



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

SUMMER 2022
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



No midsummer is complete unless you've made your own "midsommarkrans" - floral head wreath. Here, members of LL Linde #492 are getting in the spirit of summer.

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I am honored beyond words to serve as your Grand Master for the ensuing term. My most sincere thank you to the membership for showing the confidence in me to serve



in this capacity. The Grand Lodge convention in Philadelphia was an event we can all be proud of. District Lodge New Jersey No. 6 did a fantastic job organizing and running the event. Convention Chairman Bob Coleman and his wife Christine spent endless hours collaborating with the committee to put everything together. Our Past

Grand Master Art Bjorkner and First Lady Nancy not only did a superb job of leading our organization through the last four years but were also very instrumental in the planning of the convention. My most heartfelt thank you to Past Grand Master Art for everything he has done on our behalf. We can all thank the Grand Lodge Mem-

bers that spent the time and resources to attend the convention and conduct the business of our order. It is no light task and requires enormous commitment. I was extremely impressed with our work as a group. Everyone worked hard and we made many important and progressive decisions. I personally / continued on p4

National Archive News

The new President of the Vasa National Archives would like to see more information from lodges / p3

Grand Lodge News

Highlights from the 40th Grand Lodge Convention in Philadelphia by our past Grand Secretary ... / p4

Scholarship awardees

Look at the young members in this issue who show academic success and are going forward in their lives with your support / p6

Local Lodge News

Summer activities are almost back to normal in many parts of Vasa—here's to catching up with friends all over the U.S. / p12

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Talking Vasa ...



DEAR READERS, I hope everyone has had a summer to remember. It's certainly been a busy one with more in person activities. Perhaps

the most noteworthy was our Grand Lodge Convention. Congratulations to all of our new officers. Heartfelt thanks to all that finished their terms, and even more thanks to those who will be continuing to serve our Order.

As our Past Grand Master is fond of saying, "I hope everyone is continuing to talk Vasa." I had the opportunity to do just that on a car ride home from my local fly-fishing club. I am an absolute novice at fly fishing, but it's a great group that has been very welcoming to someone who is just beginning to learn the art. In addition to personal enrichment, the club is also considering running a fly-fishing program for veterans to give back to our local community and raise awareness about recreational fishing.

As we travelled to the meeting, and because the fellows in the carpool don't know me that well, they asked about what rivers I'd fished in locally. Sheepishly, I mentioned a couple and admitted that most of my experience was in catching crayfish. Unbeknownst to me, one fellow was from the south-central part of the US and loved crawdad boils. The other fellow informed us of his Swedish ancestry and of his having had crayfish in the Swedish language classes he and his wife took in Portland. I asked if it was a crayfish party with all the decorations and he didn't know what I was talking about. Thank goodness for the internet and for everyone who's willing to share pictures of the fun they're having at crayfish parties around the world.

I can't guarantee my new friends will join Vasa, but there's a better chance now that they know about the Organization and a bit about the heritage we celebrate. With any luck, like with fishing, we'll get a keeper.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
CHRISTA SVENSSON

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Talented ladies preparing the headpieces, the wreaths for Svea #296 Midsummer / p13



Nordic #611 Midsommar musicians at the Scandinavian Athletic club / p13



Sjölunden and other language camps—important for so many (and for the future of Vasa) / p8



Midsummer with North Star #145; L-R: Annica Lawry-Ball carrying the American flag and Mirjam Bowles carrying the Swedish flag / p12

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For our next issue:

By November 4

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, Marlene Patient, Grand Secretary, 337 River St., Leicester, MA 01524

ARCHIVES NEWS

A message from the president of Vasa National Archives

DEAR VASA MEMBERS & FRIENDS,
 Good morning from my beautiful home in the treetops here in Door County, WI. It's true, I accepted the position as President of the Vasa National Archives. Most of you know I've been heavily involved in the Archives for many years but this new responsibility presents challenges. There have been many significant changes in the leadership team of the Grand Lodge and several positions overlap to the VNA Board which means many of us are new in our

roles. We need to learn together. I believe this term, the next four years, will be very important to the organization. Covid is not gone but luckily we've learned to manage many things using Zoom as a communication tool. Hopefully many of you are meeting "in person" but we need to still be careful. Sadly, our members are getting older and many local lodges need to merge or dissolve. This means more and more information is coming to the Archives so the history of these lodges can be

saved. I will ask our archivist, Kathy Cuff to remind everyone that we have a collection policy and only specific items should be sent to her. She will reiterate that policy so you are aware. I promise you that the VNA will seek professional advice regarding cost effective storage solutions and more "user friendly" electronic methods of communication. Naturally I only have a short greeting for you as it has been less than a month since my election. I'd like to hear from you with questions and

helpful suggestions. My e-mail address is sheilal1948@live.com. Be careful to use a small "i" before 1948. It's easy to miss.



IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
 SHEILA LUNDQUIST
 PRESIDENT VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Officers/Board at the Vasa National Archives: Front left: Board Member Art Bjorkner, Treasurer Kevin DeFeo, President Sheila Lundquist, Vice President Bruce Elfvin, Board Member Charlotte Börjesson, Archivist Kathy Cuff, Back left: Board Member Antonio Spargo, Board Member Tom Cleveland, Board Member John (Jack) Hanright, Missing in picture Secretary Karen Snowberg.

Greetings from the Vasa National Archives

GREETINGS VASA SISTERS AND BROTHERS, Thank you to everyone that brought collections to the Grand Lodge Convention for me to bring home. Or those who gave up car space to drive collections over on the way to the convention. It took me several weeks to go through all of it and get it put away. As Sheila said, we had a few changes to the VNA board and I am looking forward to working with everyone for the next 4 years. One of the first tasks is reviewing and updating our policies. Particularly, our Collection Policy and Emergency Plan. If you are interested in an abbreviated version of our Col-

lection Policy, you can find it on our website, <https://www.vasaarchives.org/archive-wants>. Speaking of websites, we want to present a user-friendly website that is modern and engaging for everyone that visits our site. We ask that all of you take some time to "play around" with our website. Feel free to let us know your feedback, comments, or suggestions so we can improve the website. You can contact us at VasaArchivist@gmail.com or 309-927-3898.

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

Past First Lady Nancy and I send our most sincere thanks to all the Vasa Order Brothers and Sisters who helped make the 40th Grand Lodge Convention this past week in Philadelphia, PA a success! We had your support from initial Booster and Viking Pin sales, our Convention '22 Raffle, wine table sponsorships and Ad purchases for the Journal! Our July 4th Vasa Park Day, supported by our Vasa Park Ladies' Auxiliary and the Board of Trustees, the Tuesday evening ABBA Palooza, the Golf Outing and local Swedish Historical trip plus our two banquets were well attended and compliments flowed freely! The evening raffles and sales table brought us needed revenue, and the Marriott staff provided great support.

A hearty "Thank You" goes to our Convention Committee members for their hard work planning and raising funds for the Convention. We were supported and represented by many District #6 members throughout Convention week, which culminated in elections for our new officers for the term 2022-2026.

Nancy and I extend our Best Wishes to the new Grand Lodge Executive Board and their supporting staff and thank the members of the 2018-2022 Board and staff for their support and participation over the past four years. It has been a pleasure to serve the Vasa Order.

IN GENEROSITY, TRUTH AND UNITY AND WITH VASA ENTHUSIASM,
 PGM ART & NANCY BJORKNER

Past first lady Nancy and PGM Art Bjorkner enjoying a rare moment of downtime during the GL Convention.



GRAND LODGE NEWS

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



ally thank the Past Grand Masters, Ulf A. G. Brynjestad, Rolf S. Bergman and Tore Kellgren for lending your experience and prestige to the meeting. Each of you have prepared the road ahead of me and it is a great

honor to work alongside you. Thank you!! I thank the outgoing Executive Board members and I congratulate all the newly elected officers. Vice Grand Master, Tom Cleveland, Grand Secretary Marlene Patient, Grand Treasurer, Kevin DeFeo, Vice Grand Secretary, Lillian More, Members of the executive board, EBM-Eastern Region, Deborah Larsson, EBM- Midwest Region, Antonio Spargo, EBM- Western Region, John Erickson, EBM- Canada, Donna Englund, EBM- Sweden, Olle Wickstrom. I look forward to working with our newly elected team. We collectively have a world of knowledge and are dedicated to representing each and every member. When Inger and I returned home we were welcomed at a reception hosted by the Board of Trustees at New Jersey Vasa Park. Thank you to Park President Jim Radel and the entire board for organizing the event. I am honored to be the fourth

Grand Master from New Jersey District 6. It has been a very trying four years and all the Grand Lodge Officers did our best to meet with as many lodges as possible. Unfortunately, COVID-19 had other plans for us. I am constantly reminded and impressed with all the local and district lodges for their persistence and flexibility to navigate such an unprecedented situation. We can only hope the pandemic is behind us now and we can return to normal activities. One of the many things I have planned to work on is increasing and improving communications between lodges and our membership. It is because we were able to find alternate means of communication during the pandemic that we are still whole. We have demonstrated to ourselves that despite an unprecedented worldwide health crisis we were able to communicate and conduct our business. Increasing all the many platforms we have already

developed over the years such as local lodge newsletters, articles in The Vasa Star, and social media should be regenerated and utilized to their fullest potentials. Our social media platforms, Zoom, Skype and various others have demonstrated our capability to modernize and work as a cohesive group. Our social media director, Chad Widman has done a fantastic job and has a lot of enthusiasm and plans for future development. So, get out there to your local lodge meetings! The local lodge is the heartbeat of our organization and it's time to make a comeback. Thank you again for everything each of you have contributed and we look forward to visiting and communicating with as many of you as we possibly can.

JOHN HANRIGHT (JACK)
GRAND MASTER

Highlights of the Grand Lodge Meeting in Philadelphia July 1-8, 2022

Vasa members from Sweden, Canada, and the United States gathered in Philadelphia to attend the 40th Quadrennial Convention of the Grand Lodge - Vasa Order of America. It was an amazing week as Vasa members from all over the US, Canada and Sweden enjoyed seeing old friends and making new friends. Serious business was taken care of and yet there was time for socializing, an important part of any Vasa gathering.

Thank you to Bob Coleman, Chairman of the New Jersey #6 host committee, to Art and Nancy Bjorkner, to District Master Cory Warner, and to all the host committee members for a well-planned convention. Your hard work really paid off!! Well done!

The Grand Lodge Delegates spent many hours in committee meetings and then, gathering with all the voting members - making decisions that will affect the future of the Vasa Order of America. Your District's Grand Lodge Delegate can answer any questions

you may have about specific motions discussed at the meeting. In May, the motions were sent by email to each lodge to share with its members. Soon the Record of Proceedings, which includes the minutes of the meeting, will be sent by email attachment to each lodge. Check with your lodge chairman or secretary if you want to receive a copy. In the meantime, here are some highlights of the business meeting:

1. Grand Lodge Officers for the 2022-2026 term are: Grand Master John Hanright, DL New Jersey #6; Vice Grand Master Tom Cleveland, DL Lake Michigan #8; Grand Secretary Marlene Patient, DL Massachusetts #2; Grand Treasurer Kevin DeFeo, DL New Jersey #6; Vice Grand Secretary Lillian More, DL Arizona #21; MEB-Eastern Region Debbie Larsson, DL New Jersey #6; MEB-Midwest Region Antonio Spargo, DL Minnesota #7, MEB-Western Region John Erickson, DL Pacific Northwest #13; MEB-Canada Donna Englund, DL Alberta #18, and MEB-Sweden Olle

Wickström, DL Södra Sweden #20.

2. Elected Archives Board Members are: Charlotte Börjesson, Bruce Elfvin, Sheila Lundquist, and Karen Snowberg. At the Archives Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, July 9, 2022, Sheila Lundquist was elected President of the Vasa National Archives.

3. Four Distinguished Service Award jewels and certificates were presented by the Grand Lodge during the 2018-2022 term to members nominated in recognition of their dedicated service to the Vasa Order. One presentation was made in 2020 to Bertil Johnsson, DL Alberta No. 18. Grand Lodge Historian Alice Kienberger-Iverson was presented with her award in June 2022 for her dedicated work on the 125th Anniversary book. At the Grand Lodge convention, awards were presented to Inger Hanright, nominated by DL New Jersey No. 6 and to Jeanne Eriksson Widman Andersen, nominated by DL New York No. 4. These four Vasa members have shown excep-

tional dedication to the Vasa Order of America.

4. The Grand Lodge Emblem was draped, and obituaries were read honoring Past Grand Lodge Officer and Archivist Richard Horngren, Past Grand Secretary Cynthia Erickson, Past Grand Treasurer Robert Peterson, Past Grand Lodge Officer Roland Nilsson, and Past Grand Master William Lundquist. A moment of silence was held in honor of these departed members.

5. 37 Motions and 18 Officer's Recommendations were discussed and voted on. For details on the voting, you can discuss them with your district's Grand Lodge Delegate. Here are some of the decisions made:

- a. Dual memberships are no longer limited to two lodges. Now called "Dual-Plus" memberships, a member may belong to multiple lodges. The only restrictions are that the "Dual-Plus" member may not hold the same office in more than one lodge; and the

Dual-Plus member may be eligible to be a delegate to no more than one district convention from only one of the local lodges to which the member belongs, provided all qualifications are met.

b. The number of Grand Lodge delegates from a district has been increased. Now: up to 500 members = one delegate, 501-1000 members = two delegates, then one additional delegate for each 500 members under the district lodge jurisdiction.

c. Quorum needed to transact any business of the District Executive Board and the Grand Lodge Executive Board shall be 65% of total voting members.

d. On the membership application, the lines for signatures of the Membership Committee are removed.

e. Increases in Grand Lodge per capita/assessments will become effective January 1 the second year following the G.L. Convention. Decreases in assessments shall become effective January 1 the year following the G.L. Convention. This allows the lodges to increase their dues to cover an increase in the assessments.

f. The Student Loan program is discontinued.

g. The Grand Lodge shall engage an independent CPA auditing firm to complete annual audits.

h. In Sweden only, the Vasa Star will be distributed electronically, only; discontinuing the printed version.

i. For Old Age and Benefit grants, in the event of the recipient's death prior to receipt of the check, the check is to be applied to the estate of the recently deceased member.

j. In the US and Canada, the New Member Kits will be discontinued, and the information will be placed on the Vasa website. Membership pins will be available at cost from the Vice Grand Secretary.

Great News: There will be no increase in Grand Lodge Assessments. Assessments remain at \$20.75 per member.

I want to thank all the Local and District Secretaries that I have worked with during my four terms as your Grand Secretary. These dedicated sisters and brothers are the backbone of each local lodge, and their hard work is very much appreciated. And thank you to all the Vasa members I have communicated with, by telephone and email, for some very interesting experiences during these 16 years.

SUBMITTED BY JOANIE GRAHAM,
PAST GRAND SECRETARY

Order your Christmas greetings early

1. Standard greeting small \$15.00 (2.7" x 1")
2. Standard greeting large \$30.00 (2.7" x 2")
3. Island-size greeting with illustration/-s \$45.00 (2.7" x 2.7"-3.3")

Advertisements or texts should be mailed with check or money order to
The Vasa Star, PO Box 510632
New Berlin, WI 53151-0632.
Email: vasaeditor@gmail.com.



We need your greeting and payment by November 1

Sjölunden Language Camp Awards

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce this year's Bertha Kalm Sjölunden Language Camp awards were awarded to:
Kajsa Woodger from DL-2, Massachusetts, LL-Birka #732
David Danhi, DL-15 Pacific Southwest, LL-Golden Valley #616
Jessica Danhi, DL-15 Pacific Southwest, LL-Golden Valley #616
True Foley 15 Pacific Southwest, LL-Golden Valley #616

Applications for next year's award MUST be postmarked by February 10, 2023. An application online will be available at www.vasaorder.com and in the next issue of the Vasa Star.

Swedish Genealogy

November 12 - 9am-5pm

Online Workshop

<https://drott-lodge.org/>

Moving?

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



Photo: Jeanne Eriksson Widman, Andersen

Grand Lodge Officers Board for 2022-2026 (front l-r): Kevin DeFeo - Grand Treasurer, Marlene Patient - Grand Secretary, Jack Hanright - Grand Master, Tom Cleveland - Vice Grand Master, Lillian More - Vice Grand Secretary
Executive Board Members (back l-r): Olle Wickstrom - Sweden, Deborah Larsson - Eastern Region, John Erickson - Western Region, Donna England - Canada, Antonio Spargo - MidWest Region

Congratulations to All!

WINNERS OF THE 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

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



Liv Abrahamsen
Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No. 4

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500
Liv is studying engineering at Manhattan College. She is an Air Force ROTC Cadet and the physical fitness leader at Manhattan College. She is also member of Manhattan College Society of Women Engineers. Liv received National Honor Society, Art Honor Society, English, and Spanish Honor Society as well as Science Honor Society during high school education. Liv joined Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 at age 3 and has been active in the club to this day. Liv joined the Vasa Order of America at age 14 and has been very active in her lodge and served as Lucia in 2017. She also has served on the District Lodge Installation Team during annual convention. Liv volunteers at her church vacation bible school. Liv's future plans include a career as a civil engineer within the United States Air Force as an officer.

Emma Rose Chiarelli

Golden Valley Lodge No. 616
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500

Emma is attending The University of South Florida, Tampa where she is studying to be a physician's assistant. Some of her extracurricular activities include raising money through her philanthropy "Girls on The Run", Pre- Physician's assistant club, coaching at Tampa Gymnastic and Dance and Volunteering at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church just to name a few. Emma is continually active in her local lodge where she assists in Kaffe Stuga, Golden Valley Lodge Midsummer Queen, and attends regular zoom meetings, her future plans are to work in the medical field.



Madeleine Dunn

Mayflower Lodge No. 445
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Madeleine is concurrently attending Blue Ridge Academy in Maricopa, CA and Saddleback College in Mission Viejo CA, where she is studying psychology. She also studies American sign language. Madeleine is a member of the Junior Honor Society, National

Honor Society, member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, holds a 4.34 GPA and is District winner of National Piano Guild (3 years) Beside being a full-time student Madeleine finds time to volunteer each week at Belmont Village assisted living facility. She is active at her Church and highly regarded by her teachers and peers.

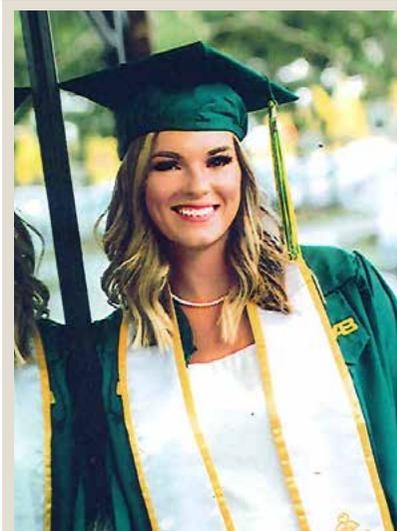


Max Garrett Andrews

John Banner Lodge No. 36
DL Rhode Island No. 3

Einar and Edith Nilsson Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Max is studying at The University of Rhode Island where he will focus on mechanical engineering. Max graduated from Exeter-West Greenwich Regional High School where he received high honor roll. Max has been involved with The Vasa Order since birth. His great grandparents, grandparents, parents and family members have a long history of involvement and hard work in John Banner and Little Roddy Vasa Park in RI. Max shares close ties with his Swedish family in the Stockholm and Karlstad areas. Max is a true ambassador of The Vasa Order of America.



Alexandra Bjorkner

Sveaborg Lodge No. 446
DL New Jersey No. 6

Ellis Hilner Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Alexandra attends The University of Alabama at Birmingham, majoring in occupational therapy. She is on the Dean's List and is certified in Sensory Training for special needs. Alexandra is a member of the UAB Golden Girls Athletic Team, Alumni of Delta Gamma Sorority, Canterbury United Methodist Church Nursery Staff, Member of Student Occupational Therapy Association and Member of Alabama Occupational Therapy Association. Alexandra has spent many summers with her Grand Parents, Art and Nancy at their home in New Jersey Vasa Park where she volunteers her time and resource. Alexandra's plans include obtaining a PHD in occupational Therapy and opening her own occupational therapy clinic.

Matthew Cleveland

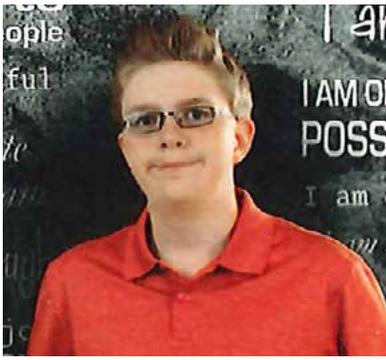
Viljan Lodge No. 349
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500

Matthew is attending The University of North Dakota where he is majoring in commercial aviation and unmanned aircraft systems. He has been named to The Presidents List at the University, John D Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences Deans List and a long list of others. Matthew is currently working towards his multi engine flight training



in a Piper Seminole and will receive his Instrument, Commercial, and Multi Engine ratings from the Federal Aviation Administration. Matthew's family has a long-standing history of involvement with The Vasa Order. He has been attending local lodge meetings since he was a young child and continues to volunteer his time to Lodge Viljan and Vasa Park in South Elgin IL. Matthew's future plans include a degree in commercial aviation and to become a commercial airline pilot.



Alek Ekstrand

Linde Lodge No. 492

DL Lake Michigan No. 8

District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8
Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Alek attends University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where he is studying Computer Science and Information Technology. He currently hosts study hall sessions and is goalie for the broom-ball team. Alek works part time for GS Global resources where he developed a tablet application to monitor and track inventory. He also has been instrumental in developing corporate workflow concepts. He is highly regarded by his peers and coworkers. Alek and his family have a long history of involvement in The Vasa Order of America. Alek started out in Skansen's Children's Club #113 where he performed in many Midsummer and Lucia Festivals. He became a member of Linde Lodge #492 where he is very active and works at many events, setting up, taking down, flipping pancakes and in the last few years has become the "In Charge Person" for credit card transactions. Alek's future includes a career in Information Technology and Software Development.



Victoria Land

Arlington Lodge No. 62

DL New Jersey No. 6

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Victoria attends Rutgers University where she is studying Psychology. Victoria is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, National Society of Leadership and Success, National Honor Society and World Language Honors Society. Her extra-curricular activities include Girl Scouts, Dance, Madrigals Choir, Carnegie Choir, Co-Leader of A Cappella Choir and performer at local music festivals. Victoria is very active in her local lodge and volunteers regularly and routinely at New Jersey Vasa Park. She assists with children's dance club Skansen, works in the kitchen during large events and always lends a hand with anything and everything. Victoria's future plans are to become a school psychologist or clinical psychologist.

Annabel Johnson

Viljan Lodge No. 349

DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Annabel attends University of Alabama Birmingham where she is studying Biomedical Engineering. She has earned Member of Honors College-UAB, Engineering Academy Member, is a member of Kappa Delta Sorority, Biomedical Engineering Society and named to the Dean's List. Annabel and her family have a long history of involvement in The Vasa Order of America. She joined Forgat Mig Ej Children's Club in 2008 where she learned traditional folk songs and dance. She also joined the Swedish American Children's Choir performing at nursing homes, midsummer celebrations and of course Lucia Festivals at Christmas time. She has been an active member in Viljan Lodge since 2018. Annabel's future plans are to pursue a master's degree in biomedical engineering and research a cure for Alzheimer's disease.



Benjamin Kramer

Linde Lodge No. 492

DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Edith Gauch/Klinglof Scholarship,
\$1,500.00

Ben is studying at Yale University in New Haven Connecticut where he is a member of the Scandinavian Society, National Merit Scholarship, National winner, Advanced Placement Scholar Award with distinction, 2019, and Candidate for United States Department of Education Presidential Scholar Award. Future plans include a master's degree and eventually working as an educator of music and language. Ben has worked as a language teacher and counselor at Sjolunden, Concordia Language Village. Ben has also worked as volunteer course contributor and forum moderator for the popular language education platform Duolingo where his work has allowed him direct impact to 1.2 million people learning Swedish through this platform. Ben is an active member in his local Vasa Lodge where he has served as leader of the children's activities. Ben is dedicated to his Vasa work in preserving and promoting our culture and heritage.

Eden Ladouceur

Pioneer Lodge No. 506

DL Rhode Island No. 3

Gladys & Russell Birtwistle
Scholarship, \$1,500.00



Eden is attending Roger Williams University in Bristol RI where she is studying forensic science. Eden has made the Dean's List in all five semesters of college. Eden has been appointed by Pioneer Lodge to serve as representative at Little Rhode Vasa Park and has contributed many hours of service to her local and district lodge. Eden has been instrumental in holding Zoom meetings during the Covid pandemic and attends these monthly meetings remotely while away at school. Eden's mother (Robyn) is currently District Master, and her father (Jim) is a PDM and current DL Secretary. Eden's future plans are to obtain a degree in forensic science and then apply to medical school and complete a residency and fellowship in order to become a medical examiner. This will require 15 years of schooling and training.

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Jennifer Larson

North Star Lodge No. 106

DL Pacific Southwest No. 15

Bertha Evelyn Kalm Scholarship,
\$1,500.00

Jennifer is attending Concordia University where she is enrolled in Irvine's Multiple Subject Credential program. This program is a graduate level educator preparation program intended for leading to a teacher's certification license in the state of California to teach elementary classrooms. Jennifer is very involved with her local and district lodge. She has taken the office of Auditor in her local lodge and has served as Outer Guard and recently, Delegate to her district lodge convention. Jennifer is a past member of the Junior Folk Dance Club, has participated in Lucia pageants, volunteers her time at Vasa Park in Agoura Hills Kaffe Stuga and picnics and holds dual membership with Mayflower Lodge 445 where she holds the office of Vice Chairman. She is highly regarded amongst the members. Jennifer's future plans are to become a full-time elementary school teacher.

Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay

by Willem Lent

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

My first exposure to Vasa was Viking Village at Vasa Park in Agoura Hills, California during my freshman year of high school. Truthfully, I was nervous, especially because my sister was going to be a camper while I would be a counselor, and I didn't know anyone there. My apprehension was almost immediately assuaged when I met the camp director, Ann, and all my fellow counselors. The camp was unlike anything I'd ever done before, especially in a cultural setting. We would get the kids ready each morning and night, but we'd also prepare and partake in cultural activities like singing the [Swedish] national anthem, playing traditional Swedish games, and making Swedish artwork like runes and Dalmålning. I realized then that without Viking Village and Vasa, I would never have been exposed to these things in such a fun and immersive way, and without all of the older people—myself included—none of the younger kids would have had a fun and enriching experience at camp. I feel that while the older generations preserve culture, it's ultimately up to the younger generations to immerse themselves in it and then share it with the world.

The following years, I returned to Viking Village as a counselor again, and each year we increased the number of cultural activities we took part in. We had two visitors from Sweden my second year at camp, and we did folk dancing, had meatballs, and played folk games. I and the other counselors were the bridge between our visitors and the campers, showing them how to play and explaining to them aspects of the activities. Whenever I volunteer at Vasa Park for Hostmarknad or Midsommar, I can tell my visitors are often surprised to see a younger person running one of the booths. I feel that presently, it's atypical for younger people to be involved in cultural activities like this—hence the surprised looks from visitors—and so there's a disconnect between the young and the old when there really shouldn't be one. I understand

it can be easy to be disinterested in the things one doesn't understand; I probably wouldn't have been as immersed in Swedish culture as I am now had I not been dunked in it my first year at camp. Regardless of that though, without the younger generation also participating in culture, it cannot survive.

By getting younger people involved in culture, it also makes it easier for the next generation to connect as well. When I went to Sjolunden in Minnesota last year, I noticed that almost all of the counselors were pretty young while just the camp directors were noticeably older. I feel that having people closer to my own age helped me get more interested in what we learned and the activities we did. It is, in general, more difficult for the young and the old to connect on a more personal level by virtue of changes in the world they grew up in versus how things are now. By having people of a bridge generation between them, though, everyone gets to connect and share in culture. I am not one for dancing or singing, but by the end of my time at Sjolunden I knew all the songs and was dancing with everyone around the Midsommarstången. Without people I could relate to, I doubt I would've been as comfortable joining in the festivities as I was. I feel this same thing carries over to my own experience as a counselor; while the older generation has the knowledge and experience, my generation understands the experience of the youngest generation better enough to where we can connect and bridge the interstitial gap for them.

My younger brother Holden is nine. He has been to Viking Village and other Vasa events a few times, though sometimes he expresses he's somewhat disinterested in participating in some of the more traditional activities like singing or being part of the Lucia celebration at our lodge. I can sympathize with the feeling, but I've noticed that when I do the activities alongside him, he's a lot more



Willem Lent

Skandia Lodge No. 247

DL Pacific Southwest No. 15

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500.00

This August, Willem will begin his studies at the University of Southern California where he will major in concept art and game design in the School of Cinematic Arts. He graduated from Clark Magnet High School, Glendale CA with highest honors and received the US Congressional Award Silver Medal for public service and personal development in 2021. He won the Skills USA Regional Competition in Graphic Design in 2022, Outstanding

Achievement Award for Computer Animation-2020/2021, Math Analysis Award-2020, Congressional Award Bronze Medal-2019/2021 and Award for Outstanding Achievement in Commercial Design-2018. Willem is very involved with his local lodge Skandia #247 and volunteers at Vasa Park in Agoura Hills where he was a camp counselor at Viking Village and has been instrumental in assisting with the production of the Hostmarknad Program 2021 improving and making a newer look to the program. Willem's future plans include a career in designing original stories and characters for video games and movies.

engaged and comfortable. Younger kids look up to people my age as role models, especially because we're not quite adults yet in their eyes. Taking that into account is what makes me feel it's the job of people my age to serve as cultural medians in Vasa and

in all other spaces. We are the only ones that can both internalize the experience of the older generation and relate it to the younger generation, keeping our culture alive.



Elsa Lorieul
Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No. 4
 Irma and Knute Carlson
 Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Elsa is attending The University of Louisville where she is studying equine business and management. Elsa has a vast working knowledge in thoroughbred horse racing. She also has immersed herself in training and other aspects of the industry and plans to

further her career through her pursuit of equine and business management. Elsa has been a member of Elsa Rix #1 folkdance group since age 6 and served as Lucia in 2018. She became a member of the Vasa Order at age 14. She has participated in countless Swedish events in the metropolitan NY area and has also served on a District Lodge level as an installing team officer. Elsa was awarded the prestigious title of Miss Sweden Day 2020. Elsa has contributed an enormous amount of work and resource to the Vasa Order and is an accomplished folk dancer.

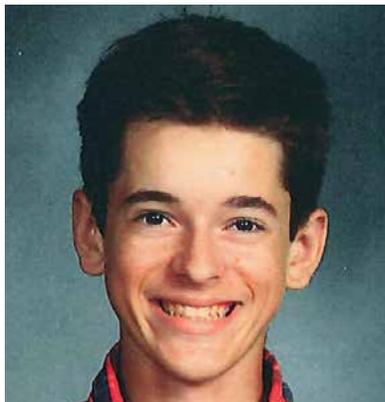
Sophia Martinez

Phoenix Lodge No. 677
DL Arizona No. 21

Bo and Sigrid Bjorling Scholarship,
 \$1,500.00



Sophie is studying at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter MN. and is an exchange student at Mora Folkhögskola in Mora Sweden. She has focused on her passion for religion and Scandinavian studies. Music has been a large part of Sophie's life. She has studied violin for 8 years and piano for 12. She is currently studying organ with Dr Chad Winterfeldt at Gustavus Adolphus College. She has made the Dean's List fall and spring 2020/21, is an assistant with the college religion department and works as a Swedish language tutor. Sophie has been involved with The Vasa Order beginning at age 4 where she was a member of Tucson Lodge 691's Barn Ringen Children's Dance Group. She has participated in Lucia Fest since her earliest recollections for both Phoenix Lodge 677 and Tucson Lodge 691 and was crowned Lucia of Tucson 691 in 2017. She hopes to become a counselor at Sjolunden where she has attended nine previous summers. Her future plans include a master's degree in divinity.



Clayton Sinwelski
Nordik Folk Lodge No. 761
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
 Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Clayton is attending Purdue University where he is studying agriculture. Clayton attended Munster High School, IN and has received Honor Roll, Outstanding Manager and Varsity Football. His extra-curricular activities include Sports, tutoring elementary level students and Clayton

also volunteers his services in his church youth group. He has been instrumental in working with his pastor at Village Church outreach ministry. He has worked on improving media presence and marketing. Clayton has been involved with his local lodge for many years and has been a member of Nordikids Children's Group for 12 years. Clayton's future plans include a career with The Department of Natural Resources working as a Park Ranger.

Erik Nelson
Nordik Folk Lodge No. 761
DL Lake Michigan No. 8
 Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Erik attends Ball State University in Muncie Indiana where he is majoring in Marketing. He was named to the Deans List spring 2020 and fall 2021 at Ball State University, Miller School of Business. He is Vice President of Ball State Rotaract Club. His extra-curricular activities include volunteering at Muncie Animal Shelter, White River Clean up, Muncie Mission, Ball State Cardinal ESports and enjoys recreational basketball and volleyball. Erik has a long history of involvement with The Vasa Order of America where he has been a member of Solstralen Children's Club, Nordikids Children's Club and has attended Sjolunden Concordia Language Camp. His future plans include a career in marketing.



Lillian Nelson
Viking Lodge No. 735
DL New Jersey No. 6
 Oscar & Mildred Larson Scholarship,
 \$1,500.00

Lillian attends The University of Pittsburgh where she is studying Biology. She has been accepted into the Honors College and excels in her coursework. Lilly is active in Pittsburgh against Cancer initiative, a member of Service Dog Training and Education and as a biology student with focus on Veterinary Medicine has positioned herself for a bright future. In her spare time Lilly writes poetry and has been published in "Just Poetry" quarter finals and finds time to knit and crochet with her knitting club "Knittsburg" 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.



Nicolas Storch
Golden Valley Lodge No. 616
DL Pacific Southwest No. 15
 Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500

Nicolas attends The University of California, Santa Barbara where he studies Physical Geology. In his senior year at Golden Valley High School, he earned honors in History Department Social Studies Engagement, California Scholarship Foundation Life Member, Hart District Career and Readiness Program, Presidents Education Award Golden Seal and State of California Assembly Scholastic Achievement Award. His extra-curricular activities include assistant coach for the city league youth basketball team and peer tutoring at his high school. Nicolas has been a part of The Vasa Order all of his life and has volunteered and attended events at Vasa Park, attended summer Viking camp and aids at his local lodge during meetings. Nicolas plans a career in the very interesting field of structural geology.

The Grand Lodge 2023 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, 2022.

Applications are available at the Vasa website until January 15, 2023.

To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2023 to be considered.

1. Completed application with enclosures MUST be postmarked no later than 15 February 2023.
2. Complete "OFFICIAL" transcripts of grades through the first half of the senior year for high school students or fall semester of current academic year for college students.
3. Current passport style photo headshot (at least 4"x6") or email a digital headshot photo 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 6 months.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor, dated within last 6 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 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 an individual that has influenced your involvement in The Vasa Order of America
6. Within the Nordic countries, choose what a most popular tourist attraction is, and provide your thoughts on its appeal.
7. What Nordic invention appeals to you in being most important to mankind and why have you selected this?

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.

Tom Cleveland, Vice Grand Master
1117 Foxpoint Dr.
Sycamore, IL 60178
Phone: (815)-508-6394
E-mail: vgm@vasaorder.org

Annika Zamora
Tegner Lodge No. 149
DL Golden Gate No. 12
Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Annika attends The University of California, Davis where she is studying design. She graduated Castro Valley High School with a 4.1 GPA and highest honors. She earned Varsity Letter in Band - 2020 and Latino Achievement Award-2020. Annika's educators at both Castro Valley and University of California hold her in very high regard. She co-founded and lead her youth group at Transfiguration Catholic Church and volunteers with a club that visits kids in hospitals and orphanages. She is described as having "Immeasurable passion and joy for helping others" Annika is very active in her Local and District Lodges and has attended Tri-Lodge picnics, and District Lodge Conventions 2003-2018. She attends Lucia Celebrations and has been Lucia 3 times. She was also Columbia at the Sweden Day Celebration in 2021. Her future plans include working for Disney on their creative team to design new products and theme park appearance.

Joacim Zamora

Tegner Lodge No. 149

DL Golden Gate No. 12

Grand Lodge Scholarship, \$1,500.00

Joacim will be attending California State University, San Bernadino where he will begin his studies in Biochemistry/ Biotechnology/ Cell Development. Joacim attended Castro Valley High School where he was very active in the school marching band where he took a leadership roll helping to keep his fellow band mates on track and organized. He was also the captain of the Wombats Ultimate Frisbee Team. Joacim has a long history of involvement in The Vasa Order. He is active in his local lodge. He is active in his District Lodge contributing to conventions from 2005-2016. He also was involved with the Grand Lodge from 2014/2018 and contributed to the Grand Lodge Convention in Sacramento in 2018. Joacim's future plans include a career in biochemistry and immunology.



DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL No. 12 Golden Gate

Golden Gate District No. 12 members gathered on June 4 to celebrate Sweden Day together at Micke Grove Park in Lodi, CA. This was the District's first event since the start of the pandemic. Members caught up with old friends and made some new ones over their picnic lunches at the park while enjoying some nice weather. Manjula Freeland of Sierra Kronan #737 won 1st place in the

Kubb Tournament and Keith Leafdale, Sierra Kronan's Cultural Leader won 2nd place. The District is looking forward to their 2022 Convention planned for September 30 - October 2 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento, CA. More information on the convention can be found at vasagoldengate.org.

SUBMITTED BY MARY WAHLBERG,
DISTRICT 12 SECRETARY



Golden Gate District No. 12 members celebrating Sweden Day.

DL No. 15 Pacific Southwest

We held our annual Convention on May 20-22, 2022 at the Hilton Hotel in Woodland Hills, CA with 80 members in attendance, after being postponed for two years due to the pandemic. On Friday, two seminars were presented. One titled "How Swede It Is" – included interesting Swedish stories, vignettes and little known facts about Sweden. The other "Swedish Music, Dance and Costumes". Twenty Swedish costumes were displayed. Both were big hits. Following the seminars, a catered reception with hors d'oeuvres hosted by Golden Valley Lodge 616, Northridge. A breakfast buffet was provided each morning by Mayflower Lodge 445. The general session began

on Saturday with a flag parade by the PDM Club. PDM flag bearers carried one flag each; the Vasa Order of America, United States, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Canada. A pianist accompanied the singing of all the anthems. This was followed by District business and election of officers for the new term beginning May 22, 2022. The elected voting officers (pictured above right) includes: Jon Vikander, District Master; Ingemar Hulthage, VDM; Linda Kosvic, Secretary; Kathryn Martin, Treasurer; Karen Swenson AS; Kristine Hofve, Norman Kindig; Peter Lindgren, and Jillian Lopez – Executive Board Members; Jane Kindig, Cultural Leader; and



Maggie Connelly, PDM. Ceremonial officers were also elected. Saturday night included a banquet, and a DJ with dancing to ABBA. On Sunday, Past board and committee members were recognized. Officers were installed. A memorial service was held, accompanied by a pianist, and flowers given out. Scholarships awardees were presented at the luncheon. Our lodges contrib-

uted to a host raffle. Winners were announced. Thank you to all of our lodges who contributed to the success of our convention. Congratulations on a successful convention! Pictures from the convention are available on website: www.vasadl15.org then click the tab, "gallery" and district lodge at the top of the page.

SUBMITTED BY MAGGIE CONNELLY

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.

CANADA

ANNA COOK, 78, of Birch Bay, Washington, U.S.A., passed away on January 23, 2022. Anna will be lovingly remembered by her daughter, Natalie (Ryan) Andrews, grandchildren Kyle and Amelia, of Olympia; and son, Ryan Rosinski (Susanne) of Sagle, Idaho; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was predeceased by her parents, Edwin and Ruth Bergquist brother, Gerald and sister Evelyn Hazlewood; husband, Kenneth Cook, and her first husband Al Rosinski. Anna was very

proud of her Swedish heritage and enjoyed many summers at the family cabin at Vasa Park, Pigeon Lake Alberta. Anna was an Honorary Life Member of Local Lodge Skandia No. 549, in Edmonton, Alberta, having joined on May 4, 1959, as Member No. 461.

RAUL NYROOS, 78, of Edmonton, Alberta, passed away on May 9, 2022. He will be lovingly remembered by his brother, Ray (Doreen), and their children, Kristina (Alan), Trevor and Kjell (Hiromi); brother Rainer (in Finland), sister Gunilla (in Sweden) and their families, nieces Hanna and Anne-Marie, and nephew Harry; as well as great-nieces Kyla, Petra and Jenna, and great-nephew Doryn. He was predeceased by his brother Ralf in Sweden. Raul held the office of Chairman of Skandia #549, and other positions, including Cultural Leader. Raul cheerfully volunteered with the Children's Club and Vasa Camp, where he often accompanied performers on his accordion. Raul was an Honorary Life Member of Skandia Lodge No. 549, having joined on April 4, 1953.

JOSEPH SYKES, 90, passed away on July 23, 2022, at Edmonton, Alberta. He will be forever cherished by his wife of 66 years, Shirley; children, Sandra (Trent) Doyle, Brian (Mary-Jane) and Roger (Andrea); grandchildren, Amanda (Scott), Chad (Sabina), Justin (Danielle), Everett, and Emery; great grandchildren, Matthew, Colt and Nash; sister, Rose (Mitchell) Belobaba, as well as numerous relatives and friends. Joseph joined Skandia Lodge No. 549 in Edmonton, Alberta, on April 6, 1974.

INDIANA

RONALD ANTHONY WOOD SR., member of Linne Lodge 153, South Bend, and husband of lodge chairwoman, Beth, died Jan. 3, 2022, following a battle with Covid and its complications. Ron was 62 years old and served four years in the Navy, earning the rank of Electronics Technician Third Class Petty Officer. A memorial was held in South Bend, and a full military service with interment in a national veteran's cemetery is planned.

HARVEY HOLMES JR., 77, a member of Linne Lodge 153, South Bend, died July 19, 2022. Harvey enlisted in the Army and proudly served in the Vietnam conflict. He retired from the University of Notre Dame after 23 years in the maintenance department, and, at the time of his death, was the custodian at Gloria Dei Lutheran, his home church. Last year, Alcoholics Anonymous honored Harvey with a pin commemorating 35 years of sobriety. His wife, Linda, died in 1997; survivors include a brother, a niece, and two nephews. His funeral was on July 30 at Gloria Dei, with a military service at the gravesite.

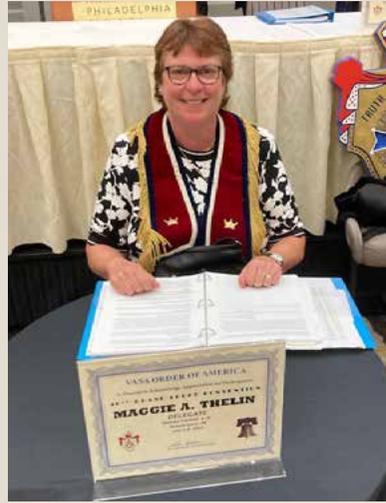
WISCONSIN

BARBARA FROEMMING, 6/5/1933 - 5/12/2022 a Linde 492 members since 1989 will be missed by so many in the Milwaukee Swedish area. Leaving two sons, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren behind. Barb was the former president of the Sw-Am-Hist-Society-Wisconsin for many years.

DL No. 19 Norra Sverige

Dear Vasa friends, August is already here. This has been a nice and warm summer. I had the pleasure of attending the Grand Lodge 40th convention in Philadelphia, we had such a great week. So happy to meet you all. I would like to say Thank You to all of you that organized the weeklong convention, you did a fantastic job, special thanks to Art and Nancy, Jack and Inger and Bob and all of you that arranged for us to have such a good time. Thanks to my friends in the Finance committee. I also would like to say thank you to the outgoing board for a job well done and wish the current board good luck. I hope to see many of you soon again.

SUBMITTED BY MAGGIE AHLIN



Maggie Ahlin Thelin - District Master DL19 at the GL Convention

LOCAL LODGE NEWS



Members of the Thule Dance Team at the Scandinavian Folk Festival in July in Jamestown, NY

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN-FALCONER, NY / A busy and eventful summer; a Midsommar dinner was held in June with many attending, food, music and the Thule Dance team. Long time member, Donna Johnson was recognized and honored for being on the dance team for 60 years. Donna said that she learned dancing from her father as she would stand on his toes as he danced. Accordion player Don Sandy and cultural leader Mary Ann Eva Ingrao did the honors of recognition. The Scandinavian Folk Festival was held in July for two days in Jamestown. Many participants marched down the main street to the festival, dressed

in their Swedish outfits. They were carrying the Maypole. The festival, well attended, included music, foods, classes, a Viking ship on display, and crafters for two days. A big thank you to the dance team for their dancing and Swedish outfits. We are always thankful for their entertainment. Thule will hold its annual corn roast in August for members and guests. Susan Fredrickson Washington Sipos is the chairman of the lodge, with Stephanie Buccola as the vice chairman, Loretta Smith, treasurer, and Diane K. Shaw the lodge chaplain. All from Thule wish everyone a good summer and colorful fall season.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS, LODGE HISTORIAN

North Star No. 145

SPOKANE, WA / Celebrated Midsommar on June 18th at the home of our member Annica Lawery-Ball. It was a beautiful day and a beautiful setting. Delicious foods were served, including numerous traditional Swedish dishes. Following the procession, dancing around the majstang took place, again with the Swedish dances, including Helan Går! We all enjoyed the afternoon immensely! About 40 people attended.

SUBMITTED BY SHARON MOSES

Annika Campbell our 2022 Midsommar Queen.



Linne No. 153

SOUTH BEND, IN / Our members were looking forward to a return visit in June from local historian and lecturer Matt Baumgartner, who has been tracing the development of the Nordic countries culled from oral histories, early written accounts, and his own well-informed conjectures where sources disagree. We were not disappointed, as he focused on the mid-12th Century and the beginning of the consolidation of the Geats (goths) and Swedes, only to leave us in suspended animation until his next visit, perhaps as early as July. Matt also lectures on early American presidents and has portrayed Founding Father John Hancock in a local production of the musical "1776." Also at the June meeting, chapter chair Beth Wood gleefully reported the receipt of a \$100 check as third-place prize in the 2020 new-



Matt Baumgartner needed no cues or notes as he continued his entertaining and informative talks on the history of the Nordic countries and their peoples.

member contest and said, "We're aiming for first this year." Plans to celebrate Midsummer at Chellberg Farm, Dunes National Park (restored to its turn-of-the-20th Century look as a Swedish farmstead), were canceled. Closed because of Covid protocol. In May, Elinor Huggett, lodge secretary, tested our

knowledge of Scandinavian trivia. Try this: Norma Engstrom and Norma Jean Mortensen achieved fame and fortune under what names? At both meetings, members enjoyed a bountiful repast and nourishing fellowship!

SUBMITTED BY JOHN D MILLER

* Peggy Lee and Marilyn Monroe, respectively.



At a spring meeting, Beth Wood, chapter chairwoman (left), welcomed Ken Peterson and Ginny Brunmitt as the newest members of Lodge 153

Drott No. 168

POTOMAC, MD / Thank you for the Music! Twelve members of Drott Lodge (with additional support from husbands and toddlers) made the trek to the birthplace of our nation for this year's Vasa Grand Lodge Convention (a first for most of us). It was an amazing experience to participate in the convention and our lodge was delighted to execute our fourth ABBApalooza! Disco Balls, Dancing, Singing, Videos, and yes – Costumes! We had bell bottoms, cat dresses, tinfoil wraps, and even the new ABBAtar motion capture suit. Awards were given for best costume, crossword winner, and of course Dancing Queen. We were also delighted to discover that one of our Vasa members in attendance (District 19) dated Bjorn in high school – and they lived just a few blocks away



Gold Record Trophy for “Dancing Queen” - Kory Warner, Brittany Marie, and Victoria Olson-Bosavage

from one another!! Next on the horizon – an all-day GENEALOGY CONFERENCE on Saturday, 12 November 2022. Registration and tickets for this event can be found through the link below and we are reaching out to invite all Vasa members to participate in this

comprehensive day of research, led by four experts in the field of Swedish genealogy.

www.memberplanet.com/events/vasadrottlodge168/swedishgenealogyconference

SUBMITTED BY JULIE OLSON

Svea No. 296



ERIE, PA / The 2022 Midsommar Event of Svea No. 296 was held on June 11, 2022 at Presque Isle State Park in Erie, Pa.

SUBMITTED BY GARY LARSON

Svea No. 348

SAN JOSÉ, CA / At Sveadal's Midsommar celebration this year, wonderfully covered in the July issue of Nordstjernen, Svea's own Zaida Singers were a vibrant addition. Singers included, left to right, Zaida Hansson-Binetti, Therese Brewitz, Ingeborg Abdersson, Anna Michaud, Ulf Strom, Jan Nordin—who led the Maypole dancing and singing—Christine Smith, Greta Hutchinson, and Kikki Nordin. Svea's Jan Nordin leads the singing for dancers around the Maypole as Michael Nordin plays the “fiddle” a.k.a. violin. Those not pictured playing the violin were Noah Holbrook and Sven Chilton. Elvira Lundberg represented Svea as our Maid of Honor. This midsommar at Sveadal we had a smaller than usual crowd as we cautiously reengage from the pandemic. But at least the weather was a bit cooler than other Sveadal midsommars. Sveadal is owned and operated by the Swedish American Patriotic League. It is located in an unincorporated area of Uvas Canyon County Park in Santa Clara County, California, about 20 miles west of Gilroy and about 20 miles—as the crow flies—east from Santa Cruz. The setting is a secluded Robin Hood like forest oak, fir and madrone, populated with many Swedish style red cabins..



Svea's own Zaida Singers.

SUBMITTED BY JACK KNUTSON



Linnea No. 504

PETALUMA, CA / A beautiful day at a tranquil setting amongst the redwoods at McNear Park in Petaluma, CA provided the perfect setting for the lodge's Midsommar celebration. A beautiful maypole was donated by Lorentz and Bonnie Koagedal and thoughtfully decorated by the members with local flowers. A lunch of grilled pork sausage and salads was enjoyed by all. Dancing around the pole culminated our celebration with appropriate Swedish music. Our Treasurer Linnea Koagedal and our 2021 Lucia Norah Ericsson (daughter of member Johan Ericsson and granddaughter of member Sven Ericsson) wore their Swedish costumes to further enhance our celebration. We'll meet again in August for a BBQ and look forward to celebrating our 95th Anniversary in November.

SUBMITTED BY RICK WAHLBERG



Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / As usual we are taking a break in July, but were planning a crayfish party for August. However due to lack of interest this was canceled. In September a group of our members will make a 2-day trip to Bishop Hill. We will be there for the annual Jordbruksdagarna (AG-Days), and stay the night at the nice Twinflower Inn B&B. Come and join us, it is a very cultural & educational event

with a Swedish flair. In June we had the Midsommar celebration together with SAHS-WI, and it was a perfect sunny Sunday. The pictures will show the enjoyment we all shared. Our October 8 meeting at 1:00 PM will feature a program on the “Svenska Sommarstugor”. We are looking for contributions from members to make the presentation so much more interesting.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND

The traditional and wonderful dancing around the majstång.

Nordic No. 611

WORCESTER, MA / April meeting consisted of cultural leader Nancy Shultzburg talking about nordic walking, clogging, and trained crows that pick up cigarette butts. After this interesting presentation we played bingo with money prizes, which was fun. Our May meeting was a Swedish sing along, led by Marion Grundburg, followed by a memorial service for six members that passed last year. June - the annual yard sale, was very successful thanks to all hard working volunteers and donors. On Swedish National day the Swedish flag was flown over Worcester's city hall with a nice group of Swedes for picture taking. June's meeting was strawberry

shortcake (almond bread) with coffee. Thanks to all that helped prepare this dish. Swedish National Federation, for the 119th year, sponsored the Midsummer Celebration. With 750 attendees, enjoying the day including a sleepover viking encampment, Swedish music by musicians, the raising of the Majstang, home cooked Swedish meatball dinner, and many many vendors and booths. A total success, thanks to the many volunteers from Nordic lodge and S.A.C. Last but not least, Congratulations to Marlene Patient, who will serve as our newly elected Grand Secretary! She will be an asset to the Grand board. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer and see you in September.

SUBMITTED BY ÅKE JANSSON



A yard sale, with Marlene Patient - our new Grand Secretary - sorting items.

Bishop Hill No. 683

BISHOP HILL, IL / A few of our Lodge members getting ready for the concert in the park. Dancing Queen Band (ABBA tribute band) played for a large crowd.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF ANDERSON



Above: Lou and Janene Loureau / Left: Denise Menken



Scandia Midsummer, L-R: Bob Wood, Debbie Wood, Susan Johnson, Glenn Frank, Inger DaPron, Virginia Andrews, Karleen Andrews and Joe Andrews.



Charter Members Jaynie Anderson and her mother Pat Flippen.

Scandia Lodge No. 728

PRESCOTT, AZ / was busy with special activities in May and June. We celebrated our 42nd Anniversary with a luncheon at a local restaurant and had Charter members Jaynie Anderson and Pat Flippen in attendance. Potted flowers decorated the tables, favors were given, and a special cake was served. Our annual Midsummer Picnic was held in the pines at Thumb Butte Park in the Prescott National Forest. Everyone enjoyed a variety of potluck dishes from our excellent cooks, which included pulled pork, Swedish meatballs, baked chicken, smoked ribs and many side dishes. The tables were decorated with miniature Midsummer Poles and colorful Nordic tablecloths. A lovely day of being with friends and eating good food ended our meetings for this year. We look forward to a new year of events and activities when we resume in September.

SUBMITTED BY PAT FLIPPEN

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / Our member, Lillian More, attended the Grand Lodge Convention in Philadelphia as our District 21 Grand Lodge Delegate. We are proud of her as she accepted the role of Vice Grand Secretary. It was a successful Convention and the activities available were enjoyed by all. The highlight was a bus trip to New Jersey to see the Vasa Park with beautiful weather riding along. The Lodge is busy planning our Phoenix Lodge 677 November Jul Bazaar. After being shut down for two years, it is exhilarating to once more be planning a most welcomed happening. We especially will need cookie donations, preferably homemade. Donations to our Svens Butik will be most welcome. We hope to have other Scandinavian organizations participate in this year's event. The Bazaar will take place on November 5, from 10 - 2 pm. Location TBA. Our regular membership meetings start September 17, program TBA. Continuing with October, the meeting will be on the 15 with Nyckelharpa Music with Marilee Mansfield; November

5, Jul Bazaar; December finishes the year with the Sankta Lucia Festival and pageant, date, place and time, TBA.

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON



Vasa Orden av Amerika
En svensk-amerikansk vänskaps- och kulturorganisation

Distriktslogen Norra Sverige nr 19






Inbjuder till
 Vasakväll 18 maj 2023
 och
 Distriktsmöte
 19 maj - 20 maj 2023



Elite Grand Hotel, Norrköping

Hjärtligt välkommen hälsar
DL 19's Exekutiva Råd

Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / An enthusiastic, grateful and celebratory group of Lodge members and guests renewed our Midsummerfest tradition on June 11 (after a three-year COVID hiatus). Members Karin Cadwell, Kajsa Brimdyr and Anna Blair hosted our afternoon at their Healthy Children Project business location. We enjoyed beautiful weather, music, singing, dancing, socializing, picnic lunches and deserts.



District Deputy and Treasurer, Lynne Martin, joined in our festivities. Our fall meetings are Sept. 17 (outdoors) and Oct. 15. Our focus is on increasing our membership as our meetings and activities resume.

SUBMITTED BY
DOROTHY ANN ELLNER
KEAN

Gathering of Lodge members and guests at our Midsummerfest.

Sierra Kronan No. 737

ROSEVILLE, CA / Hello from Sierra Kronan! Our cultural leader, Keith Leafdale, continues to provide excellent programs, plus writing regular articles for the Culture Corner page in our newsletter. He began collecting family history stories from our members, and was the first to submit a 'tale' from his own family. Then Le Viksten followed by presenting on his family's roots in Samiland in northern Sweden. More people are preparing to submit their stories this fall. On June 4th we joined District #12 lodges for a picnic at Micke Grove Park in Lodi, celebrating the District's 91st annual Sweden Day. The District Master put our chairman, Darin Freeland, in charge of setting up and coaching the lawn game, Kubb - and a little challenge competition got underway. Sierra Kronan took first place! Even though we don't have lodge meetings

during the summer, our members continue to stay in touch. Also, two special summer-edition newsletters were sent out to further maintain contact. And our craft group has been meeting to share the Sacramento Scandinavian Festival in October. Hope you've been enjoying the summer - see you this fall!

SUBMITTED BY CAROL NESEWICH



The Kubb Tournament at Sweden Day picnic with Manjula Freeland and Keith Leafdale.

SWEDISH NEWS

Skåne No. 570

MALMÖ, SWEDEN / Vår grillfest 19 juni gick om intet pga regn. Nu ser vi fram emot 14 augusti, då väderleksrapporterna visar sol, sol, sol. Vi står förberedda med grill och quiz. Denna grillfest ska förhoppningsvis locka nya syskon. Träffen följs upp med inbjudan till vårt möte 9 september på Siriuspalatset för prisutdelning och visning av lokalerna. Historien påminner om andra händelser som fått värre följder av vädret. År 1588 sände kung Filip II av Spanien den oöverbärliga spanska armadan iväg för att invadera England. I mörkret

satte engelsmännen eld på sina fartyg och lät dem obemannade driva med stormvindarna mot armadan, som kapade ankarlinorna och flydde. En annan världsomvälvande händelse, där vädret var avgörande, var slaget vid Waterloo 1815. Natten före slaget kom ett skoningslöst skyfall. Soldaterna blev dyblöta och kanonerna oflyttbara. Napoleon var besegrad. Tur med vädret hade undertecknad på Öland, och fick därtill besök av en fjäril. I solöga djurens språk står det om påfågelläga. "Världens skönhet ryms inom dej. Min gåva till dej är att dela med dej av din inre skönhet. Här handlar det om att låta de inre kvalitéerna lysa igenom."

SUBMITTED BY MARIANNE ANDERSSON



Logen Nybyggarnas Sommarträff.

Nybyggarna No. 698

ÄNGELHOLM, SWEDEN / Logen Nybyggarna 698 hade en sommarträff hos Ordförande Br Mats o Sy Heidi Holmberg, den 17 juli. Detta var en träff som arrangerades av Sy Britt-Marie Elvirson, med hjälp av Br Rolf Hansson, Sy Barbro o Br Karl-Erik Asp samt Sy Lena o Br Bertil Pålsson. Under vårterminen hade vi endast 2 logemöten eftersom Covid pandemin ökade i januari igen, så detta var ett mycket uppskattat initiativ. Det kom ett 20-tal logesyskon från Logen Christian 617, Logen Höganäs 634 och Logen Klockan 747 samt ca. 35 logesyskon från vår egen loge. Vi hade tur med vädret men det var lite blåsigt så vi fick sitta inne och fika, därefter var det dags med en tipsrunda i trädgården och sedan ännu en klurig tävling. Priser delades ut till vinnarna, och sedan serverades Korv och bröd med alla tillbehör. Ordförandeparet tackades för all hjälp och att vi kunde vara hemma hos dem.

SUBMITTED BY CLAES JOHANSSON



Logen Göteborg nr 452 av
Vasa Orden av Amerika

Inbjuder till 100 års jubileum
lördagen den 7 september
2024.

Ytterligare information
kommer senare.



Påfågelläga på Fjärilsbuske.

SWEDISH NEWS



Ovan: Sommarträff vid Scoutstugan i Väsby / Till vänster: Vårutflykt till Wapnö Gård i Halland.

Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Mötet i april med gäster från LL Nybyggarna 698 och Klockan 747 leddes av VO Anna-Brita Martinsson. Efter måltiden berättade Sy Berit om "Från Biskopskulla till Vasa Arkivet i Bishop Hill". Filmen om Bishop Hill visades och bilder från en privat resa till Arkivet. Vårutflykt i maj gick till Wapnö Gård utanför Halmstad där man under 20 år utvecklat ett kretslopp och producerar god och miljösamt mat. Sedan till Berte Mu-

seum i Slöinge. Efter en utsökt middag på Rosenberg i Åstorp styrde vi hemåt. Ett högtidligt Sverige-Amerikamöte hölls den 11 juni. DM Mats Holmberg, DS Claes Johansson, och DD Rolf Hansson hedrade oss med sin närvaro. Fanparaden utfördes av fyra logesyskon. Utmärkelser utdelades, 10- och 25-årsmärken, FDO, LFT och PC märke. Efter ljussläckningsceremoni intogs en delikat måltid under högtidliga former. Efter desserten bjöds vi

på en fantastisk musikunderhållning. En vacker söndag i juli träffades vi vid Scoutstugan i Väsby, med egen kaffekorg, Br Leif med gitarren och Br Roland från LL Käran 608 med dragspel startade allsången. En klurig frågesport och en mysig eftermiddag i det vackra vädret. Nu längtar vi till mötet i september då flickan Saga ska berätta om sitt äventyr i Summer Camp Four Winds Westward HO vid Seattle.

SUBMITTED BY BERIT OCH HANS BOGREN



Högtidsmöte med fanparad.

STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASA BRÖDER OCH SYSTRAR,

jag känner mig så ärad att få tjäna er som Stormästare för kommande termin. Stort tack till medlemmarna som visat förtroendet att låta mig ta mig an ämbetet. Stormötet i Philadelphia var något vi alla kan vara stolta över. Distriktslogen New Jersey 6 gjorde ett fantastiskt jobb av att organisera och överse allt. Kommitté ordföranden Robert Coleman och hans fru Christine lade ner många timmar på att få ihop alla detaljer. Före detta Stormästare Art Björkner och hans fru Nancy, gjorde inte bara ett fantastiskt jobb att leda vår organisation dessa fyra år, men också ett jättejobb att arrangera mötet med kommittén. Stort tack till före detta Stormästare Art, för allt han har gjort för oss! Vi får alla tacka Storlogens medlemmar



för att ha spenderat tid och resurser på att komma och delta i mötet. Det kräver stort engagemang. Jag var imponerad av vårt grupparbete. Alla jobbade hårt och vi tog många viktiga och progressiva beslut. Jag vill personligen tacka före detta Stormästare Ulf A.G. Brynjestad, Rolf S. Bergman och Tore Kellgren för att ha skänkt prestige och erfarenhet till mötet. Ni har alla förberett mig för vägen framåt och det är en ära att få samarbeta med er. Tack!!

Jag tackar också de utgående medlemmarna från exekutiva rådet och gratulerar de nyvalda tjänstemännen: Vice Stormästare Tom Cleveland, Storsekreterare Marlene Patient, Storkassör Kevin De-Feo, Vice storsekreterare Lillian Moore, Medlemmar av Exekutiva rådet, Östra regionen Deborah Larsson, Mellanvästra regionen Antonio Spargo, Västra regionen John Erickson, Canada-Donna Englund och Sverige-Olle Wickström.

Jag ser fram emot att arbeta med vårt nyvalda råd. Vi har kollektivt mycket erfarenhet och tjänstvillighet att representera varje Vasa medlem.

När Inger och jag kom hem, hälsades vi av en välkomstfest arrangerad av Styrelsen i Vasaparken NJ. Tack till ordföranden Jim Radel och hela styrelsen för den trevliga sammankomsten. Det är min stora ära att vara den fjärde Stormästaren från New Jersey No. 6. De sista fyra åren var jobbiga och alla Storrådstjänstemän gjorde sitt bästa för att fullfölja sina jobb. Tyvärr hade Covid-19 andra planer för oss. Jag är ofta påmind om Distrikten och lokallogernas envishet och flexibilitet i svåra tider. Vi kan bara hoppas att pandemin är bakom oss nu och att vi kan ta oss tillbaka till normala aktiviteter. En av många projekt jag vill ta mig an i denna perioden är bättre kommunikationer mellan loger och medlemmar över hela Orden. Det var på grund av alternati-

va tekniska medel som vi kunde hålla oss fast. Vi fann att det var möjligt att ta hand om ärenden och kommunicera även i en världsomfattande kris. Vi expanderade social media och kan fortsätta att utöka det med artiklar i våra tidningar och på internet med Zoom och Skype och mer, i en sammanhängande grupp. Vår Social media ledare, Chad Widman, har gjort ett fantastiskt jobb och är entusiastisk i planerna för framtiden. Så tillbaka till lokala logemöten alla! Lokallogen är ryggraden i vår organisation och det är dags för en "comeback". Tack igen för alla medlemmars bidrag och vi ser fram emot att träffa och kommunicera med så många av er som vi någonsin kan. entusiasism.

MED GENEROSITET, I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
JOHN HANRIGHT (JACK)
STORMÄSTARE