



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

Fall 2021
Publication of The Vasa Order of America



Asaf Kliger/icehotel/imagebank.sweden

Entrance to a unique hotel experience with Northern lights in the sky. Not your ordinary hotel room, far, very far from the Marriott where the 2022 Grand Lodge Convention will take place. / p6

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

DEAR VASA MEMBERS,
This is the busiest time of the year. Lodges are getting ready for a Jul Dance, Lucia or simply a Julfest to mark the end of the year. Most areas have opened and are having meetings and gatherings while others are still



having zoom meetings. District Conventions are starting to happen; Nancy and I went to our first in 18 months! District #9 Pennsylvania held a convention in Frederick, Maryland hosted by Drott Lodge # 168. Thanks to the organizing committee / continued on p4

National Archive News

Find out more on holiday events at the archives and in Bishop Hill - with all precautions to keep everyone safe. /p3

Grand Lodge News

How to submit motions to our 40th Grand Lodge Convention in 2022 along with sample formats ... / p4,5

Scholarship essay

Highlighting one of this year's winning scholarship essays - on a different Swedish travel experience. / p6

Local Lodges

Local lodges across the country and in Sweden are sharing Jul greetings and celebrating members with the Vasa spirit. / p9

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



DEAR READERS,
My favorite time of year is fast approaching. Growing up in Petersburg, Alaska, a small town with strong Scandinavian

ties, I looked forward to multiple Lucia celebrations and the prospect of Julebukking. As a young child I was in awe of the older girls who I saw looking so beautiful in the pages of the Vasa Star, with their long white gowns and red sashes, although I secretly coveted the star boys' wands. As a teen, the joy of finally being a Lucia coupled with the excitement of setting off the fire alarm whilst wearing the Lucia crown of real candles is an indelible memory. As an adult, the festivities and the meaning and traditions behind them are as beautiful as ever, but most of all I enjoy seeing the timelessness of the anticipation of Lucia bringing light to us all, young and old alike.

The holiday season of 2021 is proving to be particularly special. For many of us, we are starting to get out and socialize more. Yes, we've been socializing via the internet and phone, but it is so encouraging to see in person activities pick up for local lodges. For me, this includes the Sankta Lucia Festival, held the day after Thanksgiving

in Astoria, Oregon. The Lucia Festival is hosted by the Astoria Midsummer Festival Association. It is a chance to strengthen our community ties and support local youth with Swedish, Danish, Finnish, Icelandic and Norwegian heritage at a quintessentially Swedish event.

In reading this issue's articles, it's apparent that much of Vasa's appeal is our inclusiveness which is shown in how each lodge celebrates Swedishness in its own unique way and how we care for one another. That includes fundraisers like the Vasa potholders designed by newlywed Ashley LeBlanc of Linde Lodge for their District Lodge. It includes milestones such as the 105th anniversary of Svea No. 348, and it includes many enjoyable crafts such as Linné No. 153 lodge's making origami doves.

As we come down the home stretch of the year, we can congratulate ourselves on making a difficult year a good one, Here's looking forward to the coming season and the new year. As Phoenix Lodge wishes us in closing their report, "May 2022 deal kindly with us all." Wishing you all safe holidays, en God Jul och ett Gott Nytt År!

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
CHRISTA SVENSSON

Cover image: Ice is not the most practical construction material, but an art exhibition and hotel built entirely of natural ice and snow creates one of the most unique overnight experiences in the world in Sweden's north. Every winter blocks of ice is harvested from nearby Torne River. The ice is the building material and also the basis for all the artworks. Photo: Asaf Kliger/icehotel/imagebank.sweden

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



LL Svea No. 348 celebrates 105th anniversary at Sveadal, California. / p11



Memorabilia Table at the 100th anniversary celebration at Frihet No. 401. / p13



Honky tonk piano player extraordinaire Gary Landgren entertained at a recent Nordic No. 611 meeting. / p15



Kathy Cuff, Bishop Hill No. 683 chairman and Archivist, Larry Nelson & Linda Nelson from Princeton at Old Settlers Day. / p16

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For our next issue:

By February 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.se

ARCHIVES NEWS

A message from the president of Vasa National Archives

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE ORDER AND FRIENDS OF THE VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES, It is my hope that we all survive 2021 and that the new year will allow all of us to return to and appreciate what life is like without COVID or its variants dictating what we must do to be safe. I am one of the thousands who were lined up in elementary school to take the polio vaccine. No one I remember complained or debated the science. It is a different time, even though I think science should be viewed in the same light. The Vasa National Archives has survived and is now engaging in the regular work in Bishop Hill to celebrate its 175th birthday, so this is a good time to visit and support this historic Swed-

ish community. With each day's news we are reminded of how little we know about the unanticipated consequences of COVID, this was brought home in the stories that came out surrounding the death of Colin Powell. General Powell's death was COVID related, but also due to being immune-compromised due to his cancer, multiple myeloma. I have the same diagnosis and I am trying to stay safe while I rehabilitate.

By now all of you should have received our invitation to remember and honor our loved ones. Julgran 2021 will be on December 3rd this year. In addition to those remembered by Local Lodges and District Lodges of the Order. I am hoping that this will be an opportunity

to celebrate the lives, contributions and support of the Vasa National Archives by PGM Bill Lundquist and PDM Nancy Hult. Both supported the VNA from their Local Lodges and DL Michigan No.8 and the Grand Lodge. Bill served on the Board of Trustees of the VNA for nearly 2 decades, including seven years as President of the Board. Nancy was not only the spouse of Emeritus Archive Board Member Sten Hult, she came to almost all of the VNA events, for this same time. Nancy died last year during the height of the pandemic, we should honor her contributions and memory. Julgran 2021 will be a good time to honor both of these longstanding supporters of the VNA. All donations in

their memories will support the Heritage Fund of the Vasa National Archives. On behalf of the VNA we wish all members of the Order and their loved ones a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years for 2022. Stay and listen to the guidance on mask wearing and vaccinations. We hope to see all of our members and friends in Bishop Hill or at the next Grand Lodge Convention.



IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
BRUCE ELFVIN
PRESIDENT VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Greetings from the Vasa National Archives

GREETINGS VASA SISTERS AND BROTHERS, It has been pleasantly busy here at the Vasa National Archives this fall and it will continue being busy for the next few months. Bishop Hill's annual Jordbruksdagarna (Ag Days) was busier than ever. The Vasa National Archives had a butter-making booth in the Village Park. Visitors could make 2 oz. of butter by shaking a small jar of heavy cream. Visitors could add salt or a garlic and herb seasoning to the cream to make flavored butter. We had 315 kids and parents stop by the booth. Thank you to our volunteers (Carl J., Carlee H. and Karen S.) that made it possible for the VNA to have a butter station and keep the archive open to visitors.

We're continuing to work on scanning items and adding them to the digital archive when we are working upstairs on the weekends. Recently, we submitted a grant to have 193 microfilms converted to digital in 2022. We look forward to hearing the results in January. We're continuing to work on organizing the district lodge collections. The organization is proceeding quickly and we hope to be able to begin work on local lodge items soon. Earlier this year, we finished the Grand Lodge materials.

During Bishop Hill's Julmarknad Weekends (Nov 26-28 and Dec. 3-5) and Lucia (Dec. 10-12), the VNA will

have Make and Take stations set up for visitors to paint a Dala horse. Visitors are welcome to leave the horses here while they shop and explore the town. We will also have Take and Make kits available for people to take home during the three weeks from Nov. 26-Dec 12. The kits have a horse, 3 paint colors and 2 paint brushes. We will mail Dala horses to people, but not paint since it's in restaurant to-go cups. The kits are \$5 each and we'll have them as long as supplies last.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Vasa National Archive at 309-927-3898 or email VasaArchivist@gmail.com..

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

A little girl enjoying some of her fresh made butter at Jordbruksdagarna.



God Jul och Gott Nytt År

Vasa Order of America Grand Lodge Executive Board

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Vice Grand Master Jack Hanright
Grand Secretary Joanie Graham
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Vice Grand Secretary Marlene Patient

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MEB-Midwest Region Tom Cleveland
MEB-Western Region Ed Netzel
MEB-Sweden Connie Grön
MEB-Canada Donna Englund

GRAND LODGE NEWS

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

for a wonderful convention. Congratulations to the elected District officers! At this same time Vice Grand Master Jack and Inger Hanright attended Districts 19 and 20 Conventions in Sweden, GREAT! In November we will be attending New York District #4 Convention. New Jersey District #6 was to have a Convention but instead



had a one-day meeting to review pertinent business and to nominate a Delegate to the Grand Lodge Convention. The District has rescheduled the Convention to 1-3 April 2022. As the VASA world starts to open up, we need to work on our yearly Vasa schedule. I recommend that District Masters attend other District conventions and lodge members attend other lodge meetings. This will assist in discovering what VASA is all about. ENTHUSIASM with camaraderie.

The Grand Lodge Convention is up, online and is accepting reservations for the Convention activities. Reservations for the beautiful Old City Marriott Hotel can be made directly with the hotel using the code: VASA GRAND LODGE CONVENTION. CALL: USA & CA 1-888-236-2427, and Sweden 020 795122. The web site can be reached from the vasa-order.com or directly at vasagrand-lodge2022.com. The hotel expects to fill up on the 4th of July weekend so make your reservations soon. Be sure to purchase the Grand Lodge Viking Pin to release the inner 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! Remember the Order needs a **VI-BRANT, ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBERSHIP – GET THE WORD OUT! TV TV TV** (Talk Vasa) with **ENTHUSIASM!**

Nancy and I send our best wishes to each of you for a wonderful Christmas and a New Year of peace and good health.

IN 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 Philadelphia Marriott Old City 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 on next page (5) 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



SVEN ROLAND NILSSON passed away on June 11, 2021. Roland was born on October 8, 1934 in Stockholm, Sweden where he earned a degree in engineering from the Swedish School of Technology after having served in the Swedish Navy. He traveled the world putting his knowledge to work with Mining and Tunnel Machinery throughout Europe and the continent of Africa. In 1973, his profession took him and his family to New Jersey where he joined Frithiof Lodge No. 63 in 1974. The family moved to Colorado and he joined Enighet Lodge No. 178 in 1980 in Denver. He was active in many Swedish organizations including the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce Colorado where he was a founding member. Roland served as District Master in DL Rocky Mountain No. 11 and was Grand Lodge Delegate to the 1986, 1990 and 1994 Grand Lodge Conventions. He served as Grand Lodge Executive Board Member-Western Region from 1994-2002. Roland is survived by his wife of 64 years Raija, his son Kjell and daughter Gunilla, 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Sample formats for the submission of forms to the Grand Lodge

Deadline for submission - March 1, 2022

SAMPLE FORMAT #1 – Motions Not Affecting Constitution

_____, Lodge, No. _____, Vasa Order of America, at its regular meeting on _____, 20____, voted to submit the following motion:

VOTED: That _____
MOTIVATION: _____

 Signature of Chairman (or District Master)

 Signature of Secretary (or District Secretary)

 (Date)

SAMPLE FORMAT #2 – Constitutional Changes

_____, Lodge, No. _____, Vasa Order of America, at its regular meeting on _____, 20____, voted to submit the following motion:

To change the Constitution for _____ Lodge:
Present Article _____, Section _____, Par. _____ Page _____ now reads:

..... [state section as it now reads]
MOTION is presented to CHANGE Article _____, Section _____, Par. _____ to read:

..... [State section exactly as it will be written should the requested change pass]
MOTIVATION: _____

 Signature of Chairman (or District Master)

 Signature of Secretary (or District Secretary)

 (Date)

SAMPLE FORMAT #3 – Motions made by Individual Members

NOTE: Motions submitted by individuals must include the format described below together with Sample Format 1 – motions not affecting the Constitution, or Sample Format 2 – Constitutional Changes, above.

I, _____, a member in good standing of _____ Lodge, No. _____, submit the following motion:
 [Format as indicated above]

 (Signature)

 (Typed Name)

 (Address, City, State, Zip)
 Date: _____

This is to certify that _____ is a member in good standing in _____ Lodge, No. _____ as of this date.

 (Signature of Secretary)

 (Date of signature)

The Swedish Newspaper
 in America wishes
 all Vasa friends happy holidays
 En riktigt God Jul
 och Gott Nytt År!

NORDSTJERNAN
 ★ Life Made Sweder
 ★ www.nordstjernan.com

Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay

by Lillian Nelson

When you say the word vacation, most people imagine warm, white sandy beaches, a crisp ocean breeze, and reclining besides a pool to create a golden tan, but while some travelers seek out tropical getaways from their everyday lives, others retreat to arctic paradises such as the Icehotel in Jukkasjärvi, Sweden. There are many popular tourist destinations in the Nordic countries, but the Icehotel is not only an unparalleled, artistic wonder itself, but this attraction allows its guests to experience many different once in a lifetime opportunities like dog sledding, exploring the local Lapland environment, and sleeping in a room made of ice.

Located a mere 200 km above the arctic circle, the Icehotel is not known for being an escape from the cold: the temperature within one of the ice rooms usually ranges from -8 to -5 degrees Celsius. Although the ice rooms temperatures are more favorable in colder months, the hotel offers ice experiences 365 days of the year. Even during the summer, Icehotel 365 has 18 ice suites, an ice bar, and an experience room. Guests can spend their days taking Torne River boat tours and visiting saunas, but during the winter, you can find a completely different, intense wonderland itself.

The snowy weather allows the guests to go snowmobiling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, and even ice fishing! The influx in cold weather-related activities is not the only positive effect of the season changes: the sub-zero temperatures allow the creation of Icehotel Winter.

Every spring, the Icehotel extrapolates thousands of tons of ice from the Torne River to store over the summer months to create new crystalline structures come fall. From the months of December to April, Icehotel Winter is home to a variety of newly created ice suites, sculptures, a ceremonial hall, and a bar. The walls, furniture, decorations, and ceilings within these newly constructed ice suites are completely made from snow and the ice that was extrapolated from the river in the prior months. The only portions of the ice suites that are not made of frozen water in one form or the other are the reindeer hides, thermal sleeping



Artists come from all over the world to help fill the walls, floors and ceilings of the hotel and even the rooms are works of art / www.icehotel.com.

bags, mattresses that cover the wooden bed structures, and curtains that act as a door. There is also a special type of ice suite that guests can stay in- the art suites; the art suites are individually crafted rooms created by hand selected artists from around the world. Each masterpiece is unique and has never been replicated, a true sight to behold. Some previous designs have been themed around letters, gardens, toys, creatures, and even symbolic ideas such as inner peace and balance. Although these rooms emulate magnificent designs, when the temperatures outside grow warmer, Icehotel Winter melts back into the Torne River in which the ice was pulled from, reaching a full circle effect back into nature. The melting of the ice also opens up endless possibilities in the upcoming year to create new designs for the hotel and to create a fresh start.

Ice is not the only natural wonder visible to guests at this hotel: Jukkasjärvi is one of the most recommended places in the world to watch the Aurora Borealis. This city is one of the Northernmost locations in Sweden, falling in the polar region. Throughout the fall and winter months, when the sky is clear and caliginous, the Aurora Borealis can be viewable. Some guests claim to see it in the early morning and late afternoon, but during the night, from around nine to eleven PM, is when the lights are the

Within the Nordic countries, choose what a most popular tourist attraction is, and provide your thoughts on its appeal.

most visible. Northern Lights safaris and horseback tours take hotel guests out into the wilderness where they can gaze at the stars and photograph the array of colors displayed across the sky or hear myths associated with the Northern Lights. For example, the local Sámi people, an indigenous group native to Northern Scandinavia, respected the light display because they believed the Northern Lights were caused by the energy of the souls of their past ancestors.

While an arctic vacation may not be for every traveler, I find this popular Swedish tourist attraction to be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with nature and to explore beyond our boundaries. Although the weather can be frigid, the hotel does offer warm rooms and additional heated service buildings to store personal belongings and increase body temperature. As long as a customer paces their stay between frozen adventures, staying in an ice room or spending a day outdoors, and time inside, this trip can be full of memorable experiences and relaxing moments. Most people do not often get many opportunities in life to try dog sledding, see the Aurora Borealis, or sleep in a winter wonderland: which is why if I was given the chance to travel to Northern Sweden, I would find it imperative to make Jukkasjärvi my first destination.



Lillian Nelson

Viking Lodge No. 735

DL New Jersey No. 6

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500

Lillian will be studying Biology/ Marine Biology on Pre-Veterinary track. She received National Honor Society, AP Scholar with Honor, Just Poetry Winner (Twice awarded) and is the Art and Literary Magazine Published Poet and Editor. Lillian also performs in her school orchestra (viola) and serves as the orchestra librarian. She is Co-President of Scholastic Scrimmage, Co-President of the Art and Literary Club, a Grace Church Choir member and a volunteer for the Pediatric Cancer Foundation of Lehigh Valley. Lilly is active and participates in her local lodge meetings and has been a long-time worker at Viking Lodge food booth at Scanfest. The largest Scandinavian event on the Eastern Seaboard with over 4000 attendees. Lilly's future plans are to become a Veterinarian.

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL No. 9 Pennsylvania

We held our 59th convention in Frederick, Maryland this October. We opened the festivities with ABBA-palooza on the patio (costumes, disco balls, glowsticks, the ABBA Gold classics, as well as their new releases from Voyage). The convention planning committee worked tirelessly to ensure safety measures were in place, while still executing an exciting weekend of events. This year's theme was "Dawn of the North," with reference and elements of the Northern lights woven into many of the programs. In addition to the business meeting, we had Fika with homemade Swedish baked goods, a mini bazaar, breakout sessions that included genealogy workshops, Nordic dance instruction, and rosemling demonstrations. Saturday evening's reception and banquet included performances from Fiddler Paul Carlson, the Nordic Dancers of Washington DC, a silent auction, raffle, and a note of congratulation from the Swedish Ambassador, Karin Olofsdotter, for the convention and for Vasa's efforts in conserving and promoting our common heritage. With

a backdrop of the aurora borealis over a forest of frost and birch trees, we commemorated the memory of our cherished departed members from Svea No. 296, Nobel-Monitor No. 130, and Drott No. 168. Crystals symbolizing each member were hung from three local lodge birch trees while the District choir sang comforting hymns throughout this touching ceremony of remembrance. We congratulate our new District Master, Bo Carlsson, and all of our new District 9 Officers.

SUBMITTED BY JULIE LYNN OLSON



Members, Abba fans. Celebrating the release of Voyage?



District 9 Pennsylvania members gathered for the banquet.

DL No. 1 Connecticut

Connecticut District No. 1 held a fall luncheon on Saturday September 25th. This luncheon was held at Indian Hill Country Club in Newington Connecticut. The event was organized because the Connecticut Convention was cancelled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Attendees included members from each of the four lodges in Connecticut. It was a picture perfect fall day in New England and everyone had a very good time. A business meeting was conducted and Marta Sylvan was voted to be our delegate at the next Grand Lodge Convention. Other business conducted included the presentation of a Past District Master pin to Christine Bongiorno. A few weeks later on October 14 a luncheon meeting was held by Diana Berger Jarl No. 3 and 40 year pins were presented by the Grand Lodge Deputy Linda Steinmiller to Vivian and Lars Edeen. Future events include



Diana Birger Jarl No. 3 members Lars and Vivian Edeen received their 40 year membership pins from Deputy Linda Steinmiller (center).

a December 15th afternoon Christmas Party hosted by Norden Lodge No. 1 at Elaine's Restaurant in Wethersfield. This event will recognize the 125th Anniversary of the Vasa Order of America.

SUBMITTED BY GARY STEINMILLER

DL No. 15 Pacific SW

PDM Irma (Ridgway) Wendell (1915 - 2021), age 106, passed away in Pacific Palisades, California on August 15, 2021. Irma was born on January 21, 1915. She was the daughter of Horace and Elizabeth (Lizzy) Ridgway of St. Anthony, Iowa. She graduated from St. Anthony school in 1928. In June, 1940, at age 22, she married Andrew (Andy) Wendell, and they lived in California where she became a real estate agent in 1978. She sold her last house in 1994. In 2012 she moved to Pacific Palisades to be closer to family. She and Andy were members of the Vasa Order of America, a Swedish fraternal organization for Swedish immigrants. She and Andy held many offices, and even meet two kings of Sweden. She was a District Master of DLPSW 15. Her husband, Andrew Wendell, was a past Grand Lodge Master. She lived a long and active life. She was a dynamic, spirited, friendly, and energetic woman who never forgot her Iowa roots. She frequently spoke of her Iowa friends and family and knew everyone's birthday. She will be missed by everyone who knew her, and she fully lived her long and colorful life. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Ruth (Gaunt), brothers Verne Ridgway, and Ralph Ridgway, her husband Andy who passed away in 1983, and her daughter Kathleen who passed away in 2007. She is survived by her daughter Karin (Holmes) of Pacific Palisades, her grandsons Jeffrey Holmes and David Holmes, and great-grandchildren Andrew, Elsa, and Skylar plus many members of her extended family and numerous friends.

SUBMITTED BY MAGGIE CONNELLY DM DL 15

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

önskar
Gary och Gunlog Spaberg
Haakan Spaberg, Björn Spaberg
Evening Star Lodge No. 426

*May the special warmth of Christmas
be with you always.*

Merry Christmas and a very
Happy New Year!



Mary Ann and Bob Nichelini

God Jul & Happy New Year!

To Vasa friends in
Sweden, Canada and USA
Liza and Rolf Ekstrand & family

God Jul - See You in 2022!

From

SmörgåsBandet



The Vasa Grand Lodge Convention Band!

♥ **TREVLIG JUL** ♥
önskar *Jeanne*

DL #4, NY and GLCCL

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

Vänner Tillsammans
Vinland Lodge
of Cape Cod No. 703

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!



To all our VASA friends from
Linnéa No. 504, Petaluma, CA

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!



To all our VASA friends from
Linde No. 492, Milwaukee WI

Lodge Olympic No. 235 and
Barnklubben Elsa Rix No. 1
wishes you



GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

from Omaha No. 330
Omaha, Nebraska

Nobel Lodge No. 184 wishes
God Jul och Gott Nytt År
To all our Vasa friends

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

✪ Norden Lodge No. 233 ✪
Tacoma, WA

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

Runeberg Lodge No. 137
MN DL No. 7

Seasons Greetings 2021!

✪ Frithiof Lodge No. 63 ✪
Rockaway, NJ

Christmas Greeting

From Tegner Lodge No. 149 VOA
Oakland, CA

Greetings to all our Vasa Friends

DL No. 7 Minnesota

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

Alla Vasasyskon önskas
**En fröjdefull Jul och
ett gott och framgångsrikt
Vasaarbete 2022**

MSLER Swe SLD DL 19
Connie Grön Einar Savolainen Grön



DRAGSPEL JUL KRAMAR
Jeanne Eriksson Widman Andersen

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

To All
From Brage # 764

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

Ingeborg No. 66

BROCTON, MA / It's been an eventful season for Ingeborg. Members still met...at my dining room table...for some Swedish FIKA. In June, some ventured to SAC park, the Scandinavian Athletic Club, Shrewsbury to celebrate Midsommar. In August, we were able to meet for real FIKA - lunch at Fisher's Tavern/Pub. Talking, laughter, and friendship. Afterwards, Chairman Lynne Martin invited us to her Swedish cabin on the pond for kaffe and homemade cardamom bread - a beautiful day. In September, Lynne Martin and I attended MA District 2 convention in Greenfield, MA. In October a Leif Erikson Day celebration with So. Shore Viking Club/Stenkil Lodge

of the IOV, and a cruise on Viking. At our first fall meeting in October we gathered ideas for the coming season. In December, Ingeborg will participate in Bridgewater's Annual Christmas-on-the-Common. We will have Scandinavian breads, cookies, and other goodies to sell and also homemade Christmas ornaments, jewelry and some Swedish goods. VASA membership information will be provided with hopes of attracting new members. Then Ingeborg will join the So. Shore Viking ladies to enjoy the movie Christmas in Sweden, followed by a cookie swap. We Scandinavians love to celebrate, to have fun, learn, and share our beloved heritage. Come join us!.

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA DECARLI



FIKA for members Diane Sterling, Lynne Martin, Lynne Kenyon, Linda Pearson, Barbro Ireland, Kerstin Denholm, Michelle Dolan, Gladys Josephson (Barbara DeCarli took the picture) at Fisher's Tavern/Pub in Middleboro.



Cruise on appropriately named Viking



Jon Burgeson, Irving Burgeson, Christine Burgeson Stebbins wearing her dalahäst hat, and lodge historian John Sipos at the recent Thule Lodge Harvest dinner.

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN/FALCONER NY / Thule Lodge continues to preserve Swedish heritage through events and activities involving its members. Thule held its annual fall harvest dinner of turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, squash, cranberries, breads and many kinds of pies. The event drew a large number of its membership. Cultural leader MaryAnn Eva Ingrao returned from a recent tour of Sweden, and talked about the lifestyle in Sweden, and said that the country is very environmentally concerned.

The entire harvest dinner event was planned by treasurer Loretta Smith and membership chairman Bernice Veights. Tom Eckberg serves as the lodge chairman, and Susan W. Sipos serves as the vice chairman, and chairman of the nominating committee for 2022 officers. Diane K. Shaw serves as the chaplain, and gives the opening and closing messages. Thule Lodge is completing its 114th year in the Jamestown-Falconer area. Thule members express a "God Jul" to all as this year draws to a close. "God dag" to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS

Tegner No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / Tegnér had its first meeting since June on September 16th. We are still meeting virtually. After checking in with all members in attendance on their summer activities, we enjoyed the movie "The Joy of Abba" which traced the musical group ABBA from its start to finish. During the month of July

we attended the annual Tri Lodge picnic in Roberts Park in Oakland with members attending from Tegnér No. 149, Sveaborg Lodge No. 449, Framåt Lodge No. 405, and Svea Lodge No. 348. It was a very nice day, enjoyed by all and topped off by playing Kubb.

SUBMITTED BY KEN WEISSENBORN

Linné No. 153

SOUTH BEND, IN / Our July, August, and September meetings have been pot-lucks every month with great success. No two people have made the same dish yet and we haven't been making a list! We've had two programs by Matt Baumgartner who has been telling us the history of Sweden from the first King on. He started in the 10th century in July and came again in September to continue into the 11th century. We look forward to his return

in November. In August we worked on making origami doves, some of which are going to help brighten the day at a local retirement home. We were hard at it until everybody mastered the technique of knowing when to hold them and knowing when to fold them! In September we celebrate the 112 year anniversary of the Linné lodge 153! Skål!

SUBMITTED BY RON WOOD

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

to all our VASA friends
from
District Lodge PA No. 9

- Bo Carlsson - District Master
- Arne Dunhem - Vice District Master
- Pat Bellingham - District Secretary
- Karen Chilcote - District Treasurer
- Kathy Olson - Executive Board
- Marit Knollmueller - District Cultural Leader
- Rolf Bergman - District Historian
- Lorraine Johnson - District Chaplain
- Svea Lodge No. 296 – Pennsylvania
- Nobel-Monitor No. 130 – Ohio
- Drott Lodge No. 168 – Maryland/Virginia/DC



& Gott Nytt År

Wishes to all Vasa Friends from
District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8

- Gene Kiesel DM • Timothy Ogrentz VDM
- Lois Klubens DS • Janet Nelson ADS
- Linda Christensen DT • Linda Tylk HFS
- Annelise Nelson DCL • Michael Pearson Jr. DLYS
- Katie Westlund EBM • Lynda Smith PDM

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

Tillönskas alla vasasyskon
Berit och Hans Bogren
LL Höganäs # 634

We wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year



PDM-Club of Sweden



**God Jul och
Gott Nytt År**

*Best Wishes for a
Joyous New Year
Filled with
Good Health,
Good Friends
and Good Will*

From DL Golden Gate No. 12



**GOD JUL och
GOTT NYTT ÅR**
From Star Lodge #56
Rhode Island DL #3



God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Ulf & Ingegerd Alderlöf
SLD 20
LL Skåne # 630

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
önskar
Logen Calmare Nyckel # 628



**Have a Merry
Christmas!**

FROM NORDEN LODGE #1
Connecticut

Logen Tomelilla # 631
Önskar alla Vasasyskon
GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

Happy Holidays from
Marianne E Gunve,
known for the historical novels
Good Girls and Clary's War (1932 - 1945).



God Jul

MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

Mayflower Lodge #445
Torrance, CA

District Lodge Pacific SW #15
Wishes you and yours all the joys of the season

*God Jul
and a
Very Merry Christmas*

Once we receive the
registration information, it
will be added to the website.

District 15 Convention
Feb 25-26-27, 2022
www.vasadl15.org to register



Gott Nytt År

Happy New Year

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
önskar
Claes & Karin Johansson
DS, DL 20 Nybyggarna # 698



Strindberg No. 259

WINNIPEG MB, CANADA / At 98 years young, Gunvor has been a member of Lodge Strindberg since 1963. Gunvor recently received a Manitoba 150 honour award. This award recognized 150 outstanding Manitobans in honor of Manitoba's 150th birthday. Gunvor, the matriarch of the Swedish community in Winnipeg, has been an integral part of the growth and presence of Swedish culture in Manitoba since immigrating in 1958. Gunvor has volunteered countless hours to the Swedish community for over 60 years - she has taught Swedish lessons, opened a Swedish import store, led children's dance groups, is the driving force behind our annual Midsommar picnic, and opened her home for fika to Swedish hockey players and students - just to name a few of her many 'gifts' to our local Swedish community. A cookbook, Gunvor's Gems was published in 2021 featuring Gunvor's favourite Swedish recipes and her spoken 'gems'. With her quick wit and never-ending drive, Gunvor continues to be an inspiration to all!

SUBMITTED BY ELAINE HAMMERBACK FRIESEN



Gunvor Larsson displaying Manitoba 150 Award together with Strindberg members: Back row from left: Coby Wantzing, Janice Appleyard, Brian Johnson, Robin Ozero, Judy Wantzing, Dave Hammerback, Ingrid Granberg, Carl Hammerback, Lesley Hammerback, Katie Hoas, Arnie Anderson. Front row from left: Garry Hammerback, Gunvor Larsson, Bernice Munroe, Elaine Hammerback Friesen. (Sonja Lundstrom was the photographer. Inset: "Gunvor's Godaste" the cookbook.)

Svea No. 296



ERIE, PA / Penny Dannelsbeck talks about her experience at Concordia Language camp to SVEA Lodge members at their regular meeting in October. Penny is granddaughter to Lorraine Johnson, past chair.

SUBMITTED BY GARY LARSON

Svea No. 348

SAN JOSE, CA / In August, Svea celebrated its 105th anniversary at Sveadal, which is a Swedish American cultural heritage and resort area owned and operated by the Swedish American Patriotic League. Founded in 1926 it is in eastern Santa Cruz Mountains, next to Uvas Canyon County Park. Many Svea lodge members have cabins there and a few live there year around. It is dedicated to Swedish cultural heritage and has been visited by three generations of the Swedish Royal family. That warm August afternoon celebration included a princess tårta, a chocolate cake and the awarding of long-term membership-activity pins of 50 years to Victoria Fedor-Thurman, Chairperson of Svea Lodge, Niels Kjær-Pedersen and Jack Thurman. It was a joy to get together in person after a year and a half of the pandemic. We had a BYO, bring



Above: Attendees at the 105th Svea No. 348 Anniversary celebration at Sveadal, the Swedish American cultural heritage and resort area.

your own picnic lunch and sang Ja Må Han/Hon Leva, led by Jan Nordin, honoring several members of their birthday month July-August. There was a short hike following the picnic to the Upper

Falls of Uvas Canyon Park for Svea lodge's hiking group. The weather was warm and a flock of turkeys said hello as did a few deer.

SUBMITTED BY JACK KNUTSON

Solidaritet No. 396

MOUNT VERNON, WA / After more than a year of cancelled meetings, celebrations, and dances and necessary hoc committee meetings via tag team phone conferences, it was with mixed emotions that we held our May business meeting and Memorial Service for the first time in 2 years. There was both joy in reconnecting with friends and family and sadness and tears in recognizing that we had lost so many dear ones in the intervening months. Much of our joy was renewed by a



wonderfully successful Mid-summer celebration with the traditional decorations and raising of the Majstång and the lively folk music of our local band, Skandia Kapell, and lots of delicious deli prepared food. At our September

meeting Brother Erik Pihl (Development Director of the National Nordic Museum, Seattle WA) used his scholarship along with personal photos to take us all on a tour of Sweden's northern territory, Norrbotten. After postpon-

ing our 100th anniversary celebration last December, we are all looking forward to gathering in our old lodge this December to celebrate our 101st anniversary. Hej då.

SUBMITTED BY VERN PEDERSON

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

GOD JUL 
OCH GOTT
NYTT ÅR!
 Önskar vi er alla
Freja Lodge No. 100
 Pleasantville, NY

God Jul
och
Gott Nytt År
 Thule No. 127
 Jamestown/Falconer, New York

Christmas Greetings from
Nobel-Monitor Lodge No. 130
 Karen Chilcote, Chairman
 Marty Bergman, Vice Chairman
 Ellana Miklos, Secretary
 Sharen Tizzano, Financial Secretary
 Dick Erickson, Treasurer
 Rolf Bergman, Cultural Leader
 Twyla Sales, Chaplain
 Bruce Elfvin & Darlene Nelson, Trustees
 Ann Mari Pearson, Auditor
 Carolyn Anderson, Historian
 Ralph Johnson, Master of Ceremonies
God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year

 From all your Vasa Friends in
 North Star Lodge No. 106
 in Southern California
 Chairman: Mons Bergsten
 Secretary Maidie Karling

Members of Drott Lodge No. 168
 Washington, DC
 önskar er alla

God Jul och
Gott Nytt
År!

God Jul
& Gott Nytt År
 On the occasion of our lodge's 101st anniversary all of us at Solidaritet Lodge No. 396, Mount Vernon WA want to take this opportunity to wish our Vasa friends and family all around the world the joys and comforts of the holiday season and the best that the new year has to offer.

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
to all our Vasa friends from
SVEA Lodge No. 296, Erie, PA
 Sharon Olsen - Chair

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Best Wishes for a Joyous New Year
Filled with Good Health,
Good Friends and Good Will
 From
MONITOR LODGE No. 218
 Sacramento, CA

SVEABORG LODGE No. 449
TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU ALL
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY, AND HEALTHY, NEW YEAR!

The Members of Sveaborg Lodge 449 wish you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season. We are still here and looking forward to resuming our in-person meetings in 2022! Until then, we remain strong and connected in spirit!

Julhälsningar från medlemmarna i
Balder Lodge No. 343
 John Babin - Christina Carrion - Anne Christen - Don Christensen
 Felicity Christensen - HansKristian Christensen - Pat Higgins
 Chuck Holm - Heidi Holtermann - Kathy Holtermann - Eva Janson
 Irene Johnson - Ivan Johnson - Anna Justus - Mary Kemp
 James Lancaster - Larry Lancaster - Logan Lancaster
 - Robin Lancaster - Mel Lundberg - Zena Lundberg - Christian
 Nielsen - Juan Ortega - Pat Ponnay - Carolyn Taberner - Shirley
 Thomsen - Lynn Wachter - Kristina Watson - Annie Wentworth
 - Kent Willis - Marsha Willis

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!
önskas Din Lodge
Från
Golden Valley
Lodge No. 616,
District No. 15


Members of Svea No. 348
San Jose, CA 
Wish all of you a
God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

We wish you a
GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR
To All our VASA Friends in the U.S.A.,
Canada & Sverige
 From **STENLAND NO. 727**
 Central Nyack, NY

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 To our VASA Friends and new and potential members from Desert Viking Lodge VOA No. 15/682 Palm Springs, CA USA Membership opportunity is available now Come and visit us!

Frihet No. 401

SEATTLE, WA / Our lodge has been fortunate to have our Vasa Park available for us to have open-air meetings. Cozy fires when it was cold and a cool lake breeze when it's been hot. With tasty smorgasbords we have been happy Vikings. Vanessa Jackson, member of Frihet, says "Thank You" for the generosity of the Grand Lodge, District 13, and Frihet 401 for her scholarships. She is a graduate of Penn St., studying for her Masters at Georgetown, and has taken a position with the USCAA. Fortunately, Frihet members have stayed healthy thru the pandemic. Our lodge had the pleasure of celebrating 100 years of fellowship in October at the Swed-

ish Club in Seattle, Washington. Ninety plus people gathered in the Stockholm Hall for a banquet fit for the occasion. Music, short speeches, camaraderie was the ideal for the day. Everybody was so glad to once again gather together, especially to celebrate this special event to honor those old Swedes that had the foresight to establish a club to keep so many of them gathered together in this new land and share their lives. Memorabilia was displayed for all to look and comment on.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN RISTON

Julie Albright, the luncheon Chairman and Primo Kim, Entertainer (Seattle Treasure) at the 100th Anniversary celebration.



Framåt No. 405



Dallen Graham receiving his 10-year pin from District Master Ed Netzel.



Members Shirley Gotelli, Maria Catanese-Helberg, John Gotelli and Jim Helberg. Shirley and John drove up from their home in Arizona for the celebration.

EL CERRITO, CA / On a sunny Sunday afternoon, October 17, 2021, Framåt members, along with many visitors from other lodges, celebrated the 100th anniversary of Framåt No. 405 with a festive dinner at Zio Fraedo's restaurant in Pleasant Hill, California. Cultural Leader Marilyn Jackson arranged for the delightful entertainment, provided by Mark and Jenny Wahlstrom, father and daughter, with nyckelharpa and song. Historian Maria Catanese-Helberg spoke about the history of the lodge and displayed many items of historical interest. Becky Graham decorated the tables and provided tote bags and dalahäst masks plus other door prizes; and Vice Chairman Robert Homer provided Framåt Lodge 100th anniversary pens for each attendee. A 10-year pin was presented to Dallen Graham, a 5th generation Vasa member (and grandson of Grand Secretary Joanie Graham) by District Master Ed Netzel. Special guests at our celebration included PGM Tore and Birgitta Kellgren, District Master Ed and Judy Netzel (Ed also serves as Grand Lodge Executive Board Member-Western Region), and our District Deputy Sven-Ove Westberg. On a sad note, our Chairperson Diane Maynard passed away unexpectedly just two weeks before our celebration. Diane had helped plan our event and will be sorely missed.

SUBMITTED BY JOANIE GRAHAM



**CALLING FOR ADS IN THE
2022 VASA GRAND LODGE
CONVENTION BOOKLET!**



Advertise your business, your Lodge, your well wishes for a great convention.
We can help with design and layout.

**FULL PAGE: \$125 HALF PAGE: \$75
QUARTER PAGE: \$45 EIGHTH PAGE: \$25**

Checks should be made payable to NJ VASA DISTRICT 6

**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA GRAND LODGE CONVENTION
2022**

PHILADELPHIA, PA from JULY 1 TO JULY 8

- GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR CONVENTION REGISTRATION, DINNER AND TOUR PURCHASES, CONVENTION INFORMATION: VASAGRANLODGE2022.COM
- CONTACT BOB COLEMAN (GLC CONVENTION COMMITTEE) WITH ANY QUESTIONS: RJCTEACHER@GMAIL.COM



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Logen Bråviken # 751 
 önskar Vasavänner och vänloger
 God Jul och ett Gott Nytt Vasa År

**En mycket God Jul
 och ett Gott Nytt År
 till alla våra bröder
 och systrar
 i Vasa!**

Diana Birger Jarl #3

God Jul och Gott Nytt Vasaår
 Merry Christmas and a happy New Year
Marie & Olle Wickström
 Logen Skåne # 570

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

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 To all our Vasa Family

From Bishop Hill No. 683 
 Bishop Hill, IL

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 önskar 
 Maggie Ahlin Tehlin och Kurt Tehlin
 DM DL19, CM LL Bråviken #751

**May the special warmth of
 Christmas and the glow
 of good health be
 with you always!**

Skogen Lodge No. 700, Redding, CA

GOD JUL & GOTT NYTT ÅR!



www.Facebook.com/SmorgasBand
 Jeanne-Wayne-Chad

 **Logen Höganäs # 634**
 önskar 
GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
 To all our Vasa Family
From Framåt Lodge No 405
 El Cerrito, California
Celebrating 100 years, 1921-2021
Meeting via Zoom during 2021
 Stay Safe and Stay Well
 vasajlg@aol.com



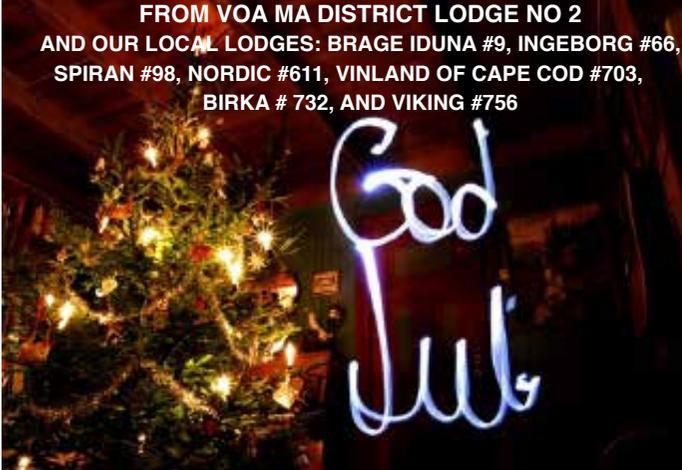
God Jul
 och
Gott Nytt År

FRIHET LODGE NO. 401
 SEATTLE, WA AKA BALLARD



och
Gott Nytt År
 to all our VASA friends
 and families from
Bessemer Lodge
#203
 Oak Lawn, Illinois

**FROM VOA MA DISTRICT LODGE NO 2
 AND OUR LOCAL LODGES: BRAGE IDUNA #9, INGEBORG #66,
 SPIRAN #98, NORDIC #611, VINLAND OF CAPE COD #703,
 BIRKA # 732, AND VIKING #756**



Moving?

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

GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR

To All our VASA Brothers and Sisters in the U.S.A, Canada, and Sweden from
 Glenn T. Seabrg Lodge No. 719
 VOA DL No. 15
 Laguna Woods, CA U.S.A.
 Wishing all a Happier & Healthier 2022



Linde Welcomes Four new members - From left: PC Brent Erickson, Jean Erickson, George Katsekes Jr., Grace Katsekes, George Katsekes III, VC Jan Kamholtz, and C Liza Ekstrand.

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, MI / A wonderful fall was kicked off with the annual Kräft-

skiva in late August, a perfect "field day" for lodge members in September, visiting Scandinavian Day in Vasa Park, S. Elgin IL. Followed by



Congratulations Ashley LeBlanc and John White on your wedding!

a great October meeting, when we initiated four new 2022 members. And a presentation of "how to Toast properly in Sweden" - there are some

specific rules to follow, and how you look at each other before drinking the "snaps".

Congratulations to member Ashley LeBlanc and John White as they got married in October. We will be nominating our Officers and select Convention Delegates for 2022 at the November meeting. December plans include a Christmas luncheon, and the ever so enjoyable Lucia celebration and festivities afterwards. Our lodge is busy with the plans of hosting the 2022 DL Lake Michigan No. 8's Convention April 29-May 1. Programs - fundraisers - entertainment - etc., as well as hopefully gathering many of our "old" members from Skansen Children's Club for a special reunion. Anyone liking more info about the convention or any of our other events, please contact us. You are always welcome to all Linde events or meetings.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND

Joe Harbor No. 534

ST. JOSEPH, MI / Shopping trip! Five members of the Joe Harbor Lodge enjoyed a September trip to Holland, Michigan, for a day of shopping and lunch. Chairman Alan Wenstrand, Cultural Leader Nancy Wenstrand, Treasurer Candice Conley, Chaplain Colleen Lundgren and Historian/Auditor Dennis Lundgren visited several shops including the Tin Ceiling Gift Shop. The Tin Ceiling stocks a large number of Dutch treasurers and an excellent section of Scandinavian items. The group enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Crane's in the City. The lodge also gathered in September on Zoom as rainy weather cancelled our outdoor meeting.

Chaplain Colleen Lundgren's birthday was celebrated with the singing of "Ja må hon leva". Lodge members shared a favorite Scandinavian keepsake for a Zoom picture. Nancy Wenstrand led a language lesson as we reviewed previous lessons by answering in Swedish several questions such as "Hur många är i din familj nu?" (How many are in your family now?). The lesson was followed by a cultural presentation by Nancy on the Swedish folk tune used for the hymn, "How Great Thou Art". We learned the hymn's history including that the Swedish poem, "O Store Gud", was written by Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940.

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS LUNDGREN



Alan and Nancy Wenstrand, Candice Conley, and Colleen and Dennis Lundgren shopping at the Tin Ceiling Gift Shop in Holland, Michigan.



September Zoom meeting with lodge members sharing a favorite Scandinavian keepsakes.



Nordic No. 611

WORCESTER, MA / Nordic's September meeting was held at First Presbyterian Church and was well attended. Guest speaker, Tina Rawson, a Swedish artist gave an informative and interesting powerpoint presentation on Viking Art. Tina is also a member of Birka Lodge. Nancy Schultzburg, Cultural Leader, also gave a presentation on Swedish

Cultural leader Nancy Schultzberg.

Lagom, a lifestyle of "just enough". The lodge held a yard sale at Emmanuel Lutheran church in October that was enjoyable. Camaraderie and friendship built a very successful fundraiser. We advertised on social media and reached quite a few shoppers! At the October meeting we counted the ballots on the vote of whether to move our meeting place with the majority of votes approving a move to the Scandinavian Club in Shrewsbury beginning in January. Nancy Schultzburg gave a halloween

themed talk about Belle Gunness, a Norwegian con artist and serial killer in the 1800's. Gary Landgren, honky tonk piano player extraordinaire entertained us while we enjoyed the plentiful refreshments. The Lucia Festival, held by Swedish National Federation, of which Nordic is a member, will be on December 12 at S.A.C Club, meatball dinner, bake sale, tombola, vendor tables and St Lucia procession.

SUBMITTED BY ÅKE JANSSON



Bishop Hill No. 683

BISHOP HILL, IL / Our lodge participated in the Old Settlers Day parade on Saturday September 11, 2021. What a great day. Larry Nelson of Princeton pulled the float with a bunch of us. We had guests from Princeton that enjoyed their retirement trip that day.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF ANDERSON

Riders on the float: Roger Anderson, Rollie Krause, Jack, Leah & Alivia Anderson, Kathy Cuff, Linda Nelson & Jeff Anderson

NEW MEMBERS 2020-2021

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

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, edlnetzel@att.net

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

Ingeborg Lodge No. 66
Dianne D. Sterling
Gladys M. Josephson

Birka Lodge No. 732

Robert Carlson
Barbara Waite
Barbara Whalen

Viking Lodge No. 756

Anneka Rae Johnson
Avery Elizabeth Johnson
Ellen Anderson Johnson
Isabella Johnson

DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3

Svea Lodge No. 362
Landon Jacob Lanois

DL NEW YORK NO. 4

Thule Lodge No. 127
Norman Paul Carlson
Ann J. Hellman
Nancy S. Jones

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Arlington Lodge No. 62
Richard Anderson
Sharon Caruso
Jay Deutsch
April Johnson
Terry Lee LaNoir
Susan O'Sullivan
Patricia Roberts
Dori Whittenburg

Sveaborg Lodge No. 446

John W. Erickson, Jr.
John Theis
Lynn Patricia Theis

Three Crowns Lodge No. 704

Elexa May Bauman
Andrew J. D'Amico
Kristina Lacey D'Amico
Lori Desjadon
Alexander Thomas Hansen
Matthew Polk

Vågen Lodge No. 588

Michelle Marie Payea-Di
Alfonso

DL MINNESOTA NO. 7

Göta Lejon Lodge No. 251
Denton Lindley
Donna Ann Lindley

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Linné Lodge No. 153
Mary Lou Elder
Dolores Ann Miller
John David Miller

Brahe Lodge No. 245

Alan Henrickson
Janice Henrickson

Svea Lodge No. 253

Erik Stolterman Bergqvist
Andrew Eisenhut

Carole Ann Gartner
Kaylee Ann Hoffmann
Claire M. Reagan
Molly Linnea Reagan

Linde Lodge #492

Teresa Lynn Day-Smith
Jan Gustav Ehrengren
Kerri Ann Ehrengren
Jean Rydberg Erickson
George Gilbert Katsekas Jr
George Gilbert Katsekas III
Grace Elizabeth Katsekas
Sophia Hope Rosario
Gregory Allen Smith

Joe Harbor Lodge No. 534

Helena Sofia Russell

Bishop Hill Lodge No. 683

Cynthia Charlson Monroe

Viking Lodge No. 730

Anton Anderssen
Faith Haddon
Ben Mitchell
Olin Shaw

Brage Lodge No. 764

Jo Lakota

DL PENNSYLVANIA No. 9

Svea Lodge No. 296
Brian Jay Davis
Lisa Rowe Davis
Donna Elaine Sedelmyer

DL SUPERIOR No. 10
Superior Lodge No. 423
Russell Mario Magnaghi

DL GOLDEN GATE No. 12
Tegner Lodge No. 149
Lee Donaghey
Dana Lynn Nichelini
Siv Sandler

Svea Lodge No. 348
Jenna Ellen Frieberg
Lars Willard Frieberg
Sara Jo Frieberg

Skogen Lodge No. 700
Pia Vilmer States

DL PACIFIC NW No. 13
North Star Lodge No. 145
Annika J. Campbell
Linda Irene Carter
Constance J. Holland
Barbara L. Valencia

Nobel Lodge No. 184
Cecilia Anna Tidlund

Skogsblomman Lodge No. 378
Tobi Solvang

Excelsior Lodge No. 435
Garrett Marc Podratz

DL PACIFIC SW No. 15
Evening Star Lodge No. 426
Noah Kadrian Bennett

Mayflower Lodge No. 445
Bryan Eugene Casado
Cecilia De Rico
Aiden T. Green
Austin S. Green
Lisa K. Green
Albert Nicholas Loebs, Jr.
Owen Thomas Loebs
Bert Randeem
Gunnie Randeem
Mikael C. Sandgren
Robert John Squillace

Golden Valley Lodge No. 616
Grace Florence Bergstrom
Lilian E. Cropper
Jessica Sara Astrid Danhi
Kyle Dewey
Saga Hanna Dios
Ernie Jurgens
Inger Birgitta Saffie
Brandon Alexander Santana
Nicolas Nathaniel Storch

Oakleaf Lodge No. 685
Eric Jonsson
Birgitta Inga Roodsari
Abbas (Rudy) Roodsari

Glenn T. Seaborg No. 719
Dorothy Lowry Cunningham
Barbara Sue Johnson
Linn AV Molin
Ulrika KG Molin

DL IOWA-NEBRASKA No. 17
Omaha Lodge No. 330
Josh David Blenderman
Mary Jane Holoun
Crystal R. Lilledahl

DL ALBERTA No. 18
Skandia Lodge No. 549
Avery Allnutt
Gregory Berry
Kristie Bosovich
Nathan Johnson
Michael Kirk
Heather Kramble
Justine Laliberte
Bonnie Lopushinsky
Michelle McLeod
Katie Nixon
Kevin Nixon
Dean Ostafichuk
Grace Quale
Laura Quale
Ramona Quale
Susan Rockwood
Kristen Sheppard
Dean Yngvesson

DL ARIZONA No. 21
Tucson Lodge No. 691
Nicole Deere
Emma Faye Enos
Deb Peters
Samie Ray
Mitch Towner

Scandia Lodge No. 728
Barbara C. Cundiff



Brage 764 picnic (from left): Jo Lakota, Alan Puttcamp, Luan Borquist, Marilyn Setterlund, Marty Creager, Bonnie Swanson, Denise Adams, Joan Creager, Lee Wenger.

Brage No. 764

PEORIA, IL / Greetings from Brage 764. This picture shows what we do best - enjoy one another around the table while eating!!!! (Our last picnic for this year). We then had a short meeting. Joan, our activities director, asked each member to bring something from home (Scandinavian if possible) that holds a lot of meaning. We had plaques from Norway, family photo from 1876, bead work, hand painted watercolor picture, meaningful stories, and a "bell pull" needlepointed by Alan's Mother many years ago of houses from different provinces in Sweden. We enjoyed ALL the articles and stories so much, we decided to do it again in a few months!!!! We wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!!

SUBMITTED BY NADINE WILLEMS

Skogen No. 700

REDDING, CA / A group of Skogen Lodge members met in a Redding restaurant this week to socialize with one of our longtime members, Swede Englund (by the way our only male member). He has been homebound for quite a while now, and was ready for a hot meal and good conversation. He is chatting here with Alyson Ryberg, a fellow member (You might recognize them; they both have been district officers). Swede thoroughly enjoyed the outing! We hope to gather together often socially, in addition to our more formal meetings, especially as this is encouraging to the sick or homebound - after all - it's the Vasa way. It is good to keep in touch in a casual atmosphere during these challenging times.

SUBMITTED BY KRISTI BETTS

Swede Englund and Alyson Ryberg.



Norden 684's Lucia 2021 is Malia Gaviola.

Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / Norden Lodge is pleased to announce our annual Lucia Pageant scheduled for Saturday, December 11, 2021. This year our Lucia is Malia Gaviola. She is the 52nd Lucia since our lodge was organized, September 14, 1968. Malia is the daughter of Brian & Jennifer Gaviola and the Granddaughter of Roselind Gaviola (Chairman of Norden Lodge). Before moving to Paso Robles, Malia and her younger sister, Kalani participated as attendants in Norden Lodge Pageants. Malia is very excited to be our Lucia this year. Malia is 17 years old and attends Palo Robles High School in Paso Robles, California. She is currently the student body president and Editor in Chief of the school newspaper called, The Crimson. Her interests are golf and journalism. We warmly invite you to our Lucia Pageant, please phone Carole Sell 559 623-9588 for more information. Tack så Mycket!

SUBMITTED BY CAROLE ANN SELL

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / Our summer temperatures have finally allowed nature to make room for more benign temps, and our winter visitors are beginning to say hello to us again. It has been a warm, emphasis on warm, summer, and rain, though not as plentiful as we would

have liked, also made an appearance. Nights are longer and with it coolness most welcome. Sadly, we are still waiting to resume meetings in person, and our hopes for the bazaar and Lucia festival will not be taking place. Elections will be held at the November meeting. One office change is that of the Cultural Leader. Thus, at this time, we cannot write about any upcoming

meetings/programs possibly planned starting in January of 2022. We have been able to have some very interesting programs via Zoom, particularly one given by Emma Nissen, granddaughter of Margareta Flink, about Emma's travels in Sweden and her participation in a Whistling Competition. Ken Ahlberg talked about Halloween the Swedish Way. All participants thoroughly

enjoyed the program. Our Lodge sends best wishes for a peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year to all. May 2022 deal kindly with all of us.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON

IN MEMORIAM

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

DOROTHEA ANDERSON LANCASTER passed away peacefully in her home with her family by her side on August 30, 2021. She was born August 24, 1933 in Montessano, WA. Dorothea joined Balder No. 343 as member number 500 in September 1995. She endlessly volunteered her skills and talents. Dorothea was a Fortuna businesswoman and participant of the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival. She was a maker of friends. She will be greatly missed.

DIANE MAYNARD, passed away unexpectedly on October 5, 2021. Diane, the current Chairperson of Framåt Lodge No. 405 and a dual member of Svea Lodge No. 348, was born on Christmas day 1951 in Oakland CA. She joined Framåt Lodge on July 13, 2001 and was an active member, serving as Chairman for several terms. Diane enjoyed her role as chairperson and was looking forward to Framåt's 100th anniversary celebration on October 17th. She especially enjoyed raising money for Vasa at the District and Grand Lodge (Sacramento 2018) conventions, selling raffle tickets for cash prizes and gift baskets, t-shirts, books, pins, anything that would raise money for Vasa. Diane attended three Grand Lodge conventions. She is survived by her significant-other Robert Homer.

MIRIAM "MIM" CURTIS, Life Member, was born on 12/14/27 in Minnesota. She was initiated into Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719 on Valentine's Day, 2/14/2003. Mim served Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge as Chairman 2007-2008, Cultural Leader, Trustee, Auditor, and Facilities Coordinator. She was honored by the Lodge for her services

with Life Membership. Mim moved to Keizer, OR in late 2018 and joined Tre Krona Lodge #713 in Salem, OR as a Dual member. Sister Mim died on June 3, 2021.

ROBERT T. JOHNSON was born 2/23/1929 in Spokane, WA. He was initiated into Nordic Lodge No. 660 in January 1996 and initiated as a Dual member in Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719 on Jan. 10, 2003. He served GTS Lodge as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Auditor, Trustee and Cultural Leader. His cultural presentations were outstanding. Brother Bob died on Jan. 19, 2020. He is survived by his wife Barbara who has become a member of Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge.

FLORENCE KELLOGG LYON was born on 12/21/1928 in San Diego, CA. She was initiated into Scandinavian Lodge No. 667 on 3/27/1971 and transferred into Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719 on 1/1/2019. Florence was a 50 year member of Vasa and during that time she held many lodge offices including Chairman of Scandinavian Lodge No. 667. She also served as delegate to multiple District conventions. Sister Florence died on 7/23/2021. She is survived by her daughter Alita Lyon Swanson (wife of James R. Swanson RIP), who is also a member of Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge.

L. GUNILLA "NILLA" LINDGREN was born 10/7/1953 in Göteborg, Sweden. She was initiated into Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge on Oct. 11, 2019. Sister Nilla died on June 24, 2020.

ALLEN K. RIEBAU was born on 1/20/1944 in Chicago, IL. He was initiated into Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge in 2001. Memories recall his enthusiasm making Korv in the fall for the Seaborg Lodge's Annual Lucia Dinner/Pageant in December. Brother Al died on Jan. 7, 2021.

GERDA M STYRMAN, Life Member, was born on 1/24/1924 in Sweden. She was initiated into Nordic Lodge No. 660 in January, 1963 and initiated as a Dual member in Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719 on August 11, 1978. Sister Gerda died on April 13, 2021. She is survived by her daughter Linda Moyles and 2 grandsons: Jon Erik and Rory Jared (all Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge members).

JAMES R. SWANSON, PDM, was born on 4/5/1937 in San Diego, CA. He was initiated into Scandinavian Lodge No. 667 on 3/27/1971 and transferred into Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719 on 1/1/2019. Brother Jim served as District Master (District 15) in 1996 and several other offices during his 50 years with VASA. Brother Jim died on May 12, 2021. He is survived by his wife Alita Lyon Swanson, also a 50 year member of VASA.

CAROL THOMPSON was born 12/18/1949 in San Diego, CA. She was initiated into Scandinavian Lodge No. 667 on 3/26/1977 and transferred into Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719 on 1/1/2019. Carol became Scandinavian Lodge Secretary after being assistant Secretary to her mother Grace Thompson for 2-3 years. Carol served as Secretary, Organizer, and Party Planner, and kept the struggling Scandinavian Lodge going. She was a delegate to the District conventions for several years, donated hand-crafted blankets for District Convention Raffle gifts, and was responsible for tracking District Convention reservations for meals and tickets for all the local lodges in District 15. Sister Carol died on 8/23/2021.

ZENA LUNDBERG passed away peacefully in her sleep on October 26, 2021. She was born October 30, 1937, in Tacoma, Washington. Zena was 19 when she joined Balder Lodge 343, Eureka, on June 8, 1957. She held the office of financial secretary for many years and gave her time and talents to countless lodge events, activities and the local Scandinavian Midsummer Festival. She is survived by her husband, Mel Lundberg, and many friends.

COLORADO

CAROL (NYBERG) SWANSON passed away on May 23, 2021. Carol became a member of Enighet No. 178 in 1963 at the age of 17 years and was a member for 58 years. She served as Treasurer for Enighet Lodge and held the position of District Secretary for DL Rocky Mountain No. 11 for 30 years. In 2020 she was awarded the Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Award. She leaves behind her husband Richard, two daughters, four grandchildren and two brothers. Carol will be remembered as a kind, caring and grateful person who

loved to share her cooking.

CONNECTICUT

MARYANN O'LEARY, 83 of Hamden, CT departed this life on June 6, 2021. She was born in New Haven, CT on February 6, 1938. Maryann was a Past District Master of Connecticut and an enthusiastic member of Diana Birger Jarl No. 3. She is survived by husband Joseph O'Leary, two daughters Joanne and Megan, six grandchildren and her great granddaughter. Maryann was predeceased by her beloved daughter Sheila. Maryann always worked tirelessly to ensure each event held at CT VASA Park was successful, asking for nothing in return. Maryann is dearly missed by all that knew her.

TEXAS

ELAINE WILDMAN of Carl XVI Gustaf Lodge 716, Dallas Texas passed away September 4th, 2021. She was a tremendous member, held many positions including Chairman, and was a Honorary Life member and celebrated her 99 birthday this year. She will be greatly missed.

WISCONSIN

BIRGIT SEGERDAHL, passed away in July 2021, at the age of 96. Honorary member of Linde No. 492. She and her late husband Anders Segerdahl, the Swedish Consul in Milwaukee, set up the Segerdahl Fund, for our Skansen Children's Club. Used for scholarships to Sjölund, and other Culture activities.

The Brothers and Sisters above who died during 2020 and 2021 were all valuable members of VASA. Their skills, services, knowledge, generosity, commitment, enthusiasm, and presence in our local lodges and in VASA Order of America were a blessing and brought unity to all. They will be and are greatly missed.

Vinland No. 703

EAST HARWICH, MA / On October 23, some of our Lodge members were able to attend our first meeting in 21 months at Past Chairman Judith Peterson's home. We experienced the spontaneity of group conversation that has not been possible in e-mails and phone calls. Our 2021 officers will continue to serve in the same capacities for 2022. Our member, Ruth Johnson, died at 99 years old on Oct. 17. We remembered her talents and vivaciousness at meetings. Florence Lundstrom celebrated her 100th birthday in good health on Nov. 2! Cultural Leader, Kajsa Brimdyr, sent an informative narrative on The Icelandic Yule Lads. She has visited Iceland several times on business. We will not be holding our Lucia Fest this year. Instead, we will have a St. Lucia celebration for our next meeting, Dec. 11 at 1:00 at Judith Peterson's home.

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN-ELLNER KEAN



Vinland members, from left: Karen Gauch, Chairman Dorothy Kean, Russell Peterson, Judith Peterson.
Photo by Svea Peterson

The Grand Lodge 2021 Scholarship and Essay Contest

The Grand Lodge of the Vasa Order of America offers the following to 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, 2020. Applications are available at the Vasa website until January 15, 2021.

To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2021 to be considered.

1. Completed application with enclosures MUST be postmarked no later than 15 February 2021.
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 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. What is your favorite Scandinavian Holiday and how has it been passed through your family?
5. Describe your Local Vasa Lodge and how it has played a role in your life.
6. Within the Nordic countries, choose a 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

"What's old is new again"

Varmt välkomna to the reinvented "Scandinavian Echoes" radio program/podcast, broadcasting on Facebook and YouTube, with a new show premiering "live" every Sunday. The host is Jeanne Eriksson (Widman Andersen), District Master of New York District #4 and Grand Lodge Co-Cultural Leader of the VOA.

The show, created together with Wayne Söderlund and Chad Widman of Smörgåsbandet (all three are members of Lindbergh Lodge #505), was born during the coronavirus pandemic because music cannot be cancelled. Enjoy music old and new, gammaldans, evergreens, folkmusik, soft-jazz, clips from TV shows, festivals, solo performers and new artists. Accompanying each song—besides the introduction—is a little history or story about the song and composer, and with each song are visuals, a slide show of pictures. Some shows are "live" from festivals and concerts when they are allowed again, including interviews with performers and festival-goers. Programs are launched from, and archived on, the Scandinavian Echoes Facebook page. Requests and theme ideas are welcomed—and as Jeanne says on the show, she just wants to share in the joy of celebrating Scandinavian music.

SWEDISH NEWS

DL No. 19 Norra Sverige

DEAR VASA FRIENDS,

We finally managed to have our District meetings in Sweden, 9-10 October in DL19 (my district) and 16-17 October in DL 20. I was so happy when I opened our meeting, and told everybody how glad I was to see them all again. A particularly warm welcome to our Vice Grandmaster John Hanright and his wife Inger. We were happy that they made it over to Sweden and to both our District meetings. We had great days and went through our agenda with efficiency. We also had two lovely evenings where we gathered together for dinner and entertainment, everybody was so happy to see each other. A summary will be sent to GLEB concerning the motions and recommendations. I hope you all had a nice and relaxing summer and that you will be able to see each other again in your lodges. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the coming Grand lodge meeting next summer. Kurt and I wish you all the best for the coming holidays.

SUBMITTED BY MAGGIE AHLIN THELIN, DM
IN TRUTH AND UNITY



Distriktsmästarna år 2021-2023 i DL19 Maggie Ahlin Thelin och DL20 Mats Holmberg samt Vice Stormästaren Jack Hanright i mitten.



NEW MEMBERS IN SWEDEN

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

LL Skåne Nr 570
Nils Johansson

LL Calmare Nyckel Nr 628
Per Dahlberg
Ellika Andolf

LL Höganäs Nr 634
Samuel af Ugglas

LL Christian Nr 617
Gertie Lingström (även
medlem i LL 616)

Lars-Evert Rosenlund
Lena Rosenlund

LL Blå Jungfrun Nr 749
Birgith Fogelström

STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

Det här är årets mest hektiska tid. Loger gör sig redo för juldans, lucia eller helt enkelt julfest för att avsluta året. De flesta regioner har öppnats upp och har möten och sammankomster medan andra fortsatt har zoom-möten. Distriktskongresserna har börjat: Nancy och jag gick till vår första på 18 månader. Distrikt #9 Pennsylvania höll distriktsmöte i Frederick, Maryland och värd var Drott Lodge #168. Stort tack till organisationskommittén för en lyckad distriktskongress och grattis till de valda distriktsjämsmännen! Samtidigt deltog vice stormästaren Jack och Inger Hanright på distrikt 19 och 20 årsmöten i Sverige. BRA! I november kommer vi att delta i årsmötet för New York District #4. New Jersey District #6 skulle haft årsmöte men hade istället ett endagsmöte för att granska relevanta



ärenden och för att nominera en delegat till Storloge-mötet. Distriktet har flyttat om kongressen till 1-3 april 2022. När VASA-världen börjar öppna upp måste vi arbeta med vårt årliga Vasa-schema. Jag rekommenderar att distriktsmästare deltar i andra distriktskongresser och att logemedlemmar deltar i andra logers möten. Detta kommer att hjälpa dig att upptäcka vad VASA handlar om. ENTUSIASM och kamratskap. Programmet för Storlogemötet är uppe online och tar emot bokningar för alla kongressaktiviteter. Rumsbokningar för det vackra Old City Marriott Hotel kan göras direkt med hotellet med koden: VASA GRAND LODGE CONVENTION. RING: från USA och CANADA 1-888-236-2427 och från Sverige +1(0)20 795122. Information online kan nås från vasaorder.com eller direkt på vasagrandlege2022.com. Hotellet räknar med att bli fullbokat under 4 juli-helgen så gör dina

bokningar tidigt.

Köp Storlogens Vikinganål för att släppa loss din inre viking! Nålar är tillgängliga från din representant för Storlogen, medlemmar av Storlogens Executive Board eller från mig. De är fantastiska små presenter. Kom ihåg att vår orden behöver ett **LEVANDE, ENTUSIASTISKT MEDLEMSSKAP – SPRID ORDET! TV TV TV** (Tala Vasa) med ENTUSIASM!

Nancy och jag sänder våra bästa hälsningar till var och en av er för en underbar jul och ett nytt år av frid och god hälsa.

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
ART BJORKNER, STORMÄSTARE

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