

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

JULY - AUGUST 2006



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



The Grand Master's Message



Rolf Bergman

Vasa Brothers and Sisters!

It is with great pleasure and some trepidation that I address you for the first time as Grand Master of the Vasa Order. Over the next four years it is my sincere desire that we can together address the important issues facing our Order, the foremost being membership retention and recruitment. I hope you will take the time to dialogue with me and the Executive Board, either through personal communications or via letters to the Editor. I want to know what you think about Vasa so that together we can find ways to celebrate our unique fellowship and heritage. As Grand Master I see my job as a servant of the VOA and, with God's help, hope to carry out that service with whatever strength and ability are given me.

A sincere *Thank You* to PGM Ulf Brynjestad and the District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15 Convention Committee, chaired by Daga-Karin Lindquist, for a well organized and run 36th GL Convention, especially the wonderful arrangements in San Diego. The weather was, of course, beautiful with warm sunny days to enjoy the dazzling array of flowers and scenery at the Town & Country Hotel. Marty and I spent twelve wonderful days there and enjoyed ourselves immensely.

It is my pleasure to welcome and congratulate the new members of the Grand Lodge Executive Board; Pam Genelli – Eastern Region, Jake Gruel – Midwest Region, Tore Kellgren – Western Region, Tore Tellberg – Sweden, Ken Banks – Canada and Bertil Ericsson – At Large. It is also my special pleasure to welcome Joan Graham as the new Grand Secretary. The secretary has the most difficult job in the Order, no matter at what level. Not only does she have a lot of work, she also has to put up with the GM and other EB members' demands. I congratulate Bill Lundquist as the new Vice Grand Master. I am excited about the composition of the board and know we will be able to work together for the good of the Order. I also congratulate PGS Cynthia Ericson on her Honorary Life Member award. She is retiring after serving three GM's as Grand Secretary; but not quite yet as she is still helping the board with lots of details during the transition.

I remind you (LL secretaries in particular) to advise me of any birthdays of 75, 80, 85 etc., and membership

anniversaries of 50, 55, 60, etc., so that I may participate in the celebrations. My address information is on the facing page; email contact is preferred, if possible.

A motto I would propose for use for my term is **“Tradition, with Vision.”** In later messages I will expand on this idea. Further at the Convention in San Diego we adopted a mission statement for the Order; **“As the world continues to shrink, it becomes ever more important that we promote, preserve, and celebrate our Swedish heritage and fellowship in all our cultural, educational, and social endeavors.”**

Vasa needs your help in carrying out our vision and mission! Can we count on you?

Vasa Syskon!

Det är med stor glädje och viss oro som jag skriver till Er för första gången som Stormästare av Vasa Orden. Under min tjänstperiod är det min önskan att vi tillsammans kan hantera de viktiga frågor vi står inför, inte minst frågan om hur man behåller nuvarande medlemmar och samtidigt skaffar nya medlemmar till vår Orden. Jag hoppas att Ni vill ta tid för dialog med mig eller Exekutiva Rådets medlemmar, genom brev eller epost till mig eller till Redaktören, om dessa eller andra frågor. Jag vill gärna höra Era tankar om Vasa så att vi tillsammans kan finna vägar att säkerställa vår gemenskap och vårt unika arv för framtiden. Som Stormästare ser jag min uppgift att vara Ordens tjänare och med Guds hjälp hoppas jag på tillräcklig kraft och begåvning.

Jag vill påminna Er (särskilt LL sekreterare) om att meddela mig om 75-, 80-, 85-års födelsedagar osv samt 50-, 55-, 60-års medlemskapsjubiléer osv så att jag kan delta i firandet. Ni finner min adress på nästa sida.

Mottot för min tjänstperiod är **“Tradition with Vision.”** Jag skriver mer senare om vad det betyder. På storlogemötet i San Diego införde vi en programförklaring för Orden: **“Som jorden fortsätter att krympa ihop, blir det mer och mer viktigt att upphöja, bevara och fira vårt Svenska arv och gemenskap i alla kulturella, utbildnings- och sociala strävanden.”**

Vasa behöver Er hjälp att uppnå denna vision och fylla vår uppgift! Kan vi räkna med Er?

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Quarter Page Black and White	old price \$100.00	new price \$150.00
One Column Inch	old price \$20.00	new price \$30.00

Full & Half Page Color is available only for inside back cover or back cover - contact the editor for prices.

10% discount for Vasa Lodges and Members

THE VASA STAR (ISSN 0746-0627) is published bi-monthly by the Vasa Order of America. Periodicals postage paid at Oro Valley, AZ and additional entries.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Vasa Star, P.O. Box 69997, Oro Valley, AZ 85750-6382.

Letter from the Editor

The 2006 Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego is now over. Note the changes in officer's names and the look of The Vasa Star. Also the Lodge Address directory is included in this issue. A report of the convention will appear in the next issue.

I will continue as Editor, something I enjoy. The health issues in my family I have dealt with for a while are now a thing of the past. We were able to visit Sweden for a few weeks and see family and friends.

Back in June I had the honor of meeting Ambassador Gunnar Lund at the opening of SACC-OHIO in Cleveland, Ohio. You can read about him and some of his major goals as ambassador in the *Please Meet* section.

The Swedish American of the year Agneta Nilsson, founder of SWEA, Swedish Women's Educational Association, No. 47 in order, is featured in this issue.

August and September is the time for yet another cultural culinary tradition celebrated all over Sweden, so for everybody who enjoys *surströmming and crayfish* I would like to share a toast, "SKÅL"!

Marie

Brev från redaktören

Storlogemötet 2006 i San Diego är nu över. Notera namnändringarna för tjänstemän och utseendet av The Vasa Star. Addresslistan över logemedlemmar finns även med i denna upplaga. En rapport över Storlogemötet kommer i nästa upplaga.

Jag kommer att fortsätta som Redaktör, något jag tycker är givande. Hälsoproblemen i min familj jag haft under en period ligger nu bakom oss. Vi hade möjlighet att besöka Sverige i några veckor och träffa släkt och vänner.

I juni hade jag äran att träffa Ambassadör Gunnar Lund under öppnandet av SACC-OHIO, (Svenska Handelskammaren) i Cleveland, Ohio, och ni kan läsa om honom och några av hans viktiga mål som ambassadör i *Please Meet* delen.

Årets Svensk-Amerikan, Agneta Nilsson, SWEAs grundare, Swedish Women's Educational Association, nr 47 i ordningen, kan ni läsa om i denna upplaga.

Augusti och September är en tid för ännu and kulturell mat tradition som firas över hela Sverige, så till alla som njuter av att äta *surströmming och kräftor* vill jag utbringa en gemensam hyllning, "SKÅL"!

Marie

Grand Lodge Executive Board

Back row (left to right): Tore Kellgren, GLEBM-Western Region; Bertil Ericsson, GLEBM-At Large; Jake Gruel, GLEBM-Midwest Region; Pam Genelli, GLEBM-Easter Region; Ken Banks, GLEBM-Canada; Tore Tellberg, GLEBM-Sweden; George Nord, PGM. Front row (left to right): C. Richard Overberg, GT; William Lundquist, VGM; Rolf Bergman, GM; Ulf Brynjestad, Jr. PGM; Joan Graham, GS; and Helen Mingram, VGS.

Deadlines for The Vasa Star:

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st

March/April is Feb. 1st

May/June is April 1st

July/Aug. is June 1st

Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st

Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

Deadline for Christmas ads: October 1st

ARCHIVES NEWS



Skånska Husarsextetten

Connections! What wonderful things they are. New opportunities, meeting new people, making long lasting friendships, travel; the list is endless how one can benefit from connections.

Such was the case when one person in Sweden, Lars-Olof Strufve, not a member of Vasa, was asked by Vasa lodges in southern Sweden to be a guest speaker at some of their events. Besides his speaking engagements, he is also involved with a group called Skånska Husarsextetten in Höganäs. This is a fine group of six men playing brass instrument (plus one drummer) dressed in early military uniforms. Although Lars-Olof does not play with the group, he manages the many tours the group has taken and will take.

During his speaking tours he spoke with some Vasa members who suggested that the group tour the USA. Connections were made and the rest is history. The group toured and gave concerts in Chicago, Bishop Hill and Rockford in Illinois and Madison and Milwaukee in Wisconsin. All hosted by Vasa lodges in those cities.

Since the Vasa Archive is in the heart

of Bishop Hill's historic district, it is only natural that we encourage visiting groups, whether Vasa or not, to meet at the Archives. Vasa members usually know what we have and non-Vasa members will be briefed about our organization and all will be given tours, if they so wish.

Information about lodges in their individual areas is offered, if the interest is there. We are always optimistic that new Vasa members will be added to our membership roster.

We are pleased to be able to host any group coming to Bishop Hill and of course the Archives. Our building allows our guests to rest in comfort while touring the town. There is a misconception that only Vasa members can visit the Archives. Not so, we welcome everyone and everyone is treated in a welcoming manner. So plan to visit and bring your family and friends.

We can be reached at Vasa Archives, PO Box 101, Bishop Hill IL 61419, telephone/FAX: 309-927-3898 and a **NEW E-MAIL: vasa_archives@hughes.net.**

Submitted by: R&L Horngren

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IMPORTANT!
Immediate Changes

Lillemor and Richard Horngren at the Vasa Archives
new e-mail: vasa_archives@hughes.net

Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 1

After a long absence and after receiving many requests, we have now decided to resume the Swedish language lessons in the Vasa Star. Marie Carlson, the editor of the Vasa Star, has agreed to make room for the lessons. We really appreciate that.

When we first started the lessons, they appeared in the February 1985 issue of the Vasa Star and they continued in every issue until we stopped four years ago. We enjoyed working on and presenting these lessons for our members. It was very gratifying hearing from many of you how these lessons were used in so many different ways. Our favorite way was when these lessons were used during “pratstund” (chat) sessions just before a lodge meeting.

Once we start with the actual lessons we will use the same format as before with Nya Ord - New Words, a story, first in Swedish and then in English. We may also incorporate the actual lessons used before with some changes.

We will, at times, try to introduce some grammar but these lessons should not be complicated. We aim to make learning easy and fun.

Swedish is a Germanic language, as is English, German, Dutch and the other Scandinavian languages so you will find many familiar words in our lessons.

THE SWEDISH ALPHABET

Swedish has the same letters as English plus three more vowels. These vowels are found at the end of the alphabet and also in dictionaries, telephone books and other lists. Most consonants sound like their English equivalent, as do many vowels. However, Swedish does have several vowel sounds, which must be learned. Swedish is generally spoken as it is spelled but there are exceptions which we will cover as we go along.

Swedish vowels are generally long but are short when followed by two consonants in the same syllable. This will be explained in another chapter.

Remind yourself that you are learning to speak Swedish. In our experience teaching Swedish, we have had students trying Swedish words with German or French accents.

A	as in car	O	as in brood
B	bay	P	pay
C	say	Q	ku
D	day	R	air
E	eh	S	ess
F	eff	T	tay
G	gay	U	as in truth
H	as in hold	V	vay
I	ee	W	dubbelt vay
J	yee	X	eks
K	kå	Y	say oo and ee together
L	ell	Z	sehta
M	em	Å	oh
N	en	Ä	aih
		Ö	as in bird

These are not the exact sounds of the Swedish alphabet. This can only be accomplished by listening to a native speaker.

We have given you the approximate sounds that will give you some help in reading the Swedish words.

The letters G and K have soft and hard values and we will cover them in a future chapter.

When we have enough lessons to fill a cassette tape we will record the Swedish portions and make it available to those interested.

Here are some easy phrases you can use every day:

Hej	Hi
Hur mår du?	How are you?
Jag mår bra	I am fine (I feel fine)
Tack	Thanks
Tack så mycket	Thank you very much
Talar du engelska?	Do you speak English?
Talar du svenska?	Do you speak Swedish?

There are several ways to say good-bye in Swedish here are some of them:

Hej då	Bye then
Hej hej	Bye bye
A(d)jö	Goodbye
Vi ses	We'll be seeing you

There you have it, the first lesson of many we will feature in the Vasa Star.

We are hoping you will enjoy them and that they will be useful in your effort to learn Swedish. We want you to remember that learning should be fun and also remember that we have to learn as a child learns, from babyhood on...one or two words at a time.

Good Luck – Lycka till!!!

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR (New)

Todd Anderson

383 Middlebrook Way
Rohnert Park, CA, 94928
Phone: (707) 664-9688

E-mail: todd.anderson@turner.com

The Vasa website at 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.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The Vasa Order of America began more than a century ago as a benefit fraternal society for Swedish immigrants to the United States. Membership at the time was limited to Swedish born men who through the Vasa Order met others who needed to learn the new language and ways of the new country. A benefit fund provided a small income to members during sickness, and a death benefit at the time would cover final expenses. The Order is named for Gustav Vasa, who liberated the country in the 16th century and became the first King of modern Sweden. The name of Vasa reflects the Order's roots as a Swedish American Fraternal Organization.

Over the past decades, many things have changed, and the Vasa Order has grown to meet the new needs of the Scandinavian American community. Where in the past, members looked to Vasa to help them learn the ways of the new country and provide them a means to share problems and solutions with their countrymen, today Vasa provides members a means to share their rich heritage with fellow Americans, and helps them to learn or remember the meaningful ways and values of the "Old Country."

Swedish in origin, the Vasa Order welcomes men and woman over 14 years of age who are interested in celebrating elements of Swedish or other Nordic heritage. We do this by encouraging the observance of special dates old and new, such as Midsummer, Leif Erickson Day, etc. with proper festivities

including Smorgasbord and Scandinavian music. While much of our activity occurs during the summer season, in mid-December it is hard to find a Vasa Lodge where **Luciafest** is not observed.

Many lodges and districts sponsor Language classes as well as Children's clubs in which Folk Dances are learned and performed in authentic costume. Whenever we can, we take part in programs where our rich heritage may be shared with the public.

There are over two hundred lodges in the Vasa Order, governed by 19 District lodges in the United States, Sweden and Canada.

You become a member of the Vasa Order by being initiated in person into a local lodge.



Arts and Crafts
Hay Rides
Scandinavian Foods
Viking Historical Speakers
Irish Step Dancers
Archery Demonstrations



Music & Dancing
Scandinavian Vendors
Kubb Game
Viking Skill Games for Kids
Moon Walk
Bagpipers

The Vasa Order of America, District #6
Proudly Presents the 8th

Leif Erikson Festival

*Celebrating the Millennium Anniversary of Leif Erikson's
Discovery of North America*

Saturday, September 30th, 2006

Festival begins at 10 AM at VASA Park
Viking Dance to follow Festival in early evening
Admission: \$8.00 for Adults – Children 12 and under FREE

**Entertainment during the Festival provided by The
Scandinavian Accordion Club of NY, The Viking Ship
Norseman, Ostvik Vikings, Viking Battle
Re-enactments and many other participants.**

**For more information, call (732) 388-3329
www.vasaparknj.com**



5th Annual SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

A Celebration of Scandinavian Culture
Representing Scandinavian Organizations
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Scandinavian Music, Food, Arts and Crafts

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(certain restrictions apply)
Donated by:
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October 6th – 8th, 2006

Friday – Sunday 11:00am – 7:00pm

Admission: \$6 Friday – Sunday to all events,
Children 5 and under *Free*
Free Parking in Gold lot across from main entrance,
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**Pavilion Hall - Western Washington Fairgrounds
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SWEDISH-AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

AGNETA NILSSON

Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2006



De båda svenska Distriktslogerna av Vasa Orden av Amerika har utsett Agneta Nilsson, Manhattan Beach, Kalifornien, till Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2006, den 47:e i ordningen. Agneta Nilsson föddes i Stockholm och hade tidigt en önskan att komma till USA. I början av 60-talet för hon

dit som deltagare i "The Experiment in International Living," hon blev guide på FN, hon ville se mer av det stora landet och för med några vänner till Kalifornien. Där arbetade hon på en skandinavisk restaurang, hon sydde och sålde bikinis (ett plagg som då var absolut förbjudet på badstränderna) och mycket, mycket mer. Sedan hon gift sig med SAS-chefen i Los Angeles, Gunnar Nilsson, och flyttat till denna stad började hon intressera sig för bärnsten och har sedan många år eget företag med bärnstensprodukter.

Men det som har gjort Agneta Nilsson känd över hela världen är SWEA, Swedish Womens Educational Association. Idén fick hon i samband med en julbasar för svenska vänner 1979. Inte många organisationer har haft en sådan utveckling som SWEA. Idag har man ca 8.200 medlemmar i 78 lokalföreningar i 35 länder på fem kontinenter.

SWEAs syfte är att värna om det svenska språket, stödja och sprida kännedom om svensk kultur och svenska traditioner, förmedla personliga och professionella kontakter, samt att etablera ett nätverk Swear emellan över hela världen.

Några exempel på utmärkelser Agneta Nilsson erhållit för sin gärning:

- 1995 utsågs hon till "Årets Svensk i världen."
- Hon har belönats med 2 kungamedaljer för insatsen med SWEA.
- 2005 erhöill hon The Swedish Council of America utmärkelse "The Great Swedish Heritage Award for 2005."

Agneta Nilsson kommer att resa till Sverige med vår sponsor SAS Scandinavian AB Sverige, för att närvara vid de svenskamerikanska firandena i Stockholm och Växjö med början den 6 augusti.

Vasa Orden av Amerika har sedan 1960 utnämnt en Årets Svensk-Amerikan för att hedra våra emigranter för deras insatser i Amerika. Årets Svensk-Amerikan har antingen varit engagerad i svenskamerikanska kulturutbyten eller gjort en enastående karriär i det amerikanska samhället. Bland tidigare mottagare av denna hederstitel märks nobelpristagaren i kemi 1951, *Dr Glenn T. Seaborg*, astronauten *Edwin Aldrin*, skådespelerskan *Signe Hasso*, ordföranden i USA:s högsta domstol *William H. Rehnquist* samt *Marilyn Carlson Nelson*, VD för Carlson Companies Inc.

Mer information om Årets Svensk-Amerikan kan fås av:

Ordföranden i kommittén för Årets Svensk-Amerikan, Bertil Ericsson, tel 0457-245 42

eller Catherine Bringselius Nilsson tel 0470-285 88.

Vasa Orden av Amerika: <http://www.vasaorder.com/>,
<http://www.vasaorden.se/>

SWEA: <http://www.swea.org/>

The two Swedish district lodges of the Vasa Order of America has named Agneta Nilsson, Manhattan Beach, California to be the Swedish American of the year 2006, the 47th person to be named for this honour.

Agneta Nilsson was born in Stockholm and had a wish to come to the US early on. In the beginning of the 60's she went there as a participant in "The Experiment in International Living."

She became a tour guide at the UN, but wanted to see more of the big country and travelled with some friends to California. There she worked in a Scandinavian restaurant, sewed and sold bikinis (a garment that at the time was strictly forbidden on the beach) and much, much more.

After she married the president of SAS in Los Angeles, Gunnar Nilsson, and moved there, she became interested in amber and has since many years her own company of amber products.

But the thing that made her famous worldwide is SWEA, The Swedish Women's Education Association. She got the idea for it at a Christmas bazaar for Swedish friends in 1979.

Few organizations have had the rapid development of SWEA. Today there are 8200 members in 78 local chapters in 35 countries on 5 continents.

SWEA's purpose is to promote and safeguard the Swedish language, support and promote the knowledge of Swedish culture and traditions, encourage personal and professional contacts and build a network of SWEA's around the world.

Some examples of honours that Agneta Nilsson has received for her work are:

- 1995 "Swede of the world"
- 2 royal awards for her work with SWEA
- 2005 "The Great Swedish Heritage Award" by the Swedish council of America

Agneta Nilsson will travel to Sweden with our sponsor "SAS Scandinavian AB, Sweden" to be present at the Swedish-American of the year celebrations in Stockholm and Växjö, beginning on Aug 6.

The Vasa Order of America has since 1960 named a Swedish-American of the year to honour our emigrants for their work in America.

The Swedish-American of the year has to have either been engaged in Swedish-American cultural exchange or have made an outstanding career in the American business or professional world.

Among previous recipients of the award are:

Dr. Glenn Seaborg - Nobel prizewinner chemistry 1951, Edwin Aldrin - astronaut, Signe Hasso - actress, William T Renquist, supreme court justice, and Marilyn Carlson Nelson, president of the Carlson Companies Inc.

More information about the Swedish-American of the year can be had from the chairman of the committee: Bertil Ericsson, phone 46-457-24542 or Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, phone: 46-470-28588.

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Campaign Results Membership 2005 – A Campaign for Vasa

This year five District Lodges did not submit their reports in time to be considered for the membership awards. There well could have been others who had greater numbers, but unfortunately, their reports were not submitted by the deadline.

The Vasa Order experienced a very deep decline during 2005. Of the fourteen districts reporting there were only two districts that show any gain. The rest had no gain or lost more than they initiated. We aren't initiating as many new members into the Order as in past years and we are not keeping our members. Of the losses experienced in 2005, 23% were lost due to death, 6% transferred to other lodges, and 71% dropped their membership.

"Membership 2006 – A Campaign for Vasa" can be an incentive for Local Lodges and District Lodges to create something new in their lodges. New Children's Clubs! New Activities Clubs! New Local Lodges!

The Grand Lodge has available a "Prospective Member Packet" and a "Welcome to New Members Packet" which can be ordered from the Vice Grand Secretary. Order a supply today.

Local Lodge and District Secretaries: Be sure to get those Yearly Reports turned in by the deadline, so that your lodges will be in the running for Cash Awards at the close of "Membership 2006 – A Campaign for Vasa"! Let's turn this around and start an UPWARD trend!



Membership 2006 – A Campaign for Vasa

It is time for action! The Vasa Order of America is a treasure-trove of Swedish tradition and heritage. Celebrate your wonderful heritage by sharing it with your fellow Scandinavians. Help your children and grandchildren learn WHO they are. Participate in wholesome activities with your family. It took generations to build the Vasa Order of America, but *could disappear* if we neglect it. Each year, we are losing more members than we are taking in. We are in danger of disappearing – we must take action now!

Once again, the Grand Lodge is sponsoring the **Membership 2006 – A Campaign for Vasa** with special awards for the annual Membership Campaign. To help you attract new members, the Grand Lodge is producing a new four-color brochure for your use. Order a supply (free) from Vice Grand Secretary Helen Mingram, 6752 Harrisburg Place, Stockton, CA 95207, and then hand them out to prospective members at street fairs, festivals, to your friends, or even at the grocery store.

Calling All

Local Lodge Members! Local Lodge Officers! District Lodge Officers!

\$200

to a newly organized Children's Club

\$200

to a newly organized Activities Club

\$200

to a newly instituted Local Lodge

\$250, \$200, \$100

to the top three districts with the highest percentage gain

\$100

to the member sponsoring the most New Members
(with minimum five new members)

\$100

to the local lodge in *each* district with the most members initiated
and a minimum 20% increase

\$100, \$75, and \$50

to the top three local lodges with the highest percentage gain

Results of **Membership 2006 – A Campaign for Vasa** will be announced in 2007, and will be based on the Yearly Reports prepared by the Local and District Secretaries. Yearly Reports must be received by the Grand Secretary by March 31, 2006.

*The District and Local Lodge **Membership Contest Rules** are as follows: Percentage gain is determined by: total # initiated minus # lost for other reasons, divided by total membership at beginning of the year, multiplied by 100. Transfers, dual members and those lost by death are not counted. Lodges instituted are not included, nor are those due to mergers. Deadline is March 31st - District Secretaries must have their reports to the Grand Secretary to be included.

–Joanie Graham, Grand Lodge Membership Chair '02-'06

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL Minnesota #7

Minnesota District #7, Vasa Order of America, held its 98th annual state convention at the Loyal Order of Moose Clubrooms in Two Harbors, MN, on April 29, 2006. The Vasa Order has lodges in the United States, Canada and Sweden. The six Minnesota lodges are Runeberg, Stenbock and John Morton Lodges in Minneapolis, Framat in Sandstone, MN, Kronan in St. Paul, and Gota Lejon in Two Harbors.

Preceding the general meeting a Past District Masters' meeting was held at Blackwood's Restaurant in Two Harbors. Delegates and members of Minnesota District #7 enjoyed juice, coffee and muffins before they began their business meeting, which was called to order by District Master Bertil Erickson. JoAnn Thureen presented the delegates credentials and Kari Dietrich was initiated as a new delegate. After the District Chaplain's message the business meeting continued, with reports from the District Master, Vice District Master, Treasurer, Auditors, Membership and Jr. Vasa Dancers.

Correspondence included regrets from those who were unable to attend. For New Business a by-law change was proposed, with the district convention being changed to once every *two* years, a one-day convention, with the next convention being held in April or May of 2008. After the motion was made and seconded there was some discussion, and the motion was approved by the delegates. The Executive Board made plans to meet to plan a special celebration for the 100th year of Minnesota District #7.

After adjournment for lunch the meeting continued with a lovely memorial service for those members who passed away in 2005. JoAnn Thureen offered a thank you from the District to the Gota Lejon Lodge #251 in Two Harbors for hosting the convention. A standing ovation was given to retiring District Secretary Janice Lehman for her years of experience, tireless work and support of Minnesota District #7.

Conversation and fellowship followed the banquet, and a highlight of the evening was a champagne toast given by David Johnson of Gota Lejon to his father-in-law, Clyde Hedin, who was celebrating his 86th birthday! Minnesota

District #7 looks forward to a very special celebration; in 2008 for their 100th year.

Submitted by: Patricia Olson



Clyde Hedin, long-standing member of Gota Lejon #251, Two Harbors, MN, and Janice Lehman, retiring District Secretary of Minnesota #7, toast each other as Clyde celebrates his 86th birthday and Janice celebrates her retirement.

DL Golden Gate #12

Gala receptions, a beautiful banquet, annual elections, meeting old acquaintances, making new friends, and sharing Scandinavian culture with adults and children were the highlights of the Vasa Order of America, District Lodge Golden Gate #12 convention held in Concord at the Crowne Plaza. Three lodges hosted the convention: Tegner Lodge #149 of Oakland, Framåt Lodge #405 of Berkeley and Sveaborg Lodge #449 of Concord. District Master Birgitta Kellgren of Svea Lodge #348, San Jose, presided over the business and festivities of the convention. GL Executive Board Member Joan Graham of Framåt Lodge was convention chair.

"Youth, the future of Vasa" was the

theme chosen by District Master Birgitta Kellgren. Youth participated in the reception on Friday and at the opening ceremonies. A youth was initiated as a member on the convention floor.

Friday evening reception-goers were entertained by the "Anti och Strolling Strings," a group of young people ages 5 to 18 who played violins accompanied by cello, electric guitar, keyboard and percussion. They played and performed, moving in choreographed formations and dance steps.

Opening ceremonies were emceed by GLEBM, Joan Graham, convention chair, who introduced Concord city council member and former mayor, Laura Hoffmeister. She read a Proclamation from the City of Concord that the days of the convention were designated "Vasa Days" by the Concord City Council. A flag ceremony was presented with lodge members and an Honor Guard of children from the host lodges. Narrators for the flag ceremony were children's club members Kimberly Pearson and Shelby Nordendahl. Members of the Vasa Blad Children's Club of Sveaborg Lodge entertained with folk dancing. Teen Challenga Gilbert sang two Swedish spring songs. Musicians accompanying the program were Bob Burman and Sven Chilton.

Todd Anderson of Petaluma's Linnéa Lodge was elected and installed as the incoming District Master for 2006-2007. He was presented the gavel from outgoing District Master Birgitta Kellgren. Gifts from the District were presented to the outgoing District Master.

Birgitta Kellgren was honored at the Saturday afternoon District Master's Reception that featured Scandinavian foods and music. Ernie Lantz on the accordion, Kikki Nordin presented music with her fiddle and Jan Nordin as vocalist. The District Master's family and Svea Lodge gave the party.

In the spirit of "Youth - The Future of Vasa" fourteen-year-old Steven Bray of Woodside was initiated into membership of Svea Lodge, San Jose, on the floor of the convention. District Master Birgitta Kellgren, along with Vice District Master Todd Anderson, led his initiation and Stephen's father Past District Master Michael Bray, participating.

Continued on page 10

DL Golden Gate #12

Continued from page 9

The annual Memorial Service on Sunday morning honored those District Golden Gate members who passed away in the past year. Readings, song and music comprised the service accompanied by the necrology, the reading of each deceased member's name. Members of each lodge stood in silence and in honor of those whose names were read.

Sixty-year membership pins were presented to Don and Lillian Stafford, members of Monitor Lodge, Sacramento.

Included in the awards presented were the annual Membership Trophy to the lodge who has increased their membership the greatest. That award was presented to Sierra Kronan Lodge of Roseville. Those present to receive the award were: Joan Sherry, Scott and Kathryn Matthews, Barbara Erickson Lutz and Anne Erickson.

Written by: Barbara Olson

Submitted by: Tore Kellgren

Photo By: Ulrika Kellgren and Tore Kellgren



"Staffords:" District Master Birgitta Kellgren with Don and Lillian Stafford showing off their new 60-year pins.

DL Arizona #21

Arizona District Lodge No. 21 held its 14th Biennial Convention in Tucson on March 31, April 1 and 2, 2006 at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde. Convention Chairman Joan Swenson-Hitz and Tucson Lodge 621 hosted the event. The Friday night Welcome Reception featured "smörgåstårter" and other treats, and spring decorations.

A Cultural Leaders workshop was led by DCL LaVonne Lindall on Saturday morning, and an exchange of ideas and programs was attended by representatives of each lodge and visiting dignitaries. The Convention was opened at 10:00 a.m. by Tucson 691 Chairman Maudine Sullivan, with Susan Nordeen narrating the flag ceremony during the national anthem. District Master Gisela Liden and Staff were introduced and the meeting was called to order.

Dignitaries were recognized: GM Ulf Brynjestad, VGM Rolf Bergman, GS Cynthia Erickson, GLEBM Joan Graham, PGM Lennart Petersson, GLD AZ 21 Ruth Gregory and GLD PSW 15 Jackie Ahlen. Other special dignitaries were introduced.

"The Vikings – America's First Immigrants" was Saturday evening's

banquet theme, celebrated in the Seville Room with festive Viking Ship centerpieces on the tables. Entertainment was provided by soloists Stardust Johnson and Jennifer Martinez, the "Trollungarnas children folk dancers" and the "Tucson adult folk dancers."

The District Membership Award was won by Nordic Red Rocks Lodge 760. The 2005 District Scholarship winner, Sophie Anderson, was introduced and told of her career and education plans.

Jennifer Johansen, the 2006 winner, was unable to attend.

Red "Dala Häst" planters filled with ivy decorated the Sunday morning buffet breakfast, and the Memorial Service followed. Carnations were given to each lodge in memory of their deceased members.

The District was grateful to have so many GL officers and visitors attend the Arizona Convention.

Submitted by: Jaynie Anderson



District #21 Officers

NEWS FROM LODGES

Nobel Liljan Lodge #64

Brooklyn, NY

At the April 2006 meeting, the new officers for Lodge Nobel Liljan #64 were installed by the District Deputy, Elaine Gyllenhammer for a two-year period.

Chairman - Christine Hansen, Vice Chairman - Lilyan Langfeldt, Recording Secretary - Ingrid Smith, Treasurer - Beryl Lake, Financial Secretary - Christopher Smith, Master of Ceremonies - Kathryn Hansen, Greeter - Mildred Johansson, Chaplain - Gladys Munghall, Trustee - Ingrid Smith.

Margaret Lindblom, District Master of District #4, thanked the outgoing Chairman, Herb Antonson, for a job well done and congratulated and thanked the incoming officers for accepting the responsibilities of their respective offices.

Submitted by: Elaine Gyllenhammer



Chairman and Past Chairman, Christine Hansen and Herb Antonson, cutting the cake noting the beginning of the new two-year term.

Göta Lejon Lodge #84

Mount Kisco, NY

Göta Lejon is pleased to have initiated three new members since the beginning of the year: Crystal Terhune (granddaughter of Sister Greta Upham), Marisol Aarbo (wife of Brother Andy Aarbo), and Amy Johnson (daughter of Sister Grace and Brother Dennis Johnson). In addition, Brother Don Jacobson of Freja Lodge #100 became a dual member at our February meeting. Welcome to all!

District Deputy Mary Nordlund and her installing team from Lodge Freja, #100 installed the following officers at our February meeting — Chairman Dennis Johnson, Vice Chairman Karen

Snowberg, Recording Secretary Karen Bellows, Assistant Recording Secretary Alice Johnson, Financial Secretary Barbara Peterson, Treasurer Greta Upham, Cultural Leader Anita Karlsson-Dion, Chaplain John Karlson, Master of Ceremonies Andrew Aarbo, Assistant Master of Ceremonies Ellen Osterling, Inner Guard/Greeter Lars Osterling, Historian Beverly Dyckman, Auditor Chairman Andy Aarbo, Auditors Beverly Dyckman & Ralph Lindblom, Trustee Chairman John Karlson, Trustees Eric Holmquist & Alice Johnson, and Past Chairman Margaret Lindblom

Submitted by: Karen Snowberg



Relaxing after the officer installation are - (L-R) Row 1: Karen Bellows, Dennis Johnson, Karen Snowberg, Greta Upham. Row 2: Andreas Aarbo, Beverly Dyckman, Barbara Peterson, District Deputy Mary Nordlund, Ellen and Lars Osterling.

Freja Lodge #100

White Plains, NY



(L-R) Mary Lou Kristensen, Don Jacobson, Barbara Peterson, Alice Erhard, Sonja Derrien, Art Peterson, Mary Nordlund, George Simpson, Karen Bellows.

Lodge Freja #100 of White Plains, NY welcomed spring this year with a new slate of officers. At our meeting on March 11th, Lodge Stenland #727 joined us so that we could have a Dual Installation of officers, preceded by a wonderful St. Patrick's Day luncheon. Freja's District Deputy Beatrice Rasmussen is a member of Stenland and Stenland's District Deputy Barbara Peterson is a member of Freja, so a dual installation seemed appropriate. The following officers will serve Lodge Freja for the next two years: Chairman: Karen Snowberg; Vice Chairman: Jennifer Dreaper; Secretary: Don Jacobson; Chaplain: Arthur Peterson; Financial Secretary/Treasurer: Mary Nordlund; Master of Ceremonies: Sonia Derrien; Assistant Master of Ceremonies: Margaret Bruce; Cultural Leader: Barbara Peterson; Greeter: Evelyn Seastrand; Past Chairman: George Simpson; Auditors: (Chairman) Lynn Eklund, Ray Kallio, & Alice Erhard; Trustees: (Chairman) Don Jacobson, Mary Lou Kristiansen, & George Simpson.

Our meeting in April took place a week before Easter. Following our business meeting, members each made *Påskris* to enjoy during Holy Week. This was the first time many Freja members had had the opportunity to make a *Påskris*, and everyone dived into the project with great enthusiasm. Although they are traditionally made from birch branches, due to the lack of birch trees in our area, Vasa members have found forsythia and butterfly bush branches are more than adequate substitutions. Colorful feathers were attached to the branches, with some members cornering the market on blue and yellow feathers, for obvious reasons. We had a lot of laughs working on this project, but the results were terrific. Now if you could only see this picture in color!

Submitted by: Karen Snowberg

Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY



Thule Lodge #127 Degree Team.

Thule Lodge #127 has had a wonderful spring season, leading to warm weather and many activities at the lodge. Our lodge chairman Robert Fuller, along with vice chairman Don Carlson, planned for many events throughout the spring and summer seasons.

A cleaning day was scheduled in early spring to move out the "winter" cobwebs. This led to the spring pancake breakfast, and the annual Swedish meatball dinner, enjoyed by many.

Lodge meetings were changed to Thursday evenings, and the annual "egg sexa" was held with a big variety of Swedish foods. Thanks to Betty Lawson, Fanchon Fuller, Allie Nelson Withers and Ted Jackson for setting up a wonderful variety of food. Member Don Sandy had a hard boiled egg dropped into his pocket

anonymously. This followed tradition as his father the late Chester Sandy also had an egg put into his pocket without his knowledge each year at the same festival. Historian John Sipos takes photographs.

Inner guardsman Susan Sipos is in charge of monthly drawings and outer guardsman Gene Diamond is in charge of meeting drawings. Diane Shaw serves as the chaplain.

The annual Memorial Service was held at the lodge, led by chairman Fuller and vice chairman Carlson. Joel Marsh sang hymns, with Lucile ringing a tone after each name was announced. Family members were invited to attend the service.

If you are in our area, we would be happy to visit with you, "God dag" to all!

Submitted by: John Sipos

Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA

The members of Tegnér Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, celebrated Glad Påsk at their March meeting. After a delicious pea soup/oven pancake, etc. supper, two little witches, Shelby Nordendahl and Ann-Marie Ross, and Ingrid Anderson, Marie-Ann Hill, Elsy Mattsson, and Laura Nordendahl entertained us with a reading of Shelby's original story about Easter witches and by singing Swedish children's songs such as "Blinka, blinka stjärna där," "Bä Bä vita lamm," and "Blåsippor." A short business meeting was then held.

At our April meeting Laura Nordendahl and Marie-Ann Hill were elected as delegates to the Northern California Vasa Order District #12 Convention in Concord, CA, in April. Tegnér is helping to host the convention with Framåt and Sveaborg lodges. Members brought items to our meeting to be put in gift baskets which were to be raffled off at the convention. Laura was able to make up seven baskets as part of Tegnér's contribution toward convention expenses.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

Norden Lodge #233

Tacoma, WA

On May 7th, 2006, our Lodge Norden #233 had a very nice potluck dinner/meeting with guests from the Swedish Order of Vahalla of Tacoma, WA, and prospective new members visiting us. We were so full we almost didn't have room for everyone. But it was terrific and as usual the food was delicious.

A very special person was acknowledged at this social. Our lodge presented our Vice Chair, Diana Nelson, with an Outstanding Service Award honoring her from our members for her loyal dedication for so many years. Diana started coming to Vasa since she was a baby with her parents and grandparent in the early 40s ... thru the 60s. And as time went by, became more active in the recent years and served as our Social Chair for over 6 years. She and along with Shirlyanne Sargent have kept our lodge membership going and Diana has brought in over half of current membership and is still bringing in new members. She was totally surprised and we were delighted to give it to her. She is currently undergoing intensive cancer treatments but hopefully will be with us a lot longer. She is a great asset to Vasa and so proud of being a part of the Swedish heritage. Her mother is 84 and she cares for her and 2 dogs and cats as well. You would not believe all that she does for us and others as well. A very well deserved award to a very special lady.

Submitted by: Officers of Lodge Norden #233



On May 7th 2006 Norden Lodge #233 presented Vice-Chair Diana Nelson an Outstanding Honorary Achievements Award.

Svea Lodge #253

Carmel, IN

Svea Lodge #253 members were presented with a delightful program in April. The Swedish National Costumes, as well as folk costumes from different provinces, were modeled by many lodge members and children. Being that it was close to Easter, it was titled: "Swedish Easter Parade." Our narrator gave a brief history and description of each model's costume and we found many very interesting facts about many of them.

National Costumes were handmade by the models themselves, grandmothers, or mothers, as well as purchased. Instructions were in Swedish, therefore, help was needed to translate measurements and directions.

Jenne Swaine's costume was a gift from her father. She thinks of him each time she wears it. Sara Swanson designed and sewed her family's costumes, as did Susie Swanson and Joella Hultgren. Annette Johansson made her costume with a unique flaired bodice and hat that covered her ears. Char Swenson's costume is 75 years old and belonged to her aunt from Värmland. Sophia Anderson's decorative costume featured a 100-year-old apron made by her mother in Västergötland. Iva Lynn's costume is from Dalby and is made exactly like her cousin, Aina's. Ann-Katrin Roth's costume came from Sjäkevad. The fabric was handwoven by her aunt Anna, born in 1901. Dan Anderson modeled his Tomte costume.

In 1903 Marta Palme finished designing the costume she envisioned as representing all of Sweden.

It took 80 years from the time the National Costume was designed until it became accepted. On June 6, 1983, Queen Silvia modeled the costume for the first time on Sweden's National Day.

In May two salesmen treated us to a presentation from Tom Wood Volvo explaining their overseas program. They brought two of their new models for members to get a first hand view at. In

addition, a couple of the members brought their vintage Volkswagens to be shown.

We celebrated Midsommar on June 11th, a little early, to accommodate our members busy summer schedules, which include enjoying other lodges *Midsommar* festivals. The celebration was held at the home of members Jim and Brenda Lindgren. We began by decorating a Maypole and having a parade at their street. There was also dancing and a smorgasbord.

Submitted by: Sue James and Michelle Escalante



Swedish Costumes.



Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA

On Saturday, May 6, 2006, we celebrated our 92nd Anniversary of our lodge. We had a festive banquet at the Waterfall Restaurant. Guests and prospective members joined us for an enjoyable evening. There was a Chinese Auction of Swedish items, as well as other interesting gifts donated by members. Table centerpieces were also won by lucky participants. Awards were presented such as the 50-year membership pin presented to Elsie Carlson (pictured with Chairman Dorothy Overberg). The evening was a fitting end to an exceptional year for Svea Lodge.

Submitted by: Linda Collin



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Linde Lodge #492

New Berlin, WI

Linde Lodge is reporting two successful fundraisers for their upcoming hosting of the 2007 District Convention. In March we had our annual *Årtsoppa & Pannkaks Dinner*. We had over 180 paying guests. The kids at Skansen Children's Club #113 were busy helping serving and bussing tables, as were their parents, and many of the veteran Lodge members were working hard in the kitchen. The children also took a break from their duties and showed off the dance and song program they so proudly perform. In May we participated in the Scandinavian Festival, and served pancakes again. This time we had over 250 guests, despite the competition of delicious food creations by our friends from Norway, Denmark, and Finland.

During a visit to Sweden in April, Lisa Ekstrand had the pleasure of joining in the "gemensamhetsmöte" in Enköping. Sr. Elisabeth Agge and Br. Karl-Erik Axelsson had invited both Lisa and her sister Birgitta Markeling from Simrishamn to this very elegant and festive meeting with full sit-down dinner and entertainment to follow. The business meeting covered four lodges; Enköping #646 (host lodge), Uppsala #623, Engelbrekt #619 (sister lodge to Linde #492), and Eskilstuna #633, but other guests made up for a total of 10 lodges being represented, as well as having the DM for District 19 Lisbeth Hallberg-Quarfordt and the Dist. Deputy Libert Karlsson present. Swedes in USA are much more casual in their meetings, and attire, and although we all have to become more modern and contemporary, and sometimes ease off on rituals and "stuffiness" it is still a pleasure to be part of a "gala" affair.

Lisa also had another informal meeting with members from Tomelilla #631 in District 19. A delicious meal was shared at Gull-May and Bengt-Arne Åstradsson's home, while planning of a USA trip for Tomelilla members took place. Tomelilla Lodge is also a sister lodge to Linde. Long lasting friendship are formed and strengthened all the time. What amazes Lisa is that although she has lived in USA for 28 years, and always makes friends in USA, she is still making new friends in Sweden, despite the distance.

Submitted by: Lisa Ekstrand

Hope Lodge #503

Seattle, WA

Vasa Hope members met again May 8, 2006, and were greeted at a desk just inside the door by our three reception committee members, Liz Bogus, Nancy Flaten and Ethel Norman. Sympathy, get-well, and birthday cards were laid out for us all to sign and be sent to those unable to attend. After purchasing our lunch tickets and tickets for a later cash drawing, we were enticed to take a chance on the prize drawing which displayed three medium sized bottles of wine, set inside three attractive small ceramic pots with a matching ceramic tray, all in three shades of green, containing three garden seed packets. Added to the garden theme of this prize was a transplanter trowel and a pair of women's green striped canvas gloves.

During the social hour we were pleasantly surprised to see Norman Ginsberg,

Bill Sroufe, and the return of the "Snow Birds" from Arizona: Sylvia Jorgensen (of The Fjordsong Band), and Arvid and Ardis Svenning. Ardis stated that while they were in Arizona they enjoyed reading my articles in the Vasa Star. We all enjoy this social hour, as this is the time to reacquaint ourselves with members and to catch up on the latest happenings of others.

After lunch, during our meeting, Eric Anderson was presented with his 55-year membership pin. For being lodge Chairman for the last two years, Joanne Bell was presented with a handmade necklace made by Nancy Flaten's daughter-in-law, Chris. Our annual August Picnic is at our beautiful Vasa Park by Lake Sammamish.

Submitted by: Elsie J. Busch

Bishop Hill Lodge #683

Bishop Hill, IL



Deanna Wendel receiving a Vasa Scholarship from Vice Grand Master Rolf Bergman held at the District Lodge Lake Michigan No 8 District Convention.

The Vasa spirit is alive and well in our lodge. When the lodge was asked to host the Convention of District Lodge Lake Michigan No 8, we had barely a year to prepare for it. Our Chairman Sally Nelson put together a committee and they set to work. No matter whom she asked in the lodge, they all agreed to help to the best of their ability.

Having hosted the District Convention 13 years ago, we followed more or less the same schedule as before with very few changes. The cultural portion of the Convention, held on Friday night, offered an exhibit of Nordic National folk costumes. Local talents entertained the conventioners with several funny skits. Our newly chartered Children's Club, *Pride of the Family*, performed several dances and

even invited audience participation.

Sten Hult handled the business end of the Convention in true Vasa Spirit and with skill. We were honored to have three Grand Lodge board members and the President of the Vasa Archives attending.

This year many Grand Lodge scholarships were awarded in our District. One of them, Deanna Wendel, lives in Bishop Hill. We were pleased that she, along with her parents, was able to attend the banquet on Saturday and to receive her award from the Chairman of the Grand Lodge scholarship committee, Vice District Master Rolf Bergman.

All in all the Convention was a great success, thanks to everybody who worked so well together and in true Vasa Spirit.

Submitted by: Lillemor Horngren

Norden Lodge

#684

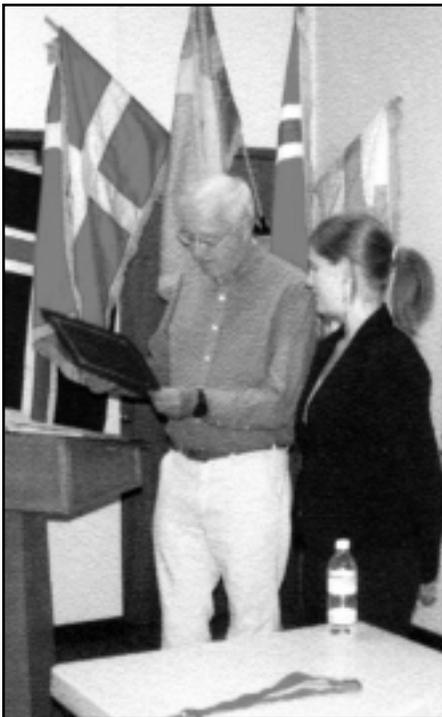
Fresno, CA

A few years ago Norden Lodge #684, located in Fresno, CA, decided to set up a scholarship fund for its members. One of the primary requirements for receipt of a scholarship is membership in the lodge for at least 2 years. At the regular meeting on April 7, 2006, the first scholarship was awarded by Anders Linde, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. He presented a check for \$500 to Stephanie Laich.

Stephanie has been a member of the lodge since she was old enough to join. Before that she participated in the yearly Lucia Pageant from the time she was 3 years old until she was old enough to be Lucia. She has been active in other lodge activities and some District events. She has also helped in various capacities connected with the annual Scandinavian Picnic of which Norden #684 is one of the sponsors.

Stephanie's Swedish connection is through her mother. Prior to the trip she attended a short class on the Swedish language so has some familiarity with Swedish words and pronunciation. She will continue to be a valuable member of a Vasa lodge wherever she may live in the future.

Submitted by: Pauline Peterson Mathes



Anders Linde presents a check for \$500 to Stephanie Laich.

Vasa Star July-August 2006

Baltic Lodge #689

Riverside, CA



Mona Sjögren and Sven and Mary Danielsson from Nässjö, Sweden.

On Saturday 22 April 2006, through a slide show of luminous photographs, Sven Danielsson of Nässjö, Sweden transported his audience of about a hundred from Riverside, California to Småland.

"This is the closest I have felt to Sweden. My grandparents were born in Sweden in Småland. I have always longed to travel to Jönköping but never have. Now I feel like I have been in Sweden today! The photographs were wonderful!"

"Sven's vibrant photographs brought back memories of the Sweden I left long ago! This was a wonderful experience, wonderful day! Thank you Mr. Danielsson!"

"My heart is full of longing to see this place in Sweden for myself even though I am Danish-American! Småland is beautiful!"

These are a few comments heard after the hour-long presentation of photographs that came to us from Småland through our distinguished guest. Writer, photographer, genealogist, archivist, Sven Danielsson, his lovely wife Mary and sister-in-law Mona Sjögren were guests of honor at Baltic Lodge in Riverside for the Scandinavian Fest on 22 April 2006.

Stan Cook introduced the chairman, Myrt Palatas, who welcomed Sven with a certificate from Baltic Lodge, an engraved memory mug, and an official welcome from the city of Riverside.

Through his photographs, Sven gave us a window into life in Nässjö, a city of about 30,000, and the parish of Norra Sandsjö in Nässjö County, situated in the highlands of Småland. He showed us the shimmering blue lake, Ingsbergssjön; the park; the fishing contest in spring; glorious spring flowers; the graduation complete with the red carpet leading from the city park to Hotell Högländ; the search for the mysterious, sunken castle Sundholm; the *byvandring* in Norra Sandsjö; *klapphuset*

where women washed in former times; the annual Swedish festival in Barkeryd with Texas Lucia; the courthouse and mills at Komstad; the graveyard at Norra Sandsjö Kyrka; green and blue springtime and summer, golden autumn; white winter; jul; and a selection of old photographs of Sven's *hembygd* which especially evoked precious memories of old Sweden. The photographs of nature beauty and the older photos were especially beautiful and moving.

Past Chairman of Baltic Lodge, Karen Willman, introduced the honorable Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge of the City of Riverside who welcomed and congratulated Sven and described his Swedish roots and a few memories evoked by Sven's "astounding accomplishment in images." He welcomed the visitors from Sweden and "the vital cultural exchange," and said he was deeply moved by all he heard and saw.

After the slide show, the audience enjoyed delicious food, displays from each Scandinavian country, handicrafts for sale including *hemslöjd* from Bankeryd in Småland by Ann-Charlotte Karlsson Hiljanen and Inger Karlsson. The festival ended with handshakes, California embraces, and longed-for conversation with our distinguished guests from Nässjö.

All agree that the day was memorable, and everyone in attendance was deeply honored and grateful that Sven Danielsson brought a little bit of Småland, Sweden to Riverside, CA.

Submitted by:
Dianne Carlsson Cook

Pennsylvania District #9 52nd District Convention

September 29, 30,
and October 1, 2006

Holiday Inn South
Boardman, OH
Host – Harmony Lodge #465
Youngstown, OH

Contact David Williams
(330) 750-0716
whartonam@aol.com

Tucson Lodge #691

Tucson, AZ

Tucson Lodge #691 celebrated an early *Valborgsmässoafton*, the arrival of spring, on April 29, 2006.

As I was driving to the party the beauty of the dessert, struck me now with masses of yellow flowers on the "Palo Verde" trees against the blue sky, the Swedish colors!

Members with children, grandchildren and guests gathered under the flags of the Nordic countries in the beautiful garden at the home of two of our members. Our cultural leader described the tradition and meaning of *Valborgsmässoafton*. We all enjoyed true Vasa friendship, a scrumptious potluck *smorgasbord* and a bit of dancing to the tunes of waltz, schottis and hambo.

As the evening fell, the bonfire was lit and we spent a pleasant evening singing American and Swedish songs and telling stories, as the children roasted their marshmallows.

Submitted by: Ann-Marie Kinnison

Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

Cape Cod, MA

If there's anyone reading this who is debating whether or not to visit Sweden this summer, my advice is "don't hesitate!" Flying SAS out of Newark was a breeze—no delays, customs lines moved rapidly, the personnel on SAS couldn't have been more cordial and helpful. It was ease and courtesy all the way; a very positive experience.

Although we have been to Sweden many times over the past 50 years, and have often "swapped" our kids with their Swedish cousins during the summer months, this time we pretty much stayed put at Rune's brother's home in Vaxholm. The once "little kids" came to visit with their children and grandchildren; it was a wonderful and *hemtrevlig* experience for Rune and me.

But on to the real reason why I'm writing: April saw the installation of Vinland's officers with very few changes. Louise Fietz is again Chairman, and Vice Chairman is George Hedlund. Several members of the District Lodge were in attendance for the swearing in and we appreciated their presence.

Our Annual Swedish Meatball Luncheon was held in May. It was very successful gastronomically, and brought in \$248.00 towards Vinland's Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all our members who pitched in to make it a success.

Our regular meeting was held later in May, during which a Memorial Service was conducted to observe the deaths of all deceased members of Vinland Lodge.

Our Joint Scholarship Chairmen, Lee and Peg Johnson, announced that a \$400.00 scholarship will be awarded to Jennifer Morris of the Dennis-Yarmouth High School of Cape Cod. In addition to her 3.52 grade point average, she ranks 23rd in a class of 255 students. In addition to her scholastic work, Jennifer has been active in school, sports, church and community, and is a member of The National Honor Society. This very bright lady will study biochemistry at Regis College and pursue a career in medical research with interests in cancer and stroke treatment. Vinland Lodge is very proud of you, Jennifer!

We are happy to report our faithful and hard-working Contingency Fund Chairman, Donald Olson, has undergone several serious operations since our last article was submitted, but he is recovering well. Once he is up and about, he'll say *adjö* to Cape Cod and move down to The Lone Star State. We'll all miss you, Donald, and thank you for all you have done throughout the years for Vinland Lodge.

Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman

Valhalla Lodge #715

Las Vegas, NV

The lodge held its first "Valborgsmässo" celebration on Sunday evening, April 23, 2006, at the Reformation Lutheran Church courtyard at 580 St. Louis Ave. Located right off the Las Vegas strip the side street (St. Louis Ave.) is perpendicular to the nearby Stratosphere Hotel and Casino. Brought to Sweden in the Middle Ages, Walpurgis Night is traditionally on the 30th of April. We preempted the date to accommodate the attendance of some 50 members and guests.

Chairman of the event, Birgitta Fathie and her committee, served an elaborate Swedish-American buffet. Inga-Britt Barnes' husband, Raymond, an accomplished organist, played leading us in the

singing of a number of Swedish songs. We had a small "symbolic" fire in the courtyard's outdoor barbeque. It was a special time for all.

If anyone is visiting Las Vegas on the first Thursday of the month, the Valhalla Lodge #715 cordially invites you to attend our meeting. It is held at the church starting at 6:15 p.m. with refreshments and food served during the course of the evening. For more specific details, go to vasa@manros.com. During July and August we do not have formal meetings but we resume in September with a traditional potluck.

Submitted by: Ruthie Byers

Sierra Kronan Lodge #737

Roseville, CA

We are enjoying our new meeting place in the Roseville Host Lions Club Hall / Boy Scout Clubhouse. We are grateful to our member, Walter Wickstrom, for making our move a smooth one. Tack så mycket! Walter! We do appreciate your faithfulness to the Vasa Order of America.

We are also enjoying our spring calendar of events. After our joint installation of officers with our sister lodge, Monitor #218 of Sacramento, we celebrated our 20th Anniversary with a luncheon at our local Cattlemen's Restaurant. Arrangements were handled by member, Marian Halberg, and her team. We were entertained by our own talented Marissa Matthews, and her boyfriend, Rick Woods. After asking guests, "German?" or "Italian,?" she sang a couple of arias from Italian operas and then they accompanied each other in a humorous show tune duet – much to everyone's delight. Thanks also to Ricky Laumann who presented Marissa with a bouquet after she sang, and then later helped to serve the beautiful anniversary cake.

There were many nice door prizes for the party and Donna and Orville Huttner's grandson, Patrick, helped with the drawings. Thanks go to one of our new members, Joan Sherry, for the prizes she donated. Anne Erickson set a beautifully decorated table which was just lovely for our festive occasion. Thanks also to our member, Oskar Don Carlson, who offered the blessing and later led us in songs.

We were honored to have our District Master, Birgitta Kellgren, and her hus-

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SIERRA KRONAN LODGE #737

Continued from page 16

band Tore (who is a recent Past District Master), with us for our anniversary celebration. Also sharing the event with us were members of Monitor Lodge, including Dale Ingvarsdson, chairman and Myrtle Widmark, Past District Master.

In March we wore green and observed St. Patrick's Day with a corned beef and cabbage dinner with all the trimmings. Dinner was wonderful and we Swedes felt a little bit Irish for a day. In May,

now that the rains have finally stopped and we have sunshine, we are looking forward to our annual bus trip to Reno – always a favorite outing. And, on a closing note, Sierra Kronan was honored to be the proud recipients of the Golden Gate District #12 Membership Trophy for 2005. This award is presented at the annual District Convention, to the lodge in the District that has achieved the highest percentage increase in membership.

Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ



Ulf Brynjestad congratulating Vito Pantaleo.

Congratulations to Vito Pantaleo. He was elected District Master of Arizona District 21. Vito was elected to this position at our District Convention held in Tucson, Arizona on March 31 through April 2. The Tucson Lodge #628 hosted the convention. Nordic Red Rocks Lodge members who were at the convention were Vito and Louise Pantaleo, Chuck and Marilyn Elston, Janell Brainard and Kristin Boyes. Louise is the District Master of Ceremonies, Chuck is District Trustee #1, Marilyn is Scribe, Kristin and Janell are Delegates.

April 20, 2006 Louise Pantaleo and Barbara Maurice taught a group of members the art of Scandinavian wheat weaving. Louise opened up her home for this fun and challenging craft project.

Darby and Tobias Lofstrand gave us an educational presentation on Runes for our May 28, 2006 meeting. They showed videos of their travels around Sweden in the summer. Tobias discussed the history

of Runes and how they can be found throughout Europe. There are even some in the US but their authenticity is questionable. The Lofstrands' gave us maps of highly concentrated areas in Sweden where they can be found. We also received a great handout on the changes in styles over the ages of Runes.

Last month we inducted a new member. She is Vivi Arnett. This month we inducted her husband, David. Welcome Vivi and David.

June 25, 2006 is our second annual Mid-summer Fest. This potluck and BBQ of pulled meat and bratwurst is held at our lodge. We have songs, stories and dancing. Our lodge has the best cooks in town that provided wonderful side dishes, salads and desserts. Thank you Janell for arranging everything.

July and August we do not have any regularly scheduled meetings. The weaving ladies will have some get-togethers to work on their skills.

Submitted by: Kristin Boyes

Our current lodge Secretary and first-time convention delegate, Joan Sherry, accepted the trophy on behalf of our lodge.

Submitted by: Ingrid Herink

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SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563

För att få uppleva historiens vingslag från Vikingatiden samlades vi, ett antal Vasasyskon Från Logen Mälardrottningen nr 563, Logen Stockholm nr 589 och Logen Uppsala nr 623 för avresa till den fornnordiska vikingastaden Birka på Björkö i Mälaren, som fram till att den övergavs i slutet av 600-talet var en av Sveriges och Nordens viktigaste handelsplatser med varor från alla världens hörn.

Vid ankomsten till Birka möttes vi av en vikingasoldat som beväpnad dåtidens vapen – en pilbåge – anförde oss på en intressant och dramatisk vandring med berättelser om livet på vikingatiden med alla de besvärligheter som var för handen. Hus byggda av trä och endast isolerade med lera skyddade invånarna i vikingastaden mot regn, iskalla vindar och snö under de stränga vintrarna.

Eftersom husen byggdes tätt inpå varandra innanför stadsmuren som skyddade mot överfall, var bränder vanliga och nya hus byggdes ovanpå de som brunnit ner. Mängder av värdefulla föremål begravades i askan, vilket i dag har gjort det möjligt att återskapa Birkas historia.

Sopor och avskräde samlades på de smala, leriga gatorna med både sjukdomar och ohyra som följd. Alla viktiga beslut fattades i ett stort "långhus" som utgjorde stadens gemensamma stadshus.

På grund av de ständiga överfallen och krigen hade kungen många soldater i sin tjänst. Soldaterna och de handelsmän som bedrev handel på Birka hade många egna trälrar som utförde de dagliga sysslorna. Av deras berättelser och ett fantastiskt Vikingamuseum fick vi Vasasyskon lära oss hur livet i ett framstående vikingasamhälle var på den tiden.

Efter vandringen på Birka och museibesöket avåts en gemensam lunch i restaurang Särimmer innan vår båt – det moderna vikingaskeppet Victoria – återförde oss till Stockholm med nya kunskaper om våra anfäder.

Submitted by: Bo Blum



Soldat

Sveriges Nationaldag

Firandet inleddes egentligen redan i Kungsträd-gården, varifrån fanborgen marscherade till Skansen. Våra fanor presenterades av Björn Adelöw, Hans Weber, Lage Jenneflod och Rolf Öhgren, medan Greta Öhgren och Ulla Jenneflod i omgångar bar vår fina ordens-skylt.

Vid Hazelius-porten anslöt sedan ytterligare ca 10 syskon som tillsammans med några tusen andra firade vår Nationaldag på Skansen.

Det blev, liksom förra året, en folkfest i Kunga-familjens närvaro. Uppträdde gjorde Arméns musikkår, Daniel Lemma, Christer Sjögren, Charlotte Perrelli, Barbara Hendricks och Tomas Ledin. Ett mycket fint högtidstal hölls av Carolina Klüft.

Efter detta firande gick många av syskonen från Logen Mälardrottningen till restaurang Carl Michael för en avslutande god måltid.

Submitted by: Pia Norrman



Kung Karl-Gustaf och Drottning Silvia.

Logen Enköping Nr 646

Den 22 april samlades loger från Uppsala nr 623, Engelbrekt nr 619, Eskilstuna nr 633 tillsammans med Logen Enköping nr 646 för att genomföra ett gemensamhetsmöte.

Värd för mötet detta år var Logen Enköping nr 646. Många andra loger hade sökt sig till Enköping för att närvara denna kväll.

Till glädje för kvällen deltog från DL Norra Sverige nr 19, Distriktsmästare Lisbeth Qvarfordt-Hallberg med maken Inge, DS Birgith Siegers från Mälardrottningen nr 563, DK Britt Mörck

Logen Engelbrekt nr 619, ordförande för förtroendemännen i DL 19 Hans-Olof Söderström samt från USA, VDS DL Michigan nr 8, Lisa Ekstrand, logen Linde nr 492.

Dessutom närvarade sju distriktsdeputerade.

Under gemensamhetsmötet med de duktiga aktörerna CM Leif Lindén och BCM Anne-Sofie Hjort kände alla den högtidliga och fina gemenskapen.

Efter mötet serverades en god middag. Senare underhöll sånggruppen Spisflickorna med Lasse från Enköping. Deras repertoar bestod av välkända svenska sånger som sedan övergick de till roliga sånger och allt avslutades med gemensam allsång. Ordförande Karl-Erik Axelsson tackade Spisflickorna med Lasse varmt genom att överlämna varsin ros.

Efter kaffet passade ordensbrodern Lennart Elvin med hustrun Valborg att framträda med några trevliga trollkonster, bl a fick hedersmedlemmen Thore Gryse sin fina slips sönderklippt. Både Br Thore och Br Lennart försökte trolla fram en hel igen men misslyckades. Efter många försök trollade Br Thore och Br Lennart tidigare slips som var hel igen. Kvällen avslutades med med lotteri och dans.

Den 21 maj passade några Vasamedlemmar i logen Enköping nr 646 att göra en utflykt till Sala Silver gruva. Sala Silver gruva ligger i Västmanland och staden Sala byggdes bl a upp kring denna gruva.



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Logen Enköping Nr 646

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Silvergruvan vet man inte riktigt hur gammal den är men kontinuerlig drift förekom redan på 1500-talet och fortsatte in på 1900-talet.

Gruvområdet täcker ca 20 km av fuktiga berggrum och djupa schakt och under den tid den var i drift så vakade "gruvfrun" över arbetarna. Därför gällde det att vara artig mot henne och knacka tre gånger i berget innan någon gick ned och en speciell gruvbön lästes alltid först.

Under besöket i gruvan finns möjlighet att få komma ner på 155m djup. Våra intresserade Vasamedlemmar passade på att ta tillfället att besöka detta djup. Där fick de information över möjligheten att boka tid för olika arrangemang som ex. att gifta sig i gruvan på 155 m djup samt höra historien om gruvdriften.

Vi övriga som inte ville möta gruvfrun eller andra saker på djupet passade på att gå omkring på området och titta på alla vackra byggnader. En del av husen var från 17-1800 talet. På området fanns



Karl-Erik Axelsson, Kent Aspengren, Alan Tammerfors och Torbjörn From i full mundering på väg ner på 155m djup för att undersöka gruvorna.

också ett polismuseum där information fanns om de kända "salarånarna" som en gång i tiden härjade i trakten.

Vi avslutade dagen med att besöka

vårdshuset som låg i ett äldre hus. Där bjöds vi på gös med pepparrot, skirat smör och potatis.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge

Logen Sundsvall Nr 705 och Logen Härnösand Nr 673

Har den 21 april hållit gemensamhetsmöte i Sundsvall tillsammans med Logen Härnösand Nr 673, som anlände med en hel busslast medlemmar. Vi hade även en gäst från Florida, USA.

Efter en stunds mingling hölls ett kort logemöte, där vår Kulturledare Rolf Sjödin berättade om en resa till Prag i september, som Distriktslogen Norra Sverige Nr 19 anordnar för medlemmar. Efter en god måltid underhöll Carina Odsberg med vacker sång till ackompanjering på gitarr av Tommie Nilsson. På åhörarnas trägna begäran fick vi lyssna till flera extra nummer. Så blev det kaffe med Sy Greta Perssons goda rulltårta, vinstdragning på lotteriet och dans, sedan var dags för "Härnösandarna" att frampå nattimmarna borda bussen för hemfärd. Ett stopp vid Bölesjön med en sedvanlig nattmacka med dryck gjorde resterande tillbakaresa kort, en trevlig samvaro med Vasasyskon avslutades.

Submitted by: Margareta och Tore Tellberg
Logen Sundsvall Nr 705
Barbro Sundgren, Härnösand Nr 673

Logen Knallen Nr 745

Söndagen den 26 mars samlades vi, cirka 60 Vasasyskon och gäster, till traditionsenlig Vasafrukost på Militärpalatset, den ombyggda matsalsbyggnaden på gamla ärorika – men sedan några år nedlagda – Älvsborgs regemente i Borås. Bland våra gäster hade vi äran att se Br Storlogedeputerad Lars Rosén med en liten "Vasapluton" från Logen Strömkarlen. Dessutom hade lokalbladet Borås Tidning hört sammat vår inbjudan och sänt en reporter och en fotograf, som redan i måndagsupplagan bidrog med en liten "blänkare" i avsikt att sprida Vasaljus över Sjuhäradsbygden.

En viss informell ritual har utvecklats vid dessa frukostträffar. De starka banden med Amerika präglar i allt väsentligt aktiviteterna. Vi äter sålunda en amerikansk frukost, där givetvis vederbörliga pannkakor och lönnsirap har en given plats.

Årets tema var Country & Western. Det betyder bland annat, att de som så önskar och har möjlighet väljer sin kläddräkt i enligt härmed. Priset för bästa utstyrsel tillföll enligt i vanlig ordning slutna omröstning Br Bengt Wingborn för hans osedvanligt svartmuskiga western-skepnad.

Tipspromenad tillhör också sysselsättningsgarna. Den så obarmhärtigt försenade



Bengt Wingborn (pristagare för bästa utstyrsel) och Katarina Norving.

våren gav inte de vädermässiga villkoren för en utomhusrunda. Militärpalatsets utrymmen hade emellertid utnyttjats för erforderligt antal skärmar och en inomhuspromenad. Frågorna ställde som vanligt rimliga krav på våra kunskaper i Amerikansk historia, geografi och kultur. Skilje frågan, uppskattad vikt på det gamla strykjärnet, behövde inte tillgripas. Br Thorwald Lorentzon var suverän vinnare med alla svaren rätt inprickade.

För underhållningen svarade denna gång Fristads Country & Linedancers. Vi fick först information om denna sortens

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Logen Knallen Nr 745

Continued from page 19

dans, varefter gruppen gav en uppvisning till bandad Country & Western-musik. Sedan fick vi, som kände oss manade, försöka oss på några grundläggande steg och turer i denna dansform, där var och en dansar singel men i ett gemensamt gruppmonster. Det blev en stor succé, och vi är många som ser fram mot höstens Line-dansövningar.

Så återstod dragningen i dagens lotteri med talrika trevliga vinster.

Br Lars Rosén framförde en hälsning från Storlogemästaren. Han tackade också för detta så väl genomförda Amerikadominerade arrangemang, något som han betraktade som ganska unikt inom den Svenska Vasaorden.

Arrangörgruppen med Gunilla och Maria Lundkvist i spetsen hade gjort ett omfattande och värdefullt arbete.

Submitted by: Ingar Carlén

Logen Bråviken Nr 751

Vid min första kontakt med Vasa Orden av Amerika, diskuterades hur man bör informera samhället om vår existens, för att föryngras och lättare öka antalet medlemmar. DM Lisbeth H Qvarfordt har detta som ett av sina stora mål för Vasa Ordens framtid vilket jag vill vara med och arbeta för tillsammans med min Loge Bråviken - med andra ord Vasa Orden i Tiden.

Som ny LH i Logen Bråviken 751 har jag nu genomfört den första informationsmötet med en enskild kommun, Finspång i norra Östergötland.

Genom annonsering i samtliga lokaltidningar och annonsblad inbjöd vi samtliga som har anhängare i USA och Kanada, samt de som har en relation med landet i väster.

Genom att hyra en större lokal, vidtala några fantastiska familjer kunde vi inbjuda till information och kaffe med hembakat! Efter en kort inledning och välkomsthälsning, berättade DM Lisbeth H Qvarfordt om Vasa Orden av Amerika dess tillblivelse och de loger som finns. Ett medlemskap i Vasa ger livskvalité och 22000 vänner i Sverige, USA och Kanada. FDO Viveka Skott berättade om Logen Bråviken #751 och Inge Hallberg tog & såg till att det blev bilder!

Undertecknad förevisade en åtråvärd minnesmedalj "The Bridge of Friendship," som just nu utvärderas och ev godkännes.

Mötet resulterade i 50 intresserade gäster, 26 anmälde ett intresse att som gäster gå på ett logemöte för att få veta

mer om Vasa Orden av Amerika och sex familjer som vill arbeta för att få ett utbyte med anhängare. Samtliga Finspångare vet nu om att Logen Bråviken #751 är en mycket aktiv loge inom Vasa Orden av Amerika.

"Logen Bråviken har alltid varit en loge med framtidsanda," säger DM Lisbeth H Qvarfordt, "och det känns mycket bra att Broder Åke Sjöblom har tagit detta till en hjärtefråga att tillsammans med sin Loge Bråviken att försöka öka medlemsantalet," vilket också FDO Viveka Skott ägnar mycket tid till.

Om samtliga Loger både i Sverige och USA gjorde denna information under hösten 2006, är undertecknad övertygad om att Vasa Orden av Amerika går mot en ljusare framtid!

OBS! Konceptet borde visas på "The Swedish Bridge Conference i Karlstad."

Lodge Bråviken #751

On my first contact with Vasa Order of America the subject of how to inform the rest of our society of our existence, to rejuvenate and to increase the number of members were discussed.

That is one of the main goals that lie ahead for District Master (DM) Lisbeth H Qvarfordt for the future of Vasa Order. That is a task that I would like to take an active role in with my lodge Bråviken and to update and make it an important part of the modern society.

As a newly elected Lodge Historian (LH) in Lodge Bråviken #751 I have just had my first briefing with the municipality of Finspång situated in the northern part of region Östergötland. We invited everybody with relatives in the United States and Canada and those who in other ways had close bonds westwards. We used advertising in the local newspapers and leaflets distributed in mailboxes as a way to contact the above target group.

We rented a big assembly hall to make room for everyone and asked a few wonderful families to assist in our effort to make a fantastic evening possible with information and home made pastries and coffee as a special treat.

After a short entrance speech and welcome greetings DM Lisbeth H Qvarfordt told everyone present about the Vasa Order of America, its founding and the different local lodges. A membership gives you a better quality of life and 22,000 friends in Sweden, USA and Canada.

The former president Viveka Skott informed about the Lodge Bråviken #751 and Inge Hallberg documented the evening by taking photographs.

I was presented a very desirable medalion to remember The Bridge of Friendship, which now is under evaluation and hopefully approved by the Vasa Order of America.

50 people came to this meeting and 26 of these were interested to attend a lodge meeting as guests to be able to get more information about Vasa Order of America. We also got six families who are interested to work for better relations and communication with relatives in USA and Canada.

The people of Finspång municipality now are aware of the fact that Lodge Bråviken #751 is a modern and active lodge within the Vasa Order of America.

"Lodge Bråviken have always been a lodge with one foot in the future and with very active members," says DM Lisbeth H Qvarfordt. "Brother Åke Sjöblom has made it clear that this is a matter very dear to his heart and that he, together with his lodge Bråviken, will work hard to try to increase the number of members." This is a matter that the former chairman Viveka Skott also dedicates long hours to.

**Submitted by: Åke Sjöblom
Picture by: Inge Hallberg**



"Intressant. Vi såg annonsen och insåg att det var för oss. Vår Farfarfar bodde i det stora jordbävningssområdet han hade 700 hästar och allt försvann." Från v Nils Arvid Andersson, Una Jerlok, Torsten Andersson och Karl Jerlok.

YOUTH NEWS

Allison Gawlinski

Allison Gawlinski (pictured left), daughter of Edward and Diane Gawlinski (members of Scandia Lodge #23, Manchester, CT) was one of 19 cadets from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO who were selected to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD for the Spring 2006 semester. Allison and her roommate, Ashley Snyder (right) will start classes for their senior year in August.

Among Allison's many activities she has been performing in the annual Saint Lucia Festival for fifteen years starting as



a tomte through being Saint Lucia in December 2001.

Submitted by: Edward Gawlinski

PLEASE MEET

Gunnar Lund – Sweden's New Ambassador to the U.S.



Christian Bernadotte, Chairman, SACC-Ohio, Gunilla Gerardo, President SACC-USA, Ambassador Gunnar Lund and Michael Miller, Swedish Consul, Ohio.

I had the honor of meeting with the Ambassador during the opening ceremony of the Ohio chapter of the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce at the Union Club in downtown Cleveland, on June 12.

Gunnar Lund was educated in economics, political science and Russian at the universities of Uppsala and Stockholm. As a Fulbright scholar he studied at Columbia University in New York, from where he holds a Master's degree in Economics and International Law. In the seventies and eighties, he pursued a career as a civil servant in the Swedish Ministries of Finance and Foreign Affairs, and served for several years as the Finance ministry's representative to the OECD in Paris.

In 1988, Gunnar Lund was given his

first political assignment when he was appointed Deputy Finance Minister (State Secretary) with responsibility for budget, economic policy and international affairs. In 1991 Gunnar Lund began work in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as Ambassador and negotiator on issues of defense and armaments as well as on Russian affairs.

After the election in 1994, Gunnar Lund was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister (State Secretary) for European Affairs. In that capacity, he helped design Sweden's policy during its first years in the European Union and served as his country's chief negotiator for the Amsterdam and Nice treaties.

In 1999, Gunnar Lund was named Sweden's Ambassador to the European

Union. He returned to Sweden in 2002 when he was appointed Minister and Member of the Swedish Cabinet with responsibility for international economic and financial affairs as well as for public administration.

Mr. Lund arrived in Washington DC, as ambassador September 2005. One of his major efforts as a Swedish Ambassador to the US would be to Promote Swedish American trade and investments and to improve transatlantic relations. He would also like to change the perception of Swedes - they're modern, dynamic, exciting!

While visiting Cleveland the Ambassador shared thoughts at a meeting sponsored by the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. He expressed the importance of the relationship between the USA and Sweden, but even more important, the European Union. He expressed the views that tensions between the US and Europe have increased during the Iraq war. In part the increased tensions reflect differences due to directions taken following the "Cold War; the US continues to spend on arms increasingly, while Europe began to divide. In addition the US appears to be more conservative on issues today than that in the 1960's, when the outlook of the US and Europe were more similar.

On the other hand, there are signs of progress, particularly in shifts in US foreign policy views. Further issues such as the fight against nuclear weapons, global warming, infectious diseases, poverty and terrorism need US and European cooperation if such are to successfully addressed. We need to work together.

Gunnar Lund was born on July 26, 1947 in Karlskoga, Sweden. Gunnar Lund is fifty-eight years old and is married to Kari Lotsberg, a financial consultant and former Deputy Minister. They have three children, Gustav 22, Harald 19, Ingrid 14 and dog Ninni (black lab).

By: Marie Carlson.

Picture by: Lynn Miller and Kristoffer Carlson



Ambassador Gunnar Lund and Marie Carlson, Editor, *The Vasa Star*.

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 membership in these local Vasa lodges. If you are new to the Vasa Order of America we bid you welcome. If you are transferring or are a dual member, your new lodge bids you welcome. We hope you will enjoy your membership and will participate in all of the activities planned for you.

Tore Kellgren, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman

5971 W. Walbrook Dr.

San Jose, CA 95129

E-mail: tore@kellgren.org

DL GRAND LODGE NO. 0

Miami #554
Clara Mitchell
Jeffery Mitchell
Nordic #708
Dianne Isakson
Johnny Isakson
New Travelers #758
Danny Gregory

DL CONNECTICUT NO. 1

Three Crown #38
Whitney Ahneman

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

Brage Iduna #9
Jill Lacey
Linda Thodal
Nordic #611
Kenneth Engstrand
Birka #732
Amy Tanzer
Judith Tanzer

DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3

Svea #362
Jennifer Kirby

DL NEW YORK NO. 4

Gota Lejon #4
Marisol Alers-Aarbo
Don Jacobson
Amy Johnson
Christine Morgenthaler
Jennifer Morgenthaler
Robert Morgenthaler
Crystal Terhune
Tegner #109
Tobie Anderson
Sarah Foss
Eric Nielsen
Marie Neilsen

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Arlington #62
Christian Baker
Judith Baker
Noah Cramer
Christopher Renne
Bjorn Sandhaaland
Lyckan #507
Lillemor Munawwar

Dalahast #742

Edna Bergen
Catherine Longo
Anne-Lise Maid
George Swan
Lillian Swan

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Svea #253
Virginia Strand
Linde #492
Karin Konrad
Ralph Scheele

DL SUPERIOR NO. 10

Mankein #159
Larry Fernstrum
Peggy-Sue Fernstrum

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Svea #348
Steven Bray
Bengt Kulleskog
Laurie Lennon
Julie Scales
Jenny Lind #388
Judy Kent
Lindbergh #494
Charlotte Fors
Oscar Fors

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Norden #233
Juleen Nowlan
Johann Skuggeld
Joy Skuggeld
Solidaritet #396
Vern Pederson
Frihet #401
Sarah Thompson
Olympia #550
John Rex
Marvin Schurke

Teresa Schurke
Tre Kronor #713
Anastasia Alto
Linnea Saris
DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15
Gustov V #175
Carol Kerr

DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17

Omaha #330
Ida Ehlers
Faye Maillie
Patricia Otto

DL ALBERTA NO. 18

Red Deer #733
Roy Amundson
Doris Helen Lindman
Lilly Leis
James Leis

DL SVERIGE NO. 20

Skåner #570
Monika Lekander
Sven Lekander
Calmare Nyckel #628
Jan-Erik Granström
Monica Jernetz
Tomelilla #631
Åke Täck
Anette Wikman
Höganäs #634
Maj-Lis Friedman
Tre Hjärtan #665
Helena Uhlén
Utvandrarna #680
Agneta Lassi
Lillemor Norrman

DL ARIZONA NO. 21

Nordic Red Rocks #760
David Arnett
Vivi Arnett

Advertise in the Vasa Star

Florence Granberg – A 75-Year Vasa Veteran

Florence Granberg's parents began the long journey from Sweden to southern Saskatchewan, Canada, in 1907. Her personal story began on October 27, 1915, when she was born on a snowy farm where the winters were so cold that school was held in the little one room schoolhouse during the summer. It was in 1925 that the family with eight children came to the United States, first to Snohomish and later in the same year to the community of Baker Heights near Mount Vernon, WA. Five years later, Florence, now fifteen, made a significant decision and joined Vasa on July 1, 1930. She was involved with a drill team that performed in Mount Vernon and Bellingham and in Vasa welcomed new officers and members. Busy with getting acquainted in a new country and going to high school, she graduated with the Sedro Woolley class of 1936.

Vasa, in those days, was conducted in Swedish and it wasn't until the 1950s that the last holdouts gave in and Vasa became the preserver of Swedish heritage in English (mostly). Florence was working at the Sedro Woolley Greenhouse and Florist and participating in the many craft

sales, bazaars and smorgasbords used to raise money to keep the local organization running in the rented hall two flights up over the Heather Bell Restaurant. Hard work and careful saving made it possible for the group to eventually purchase the old VFW property on Cleveland Street in Mount Vernon and remodel it into the present fine facility. It was there that Algot Olson started the pancake breakfasts that evolved into the economic lifeline that finances the local Vasa today. And Florence was in the middle of it! She seemed to gravitate towards the delicious Washington strawberries that garnished the thin rolled Swedish pancakes and ham that bring in literally hundreds of hungry customers on a Saturday morning. This required a lot of berries and sometimes 4:45 a.m. shifts for Florence. She also served Vasa as a Master of Ceremonies, Assistant to the Secretary and Financial Secretary as well as work on the Culture Committee. These are part of the work of one of five generations of Vasa members.

Florence retired from her work (but not Vasa!) in 1980 to her house in Baker Heights. Ten years later she moved to



Mount Vernon where she still lives. This year she was awarded the pin for 75 years of Vasa membership in January of 2006. It is a great honor to know Florence: such an ardent worker for many years. And it is a privilege to know her as a member of Vasa Lodge #396 Solidaritet in Mount Vernon.

Submitted by: Lillian Nelson

IN MEMORY OF

Ingrid Elizabeth Lindberg

Ingrid Elizabeth Lindberg, born April 29, 1959, in Los Angeles, CA, passed away March 20, 2006, in London, England, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Ingrid was educated in the Glendale School system, graduating from La Crescenta High in 1977 and was particularly proud of her role as Director of School Spirits.

She graduated from UCLA in 1982 with a B.A. degree in Interior Design and worked as an interior designer and in 1996 started with the world renowned design firm, Gensler and Associates in Irvine, CA.

She was elated in being transferred to their London office in 1999 where she became a Senior Associate working on many major projects such as Global Crossing, from which she received an award.

She was an avid world traveller and having London as a hub she travelled

around Europe and places in Asia such as Tibet, China, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand. One favorite place was Hawaii to soak up sunshine.

Ingrid is survived by her parents, Birgit and Erik Lindberg of Glendale, one sister, Christina Lindberg of Big Bear City, CA, one niece, two nephews and one great-nephew.

As per her request there will be no service. Her ashes will be spread over her favorite lake in Sweden.

As a little girl Ingrid participated in the North Star Children's Club Svea #5. Like at the Christmas Program on Dec. 12, 1964, then 5 years old, she was part of a skit "Baka Kaka." At that program there were some 20 children participating. She continued to participate with the children at many events such as the children's programs at the lodge as well as at Midsummers in Vasa Park.

In the early 1970s she was active in the Vasa Junior Folkdance Club and in 1972 she was with them on their tour to Sweden.

She joined North Star Lodge #106 on September 4, 1974.

In 1976 she was "Svea" in the Midsummer Pageant, and also served as "Lucia" at a couple of Swedish organizations.

Through her parents she participated in many of the Vasa Sport Club functions in the 70s and 80s, such as camping, boating, water and snow skiing trips.

Ingrid will be missed by all who knew her.

**Submitted by: Her father
Erik Lindberg**



Karl Johansson



Karl Johansson, Executive Chef

A dear friend and faithful member of North Star Lodge #106, VOA, left us on February 2, 2006. Karl was born in Mariestad, Västergötland and came to the U.S. at the age of 21 years.

Karl had been married to his wife Dolly for more than 58 years. They had met in Sweden but Karl convinced Dolly to join him here and they were married upon her arrival.

Karl was well known for his talents as Executive Chef. He began his career in Mariestad. He worked as a chef on the Swedish-American lines; Drottingholm, Kungsholm and Gripsholm. When in the military, he was chef in the Swedish Air Force.

When Karl and Dolly moved to Los Angeles, he continued as Master Chef and Executive Chef at many fine restaurants in the Los Angeles area. Karl lived a full busy life. He enjoyed being a member of North Star Lodge #106, where he often volunteered to prepare delicious meals.

Karl enjoyed fishing and collecting stamps. Later years Karl created a beautiful wood cut-out designs on his scroll saw. At North Star's Christmas party he would add his cut-out designs to the children's Santa bags, and friends and members were often recipients of his designs as well.

Karl was a very special person: kind, generous, cheerful with a full loving heart. He lived almost 84 full years. In addition to his wife Dolly, Karl also leaves a son Kenneth, daughter-in-law Susan and two precious granddaughters, Amanda and Erika. He also leaves a sister, Ulla Anderson in Sweden. Amanda reigned as North Star's Lucia in 2003, and Erika in 2005. Karl was so proud of them.

A memorial service was held February 10, 2006. St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

in West Los Angeles was filled to capacity. 25 Executive Chefs attended. Karl was a member of the prestigious Epicurean Club of Los Angeles where one had to be an Executive Chef to belong.

Karl was a treasure to know and will be missed by all. North Star's Charter was draped at our February meeting in his honor and at that time Chaplain Evelyn Earls read the Lord's Prayer in Swedish.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton

Orville Johnson

Orville M. Johnson was born in St. Paul, MN, on December 18, 1924, to humble immigrant parents, Arvid and Anna (Christenson) Johnson. He died in Roseville, MN, on February 16, 2006.

At a mere 18 years of age Orville entered the U.S. Army during the height of World War II as a member of the 90th infantry division, assigned to the European theater, bravely participated in the monumental invasion of France. He was honorably discharged a decorated war hero for wound sustained in combat. For decades thereafter Orville would hold in the highest esteem the unbreakable bonds he formed with his fellow soldiers.

Following his military service Orville attended the University of Minnesota and graduated from the Institute of Technology with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, following his graduation Orville began his professional life, which included a career long contribution to the 3M Company of St. Paul as an engineer in their Tape Custome Engineering Department.

Over the years Orville's dedication to his faith and community service led to his involvement in many service organizations such as the Vasa Order of America, Minnesota District #7 where he held the office of District Master and other positions of leadership. He is so well remembered for his fine cultural reports at Kronan Lodge meetings. If the lodge needed suggestions and new ideas, Orville could usually help with something so practical and sensible. No man could be more humble, kind, gentle, thoughtful, caring, or sincere than Orville. He was a careful listening, more interested in hearing the thoughts of others than making them aware of his opinions. Let us also not forget that Orville could be found in worship at the Como Park Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN, each Sunday morning for the last sixty years, which represents a most fit-

ting place to remember Orville, not because he spent a lot of time there, but rather because it represents the place where he sought and found his sanctuary. Orville was also very active in the Kiwanis Club, and as a result of his reverence for the natural world around him. He was an avid outdoorsman and active in the Nature Conservancy. There is no doubt that Orville will be sorely missed by all who had contact with him.

The greatest source of joy in Orville's life was his adoring family. He was married to his best friend and life partner, Verna, for more than fifty years. He is survived by Verna, three daughters, Linda, Nancy and Susan and their families.

Blessed be the memory of Orville, loyal friend, loving husband, dedicated father and grandfather, and tireless servant.

Submitted by: Stanley Palm

Tim Malm

Tim Malm, who long sat on assorted boards and commissions in Glendale, always seemed to know what was going on in the city he decided to call home.

For those reasons and more, Malm received the Glendale Chamber of Commerce's community service award in 2004. In yet another honor, the Glendale Women's Club recently told Malm and his family that he would be honored as its Citizen of the Year this spring.

"We are missing a silent giant, who did a lot for the community," said Dale Schmidt, the chamber's executive vice president and executive director. "A lot of people didn't know about Tim until a couple years ago."

"It was his community," said Karen Malm, his wife of 23 years. "It was where his kids were growing up, and it's a really nice place to live."

Timothy V. Malm died of congestive heart failure in February, 2006, less than a year after he first fell ill. He was 59.

He grew up in Bayside and earned his law degree from Marquette University. Malm began specializing in probate law and estate planning.

He met his wife after the former Karen Sottile's sister, Maria Datzler, decided to play matchmaker.

"He worked part time at Sears at Bayshore, and my sister did, too," Karen Malm said. "She told me she had a wonderful man for me to meet, and she told me to call him."

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TIM MALM

Continued from page 24

In those days, women did not usually call men, but she mustered the courage to do so.

"We went out the next night, and we haven't parted since then, until yesterday," she said of the day her husband died.

They settled in Glendale, where he began serving in a variety of civic positions, including as a member of the Plan Commission and as police commissioner. He was long involved in the annual 4th of July celebration. He also served as a Glendale Chamber of Commerce board member and as its liaison to the Glendale Association of Commerce.

Tim brought interest and enthusiasm to his legal work, said law partner Thomas LaFave. "His forte as a lawyer was estate planning and probate," LaFave said. "He was well respected by the various probate judges and court commissioners. "He was often the one they turned to when there was a problem. They would often appoint him to the case."

Malm, however, was not an attorney who thrived on confrontation. "He wasn't a trial attorney - I don't know if he ever did a trial." "He was not an adversarial attorney, but he could be pretty stern when he needed to be. If Tim felt something was important, he wasn't afraid to let that be known."

The two men met as attorneys and hit it off right away. They began working together with other attorneys, finally running a two-man legal practice for the last 15 years. "It never ceased to amaze me how many attorneys knew Tim and that he was a good guy," LaFave said. "He had that kind of personality."

"He really liked his clients," Karen Malm said. "He took care of them, all the way to their passing. "He even helped clients without family meet with the funeral directors to make their arrangements."

He also was involved with his church and with Vasa. Tim always remained a "Swede" and has been a Linde Lodge #492 member since 1990. In 1993-1994 he became the Vice Chairman, and in 1995-1997 he was the Chairman for the lodge. Tim loved being involved in Lodge activities, and we all remember him flipping pancakes and stirring pea soup with enthusiasm while showing his blue and yellow colors.

Tim was also involved with the

Swedish Historical Society and the Scandinavian Chorus. In addition to his wife, survivors include daughters Lisa, Amanda, Holly and Kayla; sisters Mavis Weber and Carol Seith; and grandchildren.

Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Submitted by: Lisa Ekstrand

The American Dream

Unbeknownst to his Freja Lodge friends, Gustav Soderquist passed away on August 5, 2002 in North Carolina.

Gus' life story is typical of many immigrants from Sweden who came here to pursue their dreams. Gus was born in on November 27, 1904 in Trollheimen, Sweden, to parents who had met on the boat coming to America. They married here, but returned to live in Sweden, when his mother didn't like it here. Gus moved here as a young man, in 1927, and made his home in Boston. He was working at the Hood Rubber Company when he met the love of his life, Bonnie McKinnon, an immigrant from Prince Edward Island, Canada. It didn't matter that he spoke only Swedish and she spoke English and French. They were married on July 14, 1931 in Chicago, Illinois and took up residence there. This was Chicago at the time of Al Capone and John Dillinger! In fact Gus worked at the Shoreland Hotel, which happened to be Al Capone's Headquarters, for a time. Gus told his children that Al Capone was like a Robin Hood to the immigrants.

Gus and Bonnie next moved to the Bronx, where their sons Ronald, Richard and Robert were born. Gus dug trenches for the Brownstone apartments in the Bronx. When they lived in the city he also worked as an elevator operator at the Essex Hotel near Central Park.

Eventually, in the mid 40's they moved to Bedford where Gus and Bonnie worked at Long Meadow Farm, which was a private estate of the Cartier Jewelry Family. Gus was the caretaker and Bonnie was a maid, wearing the traditional black dress with white apron and cap. Gus' brother, Johan, was the butler and his wife was the cook. Their youngest son, Peter Roy, was born at that time, in Mt. Kisco, NY.

From mid 1955 to 1960, Gus worked at Blueberry Farm in Bedford Village. Gus cut down trees to build bridges over the small streams and even developed equipment to spray the bushes at different levels while one of the boys pulled the equipment with a tractor. Gus also

worked at the Bedford Reformatory for about 5 years, from 1950 to 1955.

During those years, Bonnie worked in the kitchen at Rippowam School in Bedford Village. Their baby son Roy spent his days in a basket under the sink at Rippowam School and eventually went to Kindergarten there. At this time Bonnie also worked as a cocktail waitress in wealthy homes. Gus worked as a caretaker at Rippowam School from 1960 to his retirement in 1986 (at the age of 82!)

Gus and Bonnie joined Freja Lodge #100 on January 14, 1961. Some of our members still remember the Soderquists from the days at the Hartsdale Square Club. Bonnie was Lodge Chairman and Gus was our best Schottis and Hambo dancer with the nickname of "Yahoo." Gus loved to dance with the young girls and could dance all night with the help of a bit of Scotch! He actually was kind of shy but was a live wire and an unforgettable character. The sons have fond memories of the Freja Lodge days at the Hartsdale Square Club. Roy remembers being lifted onto the bar to play his accordion when he was a youngster.

The four Soderquist sons all went to St. Mary's School in Katonah from 1st to 12th Grade. From there they all attended St. Louis University and all graduated with degrees in Aeronautical Engineering. The sons are scattered all over the country now. Peter Roy is in California in charge of an airport. Robert (Bob) is retired and living in Loveland, Colorado. Ronnie (Joe) is in North Carolina and Richie is in Arlington, Virginia and they are retired. Gus and Bonnie moved to Virginia to live close to their son. Bonnie developed Alzheimer's disease and died in 1996. Gus eventually moved to Colorado, then to North Carolina where he died in 2002 at the age of 97.

4 sons, 8 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren who must have many, many wonderful family memories to cherish survive this remarkable couple. Their sons say that Gus taught them that whatever job you do, even sweeping the floor, you must give it your very best. They also believed that your truest legacy is your children. Their story seems like the true American Dream, they worked hard and earned everything they achieved. They left a great legacy for their descendants.

Sov i ro Gus and Bonnie.

*by Barbara Peterson, Cultural Leader,
Freja Lodge #100,
White Plains, New York*

AMERIKAPÄRA

Vega Anderson heter en dam strax norr om Vimmerby i Småland. På våren går hon ut på ett hygge nära föräldrahemmet för att sätta "stubbapära" eller "amerikapära." (Stubba = stubbe och 'pära' är dialektform för potatis.)

Man sätter potatisen runt stubbarna och låter den växa där. Då får man väldigt fin sättpotatis, som blivit förryngrad. Trots att det på ytan ser ut att vara torrt som fnöske, är jorden inunder mörk, fuktig och lucker. Den är också mycket näringsrik. Eftersom träd tar en sorts näring ur jorden och potatis en annan, finns det tillräckligt för båda. Alldeles efter avverkningen och innan ny växtlighet har fått fart är den rätta tiden att sätta "stubbapära."

Man sätter en potatis i taget och på med jord igen. I början på hösten är det dags att skörda. Om man har tur och grävlingen inte har hittat till potatisen, kan man plocka upp många kilo. Förra hösten fick Vega 10 kilo, som hon sålde en del av på torget i sta'n. En del sparas och blir basen för nästa års skörd.

Hur kan det då komma sig, att smålänningen kom på idén att sätta potatis på ett hygge? Man kan enkelt svara med ordspråket att nöden har ingen lag. Småland var ju så stenigt att det nästan var omöjligt att bryta ny åkermark, och därför var det praktiskt att använda sig av den fina jorden runt stubbarna.

Den amerikanska sättpotatisen ger jättefin potatis. Den är varken mjölig eller fast utan något mitt emellan, och mycket god. Skalet är mörkrött och potatisen är rödstrimmig inuti. Man har alltid kallat potatisen för 'amerikapära,' troligen för att någon hemvändare tagit med sig den här speciella sorten från Amerika. Men det riktiga namnet kan vara Early Rose eller på svenska Rosenpotatis.

Vega Andersson har fått potatisen efter sina föräldrar, och hon tar väl hand om sitt arv. Samtidigt söker hon bevara den gamla traditionen att odla potatis på stubbåkern.

American Potatoes

Vega Andersson is a lady living a few kilometres north of Vimmerby in Småland. In the spring she goes to a clearing quite near her parents' home to plant American seed-potatoes,



amerikapära or stubbapära.' (PÄRA is a dialectal word for potatoes and the word of STUBBE is Swedish for stump.)

She plants the potatoes around the stumps and soon she'll have very fine rejuvenated seed-potatoes. Although the ground seems to be dry as tinder the soil underneath is moist, dark and fluffy. It's very nutritious too, and since trees need one kind of nutrient and potatoes another, there is enough for both of them. The best time to plant the "stump potatoes" is when the trees have just been cut down and before new plants start to grow.

Vega plants the potatoes one at a time and then covers it with soil. If she is lucky and the local badger hasn't found her potatoes, she may harvest lots of them in the fall. Last year Vega got 10 kilos, about 22 pounds, and some of them she sold at the market in town. She always saves a few and they'll be the bases of next year's harvest.

How did people get the idea to plant

potatoes like this? Maybe you know that this part of the county of Småland is very stony and almost impossible to cultivate. It's easy to give an answer to the question by using an old proverb: "necessity knows no law."

The American seed-potatoes give very delicious potatoes, they are neither mealy nor firm, but something in between. The skin is dark red and inside the potatoes have red streaks. The American potatoes real name could be Early Rose, but here they have always been known as 'America pära.' They were probably a very special kind of potatoes that Swedish emigrants brought when returning back home again. Vega Anderson is a lady who takes very good care of the potatoes, an inheritance from her parents. She also tries to conserve the old by planting potatoes on her field full of stumps.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, DCL DL 20
Pictures from
the Vimmerby Newspaper

VIMMERBYKRINGLOR

När man besöker Vimmerby får man säkert smaka en speciell sorts vetebulle, Kokta Kringlor. De är traditionella och obligatoriska i varje hem vid jul. De serveras vid alla kyrkkaffren och säljs också på auktioner före jul.

Kringlorna görs av vanlig vetedeg, men med extra smör och grädde tillsatt. Efter jäsningsen bakas degen ut till kringlor, som får jäsa ungefär en halv timme. Då lägger man 4 -5 kringlor i taget i en stor gryta med kokande vatten. Efter några sekunder flyter kringlorna upp till ytan och då tas de upp med en hålslev. För i tiden lade man kringlorna på en halvbädd på bakplåten, men nu får de i stället ligga på ett galler, för att de inte ska fastna på plåten. Därefter bakas kringlorna i mycket varm ugn tills de är gyllenbruna.

Det här är ett gammalt sätt att baka bullar. Det är troligen för att de kokas före gräddningen som de håller sig fina en längre tid utan att mögla. Kringlorna var därför perfekta för emigranter att ta med i matsäcken på sin långa resa till Amerika. Äldre Vimmerbybor kommer fortfarande ihåg hur kringlor såldes till emigranter vid järnvägsstationen. De kostade 2 öre styck och var omåttligt populära, eftersom de sades vara världens godaste kringlor.

(Mellan åren 1850 och 1940 utvandrade 1042 personer från Vimmerby. Många av dem slog sig ner i Jamestown, N.Y. År 1940 hade Vimmerby 4.052 invånare, i dag bor här ung. 9.000).

TWISTED VIMMERBY BUNS

If you visit Vimmerby I'm sure you'll be served a special kind of bun called, "Kokta Kringlor," Cooked Twisted Buns. They are traditional in this part of Sweden and are a "must" in every home during Christmas. They are served after every church service with coffee and they are also sold at auctions during Christmas.

An ordinary white bread dough is made but with extra cream and butter added.

When the dough has risen for about 30 minutes, the dough will be formed into twisted buns. Then 4-5 buns at a time are put into a big pot of boiling water. After a few seconds the twisted buns will rise to the surface and is removed by using a perforated ladle.

In the early days they laid the wet twists on a baking sheet covered with straw, but today they use a cooling rack. The twisted buns are then baked in a very hot oven until they are yellowish brown in colour.

This is a very old way of making buns and by boiling the buns before baking them is the reason they can remain fresh for a long period of time before getting mouldy. They were perfect for emigrants to take on their long voyage to America.

Elderly people in Vimmerby still remember how twisted buns were being sold to emigrants at the railway station. The cost at the time was 2 "öre" per piece and they were very popular as it was said to be the best-tasting twisted buns in the entire world.

(Between the years of 1850 and 1940, 1,042 people from Vimmerby emigrated, many of them settled down in Jamestown, NY. In the year of 1940, Vimmerby had 4,052 inhabitants, today about 8,000 people live here.)

**Submitted by: Gun Lith, DCL, DL 20
Pictures from "Smålands Cookbook"**



An American Success Story

When you read the title you may think it is a "rags to riches" story of some "household name," i.e., a movie star, a politician, a sports hero, or one of the super rich. This story has much more depth, substance and meaning. It is about an American medical doctor and you guessed it, he was Swedish.

Hot off the printing press is a "must read" biography called *Doc Anderson*, by Mary Neiswander, an Award-winning reporter. It is about William "Doc"

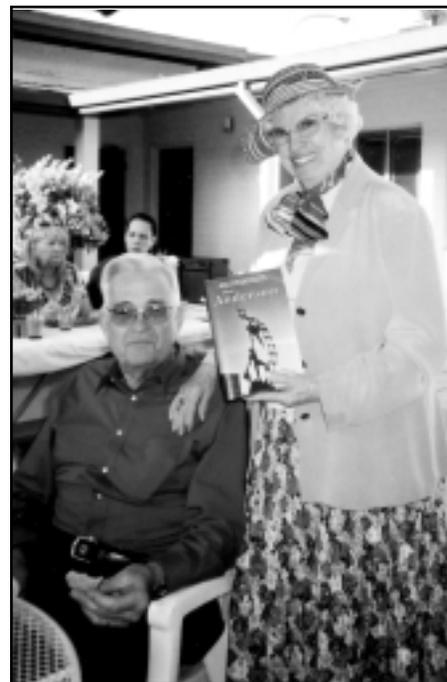
Anderson's life and what a life.

Born in 1919 in the predominantly Swedish town of Greensburg, PA, Anderson was one of many hard working Swedes in that particular town who found fame and fortune in the United States. His father came from Sweden and pushed himself incredibly hard along the way to eventually become owner of Anderson Foods, a grocery store that still exists today.

More importantly "Doc's" father married Tekla Bergren of Swedish parentage and they had seven children. Doc was six foot, four inches tall when he started college. His father accompanied him to Temple University to enroll as a Physical Education major. "The line was long but the 'pre-med' line had only one person waiting when his father said to him, I think you're in the wrong line ... move over here ... this line's shorter, we don't have much time."

The young man replied that he wanted to be a coach. His dad answered, "This is where you belong - in medicine. I watched you when we butchered cattle ... you took the heart and you wanted to see what it looked like, so you'd cut it up ... the spleen and the kidneys or an eye ... you looked at everything, even the brain. You have a natural curiosity about the way a body works. You'll make a good doctor." And "Doc" did.

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Raymond and Inga-Britt Barnes holding the book, "Doc Anderson," written by Mary Neiswander.

AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

Continued from page 27

Written at the top of the jacket cover of the book is a quote: "If there was a Hall of Fame for medical doctors, Bill Anderson's name would be at the top of the list." He went from a medical doctor in World War II ending up practicing medicine in San Pedro, CA. As a doctor he treated many patients at his well known "Anderson Clinic," including the vast number of sailors who came into the greater port of Los Angeles on ships from all over the world.

He became an international specialist on every kind of parasite that evaded the sailor's bodies. "Doc" was respected by the University of Southern California Medical School for providing these exotic specimens from his Maritime

Clinic to help the medical students become better doctors.

"From Anthens to Shanghai ... from San Francisco to Istanbul ... from the fjords of Norway to the Black Sea ... he was known." When he became old and ill, he asked his friend, his neighbor and his patient, Mary Neiswender to write his story. She did and it is a good one. You can order the book at Border Book Stores. (For some reason Amazon.com does not have the book yet, however they have an older book with the same title by another author. Make sure you get the right one).

**Submitted by: Ruthie Byers
Cultural Leader, Valhalla Lodge #715**

HAPPENINGS

Scandinavian Cultural Center Santa Cruz Annual Midsummer Festival Sunday, June 4th, 2006



Our Midsommar Fest was held on a beautiful warm, sunny day both indoors and outdoors under the great Oaks at the Scotts Valley Community Center. A colorful flag parade started the festivities it was led by strolling musicians Carolyn Anderson, Herb Lundin, Bill Likens, Jon-Anders Persson, Leif Syrstad, and Birgit

Calhoun. Flag bearers, in the following order representing the six Nordic Nations, were: Hanna and Ole Christensen, Denmark; Ellen Moilanen, Finland; Mike Block, Norway; Birgitta Kellgren, Sweden; Sharon Mellott, Iceland; and Brian Chambers, Sámi.

There was fun for and young old!

Musical story times with "Mamselle Midsommar," Ms Märta Narus and musicians, lead traditional songs, dances and children's games. A children's introductory drawing and coloring class produced Norse mythology inspired pictures of fierce Vikings and their ships. The children's art program was organized by Gwen Christensen and her eight year old granddaughter Hanna Christensen; a Scotts Valley, Vine Hill School student, who also made flower garlands for the other children.

The highlight of the day was the raising of the tall, beautifully decorated, Midsummer pole. Playing traditional Scandinavian music, Bill Likens, Jon-Anders Persson, Leif Syrstad, Birgit Calhoun and Herb Lundin; and other legendary accordion players and fiddlers entertained all with the old and new tunes and waltzes. Then the flowery pole was raised into place. Everyone was invited to take part in the traditional ring dancing around the Midsommarstång. Nordahl Grieg Leikarring and Spelmannslag played music for their dancers who danced around the beautiful Midsummer Pole.

The purpose of the Nordhahl Grieg Leikarring is to learn, perform, enjoy and maintain the tradition of Norway's dances, music and songs. Most of their members are from Norway or of Norwegian descent and are members of our brother group Sons of Norway. All our Scandinavian members, however, enjoy promoting Norwegian and other diverse folk culture regardless of their individual ethnic heritage.

The event has been held in different locations but "this is the most beautiful" said Jeanne Shada. The players, many members and visitors, attended in their elaborate Festbunads, National dress, decorated with silver and other precious metals, gems, stones and fineries. Beth Holenbeck and Carolyn Anderson played Swedish music with her group. Jon Persson and friends also played other Scandinavian music. There was Finnish Kantele music and story telling, told and played by Helen Tyrrell and Anja Miller. Jon-Anders Persson and Leif Syrstad played Swedish and Norwegian music. Elisabeth Carlisle played modern Swedish music.

An equally diverse menu of Scandinavian foods was served. Typical traditional folk fare was delicious æbleskiver and pølser. Tom Andersen and Bryan Chambers using Tom's

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ANNUAL MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

Continued from page 28

mother's Danish recipe made some aebleskiver balls. Working with them was Glenn Johnson, a great storyteller. Volunteers made open-faced sandwiches and lots of ethnic specific deserts, which were great with free coffee from the Zayante Creek Coffee CO. This great coffee will soon to be available at New Leaf stores.

Facility Coordinator, Dennis Uyematsu, did the huge job of organizing

and planning the set-up of the festival, including the indoor and outdoor sound systems; using his computer skills and Facilities Engineering experience in laying out AutoCAD detail plans. Birgitta Kellgren and Suzanne LaFrance organized the food and kitchen staff. Sandra Lua led the popular bake sale. There were woodcraft demos, photography exhibits and Scandinavian collectables at the butik (boutique).

This large cultural event was organized by Michael Block, Chairperson, and Ole Christensen, Cultural leader; with the help of our many dedicated volunteers.

Submitted by: Ole K. Christensen
Cultural leader and Board member
Scandinavian Cultural Center of
Santa Cruz & Valhalla Scandinavians
Lodge # 746

Photo by: Ms Bea Ahbeck

Midsummer Festival in Southern California

Under a beautiful, sunny and warm Southern California day, a Midsummer Court, chosen to reign at the 86th Annual Midsummer Festival on Sunday, June 25, 2006 was selected by members of the Swedish American central Association of Southern California at the April 30th Midsummer Royal Court Selection and Coronation Luncheon held at the Brookside Inn in Pasadena, California.

Miss Diane Earl of San Diego, representing North Star Lodge No. 106, daughter of Lenda and Michael Earl was crowned as Midsummer Queen from a group of seven lovely young ladies representing various affiliated organizations of the Swedish American Central Association. Miss Earl is the daughter of the 1973 Midsummer Queen, Lenda Earl and the grand daughter of the 1937 Midsummer Queen Ruth Erickson

The honor of being crowned Svea, representing Sweden, was accorded to Katherine Olson from Golden Valley Lodge No. 616. The distinction of being selected as Columbia, representing the United States, was Kirstin Carlson of Nordic Lodge No. 660.

The Swedish Midsummer Court will also have in attendance Princesses Jennifer Stacks of Viking Lodge No. 256; Stephanie Lund of Evening Star Lodge No. 426; Emilie Lantz of the Swedish American Women's Club of Los Angeles and Chelsea Blake, representing Mayflower Lodge No. 445.

The Swedish American Central Association bids *Välkommen* to all who would like to celebrate a traditional Swedish Midsummer. For Additional information, please contact Arnold Anderson at 562 430-6536 or Thomas Jahn at 714 378-9821

Submitted by: Thomas Jahn
Photo by: Thomas Jahn



The 2006 Midsummer Court

Left to Right: Jennifer Stacks, Princess, Viking Lodge No. 256; Stephanie Lund, Princess, Evening Star Lodge No. 426; Kristin Carlson, Columbia, Nordic Lodge No. 660; Diane Earl, Midsummer Queen, North Star Lodge No. 106; Katherine Olson, Svea, Golden Valley Lodge No. 616; Emilie Lantz, Princess, Swedish American Women's Club of Los Angeles; Chelsea Blake, Princess, Mayflower Lodge No. 445.



Left to Right: Ruth Erickson, Midsummer Queen 1937 of North Star Lodge No. 106; Lenda Earl, Midsummer Queen 2006 of North Star Lodge No. 106; Lenda Earl, Midsummer Queen 1973 of North Star Lodge No. 106.

Wedding



The wedding of Vasa member Michael Olofsson of Mayflower Lodge and his bride, Elaine Weathers, took place on October 8, 2005. Michael is the son of the Chairman, Kurt Olofsson of Mayflower Lodge #445, Inglewood, CA. Elaine chose to wear the Swedish bridal crown to honor Michael's Swedish heritage. "Mike and I are from such different ethnic backgrounds – my family is of Chinese and Portuguese heritage and his Swedish. I wanted to include something of Swedish tradition in our ceremony and we appreciate that Vasa lent us the crown to commemorate the event."

Submitted by: Irma Wendell



Inspiration

Older Than 80 – So What?

I have promised my grandchildren that I'll do all in my power to live another 13-14 years. Why? I want to see them grow up, graduate from college and get married and have children. Besides, maybe I can also be of some value to them? Additionally, I feel that I have much more to accomplish in my life!

So where do I stand right now? In spite of nine surgeries (two cancer) I am in good shape. I have never been addicted to smoking, I eat and drink everything (except green beans), I stay away from sugar, salt and pepper. Every day I walk 3-4 miles, also bicycle and swim. However, as important is to keep the brain working. You have to see new things, learn new things and challenge yourself to adjust to all the new stuff, such as getting used to hearing aids, which right now give me a headache.

From my parents and grandparents I

learned a great deal. They were very positive with a wonderful outlook on life and a terrific sense of humor. My grandma always said, "Lennart, remember that the most important thing in life is doing things for others."

At first I thought that was corny, but later in life I realized how true that is. Giving to others and helping others result in great satisfaction for yourself.

I truly feel that I have had a fantastic life; I have lived in two countries (now I live in the greatest), visited forty-seven countries and thus seen and experienced a great deal.

So why would I not like to live another 13-14 years? I have a wonderful family, a great lady friend and many good friends. I am also involved in several things.

As you can well understand, I count my blessings every day.

Submitted by: Lennart Gohnr

Recipe

Smörgåstårta

- 1 loaf sandwich white bread
- Mayonnaise or butter
- Hard-boiled eggs, sliced with slices of black or green olives as per personal choice
- 1 can tiny salad shrimp with dill
- Thinly sliced cucumbers and onions/tomatoes as desired
- Cool Whip
- Variety of veggies, caviar, shrimp, etc. to "decorate"

Trim crusts from bread (save for croutons or bread crumbs) depending on the number of people you will be serving (4 slices for each 2 servings). Spread butter or mayo on first slice and top with egg slices and olives. Butter or mayo on next slice, face down and again spread on top. Cover with shrimp and dill. Spread on next slice of bread face down and again spread on top. Cover with cucumbers, onions and tomatoes. Spread on next slice of bread face down. Mix equal amounts of mayo and Cool Whip to "frost" cake. Decorate as desired.



Optional Layers:

Lettuce with ham slices, salmon, lobster, bacon, liver paté, coleslaw, etc.

Recipe by: Kay Lynne Picheco

Submitted by: Linda Collin

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

CALIFORNIA

MAXIMILIAN BACHA passed away on April 10, 2006, at the age of 91. He joined Skogen Lodge #700 in 1997 and was a pleasant, helpful member. He was born on May 14, 1914, in Pittsburgh, PA, and was Norwegian decent by his parents. He is survived by his long-time companion, Virginia Stottrup, a loyal Skogen #700 member.

MARGARET JUNICE LINN passed away on April 11, 2006, at the age of 83. Margaret was born in Magna, UT and had been a resident of Carmichael, CA, since 1956. She was a dedicated life member of the Vasa Order of America. Her parents were Vasa members and she grew up in the Vasa's Children's Group. Margaret transferred from the Mayflower Lodge #445 in 1957. She was a 70-year old member of Vasa, joining at the age of 14. Margaret was the founding of the Sierra Kronan Lodge #737. Her positions were Secretary for Golden Gate District #12, Sierra Kronan Lodge #737 Secretary, Cultural Leader and Maser of Ceremonies. Margaret is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, Charles Linn, children Kathy Braun (Bob), Mike Linn (Shirley), and Dan Linn, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She will be dearly missed. A memorial service was held at the Lind Brothers Mortuary, Carmichael, CA.

JOHN ALLEN PENCE, 85, died March 23, 2006, in his home after a long illness. He was born November 14, 1920, in Tacoma, WA. John schooled at Stadium High School and then attended the University of Washington as a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, receiving an engineering degree in Forestry. John was a veteran of WWII, serving as a lieutenant in the United States Army in the India Theater. After returning home, John married his high school and college sweetheart, June Larson, on August 10, 1946. The couple enjoyed 59 wonderful years of shared love. Soon after marrying June, John joined Weyerhaeuser Lumber Co. as a chemist in Longview, WA. It was soon clear that John was a "people" person and a natural leader. With his young family by his side, he was given promotional transfers with Weyerhaeuser to Walnut Creek, CA, White Bear Lake, MN, Springfield, IL, and then to Ventura, CA. In 1962 he started John Pence Building Specialties. He retired in 1985. John was the consummate husband, family man and community service volunteer. His extensive community involvement included two terms with the Retired Professional and Business Men's Club of Ventura, Past President of Ventura East Rotary Club and Past President of Ventura Kiwanis Club. He was also a member of the Greater Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Ventura Yacht Club, Masonic Lodge #214, Santa Barbara Welsh Club and, with June, joined Vasa in 1989 in Oakleaf Lodge #685 and transferred to Northern Lodge #620 later. John will always be remembered for his great energy, positive attitude and his great love for people. John is survived by his wife June, sister Peggy Keys of Tacoma, WA, brother Robert Pence of Gig Harbour, WA, daughter Jone Pence of Ventura, son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Beth Pence of Valley Center, CA, grandsons Garrett Pence, Santa Monica, CA, and Evan and Clayton Pence, both of Oceanside, CA. A memorial service was held on March 29, 2006, at Trinity Lutheran Church, which was full of family and friends who afterward joined together in a celebration-of-life at the yacht club.

STEPHEN PIZZICA passed away in Barrington, IL, on November 15, 2005, at the age of 67 years. He was born on August 6, 1939 in Chicago, IL, and was initiated into Mayflower Lodge #445, Inglewood, CA, on August 5, 1982. He was given a life membership in 2005.

CARL EDWARD WASSMOUTH, JR., passed away on November 28, 2005. He was a member of Skogen Lodge #700. He was born on August 29, 1919, in Boston, MA. He was a Navy veteran of WWII and is survived by a son Carl III, daughters Linda Kamisky and Donna Ferris, 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. He was always helpful and we will miss him.

ILLINOIS

DAVID G. ANDERSON died in Rockford, IL, on March 31, 2006, at the age of 80. He was born in Rockford, IL, on May 16, 1925, and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on November 18, 2004. He is survived by his wife Vivian, sons Keith and Mark, and daughter Cindy Bina.

ANNA L. FORSSTROM died in Rockford, IL, on March 29, 2006, at the age of 94. She was born in Sweden on July 14, 1911, and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on October 9, 1958. She is survived by her son, Karl Forsstrom and daughters Mona Longnecker and Anita Forsgren.

MICHIGAN

CLEMENTINE "CLEM" JOHNSON, 92, of Norway, MI, passed away March 7, 2006. She was a member of Superior Lodge #423, Marquette, MI. She is survived by daughter, Marie Seat, sons Leonard and James Trudeau, nephews George and Charles Zanon whom she raised, 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Clem was preceded in death by husbands Leonard Trudeau and Arne B. Johnson.

NEW YORK

EVA JOHNSON passed away March 16, 2006, at the age of 79. She was born on June 11, 1926 and would have been 80 years old on June 11. She became a member of Lindbergh Lodge #505 on June 3, 1983. Eva was a member in good standing for 23 years and will be sorely missed by all the lodge members.

OHIO

VALDEMAR ERDMAN died March 25, 2006, in Painesville, OH, at age 85. Survivors are his wife, Ellen (Christy) Erdman, whom he married October 30, 1943, in Cleveland, OH, sons Ronald W. Erdman and Dennis A. (Teresa) Erdman, sister Margaret Lucas, and brother, Carl (Elizabeth) Erdman. Valdemar was born in Cleveland, OH, on February 13, 1921, and was a 57-year member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130.

DOROTHY PETERSON MACDONALD passed away April 18, 2006, at the age of 97. She was born June 26, 1908, in Youngstown, OH, and was initiated into Harmony Lodge #465 on November 9, 1972. Her husband, Norwood, passed away in 1978. She leaves a son, Raymond B. of Westfield, NY, 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

ERLING G. WENNERSTROM, age 88, passed away on March 22, 2006, in Cleveland, OH. Beloved husband of the late Marguerite R. (nee Lundberg), father of Linda Baumgardner (Gary), Karen Nelson (Don), and Jane Mrsnik (Frank), grandfather of Stacy (Greg) Martin, Michael Baumgardner, Kristin (Zack) Stafford, Jeff Nelson, and Brittany, Matt and Mark Msrnik, great-grandfather of Nelson and Emerson Stafford, brother of the late Eldon. Erling was born in Sweden on December 31, 1917, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on February 9, 1986.

PENNSYLVANIA

ELSA SOLON, nee Appelgren, 95, died May 8, 2006, in Stamford, CT. She was born April 22, 1911, in Philadelphia, PA. Elsa joined Oscars Borg Lodge #172 on April 28, 1996. She was the beloved wife of the late James Solon and sister of the late Charles Appelgren. She is survived by her sister, Dorothy Paley, and brother, Edward Appelgren, 3 nieces, 2 nephews, 3 grandnieces, 1 grandnephew, 2 great-grandnieces and 2 great-grandnephews. Elsa was truly young at heart and will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

G. ROBERTA SANDSTROM passed away on February 25, 2006, at the age of 90. She was born January 10, 1916, in Hamilton, PA, and was initiated into Harmony Lodge #465 on December 4, 1941. Her husband, Roy, passed away in 1981. She leaves 2 daughters, E. Elaine Kropp of Akron, OH, and Alice Schulz of Mentor, OH, 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

WASHINGTON

CHARLES BAKOVICH, JR. was born in Seattle, WA, on December 30, 1944. He passed away on March 29, 2006, at the age of 61. Chuck joined Skogsblozman Lodge #378 on October 1, 1976. He is survived by his son, Paul Bakovich, mother Gladys Bakovich, 5 grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

NINA VICTORIA CHANDLER was born October 23, 1908, and died November 23, 2005. She is survived by her son, G. Bradley Chandler.

JOHN G. ERIKSON was born November 27, 1911, and passed away January 30, 2006. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Myrtle, and 2 daughters and sons-in-law, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

WESLEY F. JUNE was born in the community of Monohon, WA, on July 14, 1923, and passed away on January 14, 2006, at the age of 82. Wes joined Skogsblozman Lodge #378 on July 14, 1991. Wes is survived by his son Craig June, stepsons Ken and Gary Bracken, sister Frances Peterson Fuherer, 10 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren.

FLORENCE E. LARSON, 89, passed away on March 25, 2006. She was born in Holmes City, MN, on January 1, 1917 and joined Svea Lodge #469, Longview, WA, on April 28, 1989. She is survived by 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

ALCINIA IRENE NORWOOD was born February 13, 1916, and passed away November 26, 2005. She is survived by son, Ron and family, several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

EILEEN PETROFF was born September 1, 1921, and passed away October 27, 2005. She is survived by her daughter, Pam Michajla and family. Eileen was very active in Vasa and was secretary at the time of her death.

CANADA

MATILDA ELIASSON passed away on May 7, 2006, in Edmonton, AB. She was born in Edmonton, AB, on September 14, 1937, and became a member of Skandia Lodge #549, Edmonton, AB, on April 1, 1961. She is survived by her children, Ken Eliasson, Lori Berkenbosch, Allan Eliasson, Ron Eliasson, 7 grandchildren, Matthew, Abby, Brenna, Kristen, Niklas, Steven, Madison, brothers George Litven, Andy Litven and sister Mary Ferguson. Matilda was predeceased by her husband, Leonard, on May 25, 1998 and her brother Ed. She was a Security Officer at Northlands Park, which included Northlands Spectrum, Sportex and Northlands AgriCom. Many persons from this complex attended the Memorial Service. She helped with the Vasa Children's Group when her children were younger.

ANNE GLADYS M. ERICKSON (SELIN) passed away on April 10, 2006, in Calgary, Alberta. She was born in Hay Lakes, Alberta, on December 11, 1934. Anne joined Vasa on March 9, 1956, and was Chaplain for Branting Lodge #417. She was predeceased by her parents, husband, a daughter, and brothers. She is survived by her children, grandchildren, sister and brother. A lodge funeral was held April 13 with interment at Queens Park Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta.

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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