

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 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!

Wow! The second issue is here already. Labor Day is approaching and children are going back to school. It has been a busy time for me for the last month or so since returning from the GL Convention. Appointed Officers of the Grand Lodge had to be named as well as the Grand Lodge Deputies to each district and region. I needed to talk to each of these individually so I was on the phone much more than normal. I told my wife that my ear was hurting from holding the phone to it so much. That part of GM work is now over.

It is a pleasure to introduce the new GL Appointed Officers. They are as follows: **Marie Carlson**, Vasa Star Editor and GL Publicity Director, USA and Canada; **Cathy Anderson**, Vasa Star Circulation Manager; **Judy Rust**, GL Activities Club Director; **Todd Anderson**, GL Audio/Visual Director; **Inger Hanright**, GL Cultural Director, USA & Canada; Gun Lith, GL Cultural Director Sweden; **Lynda Smith**, GL Youth Director, USA & Canada; **Morgan Pålsson**, GL Youth Director, Sweden; **Tore Kellgren**, GL Membership Chairman; **Lisbeth Hallberg Qvarfordt**, GL Publicity Director, Sweden; **Carolyn Salk**, GL Historian and **Robert Anderson**, GL Webmaster. Marie, Cathy, Lisbeth, Carolyn and Robert continue in their positions from the previous term. Their names, addresses and Lodge information is also listed on the VOA website, www.vasaorder.com, under Grand Lodge officers.

Note that two sheets of Vasa stamps to benefit the Education Fund are fastened to the center of this issue of the Vasa Star. A more traditional format for the stamp image, featuring the ever-popular Lucia, is featured. Further we are delivering the stamps in the Vasa Star to save the cost of postage; in previous years the delivery of the Vasa Star was a separate mailing. On a page facing the stamps is a letter requesting your donation to the Education Fund. I urge you to tear off the bottom portion of my letter and send a donation to the Grand Secretary. Your donation will help secure the benefits members receive from this fund.

The Grand Lodge convention passed a budget which necessitates a per-capita dues of \$13.00 to operate the General Fund. When considering all the funds supported by the Grand Lodge per-capita dues the total is \$15.75, an increase of \$5.35 over that for the previous budget. Budget details are found in an included letter written by Ken Banks, GL Convention Finance Committee Chair.

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for Sjölund, the Swedish Language Camp Village operated by Concordia College, outside Bemidji, MN. Concordia has a fundraising program to support the building of a Swedish-style fishing village to house and teach the students. Up to this point in time Sjölund has used the Finnish facilities, Salolampi. The Grand Lodge provides up to ten scholarships for a two-week language class for students 12-18, and many districts also provide scholarships so Vasa has a large interest in this project. The Grand Lodge has committed to support this facility and I encourage you to consider helping this vision of Concordia become a reality.

Remember our motto for the term: *'Tradition with Vision.'*

Vasa Syskon!

Andra upplagan är redan här. 'Labor Day' – första måndagen i september – närmar sig, och barnen har börjat skolan. Det har varit mycket att göra för mig sedan jag kom hem från Storloge-mötet. Tjänstemän måste utnämnas för Storlogen och Storloge-deputerade måste utses för varje distrikt och storloge-område. Jag ville tala med var och en så jag hade telefonen till örat ganska mycket. Jag sade till min fru att mitt öra värkte efter så mycket telefonprat. Men nu är det arbetet färdigt.

(För dem som får Vasastjärnan i Sverige finns inte Vasafirmer inlagda i tidningen. Ni får frimärkena på samma sätt som förr. Jag vet att de svenska logerna använder Vasafirmer annorlunda än de i USA och Kanada. Jag hoppas att ni tycker om Luciabilden och inte besväras av att frimärkena måste blötas för att fastna på kuverten.)

Det var med glädje jag kunde närvara vid markbrytningssceremonin för Sjölund, den svenska språklägerbyn som drivs av Concordia College nära Bemidji, Minnesota. Concordia har etablerat en insamlingsfond för att bygga ett svenskt fiskeläge där studenterna kan lära och bo. Tills nu har Sjölund använt den finska byn, Salolampi. Storlogen anordnar upp till tio tvåveckors stipendier för våra medlemmar i 12 – 18 års ålder, och flera distrikt ger också stipendier. Storlogen har beslutat att stödja det nya Sjölund och jag vill uppmuntra Er att hjälpa till att förverkliga Concordias vision.

Kom ihåg mottot för den här mandatperioden: *"Tradition with Vision."*

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

Orders for advertising should be sent to:

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New Advertising Prices:

Full Page Black and White old price \$300.00	new price \$500.00
Half Page Black and White old price \$175.00	new price \$275.00
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

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Letter from the Editor

As you already know there are changes in our GL Officers' names as well as the look of *The Vasa Star*. Also, as Rolf mentions in his *GM Message*, we have the *Education Stamp* inserted in the middle of this issue. I have just been notified that Lillemor and Richard Horngren will retire from *The Vasa Archives* after 15 years; read their story under *The Archives News*. Good News, however they will continue their *Swedish Lessons*.

We have a wonderful picture insert in color from *The 2006 Convention* in San Diego in the middle of this issue I think you will enjoy.

Starting with the Nov/Dec 2006 issue, we will introduce our newly elected GL Officers and Executive Board Members with a one-page bio.

I would like to remind you about the *Christmas Greetings* for the next issue. I know it is early, but it will be here before you know it.

Also please send any address changes to our *Circulation Manager*, Cathy Anderson at the address listed on page 3.

Marie

Brev från Redaktören

Som ni redan vet har namnförändringar skett för våra Storloge-tjänstemän och utseendet av *The Vasa Star*. Som Rolf nämner i sitt *GM Message* har vi våra *Vasa frimärken* inlagda i mitten av denna upplaga. Jag har just fått reda på Lillemor och Richard Horngren har bestämt sig för att gå i pension från *Vasa Arkivet* efter 15 år. Läs deras berättelse under *Archives News*. Lyckligtvis kommer de att fortsätta med sina *Lektioner i Svenska*.

Vi har dessutom ett jättestort bild collage i färg från *Stormötet 2006* i San Diego i mittpusslaget av denna upplaga som jag tror ni kommer att tycka om.

Med början i Nov/Dec 2006 upplagan kommer vi att introducera våra nyvalda Storeloge-tjänstemän med en sida innehållande deras biografi.

Jag vill påminna er om *Julhälsningarna* i nästa upplaga. Jag vet att det är tidigt, men den är här fortare än man tror.

Sen vill jag också be att ni skickar adressändringar till vår *Distributions Chef*, Cathy Anderson som finns i listan på sidan 3.

Marie

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

Vasa Order of America National Archives Inc.

Bishop Hill, IL

Richard and Lillemor Horngren are retiring.

Applications for the position of Manager/Archivist are now accepted at 7412 87 Ave. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6B 0L7.

The duties of the Manager/Archivist include but are not limited to:

Receiving, classifying, documenting and storing information of value relating to the history of the Vasa Order of America and immigration from the Nordic countries, with emphasis on Sweden, as well as genealogical data about immigrants' descendants. This information will be stored in our computer databases, on microfilm, on audiotapes and or in file boxes.

Responding to requests for information, which is contained in our databases.

Ensuring the proper maintenance of the interior and exterior of the Archives and the provided living quarters in the annex.

Representing the Archives in the community.

The Archives are open to the public from 9 AM to 3 PM Monday to Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sundays from April 1 to December 20.

Swedish speaking applicant, who is a member of the Vasa Order of America will be given preference.

Knowledge of data storage techniques and microfilming would be an asset.

ARCHIVES NEWS

Lillemor and Richard Horngren

There are times in life when difficult decisions have to be made. Such was the case when Richard and Lillemor Horngren recently decided to retire from the Vasa National Archives in Bishop Hill, Illinois. It was not a decision lightly made. They thought about it for a long time and after the pros and cons had been thoroughly gone over, they decided to go forward to a new phase in their lives.

How did it all start and why did the Horngren's pull up stakes in Milwaukee and leaving family, friends and Linde Lodge #492, to start a new life working at the Vasa Archive in Bishop Hill? As it turned out, Past Grand Master Bertil Winstrom and the Founder of the Vasa Archives and also a member of Linde Lodge, was approached by Richard when it became known that the Vasa Order was looking for somebody to work at the Archives full time.

So in June of 1991, the moving truck headed south and the Horngren's were ready to get to work. As part of the contract they were required to live in the house next to the Archives, which has proved to be a good thing, which will be explained later.

Several new programs were being installed on the new computers with help from Lars Dahlgren, then from the Emigrant Institute in Karlstad. The Horngren's were taught how to work these new programs and enter the information sent to the Archives from lodges and members. These programs covered Membership and Resolution information and the Holger Genealogy program.

Besides the computer work there were many other duties. Sorting and filing away boxes sent to the Archives from lodges, process the mail, pay bills, keeping the building looking nice inside and out, greeting visitors and helping with genealogy questions. These are some of the things, which kept them busy while sharing their knowledge about the Vasa Order and Sweden.

The Horngren's joined Linde Lodge in 1960. Richard's grandfather was born in Ätvidaberg, Östergötland and Lillemor was born in Stockholm and came to the US in 1957. So they knew quite a bit about these two subjects to share with the visitors.

One very important aspect of the Archive work is the genealogy research. There are microfilm records from the lodges that are checked often to find out if someone's relative belonged to Vasa. Some of the earlier ones are written in Swedish. The genealogy forms, available to all members from the lodge secretaries, will be filled in and sent to the Archives. This is the function of the Archives, to continue what past and present members have worked on, to preserve the past and the future of our Order. Won't you help?

The Archives' building is open every day from 10 AM – 3 PM and on Sundays Noon to 4 PM. During that time the Swedish and American flags are displayed to welcome the visitors. As it has turned out, it was a good thing for the Horngren's to live nearby, since more often than not, Swedish visitors would arrive in Bishop Hill later in the day and they were able to open the building for them.

The Horngren's time in Bishop Hill did not only include the work at the Archives. Richard served two terms as Director of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association. They also held membership in the Bishop Hill Arts Council and Bishop Hill Old Settlers. They became dual member in Bishop Hill Lodge #683. Lillemor, with Richard's help, taught Swedish every winter at the Archives. The students who wanted to learn Swedish loved the "kaffe med dopp" break between lessons. Lillemor also read the Swedish part of the Christmas message at the "Julotta" services in the Historic Colony Church.

The reason for the Horngren's leaving this Swedish oasis on the Illinois prairie is that after 15 years it is time to move on...try something new. As mentioned, the decision did not come lightly but once made they felt it was the right one. They made many friends and these friends are sad to see them leave but are happy the Horngren's will get this chance for a new adventure.

The Horngren's will be moving to the Nashville area in Tennessee to be close to their daughter Lisa who moved there a year ago. She gave up her job, as an engineer at General Motors, to pursue a musical career, which by the way she is doing successfully.

Maybe they will find some Swedes there and start a Vasa lodge?

In closing, the Horngren's would like to thank Marie Carlson for giving them this space in the Vasa Star to tell about this news. She thought you, the members, wanted to know what was happening at the Vasa Archives.

It is very important that all members of the Vasa Order are aware how important it is to support the Archive in any way possible. Monetary contributions, of course, are very important and urgently needed but also artifacts, lodge records, and books. Yes, anything of historical value since the exhibit areas are of great interest to our visitors.

Remember, the Vasa Archives belongs to all Vasa members. It is your building, please come and visit and you will be proud to know, that with your help the Vasa Archive will be an entity for a long time.

Submitted by: Richard and Lillemor Horngren

Sten Hult



Sten Hult and Jake Gruel

During a Grand Lodge Convention, changes and new appointments are made. One of these changes affected the Vasa Archives as well.

After serving as the Archives' Financial Secretary for some time, Sten Hult felt he

should step down and allow somebody else to take that job. He felt, he knew a person in District Lodge Lake Michigan No 8, who would be willing to shoulder this responsibility.

The recommendation was made and a new Financial Secretary was appointed to serve for a four-year term.

Upon accepting the appointment, Reinhold "Jake" Gruel, of Linde Lodge #492 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin is now ready to set to work. Brother Jake is a Past District Master and a newly elected Grand Lodge Executive Board Member representing the Midwest District. He has served in many capacities in his local lodge and the District.

He is now ready to help you, our members, with any questions you may have regarding memorial contributions.

He encourages all our members to be generous when remembering not only loved ones having passed on, but also in recognizing special events such as birthdays and/or

anniversaries. These are lasting tributes, which will keep longer than flowers, because it will very much help keep the Vasa Archives vibrant for many years to come. It is also important to know that a memorial contribution does not only involve Vasa members. A dear friend, that special neighbor, etc...can also be remembered in this special way.

Brother Jake can be reached at: Financial Secretary Reinhold "Jake" Gruel, PO Box 101, Bishop Hill, IL 61419 or Preferred Cell phone 1-262-894-5301 or Office phone (8AM-5PM CST) 1-262-544-4522

Please note that the new Vasa Archives e-mail address is now vasa_archives@hughes.net

R&L Horngren

Cover:

The Archives Building

Lillemor and Richard Horngren in front of The Vasa National Archives.

Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 2

We hope you worked on your alphabet sounds from our first lesson. In this lesson we will introduce some new sounds. The following letter combinations and their equivalent sounds are often found in Swedish. Although some look formidable, the pronunciation is very simple – it just takes some practice.

The Swedish J sound (English y) is found in these combinations:

G before e, i, y, ä, ö or after r in the same syllable

Gj	gjorde	yoo(r)deh	did
Hj	Hjort	yoo(r)t	deer
Lj	ljung	yung	heather
Dj	djur	yuhr	animal(s)

Hard K sound combinations:

-ck	tack	tock	thanks
-ch	och	awk	and
-q	quist	kvist	used in names

The SK before the vowel e, i, y, ä, ö (as in shoe):

Sk	sked	shed	spoon
Skj	skjorta	shoorta	shirt
Stj	stjärna	shairna	star
Sch	schack	shock	chess
Ssi	passion	pahsoon	passion

The TJE sound as in chin and shin:

Tj	tjugo	chewgoo	twenty
Kj	kjol	chool	skirt
Ch	choklad	shawklahd	chocolate

Other differences of note are:

Swedish does not have the “z” sound. It has an S sound such as:

Ss	pussel	puzzle
Z	zon	zone

You may also see these combinations in old genealogy records: hv, fv, ffv and fw.

This is just a very small sample. We will cover these and others in future lessons and will explain them as we go along.

Swedish does not capitalize nearly as much as English. Names, countries, provinces, cities and in the beginning of a sentence, always start with capital letters.

Many students studying a new language often get scared off if too much grammar is used during the learning process. We would like to avoid that and will only cover this part of the lessons when absolutely necessary. However at times it can't be avoided but bear with us and together we will have fun while learning either this new language or the native tongue of our forebears.

Here are some new words for you to read and memorize:

Days of the week (the Swedish calendar week starts on Mondays):

Måndag, tisdag, onsdag, torsdag, fredag, lördag, söndag

Months of the year:

Januari, februari, mars, april, maj, juni, juli, augusti, september, oktober, november, december

Seasons and some holidays:

Vår	voar	Spring
Sommar	sawmar	Summer
Höst	hu(r)st	Autumn
Vinter	vinnter	Winter
Jul	yeewl	Christmas
Påsk	poesk	Easter
Pingst	pinkst	Pentecost

Cardinal numbers:

0 Noll	11	elva
1 en, ett	12	tolv
2 två	13	tretton
3 tre	14	fjorton
4 fyra	15	femton
5 fem	16	sexton
6 sex	17	sjutton
7 sju	18	a(de)rton
8 åtta	19	nitton
9 nio	20	tjugoen, tjuogoett
10 tio		

There you have it. Hopefully it is not too much this early in the lessons. Many of these words will be used over and over again. That is what it takes to learn a new language. Repetition.

Lycka till – Good Luck!!!

**Think
Christmas
NOW!**



Christmas Greetings from lodges and individuals are due **NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 10th.**

Prices are \$20 per column inch with \$2 for each additional name. Copy must be type and prepaid.

Send your greetings to: Vasa Star, 9560 Curberry Dr., Mentor, OH 44060

GRAND LODGE NEWS

The 36th Grand Lodge Convention

The Vasa Order of America opened the doors for the 36th Grand Lodge Convention on July the 1st. The Convention was held at the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego, California. While the different Districts hold yearly or bi-yearly conventions, for a weekend, the Grand Lodge Convention goes for an entire week once every four years. Grand Master Ulf Brynjestad presided over this year's affair. District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15 hosted the Convention. Daga-Karin Lindquist was in charge of the Convention Committee. She and her co-workers did a fantastic job. This includes fund raising and planning daytime entertainment for guests. There was a San Diego City tour and a whole day at wonderful Sea World. The evening of the 4th of July offered a cruise in San Diego harbor and fireworks of course. Delegates and guests came from all corners of the U.S., Canada and Sweden.

Friday evening, June the 30th, was the time for a great pool party with live mariachi music and tacos. This was a fun choice with San Diego located so close to the Mexican border. The actual opening ceremonies were held on July the 1st. District Master Steven Leigard welcomed everybody and introduced Grand Lodge Officers, Executive Board Members and Appointed Officers. Reverend Leland Lantz, Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross-, held a nice invocation. And then there was the terrific Color Guard presented by the Swedish Folk Dance Club of Los Angeles. Flags went here and flags went there, not only were they presented in straight lines but also they always ended up where they were supposed.

Vice Grand Master, now Grand Master, Rolf Bergman presented a nice scholarship to young Sara Huber of Linnea Lodge.

Vasa Junior Folk Dance Club performed under direction of Armand and Sharron Deny. Grand Lodge Deputy Jacqueline Ahlen presented Grand Master Ulf with some terrific gifts for his years of dedicated service. Jacqueline Ahlen and Maidie Karling, the executors of the estate of PDM (District Lodge No.15) Bo Bjorling and his wife Sigrid, announced an endowment fund of \$10,000.00 to establish a scholarship in the field of music. The interest earned by the fund is to be awarded annually to a member of the Vasa Order of America and is to be administered by the Grand Lodge. PDM Bo Bjorling conducted the Vasa Orchestra for District 15 for many years. Jackie and Maidie expressed their pleasure in establishing this award on behalf of the Bjorlings.

Alfons Bergstrom, one of District's two wonderful accordionists, had gotten his composition "Vasa Waltz" copy written and this masterpiece was accepted as Vasa's Official Waltz.



Grand Master Ulf escorted into the meeting hall at the opening ceremony.

Congratulations to Alfons who must have worn out many an accordion during his life.

The evening was the time for "A Swedish Rhapsody" An informal banquet with great entertainment. Ann-Charlotte Harvey, Grand Lodge Cultural Leader served as a gracious emcee for this fun dinner party. The Vasa Junior Folk Dancers and the Swedish Folk dance club of Los Angeles got together and

received a standing ovation for their great performance. Ylva Elias sang jazzy songs, in Swedish. She sounded like a young Monica Zetterlund. Rob Thorsen accompanied on bass. It was so very enjoyable, especially to those of us who speak Swedish.

It was a terrific weekend with old and new Vasa friends.

Submitted by: Gudrun "Nel" Solt

View of the GL Convention

More than 25 members of Vasa's Northern California/Nevada District Lodge Golden Gate #12 attended the Grand Lodge Convention where over 250 persons from Canada, Sweden and the U. S. gathered to celebrate and to do the business of the Grand Lodge.

Tore Kellgren of Svea Lodge of San Jose and Barbara Olson of Valhalla Lodge in Santa Cruz represented DL Golden Gate #12 as voting delegates. Forty-one delegates represented the districts from the three countries. Tore chaired the Scholarship Committee while Barbara chaired the Resolutions Committee.

Three District #12 members were elected to the Grand Lodge Executive Board of the Western Region. Joan Graham, Framåt Lodge #463, Grand Lodge Secretary; Helen Mingram, Nord Lodge #392, Stockton, Vice Grand Secretary and Tore Kellgren, Svea Lodge #348. Members were there to experience the installation of the new officers including Grand Master Rolf Bergman, Cleveland, Ohio who will preside over the 2010 convention to be held in Washington, D.C. Also installed were Vice Grand Master William Lundquist, Michigan, and Grand Treasurer Richard Overberg, Pennsylvania who was re-elected.

Special thanks and appreciation was

shown to retiring Grand Master Ulf A. Brynjestad, Alpine, CA. Dr. Ulf led all the business meetings with authority and in a timely manner. This convention was noted for the working together of all parties and opinions. Again, a special thanks to his years of service to the Order!

Cynthia Erickson, retiring Grand Lodge Secretary, received special thanks and several standing ovation and appreciation for her service to the Grand Lodge for the past 20 years.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to two retiring GL appointed officers from District #12, Audio Visual Director Craig Peterson of Ione, CA and Activities Director Baxter Swaffar of Reno, NV, Anita Peterson of Svea Lodge, San Jose.

Business meetings were scheduled along with social and cultural activities. On the Fourth of July bus trips toured San Diego with an evening harbor cruise viewing the city's fireworks. The Grand Ball climaxed the events with dinner and entertainment. Seminars were scheduled during the week including one by Grand Lodge Cultural Leader Anne-Charlotte Harvey, one by Grand Lodge Membership Chair Joan Graham, another by Grand Lodge Webmaster Robert Anderson.

Submitted by: Barbara Olson

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT

MAY 1, 2005 thru APRIL 30, 2006

	Assessment Per Capita	OA & B	Education Fund	Archives	
DL Connecticut #1	3,476.50	102.25	61.35	613.50	(2004)
DL Massachusetts #2	7,437.50	218.75	131.25	1,312.50	(2005)
DL Rhode Island #3	3,349.00	98.50	59.10	591.00	(2005)
DL New York #4	7,080.50	208.25	124.95	1,249.50	(2004)
DL New Jersey #6	10,208.50	300.25	180.15	1,801.50	(2004)
DL New Jersey #6	9,996.00	294.00	176.40	1,764.00	(2005)
DL Minnesota #7	2,261.00	66.50	39.90	399.00	(2005)
DL Lake Michigan #8	12,333.50	362.75	217.65	2,176.50	(2005)
DL Pennsylvania #9	6,281.50	184.75	110.85	1,108.50	(2005)
DL Superior #10	1,555.50	45.75	27.45	274.50	(2005)
DL Rocky Mountain #11	1,147.50	33.75	20.25	202.50	(2004)
DL Rocky Mountain #11	1,130.50	33.25	19.95	199.50	(2005)
DL Golden Gate #12	9,503.00	279.50	167.70	1,677.00	(2005)
DL Pacific Northwest #13	11,364.50	334.25	200.55	2,005.50	(2005)
DL Pacific Southwest #15					
DL Central Canada #16	467.50	13.75	8.25	82.50	(2005)
DL Iowa-Nebraska #17	1,445.00	42.50	25.50	255.00	(2005)
DL Alberta #18	5,559.00	163.50	98.10	981.00	(2005)
DL Norra Sverige #19	15,106.00	Credit from 2004 taken = \$296.75			
DL Sodra Sverige #20	14,767.50				(2004)
DL Arizona #21	3,400.00	100.00	60.00	600.00	(2005)
LL Facklan #248	408.00	12.00	7.20	72.00	(2004)
LL Miami #554	816.00	24.00	14.40	144.00	(2004)
LL Miami #554	807.50	23.75	14.25	142.50	(2005)
LL Royal Palm #645	Disbanded				
LL Jubilee #692	527.00	15.50	9.30	93.00	(2004)
LL Jubilee #692	340.00	10.00	6.00	60.00	(2005)
LL Holiday #699	501.50	14.75	8.85	88.50	(2005)
LL Nordic #708	1,283.50	37.75	22.65	226.50	(2004)
LL Nordic #708	1,054.00	31.00	18.60	186.00	(2005)
LL Carl XVI Gustaf #716	654.50	19.25	11.55	115.50	(2005)
LL Carl Larsson #739	858.50	25.25	15.15	151.50	(2004)
LL Carl Widen #743	561.00	16.50	9.90	99.00	(2005)
LL Williamson County #753	144.50	4.25	2.55	25.50	(2004)
LL Forsgard-Olson #757 (Overpayment \$43.20)					
LL Travelers #758	518.50	15.25	9.15	91.50	(2005)

Nothing from DL Connecticut #1, DL New York #4, DL Pacific Southwest #15, DL Sodra Sverige #20, LL Facklan #248, LL Carl Larsson #739, LL Williamson County #753 Disbanded, LL Forsgard-Olson #715 at close of Fiscal Year. Those received after the closing will be included in next Fiscal Year.

Student Loans: Brian Sten	\$ 1,400.00	
Meaghan Larsson	\$ 750.00	Pd
Carina Edberg	\$ 1,500.00	Pd
Monica Nyroos	\$1,075.00	Pd
GENERAL FUND		
Sale of: Printed Material and Cuts	\$ 389.70	
Jewelry & Emblems	4,515.65	
Flags & Regalia	6.50	
Rituals/Constitution, Etc.	694.10	
History Books		
Postage	352.66	
Miscellaneous	2,664.36	
Per Capita Assessments	141,846.40	
Total		\$150,469.37
Transfers - OA & B		\$113,141.00
REIMBURSEMENT FUND INSURANCE		\$ 1,303.75
EDUCATION FUND		
Assessments	\$ 1,878.75	
Stamp Donations	12,163.13	
Loan Repayments	5,125.00	
Memorials - JoAnne Brynjestad	100.00	
Miscellaneous - Seminar	3,675.00	
Total		\$ 22,941.88
OLD AGE AND BENEFIT FUND		\$ 3,131.25

ARCHIVES FUND	
Assessments	\$18,787.50
Membership	8,675.00
Donations: Memorials	2,346.00
Endowment	1,335.00
Miscellaneous	90.69
Interest	64.66
Sweden	3,250.61
Total	\$ 34,549.46
VASA STAR FUND	
Advertisements	\$4,065.00
Obituaries	787.00
Sales/Subscriptions	226.00
Foreign Mail Fund	60.00
Miscellaneous - Repayment from lodges	
ret'd mail	3,290.40
Labels	143.75
Total	\$ 8,572.15

GRAND TOTAL RECEIPTS \$334,108.86

Deposited - Wells Fargo Bank, Minneapolis, MN
deposit numbers #1 through #24

Cynthia B. Erickson

Cynthia B. Erickson
Grand Secretary

GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Fiscal Year ended April 30, 2006

EDUCATIONAL FUNDS

	General Fund	National Archives Fund	Reimbursement Fund	"Vasa Star" Fund	Regular Fund	Larson Scholarship Fund	Nilsson Scholarship Fund	Birtwistle Scholarship Fund	Old Age Trust Fund	Old Age Allocations Fund	Total
Fund balances May 1, 2005	\$2,684.42	1,030,577.21	114,636.55	21,273.12	413,622.99	189,513.28	30,452.13	32,031.73	3,860,505.69	232,910.86	5,928,207.98
Receipts:											
Dues & assessments	\$117,872.10	45,934.90	1,303.75	---	1,878.75	---	---	---	3,131.25	---	170,120.75
Sales of merchandise	8,610.85	---	---	226.00	11,983.13	---	---	---	---	---	20,819.98
Investment income	100.12	27,392.66	4,275.63	793.43	15,427.00	7,068.32	1,135.78	1,194.70	123,746.17	---	181,138.81
Net gain on sales of securities	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	58,688.70	---	58,688.70
Advertising & resolutions	---	---	---	4,852.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	4,852.00
Student loan repayments	---	---	---	---	5,125.00	---	---	---	---	---	5,125.00
Fees for cultural seminar	---	---	---	---	3,675.00	---	---	---	---	---	3,675.00
Donations received	---	6,931.61	---	---	100.00	---	---	---	---	---	7,031.61
Inter-fund transfers	-70,300.00	---	300.00	70,000.00	---	---	---	---	-98,000.00	98,000.00	-
Other receipts	585.91	90.69	---	484.06	---	---	---	---	5.85	---	1,166.51
Total receipts	\$56,868.98	80,349.86	5,879.38	76,355.49	38,188.88	7,068.32	1,135.78	1,194.70	87,571.97	98,000.00	452,613.36
Total assets available	\$59,553.40	1,110,927.07	120,515.93	97,628.61	451,811.87	196,581.60	31,587.91	33,226.43	3,948,077.66	330,910.86	6,380,821.34
Disbursements:											
Executive Board meetings	\$12,244.40	5,145.30	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	17,389.70
Cultural seminar	---	---	---	---	19,106.83	---	---	---	---	---	19,106.83
Merchandise purchases	6,432.18	---	---	---	13,814.17	---	---	---	---	---	20,246.35
Services:											
Grand Secretary	5,400.00	---	---	---	720.00	---	---	---	---	1,080.00	7,200.00
Grand Treasurer	1,740.00	---	---	---	660.00	---	---	---	---	1,200.00	3,600.00
Editor	---	---	---	3,586.60	---	---	---	---	---	---	3,586.60
Circulation Manager	---	---	---	2,400.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	2,400.00
Archivist/Bldg. Manager	---	26,400.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	26,400.00
Archives Financial Secretary	---	900.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	900.00
Archives Consultant	---	2,962.50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2,962.50
Vice Grand Secretary	1,800.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,800.00
Expenses for:											
Grand Master-Travel	3,077.43	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3,077.43
Grand Secretary's Office	2,238.73	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2,238.73
Grand Treasurer's Office	3,006.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3,006.00
Grand Treasurer - Travel	1,487.42	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,487.42
Archives Financial Secretary	---	469.06	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	469.06
Vice Grand Secretary-Office	1,741.87	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,741.87
Other Exec. Board Members	3,750.39	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3,750.39
Circulation Manager	---	---	---	907.72	---	---	---	---	---	---	907.72
Editor	---	---	---	587.23	---	---	---	---	---	---	587.23
Archives travel allowance	---	369.52	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	369.52
Youth Club Leaders	---	---	---	---	3,600.00	---	---	---	---	---	3,600.00
Accounting & tax preparation	1,600.00	1,000.00	126.00	480.00	750.00	160.00	80.00	80.00	---	825.00	5,150.00
Costs-Bishop Hill properties	---	18,741.94	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	18,741.94
Trustee's fees	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	11,500.89	---	11,500.89
Old Age Benefit Payments	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	104,136.00	104,136.00
Scholarships Awarded	---	---	---	---	29,000.00	10,000.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	---	---	42,500.00
Membership promotion	1,245.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,245.00
Tax exempt status	---	1,803.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,803.00
Printing, mailing, office supplies	736.32	---	---	67,516.28	874.25	---	---	---	---	---	69,126.85
Bank charges	751.27	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	751.27
Donations, dues, subscriptions	2,541.00	349.00	---	---	1,000.00	---	---	---	---	---	3,890.00
Student loan granted	---	---	---	---	7,500.00	---	---	---	---	---	7,500.00
Binding of "Vasa Star" Magazines	---	---	---	299.20	---	---	---	---	---	---	299.20
Grand Lodge Deputies	418.10	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	418.10
Computer related expenses	459.95	239.40	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	699.35
Advertising	635.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	635.00
Time share assessments	431.64	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	431.64
Other expenses	1,500.00	317.47	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,817.47
Total disbursements	\$53,286.70	58,697.19	126.00	75,777.03	77,025.25	10,160.00	2,080.00	1,580.00	11,500.89	107,241.00	397,473.06
Fund Balances, April 30, 2006	\$6,266.70	1,052,229.88	120,390.93	21,851.58	374,786.62	186,421.60	29,507.91	31,646.43	3,936,576.77	223,669.86	5,983,348.28

C. Richard Overberg
Grand Treasurer

Summary of Notes, Bonds and Certificates of Deposit as of April 30, 2006

Due Date	Description	Purchase Date	Yield %	Maturity Value	National Archives	Reimbursement Fund	EDUCATIONAL FUNDS			Total Cost	Market Value	
							Regular	Larson Scholarship Fund	Nilsson Scholarship Fund			Birtwistle Scholarship Fund
2008												
8/15	Ford Motor Credit Corp.	11/01	6.75	30,000.00	30,770.70	---	---	---	---	30,770.70	27,960.00	
2013												
7/15	Federal National Mortgage Assn.	7/03	4	45,000.00	44,982.00	---	---	---	---	44,982.00	41,292.00	
2015												
12/3	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	11/02	5	50,000.00	---	50,005.00	---	---	---	50,005.00	47,625.00	
2017												
2/28	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	8/04	5.64	65,000.00	69,251.80	---	---	---	---	69,251.80	64,666.50	
5/26	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	1/04	5.14	60,000.00	---	---	59,216.00	---	---	59,216.00	55,538.40	
2018												
7/23	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	7/03	5	77,000.00	---	---	77,000.00	---	---	77,000.00	71,583.82	
2019												
5/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	3/05	5.6	1,500.00	---	---	---	15,228.50	---	15,228.50	14,502.00	
2020												
10/19	Federal Home Loan Bank	10/05	4.8	35,000.00	---	---	---	35,741.50	---	35,741.50	33,518.50	
11/16	Fed Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	11/05	5.8	55,000.00	---	55,405.83	---	---	---	55,905.82	52,145.50	
2021												
7/22	Toyota Motor Credit Corp.	7/05	4.5	50,000.00	---	---	50,000.00	---	---	50,000.00	47,608.00	
12/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	7/04	5.9	5,000.00	---	---	5,181.25	---	---	5,181.25	4,911.15	
2022												
1/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	10/4	5.65	65,000.00	---	---	68,212.34	---	---	65,212.34	63,398.40	
2/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	9/04	5.62	10,000.00	---	---	10,427.97	---	---	10,427.97	9,701.20	
3/7	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	3/03	5.74	50,000.00	---	---	54,500.00	---	---	54,500.00	48,690.00	
2023												
4/7	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	6/04	6	53,000.00	---	---	---	52,981.88	---	52,981.88	50,848.20	
5/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	6/03	4.85	60,000.00	---	---	---	6.44	29,507.91	31,646.43	53,822.90	
8/15	Household Fin. Corp.	9/04	6.0	10,000.00	---	---	---	10,522.70	---	10,522.70	9,384.20	
2024												
1/30	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	9/05	5.12	40,000.00	39,089.28	---	---	---	---	39,089.28	36,772.00	
2025												
4/4	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	3/05	5.87	10,000.00	---	---	---	10,229.38	---	10,229.38	9,560.00	
7/11	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	8/05	5.8	71,000.00	72,728.08	---	---	---	---	72,728.08	67,904.40	
2029												
1/30	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	9/05	4.5	10,000.00	---	9,776.07	---	---	---	9,776.07	9,193.00	
11/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	3/05	4.88	50,000.00	---	---	---	51,252.91	---	51,252.91	47,745.50	
TOTALS					\$256,821.86	115,686.89	324,537.56	175,963.31	29,507.91	31,646.43	934,163.96	868,371.27

Grand Summary of Assets as of April 30, 2006

Assets	General Fund	National Archives	Reimbursement Fund	"Vasa Star" Fund	Regular	EDUCATIONAL FUNDS			Old Age Trust Fund	Old Age Allocation Fund	Totals
						Larson Scholarship Fund	Nilsson Scholarship Fund	Birtwistle Scholarship Fund			
Wells Fargo Bank, Minneapolis: NOW checking account	\$5,266.70	7,304.85	4,704.04	21,351.58	50,249.06	---	---	---	---	---	88,876.23
Cash and Investments, Money Market Fund	---	9,129.12	---	---	---	10,458.29	---	---	---	---	19,587.41
State Bank of Toulon, Illinois Checking Account	---	9,395.74	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	9,395.74
Citizens National Bank of MaComb, Illinois: Savings account	---	54,187.11	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	54,187.11
Metro Bank, East Moline, IL Checking Account	---	7,516.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	7,516.00
Bank of America, Hartford, CT Checking Account	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	223,669.86	223,669.86
Petty cash funds: Grand Secretary	1,000.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,000.00
Circulation Manager	---	---	---	500.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	500.00
Due date bills, notes and bonds, at cost, per schedule A, attached (market value, \$868,371.00)	---	256,821.86	115,686.89	---	324,537.56	175,963.31	29,507.91	31,646.43	---	---	934,163.96
Stocks, at cost, per Schedule B, attached (market value, \$488,037.00)	---	456,112.26	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	456,112.26
Archives Plant Fund assets, at cost:											
Land	---	4,160.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4,160.00
Buildings (2)	---	207,607.44	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	207,607.44
Furniture and equipment	---	39,820.50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	39,820.50
Monument	---	175.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	175.00
Order of Vasa Trust Fund cash and investments, at book value (Market value, \$4,760,189)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3,936,576.77	---	3,936,576.77
Totals	\$6,266.70	1,052,229.88	120,390.93	21,851.58	374,786.62	186,421.60	29,507.91	31,646.43	3,936,576.77	223,669.86	5,983,348.28

C. Richard Overberg
Grand Treasurer

The Grand Lodge Budget For The Next Four-Year Period

The 36th Grand Lodge Convention, meeting in San Diego, accepted a budget for the General Fund for the next quadrennial of \$845,000. Almost all of this expense has to be offset by income from per capita dues. The Per Capita dues required to meet this budget is \$13.00 per member.

The approach that the Convention Finance Committee took toward budgeting is based on the following considerations.

- ❖ VOA membership that is forecast to decline over the next period from the present 14,900 members and decreasing to 13,400 in 2010. This decline in membership is based on the trend set in the last 8 years. If the membership of the Order increases over this time then the excess funding can be allocated to the areas of greatest need.
- ❖ The Budget was broken down into individual years to show how the cash flow of the Order will occur with decreasing membership. If the cash flow is not balanced for each year, particularly if there is a net loss early, then money has to be "loaned" from other funds until the General Fund has enough cash to pay back the loaned money. (Due to higher expenses and lower income than budgeted over the previous 4 years the General Fund was short approximately \$168,000 all of which was made up by loans from the Education Fund.)

- ❖ The Convention also voted to accumulate funds of \$60,000 as an accrual toward the 2010 Grand Lodge Convention. This amount should fund most of the Grand Lodge expenses for the convention and will result in a more even cash flow for the year starting 2011.
- ❖ The Order is continuing to support the Archives by a special tax of \$2.00 for all members (included in the \$13.00 per capita) and the regular \$1.50 for North American members (added to the \$13.00 Per Capita dues).

The Budgeted Income and Expenses for the Order for the next four years are as follows.

Added to the Per Capita Dues are the Dues for the Old Age Benefit fund (\$0.25), Education Fund (raised to \$1.00), and the Vasa Archives (\$1.50). Thus the total dues that will be collected by the Grand Lodge from the District Lodges is \$15.75 per member.

The Finance Committee has stressed the need for the Executive Board keep spending to the budgeted amounts to ensure the ongoing health of the Order.

*In Truth and Unity,
Ken Banks*

Chairman, 2006 GL Convention Finance Committee

	2006-7	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10	Total
Expense	\$ 240,133	\$ 194,573	\$ 212,005	\$ 198,593	\$ 845,304
Per Capita Income	\$ 194,012	\$ 191,672	\$ 183,430	\$ 174,252	\$ 743,366
Other Income	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,500	\$ 25,500	\$ 27,000	\$ 106,000
Total Income	\$ 220,012	\$ 218,172	\$ 209,930	\$ 201,252	\$ 849,366



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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
whartonamn@aol.com

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.

The Grand Lodge

2007 Scholarship and Essay Contest

The Grand Lodge of the Vasa Order of America offers the following to students attending or planning to attend institutions of higher education.

ONE \$3,000 GRAND SCHOLARSHIP: for full-time graduate study in the United States, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, or Norway. *Applicant must have become a Vasa member prior to February 15, 2005 to qualify.*

Up to TEN \$1,000 COLLEGE or VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS: awarded to students to continue education at an institution of higher learning.

ONE \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP — THE IRMA and KNUTE CARLSON AWARD: to an upper class college student (junior or senior) or a Graduate Student.

ONE \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP — THE ELLIS F. HILLNER AWARD: to a student who plans to enter or is already enrolled at an accredited institution for a career in the medical field.

Applicant for the above scholarships must have become a Vasa member prior to February 15, 2006.

ONE \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP — THE L. EINAR and EDITH L. NILSSON AWARD: to a high school senior or college undergraduate for continued education at an accredited institution of higher learning.

ONE \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP — THE GLADYS A. and RUSSELL M. BIRTWISTLE AWARD: to a high school senior or college undergraduate for continued education at an accredited institution of higher learning.

To qualify for the Nilsson and Birtwistle awards applicant must have been a Vasa member prior to January 1, 2006 in DL Connecticut #1, DL Massachusetts #2 or DL Rhode Island #3.

ONE \$3,000 SCHOLARSHIP — THE OSCAR and MILDRED LARSON AWARD: for college or graduate work at an accredited four-year college or university in the United States. *Applicant must be Swedish-born or of Swedish ancestry and a resident of the United States, Canada or Sweden. Recipient may apply for each of three years following initial award for a total amount of \$12,000 over a four-year period.*

Applications are available at the Vasa website or from the Vice Grand Master until January 15, 2007.

To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 10, 2007 to be considered.

1. Completed application.
2. Complete transcripts of grades through the first half of the senior year for high school students or fall semester of current academic year for college students.
3. Current passport photo (preferably 2x3 in.).
4. Letters of recommendation from applicant's Local Lodge, two personal references, and from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor.
5. An original, typed essay, not to exceed 1,000 words.

Please, if possible, enclose all above items in one envelope to be sent to the Vice Grand Master. Have transcript and letters of references sent/given to you in sealed (with seal stamped or signed across) envelopes for inclusion in package.

Suggested Essay Subjects

1. The role you have played in Vasa.
2. Your vision of the future of Vasa.
3. A community service activity you participated in.
4. What I have learned about my ancestral history.
5. My Swedish Heritage (for non-Vasa members applying for Larson Award)

AWARDS ARE PAYABLE TO the institution at which the student is enrolled or accepted for enrollment. Awards will be granted only for full-time equivalent program in the academic year immediately following the award. There is one exception, for the ten \$1,000 College or Vocational School Scholarships, students need to be enrolled in an accredited vocational school or institution of higher learning taking no less than six (6) credits per semester or eight (8) credits per quarter in the academic year immediately following the award. In extraordinary circumstances, on petition to the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee, payment may be postponed for a period not to exceed two years.

William L Lundquist
Vice Grand Master
Chairman, Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee
1456 Kennebec Rd.
Grand Blanc, Mi 48439
Phone: 810-695-3248
E-mail: wmlund1@aol.com

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL Lake Michigan #8

District Lodge Lake Michigan #8 celebrated its 98th annual meeting in Moline, IL, on May 19, 20 and 21. Bishop Hill Lodge #683 hosted this year's convention with Roland Krause acting as the Convention Chairman. Moline is one of the "quad" cities made up Moline and Rock Island, IL, and Davenport and Bettendorf, IA, on the Mississippi River. Bishop Hill is a short drive from Moline and many convention visitors were able to make the trip to this historic site and home of our National Archives.

Friday proved to be a beautiful day and nine happy golfers took to the links for the annual golf outing. Friday night featured the cultural room with a display of Swedish costumes. District Cultural Leader, Rey Carlberg, provided information regarding the various costumes from different provinces. Local lodges brought items to display in the room. Many delegates and officers wore their costumes making the hospitality room both cultural and colorful. Bishop Hill Lodge #683 offered an entertaining program featuring Swedish humor by "Lena and Ollie" and also our own American "Minnie Pearl."

Many first-time delegates attended the New Delegate Breakfast where they received an orientation to the routine of the district meeting. The fraternal meeting began with a welcome by Roland Krause and greetings from the mayor of Bishop Hill. The colors were presented and the national anthems sung. Dr. Wesley Hanson of Svea Lodge #253, Indianapolis, IN, dressed in a Viking, horned helmet played a replica of an antique Valthornet (horn) and also played keyboard throughout the meeting. Grand Lodge officers including Grand Lodge Deputy David Tollin were introduced and welcomed. All Past District Masters in attendance were also introduced and welcomed. District Master Sten Hult acknowledged and thanked the District Deputies who served the past year. The meeting progressed with reports from the District officers and business from the floor. Appointed committees were instructed to meet and bring back suggestions for the following year back to the afternoon session. The host lodge provided boxed lunches so the committees could work through lunch. During the afternoon sessions the reports from these committees

were read. There were many good suggestions for the new District Executive Board. Nominations were made for the next Executive Board and the election of officers took place.

Saturday night's banquet was beautifully presented. Both the herb roasted chicken breast and baked stuffed pork chop were delicious and the fourteen-piece orchestra offered wonderful entertainment. Thank you gifts were presented to the outgoing District Master, Sten Hult, and First Lady, Nancy. The many raffle gifts provided by the host lodge were announced and speeches were short allowing guests to mingle.

A poignant message was delivered at the Memorial Service Sunday morning. The

speaker helped all participants reflect on the lives of family and friends and the many Vasa members who died during the previous year. All were reminded that memory is given from God as a gift to loved ones left behind.

The business of the district was concluded at the Sunday afternoon fraternal session followed by the installation of the new District Executive Board. Congratulations to the new District Master, Jim Nystadt.

Lake Michigan District #8 invites you to its 99th Annual District Meeting which will be held in beautiful Milwaukee, WI, next May.

**Submitted by: Sheila Lundquist,
Vice District Master**

Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 Children's Club

Presents

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Double CD and Lucia Songbook



Listen to the sweetness of the children's voices as you prepare for the coming Christmas season. Close your eyes and you'll imagine Lucia floating into the room surrounded by her maidens, star boys, bakers and tomtes.

During and after Christmas you'll be tapping your feet to the lively accordion and fiddle music on the folk dance CD as you imagine dancers in Swedish folk costumes gliding across the dance floor, dancing around the maypole or Christmas tree.

You can use these CDs to put on your own folk dance exhibitions and Lucia pageants since they include instrumental only tracks. Our Lucia songbook includes English and Swedish versions of the songs and narrations.

Get your copy of this double CD and Lucia instruction booklet for only \$23 (incl. shipping). Make checks payable to Elsa Rix #1 and include your mailing address with a contact phone number or email address to:



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c/o Elaine Lindquist McGrath
252 Wellington Road S, Garden City, NY 11530

More information: www.skandjam.com/PAGES/elsarix.htm

NEWS FROM LODGES

Brage Iduna Lodge #9

Springfield, MA



Brage-Iduna Lodge's scholarship committee chairman Carl "Russ" Johnson and lodge chairperson Ingrid Caine with scholarship recipients Catherine Falkowski and Stina Nilsson.

Members of Brage-Iduna Lodge #9 gathered at the covered pavilion at Heritage Park in E. Longmeadow, MA to celebrate Midsommar on June 24. Cloudy skies brightened and showers stayed away during the time of the festivity.

Past lodge chairperson Barbro Wilson led the group in decorating a birch Maypole with greenery, wildflowers and flags. After crafting colorful head garlands, the young members of Three Crowns Swedish Children's Club #199 did their favorite Scandinavian dances around the tall Maypole.

This year, Brage-Iduna's membership was very pleased to be able to award scholarship grants to two college-age members, Catherine Falkowski and Stina Nilsson. Both have been active in Children's Club for several years, and each has served as Lucia in the Lodge's Lucia Fest in December.

Scholarship committee chairmans Carl "Russ" Johnson made the presentations at the Midsommar occasion in anticipation of the coming school year.

Catherine Falkowski, whose great-grandparents emigrated to the U.S. from Sweden and Denmark in early 1900s had been a high honors graduate of East

Longmeadow H.S. where she was active in music and co-captain of the tennis team. She'll continue as a sophomore at Bay Path College, majoring in elementary education.

Stina Nilsson, just graduated from Longmeadow H.S., will start at the Univ. of Massachusetts in nearby Amherst in September. She was a member of the National Honor Society, and excelled in tennis team competitions. As the daughter of Åsa and Per Nilsson, she was born in Sweden and came to the U.S. at age 4. Proud of her Swedish origin, she helps the Children's Club with the Swedish language, and visits relatives in Sweden each summer.

Submitted by: John Morgan

North Star Lodge #106

Los Angeles, CA

North Star Lodge #106, Los Angeles, has had a busy past few months and we have been increasing our membership. James Weldon was initiated in a private

ceremony during our District #15 Convention. Jim is a Civil Engineering student and certified deep sea diver. He is the son of Jeanette Engstrom.

At Midsummer Fest in Vasa Park, two more members joined in the beautiful outdoor setting. Gaylynn Larson Moritz and Alexandria Succa both have interesting North Star histories. Gaylynn's grandparents, Hulda and Albert Almstedt, were two of the original founding members of North Star. This was a very special moment for Gaylynn. Her 15-member family was with her on this day.

Eighteen-year-old Alexandria Succa was proud to join as this brought a four generation family into the lodge. Her great-grandmother, Evelyn Earls, was present, her grandmother Kathy Corrigan, and her mother, Patti Succa.

Recently we initiated Felicity Harper, Len Gohrn's friend. Felicity is tremendously interested in Scandinavian culture and has traveled to Sweden. Congratulations to all!

The biggest issue ahead of us is the planning of North Star's 100th birthday which will be in January 2007. A committee meets monthly, headed by our Chairman Erik Lindberg. We hope to inform the entire Vasa world and we hope you will join us at that time.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton



Four Generations of North Star #106 Members, Evelyn Earls, Kathy Corrigan, Patti Succa, Alexandria Succa with North Star Chairman, Erik Lindberg at Vasa Park.

Grand Lodge Convention, San Diego





VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization

GRAND LODGE

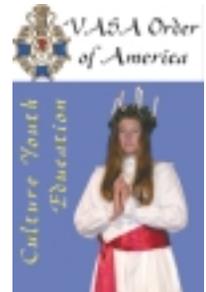
Organized September 18, 1896 – Incorporated March 29, 1899

September, 2006

Dear Vasa Member;

Every year the Grand Lodge organizes a fundraising campaign on behalf of the Vasa Order of America Education Fund. This fund supports our Cultural, Youth and Education programs. These educational programs include the Grand Scholarship and up to ten \$1,000 College and Vocational Scholarships, up to ten scholarships for our youth to attend the Sjölundén Language Village for two weeks and interest free loans to our college students. It also provides \$200 per year to all Children's Clubs in the Order, the Audio/Visual program and Cultural Leader's resources.

To encourage your financial report we are enclosing two sheets of Educational Fund Stamps commemorating the Swedish Lucia tradition for your use – see image at right. The stamp design is courtesy of Tore Kellgren, GLEBM, Western Region.



The stamps are attached to the Vasa Star to save the cost of mailing the stamps in a separate envelope to every member. In addition we have gone to a gummed stamp, which provided considerable savings over the pressure-sensitive self-stick stamps.

I know you agree that the Grand Lodge should sponsor the listed activities. I hope you agree strongly enough to make a contribution. Please write your check today and mail it to the Grand Secretary using the form below. The number of scholarships we can give depends on your generosity.

On behalf of the Grand Lodge and all the beneficiaries of the Educational Fund, I thank you for your generous support.

In Truth and Unity.

Rolf S. Bergman
Grand Master

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Joan Graham, Grand Secretary, 5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804

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Enclosed: \$5 \$10 \$20 Other _____ for additional stamps

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City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip/PC _____

Please make check payable to: **Vasa Order of America**





Three pages of pictures are presented of the Grand Lodge Convention, held June 30 - July 7, 2006. The photos are courtesy of Tore Kellgren, GLEBM, Western Region.

Tours involved a visit to the Sweden House in Balboa Park, Mission San Diego de Alcalá, Cabrillo Point and the Maritime Museum. Of course there were lots of different things to eat at the various receptions and banquets. The focus, at least for the delegates, was four days of business meetings. You will hear of some of the decisions later.

If you participated, enjoy the memories; if not enjoy the pictures!

Grand Lodge Convention San Diego, CA

Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY



Birthdays of Nels John Nelson and Allie Nelson Withers being celebrated with lodge historian John Sipos.

Hello from Thule Lodge #127, where we are experiencing very hot temperatures during our summer season. However, we have not slowed on our lodge activities.

Recently two members, who are brother and sister, celebrated their birthdays. Nels John Nelson and his sister Allie Nelson Withers celebrated their birthdays at the lodge. Their birthdays are one day apart. Helping to celebrate their special day was lodge historian John Sipos with his large musical birthday hat. Nels John and Allie recently celebrated their 80th year when they arrived in American from Sweden.

Our annual Hawaiian Luau was held at the lodge, with a delicious meal, and served by members of the lodge. Lodge chairman Robert Fuller and vice chairman Don Carlson welcomed all to the wonderful dinner.

The fifth annual Scandinavian Folk Festival was held in Jamestown, and the lodge served their special Swedish meatball dinner, which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Robert and Fanchon Fuller, Ed and Donna Sandberg, Betty Lawson, Dorothy Peterson, Richard and Trudy Kraft, Nels John and Alberta Nelson, and John and Lucile Marsh for their dedicated service to this annual meal.

We were honored to have New York District Master Margaret Lindblom visit us during the festival and attend one of our lodge meetings.

Eugene Diamond serves as our outer guardsman, with Susan Sipos as our inner guardsman. Diane Shaw is our chaplain, and Fanchon Fuller is our cultural leader who keeps us up to date on lodge activities and Swedish history and heritage.

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

Submitted by: John Sipos

Vasa Star September-October 2006

Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA

For the first, we believe, Tegnér Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, had a Mexican potluck dinner at its May meeting. Chef Stig Björk prepared the entree "Swedish Enchiladas." It was rumored that sill was part of his ingredients. Other members brought Mexican dishes and everything was delicious.

Delegates Marie Ann Hill and Laura Nordendahl reported on the District #12 Convention, held in Concord, CA, in April. For the cultural program we practiced singing the Swedish national anthem in Swedish. We hope to do more Swedish singing in the future. We were

pleased to have Joanie Graham of Framåt Lodge #405 and Myrtle Widmark and Dorothy Scherer of Monitor Lodge #218 with us.

At our June meeting we discussed plans for our summer meetings – a picnic in Redwood Park with Framåt and Sveaborg Lodges in July and our crayfish dinner at the Nordendahl's in August. Monika Feist gave the cultural program. She told us about and showed us pictures of the national flowers of all the Swedish provinces. It was enjoyed by all.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

Linné Lodge #153

South Bend, IN



On Sunday, June 25, 2006 Lennart, Cindy and Anna Adamsson were our kind hosts for the picnic. We had delicious barbecue chicken and a lovely afternoon of visiting. There were three guests - Ken Huggett (Elinor's husband), Gunnel and Erick Nissar, (who is a cousin of Elinor Huggett) from Flen, Sweden.

We also had three more guests - Swen and Roseane Swanson from Svea Lodge in Carmel, IN and Thelma Nelson's daughter, Judy Dixon from Des Moines, Iowa.

Submitted by: Lorraine Cooper

Welcome, Fall!

Monitor Lodge #218

Sacramento, CA

Members and friends of Monitor Lodge #218, Sacramento, CA, celebrated the 94th anniversary of the lodge at a dinner/dance held April 7 at the Dante Club, Sacramento. Membership pins were distributed. Recipients were as follows:

10 Years - Dee Benson, David Benson, Astrid Broess, Michael Churkin, Ingrid Gilchrist, Josie Hennig, Larry Hultquist, Mindy Patterson and Michelle Kauffman.

15 Years - Robert Barrett, Christine Bodelson, Laverne Griffith, Charles Johnson and Betty Schoepf.

25 Years - Kenneth Carlson, Peggy Carlson, Deidre Dahlberg, Edward Dahlberg, Liesma Krastins, Birgitta Ostlund and Richard Westrup.

40 Years - Barbara Erickson Lutz

60 Years - Donn Stafford and Lillian Stafford.

Donn and Lillian Stafford were honored at this meeting, but chose to receive their 60-year jewels at the District Convention, held May 21-23 at Concord, Ca.

Following the membership ceremony, Scandinavian dancing was led by the El Dorado Dancers and music by the Big Bands.

Submitted by: Dorothy Scherer



Kenneth Carlson, Peggy Carlson, Deidre Dahlberg, Edward Dahlberg, Liesma Krastins, and Birgitta Ostlund.

Brahe Lodge #245

Rockford, IL

Sixty members and guests of Vasa Brahe Lodge #245 enjoyed a memorable June 22 midsummer evening celebration at our spacious Vasa Park in Rockford IL.

We all devoured a delicious "smörgåsbord" outdoors with perfect balmy

weather. Entertainment was provided by an instrumental sextet from Höganäs.

Sadly, during the early morning hours of May 7, a fire of undetermined origin destroyed our Vasa Park lodge.

Submitted by: D. G. Eksten



Tegnér Lodge #224

Missoula, MT

Greetings from Tegnér Lodge #224 at Missoula, Montana, land of the Big Sky Country. Our lodge has been busy with many activities throughout the year. We entered a float in the *University of Montana Homecoming Parade* and came out with a first prize in our class.

At the *International Day Food Fair*, also held at the University, we sold our well-known Swedish Meatballs on a stick and the people were standing in line for them most of the time.

Of course, we have our annual Christmas Party with the Lucia and the "Jultomten" passing out the Lucia buns.

We also have a scholarship of \$500.00 given to the outstanding High School graduate and a \$500.00 scholarship to a Vasa member attending a school of higher learning. These awards have been given out for several years.

Our annual Midsummer fest is held at the Otto Benson farm...a farm that has been in the family for over a hundred years.

All these different activities bring the members together for a time of sharing and fellowship.

Submitted by: Rick Swanson



High School Scholarship recipient, Samantha Dorne, right, and our President, Leslie Hilliard, left.



Skandia Lodge #247

Pasadena, CA

Midsummer was happily celebrated in Pasadena as Skandia Lodge members and friends gathered together around our fine Maypole and danced the night away. The Maypole was designed and built by our own Bob Solt.

Chairman Birgitta welcomed everyone to the festivities and presented the Grand Lodge Deputy, Dr. Jacqueline E. Ahlen who introduced our guest from Sweden, Kerstin Johansson – a 53-year member of Skandia Lodge and a 54-year member of the Vasa Order of America. Kerstin is currently a dual member with Småland Lodge No. 618 in Jönköping, Sweden where she is the Cultural Leader. Kerstin spoke of some of her adventures in Vasa and, when I asked, willingly shared two special recipes that are thoroughly enjoyed by all.

For You Special Cookbook

Kirsten's Apple Pie Recipe: peel, core, and slice enough apples to fill your pie pan. Mix together sugar and flour (sweet apples = 1/2 cup sugar to 1 cup flour) and sprinkle over apples. Add 1 teaspoon of cinnamon is desired. Dot 1/4 pound butter on top of mix. Bake at 350 degrees F. for about 30 to 45 minutes until top of pie is golden brown. Let cool slightly before serving. Serve hot with ice cream or cold with whipped cream. ENJOY.

FROM THE RECIPE COLLECTION

Spröda Päronkakor/Delicate pear cookies (makes 15 cookies)

Converted from deciliters and translated by Kerstin:

Mix until crumbly 2 cups flour and 15 ozs. Butter. Add four tablespoons sour cream. Mix rapidly together and wrap in plastic to chill in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Roll out to 1/4 inch thickness, and cut into round shapes of about 2 inches diameter.

Peel, core, and grate 2 – 3 ripe pears (about 1 to 1 1/4 cups). Place 1 teaspoon of pear in the center of each cookie. Mix together 2 tablespoons sugar and 1-tablespoon ground ginger. Sprinkle sugar/ginger mixture over pears and fold each cookie in half with the pear mixture in the middle. Press together with a fork at outside edges to seal.

Bake at 400 degrees F. until cookies are golden brown or about 12 – 15 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar when cold.

Midsummer entertainment: The Vasa Junior Folk Dance Club of District 15 performed under the direction of Dr. Sharron and Armand Deny for a very happy audience. The musical accompaniment was spectacularly composed of four young violinist and two adults. The results were ter-

rific. We missed our Midsummer Queen, Jennifer Norquist, but her graduation practice delayed her for just too long; however, we all congratulate you, Jennifer, and wish you every success in your future. Members of our sister lodges were all welcomed and everyone enjoyed the dancing around the Maypole.

Article by: **Jacqueline Ahlen**

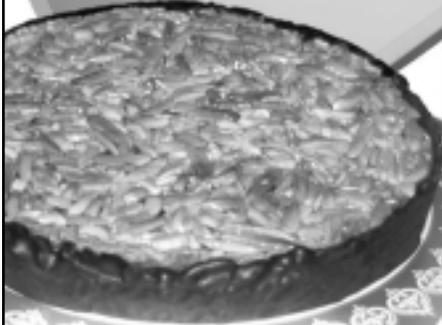
Photo by: **Nel Solt**



Longtime Skandia Lodge #247 member, Kerstin Johansson, now living in Sweden, speaks to the Lodge's Midsummer gathering while Chairman Birgitta Roodsari looks on.

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Facklan Lodge #248

Mission Hills, KS

On Saturday, June 17th, Vasa Facklan Lodge 248 of Kansas City joined with the combined Scandinavian groups to celebrate "Midsommar" at the Hollis Renewal Center in Bonner Springs, Kansas. The potluck dinner was preceded by fun and games with young and old alike making "Blomkrans," face painting, and decorating the "Majstång." "Kubb," the early Viking game, was played in the nearby field while others went romping through the woods and exploring the nearby stream, highlights and the delight of youngsters. The dinner began at six o'clock and was followed by singing and dancing after the erection of the tall "Majstång". Afterwards as night began to fall we sat around the prepared bonfire and helped celebrate the 88th year of Independence of Iceland and then to watch the burning of the witches in the bonfire and roasted marshmallows.

July meeting of the Facklan Lodge is the now traditional "Glass Fest" at the home of Elly Urie. Homemade ice cream goes with homemade cookies and soft drinks as the members gather around the back yard and enjoy an old-fashioned 'gab fest.' The July meeting will also bring up a discussion on the participation in the Kansas City Ethnic Festival held on the third weekend of August in Swope Park in Kansas City, Missouri. Vasa will again have their booth to join the other 41 booths at the park. This festival is always



Face painting.



Scandinavian Fiddlers.

a fun and exciting event with. Many ethnic groups in the area do participate in selling foods and native crafts.

Continuous ethnic entertainment venues are a highlight for the weekend event.

Submitted by: Dean Larsen

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA

On June 24th our lodge had a beautiful sunny day to celebrate Midsommar – we convened at Waldameer Amusement Park, next to Presque Isle. A picnic pavilion was reserved, decorated with Swedish flags, Dala horses and, of course, a beautiful Maypole was covered with real flowers. Everyone brought delicious picnic food, and the lodge provided even more, making floral crowns occupied many of us and then we were ready for the Maypole dances! Both young and old participated. There was plenty of time for families to enjoy the rides and attractions afterward. All in all it was a very successful event that has become an important tradition for us all!

Submitted by: Linda Collin



Helen Bellingham and Dorothy Overberg.

Omaha Lodge #330

Omaha, NE

Our monthly meeting on July 9th, we had a guest from Helsingborg LL Karnan #608, Cecilia Collin and her exchange student host family, invited by Beth Rosenquest, our Vasa Delegate, District #17, Omaha-Sioux City, IA.

She told us about the Swedish Lodge Ritual and the American Lodge ritual. Also she invited people from our lodge to visit in Helsingborg.

Beth will give the Grand Lodge Convention report in August.

Submitted by: Leslie J. Marks

Solidaritet Lodge #396

Mount Vernon, WA

“Midsommar” means “party hearty” to Scandinavians worldwide, from Sweden-rock 2006 to the Lodge Solidaritet #396 Midsommer Festival held June 11 in Mount Vernon, Washington State. This annual dance and smorgasbord for all ages is a celebration of life that traditionally went 'round the clock in the land of the midnight sun.

Non-member guests are welcome at “Midsommar Fest” and all social meetings, according to Majken Warns, 10-year lodge member. She directed decoration of the pole covered with fresh birch branches, ivy and flowers and topped with a Swedish flag. Professional dancers and lodge members, Tom and Willy Evans, Mount Vernon, wore traditional Finnish costumes and led the crowd in dances around the pole.

Scandinavian and American dances including schottische, the Swedish waltz and “the Chicken Dance” were enjoyed. Accordionist Curt Tveit, Mount Vernon, kept the dancers in step.

During a break to catch their breaths, the Lodge honored member and three times past treasurer Eva Billgren Anderson on her 75th birthday. She was serenaded with the Swedish Birthday Song.

After stepping up an appetite, all went into the lodge hall to three tables laden with smorgasbord. Before the meal, all other June birthdays were honored with “Happy Birthday” sung in English. Martha Johnson, lodge pianist, accompanied. The clean-up crew was serenaded in Swedish by the unofficial choir, which gathers around the piano after each meeting.

Sunday, July 9, the Annual Summer Picnic was held on the lawn behind the Lodge's own hall. Tables were set up and spread with the potluck food provided by the lodge members. The summer picnic has been an annual event for many years. Guests are encouraged to join us. We formerly met with the B.C. Canada Lodges at Peace Arch Park. Hopefully membership on both sides of the border will increase and make that a reality again in the future. We have always enjoyed our Canadian Lodge Brothers and Sisters.

Future events include Pancake Breakfast Fundraisers, open to the public, held the third Saturday of Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb, Mar, Apr. These events are organized and staffed entirely by many member volun-

teers who deserve a lot of credit for keeping the lodge financially solvent.

Swedish Language Lessons are held on Tuesday Evenings. There are two, ten-week sessions in the autumn and spring. Emil Andersson is the instructor.

Traditional Folk Dances are held the fourth Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m. beginning again in September. Tom and Willy Evans lead the dancing.

Submitted by: Sharon Marsh Downey



Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI

Swedish “Midsommar in Wisconsin.” As tradition has it, Linde Lodge #492 has an open invitation to join SAHS of WI every year in the Midsommar Celebration, and it is always held in “Old World Wisconsin.” This was a year with much excitement as we had visitors from Sweden. The Scania Hussar Quartet +One, was in town, and they helped with the music for the festivities as well as performing a very special program of a mix of military marches, old dear Swedish folk tunes, and the ever so important “Hälsa dem där hemma.”

The group of eleven included some spouses as well as the band, and they were very impressed with how traditional the “Midsommar” was held. Much more traditional here than in Sweden they said. Great to get good ratings, but I'm sure there are some very traditional “Midsommar” celebrations in Sweden yet, and we were glad that they had a good time. This brass band from Höganäs (in Swedish “Skånska

Husarsextetten”) had a very tight program, with performances in Chicago, Bishop Hill, Rockford, and Madison before they came to us. By us they performed three times. One formal concert sponsored by Linde, then the Midsommar Event which was co-sponsored by SAHS of WI and Linde, and then the biggest concert of them all at Luther Manor Retirement Home and sponsored by Marge Jothen and SAHS.

It would not be Midsommar if we couldn't brag about *Skansen Children's Club*. The kids, as usual were very talented and performed several dances and songs. They were also the ones leading in all the “Ringlekar” once the very pretty maypole was raised. The picture shows that both young and old participated.

Thanks to all that makes this event such a joyous one (even if the weather kept threatening with storms).

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand



“Skånska Husarsextetten” – Jarl Roslund, Jan Noren, Jonas Muntzing, Olle Schon, Per Tholin, Jan Pettersson and Svante Lund.

Vasa Hope Lodge #503

Seattle, WA

Our last meeting before summer was held June 12, 2006, and appropriately the decoration theme for this month was "Baseball." "Whiz Liz" Bogus had each lunch table arranged accordingly.

Our business meeting followed with reports of members on the sick list and also those that have moved into retirement facilities. A 50-year membership pin was awarded to Katsy Furseth and a 60-year pin was awarded to Dorothy Eckland. Since this last meeting we have lost another member, our Assistant Financial Secretary, Violet Anderson, who passed away June 17. The charter will be draped in her memory at our next meeting after summer.

On June 18th Loyd Pierson and I attended the annual Midsummer Festival held at Vasa Park which was founded on Lake Sammamish in 1926 and now celebrating its 80th anniversary. Swedish pancake breakfast was served and a new Kaffegarden served coffee and homemade baked goods.

As June 18th was also Father's Day, we were pleased that Loyd's son, Tim, joined us to tour the park, his first time here, and to see most of the program with the musicians and folkdancers promenade parade through the park to the Midsummer Pole where the blue and yellow ribbon streamers were traditionally wound by the Vasa Youth Dancers who performed various folk dances. Four young ladies listed on the program as the Dancing Fiddlers delighted the audience with their combined violin playing while also performing whirls and twirls. The large group of Nordiska Folkdancers in their national costumes displayed their many various dance routines. Throughout the park there were many musicians entertaining the audiences with live music to enjoy at the south picnic area, the center picnic shelter, the Kaffegarden, and the north picnic area.

The Vasa Park Ballroom, the largest ballroom in the Seattle area, drew a large crowd for the dance sponsored by the Good Times Dance Club with lively good music by our own Vasa Hope member, Sylvia Jorgensen and her Fjordsong Band. Loyd and I are members of this club. We enjoyed dancing to all the pattern and mixer dancers to such good music in such a great hall. This day brought back memories of my parents', my own, and my childrens' previous participation right here in this Vasa Park.

Submitted by: **Elsie J. Busch**



Received Membership pins: 50 year Katsy Furseth and 60 year Dorothy Eckland.



Margaret Anderson was the winner of the "Baseball Basket."

Joe-Harbor Lodge #534

St. Joseph, MI

On April 20, ten Joe Harbor members and one guest climbed into a rented van and took a trip to Andersonville in Chicago. Since we were all somewhat hungry and thirsty, our first stop was Ann Sathers where we had huge cinnamon rolls and authentic Swedish coffee. Next we had a personal tour guide waiting for us at the Swedish Museum on Clark and Foster Streets. The tour was both infor-

mative and entertaining. Lunch was served at Tre Kronor. We then had just enough time to make quick stops at Wikstrom's Delicatessen and, of course, the Swedish Bakery. A tired and very happy group climbed back into the van and we beat the traffic on our way back home thanks to our clever driver and day trip organizer, Linda Tjernland.

Submitted by: **Irma Gorman**



Trip to Andersonville in Chicago.

Nordic Lodge #611

Worcester, MA

Our installation ceremony on January 19, 2006 almost didn't happen. Part way through the program at Worcester's First Presbyterian Church, we were requested to evacuate the building because of a possible gas leak. After waiting outside for about 20 minutes in the cold winter air, we received an "all clear" signal from the local gas company. We are especially grateful to installing officers DM Shirley French and PDM Pamela Genelli. Other visiting officers were in attendance.

February 16th was our annual fun-time Valentine Auction fundraiser. All had a good time, and we raised over \$200. At our March 16 meeting we were entertained with lovely music and vocals by a new member, Carolyn Skoglund, who joined Nordic last fall. Carolyn's electronic keyboard repertoire included Big Band sounds and an amazing rendition of "roller-skating rink" music as played on the Hammond B3 organ. Gulla Magnusson also led us in a little study of an English translation of "Du Gamla, Du Fria."

Our presenter for the April 20th meeting was Astrid Tollefson, author of *FOLLOWING THE WATERS: Voices from the Final Norwegian Emigration*. Astrid's book, which received a favorable review in the September-October 2005 issue of the *Vasa Star*, tells the story of the Norwegian fishing community in New Bedford, Massachusetts, a place fabled in earlier days as the world's largest whaling port. The city's Norwegian population was estimated to reach almost 5,000, and there was a smaller settlement of Swedes. By the way, New Bedford had its own *Vasa* lodge, Freja #25 (1906-1984).

Member Bill Hultgren, co-author of *Swedes of Greater Worcester* and *Swedes of Greater Worcester Revisited*, presented a program on "Swedish Melodies and Favorite Songs" at our May 18th gathering.

Just before starting our summer hiatus, we enjoyed our traditional Strawberry Festival on June 15th. District and Grand Lodge scholarships were also presented at this meeting. VDM Marlene Patient awarded the District Lodge scholarship to Nordic member Krystle Briggs, and GLD Leif Kristiansson awarded the "Gladys A. & Russell M. Birtwistle" scholarship to Nordic member Kelsey L. Gibbs. Leif also presented the "College or Vocational School Award" to John Ericsson Lodge member Nicole Maria Nelson. Gratularar!

Adding much to the enjoyment of our June program which is always the Strawberry Festival, were the song and guitar renditions offered by two of our

Vasa Star September-October 2006



Erik and Hanna Arvidson

youngest members, Erik & Hanna Arvidson, of Troy, New Hampshire. Erik is a sophomore at the University of New Hampshire, and Hanna is still in high school. They both sang and played many songs, some of them written by Erik. They were "I Can Only Imagine, I Love You So, Give Thanks, No Doubt, As the Deer, Pray For Me, and Glad you are In My Life." These youngsters have been encouraged to appreciate their Scandinavian heritage by their grandparents, members Richard & Louise Arvidson, even though coming to Nordic Lodge means a 55-mile trip.

An attempt has been made to revive our popular dinner dances, albeit in a new setting, the Greendale Peoples Church at 25 Francis Street in Worcester. The dinner dances were held this year on January 14th and March 11th. The building is a bit smaller than the formerly used location, but good meals are served, and there is dancing to the music of Nils Lundin's band.

Submitted by: Betty Becker

Cariboo Lodge #690

Quesnel, BC, Canada

The Cariboo Lodge #690 of Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada, had the privilege of hosting a Norwegian folk dance group *Eldsvold Leikarring* from Victoria, British Columbia, and is from the *Sons of Norway's* Eldsvold Lodge.

The performance was delightful, entertaining, and professionally presented. Their traditional costumes were beautiful.

Our members and invited guests were thrilled with seeing the different dances from various regions of Norway and impressed with the creative way in, which they were presented. Coffee and desserts finished the evening splendidly!

If anyone has an opportunity to see their performance - we highly recommend them!

What a lovely group of people - we even had the privilege of hosting them in our homes.

Submitted by: Carol McIntosh

Travelers Lodge #758

Type, TX

The article in the January/February *Vasa Star* about the Rambo apple inspired Travelers Lodge recently to have a program about apples. Jan Mogonye's presentation of numerous kinds of apples helped the group decide which they liked best according to flavor and texture. Many interesting facts about the Rambo apple as well as other varieties helped us realize how popular the apple and apple trees are in Sweden. The lodge presented two apple trees to Yegua Church. Members shown with the trees are: kneeling, LaVerne Arbuckle; standing, l-r, Linda and Jim Johnson and Helen and Joe Cantrell.

Submitted by: Marjorie Matetzschk



Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

Our Mid-Summer Festival on June 25, 2006, was a success. Our potluck produced so much great food. We had sliced pork with BBQ sauce, meats and rolls, salads and wonderful desserts. After eating we danced our food off. Gun Granath did a great job calling the dances and Vito Pantaleo was our maestro on the boom box. We mastered the Frog and the Pig dance with lots of laughs.

July and August we do not have any meetings. The straw weaving ladies have been diligently working on their pieces.

September 24, 2006, Suzanne Copeland will give us a great lecture on the life and art of the famous Swedish painter Carl Larson. Suzanne has a background in art.

October 22, 2006, we will have a fundraiser. BUNCO! What a great way to raise money.

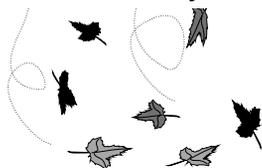
Submitted by: Kristin Boyes

SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563

En solig söndag - närmare bestämt den 11 juni - samlades 16 syskon från Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563 och Logen Stockholm Nr 589 för boulevards. Vi hade verkligen tur med vädret, för denna söndag kom sommarvärmen. För att få lite skugga satt vi under en av de vackra ekarna i parken vid Drottningholms Slott och åt vår medhavda picknick.

Submitted by: Pia Norrman



Sonja Hall kastar medan Gerhard Nestrell (båda från Logen Stockholm Nr 589) och Lage Jenneflod (Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563) tittar på.

Logen Enköping Nr 646

Under några veckor passade medlemmarna Bo Axelsson, Karl-Erik Axelsson, Elisabeth Agge logen Enköping Nr 646 samt Hillivi och Lars-Åke Sjöberg logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563 att besöka USA och Kalifornien.

Resan började i Los Angeles hos Eleonora Nyrén som tillhör Mayflower Logen Nr 445 och även Uno Kaspersen från samma Loge, och som tillsammans visade staden.

Resan gick sedan vidare till San Francisco där resenärerna passade på att besöka Golden Gate bron, Fishermans Warf, Lombardo Street samt China Town. Resan fortsatte sedan ner över

östkusten för att den 4 juli komma till San Diego och Storlogemötet.

Många Svenskar hade samlats detta år främst från DL 20, vilket gjorde det till en trevlig mix av vad Vasa Orden av Amerika representerar.

Som ny Stormästare valdes Rolf Bergman. För Sverige valdes Tore Tellberg DL 19, Bertil Eriksson DL 20 in i Storlogens exekutiva råd. Axelsson, Sjöberg och Agge är medlemmar i Linde Loge Nr 492 så glädjen var även stor över att få William Lindquist som VSM och Jake Gruel som representant i Storlogens exekutiva råd.

Under dessa dagar hade Agge,

Axelsson och Sjöberg möjlighet att träffa representanter för deras vänloge Nordic Red Rocks Nr 760 genom Vito och Louise Pantaleo. Veckan avslutades sedan med en bankett som bjöd på glädje, vänskap och musik.

Våra resenärer återvände till Los Angeles för att fortsätta sin resa och njuta av Stilla Oceanens vågor samt Getty Muséet. I Palm Springs besöktes Logen Enköping Nr 646:s vänloge, Desert Vikings Nr 682 och vännerna Ila och Bob Engstrom. Dagarna i Palm Spring var heta, 45 grader, men vännerna Bob och Ila såg till att resenärerna trivdes. Där fick de se Elvis och Liberachi bostad under deras tid de var bosatta i Palm Spring, ett flygmuseum samt åkte med Trampen upp i bergen.

På kvällen var de i Desert Vikings Nr 692:s logelokal för att få möjlighet att träffa fler medlemmar. Elisabeth Agge berättade om sin egen Loge samt staden Enköping och framförde hälsningar från Logen Enköping Nr 646 och Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563.

Resan avslutades med att ta adjö av Eleonora Nyrén och Uno Kaspersen genom att besöka en mexikansk restaurang från 1923 för att fira Eleonoras födelsedag.

Ett varmt tack till alla som vi lärt känna och till våra vänner som alltid finns där för oss.

Det är vad Vasa Orden av Amerika står för, att alla är vi syskon inom Vasa!

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge



Logemedlemmar i Desert Viking Nr 682 tillsammans med Karl-Erik Axelsson, Bo Axelsson logen Enköping Nr 646 samt Lars-Åke och Hillivi Sjöberg logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563.



Bo Axelsson logen Enköping Nr 646 tillsammans med Eleonora Nyrén och Bo Kaspersen Logen Mayflower Nr 445 under banketten.

Logen Westervik Nr 679

Logen Westervik Nr 679 skall i september fira 40-årsjubileum, då den bildades 1966. Det var 17 personer, som då intogs. En av chartermedlemmarna, Siv Gustavsson, 'is still going strong' och kommer att delta i vårt jubileumsfirande. I dag har Logen 129 medlemmar. Västervik ligger vid en vik av Östersjön, Gamlebyviken. Västervik, "en plats väster i vik-en," är en mycket gammal stad. Hällristningar och stenrösen visar att bygden har anor från forntiden.

Till en början låg Västervik längst in i Gamlebyviken. Omkring 1360 byggdes Stegeholms Slott vid vikens mynning som ett skydd och lås för viken. Men 1433 befallde kung Erik av Pommern invånarna i 'den gamla byn' (Gamleby) att flytta till den plats, där Västervik nu ligger. Han gav västerviksborna fyra års skattefrihet för att de skulle kunna bygga en kyrka. S:ta Gertruds kyrka blev färdig i mitten av 1400-talet och har byggts till och restaurerats flera gånger.

År 1677 attackerade danskarna Västervik, och det var inte första gången. Stegeholms Slott förstördes då helt och staden brändes ner. Bara två hus klarade sig; kyrkan och ett intilliggande hus. Men staden byggdes snabbt upp igen.

En söndag sommaren 1762 drog ett åskväder fram över staden. Under gudstjänsten träffades kyrktornet och spiran av en blix. Orgeltramparen dödades och orgeln blev svårt skadad. S:ta Gertruds kyrka är i dag en populär bröllopskyrka och på somrarna ges konserter där två gånger i veckan.

Inte långt från kyrkan, i Båtsmansgränd, ligger åtta båtsmansstugor. De byggdes på 1740-talet som bostäder åt båtsmännen och deras familjer. Stugorna var små, hade bara ett litet rum och kök och utgjorde en del av lönen. Västerviks båtsmän tjänstgjorde vid kungens flotta i Karlskrona.

Västervik sägs ha Sveriges vackraste skärgård med 5.000 öar i olika storlekar. Sjöfart och skeppsbyggeri har alltid spelat en stor roll för bygden. Kung Gustav Vasa befallde att ett kronovarv skulle byggas i staden och i mitten av 1500-talet bestod 80% av hans flotta av fartyg byggda i Västervik. På 1700-talet var Västervik en av landets ledande sjöfartsstäder med fyra stora skepps- och skutvarv. Även i dag finns här flera företag som bygger båtar i olika storlekar.

Västervik har blivit ett nationellt centrum för den svenska visan. Varje sommar arrangeras en *Visfestival* i



Stegeholms slottsruin, där de främsta artisterna i Skandinavien deltar. Det började för 40 år sedan, då fyra västervikspojkar, som tyckte om att sjunga och spela gitarr, bjöd in till en viskväll i ruinen. De gjorde succé. Visfestivalen har gjort Västervik till en samlingsplats för musikälskare. En av "pojarna," Björn Ulvaeus, är nu en välkänd artist, som var en medlem av den framgångsrika sånggruppen ABBA. Tillsammans med Benny Anderson (ABBA) har han haft ännu större framgång. bl.a. med musikalen *Kristina från Duvemåla*. Under *Visfestivalen* besöker många tusen personer Västervik, som under sommaren mångdubblar sitt invånarantal. Västervik har 22.000 invånare, Gamleby 3.000.

Västervik är en modern stad. Men då man går i de små kullerstensgränderna med rosor, som slingrar sig upp på de gamla husen från 1700-talet, är det som om tiden stått stilla.

Västervik är min barndomsstad och jag älskar den!

Lodge Westervik #679

LL Westervik Nr 679 is going to celebrate its 40th anniversary in September, it started in Västervik in 1966 and 17 people were initiated. One of the charter members, Siv Gustavsson, is still 'going strong' and will be an honoured guest at our anniversary. Today LL Westervik has 129 members.

A bay called Gamlebyviken near the Baltic Sea situates Västervik. **Västervik**, "a place by the west of the bay" is a very old town. Rock carvings and Cairns show that the district dates back to ancient times.

At first Västervik was located at the very back of the bay. But around 1360 Stegeholm Castle was built at the mouth

of the bay to be a shelter and served as "gate" into the bay. In 1433 King Eric of Pomerania forced the inhabitants of 'the old village,' Gamleby, to move to Västervik's present place. He granted Västervik four tax-free years so they could build a church, which was completed in mid-1400. St. Gertrud's church has been enlarged and restored several times.

In 1677 the Danes attacked Västervik. The Stegeholm Castle was totally destroyed and so was the town. Only two houses were undamaged; the church and a house next to the church. The town, however, was quickly rebuilt. One summer Sunday in 1762 there was a big thunderstorm. During service the church tower and spire were struck by lightning. The man who blew the bellows was killed and the organ seriously damaged. Today St. Gertrud's church is very popular for marriage ceremonies and in the summer there are concerts twice a week.

Not far from the church there are eight boatmen cottages. They were built around 1740 for the boatmen and their families. The cottage was small, had only one room and a kitchen, and was part of the boatman's pay. Västervik's boatmen had to go to Karlskrona in the south of Sweden to serve at the king's fleet.

People say Västervik has Sweden's most beautiful archipelago with 5.000 islands of different sizes. Shipping and shipbuilding have always played an important role for the district. The Swedish King Gustav Vasa ordered a shipyard to be built in Västervik. In the middle of the 16th century, 80% of his fleet consisted of ships built here. In mid-1700 Västervik was one of the leading shipping towns of Sweden with four large ship- and boat building yards. Also today

Continued on page 28

Logen Westervik Nr 679

Continued from page 27

Västervik has got several companies building boats of different sizes.

Västervik has become a national centre for the Swedish folksong tradition. Every summer a folksong festival is arranged in Stegeholm's Castle, where elite singers from all over Scandinavia participates and performs. It all started 40 years ago. Four young schoolmates who liked to sing and play the guitar invited people to a "folksong evening" in the Castle. It was the highlight of that summer. The *Folksong Festival* has now made Västervik a meeting place for music lovers. One of "the school mates," Björn Ulvaeus, is now a well-known musician, having been a member of the world famous group of ABBA. He is now even more successful, having written popular musicals, i.e. *Kristina från Duvemåla*, in collaboration with another ABBA member, Benny Andersson. During the *Folksong Festival* thousands of people visit Västervik, which multiplies its number of inhabitants in the summer. Västervik has now about 22.000 inhabitants, Gamleby 3.000.

Västervik is a modern town. But when strolling in the narrow cobblestone lanes with roses winding their ways up the 18th century houses, it is as if time has stood still.

Västervik is the town from my childhood, and I love it!

Submitted by: Gun Lith, DCL DL 20

Logen Knallen Nr 745

Lördagen den 13 maj var det dags för Logen Knallen i Borås att ge sig ut på sin traditionella vårutflykt. Vi var cirka 45 Logesyskon, som i behaglig morgonstund satte kurs på Limmared, glasbruksmuséet var vårt första etappmål. Vi hade bestämt möte med veteranen Einar Ödman, 83, som punktligt och spänstigt steg av sin cykel och hälsade oss välkomna. Han har vikt hela sitt liv åt glasbruket och är åttonde generationen glasbruksarbetare. Limmared är nämligen landets äldsta glasbruk, från 1740, och är alltså äldre än de småländska bruken. I likhet med Kosta startades glastillverkningen av hemvändande karolinerofficerare. Tillgång på sand och soda var avgörande för lokaliseringen. Nyttoproduktion för allehanda ändamål har under åren blandats med rena konsthantverket. Det synnerligen välordnade och innehållsrika muséet i

den gamla röda träbyggnaden dokumenterade utvecklingen i bilder, skrifter och konkreta konstföremål från gångna tiders glaskonstnärer. Einar Ödman gav oss en intressant återblick över brukets historia och muséets tillkomst. Det framgick ganska tydligt, att muséet i hög grad var Einars verk. Han berättade med stort engagemang och värme, hur han lyckats bevara och anskaffa betydelsefulla föremål. Han hade också medverkat till etablerandet av en konsthall i anslutning till muséet. Här fanns målningar av bland andra Edvin Ollers. Här var också Bertil Valien och Ulrika Hydman-Valien representerade med vacker glaskonst. Med dessa giganter hade för övrigt Einar god kontakt.

Vi drack vårt medhavda förmiddagskaffe ute i det vackra vädret om än med något kyliga vårvindar.

Så var det dags för ett besök i dagens glasbruk. Konsthantverket har här ingen plats. Burkar för barnmat och vodd-kafaskor mer eller mindre oumbärliga för vår nytta och glädje, spottas ut med minimal insats av mänsklig hand. Den heta glassmältan formades och fick så småningom sin "finish" i en process i avancerad robotteknik. Ljudnivån var hög, och de utdelade hörselskydden satt inte fel, utom möjligen för guidens trägna försök att förklara ett och annat.

Vårt Limmaredsbesök avslutades på Vårdshuset, där vi intog en härlig lunch bestående av – naturligtvis – den för stället så berömda Wienerschnitzeln.

Färden gick sedan vidare några kilometer till kommunens centralort Tranemo för ett besök i den mycket intressanta kyrkan. Tranemo kyrka är nämligen en av Sveriges tolv så kallade centralkyrkor. Det innebär att kyrkobyggnaden är om inte rund så i alla fall sexkantig. Man kan säga att den är byggd runt omkring sitt torn, vilket ger en speciell karaktär åt

kyrkorummet med sin rymd, sina snedställda bänkrader och dessutom en underbar färgsättning. Kyrkan invigdes 1882 och ersatte då en träkyrka från 1600-talet, som i sin tur avlöste medeltida kyrkobyggnader. Vi fick en intressant information om kyrkan och dess målningar och inventarier av församlingens diakonissa, som med ackompanjemang på kororgeln ledde oss att utbrista i psalmen *Härlig är jorden*. Vi vandrade sedan runt i kyrkorummet och beskådade, och beundrade, altar- och kormålningar, utsmyckning av predikstol och orgelläktare samt fönstermålningar i bibliska motiv med sina kristna budskap. Våvnader och vackra inventarier icke att förglömma.

Resans sista etapp var det närbelägna Uddebo. Denna plats har gamla textila traditioner, som fanns dokumenterade i det innehållsrika och välordnade hembygdsmuséet. Här fick vi en sakkunnig vägledning av hembygdsföreningens medlemmar om Uddebos historiska utveckling i hantverk och industri. Uddebo är nämligen även i dag en levande industriort, om än inte med så många sysselsatta som tidigare. Här finner vi nämligen ett modernt, högteknologiskt väveri med möbeltyger som specialitet och i hög grad inriktat på trafiksektorn. Åker vi tunnelbana, tåg eller buss är sannolikheten stor att vi sitter på ett Uddebo-tyg.

Efter intagande av kaffe med smörgås och lotteridragning bar det sedan hem direkt till Borås, nu via Svenljunga, och vi kunde summera till en mycket givande och trevlig dag genom att bara hålla oss inom en begränsad del av vår fantastiska Sjuhäradsbygd. Arrangörerna Nancy och Bosse Kindblad, Leine och Rune Johansson lade åter en succé till många tidigare som vårutflyktsarrangörer.

**Submitted by: Ingvar Carlén,
Mediakontakt**



Arrangörgruppen Leine Johansson, Nancy Kindblad, Rune Johansson och Bosse Kindblad.

PLEASE MEET

A Person Of Accomplishment In Our Midst

How many newer members of Nordic realize that one of our older members is a remarkable person who is the only woman to ever serve as Grand Master of the Vasa Order of America, and who has been recognized twice as an outstanding Swedish-American? The answer, of course, is Alice L. Carlson. Alice's involvement with the Vasa Order began in 1940 when a call from a friend influenced her to visit the newly formed Nordic Lodge No. 611, organized on November 25, 1939. Alice joined on May 3, 1940, starting a connection that has been in place for 66 years.

Born in Worcester's Quinsigamond Village on July 30, 1919, she acquired an interest in things Scandinavian from her parents, Axel T. and Ida K. Tideman. Alice's mother came to the U.S.A. in 1905 at the young age of 17 from Hälsingland, and her father arrived in America in 1912 from Dalarna. Already involved in Swedish-American affairs by her teens, she met her future husband, Sven Carlson, in 1939 at a Good Templar Winter Carnival in Holden. They were married in 1942 in Worcester. Sven came from Västmanland, Sweden, and was active in Vasa from 1929, the year he arrived in the United States. The affable Sven also had a long-time involvement in Nordic Lodge, becoming chairman in 1973. Alice's husband of 62 years passed away in February 2004.

Alice majored in accounting at Becker College, worked for various accounting firms in the Worcester area, and assumed the responsible position of comptroller at Clark University from 1964 until her retirement in 1984.

Getting involved in the lodge, she became a charter member of the Nordic Patrol, a spirited young women's degree team, organized in 1944. She held various positions as secretary and treasurer, became chair in 1962 and 1963, and continued to hold various offices in Nordic until 1989. She also assumed responsibility for the Nordic Newsletter from 1966 to 1994.

Her involvement with the District began with selection as a Nordic Lodge delegate to the 1957 convention. She was elected to the position of auditor, which she filled from 1957 to 1963. Alice was an Executive Board member in 1963-1964, advanced to Vice District Master in

1964-1965, and was elected to become District Master for the 1965-1966 term.

Aspiring to a still higher level of involvement in Vasa, she became a delegate to the 1966 Grand Lodge convention in Atlantic City, where she was elected to the position of Grand Treasurer, an office that she filled from 1966 to 1978. She occupied the position of Vice Grand Master from 1978 to 1982. While there had been female Grand Lodge Executive Board members since 1905, and members of the fair sex as Grand Secretaries and Vice Grand Secretaries since 1974, the upper echelons of the Vasa Order were primarily male-dominated, and the selection of Alice as Grand Treasurer and Vice Grand Master marked the first time that the glass ceiling had been broken.

"The rest is history as in 1982, Alice Carlson was elected Grand Master of the Vasa Order of America, [for a four-year term]. Her term was busy and active and full of traveling and meeting the Vasa people through the Grand, District and Local Lodge events." At the time of Alice's GM installation, VOA had a membership of 32,833 in 306 lodges, compared with the 2005 statistics of approximately 18,500 members in 218 lodges. "Alice and Sven represented Vasa throughout their travels in the United States, Canada, and Sweden. The term of Alice Carlson as Grand Master was highlighted by the increased awareness throughout the Order of the Vasa Archives [begun finally in 1973, following discussion going back to 1935]. There was growth in membership and increased activity at the Archives. Her enthusiasm for the Archives has actively continued. Alice was elected to the board of the Vasa Archives following her term as Grand Master, and she [continued] to serve on that board as Secretary and Assistant Treasurer [for several years]."

"In 1972, Alice was named Swedish-American Woman of the Year and awarded a Life Membership by the Women's Auxiliary of the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia." Still greater honors were to come to Alice in 1987, when Alice Carlson was elected Swedish-American of the Year. Started in 1960 by the two District Lodges in Sweden, the concept of designating an American of Swedish

ancestry who had brought credit to his or her Swedish origins has "developed into one of the highlights of Vasa activities in Sweden." The program is supported jointly by the Swedish government and Vasa, and selections are announced with great ceremony at the August "Minnesota Day" event at the Emigrant Institute in Växjö. According to the qualification criteria, "... The Swedish-American of the Year has either been engaged in Swedish-American relations or [has had] a brilliant career in [the] American [social and economic fabric]." Honorees selected prior to Alice's award have included such luminaries as physicist Glenn T. Seaborg, Admiral Arleigh Burke, astronaut Edwin E. 'Buzz' Aldrin, naturalist Roger Tory Peterson, and Signe Karlström, benefactor of the University of Michigan's Scandinavian Program and the first woman to be selected. Alice was the third woman to be chosen for the award, and the list of prior recipients serves to put Alice's contributions into perspective.

In her "spare time," Alice was a director of the Swedish Charitable Association of Worcester, and continues to be a life director of the Swedish National Federation of Worcester, as well as being an honorary director of All Faiths Cemetery. She was also a former member of Stjärnan Lodge, International Order of Good Templars, in Palmer, Massachusetts, and was co-chair of the exhibition committee for the *gå till Amerika* project at the Worcester Historical Museum in 1994.

Alice was a frequent visitor at Nordic Lodge meetings until a few months ago, thanks to rides offered by her friends Patty and Phil Nyberg. Declining health forced her to change her residence from the Woods at Eddy Pond to Life Care Center of Auburn. Hats off to a great lady, whose determination and involvement has taken her far in the Swedish-American community.

Submitted by: Betty Becker and Phil Becker

Sources: *Vasa Order of America: Centennial 1896-1996*; Records of Nordic Lodge No. 611; Nordic Lodge Newsletter; VOA District Lodge Massachusetts No. 2 Officer's Reports; *The Vasa Star/Vasastjärnan*; *Vasa Nytt*; *Nordstjärnan-Svea*, and the Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

IN MEMORY OF

Raymond J. Barnes

At age 11, Raymond fell in love with the pipe organ after hearing his music teacher play the instrument.

Three years later, Barnes was good enough to play the pipe organ for funerals and weddings at a church in his native Adrian, MI.

Barnes played the pipe organ May 21 for Sunday morning service at Reformation Lutheran Church, just hours before he died of a heart attack at his Las Vegas home, his family said. He was 73.

Barnes also taught music in the Clark County School District for 25 years at Adcock, Ronzone, Griffith and other elementary schools and helped develop the district's music curriculum.

A memorial was held at 4 p.m., June 11, at the recital hall at UNLV's Beam Music Center, where a huge pipe organ was

installed two years ago thanks to the efforts of a committed that included Mr. Barnes.

"My husband loved the true sound of the pipe organ – a sound you feel deep down inside," said Inga-Britt Barnes. "It was his life to play the pipe organ."

Barnes was organist and choirmaster at Las Vegas Trinity United Methodist Church for 36 years before going to Reformation Lutheran. He co-founded the local chapter for the American Guild of Organists in 1968.

Born May 17, 1933, Barnes graduated from Adrian High School in 1951 and Adrian College in 1955, where he earned a bachelor of arts. He later earned a master's in education at UNLV.

Ray was a Charter Member of Valhalla Lodge #715.

Submitted by: Carl Green

Swedish Language Class



The Swedish Language Class in Los Gatos, CA, is pictured during Lent. They are enjoying semlor with the coffee, a special treat at this time. The traditional fastlagsris is seen on the table.

Submitted by: Gerd Salmonson

THANK YOU

Thank You for a Wonderful Convention

A very warm and sincere thanks to each of you and to the rest of the committee who worked so hard to make the Grand Lodge Convention such an exciting and wonderful event. I am overwhelmed as I think about all the details you covered so efficiently.

It is a huge undertaking to host a convention! There is so much planning and preparation as well as all the phoning, legwork, and physical activity of setting up and taking down for all the various events. You must all be exhausted!!

The Town and Country Resort is a beautiful place! I found many different paths to follow going across the campus – each one delightfully decorated with fragrant flowers. I have no idea when the gardening took place, and yet every flowerbed was in perfect condition! Not an aphid in sight – talk about impressive!! The people who work at the Town and Country went out of their way to be kind, helpful, and friendly I really enjoyed getting to know many of the staff members.

The tours were delightful! We saw so many things and learned so much. The drivers and tour guides were outstanding and seemed to take such a personal interest in making our stay in San Diego pleasant.

Continued on inside back cover

HAPPENINGS

Activities Club #34

Scandia Solsken

Reno, NV

Sunday, June 25, 2006, was a sunny, warm and fun-filled afternoon at Virginia Lake Park, Reno, NV, where we celebrated our Midsummer Fest. There were 21 adults, mostly Vasa, Activities Club members and a few new guests and 6 children from Children's Club Smorblomman #206.

We decorated our tables with colorful tablecloths and Scandinavian motif runners adorned with small bouquets of flowers from a high desert garden. The children helped Miss Ingrid decorate the midsummer pole with birch branches and

flowers from her garden.

There was plenty of very tasty Scandinavian food that was enjoyed by everyone, along with Scandinavian music which helped set the tone for that atmosphere some of us long for. Even though it was a very warm afternoon Miss LaRena led the children in dance around the pole.

Everyone agreed "let's do this again soon!"

Many warm greetings to our Vasa and Activities Club member near and far.

Submitted by: Ingrid Hedman



From left Marlene Swaffar, our very energetic elder "Babe" Nelson, who grew up in Tegner Lodge #149, Oakland, CA and Baxter Swaffar.

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

ARIZONA

JOHN JOHNSON passed away in Tucson, AZ, on June 16, 2006. He was born in Chicago, IL, on April 18, 1922, and joined our lodge on February 21, 1992, serving as Trustee in 1997. He is survived by wife Millie, also our member, 1 son, 2 daughters, and 6 grandchildren.

ALLAN MOSSBERG passed away on May 23, 2006, while in Sweden. He was born in Stockholm on July 10, 1922. He joined our lodge on May 21, 1999, and served as Trustee in 2004 and 2005. Earlier this year he had donated his extensive library collection to the Grand Lodge for possible use by the language camp.

CONNECTICUT

IVER JOHNSON, 83, passed away June 3, 2006 after a brief illness. He was the husband of 53 years of Grace Lundeen Johnson. He was born in New Haven on February 20, 1923, the son of Ellis and Olga Peterson Johnson. A resident of Hamden, CT since 1955 Mr. Johnson was employed by Yale University as painter for 31 years before retiring in 1986. He served in the US Army in WWII with the 503rd Military Police Battalion under General Patton in England, France, and Germany. He attended Bethesda Lutheran Church where he sang in the choir, served on the church council, and was a member of Doubles. He was member of the Apollo Singing Society and Diana Birger Jarl #3. In addition to his wife he is survived by Alice Baglioni and her husband Massimo; a son Robert Iver Johnson and his wife Gina; and two grandchildren Erika and Alessandro Baglioni.

ELIN CARLSON BERGFELT entered into eternal rest of April 13, 2006. Elin, 96, formerly of Wilmot Rd.

Hamden, CT was the wife of 57 years of the late Sven E. Bergfelt. Born in Mossebo, Sweden on August 9, 1909 she was the daughter of the Bror G. and Hilda Johannesson Carlson. Elin leaves a niece Marianne Brown of Cambria, CA and a nephew Stig (wife Mary) Lydell of Ooakatie, SC (formerly of North Haven) and several nieces and nephews here and in Sweden. Elin was a member of Bethesda Lutheran Church and of Diana Birger Jarl #3 VOA since 1939.

FLORENCE VIOLA ANDERSON MARTIN was the daughter of the late John and Nannie Seth Anderson. She was born in New Haven, CT on September 18, 1920. Florence was the wife of the late Joseph Martin. She died April 28, 2006. Florence is survived by daughters Charlene Raymond and husband Stephen, and Karen Martin-Bowker and husband Bruce Bowker, and grandchildren Michael, Marissa, Jillian, Rachel and Brian, and great – grandchildren Francesca and Giana. Florence was a member of VOA, Diana Birger Jarl #3. Florence was a life long member of Bethesda Lutheran Church where she was an active participant helping with monthly mailing of The Visitor, a member of the Doubles Club and a member of the Elizabeth Circle.

ILLINOIS

AMY E. JOHNSON, 91, passed away on April 22, 2006. She was born on September 26, 1914, in Joy, IL. She joined Nobel Lodge #288 on May 6, 1954. She served the lodge as Assistant Financial Secretary for years. Services were held at Salem Lutheran Church on April 25, 2006, and burial at Aledo Cemetery, Aledo.

BARBARA JOHNSON, 80, passed away on April 9, 2006. She was born on December 20, 1925, in Moline, IL. She joined Nobel Lodge #288 on June 6, 2002. Graveside services were held at the National Cemetery, Rock Island Arsenal, on April 11, 2006.

WARREN H. JOHNSON, 78, passed away on July 27, 2005, in Moline, IL. He joined Nobel Lodge #288 on December 2, 1948. He was born August 25, 1926, in Chicago and moved to Moline at the age of 5. Services were held at Salem Lutheran Church in Moline, IL.

WILLIAM "BILL" NYQUIST, 77, passed away on March 2, 2006. He joined Nobel Lodge #288 on March 7, 1996. He served as Lodge Chairman in 1999 and 2000. He was born on August 31, 1929. Services were held at First Christian Church, Moline, IL, and burial at Riverside Cemetery, Moline, IL.

OREGON

EDWARD A. HICKS-BEACH passed away in La Pine, OR, on September 20, 2000, at the age of 85 years. He was born on October 21, 1915, in Canada, and was initiated into our lodge on September 2, 1976. He was given a Life Membership in 1997.

LINNEA HICKS-BEACH passed away in La Pine, OR, on December 16, 2005, at the age of 87 years. She was born on May 14, 1918, in Arizona and was initiated into our lodge on September 2, 1976. She was given a Life Membership in 1997 and the 25-year pin in 2001.

ELFI M. NORDGREN passed away on July 3, 2006, in Astoria, OR, at the age of 78 years. Elfi was born in Närpes, Finland, on May 10, 1928, and immigrated to America as a young bride in 1956. She was initiated into Astor Lodge #215 in Astoria on April 27, 1963, and was an active, faithful member. Elfi is survived by her husband of 53 years, John, and her twin sister, Elly Westergard, in Närpes, Finland, nieces, nephews and cousins. We shall miss her smiling face.

RHODE ISLAND

KNUTE V. BOSTROM, 98, passed away on June 16, 2006. He was born in Skelleftea, Sweden, on May 23, 1908 and joined Excelsior Lodge #90, which merged with Johan Baner #36. He was a member of the Excelsior Degree Team and held many offices in both the local lodge and district lodge. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Helena, a sister in Sweden, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great-granddaughters.

WASHINGTON

VIOLET G. ANDERSON, born April 26, 1919, and passed away June 17, 2006. She was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd Anderson, and is survived by her 2 daughters, Sherry and Camille, 3 brothers, 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Violet was the Assistant Financial Secretary of Vasa Hope Lodge #503, Seattle, WA.

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.

THANK YOU

Continued from page 30

They showed true pride in their city, and I like that. Don and I had to go downtown in San Diego to get some medications refilled before we left to drive back to Washington. Thanks to the tours, we felt quite competent in finding our way around and managed just fine! I want to say a special thanks for all the help, understanding, and assistance you gave to Don and me with our limited mobility. We had a grand time and enjoyed every minute of the outings.

The meeting rooms were beautifully appointed with plenty of room, good A-V equipment, and attractive nameplates. Every detail seemed to be covered, from ice water to candy treats! Thanks for the beautiful baskets you let us use for the elections. You thought of everything!!! You tended to us royally, and kept us all comfortable and well cared for. The coffee and goodies were

outstanding. The bakers and servers are to be commended.

I was impressed with how smoothly everything went at the convention. I particularly liked how you had the "butik" set up so we could go to look and shop at our pleasure. What neat items you offered for sale! Don was delighted to get his Vasa watch. That means so much to him! The hats and shirts are great, as are the CD's, and even the Tobasco covers. How clever!! We really did feel that we had every opportunity to "Catch the Wave" in San Diego!

It was wonderful to see the dedication to culture that was given at this convention. I liked the displays and I particularly enjoyed the seminar and all the information and opportunities presented to us. The Christmas CD's are a wonderful fund-raising project. You all really utilized your talents for the good of everyone.

My most special memory of the Convention will always be as Dr. Anne-

Charlotte Harvey and her daughter, Ellen, led us all in singing "Hälsa Dem Därhemma". Glancing at the head table and seeing the people there with joined hands swaying to the beautiful and very meaningful words will always be a treasured moment in my memory. How that seemed to unite everyone and bring to a close a most memorable and happy time.

There is so much more to thank you for, but I will limit this by saying a general thank you for all that you did to make this such a smooth running and memorable convention. What a wonderful opportunity to be with our Vasa friends to work together in harmony and to share good times. Please know how much Don and I appreciated the opportunity to attend the convention!

Sincerely,

Bernice Pearson, delegate
 District Lodge PNW # 13

Submitted by: Daga-Karin Lindquist



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