing a "more normal" year ahead. Cautious event plans are under way for the coming year.

The exhibit on Scandinavian Fairy Tales is mostly down and all the borrowed items have been returned. Visitors enjoyed the giants, fossils, and stories featured in the exhibit, and we had fun with it too.

We hope visitors will enjoy our

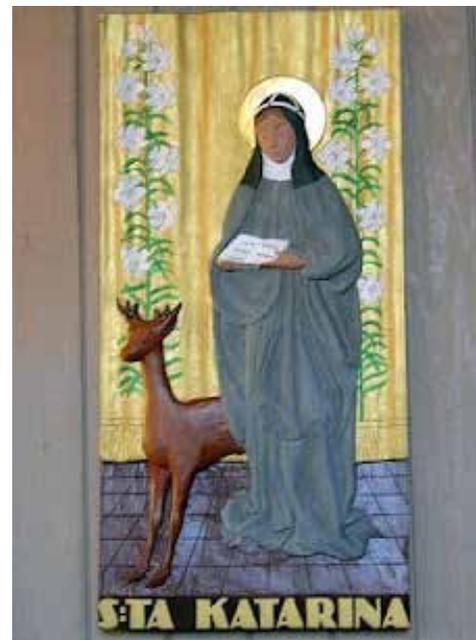
next exhibit, which will focus on the religious history of Sweden. It covers the introduction of Christianity around 830 by St. Ansgar until ca. 1846 when the Jansonist fled from religious persecution to America and established Bishop Hill, IL. Over the years, Sweden's borders have fluctuated from wars, negotiations, and unions. We are arbitrarily using the modern Swedish borders for this survey, so there are some saints and Christian movements from Denmark, Norway and Finland included in the exhibit.

2021 is the 175th anniversary of the founding of Bishop Hill and we hope you can find time to visit us during the coming year. There's usually plenty of space to social distance

yet still enjoy the various events. The 2021 Bishop Hill brochure should be available online in late February/early March. If you want us to mail you a physical copy, please let me know.

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

Catherine of Sweden, Katarina av Vadstena, Catherine of Vadstena or Katarina Ulfsdotter was a Swedish noblewoman. She is venerated as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. Her father was Ulf Gudmarsson, Lord of Ulvåsa, and her mother was Bridget of Sweden.



GRAND LODGE NEWS

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

turned away at the border. ETIAS is being introduced to gain better control of entry in view of both illegal immigration and terrorism.

In this issue you'll find the list of donors to the GL Education/Scholarship Fund, the Archives Heritage Fund and Julgrans Memorials. We thank everyone for their generous support.

Grand Lodge delegates and alter-

nates to the 2022 Grand Lodge Convention must be elected sometime this year, before January 1, 2022.

This issue also has the format for submitting motions to the 2022 Grand Lodge Convention. It is a reminder of how to make the changes you want made in the Vasa Order.

The winners of the 2022 Convention Committee Raffle are: Rolf Bergman,

PGM District # 9, Sveaborg Lodge #446, District #6, and Maidie Karling, District # 15. We would like to thank all who participated in the raffle.

Did you know?

1638: the New Sweden Colony was founded in Delaware DE.

1699: the Swedish Holy Trinity Church was consecrated at Christina (Wilmington). It is one of the oldest protestant churches in use in America.

1748: the Swedish botanist Peter Kalm, a pupil of Linnaeus, arrived in America.

Remember the Order needs a **VI-BRANT, ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBERSHIP – GET THE WORD OUT! TV TV TV** (Talk Vasa) with **ENTHUSIASM! We heartily welcome new members!**

IN GENEROSITY, TRUTH AND UNITY,
ART BJORKNER, GRAND MASTER

To Submit Motions to the 2022 Grand Lodge Meeting

The Grand Lodge Vasa Order of America will meet for its 40th Convention on July 2 - 8, 2022 at the Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. It is not too early to start thinking about motions you want to submit for the changes you want to see happen within Vasa. You can find the Constitution on the Vasa web site: www.vasaorder.com or you can request an electronic (pdf) version to read on your computer or smart phone by emailing me at vasajlg@aol.com and I will send it to you as an attachment.

Any individual member, local lodge, or district lodge may submit motions to the Grand Lodge meeting. An **individual member does not need approval from any local or district officer when submitting a motion to the Grand Lodge**. However, the local lodge secretary must certify (embossed with the lodge seal) that the individual submitting the motion is a member in good standing (dues are current.)

Please use the format provided here when writing your motions. This will ensure a consistent appearance for the many motions to be considered. Please do not use the words "Whereas" or "Be It Resolved" or the motion will be returned to you for proper format. If you submit more than one motion, please put one motion per form to avoid confusion.

All motions must be typed or printed clearly, so that no errors in interpretation or intent will be made. All signatures are required, along with the appropriate lodge seal. Paper copy, together with certification of membership from Local Lodge sec-

retary, must be received by the due date of March 1, 2022. An emailed copy of the motion would be appreciated but does not replace the paper copy with signatures and lodge seal. Please email a copy of your motion/s to: vasajlg@aol.com.

When making a motion that involves finances, please show the probable cost along with the motion.

Remember that the Constitution and Bylaws use the words "shall" or "will", not conditional words such as "can", "should", or "could".

Recommendations included in any GL Officer's or Archives Board Member's report involving a constitutional change must follow these rules.

Please refer to the Constitution for Grand Lodge - Article XXII-Amendments concerning motions to change the Constitution.

You may submit your motions as early as you want. **ALL MOTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE GS BEFORE MARCH 1, 2022.**

PROCESS: Motions will be numbered in the order in which they are received. Motions are not voted on based on their order received but are assigned to delegate committees for discussion. Then they are presented by the committee to the full Grand Lodge for vote. All Vasa members may attend the Grand Lodge meeting. While you will not have voice or vote, you may pass along your opinions to your district's delegate at any time outside of the meeting.

Mail your motions along with the lodge secretary's certification to:

Convention Motions
Joan Graham, Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Ave.
Richmond, CA 94804

and
Email motions to: vasajlg@aol.com

For an ELECTRONIC COPY of the Constitution or the Local Lodge Ritual, send an email to GS Joanie at vasajlg@aol.com.

For a PAPER COPY, send your order and a check payable to Vasa Order to: Vice Grand Secretary Marlene Patient, 337 River St., Leicester, MA 01524.

Constitution for Grand Lodge, District Lodge, Local Lodge (all three in one document)

\$3.00 US for paper copy (includes postage)

Local Lodge Ritual

\$3.00 US for paper copy (includes postage)

Complete Vasa Handbook (contains the above two documents plus the binder and Instruction Manual)

\$14.00 US (includes postage)

The Constitution is also available on the Vasa web site: www.vasaorder.com

If you would like a copy of the Record of Proceeding from the 2018 Grand Lodge convention, which includes all minutes and reports, it is available by emailing me at vasajlg@aol.com



Grand Lodge Secretary /
Joan Graham

IN MEMORIAM

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, PO Box 510632, New Berlin, WI 53151-0632. Email: vasaeditor@gmail.com. The fee is \$10=max. 40-45 words, and \$25= longer obituaries of 50-120 words. All notices must be typed and in a format similar to what you see here. NO newspaper clippings.

If you submitted an obituary and it is not listed here, please resubmit to be included in the following issue.

CALIFORNIA

CARL ANDERSON of Linnéa Lodge No. 504 died on August 28, 2020 in Lakeport. His parents were charter members of the lodge in 1927. Carl was a dedicated member for 71 years and served as Chairman and in other positions. He was a Honorary Life Member.

RUTH DUFFY of Linnéa Lodge No. 504 died November 7, 2020 in Vacaville. Ruth was a dedicated member for 46 years. She held various positions, including Chairman, and was Secretary for many years. She was a Honorary Life Member and celebrated her 99th birthday this year.

KIRSTEN OLESEN, born in Aarhus, Denmark April 17, 1927, passed away November 24, 2020 in Pembroke, Tennessee. Charter member of Sierra Kronan #737 and hard-working person behind the scenes of our lodge. Survived by four children, families and her sister, Alice in Denmark. Kirsten will be dearly missed.

JORGEN REGSTAD passed away on December 19, 2020 in San Rafael, CA. Jorgen was a member of Linnéa Lodge No. 504 since 2012. Jorgen is survived

by his wife Vivi-Anne, two daughters and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all.

FLORIDA

JOHN ERIC EKLUND born in White Plains, New York on December 19, 1925, passed away at his home in Elkton, Florida on October 5, 2020. He was an Army veteran serving in World War II and retired from NY Tel/Verizon after 37 years. He was a member of Freja Lodge No. 100 in White Plains, NY. John is survived by his dear wife Margaret, son John Jr. (Rosanne) and three grandchildren, sister-in-law Lynne Eklund, two nephews and a niece. He was predeceased by his brother George. He was proud of his Swedish heritage and looked forward to Norstjerman/Vasa Star issues!

OHIO

EMIL ARVIDSON, 87, was born in Mentor OH on September 30 1933. He was a Nobel-Monitor #130 Life Member, historian, trustee, auditor, assistant M.C. and a faithful Breakfast Club member. He passed away on January 8, 2021 and is survived by two daughters.

OREGON

CARL JACOBSON passed away in Salem, Oregon on December 27, 2020, at the age of 91. Raised in Astoria, he joined Astor Lodge No. 215 on October 14, 1961, and was always a faithful member. Carl earned 25 through 55 year awards.

Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay

by Robert Tor Prasso

How has traditional Swedish music and folk dance influenced your involvement with the Vasa Order?

In 1899 when the Vasa Order of America was established, the goal “To perpetuate the noble heritage of our forefathers and to foster Nordic cultural activities by encouragement and example to its members” has remained. Everything I have learned about my heritage, of Swedish music, folkdances, language and culture, was thanks to my family, Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 and the club’s many performances for various Vasa Lodges, Grand Lodge and District Conventions.

How is time measured? By innovation? By music? By culture? If one reads, “The Economist” they would define a decade by economic growth such as the 2000’s dotcom bubble and 2008 housing market crash. However, any gossip magazine would describe the same time period as the birth of modern pop with Justin Bieber and rise of social media with Facebook. In a time capsule we often save T-shirts, toys, film, and model cars of the time. So perhaps, time is measured as a mixture of events. As time passes, people tend to forget the major events that influenced the modern time period. To never forget what helped shape and influence how we live our lives, it is so important to be involved in cultural organizations such as the Vasa Order, to continue promoting Swedish traditions through music, dance and celebrations.

“What are these strange words!” three-year old me would exclaim to my mother, as she would speak to me in Swedish. My mother would bring me to churches, Vasa Lodges and Conventions in my youth where I was dressed up as a miniature Santa (Tomte) for Lucia singing, and then changed into wearing a cotton shirt, black vest and yellow three-quarter long pants with tassels for folk dancing. I didn’t realize why I sang these foreign words or why I danced in outlandish clothes, but I recognized the great energy of the older Elsa Rix #1 members and the audience.

As I grew up, I began to see the meaning behind our performances which inspired me to be more in-

Robert Prasso

Olympic Lodge No. 235 /

DL New York No. 4

Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1,000

Robert is attending Loyola University New Orleans where he is majoring in international business. He is on the Dean’s List and in Kappa Alpha Pi professional business fraternity. Robert has been involved in the Vasa Order of America where he unofficially joined Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 at age 11 months; he officially joined at age 3 and has performed continuously and took on the role of youth organizational leader as a teenager.



Robert Prasso with a younger, fellow member of Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 perform at the Battery Park Midsummer celebration.



The two siblings at a much younger age—Robert’s first folk dance show with Elsa Rix #1.

involved. I proudly participated in flag and appointment of officer ceremonies at Vasa Conventions. After my first flag bearing convention, I began to interact with members of the Vasa Order in a way I haven’t before and noticed how joyful it made me to see

the younger dancers as well as former members, dance along to Små Grodorna and Råven Raskar Över Isen in full Nordic folk costumes! I found Swedish dancing and singing no longer to be strange and foreign but an important part of who I am.

As a fourteen-year-old I visited Sweden by myself for the first time. I was attending confirmation camp and after three weeks, was confirmed into the Swedish church. This is when I experienced my first Swedish midsommar and dancing around the maypole. I had the best time dancing and singing with the other Swedes. We were all smiling and laughing. It is one of my

most clear and greatest memories of my summer in Sweden. I was so proud to have been part of Elsa Rix #1 and to learn about my heritage. So, when my mother asked me, “Robert would you like to be part of the Vasa Order?” my response was a resounding “yes”.

Now, as an Olympic Lodge of the Vasa Order member for over six years, I fully resonate with its vision statement to “foster Nordic cultural activities by encouragement and example to its members.” My main medium of learning tradition was through my family and singing and dancing with Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1. However, I have also learned about Swedish culture and traditions by traveling, going to museums and through studies. By traveling to Sweden this past Christmas, it allowed me to connect with my relatives and truly learn about traditional Jul and Lucia celebrations as we sang at the dinner table and around the Christmas tree. My connection with my heritage is everlasting and my longevity performing Swedish folk dances and singing Lucia songs directly influenced my decision to join the greater Vasa Order of America. My intention is to carry on with its mission to teach Swedish culture, traditions and music to future generations.

Photo: Private (Nina Prasso)

Grand Lodge Education and Scholarship Fund

Honor Roll of Donors January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 — Thank you for your generosity!

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Archives Julgrans Fund — in memory of your loved ones

Honor roll of donors 2020 — Thank you for your generosity!

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Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay

by **Amelia Colafati**

In any organization, youth are a source of vigor and energy. They have a vision of how they want to succeed in their lives and how they want their affiliated organizations to succeed, and they often try to find myriad ways in which they can help an organization. In an organization such as the Vasa Order of America, I believe youth have a very unique role to play, absorbing and learning about the culture of our ancestors, being of service to the organization, and bringing energy and vigor.

Given that Vasa is principally a cultural organization dedicated to preserving the cultures and traditions of those from the Nordic and Scandinavian nations, the older members of the organization are often looked upon with justifiable pride -- they know and have been upholding the Scandinavian traditions in the United States for decades. Yet the youth are those who are going to carry on that legacy in the United States, and thus they likewise have a very important and unique role: to learn the traditions of their elders and adapt them to the ever-changing social and political climate so that their children, in turn, can carry on the Scandinavian traditions and connect more fully with their ancestors.

Celebrations like Santa Lucia Day and Midsommar are opportunities, I believe, for youth to take a greater role in their Vasa communities. In my community, my sister and I used to process during the Santa Lucia Day procession; now we bring our violins and play the Lucia song and other Scandinavian music during the Lucia program and procession. I love to play the violin, and at home, as well as at Vasa, I play Swedish

fiddle tunes and sing Swedish hymns with my family. We also, in the home, try to maintain our Swedish heritage by having a traditional Swedish Christmas dinner every year. These traditions were important to our ancestors, are important to our parents and grandparents, and now become more and more important to us as we learn to take a greater role in our heritage.

Beyond becoming the next generation of Scandinavian-Americans tasked with continuing our heritage traditions, youth also provide an energy and spirit that perhaps is not as often found in older populations. This energy not only helps to jumpstart new ideas into action at an organization like Vasa but also motivates everyone to work harder to maintain their valued Scandinavian traditions. In my case, I have loved the experience of Vasa gatherings -- not just to explore the culture, but also to hear Swedish spoken between friends and the opportunity to eat traditional Swedish dishes.

Last year, I had the privilege of being chosen for the Vasa scholarship to attend Sjolunden Swedish camp in Bemidji, Minnesota. This experience left an indelible mark on me, immersing me in Swedish culture and language in a way that I had never been before. It also made me realize that a great service that my Vasa order could provide -- and I could help with, now that I have a conversational grasp of Swedish -- would be to provide language lessons in Scandinavian languages for members, and perhaps even more broadly for the general public. These lessons would give every member, regardless of age or socio-economic

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

status, an opportunity to learn their heritage language and connect more deeply with their ancestors, as I was able to at Sjolunden.

The Swedish immersion camp, too, helps to exemplify the role that I consider youth should and can play in the Vasa Order. Since we are still young, Vasa provides us with an opportunity to learn about our heritage and community in myriad ways. Youth have the opportunity to learn as much about a culture or topic as possible, and then relay those experiences not just back to an organization that sponsored them but to the general public. I have personally tried to express my excitement with our culture in many ways--through wearing a Swedish shirt in public, through distributing lussekatter to my teachers and friends, and through teaching them basic Swedish. Not only are those actions helpful and engaging to others, but they also allow me to connect with my culture on a deeper level, as similar actions would for other youth.

In the United States today, having experiences with other cultures beyond the "American" culture is often taken for granted or downright scorned. Other cultures are often expected to assimilate into the larger notion of a unified American culture, and therefore some important cultural traditions are lost to time. That, in its essence, is why organizations like Vasa are all the more important in today's political and social climate. It allows Americans to have an outlet for their desire to learn more about their ancestors and their culture, in a place where they will not be judged for having different traditions than those considered fully "American."

Youth, I believe, are an important force in this task -- the task of carrying on the legacy of our ancestors so that Scandinavian traditions can be preserved for generations to come.

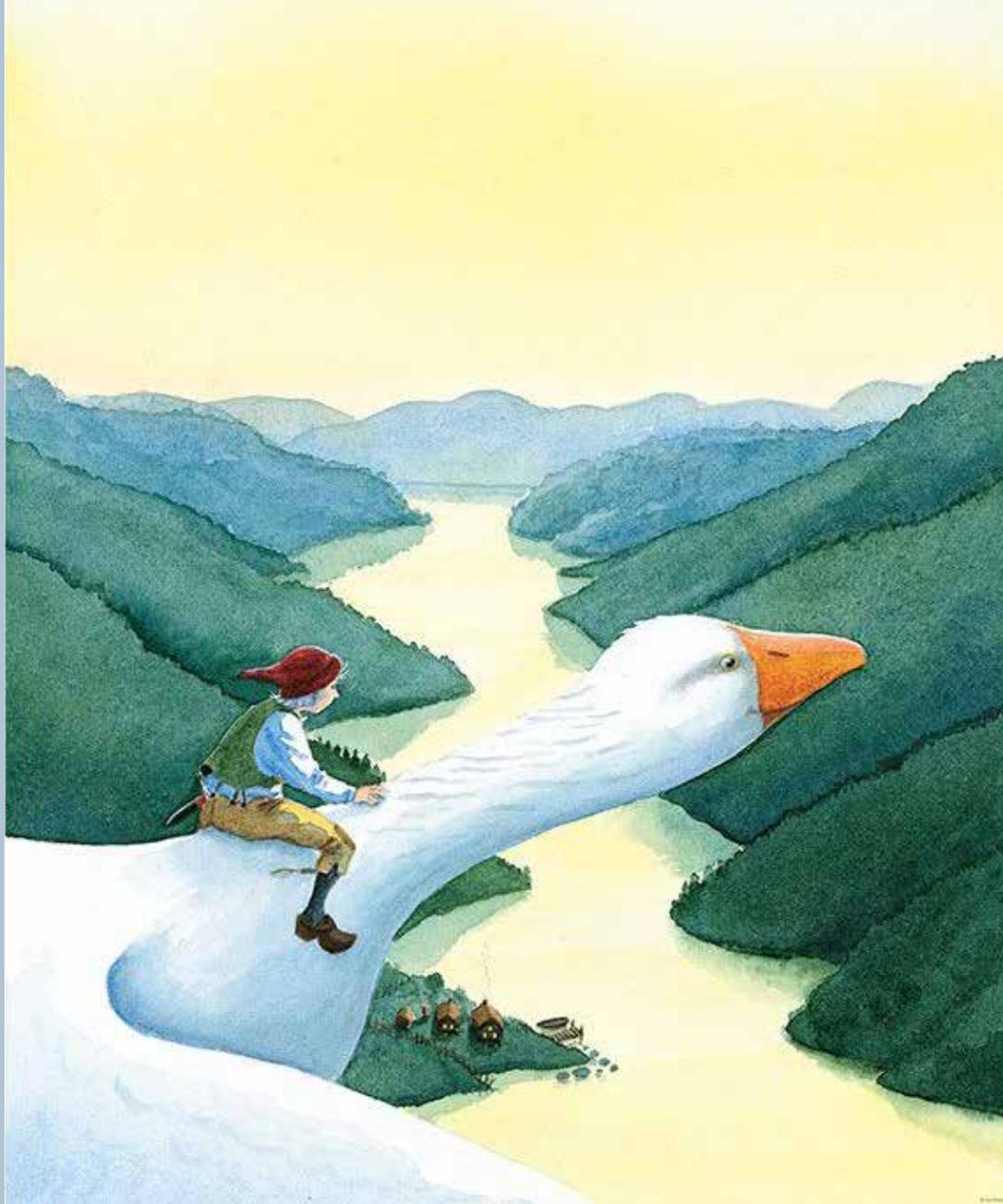


Amelia Colafati
Tegner Lodge No. 109 /
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Grand Lodge Scholarship \$1,000

Amelia will be pursuing an education in global affairs and astrophysics. Amelia is a member of the top level Empire State Youth Orchestra (violin); she has studied violin since 2006, piano since 2005 and is vice president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Amelia has served as president to the Mock Trial Club in high school, and president of the Model UN clubs well as the robotics team. She also volunteers her time playing her violin at her church. Amelia has attended Sjolunden Language Camp, Nobel Conference and Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science and Ethics where she was a Senior Fellow 2019.

The Real Nils Holgersson

by Bertil Winther



The fictional story about a boy named Nils Holgersson was required reading when, at age 8 or 9, I went to elementary school in Sweden – perhaps it is part of the curriculum even today. At that time, very few people knew that the boy’s name wasn’t fictional but was the name of the author’s adopted son. My uncle Ernst Winther was one of those who knew, because he had been a co-worker of Nils Holgersson in 1920-21 when they were employed as young trainees at Reslöv gård, a large farm in southern Sweden. I didn’t learn about the strange coincidence until several years after the death of uncle Ernst in 1977. My cousin, the youngest son of Ernst, developed an interest in genealogy and collected stories about his family. It was through my cousin that I first heard about the real Nils Holgersson.

In 1980, after the death of another of my uncles, I acquired three albums that had belonged to my great-

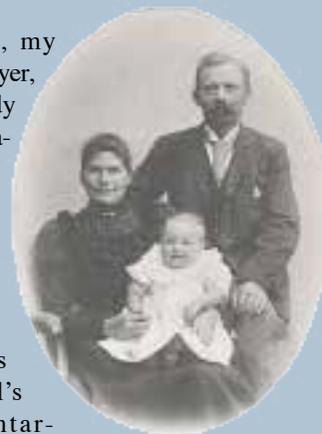
grandparents and later to my grandparents. These albums contained photos and letters from a 70-year period starting in the early 1860s. Because of the current pandemic and the lack of social activities, I have lots of extra time to go through this material and to document notes that I have accumulated over the past 40 years. So far, I have written about 75 pages but I’m working on about 50 more. My plan is to have it all printed in a book. To make it most accessible to my relatives, I write in Swedish but I intend to make an English version later. Perhaps I will include this story about the real Nils Holgersson.

From 1858 through 1865, my great-grandparents were owners of Marieholmshgården, a farm located in the proximity of the above-mentioned Reslöv gård about 6 miles west of Eslöv in the county of Scania (Skåne in Swedish). Some of the farmland, located

near a river, was sold to a railroad company and the railroad between Eslöv and Landskrona was completed in the early 1860s. An industrial community grew up next to the train station which was named Marieholm. Soon thereafter, my great-grandfather decided to sell the entire farm to Mr. Sundelius who built a large factory on parts of the property.

After the sale my great-grandparents, Peter and Augusta Winther, moved only a few miles away and continued to keep in touch with their former neighbors, the Bellanders, who owned Reslöv gård. In 1888, after Mr. Bellander passed away, his relatively young widow hired my grandfather to manage the farm. Augusta, my great-grandmother, was hoping her son would marry Mr. Bellander’s second wife, the widow and owner of Reslöv gård. Augusta’s hopes were dashed – in 1899, my grandfather married a younger woman who 40 years later became my grandmother.

Ulla Bellander, my grandfather’s employer, was a cultured lady who arranged literature evenings. She invited young and upcoming authors to give talks about their latest books. At this time, Selma Lagerlöf, worked as a teacher at a girl’s school (Elementarläroverket) in Landskrona but had acquired some fame in 1891 after the release of her first



This photo shows my grandparents with their first-born, my uncle Ernst.

book entitled *The Story of Gösta Berling* (Gösta Berlings Saga). Ms. Lagerlöf became a frequent guest at the literature evenings. The train ride from Landskrona to Marieholm was an easy 12-mile ride and my grandfather probably met up with a horse-and-buggy at the station.

In 1895 Ms. Lagerlöf decided to become a full-time author and resigned from her teaching position in Landskrona. At the end of the century she travelled with a female friend to the Holy Land. The trip resulted in a novel entitled *Jerusalem* that turned out to be another bestseller. Shortly thereafter she spent some time in Stockholm and Uppsala. It was in the latter city that she was asked to adopt a boy, born in 1901 and named Nils Holgersson. He was the son of a poor shoemaker’s wife or widow.

A couple of years after the adoption, Ms. Lagerlöf accepted an assignment from the Swedish Teacher’s Association and wrote a book that would encourage children to learn about the geography of Sweden. She entitled the book “The Wonderful Adventures of Nils” (*Nils Holgerssons underbara resa genom Sverige*). The book became much more successful than she could have imagined. It was translated into more than 30 languages.

Continues on next page

Continued from previous page

Nils grew up at his adoptive mother's birthplace, a farm named Mårbacka. Ms. Lagerlöf, however, didn't spend much time at home. She was much in demand as speaker at various events and the upbringing of Nils was left to the housemaid at Mårbacka. In 1909, when Selma Lagerlöf received the Nobel Prize in Literature, she was able to purchase the entire farm. She was disappointed, however, that her adopted son didn't wish to pursue higher education. Then she got the bright idea that Nils could manage the farm as soon as he came of age.

Ms. Lagerlöf contacted Ulla Bellander, her old friend at Reslöv gård, to inquire about training opportunities for Nils. Mrs. Bellander had sold her farm but the new owner, Nils-Erik Nilsson, was more than

happy to hire the famous author's adopted son as a trainee.

As I mentioned earlier, my uncle Ernst was employed as a trainee at Reslöv gård when Nils Holgersson was there. Ernst was two years older than Nils and became assigned to a different work group at the farm. According to my cousin, they didn't get to know each other very well. After a year of hard work, Nils returned to Mårbacka. He had enjoyed his time in Scania but told his adopted mother that farming wasn't his cup of tea. Ms. Lagerlöf then decided to enroll Nils as a trainee with a local carpenter. Nils also completed his compulsory military service after the



Mr. Nilsson can be seen standing up front in the photo to the right. I don't know whether Nils Holgersson was present when the picture was taken.

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This photo of Nils was taken at a studio in Eslöv during the time when Nils was getting practical experience of farming.

return from the south of Sweden.

While Nils was learning the carpenter trade, he became friends with a family that planned to emigrate to America. He was invited to a send-off party and became so drunk that his friends had to take him home in a wheelbarrow. Ms. Lagerlöf, who as a child had experienced her father's

problems with alcohol, became very upset at the sight of her adopted son's drunken stupor. According to my cousin, she told Nils that he had her permission to join his friends and leave for the U.S.

Nils ended up in Chicago where he was hired by Ragnar Benson, who in 1911 had emigrated from Stenbrohult in Sweden and later became a very successful entrepreneur during the building boom in Chicago. The Ragnar Benson Construction Company was formed in 1922 and is in business even today. In April of 1928, Nils married a Swedish-American lady named Vera Sund. They had a son and made a few trips back to their home country. On those visits they usually stayed with Vera's relatives. According to my cousin, on one occasion Nils went back to Mårbacka to retrieve a stone axe that he had found in the fields

during his childhood. It was said to be the only time he saw his adoptive mother after the move to the US. Ms. Lagerlöf died in 1940 at the age of 81.

Nils and Vera became members of the Vasa Lodge in Chicago. The family lived for many years in Evergreen Park, a suburb of Chicago. Nils had a long life. He was 84 when he died at Oak Glen Home in Coal Valley, Illinois, survived by his wife, his son, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

You can read The Wonderful Adventures of Nils online for free through this compressed link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6l9o5rs> or, simply search the title at Project Gutenberg, www.gutenberg.org

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL No. 9 Pennsylvania Virtual Lucia celebration

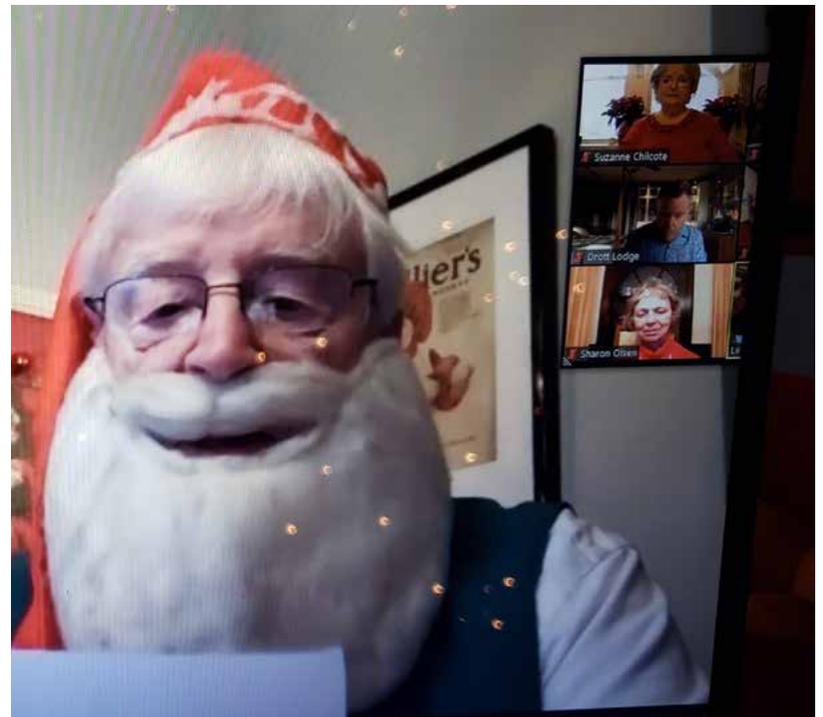
On December 13, 2020, Our District #9 (Nobel-Monitor, Drott, and Svea Lodges) and direct members of the District, celebrated the first joint District Santa Lucia Program, with well over 100 participants.

The Lucia festival marks the be-

ginning of the Christmas season in Sweden and is intended to bring hope and light during the darkest time of the year — an aspiration ever so important to remember in a year such as 2020. In the spirit of seeking to bring hope and light to one another's lives, our lodges came together to celebrate our most treasured event of the year, virtually. And what a successful collaborative program it was. Before the event went live, participants were treated to traditional Swedish holiday musical selections, accompanied by a visual masterpiece featuring a slideshow of Stockholm holiday lights. Thanks goes to Jeffrey de Hart, a Drott member now living and working in Stockholm, for the holiday light photos.

The engaging program was kicked-off by DM, Julie Olson. She who introduced Karin Weeden, Chairman of Drott, who served as the MC for the celebration by narrating the history and tradition of the festival. Rolf Bergman, PGM, and PC of Nobel-Monitor, presented a wonderful recorded version of the Swedish National Anthem performed by Vasa Voices, Nobel-Monitor's own choir.

Drott's 2020 Lucia, Laura Rhodes, gave a beautiful performance of the Swedish song, *Det Strålar en Stjärna*, and SVEA's Lucia, Lena Donnelly,



The Tomte, Monte Corliss, shared God Jul greetings with all.

read the story of Santa Lucia. The afternoon included a presentation of Lucia events of past years from each lodge and more recorded musical performances by the Vasa Voices Choir as well as by Sofia Källgren and Adolf Fredrik Kyrkas Kammarkör. Bo Carlsson, PC of Nobel-Monitor, read the poem *Tomten* by Victor Rydberg, the story of the very shy and rarely seen little Scandinavian creatures. Then, the Tomte, Monte Colliers of Svea, joined our cybernetic celebration with a brief but magical appearance to share God

Jul greetings.

The joint celebration was a great success thanks to the collaboration of the lodges and participation of our members. Special kudos go to organizer and Zoom operator, Arne Dunhem, Drott PC. The DM encouraged members to carry the tradition of Santa Lucia with them as best they could and to look after one another. Thanks to everyone for bringing our joint Lucia program to life during these challenging times.

SUBMITTED BY KATIE PETERSON



Laura Rhodes, 2020 Drott Lodge Lucia, gave a performance of "Det strålar en stjärna."

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

YOUTH NEWS: Kornet No. 16

MINNEAPOLIS, MNI / Isabella Karen Reecy is the 2020 Vasa Junior Folk Dancers Santa Lucia. Isabella has danced since she was four years old, following family tradition and respecting her Swedish heritage. Her mother and many of her aunts and uncles danced for the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers, as well. Her great grandfather, Walter Olaf Olson was the very talented accordion player for the group. Isabella's ancestors immigrated from Smaland, Sodermanland and Dalarna, Sweden. Isabella's great grandmother, Lyla Ovidia Nelson-Olson's family im-

migrated from Haugesund, Norway. Isabella is a senior at Armstrong Senior High, in Plymouth, MN. She also attends North Hennepin Community College full-time and will graduate high school, with two years of completed college credits! She plans to attend NDSU and study marketing. She is active in her church, loves the Lord, and her large, close-knit family. She works part-time, even with her many studies. She is very honored to be Lucia and to keep this tradition alive.

SUBMITTED BY EUNICE DIETRICH



Isabella Karen Reecy was the 2020 Vasa Junior Folk Dancers Santa Lucia.



Vice chair of Thule Lodge Susan W. Sipos with some of her Swedish weaving.

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN-FALCONER, NY / Hello from the Thule Lodge No. 127, and a Happy New Year to all. The Lodge has not held meetings for a while, and members are sharing experiences with one another. Shown in the photograph is vice chairman Susan W. Sipos who completed some Swedish weaving. The design used is appropriate for any time of the year, and especially for Christmas time. Hearts and pine trees are very popular design with Swedish people. Swedish weaving, sometimes called huck weaving, is a kind of surface embroidery. The pattern is worked with a flat needle called a bodkin. The fabric used on this pattern is Monk's Cloth. It is 100% cotton, and was pre-shrunk. The pattern yarn is worsted weight. This weaving was designed to function as a table runner. Thule Lodge held a catered Swedish dinner in mid-January at the Falcon's Nest in Falconer. Dinner included korv, ham, kaldomar, Swedish meatballs, rotmos, pickled beets, rice pudding, scalloped potatoes, cucumber salad, kroppkakor and sweet rye bread. The meal was planned by treasurer Loretta Smith, assisted by membership chairman Bernice Veights, and was much appreciated. All precautions were taken with everyone wearing their masks and maintaining safety distances. Lodge chairman Tom Eckberg sends his welcome to all. Thule Lodge encourages everyone to stay healthy during this time of our lives. "God dag" to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS, LODGE HISTORIAN

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circulationvasastar@gmail.com

Ingeborg No. 66

BROCKTON, MA / Godt nytt år fra Ingeborg Lodge. We are beginning 2021 with the promise of hope; the vaccine is here and hopefully by summer we will be able to meet in person again; just to shake hands and hug someone. Will we remember how to do that? Ingeborg has still not had an official meeting as church has been closed down for meetings. A small group of us – mostly four or five at a time – have been meeting at my dining room table – socially distancing with two leaves in the table and with masks. In November we welcomed two new members, Diane Sterling and her mom Gladys. Our program on decorating gingerbread houses was a lot of fun. In December, our annual Julbord is usually held; this year it was a no-go. Instead, five of us met at my home for a potluck. Around the table, we talked about the fun we had in the past and about our future. Lynne Martin, our chairperson, was presented with a gavel with the VASA emblem and the date of Ingeborg’s initiation burned into it. This was made by VASA sister Michelle Dolan, a very talented crafter. She also presented the sisters



Swedish Christmas lights, adventljus.

with Swedish kitchen knots that she crafted. We sampled Janson’s temptation, baked ham, potato salad, Swedish/Norwegian rice pudding, deviled eggs and gingerbread with whipped cream and we toasted the day with sparkling grape juice. Hopefully by the next edition of the Vasa Star, meetings in person will have been resumed.

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA DECARLI

Svea No. 348



Mona Clements, Lindbergh Lodge, Victoria Fedor-Thurman, Chairperson Svea No. 348, Carolyn Fedor-Thurman, Sami Ibrahim, retired chemistry professor featured speaker on Arrhenius. (As usual “hiker-meister” Jack held the camera).

SAN JOSÉ, CA / The COVID-19 situation has certainly put a damper on Lodge meetings and activities for the Vasa community. Yet Svea Lodge in San Jose continues nevertheless. We have scheduled meetings via Zoom and also our hiking club abides! For one of our Zoom meetings our

redoubtable Chairperson Victoria Fedor-Thurman scheduled an international meeting including friends in Sweden! Recently our irrepressible hiking club held another hike along our favorite “stomping grounds” the southern San Francisco Bay Area shoreline. Carolyn took some inter-



Ingeborg No. 66 lodge meeting with only a few members - Linda Pearson, Lynne Martin, Lynne Kenyon and Michelle Dolan.

Right: New Ingeborg members - Diane Sterling and her mother Gladys



esting in-flight pictures of pelicans and other birds. Sami Ibrahim, a retired chemistry professor, was the featured lodge cultural event at our most recent Zoom meeting. Sami Ibrahim gave a presentation on the Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius, the first person to warn of global warming. Arrhenius pointed out that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere served as “heat-trap” because it al-

lowed sunlight to penetrate feely to the surface of the earth. On the other hand, a slight decrease in CO2 may set off an ice age! Arrhenius won the 1903 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

SUBMITTED BY JACK KNUTSON



Carolyn and Victoria Fedor-Thurman enjoy a lunch outdoors despite COVID-19 on a California sunny late October afternoon.



Pelican in landing.



New Linde Lodge Members Jan & Kerri Ehrengren surrounded by their children and grandchildren.

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / It was such a different season for our lodge, but obviously not any different than every other lodge in Vasa-land. No lodge festivities, no traditional Lucia programs, no dancing around the Christmas tree, none of all of the yummy treats, the list goes on... We all love this time of year, and we miss it so much. But hopefully 2021, will come in really strong, at least in the last half of the year. But let us be grateful for what we have. Linde ended the year on a very strong note. We were lucky enough to have five new members joining our lodge between November and December, and for that we are thankful. The pictures are introducing them, and

we welcome them with open arms. From an article in Nordstjernen one of our members, Elaine Johnson, found a Julkärve producer in Lindsborg KS, and both Elaine's porch and Liza Ekstrand's porch were sporting this traditional Swedish decoration this year. Member Anne-Marie Hummel was enjoying her own Lucia day with great grandchildren Nathan and Zoe. Anne-Marie and her daughter Sonia Hummel have always done so much for the Lucia and Midsommar programs over the years. In January the lodge held its annual audit/finance meeting. It was partially virtual, but for the signing we had to get together. Duties completed!

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



New member Sophie Rosario.



Lucia Day 2020 celebration at mormors-mor Anne-Marie Hummels house.

Linnea No. 504

PETALUMA, CA / The new year is off to a good start with new member Jan Ögren joining our lodge, and being initiated at January's virtual meeting. Jan is of Swedish ancestry and enjoys bike riding, skate skiing, and hiking. After taking care of business, members told of their interesting travel stories, memories and wonderful photos taken while on trips to Sweden. We ended last year hosting a virtual Lucia Fest with members sharing their childhood memories of this celebration. Vice Chair Nick Provenzano created a video of our past lodge Lucia Pageants so it was almost like being there (but without all the work). We plan to line up some guest speakers for future meetings to make them more interesting. It is looking like virtual meetings are the way we can stay connected as a lodge for the time being.

SUBMITTED BY MARY WAHLBERG



January 2021 Zoom meeting with Linnéa No. 504 members

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / Our December meeting was still held on Zoom, with no chance for an in person membership meeting as yet. It presented us with an opportunity to recall some happier times, such as, our Lucia pageant being enjoyed by members and guests in person. The board is contemplating a possible get-together in a park with a picnic for one of our Spring meetings observing all the guidelines in place at that time. This still needs more research and depends on how COVID-19 will be treating us come Spring. District 21

Arizona Convention planning is being pushed into fall of this year, in the hope that the event will be probable in the Spring of 2022. Swedish calendars were sent to Margareta Flink, Louise Haas, Kerstin Wilson, and Jim and Vel Hedberg who have honored Phoenix Lodge 677 with completing fifty-five years of membership. Our January meeting on Zoom will feature a quiz on Sweden. It should offer information, and perhaps some hilarity. We hope to “Zoom” with a lot of our members.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON



Carole Sell and Monica Shipley at last year's Heritage Day Celebration.

Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / Tillsammans! Our last “in person” meeting was our Installation of Officers on January 18, 2020! Since many members lack Internet capabilities, we have connected by phone, greeting cards, letters, and some socially distanced brief visits, in addition to e-mail messages. We lost our beloved photographer, David Swanson to COVID-19. In addition, we mourn the loss of our fiddler, Chuck Cadwell and dual member pianist, Sonja Sigren. Hope prevails, persistence reigns and determination rules as we anticipate our June Midsummerfest on June 11th. We plan to gather outside by our Maypole, picnic, sing, dance and cherish our friendships bound by our shared Scandinavian heritage. Tillsammans! (Together)



Unusual to capture our Photographer, David Swanson in a photo!

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN ELLNER KEAN

Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / This year the Swedish Festival is scheduled for May 13, 14 and 15, 2021 in Kingsburg, California. If you are interested and would like to have more information about the Swedish Heritage Day's please contact June Hess. phone 559-859-7872.

Carole Sell and Monica Shipley were at last year's Heritage Day Celebration. Both ladies are from Norden Lodge No. 684 in Fresno, California. Monica makes delicious baked goods and bread. Everyone wears their Swedish costume, so don't forget to wear your costume.

Norden had their last Zoom meeting on January 8th. It was great to see our Vasa friends, especially Jaylene Morgan all the way from South Carolina and Bill Napier's niece, Victoria Fedor-Thurman from Svea Lodge/San Jose No. 348.

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN

SWEDISH NEWS

Skåne No. 570

MALMÖ, SWEDEN / Coronan fortsätter att ställa till det för logeverksamheten. Styrelsen har ställt in logemöten för januari, februari

och mars 2021. Vi har lyckats välja nya tjänstemän för 2021, men det är osäkert när det blir tillfälle med installation. Jag är även Distriktssekreterare i

DL 20 och får i den rollen in alla terminsrapporter, så jag har att göra. DL 20 planerar för ett Distriktsmöte i maj om det nu går för covid. Ak-

tuell information kommer att finnas på vår hemsida som kan nås via www.vasaorden.se.

Vårtecken? Här nedan ser ni Snödropparna i trädgården den 24 januari 2021.

SUBMITTED BY BO VÄSTERSTJÄRNA

NEW MEMBERS IN SWEDEN

Distriktslogen Norra Sverige No 19

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 Göteborg No 452
Ingemar Sandahl
LL Skövde No 626
Lars Hultmark
LL Skövde No 627
Mona Hultmark

LL Karlstad No 632
Lennart Hellqvist
Birgitta Strand
LL Lidköping No 636
Stig Arne Appelberg
Roger Berg

Inger Johansson
Barbro Oscarsson
LL Knallen No 745
Janne Borén
Gunilla Borén
Ingemar Molander



SWEDISH NEWS



Winter view from Maggie Ahlin Thelin's house just outside Norrköping, Sweden.

Höganäs No. 617

KRISTIANSTAD, SWEDEN / Ja, då är det redan januari 2021. Vart har dessa månader tagit vägen, sedan vi senast sågs på Vasa? Vad vi har längtat till att kunna träffas och ha trevligt tillsammans. Kollar ibland bland alla härliga bilder, som är tagna på våra logemöten... tänk så mycket roligt vi haft tillsammans. Såklart hoppas vi, att vi på nytt kommer att få möjlighet

att träffas, bara pandemin ger vika och vaccinationerna kommer igång och gör nytta. Men vår loge försöker att på olika sätt hålla medlemmarna uppdaterade, via telefonsamtal, sms, mail eller träff utomhus. Till Advent beslutade Logens styrelse att dela ut en Adventsblomma till alla Logens Vasa medlemmarna. Den kördes ut till var och en och levererades vid dörren. Nu

DL Norra Sverige No. 19

NORRKÖPING, SWEDEN / Dear Vasa friends, a new year with new opportunities ahead of us, a year that we all hope will be better, and that we will be able to get together again. In Sweden, some lodges having digital meetings, mostly board meetings, but also some lodge meetings. Some lodges are getting together outside for a walk at different places, bringing their own "fika korg". My local lodge Nr. 751 has these "dates" every other week which is very popular. Hopefully we will all get the vaccinations during this spring/summer. I wish you all the best.

SUBMITTED BY MAGGIE AHLIN THELIN, DM DL19



blickar vi framåt.....Träffas, Trivas o ha Trevligt Tillsammans. Det är detta vi ser fram emot. Det kommer att bli bra. Var försiktiga och var rädda om er alla Vasa syskon. Allt det bästa till er alla. "Livet består av ögonblick, ta vara på dem" GOD JUL och GOTT NYTT ÅR 2021

SUBMITTED BY GUNNEL OLSSON

Gotland No. 624

GOTLAND, SWEDEN /

Det gångna året har varit Logen Gotlands 70:e verksamhetsår. För att uppmärksamma jubileumsåret har



protokollsekreteraren Bo Jacobson skrivit en jubileumsskrift. Den beskriver bakgrunden till emigrationen, berättelser om utvandring från Gotland och verksamheten framförallt i Logen Gotland men även på distriktsnivå, samt bildandet av Vasa Orden av Amerika. Läsaren får även följa några intressanta öden i emigrationens tecken. Året har för övrigt präglats av en pandemi orsakad av viruset Covid 19. Det har inneburit att endast ett Logemöte kunnat genomföras. Det traditionella luciafirandet med adventskaffe har ställts in. Tre kulturella arrangemang har genomförts. I februari åsåg 18 vasasyskon ett teaterstycke på Länsteatern och i mars gjorde 30 syskon ett studiebesök "bakom kulisserna" på teatern, båda aktiviteterna inleddes med gemensam middag. I september deltog 21 syskon i ett guidat studiebesök på Enholmen, den befästa ön utanför inloppet till Slite. Logens förtjänstecken tilldelades Birgitta Andersson. Logens 50-årsnål tilldelades Ingegerd och Måsten Wessberg samt Barbro Lawergren, och logens 25-årsnål Ewy och Sylve Klint, Ewa och Bo Flodman samt Helene Viotti.

Logen beslutade att utnämna FFDO Lars-Eric Ganström till hedersmedlem.

I skrivande stund ser det inte ut som att det kan bli något logemöte före maj månad.

SUBMITTED BY BO JACOBSON

STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASASYSKON, När vi ser tillbaks på det gångna året 2020 - fyllt av prövningar för oss alla - blir man ofrånkomligt påmind om den härliga



anda och goda vilja som genomsyrar vår orden. Virtuellt blev årets modeord med många möten och arrangemang flyttade till virtuella plattformar. Vi förblir optimistiska över framtiden för våra medlemmar. Förhoppningsvis kan vi mycket snart åter igen glädjas över **ENTUSIASTISKT** kamratskap vid möten under normala förhållanden. Resor till Europa: European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) som ursprungligen skulle införts 1 januari 2021 kommer inte att träda i kraft förrän i slutet av 2022 och kommer inte att vara obligatoriskt förrän minst sex månader efter införandet. Därefter är alla amerikanska medbor-

gare skyldiga att på förhand registrera sig via ETIAS för resor till de 26 medlemmarna av Schengen-området för att inte riskera avvisning vid gränsen. ETIAS införs för att få bättre kontroll på inresandet med tanke på såväl illegal immigration som terrorism.

I den här utgåvan listar vi alla donatorer till Storlogens Education/Scholarship fond liksom vårt arkivs Heritage fond och JulGrans Minnesfond. Vi tackar alla för deras generösa bidrag. Delegater och suppleanter till Storlogemötet 2022 måste väljas under detta år, före första januari, 2022.

I den här utgåvan presenteras också hur förändringsförslag ska utformas inför Storlogemötet. Det är en påminnelse om hur vi måste gå tillväga för att få till stånd önskade förändringar inom Vasaorden.

Vinnarna av utlottningen från Kommittén för Storlogemötet 2022 är: Rolf Bergman, PGM District # 9, Sveaborg

Lodge # 446, District #6, and Maidie Karling, District # 15. Vi tackar alla som deltog i tävlingen.

Visste ni att

1638: Kolonin New Sweden grundades i Delaware

1699: Den Svenska kyrkan Holy Trinity Church grundades vid fortet Christina (i Wilmington, Delaware). Det är en av de äldsta ännu aktiva protestantiska kyrkorna i USA.

1748: Den svenske botanikern Peter Kalm, en av Linnés elever, anländer till Amerika.

Kom ihåg, vår orden behöver **LIVLIGA** och **AKTIVA, ENTUSIASTISKA** medlemmar. Sprid vårt namn, **TV TV TV** (tala om Vasa) med **ENTUSIASM!** Nya medlemmar är hjärtligt välkomna!

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
ART BJORKNER, STORMÄSTARE