



# THE VASA STAR

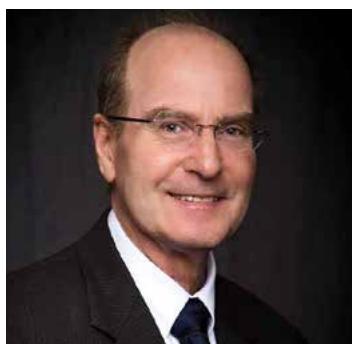
## VASASTJÄRNAN

SPRING 2021

Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



Image submitted by Frihet Lodge No. 401 in the Pacific Northwest, which is planning a centennial celebration for October. /page 10



## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE GRAND MASTER

DEAR VASA MEMBERS,  
I look back at our Grand Master's Message from this same issue one year ago with hopes of the health pandemic subsiding shortly and I am reminded again that we are not through this thing just yet. Many members, friends, and family have suffered some hardship

through this. Some with significant health issues, many with financial hardships and unfortunately those who have lost loved ones, friends, or family. We all share together in our most heartfelt condolences to those members. We also share in support and encouragement to all members and

friends that have endured hardship of any kind. As our Grand Master said in his message one year ago "We cannot let it diminish our spirits". Our Grand Lodge Social Media Director Chad Widman has been a busy man this year. Members have kept / continued on p4

### National Archive News

The work to digitize all membership and lodge records that so many Vasa members have requested continues / p3

### Grand Lodge News

Two of our 2020 scholars' essays—covering experiences from work at the OECD to the importance of music, dance ... / p7, 8

### Local Lodge News

Spring time activities have been less and different from earlier years but here's to catching up with friends all over the U.S. / p9

### Holgersson in America

Illinois member Lilly Setterdahl shares her late husband Lennart's interview with the family of Nils Holgersson / p5

# EDITOR'S MESSAGE



DEAR READERS,  
Spring is here and with it the first new growth of the year. I've been busy in the garden renovating flower beds and implementing plans made during long, dark and dreary winter months. It's been a pleasure to watch first the jonquils, then the hyacinth and now the azaleas bloom with the promise of more beauty to come. I'm looking forward to the Summer months and into the Fall when berries, vegetables and stone fruit can be harvested. In the meantime, April showers are here. With them, I've had the pleasure of slowing things down, baking and putting the kettle on before pouring over the stories, photos and articles all my Vasa friends have contributed.

Swedish tenacity never ceases to amaze me. So many of our lodges continue to meet and have developed some fascinating new programs.

Now that I've been editor for a few issues, one idea that occurs to me is how helpful it would be to get

updates that include advanced notice of events to allow members from outside the area a better chance of attending. In some cases, there may be an opportunity to bring the benefits of Vasa membership into better view of our communities. Imagine hosting a Swedish meatball dinner and providing an option to pay for meals delivered to a local retirement home. With a little advanced planning and notice in the Vasa Star, members of other lodges could use Venmo or PayPal to strengthen ties within our organization. Similarly, advanced notice of programs that are of interest to members across our organizations could allow more participation via Zoom. I'm looking forward to seeing what our meetings bring as the year progresses.

With the scent of cinnamon (kanel) and kaffe in the air, and the oven timer ringing, I end my letter wishing you all peace and harmony this Springtime.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,  
CHRISTA SVENSSON

**Submit Material to**  
[vasaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:vasaeditor@gmail.com)

Vasa Star  
PO Box 510632  
New Berlin WI 53151-0632

**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](mailto:swedengen@telia.com)

## DONATE to the Education & Scholarship Funds

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

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



The real Nils Holgersson's time in America - an interview by Lennart Setterdahl / p5



From Brockton, Mass: No. 66 Ingeborg Lodge Anniversary (Årsdags-) sign / p9



Linda Gustavson Graffius, showing the Swedish Easter feather decorated "Påskris" at No. 296 Svea's April meeting. / p10

## THE VASA STAR

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# ARCHIVES NEWS

## A message from the president of Vasa National Archives

GREETINGS FELLOW VASA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES, All of you recently received the e-mail message explaining that the Archives is once again in need of your support. We are excited about an opportunity to secure another “match fund” grant to help us toward achieving the goal of digitizing all membership and lodge records which so many Vasa members requested for many years. If somehow you missed that e-mail and are now reading this message, I’m requesting all of your help. Together we can accomplish big goals! This opportunity requires one-to-one (\$1 for \$1) in kind and/or cash match funding. I’m offering my sincere thank you for the gifts already received and hope you will continue to help. A “pledge to donate”

can also be used to take advantage of the full amount of the available grant. Time is a priority so we need to act quickly. I am grateful to archivist, Kathy Cuff for searching and applying for this grant as well as all available grants. Preserving and making records of historical importance accessible to all members is a high priority for the VNA. You may wonder why Bishop Hill was chosen as the home for the Vasa National Archives. Vasa leaders studied the history of Swedish immigration and made the decision to build in the historic village approximately fifty years ago. Bishop Hill was settled by Janssonists, a group of Swedish Protestants who fled oppression seeking religious freedom in the United States in 1846. They purchased land in the western Illinois

wilderness and survived tremendous hardships before ultimately creating a successful economic enterprise, a hub for thousands of Swedish immigrants who settled in the Midwest. Bishop Hill is a registered historic landmark, an actual living, working piece of history from this significant immigration period. 2021 is the 175th Anniversary of Bishop Hill. Activities are planned to celebrate this milestone pending Covid 19 restrictions. Please show support for the village and experience a taste of the past if you are able. This year’s Vasa National Archives exhibit features the history of Christianity in Sweden. Soon you will receive important information regarding our Heritage Fundraiser. I hope you will support this annual effort. Donations to this fundraiser

are used to support programs and projects at the VNA. Many local lodges have donated to the Archives when they were forced to make the difficult decision to dissolve. I assure you these donations were and will be put to good use in the memory of your members.

I hope you will stay safe and make an informed decision regarding receiving Covid immunization. Please continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing and capacity rules until we can meet again in person.

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



GREETINGS VASA SISTERS AND BROTHERS, The snow has finally melted, birds have returned from their winter getaways, and Bishop Hill is preparing for another tourism season. Check visitbishophill.com to see upcoming events or let us know if you want us to mail you a brochure. The archive closed to the public at the end of November due to Covid restricts and we are looking forward to being able to open again.

The archive’s exhibit will be up on April 9 and we should be able to open at 25% capacity. This year’s exhibit will briefly look at Christianity from

ca. 830 to 1600 covering initial conversion and the early years, the Reformation, and Post-Reformation. We have enjoyed reading and learning about Swedish saints and those who shaped the religious life in medieval and early modern Sweden. Thanks to the work of Brian “Fox” Ellis we were able to secure a Activate History Microgrant from



Vision of St Birgitta

Illinois Humanities. This grant will pay to present Peter Christen Asbjørnsen, a Norwegian naturalist and folklorist, via Zoom to all lodges and members on May 20. We submitted an application for an Illinois State Historic Records Advisory Board grant to digitize microfilms so we can make them available online. In 2019, your

generosity surprised us in exceeding the \$5,000 goal allowing us to digitize 62 microfilms. We hope you can provide this amount of support again. We will learn around June 1 if we received the grant and plan to use all funds towards digitizing this unique resource.

If you have any questions about Bishop Hill events, the exhibit, or the grants, please let us know at VasaArchivist@gmail.com or 309-927-3898.

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

## 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.

### ARIZONA

**ERROL ROY**, 82, passed away on September 30, 2020, in Sun City AZ. He was a member of Solstad Lodge No. 709. Errol lived his life to the fullest. He was

very active in the Lodge, providing many interesting programs as well as serving as Chairman for several years. He was trustee on the VASA Arizona District No. 12 Board. Errol is survived by his wife Doris, and three children. He will be greatly missed.

### CALIFORNIA

**EVELYN EARL**, our beloved member of North Star 106, and Past Chairman passed away on 01/29/2021, in Van Nuys at the age of 102 ½ years old. Evelyn joined North Star in December 1935 at the age of 17. She was Chairman of North Star Lodge in 1973 and 74 and was very active in the Lodge all her life. Evelyn was born in Seattle WA. She is survived by her children Kathleen and Richard, many

grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. All her friends in North Star Lodge will miss her greatly.

**MONICA SHIPLEY** of Norden Lodge No. 684 passed away on 25 February 2021. Monica was born in Örebro, Sweden on 3 May 1936. She joined Vasa on 6 November 1987 and was a dedicated member for 33 ½ years. Monica was very proud of her Swedish heritage and immediately became our Cultural Leader and remained so for 32 years. She also served as Golden Gate District Cultural Leader. Monica was very active in the Kingsburg Swedish Festival and other Swedish heritage events. She loved to bake and her Swedish Coffee Rings are famous within our Swedish Community.

### CONNECTICUT

**LILJA R STRAZINSKIS** of Meriden died on January 13, 2021. She was a devoted member to District No. 1. Lilja served as Grand Lodge Deputy, District Master, auditor and was a member of Norden Lodge No.1. She is survived by her sister and step-brother.

**TORD R JOHNSON** of Branford died on January 16, 2021. He was the husband to the late Judith Hallden Johnson. He was a member of Diana Birger Jarl No. 3, served as District Master and helped run CT Vasa Park. He is survived by a sister and children.

# GRAND LODGE NEWS

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

in touch and followed happenings around our order on these platforms more than ever. Our Grand Lodge Cultural Directors, Jeanne Eriksson Widman Andersen and Kevin DeFeo have been posting interesting reports and folks have been sharing lots of nice photos and enlightening content. Now the days are getting longer, and the temperatures are rising so we can all start to shake off our cabin fever and get out and about. Some District Lodges have been able to reschedule their conventions for later this year and some Local Lodges are finding ways to begin meeting again. Overall, the out-

look is improving and we all certainly look forward to in person interaction. One of the items our Grand Lodge Officers would be bringing attention to at District Conventions is our educational scholarship program. I am pleased to inform you that our young Vasa Members have persevered through everything and furthered their academic goals. The Grand Lodge anticipates 28 college scholarships being awarded for 2021. Unfortunately, Sjolunden Language Camp is still in an unresolved state due to the health crisis, and we have yet to determine how that will all work out. The Editors

and I have spotlighted many of our scholars' essays in The Vasa Star this year and it has been met with much praise for their hard work. Our members who came before us developed an outstanding educational fund that has provided these scholarships since 1946!! Having worked as chairman of the scholarship committee I can tell you first hand that the resumes and letters of recommendation from these young men and ladies is beyond impressive. They are the future of our order. We will continue to publish their essays and bios in upcoming editions. Our archivist in Bishop Hill has

been doing a fantastic job navigating through all of the issues 2020 threw at her. Be certain to read our National Archives President's message and if you can, please send a thank you to Kathy Cuff for all her hard work. So now the days will be longer, and the trees and flowers will bloom. Hopefully, our spirits can be lifted, and I will make sure to get over to our Grand Master's house and get him started on lawn cutting at Vasa Park asap. Best of everything to each and every one from all of us in the Grand Lodge Board.

IN GENEROSITY, TRUTH AND UNITY,  
JOHN C HANRIGHT (JACK), VICE GM

## To Submit Motions to the 2022 Grand Lodge Meeting

The Grand Lodge Vasa Order of America will meet for its 40th Convention on July 2 - 8, 2022 at the Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. It is not too early to start thinking about motions you want to submit for the changes you want to see happen within Vasa. You can find the Constitution on the Vasa web site: [www.vasaorder.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:vasajlg@aol.com)



Grand Lodge Secretary /  
Joan Graham

# The Real Nils Holgersson in America

by Lilly Setterdahl

*It was not until after Selma Lagerlöf had written Nils Holgersson's underbara resa genom Sverige (The wonderful Adventures of Nils) that she learned about a real little boy with the same name.*

On February 4, 1986, Lennart Setterdahl recorded an interview with Holger Holgersson, the son of Nils Holgersson, who was the foster son of Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf.

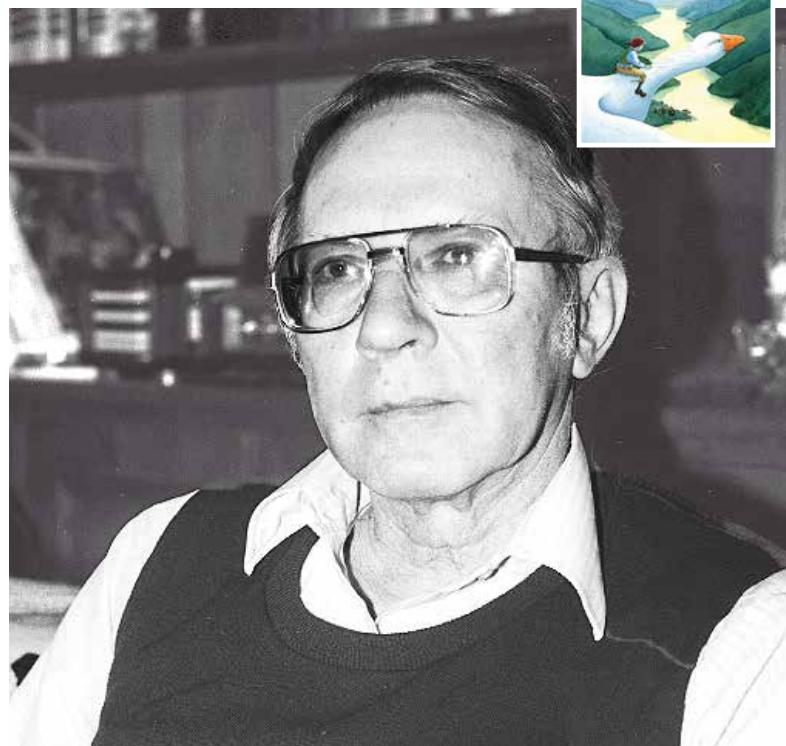
It was not until after Selma Lagerlöf had written Nils Holgersson's underbara resa genom Sverige (The wonderful Adventures of Nils), published in 1906, that she learned about a little boy in the Enköping area (Uppland) with the same name. He was born April 24, 1901, the eldest child in a poor shoemaker's family.

According to Holger, his grandparents understood that the famous author could give Nils a better home than they could,

and they let her take charge of him. At that time, Nils had three younger siblings and contact with them was broken until after Selma's death in 1940.

Nils came to Mårbacka estate in Sunne, Värmland when he was 5 or 6 years old and attended school in town. While his foster mother spent part of the year in Falun, Nils lived with a family in Fränsbacka outside of Falun. He later studied at Tärna Folk High School. Selma wanted Nils to take over Mårbacka and sent him to an agricultural college in Skåne, and he also practiced agriculture on a nearby farm in Reslöv. He did his military service but then caught America fever. Together with several young people from the Sunne area, he immigrated to Chicago in 1925. Nils kept in touch with his foster mother, and Holger said that some of her letters to him have been preserved although he lost "a bunch of them" in Chicago.

Selma didn't like Nils's plan to immigrate but Holger assumes she paid



*Nils Holger Holgersson, son of Nils Holgersson photographed by Lennart Setterdahl in Moline, Ill. in 1986.*

for his ticket. In Chicago, Nils became a carpenter like so many other Swedish immigrants. In 1928 he married Vera Sund, who was born in 1905 in Urshult, Småland.

him and Selma Lagerlöf.

After Selma's death, her foster son was written up in the newspapers. His siblings read it and contacted Nils, who then found out that he had as many as six younger siblings. One brother was the head cook at the hotel in Eskilstuna, and a sister lived in Huddinge. Remarkably none of the siblings had any children.

The last place Nils tried his luck building houses was in Köping, Västmanland. Holger had just finished his training as a typographer when his parents decided to return to America after World War II. There was a business boom taking place in Sweden then, but his parents wanted to return to USA anyway, and Holger came along. "It beckoned in some way," he said.

They returned to Chicago in 1948 and rented an apartment on the south side but soon moved into a house that Nils himself built. Holger had difficulty finding work as a typographer because he was not yet a union member.

"They said, if you have a job, we'll take you in. And at the places of work they said, if you don't have a membership card, we won't hire you." So, his father "bought" him a membership in the Carpenters Union, and Holger be-

*Continues on next page*

<b>Sample formats for the submission of forms to the Grand Lodge</b>	
<b>Deadline for submission - March 1, 2022</b>	
<b>SAMPLE FORMAT #1 – Motions Not Affecting Constitution</b>	
Lodge, No. _____, Vasa Order of America, at its regular meeting on _____, 20_____, voted to submit the following motion:	
VOTED: That	MOTIVATION: _____
(Lodge or District Seal)	
Signature of Chairman (or District Master)	
Signature of Secretary (or District Secretary)	
(Date)	
<b>SAMPLE FORMAT #2 – Constitutional Changes</b>	
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: _____	
(Lodge or District Seal)	
Signature of Chairman (or District Master)	
Signature of Secretary (or District Secretary)	
(Date)	
<b>SAMPLE FORMAT #3 – Motions made by Individual Members</b>	
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.	
(Lodge or District Seal)	
(Signature of Secretary)	
(Date of signature)	

*Continued from previous page*

came a carpenter for a time. He learned the trade by hook or by crook, he said. After two years in the carpentry trade in Chicago, he heard about the Augustana Book Concern in Rock Island, Illinois, and moved there. He worked at the Book Concern until he obtained a union membership card, making it possible to get work at the Chicago Tribune. In 1950 Holger married his wife, also named Vera (D. Eklund), an immigrant from Köping, Sweden.

When the offer came to become foreman at the Augustana Book Concern, Holger accepted. He thought it would be better for his children to go to school in Rock Island than in Chicago. Gustaf Magnusson (whose origins were in Värmland) had just become the head of production, and Holger stayed until the Book Concern closed in 1967. After that, he worked for Moline Dispatch for about six months, but then Holger and Vera sold everything and left for Sweden with their four children with the intention of staying. Holger drew plans for recreational houses in Köping, but when he was called up to serve in the Swedish army, he and Vera packed their trunks and the family returned to America.

The children had attended school in Sweden—the two eldest were in high school—and they have ever since had warm feelings for Sweden, said Holger, who thought their short stay was rewarding for the family in that way.

Back in Chicago, Holger designed a house for the family. He knew someone in Coal Valley who had house lots for sale, bought a lot over the telephone, and left for Coal Valley, located near Moline and Rock Island.

"So, the day after I came here, I began to build a new house, and it took about three or four months, and then I went to the Dispatch in Moline and got a job."

Holger worked for the newspaper as a typographer for a couple years, after which he was hired as an advertising man for Kmart. Fifteen years later, he was in charge of the advertising for 15 Kmart stores. But then the time for centralizing came. Either he had to move to Chicago, or his employment was over. He chose to remain and found work in the advertising department of the Rock Island Argus. All four children, three sons and one daughter, attended Augustana College, founded by Swedish immigrants.



Vera (Sund) Holgersson, widow of Nils Holgersson, who passed away in December 1985 only months before the interview.

## Real life adventures

Holger described some of the adventures he had experienced with his father. They used to go to Minnesota on fishing trips. Nils promised to take care of the mosquito problem. But the spray can didn't work, so he opened it with a can opener!

"The can exploded, but the mosquitoes disappeared," said Holger.

Still vacationing in Minnesota, Nils thought the car was dirty, so he drove it into the lake to wash it. But the sand was loose, and the wheels spun around when he tried to get it out of the lake.

"It took us three or four hours to get the car up on land again," Holger said.

A few days later, when they were playing cards with friends in the evening, somebody said there were bears at the garbage dump.

"Dad sat there thinking about it and then he said, 'Holger, we're going to sneak up to the garbage dump tomorrow evening and see if there are any bears up there at dusk.' And we did. Dad went first, and the sun began to go down. It was starting to get a little dark there in the woods, and I trotted along after him, and then suddenly Dad came

and hopped right over me. There was a damn bear on its hind legs coming toward us. He was only 10 meters away. But Dad came back with a big stick, and the bear took off. The day after, Dad borrowed a Winchester from the owner. 'I'm going to shoot that devil,' he said. A couple days passed, and when Vera and I were out on the lake in the afternoon, all of a sudden it sounded like a machine gun up in the woods. Dad had gotten a bear. The only problem was that it wasn't the same bear we had seen. It was a female. She had two small cubs, and they climbed right up to the top of a tree, and we were forced to shoot them too. That was too bad."

When asked if Nils and his practical jokes perhaps were a bit too much for Selma, Holger answered: "It's quite possible. He was always full of tricks. At Mårbacka, he went swimming in the pond, and Selma didn't like that."

Nils and Vera lived in Chicago until old age made it difficult for them to manage on their own. Holger then brought them to his home in Coal Valley.

Holger's mother, Vera (Sund) Holgersson, was included in the interview. She related how she met her husband all those years ago. She was meeting her sister at the trolley (spårvagnen), and Nils Holgersson was also there; her sister knew him and introduced them. Nils invited Vera on a sightseeing boat tour, and they dated for three years while Vera worked at the Windermere Hotel in Chicago. At one time, they lived in Melrose Park. The last house they owned was in Evergreen Park. They belonged to the Vasa Order, the Värmland Club, and the South Side Christian Society.

She said her mother-in-law, also named Vera, was a wonderful lady. And when her father-in-law was ill, he took her hands in his and said that he loved her as his own daughter.

At one time, Nils and Vera got a free trip to Sweden. They flew by helicopter over the same route that Nils had flown

***Nils Holgersson and his practical jokes may have been a bit too much for the Nobel laureate according to the son of Nils.***

on his goose, attended the premiere of the film based on Nils Holgerssons underbara resa genom Sverige in Stockholm, and also visited Mårbacka.

"The King and the Queen were there. There were so many people from other countries there, I have never seen the like. And we were invited to dinner at the Wallenberg's. Then they flew us to Mårbacka in a little plane. We landed in Sunne near the lake. It was a week-long trip," said Vera, who in contrast to her son, mixed many English words with her Swedish (Småland dialect).

For their 25th wedding anniversary, Holger and Vera had planned to go to Sweden alone. But it didn't work out the way they had planned. Their children wanted to come along, girlfriends and all! And for their 50th wedding anniversary, the children surprised them with a trip to Hawaii. Their daughter Susan and her eldest brother James traveled with their mother to Sweden almost every year - until the pandemic put a stop to it.

**Update:** Nils Holgersson died on December 11, 1985, about two months before the interview. It was probably his obituary in the newspaper that prompted Lennart Setterdahl to make an appointment with the family. Nils was survived by three sons, one daughter, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a sister, Berta Thorsell of Sweden. Nils's wife Vera died April 4, 1986, two months after the interview.

Nils Holger Holgersson died October 4, 2015 at the age of 86. He was survived by his widow, Vera D, three sons and one daughter, their spouses, and 14 grandchildren. Their daughter Susan said she and her three brothers all have copies of *The Adventures of Nils* in both English and Swedish.

*Main source: The article, "A Conversation with Nils Holgersson's Wife and Son," published in Swedish in Bryggan/The Bridge, Karlstad, No. 4, 1986, based on the interview recorded by Lennart Setterdahl.*

# Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay

by Elizabeth Cleveland

The Nordic countries are often regarded as the gold standard of economic models thanks to their economic equality and opportunity. In what has become known as “The Nordic Model,” the combination of free market capitalism and social benefits lead to a very high standard of living with low income disparity, the latter of which is a pressing issue in many wealthy nations today. Free education and healthcare as well as generous pensions that are signature of The Nordic Model are made possible by redistributive taxation and the robust public sector. Citizens of multiple Nordic nations—namely Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark—have made the concession of paying higher taxes in exchange for greater, high quality benefits. This model is the envy of many but it begins to show its weaknesses in two major instances: an influx of immigration and an aging population. While there are numerous elements to the famous Nordic Model, I’ve chosen to examine two social programs of particular interest to me: refugee integration and healthcare.

During my internship at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) this past fall, I was able to attend numerous conferences on migration, several of which featured the work of Scandinavian governments. On the topic of migration, I will evaluate Denmark and Sweden’s integration policies, elements of which were presented while I worked at the OECD. Denmark, like all of the Scandinavian countries, has a very low amount of refugees at about 2% of the population. Integration policies are implemented at both the national and local levels. At the national level, the Integration Act of 1999 states that the responsibilities of integration lie mostly with municipalities. The subsequent Immigrant Package of 2000 promotes early inclusion in the labor market for refugees and the 2002 revision includes provisions for Danish language tests as well as integration and civic tests to further promote integration into Danish society. Denmark sees labor market participation as the key to integration and their policies reflect this—employment is a condition for



*The OECD Headquarter Château de la Muette in Paris where Elizabeth did her internship.*

permanent residence and citizenship. Municipalities play a major role in the integration of refugees in Denmark with the responsibility to provide housing, social benefits, schooling, child care, and language education resting upon individual municipalities.

While Denmark has had a policy of integration for the past few decades, the Danish government has begun to shift toward a policy of repatriation with several other nations following suit.

At 5% of the population, Sweden has the highest refugee population in Scandinavia, largely due to its acceptance of Syrian refugees over the past few years. While the influx of refugees is slowing, integration efforts are not. Sweden has had integration policies in place since the 1970s and enacted a series of reforms in 2007–2008. While labor integration is also considered a key factor to the successful integration of refugees, the Swedes emphasize equal rights above all, with refugees having essentially the same rights as citizens. The vast majority of integration programs occur in the first two years after the refugee’s arrival. Despite a new government dissolving the Ministry of Integration in 2014, this integration program—which includes language courses, civic education, and vocational training—was made mandatory in 2018. There is no explicit integration law but several

*How would you describe how social programs differ from each other in Nordic countries?*



**Elizabeth Cleveland**  
Viljan Lodge No. 349 /  
DL Lake Michigan No.8  
Grand Lodge  
Scholarship \$1,000

Elizabeth is majoring in international and comparative politics and minoring in international law at the American University of Paris. She is on the Provost List for academic excellence. Elizabeth’s future plans include pursuing a Master’s degree in the field of human rights and development. She has been a member of the Vasa Order since age 14, has served as a delegate to her district lodge and has attended national conventions as a guest.

is funded by national and municipal taxes with both nations spending just under 10% of their GDP on healthcare. According

to the OECD, 100% of the Norwegian and Finnish populations have healthcare coverage making them, alongside other Nordic nations, the world’s gold standard for healthcare.

These extensive social programs contribute to the high quality of life that citizens of Scandinavian countries experience. While there are many clear benefits to the Nordic Model, the system does have its share of issues. An aging population coupled with a low birth rate have put a strain on Scandinavia’s enviable system. In order for this system to succeed, the population needs to be small to not over-exert funds and resources but large enough to have enough taxpayers to fund the system. I believe that the two areas I’ve chosen to examine—refugee integration programs and the healthcare systems—are areas in which the Nordic Model excels and should be considered role-models for the rest of the world.

## DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

### Ravage and pillage party

Covid Chronicles Part II - As we pass the 1-year mark of the Covid-19 pandemic DL No. 6 is making plans for the upcoming Spring and Summer. Sadly our convention was moved from May to November in Cape May. We are now planning an outdoor Nordic Viking Market to be held along with our Midsommar celebration. And of course we are getting our pool ready

for the season. Our Friday Night Dinners continue in our cultural center and we are all anxious for the warmer weather when we can eat on the patio. We are happy to report that the pandemic did not hamper our



*Head Viking and GM Art Bjorkner at the DL No. 6 party last fall.*

scaled-back Fall and Winter plans. Because of relaxed restrictions for outside gatherings we were able to honor Leif Erikson with a Ravage & Pillage party attended by Head Viking and Grand Master Art Bjorkner and our Vice Grand Master, Jack Hanright. Our yearly Jul Bazaar was turned into an Outdoor Christmas Market, taking advantage of our spacious pavilion. We

had many vendors selling decorations for Christmas, Scandinavian foods and breads along with jewelry and leather goods. We are trying mightily to maintain our beautiful Vasa Park since outside events are still mostly on hold cutting into our income streams of past years. We wish all our Vasa brothers and sisters a safe and healthy Midsommar!

SUBMITTED BY BEVERLY BLAKE

### Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay

by Catherine Johnson

I don't remember it, of course, but traditional Swedish music and folk dance has been a part of my life since my earliest days. I've watched the video many times, and there playing in the background at my baptism is the beloved *Tryggare kan ingen vara*. My great uncle played it on the violin that day during the service, reflecting the same song he played at my parents wedding on the violin, and at my mother's baptism.

So, you can kind of say the music is in my blood. In other old videos, you can see me bopping around at Christmas time to Tomtarnas Julnatt and other favorites in our household as a toddler.

Once I was old enough, my parents signed me up for our local Scandinavian children's group, which was an offshoot of Vasa. There, I soon started learning the real words to these songs, as well as the actual dance movements to many folk dances, including my favorite, Fjaskern. Having a structured group through Vasa where I could actually learn these songs, and sing them and dance to them with others of the same heritage really sparked my involvement with the order.

Shortly after, I also joined the Swedish American Children's Choir in Geneva, Illinois, with my two sisters. It wasn't enough to be a part of one children's group - I wanted to do both. I could not get enough of these songs and dances that were at the heart of my heritage and family traditions.

As part of the choir each Christmas, we donned red tights, a stretchy red turtleneck long enough to look like a

dress, and a red tomte hat, and sang that same *Tomtarnas Julnatt* song, about the sneaky tomtes on Christmas. It was always a big hit with the audience, with the cute little tomtes wowwing the audience.

Once I moved to the older choir, I finally got to sing the main *Midnatt råder* portion of the song, while my sisters and the other little kids did the chorus in their red tops, looking like sneaky tomtes.

It's always been a favorite in our family. My mom still makes us act it out and sing it every year for the family at Christmas, and as I write this, the tune and lyrics are running through my head.

I am so grateful for this traditional music, as well as the traditional dances I learned in these children's clubs through Vasa. I am grateful as well, for the community of others who know these songs, and can sing them with me and do these dances. I have these songs in my heart.

I can recognize these songs anywhere I go. I was babysitting about a month ago, and the little boy was watching the television show "Arthur". There on the screen, they were talking about one of the character's nationalities, and soon the song Santa Lucia started playing. I couldn't believe my ears. It warmed my heart. If I hear a violin, I cannot help but think of the songs and dances of my childhood.

These songs and dances are part of what bring my family together each Christmas and each midsommar, and part of what fuels my involvement in Vasa. I loved attending choir practices and the children's club, because

#### *How has traditional Swedish Music and Folk Dance influenced your involvement with The Vasa Order*

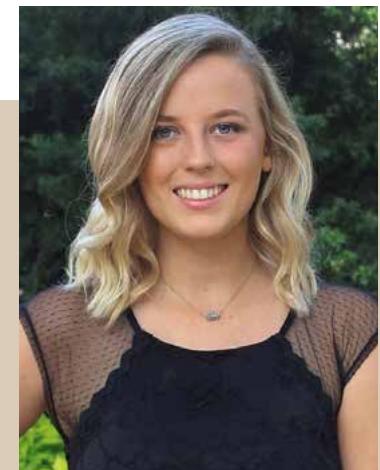
we got to learn all of this cool new music and all of these dances.

I mentioned that the Fjaskern, which is also known as the hurry scurry, is my favorite folk dance. Part of the reason for this is the speeding up of the tempo each round of the song, and the challenge of trying to keep up with it. But a bigger reason is because halfway through the dance to this song during each performance, we would run to the audience and bring someone on stage to dance with us. It was always fun to teach them the dance and see them try to keep up. My sisters and I always raced to be the first to get to my Mormor, because we each wanted her for a partner. My Mormor would resist at first, saying she didn't want to go on stage, but soon she would be right up there with me trying to keep up, and laughing so hard. We would laugh together to the dance until the tears started coming down our face. It was so fun, and still is one of my favorite things to do with her, and such a blessed memory to have.

How can you not love an organization that brings together family like this, that creates these wonderful memories, and that puts these songs in our hearts.

I will always be a part of Vasa and a part of an organization that keeps these beloved traditions going. These are my family memories. They bring me back each year for more songs and more dances, and more chances to weave around the maypole with my parents, and grandparents and sisters. They sing to me how essential an organization such as Vasa is. What a wonderful organization this

is to keep these traditions alive. I will do my best to ensure they continue and that we never lose them.



**Catherine Johnson**

*Viljan Lodge No. 349 /  
DL Lake Michigan No. 8  
The 2020 Edith Gauch Trust  
“Klinglof Scholarship” \$1,000*

Catherine is attending Illinois State University where she is studying education. Catherine has been a Vasa member since 2017 and participated in the children's club since age 7. She has been involved with the club's "cultural corner," teaching others about language, cooking, clothing and traditional culture of the Scandinavian countries. Catherine volunteers her time and resources to church groups, serves meals to the homeless, and has spent countless hours each summer on mission trips helping with home repairs, river clean-up, building ADA ramps and working with troubled children. Her future plans include completing her degree and working in school systems with underprivileged children.

# LOCAL LODGE NEWS



Dining table meeting with limited members to celebrate Lodge Anniversary. Inset: Swedish Flag cake to celebrate the 117th anniversary of Ingeborg No. 66.

## Ingeborg No. 66

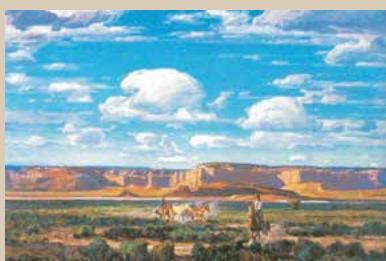
BROCKTON, MA / Greetings from Ingeborg lodge in Massachusetts. By now, most of us have been vaccinated. hipp--hipp hurrah! We are still holding our monthly meetings at my dining room table. March 2021 Ingeborg celebrated her 117th anniversary. Ingeborg was established in March 1904. A lot in the world has happened since then. We celebrated our Anniversary with a mini party. Greetings from the National Archives were read. A light luncheon of mini

sandwiches, coffee, tea, etc. AND my attempt to make a Swedish Flag Cake. It was really sick looking... BUT it tasted good. Those who joined in the celebration were Chairman Lynne Martin, Secretary Lynne Kenyon, Treasurer Linda Pearson, Sisters Diane Sterling, Michelle Dolan and yours truly, Cultural Program person Barbara DeCarli. Later on, when all of us can be together, we will have a bigger celebration. Really looking forward to it and looking forward to celebrating our beloved heritage more.

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA DECARLI

## Tegner No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / Tegner 149 has been holding virtual meetings since the start of the pandemic. In January at our virtual meeting, Richard Orlando gave a wonderful presentation on Carl Oscar Borg. Tammy Ojala Pace shared many of Borg's pictures with members. This was our largest virtual meeting and we also had two members of Framåt No. 405 in attendance. In February, Tegner members attended, by Zoom, a meeting of the Oakland Heritage Alliance on Swedish painter Gunnar Widforss and had a chance to view many of his paintings. In March, along with members of other local lodges, Sveaborg No. 449 and



Swedish born painter Carl Oscar Borg, known for views of California and the Southwest.

Framåt No. 405 we watched a video of Greta Thunberg "A Lesson for America" and had a discussion afterwards. Members have been checking in with other members during the pandemic, making sure everyone is safe, healthy and able to get food and other necessities.

SUBMITTED BY KENNETH WEISSENBORN

## Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN-FALCONER, NY / Hello from Thule Lodge. Winter seems to have ended when we get warm days, but then in the beginning of April we had several inches of new snow and very cold temperatures. At a recent gathering of lodge members and guests at the Falcon's Nest in Falconer, lodge vice chairman Susan W. Sipos gave a brief history of the Dala Horse (Dalahäst). Mrs. Sipos had four Dala Horses which she used for the presentation. The bright little animals originated in the 1700's, and the carving of the horses has become a tradition. The bright color of orange-red on the little horses came from the copper mines of Falun. The decorations of the harness and saddle on the horse is kurbit painting which has a religious background. Being hand painted, no two horses are ever exactly alike. The Dala Horse has become a symbol of Swedish crafts. The horses used in the display were from Nusnäs in Dalarna. The gathering of lodge members and the meetings are limited due to the continuing pandemic. In late April the annual egg-sexa is planned to be catered in a large hall, with all wearing masks and observing



The Swedish Dala häst

social distancing. Lodge chairman Tom Eckberg welcomes all. Loretta Smith is the treasurer, and Bernice Veights is the membership chairman, and both of their efforts are appreciated in planning meetings and events. Thule Lodge hopes all to continue staying well and practice safety. "God dag" to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS, LODGE HISTORIAN

## Norden No. 233

TACOMA, WA / ... has been staying connected with meetings thru Zoom. We have been learning customs and traditions in Sweden and why they celebrate how they do. Our members join by internet and telephone. Those not able to join us stay connected with our monthly newsletter, personal visits when we can, and telephone calls. It has been a challenging time and yet we have gained a few new members who happen to be experts in genealogy. We also have a Facebook group where we can put up videos and information about current events. In January we installed officers and brainstormed ideas for upcoming programs with history, art and genealogy. In February we watched an episode of "Welcome to Sweden" although it was not successful due to technical difficulties With Zoom. Our March meeting was a genealogy presentation

on where to begin your research, by our own Melody Stepp. She did a great job explaining how and where to obtain records from various sources. She explained how DNA testing works and how it can help us locate living relatives who may have additional information. We came away with a list of websites and resources to begin our own journeys or continue one we have begun. Several of our members joined in the discussion and gave tips and helpful information. It was a terrific meeting. In April we will learn how to organize the information we have discovered with our new member Winona Laird. We are very excited to be able to hear how to do this without being overwhelmed. She is very organized and has been doing her research for many years. We all are looking forward to being able to meet in person soon and look forward to Spring weather in the Pacific Northwest.

SUBMITTED BY JEANETTE WIGGINS



The SVEA Lodge No. 348 chemistry lecture via Zoom. Mr. Ibrahim is in the third row in the far-right column.

## Svea No. 348

SAN JOSÉ, CA / Part of our monthly cultural activity, Svea had Sami Ibrahim a retired chemistry professor, give two presentations on Swedish chemists in our February and March Zoom

meeting. It is amazing how many famous Swedish chemists there are through history with Wikipedia listing 81, a stunning number for such a small country. Commonly known names include Celsius for whom the temperature scale is named,

Arrhenius who first calculated how carbon dioxide may induce global warming and Nobel who invented dynamite and who established the Nobel Prize. Mr. Ibrahim discussed Svante Arrhenius in his first presentation and Jöns Jacob Berzelius in the second. Berzelius is considered, to be one of the founders of modern chemistry including the law of constant proportions. Svante Arrhenius showed that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere served as a “heat-trap” and could lead to global warming but a slight decrease in CO<sub>2</sub> may set off an ice age! Thus, he was the first man to warn about climate change. Mr. Ibrahim showed based on Berzelius how to calculate chemical formulas and awarded his own Nobel Prize as a cup of coffee at Peets to anyone answering the formula quiz from the presentation by month’s end. So far three Nobel prizes.

SUBMITTED BY JACK KNUTSON



Right: Linda Gustavson Graffius, showing the Swedish Easter Witch or “Påskkärring” at Svea’s April meeting

## Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / Welcome Spring! Welcome Linde members and friends to the Premier Opening of a Live-In Person-LINDE Meeting. It was so exciting to venture to our usual lodge meeting place and meet again on April 17. Yes, we only had a group of 10 attending, but that is ok, since we want to take baby steps, and feel the waters, before all of us jump in. We tended to some business, then held a “Kafferep” while Liza Ekstrand explained the difference between kafferep and Fika. Mainly that kafferep is a group of women (although we had men amongst us) inviting each other for this social event, and that there always had to be 7 kinds of cakes/cookies and lots of coffee to be called a kafferep. Kafferep also included a lot of gossiping! Fika is often only with one or two other friends, taking a break and catching up, with mostly coffee and maybe some bakery. We were talking about future events, as well as the cancellation of Scandinavian Festival in New Berlin-WI for 2021. Next meeting May 15, 2021 will feature Brent Erickson’s presentation of “Friluftsliv” (Outdoor-living) in Scandinavia. Feel free to join us!

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



First in-person Linde meeting in 16 months. From top left: Melanie Herriges, Diane Repensem, Marianne Ekstrand, Elaine Johnson, Gary Roth, Rolf Ekstrand (always clowning around), Brigitte Roth, and the lucky winner of the Raffle of a flower arrangement, Brent Erikson. Missing in the pictures Allan Stenmark and Liza Ekstrand.



Farmor-mobile! It took 24 years to get this license plate, and only after finding out that a former Linde member Avie Andersson had had it all along. Avie passed away a few years ago. Proud new owner is Liza Ekstrand.



Kafferep was the program. Top picture is what Linde members were treated to. The order of eating kafferep bakery is important, examples: 1. Kanelbulle or other “heavy” bakery, 2. light colored coffee cake, 3. dark colored coffee cake, 4. light colored cookie, 5. dark colored cookie, 6. heavier filled cookie, 7. “Tårta”. You may find more than one kind of tårta to choose from. Lots of Kaffe.

## Svea No. 296

ERIE, PA / Linda Gustavson Graffius speaks to SVEA No. 296 in Erie, at their April meeting about Swedish Easter traditions. She is holding up an “Easter Witch” made by her aunt, and a branch decorated with feathers. The tradition is called Påskris, where a barren branch is colored by feathers at the beginning of lent, then placed in water and by Easter, leaves sprout on the branches.

SUBMITTED BY GARY LARSON

## Frihet No. 401

SEATTLE, WA / Well, here we are. We got thru and are moving on with “ENTHUSIASM” and a lot of gratitude, wiser, not taking life for granted. We learned a lot about ourselves, neighbors and our Lodge. Frihet has gathered 4 times this last year at our Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish. Once in our newly renovated event center, 3 times outdoors picnic style. Even when chilly it was great fun. Social distancing, sanitizers, masks were all used. No frills and glad to see each other. Members have been sent cards and letters. We are still a well connected Lodge. A Centennial celebration of Frihet is being planned for October. “All this will be eventually forgotten, but we were really here and we know it really happened.” Midsommar Greetings to all.

SUBMITTED BY KAREN RISTON

## Nordic No. 611

WORCESTER, MA / Nordic Lodge had its first meeting in 14 months! The meeting was held outdoors in the parking lot of Immanuel Lutheran church in Holden, MA. Close to 40 members brought their own chairs, wore their masks and maintained a safe distance. Hopefully we are seeing the end of the pandemic. Everyone was thrilled and excited to see and talk with people they haven't seen in over a year. Delegates were chosen for our 2021 Convention and all officers present agreed to continue at their position another year. Nancy Schultzberg, our Cultural Leader, gave a talk on the Andrew sisters that was very interesting. Our District Master Esther Johnson and her husband PDM Phil Johnson attended as did Linda Boylan, District Cultural Leader. Nordic member, Marlene Patient, PDM who is the Vice Grand Secretary also attended. We were blessed with a very sunny, warm day that was a pleasure for all.

SUBMITTED BY ÅKE JANSSON



*Clockwise from above: Nordic members at outdoor meeting in church parking lot / Nancy Schultzberg Cultural Leader / Marlene Ekstrand, Chairman and Sue Johnson, Secretary of Nordic No. 611*

## Vasa questions?

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

## Moving?

Be sure to send address changes to: [circulationvasastar@gmail.com](mailto:circulationvasastar@gmail.com)

## Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / Our March Zoom meeting featured an interesting program. Member Julia Wright gave a narrative and showed slides of the Wright family's travels in Sweden. Hopefully our scheduled plans to meet at Granada Park in April will come to pass. No decision has been reached when we might continue to meet in person at our regular meeting place. Our membership directory will be updated and distributed soon.

We wish to extend special congratulations to Elna Lidman who has been a faithful member of our Lodge for 55 years; as well as Kristana Lustiger for her 50-year membership. To both ladies, a well-deserved "Thank you".

Adding just a bit of fun: When I say,



*Congratulations to Elna Lidman on her 55 years as a member.*

"The other Day", I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago! Can anyone relate to that? Wishing you all a good summer, we all know here in Phoenix the heat will be with us quite soon!

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON

## Sierra Kronan No. 737

ROSEVILLE, CA / Hello from Sierra Kronan. In February we had so much fun celebrating our 35th Anniversary with a Zoom party! We played a couple of games, heard from our Chairman and District Master, and enjoyed a raffle. We also took a moment to celebrate our Chairman and Charter Member, Darin Freeland, for his work for our lodge. Members continue to connect through notes, emails, and telephone calls during these unusual times. But 2021 finally seems to be bringing some relief from the pandemic - our lodge meeting place is opening back up. So in April, Sierra Kronan will hold it's first hybrid lodge meeting! We're excited to be able to meet face to face with those who wish to join us; and via Zoom for those who are not yet ready to join in person. Wishing you all a beautiful springtime!

SUBMITTED BY CAROL NESEWICH

## Glenn T. Seaborg No. 719



LAGUNA WOODS, CA / Our lodge transformed the forced isolation due to the Covid pandemic into a blessing when we started our book reading and discussion group. Each month we read a book and then met over Zoom to discuss the book. Our cultural chairperson provided an outline to guide the discussion. We've learned so much from each other as we share our experiences and insights from reading the books. We began by reading the five books written by Per Anders Fogelström that traces several generations of the Nilsson family from 1860 through 1968. The books are: "City of My Dreams", "Children of Their City", "Remember the City", "In a City Transformed" and "City in the World". Next we read "Augusta's Daughter" and "Kajsa" by Judit Martin. We read "Désirée" by Annemarie Selinko. Now we have begun Vilhelm Moberg's emigrant series tracing Karl Oskar and Kristina Nilsson and their friends from Småland to their new home in Minnesota. The books include: "The Emigrants", "Unto a Good Land", "The Settlers", and "The Last Letter Home". Many have joined our group since we began as we extend an invitation to all who are interested in our Swedish history and culture. If you want a copy of any of our outline guides, feel free to contact us.

SUBMITTED BY NANCY KINGSTON

# SWEDISH NEWS

## Knallen No. 745

BORÅS, SWEDEN / Vid årskiftet flyttade vi årsmötet till februari, och hoppades på ett vanligt årsmöte, men tvingades till ett ZOOM-möte. Historiskt med 23 medlemmar hemifrån via kameror. DM DL 19 Maggie Ahlin-Thelin och DM DL 20 Olle Wickström har ”i kraft av sina ämbeten” efter årsmötet förklarat logens tjänstemän lagligen installerade. Tyvärr, denna gång inget efterkapitel. Istället en glad pratstund framför kamerorna. Inget hopp om vanliga ”fysiska” logemöten under våren. Pandemin går i Sverige, liksom övriga världen. Vi befinner oss nu i ”tredje vågen” av pandemin med ökande smittspridning. Årests styrelsemöten och logemöten har varit digitala och det fortsätter vi med. Förmågan att hantera ny teknik är inte finslipad, men vi hoppas att fler medlemmar kan lära sig. Syskonen vill träffas fysiskt och då måste vi vara utomhus. Styrelsen arrangerade en skogs promenad i april. Aprilvärdet skiftar mellan, regn, snö, hagel, åska, blåst och – solsken. Till vår glädje blev det en fin dag med solglimtar – dock utan vårvärme. Halvvägs slog vi oss ner på en rastplats för att avnjuta Fika. Vi gladdes oss åt att äntligen få träffas igen. Vi har inga upp-



*Skogs promenad tillsammans med 22 av Knallens sysstrar och bröder. Vid Pickesjön njöt alla av medhavda smörgåsar och kaffe. Tillsammans med sjöfåglarna gladde vi oss åt den annalkande våren.*

gifter om att något syskon har råkat ut för svårare angrepp av Covid19, vilket är glädjande. De flesta har nu en dos vaccin, men många skall ha två doser, oc det kan bli juli-augusti, innan alla är vaccinerade. Nu är 90% av svenskar över 80 år vaccinerade - men bara knappt 15 % av hela befolkningen.

SUBMITTED BY BENGT OLSSON



*Blåsippa ute i backarna står, niger och säger att nu är det vår ...*

## Skåne No. 570

MALMÖ, SWEDEN / Med ödmjukhet har jag åtagit mig uppdraget som Kulturledare. Fortfarande är det ovisst vad som händer med våra sammankomster under året. Det är som med vintern i april, somliga dagar är det snöstorm, men nästa dag lyser solen och kolstrasten sjunger sin ljusliga sång i parken. Vissa av oss är igång med vaccinationerna, så det finns hopp. Särskilt av intresse är hur vårt 90-årsjubileum 11 september gestaltar sig. Samma gäller installation av nya tjänstemän. Tre loger i vårt distrikt läggs ned, Carl von Linné, Ronneby och Westervik. Några av dessa medlemmar kommer till oss. De är hjärtligt välkomna. Den 8 april hölls vårt konstituerande styrelsemöte digitalt via Zoom. Med skräckblandad förtjusning dök en efter en upp i rutan. I färskt minne spökade förhandlingarna i domstolen i Texas, då en advokat förvandlades till en katt. Vårt möte avlöpte utan sådana incidenter. Sorgebesked: Tyvärr har Br Sven-Åke Sjöstrand lämnat syskonringen den 28 mars 2021. Besök Logen Skånes egen hemsida för att ta del av bilder, reportage, nyhetsbrev med mera – googla vasaorden LL570 eller se länken på vasaorden.se /com.

SUBMITTED BY MARIANNE ANDERSSON

## VICE STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASAMEDLEMMAR,  
Jag tittar tillbaks på vad vår Stormästare skrev i vårens utgåva för ett år sedan där han hoppades att pandemin snart skulle ebba ut men blir åter igen påmind om att vi inte har kommit igenom riktigt än. Många medlemmar, vänner och familj har drabbats. Några med avsevärda hälsobekymmer, många med ekonomiska problem och det finns tyvärr också de som förlorat nära och kärä. Vi delar alla en tanke och den allra djupaste medkänsla för dessa medlemmar. Vi känner också stark medkänsla och support för dem som drabbats på andra sätt. Men som vår Stormästare sa i sin text för ett år sedan: ”Vi kan inte låta detta ta ner vår optimism och framtidstro”.



Vår ansvarige för sociala media Chad Widman har varit strängt upptagen i år. Medlemmar har mer än någonsin använt sociala media för att hålla kontakten med vad som händer i Vasavärlden. Storlogens kultursvariga, Jeanne Eriksson Widman Andersen och Kevin DeFeo, har postat intressanta rapporter och alla har delat med sig av foton och givande innehåll. Nu börjar dagarna bli längre, temperaturerna går upp och vi börjar alla kunna lämna stugvärmen för att ge oss ut bland folk igen. Några distriktsloger har senarelägt sina årsmöten till senare i år och några lokalloger har funnit vägar för att börja ses igen. Det ser ljusare ut framöver och vi ser alla fram emot att kunna ses på riktigt. Ett av de områden som skulle tagits upp av Storlogens ämbetsmän i samband med årsmötet är vårt stipendieprogram för studerande. Jag är glad över att

kunna meddela att våra unga Vasamedlemmar kämpar vidare och har fortsatt växa akademiskt. Storlogen räknar med att ge ut 28 stipendier 2021. Tyvärr är det ännu inte klart hur språkläget på Sjölunden kan komma att genomföras med tanke på pandemin. Det återstår att se. Vasastjärnans redaktörer och jag har publicerat flera av våra stipendiater uppsatser i Vasastjärnan under året som gått – något som mötts med beundran över deras hårda arbetsinsatser. Tidigare medlemmar skapade en enastående stipendiefond som delat ut årliga stipendier sedan 1946! Jag kan som ordförande i stipendiekommittén intyga att betyg, biografiska data och rekommendationsbrev från våra unga medlemmar övergår all förväntan. De är vår ordens framtid. Vi kommer att fortsätta publicera deras uppsatser och biografier i kommande utgåvor av tidningen.

Vår ansvarige arkivarie i Bishop Hill har gjort ett fantastiskt job för att manövrera alla svårigheter som kommit upp under 2020. Var mån om att läsa texten från ordföranden för det nationella arkivet och, om du har möjlighet, sänd ett tack till Kathy Cuff för hennes hårda arbete. Så nu blir dagarna längre, trädens grönskar och allt kommer i blomning. Förhoppningsvis känns allt lättare framöver och jag för min del kommer bege mig över till Stormästarens hus för att försäkra mig om att han kommer igång med gräsklipningen i Vasa Park. Jag önskar er alla allt gott från oss alla i Storlogen.

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