

# THE VASA STAR



## *Vasastjärnan*

MARCH-APRIL 2006



Official publication of  
THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA  
*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization*  
Organized September 18, 1896



# The Grand Master's Message



Ulf Brynjestad

Vasa Members, Brothers and Sisters,

My term of office as Grand Master is coming to an end and this is the last time I'll have an opportunity to communicate with you. During my four years as Grand Master I have been able to use this space in the Vasa Star to share observations as well as getting your reactions to new concepts and ideas. I have traveled a lot during these four years and I have met a lot of you. In short; I have enjoyed my term as Grand Master.

During my contacts and travel within the Order, I have been exposed to much "common wisdom" which upon reflection is neither common nor wisdom. I would like to share some of these observations with you.

First, many lodges have over the years been more and more open, less and less Swedish. What I mean is that we have changed in order to make it easier for more and more people to join us, making it more and more a social club and thus, goes the common wisdom, our membership should increase. I know this is a very controversial statement, and I understand that many of you will disagree. However, let me present my observation that in Lodges where we actually have started speaking Swedish again, albeit very little, attendances at meetings are up, younger Swedes are joining again.

Second, organizations that attempt to be everything for everybody are also doomed to failure. Swedes that join want to experience the Swedish heritage and today's Sweden.... similarly, Norwegians and Danes, etc...VGM Rolf Bergman has some fascinating research results in this area which I hope he will share with you in an article in the Vasa Star.

Finally, I want to ask you to support our National Archives. The Vasa Order of America National Archives has been reconstituted as a 501 (C)(3) educational non-profit organization with all the benefits to the organization that it entails. Your donation is needed now.

In the end of June, delegates and Vasa Members will congregate in San Diego for the quadrennial Grand Convention. This is the time for you to meet fellow members from other Districts and Countries. DL Pacific Southwest No. 15 has planned many activities for you, so please, come and enjoy the Southern California hospitality. I hope to see you all there.

Thank you and good-bye.

Kära Vasamedlemmar och Vasasyskon,

Min mandatperiod som Stormästare börjar gå mot sitt slut och detta är sista gången som jag har möjligheten att kommunicera med er. Under mina fyra år som Stormästare har jag kunnat använda detta utrymme på Vasastjärnan för att dela med mig av mina observationer samt få era reaktioner på nya tankar och ideer. Jag har rest mycket under de här fyra åren och jag har träffat många av er. Kort sagt; jag har njutit av min tid som Stormästare.

Under mina kontakter och resor inom Ordern, har jag utsatt för mycket "allmän vishet", som vid eftertanke varken varit allmän eller vishet. Jag skulle vilja dela med mig några av dessa reflektioner med er.

Främst, många lodger har med tiden blivit mer och mer öppna, mindre och mindre svenska. Vad jag menar är att vi ändrats för att kunna underlätta för fler att förena sig med oss, vilket nu gjort det mer till en social klubb och således, borde vårt medlemstal öka. Jag vet, detta är ett kontroversiellt uttalande och jag förstår om många av er inte kommer att hålla med mig. Emellertid, tillåt mig att presentera min observation att i lodger där vi börjat prata svenska igen, om än väldigt lite, så har deltagandet på mötena ökat samt att yngre svenskar har anslutit sig.

För det andra, organisationer som försöker vara allt för alla är dömda att misslyckas. Svenskar som går med vill uppleva det svenska arvet och dagens Sverige...likaså norskar och danskar etc...Vice Stormästare Rolf Bergman har några fascinerande forskningsresultat inom detta område som jag hoppas han vill dela med sig i en artikel i Vasastjärnan.

Slutligen, vill jag be er att stödja vårt Arkiv. Vasaordern av Amerikas Arkiv har ombildats som en 501 (C)(3) ideell organisation med alla de förmåner som är förenade med organisationen. Era donationer behövs nu.

I slutet av juni kommer representanter och Vasamedlemmar att samlas i San Diego för Storlodgemötet. Detta är tillfället för er att möta medlemmar från andra distrikt och länder. DL Pacific Southwest Nr 15 har planerat åtskilliga aktiviteter för er så snälla, kom och njut av den södra kaliforniska gästvänligheten. Jag hoppas på att få se er alla där.

Tack och adjö.

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**HEADQUARTERS:**

c/o Cynthia B. Erickson  
**Grand Secretary**  
 P.O. Box 1118  
 Issaquah, WA 98027  
 Phone: 425-392-5420  
 E-mail: [jerickson7@msn.com](mailto:jerickson7@msn.com)

**Grand Master:**

Ulf A.G. Brynjestad  
 1926 Rancho Andrew  
 Alpine, CA 91901  
 Phone: 619-445-9707  
 Fax: 619-445-7334  
 E-mail: [drulf@consulateofsweden.org](mailto:drulf@consulateofsweden.org)

**Editor:**

Marie Carlson  
 9560 Curberry Drive  
 Mentor, OH 44060  
 Phone: 440-255-4665  
 E-mail: [marie@swedes-r-us.com](mailto:marie@swedes-r-us.com)

**Circulation Manager:**

Cathy Anderson  
 30 S.E. Bush Street  
 Issaquah, WA 98027  
 Phone: 425-391-5904  
 E-mail: [circulationvasastar@gmail.com](mailto:circulationvasastar@gmail.com)

**EFFECTIVE JUNE 1ST:**

Circulation Manager Cathy Anderson's new address is:  
 6631 E. Via Algardi, Tucson, AZ 85718  
 (520) 615-3113

**Membership Chairman:**

Joan Graham  
 5838 San Jose Avenue  
 Richmond, CA 94804  
 Phone: 510-526-5512  
 E-mail: [vasajlg@aol.com](mailto:vasajlg@aol.com)

Send bottom section of white copy of application for new members to her.

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THE VASA STAR  
 Marie Carlson  
 9560 Curberry Drive  
 Mentor, OH 44060  
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<b>Half Page Black and White</b>	old price \$175.00	new price \$275.00
<b>Quarter Page Black and White</b>	old price \$100.00	new price \$150.00
<b>One Column Inch</b>	old price \$20.00	new price \$30.00
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<b>Half Page Color</b>	old price \$300.00	new price \$500.00

10% discount for Vasa Lodges and Members

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# Letter from the Editor

On the cover of this issue is a flower very familiar to many Swedes as the first sign of spring. I remember as a child this was such an exciting discovery; I wish it still was that simple.

You can read about a "simple man" named Charles John Ericson from Södra Vi that ended up here in America as a 12-year-old. Despite his lack of education he became quite a remarkable man. But when you ask people in Södra Vi, north of Vimmerby in Småland about "*the poor boy from Södra Vi who came to America, got rich and helped so many, nobody seems to know anything about Charles John A. Ericson, where he or his parents had lived. Strange, isn't it?*"

We are also featuring the remainder of the Lucia Queens, and there are plenty of them. Some pictures may not be of very high quality when I receive them and therefore they do not reproduce very well in The Vasa Star. In order to have a good picture please scan them at a resolution of 300 DPI in a JPEG format or send me the original. A paper copy will not work very well! I will return the original if you provide me with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

No more Lucia's will appear following this issue until it is time for the 2006 Lucia celebrations.

Marie

# Brev från redaktören

På omslaget av denna upplaga är en blomma som ter sig mycket bekant för många svenskar, som ett första värtecken. Jag kommer ihåg att som barn, var detta en fantastisk upptäckt. Jag önskar att det fortfarande var så enkelt.

Ni kan läsa om en "enkel man" vid namn Charles John Ericson från Södra Vi, som kom hit till Amerika som 12-åring. Trots hans brist på utbildning blev han en synnerligen anmärkningsvärd man. Men när du frågar människorna i Södra Vi, norr om Vimmerby i Småland om "*den fattige pojken från Södra Vi som kom till Amerika, blev rik och hjälpte så många, verkar ingen veta någonting om Charles John A. Ericson, var han eller hans föräldrar bott. Är det inte konstigt?*"

Vi presenterar även resterande Lucior, och det är rätt så många av dem. En del bilder kanske inte har så hög kvalitet när jag får dem och därför reproduceras de inte speciellt bra i The Vasa Star. För att få en fin bild, var snäll och "scanna" dem i 300 DPI i JPEG format eller skicka mig originalet. En pappers kopia fungerar inte så bra! Jag skickar tillbaka originalet om ni förser mig med ett adresserat kuvert med frimärke.

Det blir inga mer Lucior i kommande nummer förrän det är dags att fira 2006 års Lucior.

Marie

## Deadlines for The Vasa Star:

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st

July/Aug. is June 1st

March/April is Feb. 1st

Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st

May/June is April 1st

Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

*Deadline for Christmas ads: October 1st*

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES NEWS



## Publications and Newsletters at the Archives

The photo we have included in this issue is showing a display case where we display various publications and newsletters. Here, our visitors linger while looking through these reading materials. The Vasa Star has a prominent place on one of the top shelves but everything is easily accessible to those wanting to read about our Order and about Sweden.

Our visiting Vasa members are especially interested in the various newsletters we receive from our Local Lodges and

Districts. Here they can glean information they can then take back to their own lodges and cultural leaders. New ideas are always good for our lodges.

So here is a request to all the lodges with newsletters...if you are not already sending us your lodge newsletter, PLEASE send a copy of yours to the Vasa Archives so we can share it with our visitors. It will be very much appreciated by the staff and the visitors.

If your lodge has written or is about to write its history, we would appreciate receiving that too. We are in process of assigning storage boxes for each lodge that will make it so much easier to store and retrieve lodge records.

**Finally, we are sincerely hoping that you read the article in the January-February Vasa Star from Lennart Petersson, who is the President of the Vasa Archives. Please be supportive of his suggestions and encourage your own District's Grand Lodge delegates to vote on Lennart's motion in a favorable manner at the forthcoming Grand Lodge Convention to be held in San Diego. You will then have participated in saving our Vasa Archive for future generations.**

### TACK SÅ MYCKET!!!

We can be reached at the Vasa Archive, 109 S. Bishop Hill St, Bishop Hill IL 61419, Telephone and /FAX 309-927-3898 or via e-mail [vasarkiv@winco.net](mailto:vasarkiv@winco.net)

Submitted by: R&L Horngren

## IMPORTANT!

### Immediate Changes

#### Effective Immediately

**Grand Treasurer Richard Overberg's new email address is:**  
[croverberg@aim.com](mailto:croverberg@aim.com)

#### Effective June 1st

**Circulation Manager Cathy Anderson's new address is:**  
6631 E. Via Algardi, Tucson, AZ 85718  
(520) 615-3113

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Goulash Soup  
Potatoes with Eggs, Fennel, and Smoked Salmon

### IN MEMORIAM

## ON THE COVER

*Tussilago - Coltsfoot*

# 2006 Grand Lodge Convention Adventures

Such wonderful and exciting adventures are being planned for the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention in beautiful, sunny San Diego, California. The convention fun opens with our "Welcome Reception" on the beautiful grounds of the Town and Country Resort complete with Mayflower member and musician, Carlos Ortega, wonderful food and a glorious San Diego sunset. Saturday the convention officially opens and we have planned an outstanding program for all to enjoy. Our Swedish Rhapsody banquet on Saturday evening will again showcase our professional District 15 talent and well as the Swedish Fiddlers. Wait until you see the fantastic table decorations – designed and created by hand by those super Desert Viking members, Bob and Ila Engstrom. Our Lodges have been so supportive in hosting this capital letter event and the Committee is most grateful.

More about the bus tours in the next article, but just can't wait to tell you about the Theatre opportunity: details of the play are compliments of Dr. Ann-Charlotte Harvey. July 3, 6:15 p.m. we leave the hotel for a night of "Midsummer Magic" with an evening in Balboa Park at San Diego's famous Old Globe Theatre. Following a

picnic supper and a special pre-show talk, we will see Shakespeare's charming comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" under the stars in the wonderful open air theatre. The evening special pre-show talk will start with a welcome by Grand Cultural Director Anne-Charlotte Harvey and Old Globe's Associate Drama Director Diane Sinor. This is an event you will be discussing for years to come.

The Committee Chairman, Daga-Karin Lindquist, has enlisted the efforts of many of our local crafts ladies to embroider squares of the Landskaps Blommor of the Swedish Provinces for a quilt, which will be raffled at the Grand Banquet, Friday, July 7, 2006. The hand-quilted comforter is over 6 feet square and will become an heirloom for some lucky family. We have a preview at our recent meeting and it is gorgeous. What a marvelous commemorative of the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention.

More information in the next issue of the Vasa Star; until then remember to make your reservations early.

*In Truth and Unity,*

*Dr. Jacqueline E. Ahlen,*

*Publicity Chairman for the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF GRAND LODGE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING October 17 - 19, 2005 PHOENIX, ARIZONA

1. A video of 'How to Establish a Youth Club' is now available from EBM William Lundquist.
2. Photographs of the jewelry available from the Vice Grand Secretary will be placed on the Web.
3. Ties and Scarves from Sweden will soon be in inventory also.
4. CDs of Youth Club Elsa Rex #1 Lucia Pageant with music may be purchased from the Leader Sister McGrath.
5. GL Activities Director Baxter Swaffar announced that three new Activities Clubs have been chartered, one in DL Golden Gate #12 and two in DL Pacific Southwest #15.
6. Funding will be sought to provide a special facility for the Swedish Language Camp. We presently share the Finnish Camp site and we are unable to choose when we wish to hold our camp.
7. The Time Share donated by Sister Jacqueline Ahlen is being considered to be used for fund raising.
8. Motions for the upcoming Grand Lodge Convention were written and approved by the Board.
9. Delegates will receive the Motions at least sixty days prior to Convention in order to get in-put from the members in their districts.

*Cynthia B Erickson, Grand Secretary*

**REGISTRATION FORM • 36TH GRAND LODGE CONVENTION • JUNE 30 – JULY 7, 2006**

**NEW REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 30, 2006**

[www.vasaorder.com](http://www.vasaorder.com) [www.vasaDL15.com](http://www.vasaDL15.com)

**NOTE:** Grand Lodge Officers, Honorary Life Members of the Grand Lodge and Delegates receive complimentary tickets for the Saturday and Friday nights banquets, and the Sunday and Tuesday tours. Spouses and other participants are responsible for payment of all events in which they partake except the Welcome Reception.

Date, Week Day	Event <i>(Please see Activity Schedule in this Vasa Star issue for event details)</i>	No. of People Attending	Price Per Person (Prices in U.S. \$)	Total Cost
June 30, Friday	Golf Tournament		\$95.00	\$
June 30, Friday	Welcome Reception		No cost	No cost
July 1, Saturday	Banquet "Swedish Rhapsody"		\$59.00	\$
July 2, Sunday	Tour: San Diego Area		\$40.00 (Includes Box Lunch & Coffee)	\$
July 3, Monday	Sea World Trip		\$55.00	\$
July 3 (Evening)	Play: A Midsummer Night's Dream		\$39.00 (Includes Dinner)	\$
July 4, Tuesday	Tour: San Diego Historical Sites and Museums		\$59.00 (Includes Lunch)	\$
July 4, (Evening)	Harbor Cruise		\$25.00 (Includes Snacks)	\$
July 5, Wednesday	Tour to Julian and Casino/Outlet Shops		\$35.00 (Includes Lunch)	\$
July 7, Friday	Grand Banquet		\$69.00	\$

PLEASE WRITE CHECK TO: VASA GRAND LODGE 2006 CONVENTION  
MAIL TO: Leslie Leigard, 21402 Perry St., Carson, CA 90745

**TOTAL INCLUDED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Advance Registration is required for or a portion of the Convention, including the Welcome Reception!**

*Please Print Clearly*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local Lodge & No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ District Lodge & No. \_\_\_\_\_

City, State/Prov., Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Country Code/Area Code/Number \_\_\_\_\_

(How many?) Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ GL Officer (Elected) \_\_\_\_\_ GL Officer (Appointed) \_\_\_\_\_ GL Honorary Life Member \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
*PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION WITH THE HOTEL DIRECTLY TO ENSURE CONVENTION RATES!*

To: Reservations Manager, Town and Country Resort & Convention Center  
500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108  
Phone: 1-619-291-7131, Toll free 1-800-772-8527 Fax: (619) 291-3584  
Internet Reservations: [www.towncountry.com](http://www.towncountry.com) (Go to Make a Reservation;  
Group; Attendee Code: Vasa)

*Vasa Order of America  
36th Grand Lodge Convention  
June 30 - July 7, 2006*

Note: Convention rate is good also for June 29 and July 8.  
**Reservations due by June 6, 2006 to receive convention rates**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: Country Code/Area Code/No. \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Double Room, \$109 + tax: King size bed \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Queen size beds \_\_\_\_\_ Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Non-smoking \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing Room with \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation Required: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Special Request \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Guaranteed by: \_\_\_\_\_

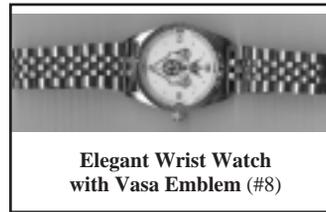
1st Night's Deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (check) or Credit Card: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_



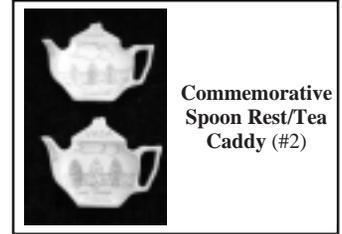
# THE 2006 GRAND LODGE CONVENTION

*An Opportunity for You to Purchase Commemorative Items*

\*We are happy to again be able to offer you a chance to obtain some very nice articles to commemorate the upcoming *36th Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego, California.*



Elegant Wrist Watch with Vasa Emblem (#8)



Commemorative Spoon Rest/Tea Caddy (#2)

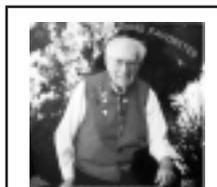
\* Please, look over the unique items presented here and pick one or more for your enjoyment. District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15, the host of the Convention, thanks you warmly for your support!



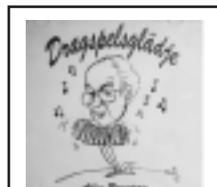
Holidays in Sweden Traditions and Superstitions (#1)



Swedish Gammaldans Music CD (#3)



Swedish Gammaldans Music CD (#4)



Swedish Gammaldans Music CD (#5)



Swedish Gammaldans Music CD (#6)



Blue Short Sleeve Polo Shirt with Vasa Emblem (#7)

## ORDER FORM

<b>S H I P T O</b>	Name: _____ Country _____
	Address: _____
	City/State/Zip: _____ Ph. No. _____ Country Code/Area Code/Number
	Email: _____

[www.vasaorder.com](http://www.vasaorder.com)    [www.vasaDL15.com](http://www.vasaDL15.com)

*These items are offered as a fundraiser for the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego, California, June 30 - July 7, 2006*

**NOTE:** Sales tax is included in the prices  
Prices are in U.S. Dollar

QUANTITY	ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
	1. Book: "Holidays in Sweden – Traditions and Superstitions"	\$11.00	
	2. Commemorative Tea Caddy/Spoon Rest	\$11.00	
	3. Compact Disc: "Skandinavisk Gammaldans"	\$16.00	
	4. Compact Disc: "Alfon's Gammaldansfavoriter"	\$16.00	
	5. Compact Disc: "Dragspelsglädje"	\$16.00	
	6. Compact Disc: "Sweetheart, Let's Dance"	\$16.00	
	7. Blue Polo Shirt with Vasa Emblem: S ( ) M ( ) L ( ) XL ( ) XXL ( ) XXXL ( )	\$28.00	
	8. Wrist Watch with Vasa D.L. Logo: Ladies' ( ) Men's ( )	\$32.00	

Please write your check to: **VASA GRAND LODGE 2006 CONVENTION**  
 Mail your order and check to: Leslie Leigard, 21402 Perry St., Carson, CA 90745  
 Email: [lesliej28@comcast.net](mailto:lesliej28@comcast.net) • Phone (310) 835-6501

*Thank you for your order and support of District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15!*

**SUBTOTAL**

Shipping (see chart)

**TOTAL INCLUDED**

		Shipping and Handling (USD)					
Order Total	U.S.A.	Canada	Sweden	Order Total	U.S.A.	Canada	Sweden
Up to \$16.00	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$61.00 to \$80.00	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$20.00
\$17.00 to \$29.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$10.00	\$81.00 to \$100.00	\$12.00	\$18.00	\$24.00
\$30.00 to \$40.00	\$6.00	\$8.00	\$14.00	Over \$100	\$14.00	\$22.00	\$28.00
\$41.00 to \$60.00	\$8.00	\$10.00	\$16.00				

*All items are shipped  
First Class within the U.S.  
and Air Mail to  
Canada and Sweden*

# Updated **ACTIVITY SCHEDULE** for the **36th Grand Lodge Convention**

**June 30 - July 7, 2006**



**San Diego, California**

## **FRIDAY JUNE 30**

9:00 A.M.

**Golf Tournament** at Riverwalk next to the Hotel. Cost: \$95.00, which includes cart fee, green fee, and range balls plus 20% discount on purchases in the Golf Shop.

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Registration Desk open.

6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

**Welcome Reception** hosted by DLPSW No. 15: “Boys and Girls Beach Party” around the pool. Live music, hors d’oeuvres. No host bar with one complimentary drink per guest.

## **SATURDAY JULY 1**

9.00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

**Canada Day.**

Registration Desk Open.

1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M

**Opening Ceremony** with greetings, presentation of flags and introductions.

2:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Coffee. Sessions for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

7:00 P.M.

**Informal Banquet.** “A Swedish Rhapsody.” Swedish cuisine, entertainment and dancing. Cost: \$59.00. No host bar opens 6:00 P.M.

## **SUNDAY JULY 2**

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Free day for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

**San Diego City Tour.** A fully narrated tour takes us to spectacular sights in San Diego, Coronado, and La Jolla. We will see the famous Hotel del Coronado; experience the beauty of the Pacific Ocean coastline in La Jolla; visit Old Town, the “birthplace” of California; and make a stop at the historic Gas Lamp Quarters. We will finish up in beautiful Balboa Park, America’s largest urban cultural park, and enjoy a nice box lunch, a stroll in the park, and “kaffe med dopp” at the House of Sweden. Cost: \$40.00.

## **MONDAY JULY 3**

9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Sessions for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

6:15 P.M. – 10:30 P.M.

**Sea World Trip.** Meet killer whale Shamu and other amazing animals. Cost: \$55.00

**Theater Package:** “A Midsummer Nights Dream” at the Old Globe Theatre. Box dinner and a welcoming introduction before the performance. Special package price: \$39.00.

## **TUESDAY JULY 4**

8:30 A. M. – 4:30 P.M.

**Independence Day.** Free day for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

**San Diego Historical Sites and Museums Tour.** During this narrated tour we will visit Historic Cabrillo Park, the Maritime Museum, and the old Mission Alcalá; enjoy a late lunch at Seaport Village on the Bay; and shop and stroll around in the Village. Cost: \$59.00.

7:30 P.M.

**Spectacular Evening Cruise in San Diego Harbor.** To celebrate 4th of July, we will watch fireworks over the Bay, have hors d’oeuvres and dance. Cost: \$25.00. No host bar.

## **WEDNESDAY JULY 5**

8:30 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Sessions for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

**Bus Trip to the Old Gold Mining Town of Julian.** Visits to wineries, sight seeing, lunch. On the return trip we will stop at Viejas Casino with many **Outlet Shops**. Cost: \$35.00.

## **THURSDAY JULY 6**

Non-Delegates

Sessions for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.

A day for relaxing around the pool, going to the beach, shopping, riding around on the trolley, or strolling in beautiful San Diego.

7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P. M.

**Cultural and Membership Seminars.**

## **FRIDAY JULY 7**

6:00 P.M.

Sessions and Installation of the new Grand Lodge Officers.

7:00 P.M.

Photo Opportunities and Cocktail Hour.

**Grand Banquet** with entertainment and dancing. Cost: \$69.00, includes wine.

# DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

## DL Rhode Island #3

Rhode Island District #3, V.O.A., held their annual Toys for Children drive, sponsored by The Kristina Club #161 on December 4th. Price of admission was a new unwrapped toy. The members were quite generous and we donated toys to several different agencies. The children danced around the Yule tree. They put on a skit baking the buns for Lucia, and finished the performance with a St. Lucia Pageant and singing carols. Youth Supervisor, Mrs. Beverly Jernquist Cianfarani, assisted by Karen Soderberg-Gomez, GLD, Cultural Leader Lily Zarli and Edna Wilson on the piano, led the children in song and dance. A week later her daughter had a surprise party for her at Vasa Music Hall. Beverly is a member of Pioneer Lodge #506, the District Deputy from Pioneer to Svea Lodge #362 and Youth Supervisor for many years. Beverly was heard saying, "How many birthdays is one suppose to have?"

Submitted by: Ray Johnson

## DL Pacific Southwest #15



District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15 held its Joint Installation of Local Lodge Officers at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Los Alamitos under the sponsorship of Evening Star Lodge #426.

District Master Deborah Kenshalo, along with all the District Officers, installed the Local Lodge Officers in a beautifully executed ceremony with a musical accompaniment by District Musician LeRoy Anderson.

Following the Installation, everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner, prepared by Vice District Master Steven Leigard and his family.

Submitted by: Thomas Jahn



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# NEWS FROM LODGES

## Brage-Iduna Lodge #9 Springfield, MA

The energetic young members of Three Crowns Swedish Children's Club #199 were the center of attention throughout the Lucia celebration presented December 11 in Springfield, MA. Well over 100 persons attended the annual Luciafest sponsored by Brage-Iduna Lodge #9.

The colorfully flag-decorated sanctuary of Bethesda Lutheran Church added a "great hall" effect to the pageantry of the Lucia ceremony. The entire cast included seven Star Boys dressed in traditional white costumes just purchased in Sweden, six girls in Lucia's court, and six charming little tomtar dressed in red. Recitations in both English and Swedish recalled the cherished legend portraying

Lucia as a bringer of light and hope to all mankind.

Everyone then moved to the social hall where a Christmas tree was adorned with Swedish ornaments. Refreshments and "kaffe" were brought to the gaily decorated tables. The children's club performed their favorite Scandinavian folk dances and seasonal songs. A ring dance 'round the tree led to the långdans with many of the audience joining in. The splendid festivity was capped off with Santa appearing with his sack of goodies for the youngsters.

This year's Lucia was Stina Nilsson, a senior at E. Longmeadow H.S. who is a first honors student and member of the National Honors Society. She enjoys playing clarinet, and on the tennis team was Western Mass. champion in a tournament last spring. As a Swedish-speaking member of Children's Club, she often assists club leader Marcia Peterson



*Stina Nilsson and star boys lead the Procession in Brage-Iduna Lodge's Luciafest.*

Radner and lodge chairperson Ingrid Caine at meetings. Since moving to the U.S. at age 4 with parents Åsa and Per Nilsson, Stina has visited relatives in Sweden each summertime.

While now applying to colleges here in the U.S., she also hopes to be an exchange student to Sweden for one year.

**Submitted by: John Morgan**

## Göta Lejon #84 Celebrates 100 Years

Yorktown, NY

Wow! 100 years – that's really old. Until this past summer, I'd never met anyone that was 100 or older, but then I had the opportunity to meet and visit with Ruth Winblad. She's a 100-year-old woman from Chicago who was a singer and dancer in her earlier years and now entertains as a clown. Her enthusiasm and energy are amazing. You wouldn't believe it unless you saw her, but, yes, she was riding a unicycle the week I met her. It certainly changed my opinion about what 100-year "old" people can do.

Just like Ruth, Lodge Göta Lejon is still rolling along with enthusiasm, unlike other lodges, which have disbanded before reaching the age of 100. Karl Sandberg of Lodge Three Crowns #38 of Stamford, Connecticut and Emil Hultberg organized Lodge Göta Lejon #84 on August 15, 1905, in Mt. Vernon, NY. The lodge flourished in Mt. Vernon for many years and in 1975 the decision was made to move to Northern Westchester County. The lodge currently meets at Grace Lutheran Church in Yorktown Heights.

Although we are not a large lodge, we are very active. Our enthusiasm for seeing the Vasa Order continue is evident by the fact that three of our members are on the District Executive Board (District

Chairman Margaret Lindblom, District Treasurer Dennis Johnson, and District Cultural Leader Karen Snowberg).

At a gala dinner dance on November 6th, 2005, many Vasa friends from other lodges joined us as Göta Lejon celebrated and paid tribute to all our members past and present and their accomplishments on behalf of the lodge. We gave thanks to the Vasa Order for traditions passed to further generations, for friendships woven with our common background,

and for help and friendship given to our older members who are living out their final days among us.

Abraham Lincoln said, "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." There's been a lot of life in Göta Lejon's years and we pledge to continue into our second one hundred years with the same spirit with which our early members founded the lodge.

**Submitted by: Karen Snowberg**



*Front (L-R): Karen Snowberg, Art Peterson, Barbara Peterson, Louise Hall, Margaret Lindblom, Ellen Osterling, Beverly Dyckman, Ragnhild Holmquist, Janet Haggblom, Amy Johnson, Greta Upham, Jennifer Morgenthaler, Alice Johnson. Back: Don Jacobson, Ralph Lindblom, Grace & Dennis Johnson, Vincent Hall, Andreas Aarbo, Eric Holmquist, Henning Haggblom, Bob & Christine Morgenthaler, and John Karlson.*

## Freja Lodge #100

White Plains, NY

Nothing perks up a business meeting quite so much as having a guest speaker. At Lodge Freja's October meeting, we welcomed Richard Snowberg and his wife Jan who were visiting from LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Richard has taught classes in genealogy research, but is also a professional caring clown. Richard not only performs in hospitals, but travels all over the country teaching others to become caring clowns and setting up caring clown units for hospitals. His talk to the lodge explained how his interests in clowning and magic became a family affair and led him to Sweden where he met a great uncle who interested him in the field of genealogy for the first time.



(L-R) Chairman Jennifer Dreaper, Jan Snowberg, Richard Snowberg, Karen Snowberg.

In November we were happy to have Jeanne Widman, the Swedish American of the Year, speak at our meeting. Jeanne is certainly not a stranger to the lodge, but this is the first time she has spoken to us rather than playing accordion. She told of her experiences in Sweden this summer where she was honored at various Swedish American celebrations in Värmland and in Stockholm.

Jeanne returned in January to lead the music for Freja's annual *Julgrans-plundring* party, held this year on January 14th. We enjoyed a *smörgåsbord* and



Jeanne Widman

then worked off some of the calories by dancing around the Christmas tree one last time before the kids plundered it of all its edible ornaments and the men threw the tree out the door. Farewell to Christmas for another year!

Submitted by: Karen Snowberg

## North Star Lodge #106

Los Angeles, CA



Erika Johansson

Erika Johansson was North Star Lodge #106, Los Angeles, CA, Lucia for the Jul Fest 2005. Erika, a very proud 11-1/2 year old, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Johansson, and the granddaughter of Karl and Dolly Johansson, staunch members of North Star.

Erika performed her role as Lucia following North Star's traditional dinner. She was accompanied by a group of pretty maidens and star boys.

Erika's sister, Amanda, was Lucia in 2003.

In January North Star Lodge #106 celebrated its 99th anniversary at Petrelli's Rest. It was an occasion to celebrate in style, as it was exactly on the date of the lodge's inception in the year of 1907.

North Star was the first VOA lodge situated west of the Allegheny Mountains. The lodge was instituted with 49 charter members present. Their average age was 29 years and all but two were born in Sweden.

Today we have 132 members, 21 born in Sweden. Up until 1946, the meetings were conducted in Swedish and the original handwritten meeting minutes still exist.

Over the years we had a drill team, the Children's Club SVEA that was formed in 1924, and but for the depression in the '30s and World War II, met continuously until 1964. And our Star Sewing Society (later under the name of North Star's Women's Club), formed in 1926 and today groups of ladies continue working on handmade articles and decorations, and especially playing cards!

We had a "Go Western" theme and many came in western attire. CH Erik Lindberg welcomed some 70 guests and members. Much credit must be given to our CL Elvera Gregory who planned and set into motion this happy day event.

We thank DM Debbie Kenshalo and GL Deputy Jacqueline Ahlen and the many chairmen of local lodges. Mayflower CH Kurt Olafsson brought 20 of their members! We sure appreciate the many lodges that attended. Thank you!

Our meal was sumptuous, entertainment by the Scintillating Seniors who sang and danced. Birgit had made cute cowboy boot magnet decorations, Elvera the centerpiece.

Peggy Pages read a short history of our 99-year existence. Lil Hoglund was presented with her past chairman's pin for serving three consecutive years as Financial Secretary. Congratulatory messages and greetings from the various lodges were read.

It truly was a wonderful, stupendous event! Arrangements are being made for our next year's 100th event.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton



Lil Hoglund, Financial Secretary, receives her Past Chairman's pin at North Star #106 99th Anniversary, presented by Ch. Erik Lindberg.

## Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

Hello from THULE LODGE #127, where we are enjoying a mild winter, and we are looking forward to the spring and summer seasons.

Our lodge chairman Robert Fuller, welcomed all into the New Year, and held the first meeting of the year with the theme "something new." Members brought in something new in their lives, such as cultural leader Fanchon Fuller showing a new felted hat, Allie Nelson Withers showing a photographic memory booklet prepared just for her, secretary Lucile Marsh showing a bright purple robe, and financial secretary Donna Sandberg showing two Christmas season Swedish dolls.

Lodge historian John Sipos presented to the lodge the annual report consisting of photographs of events from the previous year, articles, and records. Thule Lodge keeps historical records at the lodge for all to view.

New York #4 Past District Master Edwin Sandberg presented the Vasa Order of America Scholarship Certificate to Lisa Drezek. Ms. Drezek was the recipient of the scholarship, and Sandberg read the letter of recognition to all. Ms. Drezek is the granddaughter of long time Thule Lodge member Maurene House, and the late Ernest F. House, who had served as chairman of the lodge. Ms. Drezek is currently studying at the

University of Maryland completing graduate work on speech pathology. Ms. Drezek thanked the lodge for their support in her studies.

At the New Year's meeting, yellow split pea soup was prepared by cultural leader Fuller, and a special cake by financial secretary Sandberg. Don Carlson serves as the vice chairman, and Diane Shaw is the chaplain. Susan Sipos serves as the inner guardsman, and Gene Diamond is the outer guardsman.

Everyone at the Thule Lodge #127 wish all a wonderful spring season. If you are in our area, we would be happy to visit with you. "God dag" to all!

Submitted by: John Sipos



Maurene House, Rhonda Drezek, Lisa Drezek, scholarship recipient, and Robert Drezek.

## Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA



Taylor Hurwitz

Tegnér Lodge #127, Oakland, CA, chose Taylor Hurwitz as its 2005 Lucia. She is the daughter of Janel Hill and Roger Hurwitz of Portland, OR, and granddaughter of Past Chairman Marie-Ann Hill. She is an eighth grader at Arden School. Taylor is an excellent student with a special interest in writing. She is involved in many school activities, service and community projects, e.g., Special Olympics, the Annie Rose Homeless Shelter, Earthquake Relief in Pakistan, and many more.

This past summer Taylor traveled in Europe, visiting many countries. She is a competitive swimmer and a member of the track team. She likes all outdoor activities, especially hiking.

At Tegnér Lodge #149's December Lucia Program, Shelby L. Nordendahl

read the following poem which she had written. Shelby, 9 years old, is the granddaughter of members Doris and Bill Nordendahl and niece of Tegnér's Chairman Laura Nordendahl. Shelby has been taking part in the lodge's Lucia program since she was six months old when she was pulled at the end of the procession in a little red wagon.

*Sankta Lucia – The Queen of Light  
For many years I have practiced the song,  
And to walk with solemn stride  
Some day soon, I'll be old enough to wear the  
crown  
And a red sash on my gown of white.*

*Sankta Lucia is a part of the past,  
And hope for the future bright.  
As long as we remember our history  
There will be Lucia, the Queen of Light.*

*Sweden is far but it lives in our hearts,  
It will not be forgotten here.  
The smell of ginger and saffron fills the house,  
And we think of family dear.*

*Soon, very soon, I'll be old enough  
To wear the crown with candles bright.  
Then I will lead the parade of girls in white  
gowns  
And be Lucia, the Queen of Light.*

Shelby L. Nordendahl

Tegnér Lodge #149 held its Christmas smörgåsbord and Lucia Program, Dec. 11, 2005, with 65 members and guests present.

Submitted by: A. Tennis

## Drott Lodge #168

Washington, DC

On Sunday, December 11th, 2005, Drott members were treated to a lovely rendition of Sankta Lucia. After Karin Alexis Frenze told the Story of St. Lucia, Linnea Mullenbach, the 2005 St. Lucia, dressed in white with a red sash and a wreath of lighted candles on her head, led the procession of attendants. The Tärnorna, or St. Lucia attendants included Lisa Butler, Maija Butler, Maj-Britt Kristina Frenze, Annika Fagerstrom, Kara Fagerstrom, Caroline Peters, Elena Claire Remez, Marisa Selina Remez, Chloe Shalranis, and Kirsten Springer. Two Stjärngossar or Star Boys, followed, David and Thomas Weeden. At the end of the procession were four Swedish Elves, or Tomtar, Kerstin Fagerstrom, Luke Hols-claw, Caroline Karsner, and David Shaltanis. Kristi Johnson and the Drott Singers provided music including

Continued on page 13

## DROTT LODGE #168

*Continued from page 12*

Sankta Lucia; Goder Afton, Lasse Lella, and Stilla Natt, Heliga Natt. The children in the procession sang "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and the St. Lucia Queen presented the Lucia Verse and the Advent Verse. After the recession Karin Weeden led the dance around the Christmas tree.



*Linnea Mullenbach*

### **Linnea Mullenbach, 2005 Lucia**

Linnea is a junior at Georgetown Day High School in Washington, DC, where she rows competitively on her school's crew team. She is fluent in Swedish, having studied Swedish since the fourth grade with a private tutor during the school year and attending Sjölundén at Concordia Language Villages for six summers, the past two in the credit program. In summer 2005, Linnea was the recipient of the District's Sjölundén scholarship.

During summer of 2006 Linnea will attend Concordia Language Villages' first Scandinavian abroad program, visiting Norway on her way to Sweden. She would like to return to Sjölundén as a counselor and working with the sailing program that was introduced in the summer of 2005.

Linnea has traveled to Sweden with her family to visit relatives since she was 7 years old and plans to take a year following high school graduation to attend a college in Sweden, before returning to college in the US. Linnea studies French and Japanese and would like to become a pediatric orthopedic surgeon. She is the daughter of Hugh and Linda Mullenbach.

**Submitted by: Betty M. Johnson**

## Oscars Borg Lodge #172

**Philadelphia, PA**

In October of 2005, Oscars Borg Lodge member Virginia Swedberg received the Merit Award from the Swedish Council of America for her outstanding volunteer activities. Virginia's energy and ideas have helped the American Swedish Historical Museum (ASHM) of Philadelphia in implementing its programs and events.

Virginia has been a member of ASHM since 1965 and is a former president of the Auxiliary, where she served two two-year terms. She is currently a member of ASHM's Board of Governors, Co-Chair of the Membership Committee, and a member of the Swedish Museum Singers.

In Oscars Borg Lodge, Virginia currently serves as Inner Guard. She is also a member of the Colonial Society of Philadelphia and the Swedish American Historical Society in Chicago.

**Submitted by: Karen Seaman**



*Virginia Swedberg receives Merit Award from Swedish Council of America.*

*Photo by: Alfred Pfaff*

## Skandia Lodge #247

**Pasadena, CA**



*The Kitchen Cleaning Committee - a very important group: Jackie Ahlen, Lori Wennbo's friend Anthony, Betty Holm, Dorothy Lepisto, Nel Solt, and Kathleen Ahlen Demarjian.*

Skandia Lodge #247, Pasadena, CA, enjoyed an outstanding Christmas celebration at the Annual Lucia Pageant at the lodge.

The December meeting included the initiation of several new members. With Robert and Edward Yankowsky serving as Masters of Ceremony, the lodge welcomed Lori Wennbo's mother and Robert and Edward's grandmother, Mary Mancil; the third generation of the Orcutt family, Kirsten; the third generation of the Ahlen family, Kristen Demarjian; and Ulla Cortez. Welcome to our new members and thanks to the officers who have served so well during the 2005 term.

**Submitted by: Dr. Jacqueline Ahlen**

## Facklan Lodge #248

Mission Hills, KS

The Facklan Lodge #248 of Vasa hosted the 2005 Christmas celebration this year. The Christmas party was held on the 9th of December at the First Lutheran Church in Mission, Kansas. This is the fourth year that the Danish Lodge and the Swedish Lodge have joined together to celebrate Christmas together, alternately hosted by the Danish and then the Swedish lodge. The celebration opened with the Santa Lucia celebration and included the grandchildren of members of the Vasa Lodge of Paul and Carolyn Sorensen and Jordan and Helen Ekberg-Ott. The pageantry of Santa Lucia was followed by a wonderful Scandinavian meal catered by the Gourmet Grocer, Tom Anderson. After the meal, Ms. Nancy Sandehn told the story of the Tomte with a presentation of



The Santa Lucia pageantry group includes left to right: Back row: Jeremy Behler, Nicklas Ott, Kai Chapin, Extra Back. Middle row: Alexis Erikson, Gabrielle Back, Meghan Webb, and Heidi Ott. Front Row: Jakob Ott

the story with pictures from the book projected on the screen. Singing of Scandinavian songs and Christmas carols



Heidi Ekberg-Ott and Rachael Sorensen.

lead by V.G. Johnson on the piano followed the story of the Tomte.

Submitted by: Dean Larsen

## Svea Lodge #253

Indianapolis, IN

On December 11, 2005 members of Svea Lodge #253 gathered at the Riviera Club in Indianapolis to celebrate St. Lucia Day. The celebration began with a social hour followed by the St. Lucia Processional, choral music in both Swedish and English was provided by a choir of members led by Linnea Leatherman. A typical Smorgasbord followed. After dinner Jultomten, Dan Anderson, treated the children to a visit.



Laura DeLuca

The evening was complete after Dans Nordens leader John Seest and cultural leader Iva Lynn had the children and adults dance typical Scandinavian folk dances.

Our Lucia this year was Laura DeLuca, Granddaughter of Charlotte Svensson, and Chairman of our club. Laura is a seventh grader at Clay Middle School. When Laura is not involved with her studies she enjoys rock climbing.

Thanks to all our members who volunteered their time and talents to make this a fun and entertaining evening.

Members of Lodge #253 were once again entertained and educated by their fellow members. During November's business meeting we were treated to a presentation directed and narrated by Ed Hutland about the Vikings of Gotland. Several members dressed and reenacted their roles as Vikings. These members were Sophie Anderson as a weaver, Dan Anderson as a poet and Ron Gardin as a longboat builder. Jean Bang explained the jewelry and adornment worn by the Vikings. Carol Atherton went over Viking artwork, and Joella Hutland went over the typical foods, and brought home made think crisp bread. We were even visited by "Horn blower the Horrible" a.k.a. Wesley Hansen who created his very own instrument using 10 feet of gar-

den hose and a trombone mouthpiece. It really worked. We look forward to more of these fun presentations given by our talented members.

Submitted by: Michelle Escalante



"Hornblower the Horrible," Wesley Hansen.

## Nobel Lodge #288

Moline, IL

Nobel Lodge #288, Moline, IL, held their annual Christmas Dinner on Thursday, December 1, 2005, at Salem Lutheran Church, Moline. We were happy to have with us many visiting guests: District Master Sten Hult and Nancy, District Deputy Roger Anderson and Judy, Archives Manager Richard and Lillimor Horngren and daughter Lisa, and members of the Bishop Hill Lodge #683, Chairman Sally Nelson and Harland, Rollie and Carol Krause, and Kathryn Carlson.

Our evening was a wonderful dinner of great food brought by the membership. We were happy to have with us that evening Lisa Horngren who played the nyckelharpa for us. Lucia for the evening was our new member Sarah Tollenauer, granddaughter of members Bruce and Audrey Skoglund. Entertainment was the Girl Scout Troop from the church who sang Christmas carols and read some Christmas stories. We were honored to have District Master Sten Hult present to help present our membership awards for the year – 40 years Reichert Harry Jacobsen and 60 year pins to Betty Thompson and Mae Johnson.

The evening ended with door prizes given to all present. Installation of Officers was held with the installation of our new Vice Chairman Linda Lootens, as all the other officers will retain their office for the coming year.

Submitted by: Margaret Esken

## Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA



Tyler Keller

Our 40th annual Lucia Festival was held December 11 at the Bethany Lutheran Church. Dorothy Overberg, Chair of Svea Lodge, welcomed all. Our Lucia was Amanda Lucente, Star Boy was Zachary Byers and Christ Kindle was Nicole Bardwell. Lois Jordan narrated and Les Fobes was the “old” Jul Tomte. The young tomtes were the smiling children of our families. Wallace Wiese was accompanist. The program included narration and carols. Afterward, everyone

trouped into Fellowship Hall for “Kaffe Och Dopp” - Swedish refreshments with Lucia buns and cookies. Lucia poured the punch. How lovely the decorated tables looked. There was a Swedish boutique selling all types of imported gifts and decorations that no one could resist. Despite inclement weather, there was a large crowd for the festivities which heralded the start of the Christmas season.



Submitted by: Lucia Manda Lucente and Lynnette Linda Collin Donnelly.



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## Omaha Lodge #330

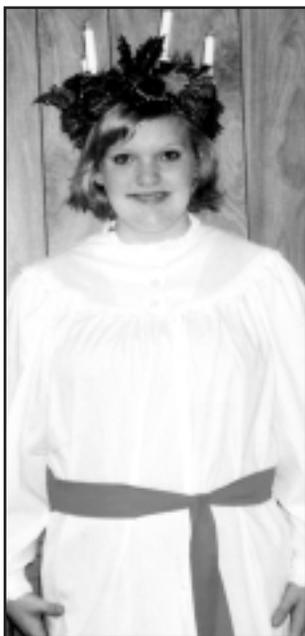
Omaha, NE

Santa Lucia Day was celebrated by Vasa Lodge #330 on Sunday, December 11. Lauren Matson, daughter of Carolyn Matson and granddaughter of Ferne Matson, both lodge members, served as Lucia. Lauren is a junior at North High School in Omaha, NE. She is active in her church youth group and in Job's Daughters having served as honored queen.

She was attended by Emmalie and Samantha Bettin and Kaitlyn Bettin, granddaughters of member Darlene Bettin and Erin Clough, granddaughter of member Marlene Clough.

Kimberly and Edward Pearce entertained members and guests with a program of Swedish and Christmas music.

Submitted by: June Söderlund



Lauren Matson

## Balder Lodge #343

Eureka, CA

Elizabeth Hedlund portrayed Saint Lucia at December's Lucia Julfest program. Her attendant maids were Nina Carson, Imogene Carson, Eva Hamer, Line Klinke, and Anna Nordquist, exchange student from Denmark, and Soili Rautanen, exchange student from Finland. Staffan was Stefan Terpening. The Star Boys were Oscar Carson, Robin Lancaster and Logan Lancaster.

Talented Soili Rautanen played a classical selection on violin and Line Klinke played solo piano. A brass and wind trio, Nina Carson on tenor sax, Eva Hamer on trombone and Elizabeth Hedlund on trumpet, performed musical selections.

All joined in singing Christmas carols, then danced around the Christmas tree and throughout the hall building. Santa Claus (Bob Berg) paid a visit, handing out gifts of candy and fruit.

Thanks are due Siw Berg for the lovely program, Dorothee Lancaster for the colorful table decorations, Christian Nielsen for the Christmas tree, John Olson for helping Christian decorate it, and all the members who brought refreshments.

Beginning in January, members will meet at the Danish Hall in Ferndale. Over the years, meetings have been held at various locations in Eureka since the lodge's formation in 1916. Many members of Balder also belong to Dania Valhalla and Ydun Lodges, owners of the Danish Hall, located 20 minutes south of Eureka in Ferndale, the Victorian Village.

Visit Balder's web site ([vasaorder.net/?lodge=343](http://vasaorder.net/?lodge=343)) for news, photos and directions.

Submitted by: DTC

## Svea Lodge #348 and Lindberg Lodge #494

San Jose, CA and Palo Alto, CA

Svea Lodge #348 (San Jose) and Lindberg Lodge #494 (Palo Alto) had a combined Installation of Officers. Lindberg hosted this event.

The evening began with socializing in the dinner hall. A few small appetizers led to the main course. The "lite dinner" turned out to be an endless number of potato/ham casseroles and salads. After the desserts and coffee it was a good time to move into the Installation hall.

Anita Peterson and Kerstin Jansson, the Deputies of Svea and Lindberg respectively, guided us through the ceremony. This was a big Installation, as both lodges installed new Presidents: Lindberg celebrated Birgitta Kellgren and installed Robert Wiklander. Svea celebrated Axel Jonasson and installed Mona Clements.

We enjoyed a Tap Dance presentation by Lindberg's own Gerard Blaufarb. His oversized Red, White, and Blue Top Hat and matching costume, added to the music and energy filled presentation.

Both Incoming Presidents had good words for all in attendance, and Robert Wiklander ably concluded this event. It was good to see both familiar and new people at the Installation Ceremony.

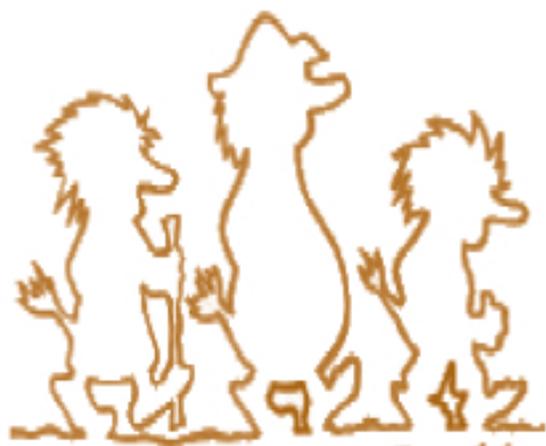
Submitted by: Ty Swanson

Vasa Star March-April 2006



Elisabeth Hedlund

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## Solidaritet Lodge #396

Mount Vernon, WA



Pictured from left to right: Allison Papritz, Klarissa Smith, Hannah Bressler, "Lucia" Taylor Melum, Amanda Acton, Kyleha Smith, Hanna Densmor, star boys: Henrick and Jorey Papritz.

Solidaritet Lodge #396, Mount Vernon, WA, celebrated our 85th Anniversary, Lucia and Christmas on December 11, 2005, at our own Vasa Hall with around 80 people present.

As usual we started with a happy hour so everyone could be acquainted with each other.

A beautiful *smörgåsbord* was awaiting us and the food committee really worked hard to get everything in a festive mood.

When the last person got a bowl of *risgrönsgröt* and a piece of our anniversary cake, it was time for the drawing of door prizes. Including a special drawing among the children for a gingerbread house, made by Taylor Melum. The winner was Klarrisa Smith.

Taylor Melum entered as our 2005

Lucia, followed by her attendants while Rebecca Heilig sang the *Lucia sång* and *Staffansvisan* in Swedish. Then everyone sang *Nu tändas tusen Juleljus* and *Stilla Natt*.

Majken Warns, Taylor's *mormor*, presented the Lucia with a beautiful necklace, purchased in Sweden. After the ceremony the children passed our Christmas goodies to all.

We ended our celebrations by dancing around the Christmas tree to the tunes of Swedish ring dances played on an accordion by Curt Tviet and by singing Christmas carols led by Bob Wieneke.

Tomten appeared with gifts to *alla snälla barn*. After a full evening everyone wished each other a *God Jul*.

Submitted by: Majken Warns

## Evening Star Lodge #426

Los Alamitos, CA



On Saturday, December 17, 2005, at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Los Alamitos, Evening Star Lodge

#426 celebrated its 83rd Anniversary to an SRO audience. Included in the program, was a wonderful Christmas

party and a magnificent presentation of the Lucia Pageant by the Morning Star Children's Club #172 with Lucia Katie Spaberg. The Children's Club sang many traditional Christmas songs and offered many beautiful Yuletide poems.

Many thanks go to Gunlog Spaberg, our Children's Club supervisor and her assistants Elizabeth and Tom Stauffer and Joachim Vance. Tom accompanied the children's songs with wonderful guitar music. Elizabeth and Joachim started as children in the Morning Star Children's club and their help was invaluable.

Following the Lucia Pageant, a traditional Swedish Dinner was prepared and served to all by Ann-Marie Vance and her staff followed by dancing around the Christmas tree and the coming of *Tomten*.

It was wonderful to have so many dignitaries attended our program.

Submitted by: Thomas Jahn

## Sveaborg Lodge #449

Concord, CA

Teresa Fassel was the Lucia at the annual *Julfest* held by Sveaborg Lodge #449, VOA, recently. The celebration, attended by 120 members and friends, featured a tasty *smörgåsbord* and of course, *glögg*.

Sveaborg is proud of its children club, *Vasablad*, directed by Rosemary Fassel. Twenty-one of the children participated in the Lucia and sang Swedish songs.

Finally Santa Claus (Erik Wernes) arrived with gifts for the children.

Submitted by: Bob Burman



Teresa Fassel

Photo by: Rosemary Fassel

## Austin Lodge #466

Chicago, IL

Rabeca Soderblom, 19, sophomore at North Park University, psychology major, represented Austin Lodge #466 at the Daley Center in Chicago for Lucia Festival of Lights, Ebenezer Lutheran Church and The Swedish American Museum. Rabeca was in Varblomman Children's Club for 8 years. While a member she was chosen to represent the club as Lucia in 1999. She and her family went on a trip to Sweden with the club. Rabeca also attended Sjolunden, Swedish Language Village at Concordia College for two years.

Submitted by: June Soderblom



Rabeca Soderblom

## Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI

The annual and traditional Lucia celebration was performed by Skansen Children's Club. Our 2005 Lucia was 8th grader Lauren Collins, accompanied by attendants and star boys. Fellowship afterward included open-faced sandwiches, *lussekatter*, cookies and other goodies and refreshments. The children performed some well-known and dear dances, such as *Väva Vadmal*, *Trekarls polka*, and *Oxdansen*. Santa Claus was a dear visitor, and to finish the evening dancing around the Christmas tree took place. We had a successful raffle with the proceeds to support the hosting of the 2007 District Convention in Milwaukee.

We had the Annual *Julgransplundring* by Skansen, this event is the official "throw-the-Christmas-tree-out." You dance one last time around the tree - then plunder it of all its goodies, such as candy filled weaved hearts, *julgrans karameller*, *pepparkaks hjärtan*, etc.

An upcoming event is the serving of Swedish pancakes at Scandinavian Fest at Hales Corners Lutheran Church on May 6, 2006.

*Midsommar* will again be celebrated

with the SAHS of Wis. in Old World Wisconsin on June 25, 2006. We have a special surprise direct from Sweden - the Husarkvartetten from Höganäs.

We are encouraging and welcoming anyone that can make it to our events. For more info - contact Lisa Ekstrand [lekstrand@wi.rr.com](mailto:lekstrand@wi.rr.com).

Submitted by: Lisa Ekstrand



Lauren Collins

## Lindbergh Lodge #494

Los Altos, CA

We are perhaps a little tardy in doing so (for which I take sole responsibility), but first we must say we are very proud of Birgitta Kellgren becoming the District Master of District Lodge #12 and of Tore Kellgren serving as a representative of the District Lodge. Both have been very active in Lindbergh Lodge and we heartily congratulate them. We also congratulate Megan Wiklander who was awarded the 2005 District Lodge college scholarship of \$600 for her studies at Oregon State Univ. where she is now a junior.

At the end of September we had our yearly pick nick, this year down in Gilroy visiting Tom and Karen Kruse at their winery and vineyards. When we arrived, we first toured the vineyard and Tom showed us how to check the sugar content of the grapes. The vineyard is next to the winery and the old beautiful home, where Tom and Karen live. We tasted many of their wines while munching on our delicious snacks and lots of barbecued chicken. It tasted sooooo good with all the salads. Ended the meal with fruit, cake, cookies and coffee of course. The

setting was perfect with the vines, the trees and the golden hills behind it all.

We bought some wine and took off in the setting sun.

Our energetic District Master Birgitta Kellgren was there with her Tore. It was their anniversary that day and we celebrated it with them.

Submitted by: Tahir J. (T.J.) Naim



Megan Wiklander

## Hope Lodge #503

Seattle, WA

Our Vasa Hope Lodge #503, Seattle, WA, is proud of our many senior citizens who show up regularly at our monthly functions. Two of these were Hilda Krahn and Eric Anderson, pictured here at our lodge's Christmas Party on December 12, 2005.

Hilda was born on November 27, 1910 and celebrated her 95th birthday with 65 guests of family and friends at a Sunday Brunch at Anthony's Restaurant in Ballard. She was born in Ballard (a truly Scandinavian district of Seattle) where she has lived for 54 years in the same house she moved into in 1951. Hilda joined our lodge in 1961 and served as Chairman for the years 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Eric Anderson was born November 13, 1910, and joined our lodge in 1950, and was Chairman in 1957. He has had no infractions on his driver's license for 80 years and is proud that he passed his current driver's license test at age 95, and needing an 80 to pass, he received a score of 92! With an expiration date of 2010, Eric, you've got a long ways to go yet!

Congratulations to both of you two. You give us all an incentive to carry on

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## HOPE LODGE #503

*Continued from page 18*

and make the most of our lives as an inspiration to others.

**Submitted by: Elsie J. Busch**



*Hilda Krahn and Eric Anderson*

## Linnea Lodge #504

**Petaluma, CA**

Linnea Lodge held its Lucia Fest, Bazaar and Smörgåsbord Dec 11, 2005. The dinner and Bazaar items were made by the members, and enjoyed by the 200 in attendance. Highlight of the evening was the Lucia pageant led by Amy Brevick, daughter of Kristine and Dale Brevick of Fall City, WA, and granddaughter of Thelma and late Einar Jorgensen, members of Linnea Lodge.

Amy, a tall blonde freshman at Washington State University is a member of the women's rowing crew there. She led the 31 girls and boys in a beautiful procession on stage where each child was introduced and Amy gave a brief statement in Swedish.

There was singing and dancing around the tree and then Santa came with gifts for the children, a lovely evening for being a small Lodge.

**Submitted by: Thelma Jorgensen**



*Amy Kristine Brevick*

## Nordic Lodge #660

**Whittier, CA**



Destiny Lindgren, 17, was selected as the Nordic Lodge #660 Lucia for 2005. She is the daughter of Bob and Linda Lindgren and is a junior at Marina High School in Huntington Beach, CA.

Destiny's great-grandmother, Caroline Lindgren, and grandparents, Peter and Cynthia Lindgren, are members of Nordic #660. Destiny has other special connections with the Swedish community as well: Her cousin is Nobel Prize winner Glenn T. Seaborg due to her Great-Grandmother Caroline and Glen Seaborg, a prominent philanthropist in Orange County, California, having the same great-grandfather.

Seaborg received the Nobel Prize in

chemistry in 1951 for the discovery of plutonium. At one time he was engaged in the Manhattan Project, which developed the atomic bomb. He also served as chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, from 1958 to 1961, when President John F. Kennedy appointed him chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Destiny hopes to teach mathematics some day and enjoys such extra-curricular activities as keyboard, drama, sewing, crocheting, painting, and church work.

Destiny said she was "very honored" to be Lucia and is proud of her Swedish heritage.

**Submitted by: Carolyn E. Johnson**

## Satellite Lodge #661

**Kalamazoo, MI**

Satellite Lodge #661 celebrated their Lucia Pageant on December 18 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo, MI. Sarah Forsberg was St. Lucia. She is the daughter of Tom and Sue Forsberg and granddaughter of Marsh and Jan Forsberg, Vasa members. The court was Ingrid and Kaijsa Johnson, Annalise Piazza, Emma and Ericka Kehler-Lozon, Rachel Forsberg and Katie Groesbeck. The star boys were Ben Piazza and Lars Johnson. We sang many Christmas songs, several in Swedish, and Emma and Ericka Kehler Lozon played some Christmas songs on the piano.

After the Pageant, we danced several Swedish folk dances including the ox dance. True to our heritage we enjoyed fellowship with coffee, glögg, and a wide assortment of traditional Swedish sweets. Judy Ruser was the winner of the raffle, which was a beautiful Orrefors crystal tree ornament. Everyone had a great time.

**Submitted by: Janis Forsberg**



*Sarah Forsberg*

## Phoenix Lodge #677

Phoenix, AZ

Phoenix Lodge 677, District Arizona 21, held its annual Lucia Fest and Christmas Party on December 11. The lovely Roxanne Ross, 15, was the Lucia. She is the daughter of Dawn Ross and granddaughter of Roberta Anderson. Roxanne has been a participant in Lucia processions for many years, initially as a "tomte." Inga Korte, PDM, who is a cousin of grandmother Roberta, introduced her to the annual pageant. Roxanne will become a member in January, and wishes to pursue her interest in art.

Submitted by: Sam Lidén



Roxanne Ross

## Desert Viking Lodge #682

Cathedral City, CA

On Saturday, December 10, 2005, Desert Viking Lodge #682 presented its Lucia pageant at the United Methodist Church in Palm Springs, CA. The program consisted of Christmas story readings, the singing of Christmas carols and a traditional Swedish Meatball dinner prepared and served under the direction of our very own Viola Wyler. Tom Bartel was our Santa Claus for the event.

Our Lucia was Sarah Danielsson. Sarah is the 17-year-old granddaughter of



Sarah Danielsson

Stig and Lorraine Danielsson, who were part of the original group who founded Desert Viking Lodge almost 39 years ago.

Sarah is a senior at Calvary Christian High School in Ridecrest, CA. She plans to attend Masters College in Santa Clarita, CA, in the fall, working toward a teaching degree. Her interests include various crafts and she is proficient in sign language.

Submitted by: Wilson

## Bishop Hill Lodge #683

Bishop Hill, IL

There are so many different ways to share our Swedish and Nordic Heritage during our Vasa meetings. Some lodges like to do "things we have always done" while other lodges try different things. Both should be encouraged...keep doing what works for each lodge.

There are calls that the Vasa Order should be "modern" and to keep up with today's Nordic countries. Yes, of course this is a good thing. Such information is available on the Internet and the media and can be retrieved very easily.

How many times do we hear "I wish I had asked grandma about her life in Sweden and the relatives left there" or "Why did I not ask Grandpa about his woodworking skills or fishing in Sweden."

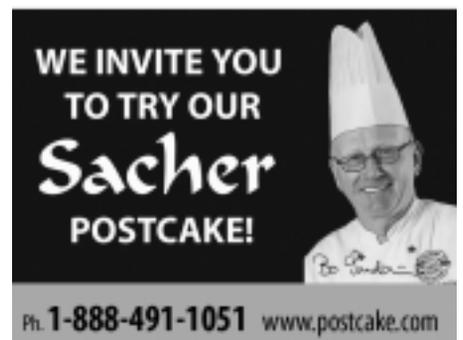
## SWEDEN'S SWEETEST LETTER

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If we concentrate solely on today's Sweden (in order to keep Vasa members interested and encourage the younger generations to join) our important heritage will soon be lost. It is thanks to members having been strong Vasa members for many years that the Vasa Order is still an important organization after more than 100 years.

One such important member in our lodge is Kathryn Carlson. At our last meeting she had been asked to talk about her Swedish background and her early Bishop Hill life. What a treat for us and what a wonderful evening we had listening to her experiences. Kathryn brought some wonderful items from her childhood for us to look at.

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## BISHOP HILL LODGE #683

*Continued from page 20*

Our chairman Sally Nelson has arranged to have many of our members speak about their heritage at our cultural

events this year. We are all looking forward to hearing them.

**Submitted by: L. Horngren**



*Kathryn Carlson brought some wonderful items from her childhood.*

## Cariboo Lodge #690

**British Columbia, Canada**

The Cariboo Lodge #690 of Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada, celebrated the Santa Lucia by having their youth and children perform the traditional Lucia at their Lodge. The Lucia for 2005 was Chelsay Horn with a younger Lucia Chloe Carre, and the star boys were Beau and Andy Baxter. Chelsay is 21 years old and in her third year in University majoring in history, and will be a teacher within 2 years. Chloe Carre is 8 years old and attends the Boucher Lake Elementary School. Beau is 10 years old and Andy is 8 years old and both attend the Barlow Creek Elementary School. All the children and youth are the grandchildren of Cariboo Lodge members living in Quesnel, British Columbia.

**Submitted by: Sandra Telford**



*Chelsay Horn, Beau Baxter, Andy Baxter and Chloe Carre.*

## Tuscon Lodge #691

**Tuscon, AZ**

Tuscon Lodge #691 held their Lucia Fest on December 10, 2005. Sarah Deardorff was chosen to be Lucia. Sarah is the granddaughter of Janet and Duane Deardorff. Janet's father and maternal grandparents emigrated from Sweden in the late 1800s. Sarah is 15 years of age is home-schooled. She has participated in Swedish folk dancing with the Vasa youth dance group for the past 10 years. Sarah especially enjoys drama and has had leading roles in a number of dramas produced by the Blake Acting Studio, a local youth drama group. Sarah and the Vasa youth dancers performed during the Lucia Fest.

**Submitted by: Janet Deardorff**



*Sarah Deardorff*

## Tre Kronor Lodge #713

**Salem, OR**

The Scandinavian 4-H Club and Tre Kronor Lodge #713 had four rehearsals on October 2, October 16, October 30, and November 13, 2005. We gave four Lucia performances.

At the performance on November 13, 2005, Caitlin Cameron was the Lucia Bride at an event presented at the Dallas First Christian Church in Dallas, Oregon. We followed with two performances where Kirstyn Young, Tre Kronor's Lucia Bride for 2005, performed with her court. The first performance was on December 3, 2005 in the Capitol Rotunda of the Oregon State Capitol Building in Salem, Oregon. The second was at the Salem Masonic Temple on December 4, 2005, at Tre Kronor's regular lodge meeting. Finally, on December 8, 2005, at the

*Continued on page 22*

## TRE KRONOR LODGE #713

*Continued from page 21*

Willamette Lutheran Retirement Community in Keizer, Oregon, a performance was held and Victoria Wilson was Lucia Bride. We had about 22 performers participate in the events.

*Kirstyn Young.* Granddaughter of Tre Kronor members Dick and Donna Young has been involved with Lucia courts since about age 2-3; for about 14 years now. Currently attends North Salem High School where she has a GPA of 3.86 and is in all honors classes. She has performed in orchestra (about 18 concerts) and is in a chamber orchestra. Kirstyn has been involved in several orchestra competitions (National Orchestra Competition in Reno, Nevada in 2004, four district competitions and two state competitions) and has also performed in four school plays. She volunteers in VBS and has helped in four orchestra camps, she also helps her mother, Lisa, in elementary school classroom. Kirstyn earned varsity letters in track, excels in basketball, javelin, and shot put. Her wish is to visit Norway and Sweden and learn the language some day.

*Caitlin Cameron.* Granddaughter of new Tre Kronor member Audrey Cameron and a member of the Scandinavian 4-H Club. Attends Cedar Park Middle School in Portland, Oregon

and has a 4.0 GPA. She has performed in seven concerts, plays basketball, some violin, performs in choir, volunteers in the library, and is active in 4-H. Caitlin loves to sing in Swedish. She earned blue ribbons in Polk County Fair for Scandinavian cultural displays.

*Victoria Wilson.* Sister of new Tre Kronor member Christine Wilson, is a member of the Scandinavian 4-H Club. Attends LaCreole Middle School in

Dallas, Oregon. She has a GPA of 3.7. Proficient in playing the piano, involved in theater with experience in plays and drama. Victoria also plays basketball and helps with the children's service at her church. She earned Reserve Grand Champion for the Scandinavian 4-H Club's poster entry at the Oregon State Fair. Victoria would like to travel to Denmark, learn Scandinavian languages, and prepare Scandinavian foods.

**Submitted by: Barry Ostrom**



## Birka Lodge #732

**Hamilton, MA**

Sara Ghika, daughter of Birka Lodge #732, Hamilton, MA, members, Eva and Vinnie Ghika of Hampton, NH, was the lovely and very proud Lucia at the annual Jul Fair held on November 26, 2005.

Sara, age 9, is a 3rd grade student and is also taking Swedish language classes at the Swedish School in Boston along with her brother, Niklas, age 7. She especially enjoys arts, music, gymnastics, and Girl Scouts.

A few of Sara's attendants were Sarah Williams (who will be the 2006 Lucia), Rayna, Mikala Halloran.

Sara's mother, Eva, was born in Stockholm and came to the U.S. in 1991 as an au pair.

**Submitted by: Lois M. Johnson**



*Sarah Williams, Sara Ghika, Rayna and Mikala Halloran.*

## Viking Lodge #735

Moorsetown, PA

The Lucia Singers of Viking Lodge #735, New Jersey District #6, VOA, sang a medley of Swedish Yule songs, Christmas carols, and, of course, "Sankta Lucia" as part of the 26th annual Lucia Fest held at Muhlenberg College's Edgar Chapel in Allentown, PA.

The event was sponsored by the faculty of the College and features the children of faculty members portraying Light Bearers, Folk Customs, Tomtegubbar, Star Children and, of course, Lucia. This year's Lucia was Anastassia Baldrige of Kutztown. The Lucia Singers have been performing in the pageant almost from its inception.

Following the Fest, members of Viking Lodge retired to the Scottish Rite Center in Allentown for their annual Christmas feast. Swedish meatballs, cheeses and hot glögg preceded the dinner which consisted of salmon, chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, carrots and pumpkin pie ala mode. Viking members Shirley Nylund and her daughters, Allison and Kristen, provided the dinner entertainment of Christmas carols and classical music performed on piano and flute.

The Muhlenberg Lucia Fest is modeled after the Lucia Fest performed at St. James Church in Kingsessing in West Philadelphia. It is one of the old Swedish churches located in the area that in colonial times was known as "New Sweden."

Viking Lodge is composed of over 90 members from throughout eastern Pennsylvania and western New Jersey. Membership is open to persons of Scandinavian background and their spouses. The group meets the third Sunday of each month at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Moorestown, PA. Persons interested in membership information should contact Mary and Jim Omdahl at 610-866-7548. Proceeds from lodge events primarily provide scholarships for high school students to attend Scandinavian language camps.

Submitted by: Lars Larmon



Some of the members of Viking Lodge 735's Lucia Singers surround this year's Muhlenberg College Lucia, Anastassia Baldrige of Kutztown. The Singers are, back row from left, Solveig Wills of East Stroudsburg, PA, Linda Michelson of Emmaus, PA, Bevin Scheirer of Reading, PA, and Ulla Dunkle of Alburtis, PA. In the front row, from left, are Nancy Thenstedt of Bethlehem, PA, Shirley Nylund and daughters Allison and Kristen Osborne, all of Macungie, PA, and Beryl Hellgren of Stroudsburg.

## Sierra Kronan Lodge #737

Roseville, CA

"Happy Times" describes this fall as they have brought many changes. We are enjoying our new meeting place at the Lions Club. We thank Walter Nickstrom for being instrumental in establishing us in our new surroundings.

We have been mixing business and pleasure as we voted for our 2006 slate of

officers. This was followed by initiating 6 new members – a very happy time indeed! We welcomed Blossom Baker, George & Del Cirelli, Agrman & Helen Eversen and Eric Swanson.

For our October meeting many wore Halloween costumes, which was fun in the American way. Our autumn weather

has been wonderful with its glorious colors. I remember how the Swedish countryside was golden with aspen trees. We have our maples and oaks turning here. Last year the Hutter family planned a Thanksgiving feast that was just spectacular. We had a great turnout and we were especially delighted to see Margitha Akerlund back after a very bad car accident, and this report wouldn't be complete without mentioning our semi-retired nurseryman Carl Pederson who made floral centerpieces in all glorious fall colors. It was a sight to behold! Ann Erickson, a real gardener in our midst, always adds to our table decorations. We surely are thankful for our great nation! A big "thank you" goes to Kathryn Morefield and her accordion. Her music was her gift to Helen Forsty who celebrated her 92nd birthday recently. Congratulations!

Submitted by: Ingrid Wistrom Herink

## Viking Lodge #756

Greenfield, MA

On December 11, 2005, Viking Lodge #756 held its annual Lucia pageant at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Greenfield, Mass. Our Lucia was Carlyn Perry, a member of St Paul's church.

We meet at the church and many Lodge members are also members of the church, so we invited the church members to be a part of our Lucia celebration. The audience was delighted by songs and solos from Lucia her attendants and the star boys. Silent Night was sung in 5 languages, and the audience joined in on the Swedish and English verses.

Viking member Nancy Pond accompanied on cello. Judd Blain told us the story of Lucia, and Torvald Kohlin was *Tomte Far*. Margareta Athey led our singing. Everyone enjoyed our Coffee, Lucia buns and Christmas cookies afterwards.

It is hard to believe that it was 5 years ago since we were instituted as Viking Lodge #756.

Most of the lodges in our district are 100 years old, so we are the "baby" in the Massachusetts District #2.

We celebrated our 5th anniversary with a *Korv* dinner. This has become a lodge event every year and we make about 100 pounds each time. We had 17 of our 33 members in attendance and 2 visitors from the District, Fred and Barbara Stuekeroth.

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## VIKING LODGE #756

Continued from page 23

Everyone enjoyed the *Korv*, mashed potatoes, and carrots, and especially the anniversary cake with coffee for dessert. Our Past Chairman,

and District Master, Phil Johnson who was in charge of the kitchen, prepared the meal.

Submitted by: Phil Johnson



Carlyn Perry

## Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

January 22, 2006 was our installation of new and re-installed officers. We had the help of District officers including Ruth Gregory, Grand Lodge Deputy, Pat Flippen, District Secretary and Scandia Lodge #728 Chairperson Maureen Anderson. One new member was installed his name is Bob Hansen.

We are doing personal biographies of our members. At the January meeting Nelson Cederberg, Janell Brainard and Vito Pantaleo were our special biographies. We had two visitors from Sweden, Charlotte and Sven Andren. The meeting concluded with wonderful refreshments of

herring, sandwiches, cookies, Jell-O and coffee and tea.

At our February 26, 2006 meeting Asta French taught the art of making Danish open-faced sandwiches, a delicious presentation. We got to eat the labors of our work. Yum!

In March we had a mini-fundraiser a white elephant raffle that Dennis Malarkey was in charge of.

Nadine Murphy presented a delightful talk on Easter in Sweden; his was our April 23, 2006 meeting. Nadine discussed customs, traditions, stories and food.

Submitted by: Kristin Boyes



Nordic Red Rocks Lodge at Scandia Lodge LuciaFest.

# SWEDISH NEWS

## Logen Enköping Nr 646

Enköping, Sweden

Under den 3 december 2005 firade Logen Enköping sitt Lucia loge möte. Kvällen innehöll ett hemlagat julbord av våra duktiga kommitterade Ingrid och Alan Tammerfors samt Lillemor Ericsson. Med välsmakande mat sjöng vi julen till. Efter maten satt vi oss tillrätta och fick njuta av vacker sång från vårt gästande Luciatåg som var Enköpings Folkdansgilles barn och ungdomsgrupp i ledning av Pernilla Hallström. Vår ordförande framförde logens varma tack tillsammans med applåder från övriga medlemmar.

Till kaffet hade vi vårt traditionella jul-loteri med många trevliga gåvor som var skänkta till logen av ordenssyskon. Ett varmt tack till alla dem som skänker gåvor till vår Ordens bästa.

Även i år hade vår medlem Börje Pettersson med hustru Gull-Britt givit ett vackert pepparkakshus som de dessutom själva vann vid utlottningen. Men till glädje för både logen och ordenssyskonen så skänkte de pepparkakshuset till den kommande auktionen under kvällen.

Vår DD Liberth Karlsson tog tillfället i akt att under kaffet presentera våra duktiga köksordenssyskon Ingrid Tammerfors och Lillemor Ericsson som arrangerat denna kväll med god mat och trevlig samvaro och som gör att alla känner att julen börjar nära sig.

Söndagen den 8 januari på Odd Fellows lokal var det dags för den årliga julgransplundringen. Ungefär 45 barn samt vuxna dansade och sjöng julen ut och i år fick man hjälp av Pernilla Hallström, som var gästande dansledare samt våra trevliga musikanter Taimi Johansson och "Leverstatorparn" Ivar Karlsson på piano och dragspel. Vi sjöng och dansade de välkända sångerna som ex. *Små groderna*, *Björnen sover* mm....

Innan dansen fick barnen gå till fiskdammen för att fiska upp varsin present och alla fick "napp". Efter att alla dansat sig varma till de välkända sångerna bjöd kommitterade Anne-Sofie Hjort och

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## LOGEN ENKÖPING NR 646

Continued from page 24



Elisabeth Agge på korv med mos samt kaffe, saft och kaka.

Efter ytterligare dans fick barnen se en röd toppluva utanför fönstret till lokalen, alla rusar till fönstret och ser en jultomte som kommer gående och vinkar till barnen med en stor säck på ryggen. Barnen ropade "Jultomten kommer!" och vinkar tillbaka till tomten under glada rop och skratt.

När tomten kom in undrade han i sedvanlig ordning om det fanns några snälla barn och satte sig ner för att vila. När han fick höra hur snälla barnen varit tog han upp varsin godispåse från sin säck och gav till dem som med förtjusning satt på golvet vid tomten och väntade. Strax innan han gick, gjorde vi den traditionella "raketen."

Dagen avslutades med en långdans i lokalen innan ordförande Karl-Erik Axelssons tackade våra musikanter och dansledare med applåder för deras insatser under dagen. Trötta men nöjda traskade barnen med föräldrar hem med vetskap om att om ett år kommer åter en jul.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge

Photo by: Elisabeth Agge



Familjen Shoemaker LL 563 kring jultomten. sonen Kevin får sitta hos tomten och är lycklig.

## Logen Carl von Linné Nr 678

Västervik, Sweden

Lördagen den 19 november 2005 firade logen Carl von Linné i Växjö sin 40-åriga födelsedag under festliga former. Många logesyskon hade hörsammat kallelsen, liksom många gästande syskon från flera loger i distriktet. Bland dem sågs MSLER Bertil Ericsson, DM 20 Åke Mellnert, HM 665 Stig Löfberg, HM 20-Karl-Eric Forrsander och logens DD Maj Svensson.

Jubileumslogen inleddes med en fanparad. Sy FDO Ingalill Rydén läste prologen, som är specialskriven för vår loge. Br. LH Göran Lundeberg berättade om hur logen startades och om instiueringen den 20 november 1965 på Stadshotellet i Växjö. Kuvertkostnaden var då 33 kronor för tre rätters måltid med viner och kaffe. Initiativtagare till den nya logen var dåvarande VDS 20 Stig Löfberg. Han var



För underhållning under banketten svarade Peter Bringselius som sjöng amerikansk folkmusik.

också vår förste DD. Logens förste ordförande var domkyrkokomminister Åke Rydeman som idag är den ende kvarvarande chartermedlemmen, och som idag är hedersmedlem i logen. Reciperade 630. Även hon gästade logen Carl von Linné denna dag. Under punkten "Ordens Vål" uppvaktades vår loge generöst med presener från SL, DL 20 och alla distriktets lokalloger. Förtjänstecken utdelades också ut.

Vid banketten hälsades alla varmt välkomna av logens ordförande Sy Mona Harryson. Efter varmrätten bjöds alla på en glad överraskning: Carl von Linné uppenbarade sig i egen hög person. Det

var logebrodern Åke Lundblad som på detta sätt gav en fyllig presentation av världens mest kände svensk. Peter Bringselius framförde ett knippe amerikanska sånger och ackompanjerade sig själv på både gitarr och munspel. Sedvanliga tal hölls. Traditionsenligt sjöng Br LH till systrarna och Sy FDO till bröderna.

Sy Louise Sigers ansvarade för kvällens lotterier som slutsåldes än tanken, men så var också vinsterna ovanligt fina. Grattis alla vinnare!

Kvällen avslutades med dans till tonerna från Per Hjalmarssos enmansorkester. Tack alla medverkande som gjorde jubileet så minnesvärt! Vi ser med förtröstan på framtiden.

Snart fyller vi 50 år.



DM Åke Mellnert gratulerades även han på 40-årsdagen. Här tillsammans med Mona Harrysson.

## Vasa Future Club

Som vi vet så är en lokallogge eller distriktsloge till väsentlig del i sin verksamhet beroende av ekonomiska resurser. Idén är enkel, att medlemmarna i dessa stödklubbar med en mycket liten avgift tillsammans kan bli till god ekonomisk hjälp i verksamheten, både för lokallogerna och distriktslogen. I denna anda startades Vasa Future Club 2001. I DL20 har man Vasa Support Club som fått ett mycket starkt stöd från alla håll. Min förhoppning är att vår Future Club skall få den uppmärksamheten. Årsavgiften är endast 40:- för enskild och 100:- för lokallogge. Postgirokotot är 174973-8.

Jag har länge sett hur man försökt arbeta ute i våra loger för att få igång ungdomsverksamheten. Även vid vårt Distriktsmöte uttalades det önskemål att arbeta mer med detta. En god vän, numer

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## VASA FUTURE CLUB

*Continued from page 25*

Broder Owe blev nyligen blev medlem i logen Bråviken tillsammans med sin maka Sy. Barbro, han är s.k. AD (Art Director). Jag har gett honom några förslag att arbeta för en logo eller annons för en ny ungdomsloge inom Vasa Orden av Amerika, och där kanske båda distriktslogerna i Sverige ställa sig bakom. Jag tänker att överlämna detta till vår Storlogeungdomsledare Elisabeth Agge, för att utveckla det vidare.

Jag bett Br. Owe att ge mig annonsförslag till informationsmöte till arbetet med att bilda nya loger.

En annan vän sedan länge Sy. Criss Hagfeldt, ett styrelseproffs, vi arbetade tillsammans under en tid då jag var Ordf. i Föreningen Norden, och hennes man Br. Stefan blev också med i logen Bråviken Br. Stefan är riksdagsman och kommer ge mig möjligheten till kontakter lite högre upp för att i möjligaste mån utveckla arbetet för Vasa Orden i Tiden. Naturligtvis är vi i logen Bråviken glada över deras inträde i Vasa Orden av Amerika. De har också den rätta Vasaandan!

Stefan vet att jag arbetar med att få fart på ungdomsarbetet. Han gav mig direkt förslaget om att han skulle kolla vilka möjligheter DL 19 skulle ha att använda ett EU bidrag för denna verksamhet. Det skall bli intressant att se vad som finns att hämta. Jag inflikade att det gäller ju ett intensivare arbetet för ungdomar att ha kontakter med varandra i USA, Kanada och Sverige.

**Submitted by:**

**Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt DM DL 19**

**Picture by:**

**Inge Hallberg SFF LL #751 LL #663**



*Ove Hilding och Lisbeth Qvarfordt-Hallberg*

## Charles John Ericson from Södra Vi



Flaka is the name of a small old village, beautifully situated in the parish of Södra Vi, north of Vimmerby in Småland. In the beginning of the 19th century lived Erik Nilsson, a freeholder, and his wife Catharina Clemensdotter. They had three sons, and the eldest two immigrated to America in 1849. In their letters home they described their new country as a paradise.

Three years later the parents too emigrated with their youngest son Carl Johan Alfred Ericson (Charles John A. Ericson, CJA, as he was known in America). He was 12 and had gone to school for some years, in Sweden.

In the middle of July 1852 they arrived in New York after a forty-five days voyage by the three-mast schooner Virginia of Gothenburg. CJA's first memory was getting lost in New York. He and his father and some other passengers went out to look at the city. Hearing music of a brass band they followed on and was sure they could easily find their way back to the ship. But it wasn't that easy, so they wandered about for hours. At last a man who knew a bit Swedish helped them back, hungry, thirsty and very tired.

The next morning the family left NY and went by boat, train, a canal boat and finally on a hired ride to their final destination near Moline, Ill. On Aug. 1 they reached their destination near Moline where they met their two elder sons. CJA went to school for one year and then started to work for one of the brothers on his farm. He was to have many jobs before he had saved enough money to be able to open a shop of his own which was his dream. CJA worked as a farm hand, learning to plough with oxen. He was a ferry driver on the Rock River, he also held employment at a sawmill and he had also worked as a clerk at a store in Altona, Ill.

When one of his brothers moved to Iowa, CJA followed him. He had saved about four hundred dollars from his earnings, which he invested in a stock of merchandise and opened up a store in Mineral Ridge in Boone County. The wholesale merchants he dealt with offered him credit as they said they read in his face he was a most honest man. He also started to buy

and sell cattle and was elected postmaster in the town.

In 1870 he moved to Boone, Iowa, where his other brother lived, there he opened up another store. Working hard he built it up to the largest business at that time in the county. Two years later he assisted in organizing the First National Bank of Boone and was elected vice president. Some years later he closed down his own store and became cashier of the bank, reorganized as the City Bank in 1878. He was a member of the board of the bank for the rest of his life.

CJA held a deep interest in politics and was elected member of the city council. He was the chairman of many committees, for instance the school board.

In 1871 he was elected member of the 14th general assembly of Iowa on the republican ticket. Twenty-five years later he was elected member of the state senate, the first Swede to hold this office ever!!! He did important work as the chairman of different committees, e.g. public libraries. He also presented and had a bill passed for corporation taxes. Twice he introduced bills for the protection of birds and their nests.

CJA supported many projects for the good of the public. At a cost of \$10,700 he had a magnificent library built and equipped in Boone named the Ericson Library. In 1900 he donated \$13,000 and 280 acres of land to Augustana College. The land was given the name of Ericson Park, where he had been playing and hunting squirrels when he was a young boy. He always wanted to help people in need. Several Swedish immigrants have received money from him when needed, "he was a friend indeed".

CJA was married twice and had two daughters, Alice and Lorena. In 1894 he and Lorena travelled in Europe, visiting Sweden too. He died in 1910. He left \$56,000 to Augustana College and to other charities \$44,000 in his will. To the village of his childhood he left \$2,700 saying that the money must be put in the bank and the annual interest paid out to poor people in the parish of Södra Vi.

*Continued on page 27*

When asked what made him so successful he usually answered that he had three norms: 1. Be honest. 2. Refrain from speculations and investments in outside enterprises. 3. Always keep your word.

My principal, Mr. Erik Carlsson told me this story about the poor boy from Södra Vi who came to America, got rich and helped so many. But in Flaka, nobody seems to know anything about Charles John A. Ericson, where he or his parents had lived. Strange, isn't it?

Submitted by: Gun Lith, DCL DL 20

## Carl Johan Alfred Ericsson Från Södra Vi

Flaka är namnet på en liten by, som ligger mycket vackert i Södra Vi socken, norr om Vimmerby i Småland. I början av 1800-talet bodde där den självägande bonden Erik Nilsson och hans hustru Catharina Clemensdotter. De hade tre söner och de båda äldsta utvandrade till Amerika 1849. I sina brev hem beskrev de sitt nya land som ett paradiset.

Tre år senare utvandrade också föräldrarna med sin yngste son Carl Johan Alfred Ericsson, som i Amerika blev Charles John A. Ericson (CJA). Han var 12 år och hade gått några år i skolan.

I mitten av juli 1852 anlände de till New York efter en 45 dagars sjöresa med den tremastade skonaren Virginia av Göteborg. CJA:s första minne från NY var att han gick vilse. Han och hans far och några andra passagerare gick ut för att se på staden. Då de fick höra musik från en blåsorkester som de följde efter, övertygade om att de skulle kunna hitta tillbaka. Men det var inte så lätt, utan de irrade omkring i flera timmar. Till sist fick de hjälp av en man som kunde lite svenska och han hjälpte dem tillbaka till skeppet och då var de hungriga, törstiga och trötta. Morgonen efter fortsatte familjen sin resa, nu med båt, tåg, kanalbåt och till sist en hyrd skjuts till bestämmelsesorten nära Moline, Ill. De kom fram den 1 aug. och sammanträffade då med sina båda söner. CJA gick ett år i skolan men började sedan arbeta som dräng hos en av sina bröder. Det skulle bli många olika jobb innan CJA hade lyckats spara ihop så mycket pengar att han kunde öppna eget, något som var hans dröm. Han arbetade i sågverk och en kvarn, lärde sig plöja med oxar, körde färja på Rock River och fick jobb som expedit i en affär i Altona, Ill. Då en av hans bröder flyttat till Iowa följde CJA efter. Han ägde då 400 dollar som han sparade och dem investerade han i ett varulager och öppnade en liten affär i Mineral Ridge, i Boone county. Han fick kredit av de grossister han handlade med, eftersom

de trodde honom på hans ärliga ansikte. Han började även handla med boskap. Det gick allt bättre för honom och han blev vald till postmästare i staden.

1870 flyttade han till Boone i Iowa, dit hans andra bror tidigare flyttat. Han köpte en affär, som han genom hårt arbete byggde upp till den tidens största varuhus i länet. Två år senare var han med och startade First National Bank i Boone, vars styrelse han invaldes i. Efter några år sålde han sin affär och blev i stället kassör i banken, som omorganiserades till City Bank of Boone 1878, och i dess styrelse satt han till sin död.

CJA var mycket intresserad av politik och satt med i kommunfullmäktige. Han var ordförande i flera kommittéer, t.ex. skolstyrelsen.

1871 valdes han till ledamot av den 14:e generalförsamlingen i Iowa på den republikanska listan och 25 år senare valdes han, som förste svensk någonsin, in i senaten för sin stat. Han utträdde mycket som ordförande i olika kommittéer, t.ex. för folkbiblioteket. Han lade fram och fick igenom ett nytt skatteförslag för företag. Två gånger lade han fram lagförslag om skydd för småfåglar och deras bon. Han stödde många projekt för det allmänna bästa.

För en kostnad av 10.700 dollar lät han uppföra och utrusta den magnifika byggnad i Boone, som kallas Ericsons Bibliotek. År

1900 donerade han 13.000 dollar + 280 acres mark till Augustana College. Området kallas Ericson Park, och det var just där som han som pojke lekt och jagat ekorrar. Han ville alltid hjälpa människor som hade det svårt. Det är många svenska immigranter, som berättat hur de fick penninghjälp av honom när de behövde.

CJA var gift två gånger och hade två döttrar; Alice och Lorena. 1894 gjorde han och Lorena en lång resa i Europa, och då besökte de även Sverige.

CJA dog 1910 och testamenterade 56.000 dollar till Augustana College och till andra välgörenhetsinrättningar 44.000 dollar. Till Södra Vi socken testamenterade han 2.700 dollar och förordnade att pengarna skulle sättas in på bank och ränta årligen utbetalas till behövande i socknen.

När man frågade CJA hur han kunnat bli så framgångsrik, brukade han svara, att han hade tre rättesnören i livet: 1. Att vara ärlig. 2. Att avstå från investeringar i andra företag, hålla sig till sitt eget. 3. Att alltid hålla ord.

Det är min chef, rektor Erik Carlsson, som berättat den här historien om den fattige pojken från Södra Vi som kom till Amerika, blev rik och hjälpte så många. Men i Flaka, Södra Vi, verkar ingen veta någonting om Charles John A. Ericson, var han eller hans föräldrar borta. Är det inte konstigt?

Submitted by: Gun Lith DKL DL 20

# YOUTH NEWS

## How to Establish a Children's Club

As the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Youth Committee, I would like to introduce a new power point program designed to help local lodges establish Children's Clubs. This program was designed with the help of Lynda Smith, who is the Children's Club Director of Nordikids, the newest Children's Club in District #8. Nordikids has grown tremendously in the few years it has been in existence under Lynda's innovative and enthusiastic direction. Her leadership style portrayed in this presentation will offer practical guidance to all children's club leaders.

This power point presentation was reviewed by the Grand Lodge Board at its meeting held in Sweden in August and the Board strongly recommended its use as an educational tool for youth directors. District Directors of Children's and Youth Activities might consider using this tool to conduct seminars to educate prospective children's club leaders. The presentation would take approximately 45 minutes to review with a group, but local items of

interest could be added thus making it even more practical in your area.

The CD can be mailed to you at no charge. You may also request a hard copy of the presentation in addition or instead of the CD that you may use without a computer.

Telephone, write or email me today!

Many lodges have expressed a need for assistance in teaching children about Scandinavian history and traditions, language and song. This presentation will help guide the user through advertisement, publicity, site selection lesson planning, music and dance opportunities and much more. A list of resources for additional support is also included. Please don't miss out on this opportunity and advance our Order. Our children are our future.

**William L. Lundquist,**  
**MEB Midwest Region**  
**1456 Kennebec Rd.**  
**Grand Blanc, MI 48439**  
**810-695-3248**  
**or email: [wmlund1@aol.com](mailto:wmlund1@aol.com)**

## Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1



Deirdre McGrath

Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1, the oldest children's group in the Vasa Order of America, held their 85th annual Lucia Festival at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in West Hempstead, NY on December 4, 2005. The afternoon started with a prayer led by Pastor Frederick McElderry and a lovely version of the Sankta Lucia legend, read by Kathryn Brown.

Participating in the program this year were 36 current members, singing their traditional songs and reciting poems in Swedish. The children sang beautifully and read their parts perfectly (thanks to Nina Prasso, our musical director and Processional soloist and Elizabeth Dahlström the co-leader of the club). Jeanne Eriksson Widman provided the music for the pageant on the piano and Wayne Soderland on the accordion.

This year's Lucia was Deirdre McGrath, daughter of Elaine and Kevin McGrath. She's continuing a family tradition (Mom was the club's 1969 Lucia and her sister, Kerry, was the 2002 Lucia). While her father's grandparents hail from Ireland and Canada we are sure there is some Swedish in Kevin as he is always busy during the Lucia season serving glögg, setting-up, driving and making sure clean up is complete.

Deirdre looked beautiful in her long satin gown with a wreath of traditional greens and candles on her head. She carried a copper tray with a copper coffee pot and *lussekatter*. She sounded angelic singing *Hosianna* and *O Helga Natt* with Kerry McGrath and Kathryn Brown

singing harmony. Maidens, star boys, bakers and *tomtar* attended her. Her brother, Brian, was the Big Star Boy and Noelle Nero (Lucia 2006) gave a beautiful rendition of the Lucia poem. Candle girls, Victoria Magnozzi and Mary Russo read their parts flawlessly. Of course, the little *tomtar* stole the show and caused several gasps when they got too close to the candles.

After Lucia, everyone gathered in the Social Hall for homemade sandwiches, coffee bread, cookies, *glögg*, coffee and soft drinks. The children, dressed in Swedish costumes, showed their expertise in folk dancing. From the littlest ones doing *Shoemakers* (or just standing still and looking cute) to the older children doing *Tre Karls* and *Talgoxen*, their enthusiasm was apparent. They were accompanied by Jeanne Eriksson Widman, Einar Ericson and Wayne Soderland who also played Christmas tunes to get everyone in the holiday spirit (they are also the musicians on our new CD).

A big thank you to our parents, alumni and friends who worked very hard purchasing supplies, setting-up, decorating, printing programs, baking, making sandwiches, working in the kitchen, working at the gift table, selling raffles, serving coffee and cleaning-up. There were many homemade types of bread, *glögg*, Swedish gift items, beautiful Lucia dolls and our brand new double CD with Lucia booklet for sale on the gift table as well as an abundance of raffle prizes. Copies of our CD are available and information can be found on our webpage at: [www.skandjam.com](http://www.skandjam.com) (click the Elsa Rix link).

Our 2005 Lucia, Deirdre, is also following a family tradition by being an active in Vasa. Deirdre's maternal great grandparents came from *Askefalla* in *Småland*, Sweden, *Landskrona* in *Skåne*, Sweden and *Pori*, Finland. Oscar Peterson, her great grandfather was a member of Vasa since 1925; first joining Ture Lodge, which later became Ture & Tura Lodge, then Gosta Saga Lodge. Annie Peterson, her great grandmother, was a member of Valkyrona Lodge, VOA. Her grandparents, Edna and the late Otto Lindquist, and her mother were members of Gosta Saga Lodge, which later merged with Lodge Olympic #235. Elaine, Kerry, Deirdre and Brian are all members of Lodge Olympic.

Submitted by: Elaine Lindquist McGrath

## Vasa Rosebuds #130 Lucia



Annika Tohlen

Photo by: Marion Thompson

Congratulations to Annika Tohlen, who was Lucia 2005 for Vasa Youth Group #130, Swedish Folk Dancers of Oregon. Annika, a junior at Grant High School in Portland, enjoys her time co-leading the children's dance group after the retirement of longtime instructor, Judy Rust. A member of Vasa Harmoni Lodge #472, Annika also had the opportunity to travel to southern Sweden as part of the 2004 Vasa Youth Exchange program. In her extracurricular time, Annika is President and founder of the Scandinavian Club at Grant, plays high school lacrosse, sings in Portland's Pacific Youth Choir, tutors at her local elementary school, and hopes to be involved in Trollbacken Swedish Culture and Language Camp again this summer. Of her experiences in Vasa and the dancing Rosebuds, Annika says, "I love Sweden and the chances I've had to explore my heritage. I recommend both highly to everyone!"

Submitted by: Ann Tohlen

# Welcome To Our New Members

On behalf of the Grand Lodge and members of the Vasa Order of America, I am pleased to welcome you to our organization. We hope you will enjoy your membership and attend your respective lodges and participate in all of the activities planned for you.

**Joan Graham, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman**  
5838 San Jose Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804  
Email: [vasajlg@aol.com](mailto:vasajlg@aol.com)

## GRAND LODGE NO.0

*Facklan #248*  
William Back  
Linda Dost  
*Miami #554*  
Natasha Henderson  
Eleanor Scholl  
*Jubilee #692*  
Arthur Anderson  
Mary Anderson  
William Ferrara  
Bert Nelin  
Valice Sanderson  
Violet Sanderson  
*Holiday #699*  
Ida Duffy  
*Nordic #708*  
Magnus Edlund  
Carl Ericsson  
Adrienne Myles  
Michael Olsson  
*Carl XVI Gustaf #716*  
Ruth Ostlund  
Wendy Reeves  
Charles Segerstein

## DL MASSACHUSETTS NO.2

*Spiran #98*  
Michael Hale

## DL NEW JERSEY NO.6

*Arlington #62*  
Hanne Ankerson  
Dawna Renne  
Mark Renne  
Jeanne Widman  
*Baltic-Framat #360*  
Andrew Lundquist  
*Viking #735*  
Jean Brown  
Carol McDermott

## DL MINNESOTA #7

*Framat #166*  
Florence Larson

## DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

*Siljan-Mora-Tuna #134*  
Kristen Person  
*Svea #253*  
Karen Frick  
Vicki Lindgren  
*Austin #466*  
Bruce Nelson  
*Satellite #661*  
Stina Gustafson  
*Jubileum #755*  
Robert Merrill  
Matthew Nordling  
Carrie Roy  
Ingrid Russell

## *Bishop Hill #683*

James Asplund  
Dolores Hier

## DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

*Oscars Borg #172*  
Anne Seaman  
Karen Seaman  
*Svea #296*  
David Cope  
Karen Cope  
Donna Sandberg  
Edwin Sandberg

## DL SUPERIOR NO.10

*Monitor #163*  
John Lake  
*Superior #423*  
Judith Donckers  
Allen Johnson  
*Framat #463*  
Harold Johnson  
Nina Johnson

## DL ROCKY MOUNTAIN NO. 11

*Enighet #11*  
George Ek, Jr.  
Sonja Ek  
Anders Malm  
Elsa Ekman-Malm  
Judith Luff  
Kathleen Luff  
Pamela Luff  
Robert Luff, Jr.  
Robert Luff, Sr.  
Timothy Luff  
Brian Magnusson  
Magnusson Margaretha

## DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

*Svea #348*  
Louise Parzanici  
Caryl Westerberg  
Karin White  
*Lindbergh #494*  
Agnes Babcock  
Dean Babcock  
Lars Lenck  
Mary Lenck  
Ann Marie Van Horn  
*Linnea #504*  
Helen Johansson  
Ann Wessman  
Rolf Wessman  
*Valhalla #746*  
John Carlson  
Anna Mae Dougan  
Karen Olson  
Helene Payne  
Bonnie Thurston

## DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

*North Star #145*  
Eileen Edgren  
Maxine Hargauth  
William Sullivan  
*Astor #215*  
Danielle Carlson  
David Sundquist  
Stacy Sundquist  
*Skogsblomman #378*  
Gordon Bennett  
Thomas Danielson  
Shawn Thornsberry  
*Solidaritet #396*  
David Anderson  
Rebecca Heilig  
Ethel June Lind  
Scott McFarlane  
Nancy Tschida  
*Frihet #401*  
David Cook  
Sandra Cook  
Sanna Hammons  
*Harmoni #472*  
Sharon Andrus  
John Beck  
*Olympia #550*  
Josh Hilton  
Shelley Lindberg  
David Oswald  
*Tre Kronor #713*  
Ted Arthur  
Maddie Blunck  
Ingrid Stadal  
Doris Thompson  
Art Tidey

## DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

*Linnea #696*  
Gunnel Waziri  
Rafiq Waziri

## DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17

*Norrskenet #331*  
Carmen Major  
Robert Skinner

## DL NORRA SVERIGE NO. 19

*Vänersborg No 471*  
Ann Berger  
Gunnar Berger  
*Stockholm No 589*  
Anita Blomgren  
Christer Fernström  
Patrick Jovell  
Eva Melander  
Bo Trygg  
Hjördis Trygg  
*Skövde No 626*  
Louis Lehman  
Myra Lehman  
*Karlstad No 632*  
Carl Olof Edsgård  
Gun Hedström  
*Lidköping No 636*  
Ingmar Bristav  
Marianne Gunnarsson  
Ann-Marie Järkeborn  
Anita Kjällström  
*Kristina No 656*

Mats Jonsson  
Anders Pontén  
Karl Pontén  
*Bråviken No 751*  
Monica Andersson  
Ulf Andersson  
Criss Hagfeldt  
Stefan Hagfeldt  
Barbro Hill Hilding  
Owe Hilding

## DL SVERIGE NO. 20

*Logen Smaland #618*  
Ewa Rosen-Andersson

Inger Eriksson  
Kjell Rosen  
Brigitta Stomberg  
Sven-Olof Stomberg  
*Logen Hoganas #634*  
Ingrid Berg  
Jan-Erik Berg  
*Logen Malmohus #643*  
Bengt Nylin  
Birgitta Nylin  
*Logen Westervik #679*  
Ingela Brandel  
Anders Brandt  
Benthe Hjertstedt  
Eivor Holmquist  
Gunnel Norrbo  
Christer Warfving  
*Logen Nybyggarna #698*  
Bengt Bengtsson  
Kerstin Bengtsson  
*Logen Trelleborg #734*  
Goran Andersson  
Karin Andersson  
Anny Nilsson  
Gert-Ove Nilsson  
*Logen Klockan #747*  
Rune Sandseth  
Bodil Svensson  
Kjell-Erik Svensson

## DL ARIZONA NO. 21

*Phoenix #677*  
Mia Holgerson  
Lisa Johansen  
Sara Lagerman  
Sara Olson  
Eva Kristina Stalbrand  
*Tucson #691*  
Joellen Anderson  
LeRoy Israelson  
Marleen Israelson  
Roger Johnson  
Paul Olson

## AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR Craig Petersen

P.O. Box 129 • Ione, CA 95640 • Phone: 209-763-2523  
[cpvasapix@aol.com](mailto:cpvasapix@aol.com)

The Vasa website at [www.vasaorder.com](http://www.vasaorder.com) contains a "materials button" which has the listing of audio visual materials available.

If you are unable to use the Vasa website, you can still ask that a listing be sent to you by mail.

# PLEASE MEET

## PHYLLIS PETERSEN



*PDM Phyllis Petersen*

*Photo by: Tore Kellgren*

PDM Phyllis Petersen, made an Honorary Life Member by District Golden Gate #12 at its 2005 convention, succumbed to lung cancer on December 14th.

Phyllis was honored especially for her founding efforts of Trollebo, the District #12 Summer Family Camp. She has been the director since its founding four years ago. Phyllis served District #12 as secretary as well as District Master 1994-1995 and she was also a member of the District Memorial Team.

Her home lodge was Nord Lodge #392 in Stockton California where she held many offices, most recently secretary. She was elected to be an alternate delegate to the Grand Lodge Convention in 2006.

PDM Phyllis is the wife of GL Audio

Visual Director Craig Petersen. Their home is in Ione CA.

Besides her husband, Craig; twin sons, Malcolm and Derek, and daughter, Kim, survive her also. There are four grandchildren: Ryan, Michael, Lindsay and Brittany.

Memorials may be made in her name to the Trollebo Family Camp Fund c/o Birgitta Kellgren, 4957 W. Walbrook Dr, San Jose CA 95129.

**Submitted by: Barbara Olson**

## THYRA ANDERSON 100 Years Old



*North Star #106 Chairman Erik Lindberg with Thyra Anderson who celebrated her 100th birthday at a luncheon, held on December 5, 2005, in her honor.*

*Photo by: Peggy Pages*

A very special luncheon was held in December to celebrate Thyra Anderson's 100th birthday!

Thyra was greeted by CH Erik Lindberg who presented her with a lovely corsage. She was pleased to see many friends there, including GL Deputy Jacqueline Ahlen who brought greetings from GM Dr. Ulf Brynjestad. DM Debbie Kenshalo and many District officers came to preside over the meeting and to wish Thyra a most happy birthday!

Debbie led the meeting efficiently with her accompanying officers. An announcement was made that North Star will celebrate its 99th anniversary on January 15, 2006. But today it was time to party and enjoy the wonderful catered luncheon hosted by Thyra's daughter Astrid.

Thyra was born in Bredaryd, Småland. She came to the U.S. in 1933. She went to Connecticut to stay with an uncle's family. There Thyra trained as a nurse and became an R.N. She studied for her Master's Degree at Hartford Neurological Institute.

In 1937 Thyra arrived in Santa Monica, CA, and worked as private duty nurse. When Midsummer came she joined the Swedes at Sycamore Grove Park where she met her future husband Ed. They enjoyed 60 happy years of marriage.

Thyra and Ed had three daughters: Astrid, Birgitta, Tia and a son, Edmund. There are several grandchildren and great-grandchildren too.

**Submitted by: Elinore Thornton**

# CULTURE

## Spreading Culture and Friendship in the E-mail Age

As I was planning my trip to Sweden this past November, I finally decided to follow through on a dream I've had for quite some time. Each time I've visited Sweden, I've wished that I could meet some of the Vasa members there. As newly elected Cultural Leader of District IV New York, I felt brave enough to try to contact some of my fellow cultural leaders. The first e-mail I sent out was to Margareta Berg, who is Vice District Cultural Leader of Södra Sverige and also Cultural Leader of Calmare Nyckel Loge #628. In my first message to her I explained that I would be visiting

Sweden in November to attend a family reunion on Öland and I would very much like to meet her. I got an immediate message back from her inviting me to come and visit her.

We had a lovely afternoon together getting acquainted and sharing lodge experiences via photos that we each had. I was pleased when she asked if one of the lodges that I belong to would like to be a sister to Calmare Nyckel. That was easily accomplished, since Göta Lejon #84 didn't have a sister lodge. As a new member of Göta Lejon about eight years ago, I thought it was strange that we

didn't have more contact with the lodges in Sweden – especially in this age of e-mail when contact is so readily available. Now I know that Margareta and I will be in frequent contact to keep each other up-to-date on all the news from our sister lodge. I know I'll also see her frequently in the future, as my trips to Sweden always take me to Öland via Kalmar.

Having success in contacting Södra Sverige, I thought I'd try to reach Norra Sverige as well. My next e-mail was sent to Ulla-Britt Essgren who is District Cultural Leader. She was so pleased to

*Continued on page 31*

## SPREADING CULTURE AND FRIENDSHIP IN THE E-MAIL AGE

Continued from page 30

receive my e-mail that she actually called me at work to talk to me. I hadn't realized that she lived in Göteborg, and the closest I was going to be was in Stockholm, but she graciously volunteered to take the train to Stockholm for the weekend so we could meet. She and Leif Strom (an auditor with one of the Stockholm lodges) picked me up at my hotel and drove me to Drottningholm, where we took a leisurely (but cold) walk of the grounds. We warmed up afterwards with coffee and apple cake, which Ulla-Britt made for us while we visited



Visiting a chilly Drottningholm with Ulla-Britt Essgren (on right).

and talked more about our lodge activities. All too soon it was time for me to leave, but, again, I knew that Ulla-Britt and I would be writing to each other a lot via e-mail.

Sometimes when I meet a new friend with whom I have a lot in common, it seems like there's just not enough time to say everything I want or to share all the things I want. The time passes much too quickly and I reluctantly have to say good-bye. This was true with both Margareta and Ulla-Britt. We have so much in common with our plans and dreams for Vasa, and it's so wonderful to know that we can share these ideas almost instantaneously via e-mail. I know we have many, many members who do not own a computer or don't use one regularly. For those of us who do, I'd like to encourage more frequent communication between the lodges (both between Sweden and within our own countries) to share ideas.

**Submitted by: Karen Snowberg  
Cultural Leader District IV, New York**

# HAPPENINGS

## SACC is Established in Cleveland, OH

The Cleveland area is now the SACC USA's 20th chapter and I had the opportunity to interview Christian Bernadotte, currently the Chairman of SACC-Ohio, and here is what he has to say:

*"How did you become acquainted with SACC?"*

Mr. Bernadotte: *"I've known about SACC for many years since we lived in Atlanta. In Cleveland I became involved mostly through our Swedish Consul - Mike Miller, who has served as an information and activity hub for most Swedes in the area."*

*"What would you like to say about SACC and what is your experience with SACC?"*

Mr. Bernadotte: *"I think it is a great organization which really provides value added in promoting trade between Sweden and the US. It is surprisingly active and has a well established network of local chapters throughout the US which "customize" their services to the local needs, just like we will do in Ohio."*

*"When did the Cleveland chapter become a part of the SACC organization?"*

Mr. Bernadotte: *"Our chapter is formally named SACC-Ohio, but we intend to include the bordering areas including western Pennsylvania, Kentucky, eastern Indiana, western West Virginia, in the geographical area we will serve. The chapter became official Jan 1, 2006 when we became SACC USA's 20th chapter, but we haven't yet had our opening event, but plan to have this in late spring/early summer."*

*"Who established SACC in Cleveland?"*

Mr. Bernadotte: *"A group of about ten Swedish and American business people from Ohio that decided we wanted to create this chapter and that we would be able to create plenty of support from local businesses and trade organizations."*

*"How would it benefit Cleveland?"*

Mr. Bernadotte: *"We think it will benefit the region we serve by promoting it in Sweden so that Swedish companies look at this region as an attractive place to move to or start a US based business in. Conversely, we will promote Sweden as an excellent place to establish a foothold in the European market."*

*"How do you look at the future with SACC?"*

Mr. Bernadotte: *"I think SACC provides the kind of services to the business communities in the US and Sweden that will continue to grow nationally in the US. Locally, I think there is a great demand for those services as this region has not had the benefit of a chapter previously, and yet is a major manufacturing region in the US with a significant consumer base, and quite a few connections to Scandinavia."*

*"How and why did you end up in Cleveland?"*

Mr. Bernadotte: *"I transferred over in 1982 with McKinsey & Co from Copenhagen. Worked in Atlanta 1986-1998, and then came back to Cleveland in 1998."*

**By Marie Carlson**

Continued on page 32



Swedish American Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. From left to right: Matias Bonnier, Peter Carlsson, Michael Miller, Christian Bernadotte, Bengt Gerborg, Kenneth Johnson and Erick Carlson.

Picture by: Erick Carlson

## SACC

Continued from page 31

### About SACC

The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) was founded in 1906 in New York and is the oldest organization abroad of its kind. Today there are twenty regional Chambers across the United States, and the number is growing.

In 1988, the regional Chambers, together with the Swedish Members, jointly founded the umbrella organization SACC-USA, which was incorporated in 1995. Many of the major Swedish corporations are members, as are many small and medium-size Swedish businesses.

Below, please find a presentation that gives you a broad overview of the individual 20 chambers' profiles and expertise.



American and Swedish entrepreneurs are invited to the "Swedish-American Entrepreneurial Days" during August 21-23, 2006 in Lidköping Sweden. You shall find, as hundreds of executives have experienced before you, that Sweden will welcome your company by its leaders of industry and government and is ready to do business.

Sweden is an open market with a diversified industry base and demanding consumers. Foreigners own about 25% of the total corporate equity, most by Americans. Sweden is also the preferred location of northern European headquarters by Americans. The trade balance between Sweden and the United States presently favors Sweden with a factor 5 to 1, and increased export is strongly supported by the U.S. Government and encouraged by Swedish businesses. Sweden is also an important re-exporter of goods and services to the growing markets of the Baltic States and Russia.

The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) mission is to promote and enhance trade, commerce and investments between Sweden and the United States. From its foundation in 1906 in New York City, SACC has grown into an organization with nineteen Regional Chambers covering major trading areas

and providing support and assistance to over eight hundred corporate members throughout the United States. SACC originated the Swedish-American Entrepreneurial Days in 1997 and is coordinating the actions between the many involved

organizations in Sweden and the United States that has made this event a running success.

For more information about SACC: [www.sacc-usa.org](http://www.sacc-usa.org)

Submitted by: Marie Carlson

## Astoria Scandinavian 39th Festival in 2006

Välkommen \* Tervetula \* Velkommen \*

The Festival will be held at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds, Astoria, Oregon, on Highway 202. This year the dates are June 16, 17 and 18. Admission is \$6.00 for an adult 3-day souvenir button, \$2.00 for children 6 - 12 and 5 & under is free. Parking is \$2.00 per day or a \$5.00 weekend pass.

Featured entertainment this year is Ryttergarden Spillemaend with the Ballerup Folk dancers from Denmark. A must. They will be performing throughout the weekend. Their beautiful costumes alone are well worth seeing. Food is available in a number of interesting locations e.g. Salmon Dinner, The Midnight Sun Scandinavian Breakfast, The Viking Fest, etc.

Sunday begins with the famous Rotary Pannukaku breakfast. Try The Troll Stoll - it is a great way to start your day. Spot the Trolls during a 1.5, 3.0 or 5.75 mile Run/Walk through the countryside. There will be a nondenominational church service after breakfast. Entertainment, food, and fun continue

throughout the day. At 4 pm, the winner of the grand prize, round trip tickets for 2 to Scandinavia, (and many other fabulous prizes) will be drawn at the closing ceremonies.

Astoria has historically been known for its Scandinavian Heritage. Many area residents are able to trace their own heritage back generations. Local Lodges include the Danish Society, Finnish Brotherhood, Ladies of Kaleva, Sons of Norway, Daughters of Norway, and The Vasa Lodge.

One does not need to be Scandinavian to get into the spirit of the Annual Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival. Great fun for the entire family!

Our web site is [www.astoriascanfest.com](http://www.astoriascanfest.com). Please check for updates and information as it becomes available. Contact will be available through the site or snail mail us at ASMFA PO Box 34, Astoria, Oregon 97103. We may also be contacted through the Astoria Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Submitted by: Katrina Ivanoff -  
ASMFA Co-Chair

## Guldgubbene Art, A Grant to Study Scandinavian Artifacts

A Valhalla Scandinavian's family has received a grant to educate the public about GULDGUBBENE. Do you know what this subject is about?

"Guldgubbene" means "The Holy Couples" and are Scandinavian archeological artifacts 1200 to 1600 years old. These objects are gold and fragile and, therefore, are studied through professional photographs offered by the major Scandinavian museums. The photographs are copyrighted and viewing must be paid for prior to exhibition. The grant has funded these expenses to use the photographs.

Freya Baer, whose parents, Jane and Philip Baer are members of Valhalla Scandinavians, is the lead researcher in this project. The three had a table at

Midsummer introducing the "Guldgubbene" to the Santa Cruz community. A grant through the Scandinavian Cultural Center was awarded by the Barbro Osher Pro Seucia Foundation to cover the costs of the copyrighted photographs and other expenses.

At the October 6th Valhalla Scandinavians cultural program, the presentation of "Guldgubbene" will be made so that Santa Cruzan's will be introduced to these artifacts of early Scandinavia.

The contact number to receive more information or to invite the Baers to present at your lodge is [baersmail@aol.com](mailto:baersmail@aol.com).

Submitted by: Barbara Olson of  
Valhalla Scandinavians and  
the Scandinavian Cultural Center in  
Santa Cruz, CA

## Santa Cruz Midsummer Draws 600

Six hundred attended the Midsummer on June 4, 2005. The highlight for all attending was decorating the *midsummarstång* with flowers and vines. The decorated pole was raised during the afternoon program, which included the guest entertainer, Therese Ulvan of Norway who sang. Songs followed her from the Midsummer by the Zaida Singers and folk dancing by the Nordahl Grieg Norwegian Dancers of Los Gatos.

Exhibits included *rosenmalning*, carving and photography, and book signing by member-authors. Musicians strolled and entertained throughout the day.

Demonstrations included roasting coffee and making of *aebelskiver*. The *aebelskiver* demonstration served nearly 400 *aebelskivers* during the day. Lunches of *potatis och korv and smorrebrod* served some 300 meals. Home baked items by Valhalla members were sold for desserts. Selling their wares were vendors from as far away as Los Angeles.

The Scandinavian Cultural Center and Valhalla Scandinavians Lodge #746 of Santa Cruz teamed up promoting Scandinavian cultural programs in the community.

During the year the Scandinavian

Cultural Center had received \$4000 in grants to present cultural programs including Midsummer and their Jul Dinner with “Røyst” a women’s quartet from Norway.

The Midsummer grant was funded, in part, the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County through a Cultural Enhancement Grant from The James Irvine Foundation and the Jul Dinner awarded grant by the American Scandinavian Foundation.

**Submitted by: Barbara Olson of Valhalla Scandinavians and the Scandinavian Cultural Center in Santa Cruz CA**

## Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University

In the front yard of the Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University, the work of Vasa members literally stands out. The 6-foot-tall Dala horse created by members of Oak Leaf Lodge # 658 serves as a dramatic sign when “tied up” on the front lawn of the Center.

When the huge horse with its bright orange “coat” and decorative *dalmålning* design proudly emerges from its “stable” in the garage, it vividly announces that the Center is open for business.

Some curious passersby even wonder if it is a Trojan horse, so that provides a perfect opportunity to tell about its Swedish heritage. Of course, the horse serves as a great “photo op” for visitors, such as the Brownie troops who had their pictures taken when they came to the Center as part of their study of Scandinavia.

Appropriately, the primary craftsman in the creation of the horse, Torsten Olsson, came from Mora, Sweden, so he was well acquainted with the Dala traditions.

He had skilled help from others in the lodge, too. In finishing the structure of wood, fiberglass and concrete, Elvin Taylor had the challenge of applying the final “undercoat” of concrete—below the belly of the horse. Another member, Irene Baldwin, used her painting skills to decorate with the bright colors and shapes of *dalmålning*. Knut Shoberg “shoed” the horse with wheels to make it “hot to trot” to the front yard.

The impact of Swedish folk art isn’t limited to out front. When visitors enter the Center, they’re met by another dramatic sculpture. Nils Holgersson and a goose with 8-foot wingspan hang from the ceiling, as though they’re flying over Sweden.

That sculpture evolved when Center Director Richard Londgren (all four grandparents from Sweden) hoped to add another display to appeal to children. So he suggested creating Nils and the goose. Torsten Olsson endorsed the idea and went to work in his garage. Once again, Irene Baldwin applied the decorative touches. And her husband, Jerry (who’s treasurer of Oak Leaf Lodge and the Center’s genealogist), helped as the “ground crew” suspended the goose with cables attached to the ceiling.

The dramatic addition caught on not only with visitors but also with local media. The regional daily newspaper, *The Ventura Star*, sent a reporter and photographer to the unveiling ceremony. The California Lutheran University student newspaper, *The Echo*, also covered the event. Now, thanks to the promotion-

al efforts of Torsten and his Swedish relatives, the story has been featured in newspapers in his home area of Sweden.

Nils was one of the attractions when representatives of three other Vasa lodges of Southern California recently came for a luncheon at the Center.

Åke Sandler of the North Star Lodge #108 of Los Angeles lodge had recommended the visit. He’s an enthusiastic advocate of the Center, and he’s a member of the board of the Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. (SACHF), which includes the Scandinavian Center as one of its functions.

Then Erik Lindberg, chairman of the North Star Lodge, coordinated the gathering of 16 Vasa visitors, who were also

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*A six-foot-tall Dala horse made by Torsten Olsson and other Vasa members signals that the Scandinavian Center is open.*

## SCANDINAVIAN CENTER

*Continued from page 33*

from Mayflower Lodge #445 and Nordic Lodge #660. To sweeten the visit, he brought special bread to serve at “elva kaffe” when the Vasa contingent arrived.

During the luncheon, another member of the SACHF board, Lana Lundin talked about the story of Nils. She told about how a Swedish educators organization commissioned Selma Lagerlof to write the story for teaching about Swedish geography, folklore and flora and fauna. Lagerlof later won a Nobel Prize for literature.

Lana also mentioned another of her roles at the Center—teaching Swedish language classes. She alternates between living in Sweden and the United States because her husband Lars is a Volvo executive presently based California.

Another SACHF board member, Anita Londgren (one grandparent from Sweden and three from Norway) is the wife of the director and coordinates the programs at the Center. She explained that the Center includes a museum and library. It also offers genealogy assistance and sponsors activities such as “brown-bag” lunch discussions, a book group, Scandinavian-related movies, a baking class, art exhibits and Norwegian as well as Swedish language classes. She noted that the Center also encompasses Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

She added that the Center maintains close links with California Lutheran University President Luther Luedtke and with the faculty, staff and students in a variety of ways. She also reported that the university in Thousand Oaks, Calif., takes pride in its Scandinavian heritage.

In a “concert” for the Vasa visitors, university professor emeritus Carl Swanson played Swedish tunes on the Center’s pump organ, and professor emeritus Fred Tonsing told about the pump organ as the “instrument of choice” in immigrant homes. Both professors cherish their Swedish roots.

During the luncheon, Torsten Olsson got involved too, as he answered questions about the horse and goose and many of his other creations in the Center.

Director Londgren thanked the Vasa representatives for the ongoing support from Vasa and said the Center looks forward to increased association with Vasa.

For more information, contact the Center at (805) 241-0391 or [ScanCenter@clunet.edu](mailto:ScanCenter@clunet.edu).

Submitted by: Richard Londgren

## The Swedish Language Class



*The Swedish Language Class in Las Gatos, CA, gathered for Christmas celebration with singing traditional Christmas songs in different languages.*

*Photo by: Gerd Salmonsén*

## RECIPES

### Potatoes with Eggs, Fennel, and Smoked Salmon

Mormor’s Kitchen...

Tina Nordstrum - [www.scandcook.com](http://www.scandcook.com)

Ingredients for serving 4 persons

1 pound (1/2 kg) potatoes, newly boiled with dill  
3/4 cup (2 dl) dill, stems removed  
4 hard boiled eggs  
1 fennel  
1/2 pound (300 grams) smoked salmon  
Dressing  
3/4 cup (2 dl) cream  
Juice of 1 lemon  
Salt, pepper and sugar  
Freshly ground nutmeg

This is how you do it:

Cut the eggs and potatoes in half. Cut the salmon in big chunks. Slice the fennel as thinly as you can. Place the potatoes, dill, eggs, fennel and salmon in a big bowl.

*Dressing*

Mix the lemon juice and the cream and stir carefully until the cream thickens. It is important that you stir — and not whisk! Season with salt, pepper, sugar and ground nutmeg. Serve with a salad.

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren



### Goulash Soup

Tina Nordstrom - [www.scandcook.com](http://www.scandcook.com)

Ingredients for serving 4:

2 yellow onions  
2 peeled garlic cloves  
1 red bell pepper  
1/4 celeriac  
4 peeled potatoes  
1/2 pound (200 grams) ground beef  
1 1/2 teaspoons marjoram  
1 1/2 cumin  
3 tablespoons tomato paste  
1 can crushed tomatoes  
1 quart (1 liter) water  
2 cubes chicken stock  
1 cup (2 1/2 dl) crème fraîche for garnish

This is how you make it:

Chop the onion finely and crush the garlic cloves with a knife. Cut the bell pepper, celeriac and potatoes in cubes. Fry on medium heat and add the mincemeat and the spices. Add the tomatoes, water and the stock. Let it simmer for 20-25 minutes and season with salt and pepper. Serve the soup with a small tablespoon crème fraîche and bread.

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren

**In Memoriam**  
**Till minne av hädangångna**  
**ordenssyskon genom vilkas**  
**bortgång syskonkretsen gjort**  
**en kännbar förlust**  
**In memory of our departed**  
**members who will be**  
**sorely missed**

**ARIZONA**

**REX BINNIE** passed away on November 21, 2005, at the age of 89. He was a member of Tucson Lodge #691. He was born in Indiana on October 13, 1917 and joined on January 18, 1974. He served as Assistant Master of Ceremonies from 1975-77. He is survived by Charlotte, his wife for 59 years, 3 children and 6 grandsons.

**BRITA GUNN** passed away in Tucson, AZ, on November 28, 2005. She was a member of Tucson Lodge #691. She was born in Germany on December 7, 1925 and joined our lodge on January 20, 1973. She is survived by a son, Sven, daughters Jackie and Frances, and 6 grandchildren.

**CALIFORNIA**

**RUTH D. BREHM**, born August 20, 1917, in Eureka, CA, passed away on November 23, 2005, in Sacramento, CA. She was a long-time member of Fylgia Lodge #119 in San Francisco, CA. Beloved mother of Paul Westlund (Janet) and Elsa Boze (Michael), grandma of Janet Jepsen (Jonathan), great-grandma to Eleanor, sister to the late Earl Gustafson (Florence) and Carl Gustafson (Claire). She is survived by cousins, nieces and nephews here and in Sweden.

**LYNN MARIE GLOTZ** passed away in her sleep on Sunday, January 29, 2006, of cancer. She was a member of Mayflower Lodge and a Past Chairman and a member of the District #15.

**CLIFFORD HORST** passed away on October 23, 2005. He was born in Turlock, CA, on June 2, 1941. He was Past Chairman of Jenny Lodge #388. He is survived by his mother, Helen Horst, and sister Diane McNeill.

**CLAUDE HOUCK** passed away in Cathedral City, CA, on December 3, 2005, at age 92. He was born in Iowa on May 9, 1913. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lorraine. He was a member of Desert Viking Lodge #682.

**KENNETH "KEN" CARL JOHNSON** died on January 9, 2006, at home in Santa Rosa, CA. He was born on May 29, 1925, one of 8 siblings growing up in Bristol, CT. Upon graduation from Bristol High, Ken was inducted into the U.S. Army and served 2 years in WWII campaigns in the European theatre. Following graduation from college he worked as a manager for Western Electric in New York and in New Jersey for 30 years. In 1990 Ken and wife, the late June Carlson Johnson, retired to Oakmont-Santa Rosa. They were active in Vasa Linnea Lodge of Petaluma where Ken served as Scholarship Chairman and recently Jr. Past Chairman. He is survived by 3 sons, 2 daughters and spouses, 8 grandchildren, 3 brothers and 2 sisters, and Ruth Duffy, his close companion in later years.

**MAY MINNIE JOHNSON** passed away in Camarillo, CA, on January 1, 2006. She was born in Salt Lake City, UT, on May 15, 1915. She was a member of Oak Leaf Lodge #685 in Thousand Oaks, CA, where she served as Secretary and Chairman. She is survived by her husband Fred, 3 daughters and their families.

**PEARL LINDALL** joined Nord Lodge #392 on October 5, 1957. She was born in Pine City, MN, on January 30, 1910, and passed away on August 13, 2005, at the age of 95. She was a member for nearly 48 years. She is survived by a daughter and son and their children.

**JOHN NICHLEY** joined Nord Lodge #392 on May 6, 1979. He was born on September 1, 1918, and passed away

on December 7, 2005, at the age of 87. He was a member of Nord Lodge for 26 years. He is survived by his wife, Helen, a son and daughter and 2 grandchildren.

**MAJ BRITT SOFIA PETERSON** passed away on November 2, 2005, in Thousand Oaks, CA. She was born in Gamleby, Sweden, on March 31, 1920. Maj Britt and her husband Paul started Oak Leaf Lodge #685 in Thousand Oaks in 1968 and she served as Chairman and held various other offices. She is survived by her son and his family.

**PDM PHYLLIS PETERSEN** joined Nord Lodge #392 on November 15, 1974, a member for 31 years. She was born in Stockton, CA, on May 28, 1938, and passed away on December 4, 2005, at the age of 67. She is survived by her husband Craig, twin sons, Derek and Malcolm, and a daughter Kimberly. She also leaves her mother, brother and 4 grandchildren.

**GERDA NELSON STANLEY** passed away on January 14, 2006, in Fontana, CA, from a stroke. She was a member of Mayflower Lodge #445 in California. She is survived by her son Alan and three grandsons, Sean, Stafford and Stephen.

**MARIE WALLER** passed away November 24, 2005, in Templeton, CA. Marie was born in Topeka, KS, and joined Mayflower Lodge #445 on May 16, 1974. She is survived by 2 sons, Stephen and Donald.

**CONNECTICUT**

**ROBERT H. LEOPOLD** died on July 19, 2005 at the age of 90 years. He was born on February 25, 1915, in Brooklyn, NY. He joined Three Crown Lodge #38, Stamford, CT, on March 20, 1964. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Leopold.

**FLORIDA**

**BETTY CATHERINE DAMASO** passed away on January 12, 2006. She was born in Carnegie, PA, on August 16, 1924, and came to Florida in 1980. She joined Holiday Lodge #699 on May 5, 1986. She is survived by a daughter, Bette Farmerie, her companion, Peter Sylvia, 11 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

**ILLINOIS**

**RUSSELL L. MOLINE**, born March 19, 1932, died October 10, 2005, at the age of 73. He joined Siljan-Mora Tuna Lodge #134, Chicago, IL, on February 26, 1999. He is survived by his wife, Jackie, and family (father to 6 children and proud grandpa and papa of 8 grandchildren).

**SIGNE NELSON**, passed away on November 18, 2005 at the age of 102 in Hillsdale, MI. She was born April 6, 1903 in Sweden. She joined Nobel Lodge #288 in April 1949. Memorial services were held at Moline Memorial Park, Moline, IL.

**NEW YORK**

**JOHN MAGNUSSON** passed away on January 23, 2006, at the age of 97. John was a carpenter who was born in Sweden and joined Freja Lodge #100 of White Plains, NY, in 1961. He served the lodge as Treasurer. John loved to sing, play the accordion, and was a member of a Swedish Glee Club. He is survived by daughters Doris Henneman and Helen Magnuson, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**OHIO**

**JAMES B. FRAVEL**, age 78, beloved husband of Elna I. Fravel (nee Freeburg), loving father of Jeffrey B. Fravel, Lynne Doycich (Thomas), and James S. Fravel (Heidi Berghaus), dear grandfather of Valerie and Emily Doycich, and Sarah, Rebecca, and Samuel Fravel, passed away on December 2, 2005, in Cleveland, OH. Jim was born in Lakewood, OH, on December 1, 1917, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on November 10, 1985.

**ELIZABETH (Betty) A. CURTIS TAYLOR** of Mayfield Village, OH, passed away on January 4, 2006, at the age of 95. Beloved wife of the late Charles B. Curtis and Clyde Taylor, mother of Penny Conover and Edward A. (Kathy) Curtis, grandmother of Casey Conover and E. Scott and Jeffrey Curtis. Betty was born in Milton, MA, on July 10, 1910, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on August 16, 1983. She faithfully served her lodge both as the editor of their monthly newsletter and as the Vasa Star representative for many years. Betty was also very active in the Tuesday

morning Swedish "Breakfast Club" which she and another lodge member began about 20 years ago.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**BERNARD LEROY STEN**, 82, passed away October 27, 2005. He was born in Washington, PA, on August 20, 1923 and joined Balder Lodge #308 on July 23, 1946. He is survived by 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

**EVELINE WHITTEL**, born July 2, 1915, died December 5, 2005. She joined Oscars Borg Lodge #172 in Philadelphia, PA, on February 24, 1991. She served as Assistant Secretary for many years. She is survived by her 2 stepsons, 8 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**TEXAS**

**GEORGE BERNARD HANSON** passed away December 7, 2005, in Dallas, TX, at the age of 85. He was born on July 16, 1920, at Barnesboro, PA, to John Hanson and Hildur Berling, served as a pilot in WWII in the U.S. Army Air Force and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.S. in Geology. He was a member of the Vasa Swedish Club and the Polka Lovers Klub of America. Preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Mary Osborne Hanson. Survived by 2 sons and 6 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter, as well as his dance partner and close companion, Martha Frnka.

**WASHINGTON**

**HOLLIS SMITH**, born in 1916, passed away on August 13, 2005. He was an enthusiastic member of Olympia Lodge #550 and Past Chairman. Also Past District #13 Treasurer. He is survived by his wife Doris, her 2 children and his 2 brothers.

**LAURA SEZNICK**, born December 7, 1918, passed away January 13, 2006, at age 87. Peter, her husband of 60 years, passed away in 2003. They are survived by three children, Joan, Nancy, and Jack, 4 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. Laura had been very active in the Vasa Hope Lodge #503 in previous years.

**CANADA**

**EDWIN OTTO CARLSON** was born in Dalarna, Sweden, and immigrated to Canada in April of 1932. He passed away in Winnipeg, on January 7, 2006, at the age of 95. Ed was initiated into Lodge Strindberg #259 in 1910. In 1999, he was made an Honorary Life Member of our Lodge. Ed was very active in the Lodge and the Swedish community and belonged to numerous organizations. He was appointed Honorary Consul for Manitoba and Saskatchewan by the King of Sweden and in this capacity was awarded the Order of the North Star for dedicated service. Ed attended meetings and Lodge activities right up to his death. The Lodge and the Swedish community will miss Brother Ed.

**SHIRLEY MAE FORREST** was born June 22, 1935, in Calgary, Alberta, and died on August 26, 2005 in Rimby. She was a member of Branting Lodge #417 since February 14, 1975. Surviving are her husband Robert and children Shelley and Darrell, brother Arnie and their families. She was predeceased by her parents, daughter Sandra and sister Rita.

**GORDON JOHNSON**, Spruce Grove, AB, passed away tragically on his way to playing hockey, December 14, 2005. He was born in Edmonton, Alberta, on May 27, 1951, and became a member of Skandia Lodge #549, Edmonton, AB, on June 1, 1974. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, 1 son, Scott, 1 daughter, Le-Anne, brothers Greg, Grant, Gary, Glen, and sister Peggy, father Sixten, grandchildren Nicklas, Nolan, Madison, McKenna, Michelle and many other relatives and business associates. He was Chairman for 7 years and was serving as Past Chairman. Ten days prior to this he played the role of Santa Claus at our Children's Christmas party.

**MEMORIAL NOTICES**

should be mailed with check or money order to: Marie Carlson, 9560 Curberry Drive, Mentor, OH 44060. The fee is \$5.00 for six lines. All notices must be TYPED and written in a format similar to those in this column.

Longer memorials are charged at the rate of \$8.00 per column inch.



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