

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 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!

The final issue for 2006 is open before you. In it you will find Christmas Greetings from the Grand Lodge Executive Board as well as those from many districts and lodges. I know all of you are busy preparing for Lucia celebrations in your lodge or community. My lodge in Cleveland, Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130, will celebrate Lucia on December 9th. About 200 members and guests are expected for the Lodge potluck meal followed by the Lucia program involving about 25 children. The Vasa Voices, an adult mixed-voice choir, in which both Marty and I sing, will also perform. I am thankful for the Swedish heritage that provides meaningful cultural experiences like Lucia.

With respect to the publishing of Lucia stories and pictures in the Vasa Star **I hereby announce that the Vasa Star will have a new policy for handling Lucia reports and pictures beginning in 2007. They will only appear in the January/February issue each year. Next year no Lucia articles or pictures will be shown in the November/December issue.** Thus there is no need to rush the pictures and stories to the Editor early. Nor will we print any in the March/April issue, as that is too late to read articles four months after it has occurred. In order to facilitate this policy the Vasa Star Editor must receive stories and pictures for Lucia no later than December 24th. The normal cut-off date for the January/February issue is December 1st, so the Editor will have to work very hard to get the issue ready for the publishing house on time. However, this delay seems to be the best solution to allow us to collect all the Lucia stories and pictures in one issue.

I hope that you found the copies of the Lucia Vasa Stamp in the center of the September/October issue a satisfactory way of delivering the stamps to you. Please use them on your Vasa-related mail and Christmas cards. Also, if you have not done so yet, please send in a donation for the stamps to support our Education Fund programs. We need your financial support in order to continue giving the many different scholarships or awards that are very evident benefits of being a Vasa member. You probably noticed that we made one mistake in the layout of the stamp letter in the last issue; the tear-off portion of the letter for recording amount to send, had a picture on the backside. Make a photocopy of the letter page if you don't want to cut the picture.

I had the opportunity to attend the District Lodge Pennsylvania No. 9 convention in Boardman, OH, hosted by Harmony Lodge #465 the last weekend of September. It seemed appropriate that my first visit as Grand Master was to my own district convention. Thanks to the organizing committee for a wonderful convention. Congratulations to the elected District officers!

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

In the next issue of the Vasa Star I will discuss the motto briefly. Meanwhile, I would like to hear from you on your thoughts as to how we can maintain the Vasa tradition we have been given with a vision of the future that re-energizes the Order for our children and grandchildren. Please send any ideas to either the Vasa Star Editor or to me.

Vasa Syskon!

Det sista numret för år 2006 ligger nu framför er. På dessa sidor finner ni julhälsningar från storlogens Executiva Råd såväl som hälsningar från många distrikt och loger. Jag vet att ni har mycket att göra den här tiden på året för att anordna Lucia- och julfester i era organisationer. Min loge i Cleveland, Nobel-Monitor Loge Nr. 130, firar Lucia den 9 december. Omkring 200 medlemmar och gäster väntas till vårt knytkalas för att sedan fira Lucia med omkring 25 barn som deltar i programmet. Vasa Vocies, en blandad mans- och kvinnokör, som både Marty och jag sjunger i, ska också delta i programmet. Jag är tacksam för mitt svenska arv som ger meningsfulla upplevelser som Lucia.

Beträffande publicering i Vasastjärnan av rapporter och bilder från Luciafiranden vill jag härmed meddela att vi från början av 2007 kommer att ha en ny policy. Luciareporter publiceras endast i januari/februari-numret varje år. Nästa år kommer inga Luciaberättelser eller bilder att accepteras för november/december-numret, så ni behöver inte skynda er att skicka bilder av Lucia till redaktören före Luciafirandet. Inte heller ska det bli sådana rapporter i mars/april eftersom det blir för sent att läsa om Lucia fyra månader i efterhand. För att kunna åstadkomma detta måste berättelser och bilder av Lucia att vara Vasastjärnans redaktör, Marie, tillhanda senast den 24 december. Tidigare har inga artiklar för januari/februari-numret accepterats efter 1 december, så redaktören måste arbeta hårt att få allt färdigt i tid för tryckeriet. Detta förefaller vara den bästa lösningen för att få Lucia-artiklar och bilder samlade i ett nummer.

Jag hade tillfälle att delta i Distriktlogen Pennsylvania Nr. 9 distriktsmöte i Boardman, Ohio, under värdskap av Logen Harmony Nr. 465 den sista helgen i september. Det var passande att mitt första besök på ett distriktsmöte som Stormästare var i min egen distriktloge. Jag vill tacka organisationskommittén för ett mycket trevligt möte. Mina varmaste gratulationer till alla valda distriktstjänstemän!

Kom ihåg mottot för den här mandatperioden: **"Tradition with Vision."** I nästa nummer av Vasastjärnan ska jag diskutera lite mer om mottot. Under tiden hoppas jag höra från er om vad ni tänker om hur vi kan behålla den Vasatradition som vi har fått med en vision för framtiden som ger ny kraft till vår Orden för våra barns och barnbarns räkning. Skicka era idéer och tankar till redaktören eller till mig.

Published by:
Vasa Order of America
 vasaorder.com

HEADQUARTERS:

c/o Joan Graham
Grand Secretary
 5838 San Jose Avenue
 Richmond, CA 94804
 Phone: 510-526-5512
 E-mail: vasajlg@aol.com

Grand Master:

Rolf S. Bergman
 3236 Berkeley Avenue
 Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
 Phone: 216-371-5141
 Fax: 707-598-0638
 E-mail: rolf.bergman@sbcglobal.net

Editor:

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

Circulation Manager:

(Address Changes)

Cathy Anderson
 13194 N. Woosnam Way
 Oro Valley, AZ 85755
 Phone: 520-219-9433
 E-mail: circulationvasastar@gmail.com

Membership Chairman:

Tore Kellgren
 5971 W. Wallbrook Drive
 San Jose, CA 95129
 Phone: 408-996-1970
 E-mail: tore@kellgren.org

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

Orders for advertising should be sent to:

THE VASA STAR
 Marie Carlson
 9560 Curberry Drive
 Mentor, OH 44060
 Phone: 440-255-4665
 E-mail: marie@swedes-r-us.com

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

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Vasa Star, P.O. Box 69997, Oro Valley, AZ 85737-0025.

Letter from the Editor

During 2006 we have experienced many changes. *The Vasa Order of America* has new leadership, *The Archives* is searching for new caretakers, *The Vasa Star* has a "new look," some new lodges have been formed and we have added new members to our order. We are looking ahead and in to a new year where we welcome new ideas.

This is my fourth *Christmas Editorial*, and looking back at *The Vasa Star*, I think it has a bit of a "new touch." During these years, I have been in contact with many, many people, mostly by e-mail and by phone. It has been absolutely wonderful to actually meet some of my "contacts" in person, being able to have a face to go with a name.

Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate our heritage and traditions, but do you really know how they all came about? And what about the true value of Christmas? We have a very informative story in the *Culture* section where you can find some roots to our *Swedish Christmas* traditions. You might be in for a surprise! You can also read *Christmas Memory*, a real lift story that happened not so long ago and reflects the true meaning of Christmas.

I hope you find this issue special since I was able to collect several Christmas related stories and a couple of Christmas recipes.

"Ring in the new and ring out the old."

Marie

Brev från Redaktören

Under år 2006 har vi erfarit många förändringar. *Vasa Orden av Amerika* har ett nytt ledarskap, *The Archives* letar efter nya värddar, *Vasastjärnan* har ett "nytt ansikte," vi har några nya loger och vi har ett antal nya medlemmar i vår order. Vi ser fram emot ett nytt år och välkomnar nya ideér.

Detta är den fjärde jul-ledaren som jag skriver och när jag ser tillbaka på *Vasastjärnan*, tycker jag att den har fått litet av ett "nytt ansikte." Under dessa år har jag varit i kontakt med många, många människor, mestadels genom e-mail och telefon. Det har varit oerhört trevligt att få träffa mina "kontakter" i egen hög person, ha möjlighet att ge namnet ett ansikte.

Julen är en underbar tid att fira vår kultur och våra traditioner, men vet du verkligen hur allt kom till? Och vad är det riktiga värdet av julen? Vi har en mycket informativ berättelse under *Culture* sektionen, där du kan hitta många rötter till våra jultraditioner. Du kanske får några överraskningar! Ni kan också läsa *Ett Julminne*, en sann historia som hände för inte så länge sen och som reflekterar över det egentliga värdet av julfirandet.

Jag hoppas ni tycker att denna upplaga är litet speciell, eftersom jag kunde samla in hel del jul-relaterade berättelser och en del jul-recept.

"Ring in det nya och ring ut det gamla."

Marie

Deadlines for The Vasa Star:

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st

July/Aug. is June 1st

March/April is Feb. 1st

Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st

May/June is April 1st

Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

Deadline for Christmas ads: October 1st

Cover:

"Big Bear Mountains" surrounding Los Angeles, "Winter in District 15."

Photo by: Thomas Jahn

ARCHIVES NEWS

Again the Vasa Archives had some very important visitors visiting during the very busy Ag. Days (Jordbruksdagarna). The Governor of Gävleborgs län in Sweden, Christer Eirefelt, his wife and a couple of attendants toured several important sites in the area. Since the town of Gävle north of Stockholm is a sister city to Galva, a town near Bishop Hill, the group spent some time there as well.

The Governor was kept very busy going from place to place. We were not sure if time would permit a visit to the Archive. We are happy that it worked out and so was the President of the Archive, Lennart Petersson, who was here at that time. He escorted the group through the building and explained its function. Lillemor spoke with the Governor's wife and explained our genealogy and membership programs and she was very impressed.

Submitted by: Lillemor and
Richard Horngren



Lennart Petersson, Richard Horngren, The Governor and his wife and, in the background, the assistant and the photographer.

U.S. Postage Service Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation

1. Title of publication: Vasastjärnan, The Vasa Star. 1A. Publication No. 65-0702.
2. Date of filing 11/27/06.
3. Number of Issues Published Annually: 6 3A. No. of issues published annually: 6. 3B. Annual subscription price: Members' dues include magazine; subscription-\$10 yr.
4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804
5. Complete mailing address of the headquarters of general business office: 5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804.
6. Names and complete addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor. Publisher: Vasa Order of America, 5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804. Editor: Marie Carlson, 9560 Curberry Dr., Mentor, OH 44060. Managing Editor: Rolf S. Bergman, Grand Master, 3236 Berkeley Ave., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
7. Owner: Vasa Order of America, 5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other: None.
9. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months.
10. Extent and nature of circulation:
Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months. A. Total no. copies: 12,400. B. Paid or requested circulation. 1) Sales through dealers, carriers and counter sales: 0. 2) Mail subscription: 9,658. C. Total paid and/or requested circulation: 9,658. D. Free distribution by mail-0. 3) Other classes mailed through the USPS: 0. E. Free distribution outside the mail: 2742. F. Total free distribution: 2742. G. Total distribution: 12,400. H. Copies not distributed: 0. I. Total: 12,400. J. Percent paid and/or requested circulation: 78.
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete: Joan Graham, Business Manager, 5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Grand Master's Message
Letter From The Editor (SWE and ENG)
Archives News
USPS Postage Statement Ownership
Swedish Lessons
Grand Lodge News
Vasa Star Farewells
District Lodge News
DL Connecticut #1
Lodge News
North Star Lodge #106
Fylgia Lodge #119
Thule Lodge #127
Tegnér Lodge #149
Nobel Lodge #184
Svea Lodge #253
Svea Lodge #296
Skogsblomman Lodge #378
Austin Lodge #466
Harmoni Lodge #472
Linde Lodge #492
Bishop Hill Lodge #683
Vasa Norden Lodge #684
Skogen Lodge #700
Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719
Viking Lodge #730
Jubileum Lodge #755
Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760
Swedish News
Logen Enköping Nr 646
Logen Nybyggarna Nr 698
Vasamedlemmar besöker Kungsör
Vadstena
Youth News
Christmas in Sweden
Lindberg Member Award Eagle Scout Rank
Nordikids
Welcome To New Members
Culture
A Christmas Memory
Christmas 1944
Superstition and Lore Surrounding Christmas
Preparations
Tomten
Christmas Recipe
Ring Klocka Ring
Happenings
Calmar Historical Society
Archives News
Memorial Notices

Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 3

Before we start this lesson we want to assure you that we will continue the Swedish lessons even though we are moving from Bishop Hill and the Vasa Archives. It has been most gratifying to hear from our readers how happy they are that the lessons have been brought back. Thank you for your good wishes.

Since this lesson reaches you before Christmas we thought we would introduce some words connected with a Swedish Christmas. As you may know, Christmas season in Sweden starts the first Sunday in Advent when at least one star is placed in just about all the windows all over Sweden. The celebration goes on until the Christmas tree is thrown out around the 13th day of January. So you will get plenty of chances to practice these words.

Lucia dagen	St Lucia day (December 13)
Tärnor	Lucia attendants
Stjärngossar	Starboys
Lussekatter	Saffron buns
God Jul	Merry Christmas
Jul	Christmas
Julafton	Christmas Eve
Juldagen	Christmas Day
Annandag jul	Third day of Christmas
Julotta	Early Christmas Day church service
Jultomte	Santa Claus
Tomtenisse	Christmas elf
Julklappar	Christmas presents
Julgran	Christmas tree
Julgröt	Christmas porridge
Julskinka	Christmas ham
Dopp-i-grytan	Dip in the pot
Gott Nytt År	Happy New Year
Nyår	New Year
Nyårsafton	New Year's eve
Nyårsdagen	New Year's day
Gott slut	Good ending
God fortsättning	Good tidings
Julgransplundring	Plundering the tree

We like to share with you a little about a Swedish Christmas. The first main event is the Lucia festival when just about everyone celebrate by having a young family member portray the Lucia, a martyred Italian saint who according to the legend, appeared in Sweden during the darkest season. Thus the candles on the Lucia crown help brighten the dark December 13 day. She is escorted by the girl tärnor and the starboys. On her tray she will have coffee and saffron buns baked especially for the occasion.

The Christmas tree is often decorated just a couple of days before Christmas Eve. Santa usually appears in person on Christmas Eve with his sack of presents. The rest of the Christmas holiday is spent with families and friends often sharing spectacular julbord with them. Here you will find just about every kind of food specially made for the season.

Other food of the season is the Christmas ham, which is a cured fresh ham that is boiled and then baked. On Christmas Eve morning special bread is used to dip in this ham broth. This is a special Christmas ritual in many families. We can't forget the Christmas porridge with the almond. The lucky person getting the almond will have good fortunes during the coming year.

Christmas Day morning there is an early morning church service called Julotta. If one is lucky enough to live in the country and if there is snow on the ground a sleigh ride may bring you to the church.

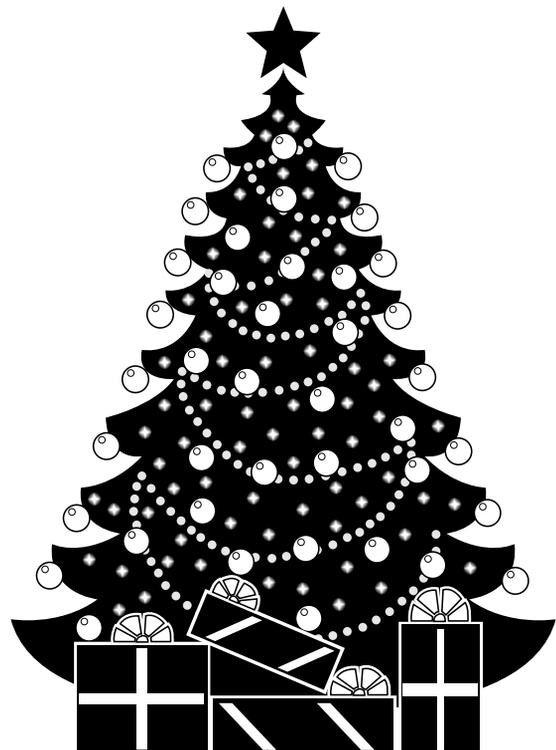
New Years celebration is really no different than anywhere else in the world. There is much merriment, food and fireworks. The Swedes wish each other "Gott slut och en God fortsättning" that means, "have a great ending to the old year and hope for good tidings in the New Year."

The plundering of the Christmas tree takes place around January 13 when all the ornaments and edible things are removed. A special song is sung when the tree is thrown out the window or the door. This song concludes the season by knowing that Christmas will be back again.

You may have celebrated this special holiday in a different way. Sweden is a large country with many different customs and legends so go ahead and celebrate what you are used to. There is no right or wrong way

So to all of you we wish you A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lillemor and Richard



GRAND LODGE NEWS

PGS Farewell Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratefulness for having had the privilege of being able to serve on the *Grand Lodge Executive Board* for the past twenty years, first as your *Vice Grand Secretary* for eight years and as your *Grand Secretary* for the past twelve years. It was a bit frightening to step into the capable shoes of Sister Gladys Birtwistle but I was so pleased to have the opportunity to do so. It has been a wonderful and gratifying experience.

To all of the *Grand Lodge Officers*, *Appointed Officers*, *District Secretaries*, *Local Lodge Secretaries*, THANK YOU for all of your assistance over the years. Each one of you has been more than helpful in making my responsibilities easier. So many of you have become such good friends and I hope that we will continue to communicate on occasion – just to say Hello.

To all of the *Members of Vasa*, I appreciate your friendship and hope to be able to visit a convention now and then and keep our friendships intact.

My Best Wishes to *Joanie Graham*, your new *Grand Secretary*. She is a very efficient lady and I know that she will serve you extremely well.

Thank you again! My Best Wishes and Love to all of you!

*In Truth and Unity,
Cynthia B Erickson
Past Grand Secretary*

PGCD Farewell

Dear Vasa Brothers and Sisters,

My four years as GCD for the United States and Canada are up, and it is time for me to say goodbye and take this opportunity to say five things to you:

- 1) Thank you for friendship and rewarding encounters around Vasaland!
- 2) Carry on your work preserving a great heritage – the Vasa Order of America exists not only for the pleasure and enjoyment of individual members, it is for the world at large, spreading a message of brotherhood and cultural ties that erase political and geographical boundaries.
- 3) Continue to promote youth exchanges and attendance at *Sjölundens* Swedish language camp!

4) If anyone wants a listing of Sister lodges, ask your DCL for a copy of the current list I handed out at the Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego. If there is difficulty, just e-mail me acharvey@mail.sdsu.edu.

5) Finally, let me remind you of the special fundraising opportunity for Vasa lodges that I have arranged through the end of 2006. The CD “*Swedish Christmas*” (with myself and my daughter Ellen, and including translations and dance instructions) is available to all Vasa lodges for \$150 for 30CDs (\$5/CD) by special arrangement with the producers, Skandisk of Minneapolis. Regularly sold at \$17.95 a piece, these CDs represent an opportunity right now for a lodge to make a substantial profit.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

By special agreement between GCD Anne-Charlotte Harvey and Minnesota-based Skandisk, all local and district lodges of the Vasa Order of America will for a limited time have the opportunity to raise funds for their activities with a special edition of the beautiful CD *Swedish Christmas*.

Raise funds for your Lodge or District while you promote Swedish traditions, song and music with the CD *Swedish Christmas*. The songs on this popular CD – with Anne-Charlotte Harvey, her daughter Ellen Harvey, and renowned musician Paul Severtson – include a complete Lucia procession as well as a set of dances around the tree and are accompanied by song texts, translations, and dance instructions.

Order the CD *Swedish Christmas* from Skandisk at a special VOA wholesale price of \$5, sell it at whatever level suits your lodge. (Regular suggested retail \$17.95.) The difference is yours to keep. Or use the CD for special lodge gifts!

Spread *Swedish Christmas* joy! Share some lovely *Swedish Christmas* traditions with your friends and neighbors! Use for your own Lucia procession, or dancing around the tree! Use as background music for Christmas parties! Use to practice your Swedish songs or to learn Swedish!

Any VOA Lodge or District Lodge officer, identifying the lodge in question by name and number, may place the order.

Write to Skandisk, *Tomten*, 6667 West Old Shakopee Road, Suite 109, Bloomington, MN, 55438-2622. Or call 1-800-468-2424; or FAX 952-829-8992.

This special campaign offer ends December 31, 2006.

Certain restrictions apply. In order to qualify for this special campaign rate, you must identify the lodge/district by name and number when you order. CDs are purchased in boxes of 30. (At \$5 apiece, you pay \$150 for a value of \$538.50.) The CDs are shipped from Minnesota for a small fee.

Questions about the CD, contact A.C. Harvey at acharvey@mail.sdsu.edu; about ordering, call Skandisk at 1-800-468-2424.

I want you to know that I personally do not profit from the sale of these CDs. But I would be thrilled to know that they had helped a lodge make some money

*In Truth and Unity,
Anne-Charlotte Harvey
PGCD for the United States
and Canada*



DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL Connecticut #1

2006 summer. Our summer events began weekend of June 24 and 25. The heavens opened in the Northeast and instead of having a Midsommar celebration we could have been building an Ark. Nonetheless the membership proved resilient as well as waterproof and came out to enjoy a great day of good food, good fun and good fellowship! The morning set-up started in the rain, but soon the dance pavilion at Vasa Park in South Meridan, CT, was filled with chairs and tables, flowers were arranged and flags were unfurled. Displays followed with tables set up for genealogy, Distinctively Sweden a Scandinavian gift shop arrived, Trash and Treasures table took form, publications provided by the Swedish Consulate and Tourist Board were laid out, soon to follow was a bake sale, raffle, district sale items, *Dalahäst* painting and *Tombola*. While all this was going on our kitchen crew, lead by Lilja Strazinskis with Barbara Ljunggren and Sue Boor, were getting the meatball dinners prepared and Peter Marinelli was prepping the hotdogs and hamburgers.

A pictorial display depicting the history of Vasa Park has been in the making for sometime. Vasa Park is 60 years old this year and Art and Arlene Ogonoski and their family took on the task of preparing a pictorial display entitled "60 Years of Vasa Park – Then and Now." It really brought back some great memories! Everyone enjoyed this outstanding display.

Thereafter our afternoon started with the flag rising of the American and Swedish flags and the Star Spangled Banner and Du Gamla Du Fria. We were blessed to have some great musicians from Vermont join us this afternoon featuring Donald Saaf on guitar, Jill Newton and Laurie Indenbaum on the fiddles, and from Connecticut Carl B. Ericson (GL Convention Delegate and PDM) joined in on the bass guitar. What a great start and great entertainment for the afternoon with traditional Swedish music.

Next stop was raising the Maypole, after which we recognized our scholarship recipients. Kristen Mortensen was presented a Grand Lodge Scholarship. Jennifer Lubeski was awarded the Iver A. Erickson Scholarship sponsored by the Erickson family. The day concluded as many of our Vasa events with a raffle. It was a great

day with an enthusiastic crowd. This day result of the hard work by many members who contributed to the planning, organizing and setup! *Tack så mycket!*

Special thanks go out to IKEA of New Haven who generously supported this Vasa Connecticut District #1 Midsommar – Scholarship Presentation.

Then on August 7 a group of Connecticut District #1 members and friends set sail on the MS Carnival Victory sailing from New York City for five days. After donning our lifejackets and going through an abandon ship drill we departed New York at about 5 PM. The first full day was at sea in which everybody enjoyed ship's activities, outstanding food, fun in the casino, shows and we even had the fog horn going for an hour while we were in a low visibility situation. The next morning we arrived in St. John, New Brunswick, for a day of walking through the town or witnessing the amazing tidal range on the Bay of Fundy. Departing at 3:30 PM we sailed for the interesting and historic city of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Many of group scheduled visits to scenic Peggy's Cove while others took in the Halifax waterfront. Our final full day was

at sea relaxing and once again enjoying all activities the ship had to offer. We arrived back in New York on August 12 docking about 6 AM. By about 9:30 we were off the ship and on the bus headed home.

The most recent event was Sunday, August 20, and once again the weatherperson threatened with adverse weather, but instead we lucked out for our Vasa Connecticut District #1 Älg och Kräftor Dinner at Vasa Park! We had a couple great cooks on the barbecue cooking the steaks, hotdogs and hamburgers, which made the day a success. Our thanks go out to everyone in the kitchen crew serving baked potatoes and crayfish and to Steven Ljunggren and Christian Ljunggren for manning the grill. The dinner of baked potato, crayfish, and steak and with a dessert of apple pie seemed to exceed member's expectation and sent everyone home well fed! Wivan Sundman on the accordion and Carl B. Ericson on the bass guitar provided entertainment. The key event of the afternoon was the presentation of the second scholarship provided by CT District #1. We were pleased to award this scholarship to Brittany Livingston.

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren

Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 Children's Club

Presents

Lucia & folk Dances

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:

Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1
c/o Elaine Lindquist McGrath
252 Wellington Road S, Garden City, NY 11530

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



LODGE NEWS

North Star Lodge #106

Los Angeles, CA

North Star Lodge #106 was founded in Los Angeles on January 15, 1907, with 49 members. Today the normal attendance is 25-30, but the total membership is one of the highest in Los Angeles and environs among Vasa lodges with more than 100.

Under the second term leadership of Erik Lindberg (preceded by his wife, Birgit, for two terms), the lodge remains highly active with Vasa interests, including Benefits and Scholarships.

Its history includes three Midsummer Queens from the same family: Ruth Erickson (in the 30's) had the pleasure of seeing her daughter Lenda and her granddaughter, Diane Earl, in 2006, reign. Ruth passed away recently.

We have a few centarian members. Thyra Anderson attends regularly with her daughter, Astrid. But some are older in terms of service. There are six, not necessarily in order: Arline Erickson, June Morgan, Evelyn Earls, Lois and Walter Johnson, and Harold Johnson. Several members have received a 50-year pin.

A word about our present Chairman before we continue with "the past" – Erik Lindberg was born in Sundborn, Dalarna, Sweden, and immigrated in 1949, with a degree in engineering. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served for two years. As an engineer, he was assigned to the Japan Construction Agency in Tokyo, handling construction of new buildings for the U.S. military. Following his discharge, Erik was an engineer with the Firestone Rubber Co., working with the construction of airplane fuel tanks for the military and years later retired from Aerojet Manufacturing Co. as a Program Manager. Erik was married to Birgit (Johnson) in 1952 (Birgit "grew up" in North Star Lodge #106). They had two daughters – Ingrid and Christina. Ingrid sadly passed away this year.

A forerunner to North Star Lodge #106 was "The Swedish Sick Benefit Society" – 'Norden,' which was started in 1906. Under the name of Nordstjernen Lodge #106, organized in 1907, it joined the Vasa Order of America and became North Star Lodge #106 – as virtually all

American lodges "Americanized" their names.

In the 1920s several special things occurred. A Children's Club was initiated, named Svea. The first bazaar was held and a number of plays were presented. In 1930 the first of three popular Drill Teams was formed (the third and last was formed in 1948). The Star Sewing Society was formed in 1926 and continues today.

The lodge moved into its own lodge hall in 1932 on Adams Blvd. in Los Angeles following years of fundraising and volunteer labor efforts. After 30 years, the building was sold. At the present time meetings are held in the social hall of Village Church in Brentwood, CA.

North Star even had its own orchestra that performed at its 50th year anniversary! Fifteen members have been District Masters. It has been continually active in District and Grand Lodge activities.

We could go "on and on" about achievements of this lodge and the involvements of our several generations of treasured members. Our 100th Anniversary Celebration will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Culver City, CA, on January 14, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Åke Sandler
Elinore Thornton



Erik Lindberg



Thyra Anderson - 100

Fylgia Lodge #119

San Francisco, CA

We have had four interesting Cultural Events the first half of the year.

January – Karen Myers played a Nyckelharpa Fiddle of traditional Swedish music. She had a pamphlet telling of the historic origin and development of this instrument and gave other information.

March – Ms. Anja Miller, a Finnish Translator and former Mayor of the City of Brisbane, presented personal reflection on the ties between Sweden and Finland, both historical and recent.

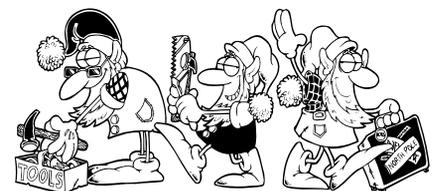
April – Mrs. Astrid Olsson took the members on a tour of the Library and Archives on the upper floor of the Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., San Francisco. She told of all the work involved in obtaining pictures, papers, and information of the past from the members in the Swedish Colony in the Bay area. It has been arranged in a

comprehensive manner and credit due to much volunteer work by a few dedicated individuals.

May – Dr. Ted Olsson recounted tales from his grandparents and survivors of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire. Slides were shown and letters read from the family and the Swedish newspaper (Vestkusten). This was a very extensive research on an interesting subject for us in San Francisco.

A committee has been formed to prepare for a large celebration for our 100th Anniversary in October, 2007.

Submitted by: Jean Nelson



Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

Thule Lodge #127 has completed the fall season, with plans being made for winter activities. Lodge chairman Robert Fuller and vice chairman Don Carson continue to look to the future as they plan for each year.

Thule #127 will be celebrating their 100th anniversary in December of 2007. Plans are being formulated for a dinner celebration with many items of history. Lodge historian John Sipos has been gathering photographs of all past chairmen to compile in one volume.

At a recent meeting, long time member Nels John Nelson, was the speaker recalling his arrival in America from Sweden at Ellis Island, a little more than 80 years ago. Nelson said his father was already in Jamestown working and that he, his mother, and his sister, Allie Nelson Withers, also a Thule Lodge member, arrived in May 1926. At that time, Nelson had the measles, and was separated from his mother and sister for nearly two weeks, being placed in a hospital. Nelson said that he was 5 years old at that time and did not understand what was happening, when he was put into a hospital. When Nelson was permitted to leave for Jamestown, his mother sent two separate telegrams to his father in Jamestown that they would be arriving on the Erie Railroad.



Nels John Nelson talking about his arrival in America 80 years ago.

Nelson had the original telegrams from 1926, and the ship's tickets for their journey, which he displayed for all to see.

September was the annual meeting in which the past chairman took charge of the meeting. This tradition has continued for more than thirty years and past chairman Dorothy Peterson took charge of the meeting.

Plans have been set for the spring season, with many events being scheduled. If you are in our area, we would be happy to visit with you. Happy New Year to all from Thule Lodge #127. "God Dag" to all!

Submitted by: John Sipos

Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA

Tegnér Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, was host for the fourth annual three Bay area lodges' fourth annual summer picnic in July. Fifty-five members and friends of

Sveaborg, Framåt, and Tegnér, gathered at Redwood Regional Park where the shade of the trees kept the temperature of the area very comfortable. Our two



Tegnér Lodge #159 August Crayfish Feast – Members and friends (left to right around the table): Marie Ann Hill, Sunny Bostrum, Yuan Zhu, Ray Aguiar, Rhoda Gilbertston, Inga-Lill Fivian, Ann Tennis, and Ingrid Anderson.

Swedish chefs, Jan Norberg and Stig Björk, did a masterful job of grilling sausages, hamburgers, and hot dogs. A great variety of salads, side dishes, and desserts were brought by the members of guests. We were pleased to have PDM Birgitta and Tore Kellgren join us and long-time Tegnér member came down from Portland. There was Swedish music and some members enjoyed playing a Swedish Crazy Eights card game in addition to visiting with each other.

In August, Tegnér had its annual crayfish feast at the Bill Nordendahl home in Pleasanton. Again Doris, Laura, and Bill hosted a most enjoyable evening with plenty of crayfish and delicious roast pork, all the trimmings, desserts, etc. There was a raffle of items brought by some of the members to help with the cost of the dinner.

In September we were back at Björnson Hall for our regular potluck suppers and business meetings.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

Nobel Lodge #184

Portland, OR

April 30th was a beautiful sunny day in Portland, OR, where Nobel celebrated its 95 years of being an active lodge. The banquet was held at Kennedy School, which is a remodeled building and refurbished by McMennamin's as a restaurant with multiple use rooms. The surroundings were fun, interesting and lightened the mood. Chairman Jeff Klein attended this school when he was a "lad."

The program was of great interest to history buffs because Jeff told of 1911 Portland as well as the early lodge activities. He even mentioned the colorful drill team costumes we still have and were used with great pride in earlier years (they are bright colors and ornate).

When we had a previous anniversary celebration they were brought out and used. Oh the memories that flooded everyone. I hope to see them again in the future. Jeff Klein did a "mycket bra" presentation of our history.

Kate DeSau gave an update on members and their activities. Rozetta Carpenter and Louise Pearson received their 25-year pins. It is an honor to have these two loyal members in the lodge.

Just think, pretty soon we will celebrate our 100th anniversary and we will all be there singing and laughing in person or spirit.

Submitted by: Mary Ellen Hagelin Laurie

Svea Lodge #253

Carmel, IN

Members of Svea Lodge #253 attended an ABBA tribute at Conner Prairie historical park on August 11th. We were fortunate to be able to watch the group of Swedish singers since they arrived in the United States on August 10th, the day the airports were suffering from high alerts in the U.S., and canceling foreign flights in England. We were wondering if they had to buy all new hair gel! The singers were thankful to be here, and gave it their all.

We met on the hill, and the Hultgrens brought their Swedish flag. Ron Gardin and Joella Hultgren took turns waving the flag in thanks to the singers after they told of their harrowing trip. The music was a nice reminder of ABBA and times past. The original saxophone player performed in several of the numbers.

The rain held off and the clouds made for a beautiful summer evening with the picnic dinner we all chipped in to provide, and the company of friends.

Ingrid Hook, a member of Svea #253 loves *Pippi Longstocking* and the stories about the little girl's adventures, spent six weeks in Sweden, Norway and Denmark this summer.

Mrs. Hook, a second grade teacher, received a *Lilly Endowment* for the summer trip to visit the sights described by *Astrid Lindgren* creator of *Pippi Longstocking*. She traveled to Sweden to research the red-haired Pippi and her



Ed Hultgren and Ron Gardin.

creator Lindgren. While in Sweden, the birthplace of Ingrid's parents, she visited *Astrid Lindgren's World*. It's all about Lindgren and her life, and includes miniature houses and structures where children can play and visit.

Mrs. Hook uses *Pippi Longstocking* in her classroom everywhere from math to geography. Hook said her students respond to Pippi because she's a child,

even the boys like her because she's not a "girly girl" and likes to climb trees and be mischievous.

In addition to taking Pippi into her classroom Mrs. Hook has also delighted our lodge with entertainment inspired by *Pippi Longstocking*, which included skits, played out by her second grade students.

Written by: Sarah Swanson
Submitted by: Michelle Escalante

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA

Our lodge enjoyed a crayfish feast at our last meeting. They were truly delicious and that dill aroma – WOW! While some members had never eaten them, others had pleasant memories of outdoor crayfish parties with colored lanterns and traditional songs. We had decorative posters, bibs and caps, and used crayfish knives from Fiskars in Finland.

A history of crayfish in Sweden was presented – according to lore, native crayfish have long been the favorite of Swedish royalty, going back to the reign of King Gustav Vasa in the 1500s. His son, Erik XIV's favorite castle was Kalmar, which had a moat. While it was used to defend the castle, it was also used for raising crayfish. Later came Queen Kristina who had a large amount of crayfish for her coronation in 1649.

But the simple folk were told by the biologist Linnaeus that crayfish were insects and not to be eaten. Also the peasants said that according to the Bible, one should not eat things with "many legs." But by the middle of the 19th century, they found that selling crayfish to the well-to-do supplemented their income and eventually they began to eat them too. Catching crayfish became limited to August and September to avoid pregnant ones, that would deplete the stock. Next came a fungal disease that spread among the crayfish. Soon Swedes had to import them from other countries. In the 1970's the American Signal crayfish from California proved to be disease resistant. Now many are produced in Swedish lakes and can be caught at any time of the year!

Submitted by: Linda Collin



Shown are Kay Lynne Picheco and Linda Collin wearing crayfish bibs and shirts as they demonstrate proper use of the special knives.

Skogsblomman Lodge #378

Preston, WA

Skogsblomman Lodge #378 in Preston, WA, had a surprise visit from King Gustaf Vasa at its June 11 meeting. Member John Erickson, who bears a striking resemblance to King Gustaf, came right into meeting unannounced. Being a good sport John wore tights and a costume made from flamboyant garments from Goodwill. We welcomed him and he answered our questions from the members and stayed for lunch. We commemorated the day when the real King Gustaf Vasa was elected to the throne, June 5, 1523.

Forty-four campers and 20 counselors made up the youthful part of the popular Vasa Youth Day Camp at Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish in Bellevue, WA, during the first week of August. Cincy Stedman and Suzanne Tyft, members of Skogsblomman Lodge #378 in Preston, WA, organized this popular day camp. Daily activities included a cycle of four classes, folk dancing, drama, Swedish language and crafts. Friday evening after the last day of camp, Skogsblomman held its annual summer potluck at the park and watched the children perform dancing, drama, and Swedish language presentations, as well as showing off their crafts for the week.

Submitted by: Carolyn Purser



Campers and parents show the houses and church they made for a model of the old Luleå church village.

Austin Lodge #466

Chicago, IL

Austin Lodge #466, VOA, leads the way to the new "International" Vasa Order – opening the doors wide for Turks, Greeks, Germans, Italians and a multitude of other ethnics. Many other Swedish and Scandinavian organizations have long accepted anyone who wishes to support the Nordic heritage as members. Chairman Robert Oberg of Austin has spearheaded this movement for an influx of new members who hitherto could not join because they lacked a Scandinavian background. There are about 350,000 in Illinois who claim Swedish heritage so this group obviously needs to find a connection to the Vasa Order. But then many are not joiners and some declare themselves as Americans – which might rightfully be reserved for the American Indians.

Food, fun and entertainment free of charge on a Saturday afternoon is attracting new attendees of all ethnic backgrounds. If this new style will enhance our Scandinavian culture, heritage, and

traditions remains to be seen. Only out in the country in America can a strong Scandinavian voice be heard. The big Nordic emigration came in the 1850's - 1880's and the south-Europeans came around 1910 and later – thus making American cities quite predominantly Catholic – because the countryside and U.S. farmland was already taken by the Germans, Dutch, English and Scandinavians. We see these facts borne out for example by the recently started Swedish Club in Michigan where many hundreds have joined and Swedish groups in U.S. cities are struggling and even disbanding because they are mostly outnumbered by south-Europeans there.

The Vasa Order is turning a new leaf – let's hope it will be a good one and that our Scandinavian Heritage will be highlighted in new circles and not completely diluted in our American melting pot.

Submitted by: Per-Hugo
Kristensson



The new "International" Vasa Order.

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR

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.

Harmoni Lodge #472

Portland, OR

Doug and Ulla Hanson, members of Harmoni Lodge #472, were named Scandinavians of the Year at the Midsommar Festival held in Portland, OR, on June 24, 2006. Doug and Ulla received this honor for the many efforts they put forth in various Nordic organizations in the Portland area.

Doug and Ulla are the parents of two daughters and are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren. Ulla immigrated to the United States from Piteå, Sweden in 1954. She lived with an aunt in Springfield, OR. Doug was born in the U.S., the son of a Swedish immigrant mother and a Norwegian immigrant father. Ulla's aunt was a good friend of Doug's mother (the two immigrated together from Sweden when they were 16 and 17 years old). Doug had gotten injured and was at his mother's home when Ulla and her Aunt went to visit Doug's mother. Their relationship continued while Doug attend the University of Oregon in Eugene and they were married in 1955. They made their home in Portland, OR.

The honor of being named Scandinavians of the Year stems from their many involvements in Nordic activities. Both are members of The Vasa Order of America, Harmoni Lodge, The Order of Runeberg, Linnea, a Swedish organization, New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society, and Scandinavian Heritage Foundation. Doug is also a member of The Sons of Norway.

Doug and Ulla are both very active in Harmoni Lodge where Doug has served as Trustee and Financial Secretary; Ulla has been Chaplain and served on the Social Committee for many years. They both have been delegates to District 13 conventions. The two of them have been very active in helping at the Midsommar Fest held in Portland each year. Doug was especially active in The Order of Runeberg where he served as President, Treasurer, Auditor, and served the District which encompasses British Columbia, Oregon, Washington, California, and Montana. He was also the editor of the International Paper "Leading Star" for many years and worked to arrange many Scholarship Exchanges. Ulla worked as Youth Leader in Runeberg for many years and helped organize camp outings. With many of the

other organizations they just enjoy being a part of them.

Doug is a very active outgoing person and does much to help any organization with which he is involved. Ulla looks at herself as being very helpful on the cooking end of things and considers herself a "worker bee." Every year Doug and Ulla host a summer potluck at their home for the Harmoni members, where everyone gets their fill of good food, some libations, good music, and great fellowship.

Doug and Ulla were definitely deserving of their designations as Scandinavians of the Year and Harmoni Lodge is lucky to have them as part of their organization.

Submitted by: Judy Rust

Photo by: Glenn Ekberg



Doug and Ulla Hanson

Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI

The 4th annual Kräftsikva (crayfish party) was a success with almost 50 happy attendees. There were members from our own lodge, from Brahe, Jubileum, and Viljan lodges. Every one

with goodies for the table. The party was held at the Ekstrand's house with tent outside, and red critters in the kitchen.

Linde Lodge #492 and Logen Tomelilla #631 have tied Sister lodge bands. In September five of Logen Tomelilla members visited the USA and spent a lot of time with Linde members. Their trip included specials trips to Niagara Falls, Chicago, Bishop Hills, Lindstrom and Minneapolis in MN, and of course in Milwaukee. Little did we know that we were honored by super stars from "Theater Skåne." This group of five performed a true-story about emigration from the years 1860-1920. If you are lucky enough to have grown up in Skåne (as I was) you would understand everything. We did provide translations for anyone that didn't understand Swedish (and those from Stockholm!). The play was a success, and was also performed in Bishop Hills. I challenge all Swedish lodges to ask the Tomelilla group to come and perform for them. The group also attended our lodge meeting in September with a picnic to follow. During the meeting Brother Bengt-Arne Åstradsson, Tomelilla Lodge #631, presented Chairman Marge Gruel with the beautiful red Tomelilla Lodge banner. Lots of friendships have formed, and we will reciprocate by visiting them again, and we are hoping they are getting their tickets ready for the District #8 Convention in May of 2007. Sisters & brothers, we were serious when we invited you back!

Linde Lodge #492 will together with Skansen Children's Club #113 hold its annual Lucia and Christmas program on December 10th at 3:00 PM at Whitnall Park Lutheran Church in Hales Corners. For more information about this free event please contact Liza Ekstrand at 262.782.2238.

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand



New friends from our Sister Lodge Tomelilla No. 631 at the September business meeting - from left: Gull-May and Bengt-Arne Åstradsson, Marge Gruel, Liza Ekstrand, Gertrud Hägg, Hans-Ingvar and Kerstin Hansson.

Bishop Hill Lodge #683

Bishop Hill, IL



Brooke Marie Cort

Brooke Marie Cort has been chosen as the Bishop Hill Lodge's Lucia. She will preside at the lodge's Christmas Smörgåsbord on the first Saturday in December.

Brooke belongs to the children's club Pride of the Family and where she is an active participant.

One of her favorite subjects in school is English. She belongs to the FFA, enjoys music and sharing her time with family and friends. Her goal is to one day be a choreographer or a fashion designer.

She is the granddaughter of Vasa members Sue and Randy Anderson.

Submitted by: Lillemor and Richard Horngren

Vasa Norden Lodge #684

Fresno, CA

Joy-Marie Brusenback is 13 years of age and is in the 8th grade in Clovis, CA. Her parents met in Uppsala, Sweden, married and moved to Clovis in 1988. Joy-Marie has Swedish and American citizenship. She has developed a strong sense of Swedish culture and tradition.

Joy-Marie and her two brothers have celebrated Lucia at Vasa Norden Lodge #684, Fresno, CA, since they were two-year-olds. They have also introduced the customs to their classes in school every year. Joy-Marie spends every other summer in Sweden, staying with her grandparents, visiting other relatives, and being

immersed in her Swedish heritage. She is learning to speak Swedish and has been practicing a Swedish song, "Gläns över sjö och strand" to sing at the 2006 Lucia Pageant.

Joy-Marie is a hard working student with good grades and hopes to become a pediatrician. She takes voice lessons, dances ballet, and Irish step, skis, runs track and plays soccer. She is excited to be this year's Lucia for Norden Lodge #684.

Submitted by: Pauline Peterson Mathes



Joy-Marie Brusenback

Skogen Lodge #700

Redding, CA

Taylor Ahern is our Lucia for Skogen Lodge #700. Her mother preceded her as Lucia many years before (Clorinda Stratton). Her grandmother is Darlene Stratton, a member of Skogen Lodge #700.

Submitted by: Hazelle Mills



Taylor Ahern

Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719

Laguna Woods, CA

Members baked up a storm so goodies would be served at the San Diego 2006 Grand Lodge Convention. "Kaffe med Dopp," following the opening ceremonies. Pictured are members Barbara Sandin, Phyllis Brandon and Mim Curtis who wore special aprons as they served. Not pictured were co-servers Kin Lindgren and Kevin Luft from Seaborg.

Submitted by: Phyllis Brandon



Viking Lodge #730

Flint, MI

We were happy to have DM Sten Hult and wife, Nancy, with us in March to install lodge officers for the 2006-07 term. Bruce Westerlund made Swedish pancakes while Alton and Mary Nordbeck served pea soup. A display of Swedish crystal followed with a video of crystal production provided by Ruth Sutton.

Continued on page 14



Bill Lundquist, PDM and Grand Lodge Board Member, and DM Sten Hult, escort Eric Swanson, Viking Lodge Chairman, to renew his Oath of Office for 2006-2007.

Viking Lodge #730

Continued from page 13

Viking Lodge's 25th Anniversary was celebrated at the Genesys Banquet Center on May 7, followed by the District Convention in Moline, IL, May 19-21. Delegates Ron and Dee Carlson, Marcia Pearson, Ruth Sutton and Howard Weaver cheered at the election of Sheila Lundquist as VDM, and Bob Pearson as Treasurer.

The June Midsummer was held at Bob and Marcia Pearson's in Chesaning, MI. The maypole around which Gun Ohlsson led circle dances was the best ever.

The lodge was delighted with the election of Bill Lundquist as Vice Grand Master of Vasa at its national convention in San Diego, CA. Bill had "paid his dues" as Lodge Chairman, DM, and Grand Lodge Board Member. He is well qualified to head the national scholarship program.

Art Bendall and Nils Froberg again manned the boiling of potatoes, onions and whitefish at the annual September Fish Boil, while the ladies prepared salad and desserts with Scandinavian music in the background.

Four \$500 scholarships were awarded to the following members: Laura Bickle, U. of Michigan; Eric Johnson, Oakland U.; Kerri Metzler, Wingate U. in North Carolina; and Marcus Westerlund, Ferris State U.

Kassandra Marie Ohlsson has been chosen as Viking Lodge #730's 2006 Santa Lucia. Kassandra was born in Flint, MI, on January 29, 1991. Her parents are



Kassandra Marie Ohlsson

Bengt Ohlsson and Anne Grosinsky. Her grandparents, Frans Ohlsson, who is from Östersund, and Gun Tingstrom, who is from Stockholm, migrated to the United States in the 1950s.

Kassandra is an honor student in the Flushing community schools. She plays the oboe and the flute in concert band. She does routines with a flag and rifle in the Color Guard section in the marching band. She enjoys reading, listening to music and being on her computer. She also enjoys sketching and is a good artist.

Kassandra will graduate in 2009 and plans to continue her education in the humanities and the arts. She would like to become either a veterinary technician or an artist.



Allen N. Johnson

Allen N. Johnson, member of Viking Lodge #730, Flint, MI, was honored by Salem Lutheran Church on July 2, 2006, in celebration of his 100th birthday July 3.

Allen, born July 3, 1906 in Hillhead, SD, married Josephine Lindberg in Pontiac, MI, in 1946; she died in 1998.

Allen, a tool grinder for Chevrolet Manufacturing Co. in Flint for 43 years, retired in 1968. He and Josephine, members of Salem Lutheran Church, joined Vasa Viking Lodge #730 in 1991. Their daughter, Linda Schreiber, Flint, MI, has two children.

Submitted by: Howard Weaver

Jubileum Lodge #755

Madison, WI

"The Province of Skåne"

by Hans Fride

Hans, who was born in Skåne, presented a fascinating program on the province. Hans' family farm is in a little village, Lillaröd, near Löberöd, with his sister still living nearby the farm. Hans reported that presently there are 6 Jubileum members with roots in Skåne.

Skåne is a square-shaped province in the southernmost tip of Sweden. Skåne did not become part of Sweden until 1658 and it took until 1710 (battle at Hälsingborg) until Denmark gave up its effort to retake it. This closeness to Denmark is reflected in the Swedish dialect in Skåne.

Although once populated by trees, they were cut down long ago to create farmland (the most fertile soil is southwest of a line from Malmö to Ystad). The land is relatively flat and windy. A law from the 1600's required that willow trees be planted along roads and between fields to block the wind. In addition, they are pruned in a most interesting shape. There are also plentiful beech trees that, together with white flowers (wood anemones), create a beautiful white carpet in the spring. Crops that were grown where Hans grew up included hay, potatoes, sugar beets, rye, barley, oats, and also some wheat.

Hans shared a song from Skåne by Lasse Dahlquist, "Jag är en liten gåsapåg från Skåne," which the lodge members will learn over the next couple of months. He also talked about a charming story with pictures by Selma Lagerlöf, a Nobel Prize winning author, called "The Wonderful Adventure of Nils Holgersson." Hans taught that Nils was a little boy who was naughty, particularly to animals. After he was transformed into a smaller version of himself and the animals were larger, he flew around Sweden on the back of a tame goose that joined up with a flock of wild geese.

Hans presented a beautiful photo tour of Skåne, including:

- Lillaröd with the typical buildings of Skåne, including the "cross-wood" – half-timbering – style of house with straw and clay stucco and straw roofs with wooden sticks at the peak to hold the straw in place.

Continued on page 15



Hans Fride

- Skanör – a city in southern Skåne that became rich from the fishing of herring in the 1500's.
- Glimminghus fortress (built ~1500), Överkloster, Bosjöklöster, and Trollenäs – a few of many castles in Skåne. The last one is where his mother learned to cook and take care of a household.
- Hammarlunda Church, Lund Cathedral with its "Giant Finn" pillar, and Dalby Church – all steeped in history.
- Båstad – famous for tennis and the Davis Cup.
- Hälsingborg – with its ancient toll-houses (Kärnan) for ships and its courthouse with its statue of Magnus Stenbock who was an important leader in keeping Sweden from the Danes.
- Backafall on the island of Ven, where Danish astronomer, Tyko Brahe, had two observatories, studying the solar system.

Submitted by: Carol Hassemer

Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

November 19, 2006, brought back many winter members. Our cultural event for this month took a turn south of Sweden – Italy. Chairman Vito Pantaleo gave us an informative talk on his Italian heritage. Vito told us about history, culture, food and funny stories about life of an Italian family.

December is always a busy month. We celebrated St. Lucia Fest with delicious food, joyful songs, stories and friendship. This is always a special time of year to share with our friends.

Submitted by: Kristin Boyes

SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Enköping Nr 646

Lördagen den 7 oktober 2006 hade logen Enköping Nr 646 logemöte och till glädje för logen gästades man av ordenssyskon från Logen Engelbrekt Nr 619, Mälardrottningen Nr 563, Kristinehamn Nr 656 och Stockholm Nr 589.

Efter ett innehållsrikt möte med öppen och stimulerande atmosfär fortsatte tillställningen med en god middag i god Vasa anda. Under kaffet bjöds vi på trevlig underhållning från kvällens gästtrubadur Björn Lindström. Han sjöng sånger av välkända visskrivare som ex Evert Taube, Fred Åkerström och Cornelius Wrejsvik. Efter applåder från de närvarande ordenssyskonen framförde ordförande Karl-Erik Axelsson samt kulturredare Anita Jonasson logens tack för den trevliga visstunden och önskade trubadur Björn Lindström varmt välkommen att åter gästa logen.

DD i Logen Enköping Nr 646 Liberth Karlsson framförde de närvarandes tack till de kommitterade för den goda maten



Trubadur Björn Lundström sjöng välkända Svenska visor för ordenssyskon under logen Enköping nr 646:s efterkapitel.

samt det trevliga arrangemang man fått vara med om. Kvällen fortsatte med lotterier och möjlighet till att i lugn och ro kunna samsåpa med varandra.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge

Logen Nybyggarna Nr 698

Ängelholm, Sweden

Under årets 110 års-jubileum, gjorde Logen en resa i *Utvandrarnas väg*. En härlig morgon hölls först Logemöte innan 29 ordenssyskon steg på bussen norrut mot staden Växjö, platsen för *Utvandrarnas Hus, The House of Emigrants*, en byggnad uppförd 1968, med arkiv, bibliotek, forskarsal och utställningshall.

Väl framme efter c:a tre timmar och uppehåll för en skön paus, intagande av medhavd kaffekorg vid Lagan, möttes vi i Växjö, av VDM sy Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, Logen Carl von Linné Nr 678, Växjö.

Sy Catherine berättade om tillblivelsen av *Utvandrarnas Hus* varefter vi vandrade runt i byggnaden, det fanns mycket att titta på; händelser från utvandrarna när de kom till USA och livet därefter från 1800-talets mitt och fram början 1900-talet.

Efter denna lärorika historia behövde vi lite mat, vilket intogs i skön miljö, *Toftastrand* innan vi inkvarterades på *Hotell Esplanad*.

På kvällen hade vi ett gemensamt samkväm med logen Carl von Linné i en trevlig lokal som hade dukats mycket

fint. Vi välkomnades av Logens Ordförande, sy Mona Harrysson. Logen Nybyggarnas KL tackade sy Mona och sy Catherina för de gjort en minnesvärd dag för oss, och överlämnade en specialdesignad lergök med vår Ordens emblem till var och en.

Efter frukost dagen därpå åkte vi till *Ljuders Kyrka*, som invigdes 1844. På kyrkogården vittnar några gravstenar om att återvändande emigranter jordats här. Detta var alltså startplatsen för många emigranter, den sk *Utvandrarnas väg* som börjar vid kyrkan, och slutar i Karlshamn. En sträcka på c:a 80 kilometer.

I en gammal skola mittemot kyrkan finns ett museum inrymt där minnen från utvandringstiden beskådades. Här tog vi en samlingsbild framför bussen, ett klart bättre fortskaffningsmedel än för emigranterna ner till hamnen i Karlshamn. Vid *Åkerby vägskäl* har nutida sockenbor rest en vacker minnessten med *Ljuders karta* ingraverad på baksidan. Vidare mot *Klasatorpet i Långasjö*, mer känt som "*Korpamoen*," Karl-Oskars och Kristinas hem i *Utvandrarfilmen*. *Klasatorpet* av

Continued on page 19

Holiday Greetings Unite Members and Lodges

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
from
Göta Lejon Lodge #84
Yorktown, NY

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
to all our Vasa Friends
from
Freja Lodge #100
Yorktown, NY

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
from
Stenbock Lodge #138
Minneapolis, Minnesota

May the spirit of the season find its
way into the warm circle of your
family, filling you with hope for the
peace & joy of Christmas in songs of
lights and cherished traditions.

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
önskar
Oscars Borg Lodge #172
Philadelphia, PA

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
to our Sister Lodge
Lodge Mälardrottningen #563
and to all our Vasa friends
Nobel Lodge #184
Portland, Oregon

**God Jul och
Gott Nytt År**
**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
GRAND LODGE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Grand Master - Rolf S. Bergman
Vice Grand Master - William Lundquist
Grand Secretary - Joan Graham
Grand Treasurer - C. Richard Overberg
Vice Grand Secretary - Helen Mingram
MEB-Eastern Region - Pamela Genelli
MEB-Midwest Region - Jake Gruel
MEB-Western Region - Tore Kellgren
MEB-Sweden - Tore Tellberg
MEB-Canada Ken Banks
MEB-At-Large - Bertil Ericsson



God Jul och Gott Nytt År
To All Our Vasa Friends
from
District Lodge Pennsylvania #9

Linda Smith - *District Master*
Bruce Elfvin - *Vice District Master*
Sharen Swanson Tizzano - *District Secretary*
Carina Jonsson - *District Treasurer*
John Ekeroth, David Williams - *Members of District Executive Board*
Betty Schaller - *District Cultural Leader*

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
from
ARIZONA DISTRICT #21
DISTRICT MASTER
VITO PANTALEO

TUCSON LODGE #691 SOLDSTAD LODGE #709
PHOENIX LODGE #677 NORTHLANDERS #723
SCANDIA LODGE #728
NORDIC RED ROCKS LODGE #760

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
från
Officers and Members
Svea Lodge #296
Erie, Pennsylvania

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Officers and Members
Viljan Lodge #349
Batavia, Illinois

Warm Christmas Greetings
and
Happiness in the New Year
to all our Vasa Friends
Frihet Lodge #401
Seattle, Washington

Celebrating 85 Years
And wishing all our Vasa Friends
God Jul och Gott Nytt År
from
Framåt Lodge #405
El Cerrito, California

Holiday Greetings to all Vasa friends
Welcome to our 80th Anniversary of
Truth & Unity - as well as the District
No. 8 Convention in Milwaukee in '07
Linde Lodge #492
Skansen Children's Club #113
God Jul och Gott Nytt År

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
To All Our Vasa Friends
from
Lindbergh Lodge #505
Dix Hills, LI, NY

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasavänner
i USA, Canada och Sverige
Richard & Dorothy
Overberg, GLT

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
from
Three Crown Lodge #38
Stamford, Connecticut

Bert Anderson	Ingrid Sandberg	Ernest V. Larson
Karl and Irene Fritz	Elizabeth Thomas	Jane Levesque
Pamela Groeschner	Margit Andersson	Richard Olson
Phyllis Johnson	Barbara Gardecki	Ethel Thomas
Shirley Leopold	Helen and Hjalmar Henrikson	Helen Walding
George and Ingrid Lukach		

Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130
Cleveland, Ohio

Christmas Greetings and Warm Wishes for

Good Health and Much Happiness in the New Year to all our Vasa Friends

Emil and Betty Arvidson	Dorothy Carlson	Esther Arvidson Kunkle
Eric and Maria Arvidson	Karen Arvidson Chilcote	Marie-Louise Nyborg
Rolf and Marty Bergman	Bruce Elfvin	Mary Schoeniger
Sarah Lundberg Blaser	Dick Erickson	Gail K. Smith
Burton and Gunvor Carlson	Alfreda Held	Sharen Swanson Tizzano
	Viola Hjelm	Pat Watson
	Walter Holmes	Norma Wilson

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Från

Bishop Hill Lodge #683
Bishop Hill, Illinois

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Carl Widen Lodge #743
Austin, Texas

Warm Greetings
from
Holiday Lodge #699
Florida

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

Yuletide Greetings to all
Vasa Members in the
United States,
Canada and Sweden,
especially our
Sister Filbyter #714, Linköping.
Skandia Lodge #549
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Christmas Greetings and Good Wishes
to our Vasa Friends for the Coming Year
and **God Jul och Gott Nytt År**
for our Sister Logen
Kongahälla #702 in Kungälv
Skogen Lodge #700
Redding, California

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Minnesota District #7
Runeberg #137 Stenbock #138
Framat #166 Göta Lejon #251
Kronan #433 John Morton #488

Lake Michigan District No. 8 Executive Board

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
District Master, James Nystedt

Vice District Master Sheila Lundquist	Executive Board Members - Lowell Nordling, Tom Cleveland
District Secretary Marge Gruel	Past District Master Sten Hult
District Treasurer Robert Pearson	Hospital Fund Secy.-Treas. Charlotte Tollin
Asst. District Secretary Lisa Ekstrand	District Cultural Leader Lisa Cianci
Supervisor Children & Youth Clubs Lynda Smith	

Jul – och Nyårshälsningar från Distriktslogen Södra Sverige Nr 20

Distriktslogen Södra
Sverige Nr 20

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Tillönskas
Alla Vasasyskon

Executive Board Members:

Åke Mellnert	Arne Jönhill
Knut Rosenkvist	Ulf Alderlöf
Olle Wickström	Gun Lith
Ingrid Cannerhagen	Margareta Berg
Morgan Pålsson	
Catherine Bringselius Nilsson	

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Logen Skåne Nr 570
Malmö

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
önskar

Logen Småland Nr 618
Jönköping, SWEDEN

**Knut Rosenqvist, Maj-Lis Friedman
and Gunnar och Siv Mossberg all say**
God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasavänner
i USA, Kanada och Sverige

Calmare Nyckel Nr 628

Logen Ronneby Nr 630

DL Nr 20 – Sweden
Önskar sina Vasasyskon
och Vänloger

**En God Vasa Jul och
Ett Gott Nytt Vasa År**

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Logen Malmöhus Nr 643

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Logen Nybyggarna Nr 698
Ängelholm

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
To all our Vasa friends
Special Greetings to our Sister Lodges

Omaha #330, Lindberg #494, Lindbergh #505
Skandia #549, Lethbridge #579, Westervik #679
Carl XVI Gustaf #716, Dalahast #742

Logen Filbyter Nr 714

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasavänner

Knut och Margareta
Sernbo

Logen Malmöhus Nr 643

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Göran och Catherine
Bringselius Nilsson

DD LL Nr 680 och VDM DL Nr 20

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
i USA, Kanada och Sverige

Knut Rosenkvist
Maj-Lis Friedman
Grand Lodge Deputy - DL Nr 20

Unite Members and Lodges
**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year**
to all our Vasa Friends in the
USA, Kanada and Sweden

Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt
and Inge Hallberg
SLPD - LL663 o LL751 Norrköping

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasavänner

i USA, Kanada och Sverige

Gunnar och Siv Mossberg
PGLMEB

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasavänner

Bertil och
Ann-Margreth Ericsson

GLMEB



Logen Nybyggarna Nr 698

Continued from page 15

idag är först och främst en geniutorpamiljö, där besökaren får en inblick i hur en småländsk torparfamilj hade det för 200 år sedan.

Under kaffet fick vi ytterligare information av en guide från *Långasjö Sockens Hembygdsförening* och en äldre gentleman spelande visor på sitt magdeburgerspel. Efter detta fortsatte färden vidare i *Utvandrarnas Väg* mot *Karlshamn*. Väl framme gick vi ner till hamnen för att se *utvandarstatyn, Karl-Oskar och Kristina*, som tittar ut över havet mot det stora landet i väster och som förhoppningsvis ska ge dem ett bättre liv. En ordenssykon berättade lite om statyn innan vi tog en samlingsbild. Här hade vår *"utvandar-resa"* nått sitt slut. Trötta med mycket nöjda var det dags för återfärd till Ängelholm.

Submitted by: Gunnar Hyberts

Vasamedlemmar besöker Kungsör

Den 8:e september passade Vasamedlemmar från Logen Enköping Nr 646 samt logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563 att delta i Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633:s utflykt till Kungsör. Kungsör ligger vid sydvästra delen av Mälaren inte långt från Eskilstuna.

Vi samlades i centrum av Kungsör för att sedan bege oss till biografen där vi skulle, genom Lars Modeén, son till Thor Modeén, få höra litet om en av Sveriges under 1930-50 talets mest välkända profiler och skådespelaren, Thor Modeén. Thor Modeén gjorde sammanlagt ca 100 filmer, varav 11 av dem var stumfilmer. Han uppträdde också inom teatern i Stockholm och var även i Finland på Svenska teatern och arbetade. Thor Modeén gick snabbt in i de Svenska hjärtat pga hans snabba repliker samt att han verkligen bjöd på sig själv. Han älskade att få sina motspelare att tappa masken. Tillsammans med Åke Söderblom, en ofta förekommande motspelare, gick de ibland under namnet "Sveriges Helan och Halvan."

Thor Modeén föddes 22/1 1898 i Kungsör och vid 17-18 års ålder flyttade han därifrån.

Han började sin karriär som dansare i Göteborg. Hans stora dröm, enligt sonen, var att en gång få göra *"Jeppe på Berget"*, men detta uppfylldes aldrig. Thor gifte sig med en skådespelerska vid namn Margaretha Sjöström, som var syster med

den välkända Ulla Billqvist, som blev känd under andra världskriget med sången *"Han som var min soldat, någonstans i Sverige."* Thor Modeén med maka Margaretha fick två barn, en son och en dotter. Under åren som aktör arbetade han hårt, och hade flera angång på gång samtidigt, filminspelning på dagen och teaterföreställning på kvällen. Enligt sonen var han en bra far som när tillfällen gavs, passade på att leka tillsammans med sina barn, samt förhörde sig om att det gick bra i skolan för dem.

Thor Modeén avled 28/5 1950, 52 år gammal av giftig gulsot och är begravd på Adolf Fredriks kyrkogård i Stockholm.

Vi deltagare som fått möjlighet att lyssna på Lars Modeén framförde ett varmt tack, innan vi övergick till att titta på bilder om Kungsör. Genom Bruno Widéns kunnskap fick vi lära oss mycket om staden. Därefter berättade Bruno vidare om Logen Kung Carl, Vasa Orden av Amerika, där hans mor en gång var

medlem. Logen fanns i Kungsör i början av 40-talet fram till ca början av 70-talet. Han visade bilder från logens verksamhet och utflykter under åren -46 och fram i början av 50-talet.

Detta upplevdes väldigt intressant och många av oss hade ingen vetskap om denna loge.

Efter besöket på biografen passade vi på att åka till Kung Karls kyrka i centrum, som Bruno berättade litet om. Kyrkan är ritad av den välkända arkitekten Nicodemus Tessin d.y. Kyrkan invigdes år 1700 och har fått sitt namn efter Kung Karl.

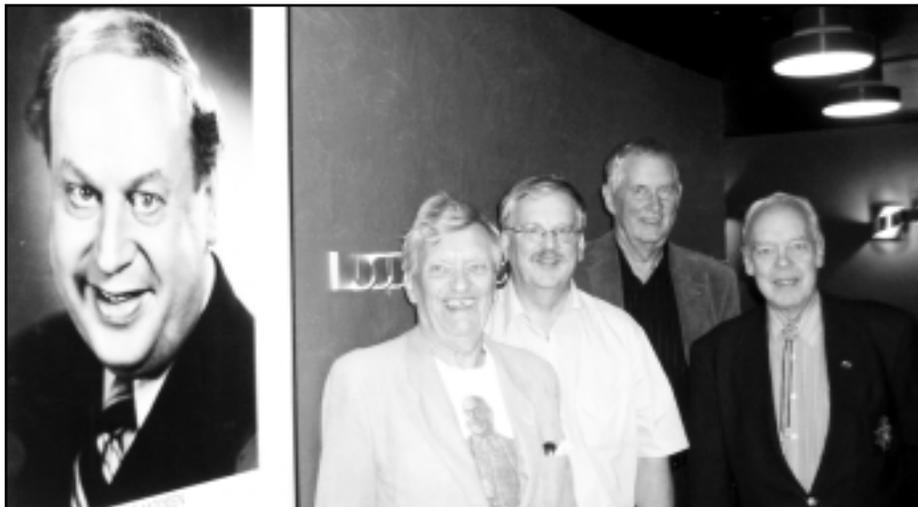
Vi avslutade dagen genom att ta en lunch och få information från br. Hans-Olof Söderström Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633 om vilka beslut som hade tagits under Storlogemötet i San Diego.

Ett varmt tack till logen Eskilstuna Nr 633 för en mycket intressant och givande dag!

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge



Visar deltagarna på denna utflykt stående inne i Kung Karls kyrka i Kungsör. Deltagare från Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633, Logen Enköping Nr 646, logen Mälardrottningen Nr 589 samt våra guider för dagen, Lars Modeén och Bruno Widén.



Tavlan föreställer Thor Modeén, bredvid står hans son Lars Modeén, LL 646 Karl-Erik Axelsson, föreläsare Bruno Widén, samt PS Hans-Olof Söderström, Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633.

Vadstena

Vasa Orden i Tiden skall inte vara något man bara säger utan också skall innebära att man handlar efter dem är vår DM Lisbeth H Qvarfordt ett levande bevis. Hon såg att Vadstena var en vit fläck på Vasa-kartan och beslöt sig för att här skulle bildas en loge.

Efter ett idogt research arbete under våren och sommaren, ivrigt påhejad och hjälpt av maken Inge, med affischering samt besök hos kommunala myndigheter, skolor och företag kunde hon konstatera ett positivt intresse hos många Vadstenabor, till en Vasaloge.

Den 7 september var det dags för informationsmöte i Odd Fellowhuset Vasaborgen, inte mindre ett 60-tal personer infann sig. Därtill kom Vasamedlemmar från Norrköping, Linköping och Stockholm. Logerna Bråviken Nr 751 och Filbyter Nr 714 kommer givetvis bli fadderloger till den nya logen.

Efter att Sy Lisbeth hälsat alla välkomna underhölls vi med ett skådespel med sång baserat på Vilhelm Mobergs utvandrarepos. Detta försatt de närvarande i rätt sinnesstämning och blev mycket uppskattat. Sy Lisbeth informerade därefter allmänt om Vasa Ordens tillkomst och organisation och vad som erfordrades för att starta en ny loge. Därefter informerade



“Tack för ett underbart fint framträdande,” säger SLPD Lisbet H Qvarfordt här tillsammans med Bo och Tina Frid, kvällens stora underhållare.

jag från Logen Filbyter och Sy. Viveka Skott från Logen Bråviken om verksamheten i respektive loger. Under informationen trakterades alla med kaffe och “fralla.”

Efter en frågestund med många frågor från gästerna och svar från Vasamedlemmarna, kunde ett mycket stort intresse konstateras för en Vadstenaloge. Många lämnade redan under kvällen

intresseanmälan för en fortsatt process.

Detta kommer att ske i form av ett upptaktsmöte inom 2-3 veckor. En sak är dock klar! Blir det en ny loge så är förtjänsten av detta helt och hållet Sy Lisbeths. Hon lever med Vasa Orden i tiden

**Submitted by: Arne Samuelsson,
Ordf Logen Filbyter #714,
DD Logen Bråviken #751
Photo by: Inge Hallberg**

YOUTH NEWS

Joining Donald Duck and James Herriot for a Christmas in Sweden

Related by (16-year-old) Carl Nelson, and written by his father, Steven Nelson

Christmas in Sweden! When I found out I was going to live in Sweden as a foreign exchange student, I was most excited to celebrate *Juletiden* in the true Swedish tradition. To be honest, I had some ideas about what to expect. I'd heard the Santa Lucia story and eaten plenty of Scandinavian food. But that was here in America. Now I would experience a true Swedish Christmas and discover if our traditions were true. Little did I realize that this Christmas with my host family would be unlike any other Christmas I – or they – had experienced before.

The unusual events unfolded December 22nd when our Swedish country farmhouse was slammed by a major snowstorm. The wind howled, the snow drifted, and outside temperature dropped well below zero. At three o'clock in the afternoon, the power went out. It made

me a little nervous, because my host family, the Walthers, live seven miles outside of the nearest town, Finspång. But my host dad Sten knew exactly what to do. He fired up an auxiliary furnace and built a fire in the fireplace for heat.

Later that same afternoon I snuggled into a soft chair near the warm crackling fire. Using light from two white candles, I read a James Herriot book about a time when the country veterinarian treated an ailing farm horse. The book was printed in Swedish, so I had to concentrate. To my amazement, we discovered that Nando, the Walther's horse, was feeling sick that very same day. It was rather eerie when I realized that some of the things we were doing to help Nando, were also described in the book. The whole time, Sten kept saying, “This is just like James Herriot, right Carl?”

Poor Nando was not doing well. He

got colic in his stomach and could not expel his food. From what Sten said, it was probably a twisted intestine, and Nando was in pain. We watched helplessly as Nando stamped his foot, and tried to scrape his heavy hoof into the concrete floor of the barn. The vet inserted a tube into his nose and down to his stomach. Through the tube we poured a paraffin water mixture, to loosen up his food. But he didn't like it. Once we removed the tube, Nando snorted blood and shook his head. Blood was everywhere.

Meanwhile, the power was still out and the blizzard continued to rage. Sweden is pretty dark in the dead of winter, even without a storm. Sten drove his car to the barn and turned on the headlights, in order generate some light. That helped, but the open doors of the barn ushered in frigid air and blowing snow.

Continued page 21

Joining Donald Duck and James Herriot for a Christmas in Sweden

Continued from page 20

Inside the horse's stall, we huddled close and held flashlights. Nando seemed to stay warm because he moved a lot. But the barn was bitter cold, and I got chilled to the bone.

Back inside the house, we lit candles for light. I remember eating cold noodles with ketchup for dinner that evening. The auxiliary furnace kept the house from freezing, and we used a wood stove to melt snow for water. We tried to give water to Nando, but he didn't want to drink. I remember going to bed at about 3 a.m., the morning of December 23rd. I was very tired.

Later that day, the rest of the family awakened early to help Nando. He had been a pet for as long as anyone could remember. By afternoon he seemed to rally, and expelled his food on the barn floor. The lights came back on, and everyone warmed up. We were encouraged that Nando would survive.

On Christmas Eve, relatives gathered at the Walther house. Strangely enough, we crowded around the television set before dinner to watch Donald Duck and other American cartoons. I discovered that this is a Christmas tradition all around Sweden. I laughed loudly and often at Donald and his friends. The Swedes in the room seemed much more passive about the slapstick cartoon comedy from America.

A few hours later, Christmas Eve dinner was served. Ragnhild and others had prepared an elaborate *Julbord* (Christmas Smorgasbord), and it was very tasty. My favorite was *Jansson's Temptation*, a hot dish made with anchovies, diced potatoes, mushrooms and cream. We also feasted on meatballs, pickled herring, fresh breads and cheeses, and *Julmust* (Christmas Coke).

But the levity was short lived. Before dinner was over, Sten entered the candle-lit dining room and quietly announced that Nando was struggling, and the vet would use a lethal injection to put him down. It was very sad. Each of us took one last trip to the barn to say goodbye to our good friend, Nando. There were many tears and much sadness by the loss of a family friend and pet. Nando was 27 years old. It was then I remembered that I had been the last person to ride him.

On Christmas day Sten borrowed a backhoe, dug a large hole behind the

barn, and gently buried him. In remembrance, the family kept a candle burning from the time he died until later the next spring. A few months later when the ground had thawed, my host brother Gustaf planted an apple tree as a memorial on the site that Nando was buried.

That was my Christmas, with the Walthers and Nando, in Sweden. It wasn't exactly what I expected ... but then, it wasn't what anybody expected. It was truly one of those once-in-lifetime experiences that we live through and work through, whether we want to or not; a memory I will surely tell my grandchildren some day ... as we gather around the fireplace some Christmas Eve and describe our most memorable Christmas ever.

Carl lived in Sweden for 11 months. He was 16 at the time. It was a fantastic experience, and it really shaped his understanding and character. Carl was selected to receive one of your scholarships last year, and he appreciates that award. He is a member of the Spokane Vasa club, out here in district #13.

Lindbergh Member Award Eagle Scout Rank



Edward F. Gullans was awarded the Eagle Scout rank at a recent Court of Honor. He is shown with his father, Carl R. Gullans, Sr., Chairman of Lindbergh Lodge #505, Dix Hills, NY. Carl is also an Eagle Scout as are his other two sons, Clifford and Carl, Jr. All three sons served as local lodge historians at Lindbergh Lodge before heading off to college. Their mother, Roseanne, and sister, Karyn, are also members. Karyn serves as the Birthday Card Chairman for the lodge.

Submitted by: Carl R. Gullans, Sr.

Nordikids First Annual Spring Queen

Nordikids Musikkubb (Lake Michigan #8) held their Annual Springfest on Sunday, April 30th, at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Lansing, IL. Sofia Nelson was crowned Nordikids first ever Spring Queen and performed *Majas Visa*. Sofia chose that song because it was sung to her mother (Annalise Gingold-Nelson) by her own mother and then later sung to Sofia.

Sofia Crystina Nelson is 10 years old and attends 5th grade at Merkley Elementary in Highland, IN. In school she is active in Kiwanis Kids, Student Council, Mediation Team, and the Academic Arts and Talented program (AATP). Sofia has been in Vasa Children's Clubs since she was born and was very honored to be the first 2006 Nordikids Spring Queen.

Sofia's maternal grandmother immigrated to America in the 1960s and paternal and great-grandparents around the turn of the century. Sofia loves fairies and all things magical.



Sofia Nelson with her crown.

On June 25th, Nordikids performed spring songs and ring dances at the Chellberg Farm and Bailey Homestead (historic landmarks) as a part of their Swedish Midsummer Celebration in Chesterton, Indiana. Every year the farm hosts several traditional Swedish Celebrations. Among the activities were the decorating and rising of the May Pole, Swedish dancing, and music.

Two Nordikid members, Marissa and Cara Sullivan, are relatives of the original owners of Chellberg Farm/Baily Homestead. Nordikids hopes to make this celebration a yearly event they enjoyed it so much. "If I didn't know it I would have thought I WAS in Sweden! Especially with the farm ... it was really great!!!" said Annelise Nelson.

Submitted by: Linnea Ogrenzt

Welcome To Our New Members

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

Tore Kellgren, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman

5971 W. Walbrook Dr.

San Jose, CA 95129

E-mail: tore@kellgren.org

GRAND LODGE JURISDICTION 0

Phoenix #677

Nelda Crowell

Janet Erdahl

Eva Stalbrand

Carl Widen #743

Susanne Hachberg

DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3

Pioneer #506

Ina Bischoff

Disa Johnson

Jim Ladouceur

Robyn Ladouceur

Jacqueline Luther

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Arlington #62

Gudrun Bavngaard

Diana Dubey

Karen Gardner

Emily Wisnewski

DL MINNISOTA NO. 7

Stenbock #138

Joyce Carlson

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Siljan-Mora Tuna #134

Andrea Wilczynski

Brahe #245

Colin Anderson

Dagnar Anderson

Joe Davis

Linda Davis

Esther Erickson

Patricia Gelasus

Jan Juric

Matthew Juric

Lillie Kramer

Sharon Lester

Kenneth Miller

Ina Miller

Lottie Nyquist

Richard Pearce

Carol Pearson

Durrell Pearson

Elsie Smith

Harold Smith

Lars Swing

Svea #253

Gerald Alfredson

Jan Alfredson

Dennis Danielson

Viljan #349

Carol Anderson

Larry Anderson

Ruth Philip

Linde #492

Kurt Andersson

Elizabeth Krill

Amy Pasley

Linde #496

Bo Axelsson

Lucille Anderson-Walker

Nordik Folk #761

Annalisa Blue

Daniel Blue

Glen Brown

Wendy Brown

Wayne Buwalda

Barbara Hannigan

Glenn Hannigan

Rachel Hannigan

Phyllis Kalajian

Ingrid Lesko

Les Lesko

Molly McDermott

Ruth Mertes

David Moline

Douglas Moline

Lynn Moline

Robert Moline

Annelise Nelson

April Nelson

Jodi Nicola

Jean Oak

Jean Ogrentz

Linnea Ogrentz

Timothy Ogrentz

Liza Pearson

Michael Pearson, Jr.

Michael Pearson, Sr.

Beth Raddatz

Frederick Raddatz

Herbert Smith, Jr.

Herbert Smith, Sr.

Lynda Smith

Jason Sinwelski

Lynnea Sinwelski

Jenny Stoica

Heidi Sullivan

John Sullivan

Joyce Svendson

Jim Wadkins

Michelle Wadkins

Elsa Welton

Michelle Westlund

Steven Westlund

DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

Nobel-Monitor #130

James Minier

R.D. Nordgren

GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Framat #405

Erik Eriksson

Florence Eriksson

Elizabeth Hopkirk

Howard Tilsner

Sveaborg #449

Robert Jones

Carol Landey

Loken Maud

Elmer Meyer

Orlonda Meyer

Jakob Moppin

Florence Worcester

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Svea #296

Joanne Carlburg

Frank Hirt

Nornan #413

Jessica Lahti

Cariboo #690

Kathy Kortzman

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Evening Star #426

Courtney Galschioldt

Mayflower #445

Brigitte Bundgard

Reynold Bundgard

Angela Henderson

Kathryn Henderson

Pamela Henderson

Rex Henderson

Carina Johansson

Jens Johansson

Rolf Johansson

Northern Light #620

Mildred Dankert

Jim DeVries

Kerry DeVries

Viveke Kjoelhede

Jean Peckfelder

Oak Leaf #685

Leonard Smith

DL CENTRAL CANADA

Strindberg #259

Kevin Wantzing

DL ARIZONA NO. 21

Scandia #728

Leanne Alden

Hillevi Baer

Joanne DeMent

Geraldine Garrison

Gerogene Towne

*Advertise
in the Vasa Star*

CULTURE

A Christmas Memory

The following story is from 1921 when my father died of the Spanish flu, which was a disaster to our family. We were now five, my mother and four children, two boys and two girls. At that time there was neither widow's pension nor family allowance and that is why we got very poor.

Oscar, 16, was seldom at home, as he had a job and a girl friend. My brother Emil, 11, had for a long time been ill from the Spanish flu, too, and near death. My sister Matilda, 14, had to leave school to start working instead, to help our family survive. I was the youngest one, 9 years old.

Matilda was lucky having gotten a job in a brand new café, started in our little town by two elderly ladies from Stockholm. The café was, of course, modern. Everything was fashionable, 'Stockholm style'; wallpaper, furniture, curtains and pictures, to say nothing of the confectionery. There were many kinds of pastry; cakes, cookies, Danish pastry, and homemade chocolates and sweets, everything decorated and exposed in the most delicious way. No wonder the café was quickly very popular, a meeting place for the rich and fashionable.

In December they had so many customers and so much to do in the bakery and café that the two owners asked Matilda if her sister could come to help them a few hours a day. My mother said yes.

I was very happy to be able to earn some money for the first time in my life. So I ran to the café every day after school to be an errand-girl. If one of the owners was in a good mood it happened she gave me an Old Danish pastry or a burnt cookie. The owners were both very economical, but I was happy.

Some days before Christmas Eve, the Misses Jonsson invited all the staff to a party in their home, and even me! I couldn't believe it, as I had only been working for a few weeks. At four o'clock on Christmas Eve, when the shops had closed, the party was to begin. To come into the owners' flat was very exciting, and to see the big dinner table was even more exciting. On the table there were all the traditional dishes belonging to a Christmas dinner; Christmas ham and all

the other good things made from the pig, such as headcheese and sausages, liver paste, and veal headcheese, omelette, and many kinds of bread and cheese. At the dinner a maid, dressed in black, served. Strangely enough, she was asked to sit down at the table eating too.

At 7 o'clock Matilda and I thought it was time to go home. But no, we had to remain sitting at the table as coffee and a cake covered with whipping cream were now being served. Later on we had fruit and sweets. This was really an excellent Christmas party! But I felt sorry thinking of my mom and brother who were waiting for us at home. I looked at my sister and she looked at me, we were both anxious. Finally Matilda said we had better go home to our family, but the two owners got very angry. "They had done all this for us to show what a real Christmas dinner was like, and we didn't want to stay with them any longer." We felt terrible when we left and we felt even worse when we looked up at the church clock. It was 10 o'clock! We ran all the way home.

There, at the kitchen table, my mom and brother sat waiting with the traditional 'rice pudding' ready since long. They hadn't started to eat as they had hoped we would come and join them, and so we did. Although I had had more than enough to eat, Mom's Christmas porridge with milk, sugar and cinnamon tasted wonderful. The luxury dinner we had had before was nothing at all compared to the simple dinner at our kitchen table, which was decorated with red candles and pine branches. I was happy to be with my mom, my sister and brother. When we as usual sang *Silent Night, Holy Night* I felt most grateful and happy to be with the people I loved the most.

That's my mother's story from long ago. The good old days were not always that good.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, DCL DL 20

Ett Julminne

Följande berättelse är från 1921, då min pappa hade dött i spanska sjukan, vilket blev en katastrof för vår familj. Vi var nu fem kvar i familjen; mamma och fyra barn, två pojkar och två flickor. På den tiden fanns det varken änkepension eller barnbidrag, så vi blev verkligen fattiga. Oskar, 16, var sällan hemma, då han hade fått jobb och en flickvän. Min bror Emil, 11, hade länge varit sjuk i spanska sjukan han också, och varit nära att dö. Min syster Matilda, 14, var tvungen att sluta i flickskolan, där hon just kommit

in. I stället måste hon börja arbeta för att hjälpa till med försörjningen. Jag var yngst och 9 år.

Matilda var glad då hon hade fått jobb i ett alldeles nytt konditori, som två äldre damer från Stockholm hade öppnat i vår lilla stad. Konditoriet var naturligtvis modernt. Allting var fashionabelt och storstadsaktigt; tapeter, möbler, gardiner och taylor, för att inte tala om alla godsaker de sålde. Det fanns många sorters bakelser, tårter, småkakor, wienerbröd och hemgjord konfekt. Allt var utsökt dekorerat och läckert upplagt. Det var inte underligt att konditoriet snart blev mycket populärt och en mötesplats för s.k. fint folk.

I december hade de så mycket kunder och så mycket att göra både i bageriet och konditoriet att ägarna bad Matilda fråga sin syster om hon kunde komma och hjälpa till några timmar om dagen. Mamma sade ja. Jag blev så lycklig för att kunna tjäna lite pengar för första gången i mitt liv. Så varje dag efter skolans slut sprang jag till konditoriet för att arbeta som springflicka. Om någon av 'tanterna' var på gott humör, hände det att hon gav mig ett gammalt wienerbröd eller en bränd kaka, som inte gick att sälja. Båda ägarna var lika sparsamma, men jag var lycklig.

Några dagar före jul bjöd fröknarna hela sin personal att komma på fest i deras hem, och även jag blev inbjuden. Jag kunde inte tro det, eftersom jag bara hade arbetat ett par veckor. Klockan 4 på julafton, då affärerna stängt, skulle festen börja. Bara att få komma in i fröknarnas våning var spännande, och ännu mera att få se det stora middagsbordet. På bordet fanns alla de traditionella rätter som hör hemma på ett julbord; julskinka och mycket annat gott man gör av griskött, såsom pressylta och olika sorters korv. Där fanns leverpastej och kalvskylta, omelett och många sorters bröd och ost. Vid middagen serverade hembiträdet, klädd i svart. Underligt nog fick hon också sitta med vid bordet och äta.

Klockan 7 tyckte Matilda och jag att det var dags att gå hem. Men inte, vi måste sitta kvar vid bordet eftersom det nu serverades kaffe och gräddtårta. Senare fick vi frukt och godis. Detta var verkligen en fantastisk julbjudning! Men jag kände mig ledsen, när jag tänkte på min mamma och bror, som satt hemma och väntade på oss. Jag tittade på min syster, och hon tittade på mig, och vi var

Continued on page 24

Ett Julminne

Continued from page 23

båda oroliga. Till sist sade Matilda, att vi var tvungna att gå hem till vår familj, men då blev båda fröknarna mycket förargade." De hade gjort allt detta för oss för att visa hur en riktig julmiddag skulle vara, och så ville vi inte stanna längre hos dem."

Vi kände oss väldigt illa till mods när vi gick. Vi mådde ännu sämre när vi kom ut och fick se klockan i kyrktornet. Klockan var 10 ! Så vi sprang hela vägen hem.

Där, vid köksbordet, satt mamma och Emil och väntade på oss med den traditionella julgröten för länge sedan färdig. De hade inte börjat äta, eftersom de hade hoppats att vi skulle komma hem och äta tillsammans med dem, och det gjorde vi. Fastän jag hade ätit alldeles för mycket tidigare, smakade mammas julgröt, med socker och kanel, underbart. Den lyxmiddag vi hade fått var ingenting alls mot den enkla maten vid vårt köksbord, som var dekorerat med röda ljus och tallris. Jag var så lycklig att få vara med min mamma, min syster och bror. När vi som vanligt på julafton sjöng *Stilla Natt*, *Heliga Natt* kände jag mig mycket tacksam och lycklig att få vara tillsammans med de människor jag tyckte mest om.

Detta var min mammas berättelse från en tid för länge sedan. Den gamla goda tiden var inte alltid så god.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, DKL DL 20

Christmas 1944

My name is David Ostrom. I was born Oct. 7, 1914, in Brooklyn, NY. My family moved to Woodbury, CT, when I was three and then to Bethany, CT, where I went to school in a one-room schoolhouse for 6 years before going on and graduating from Ansonia High School. I joined Vasa in my early teens.

In 1944 I was inducted into the Army Air Corps 301st Bomber Squadron and took training at Shepard Field, TX, Denver, CO, and Harvard, NE. I trained as a gun turret specialist for the B-29 Bombers. The training in Harvard, NE, took place during 1944 and that resulted in what turned out to be my favorite Christmas. My wife, Lois, was able to join me in Harvard. The neighbors were German and they invited us for Christmas Eve Dinner. I remember that the dinner menu included a home grown chicken

and mince meat pie. Later that evening, the neighbors took us to the Christmas Eve Service at the German Church. Lois had taken a job in Harvard, but whenever I was off duty her employer permitted her to take time off.

On completing training I was shipped out to Guam where he was stationed until the end of the war. I recall that the B-29's flying from Guam to Japan and back required the entire day.

Recently I had a pleasant reunion at Ashlar Retirement Community with another member of the 301st. We were able to recall many memories. For me, one of my fondest memories is Christmas 1944, in a small farming community called Harvard, Nebraska.

David Ostrom

David is a 70-year member of Diana Birger Jarl #3 and, in fact, just celebrated his 92nd birthday.

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren,
DL Connecticut #1



Superstition and Lore Surrounding Christmas Preparations

By Ann-Marie Kinnison
Tucson Lodge #691

I think most of you know quite a bit about Christmas traditions in Sweden, and also have your own traditions, which your relatives brought to the U.S. when they emigrated. Traditions vary depending on which region they come from. They also date back to many different times in history from antiquity via the Middle Ages up to our present time. During the course of history the most significant customs have been woven together to make the festive and glorious Christmas we know today.

The food at Christmas time was always of great importance. Since the fall had passed, the work was done; it was time for recreation to enjoy some fun, fresh food, newly brewed ale and bread baked from freshly ground flour.

Superstition

Because people in the olden days believed in spirits, gnomes, and trolls there were certain ways to do the chores, so nothing would go wrong. This superstition was evident to a certain degree even after Christianity was established.

Continued on page 25



Välkommen hem!

Welcome home to your Swedish roots!

A road map will make your travels in Sweden a lot easier.

A family-map of your roots will add other kinds of value to your travel.

Maybe your long lost relatives are waiting for you where it all started?

Or maybe you are just curious about where and what kind of life your old folks lived in that little country far up north, by the arctic circle?

The House of Genealogy, non-profit but professional, can help you discover your Swedish roots. Our experienced researchers have access to church-records from all over Sweden and to all necessary databases. We have a nationwide network that makes the search more effective.

Within two weeks from your first request you will have an answer from us. If you wish to continue working with us you will an almost complete answer within two months.

Our research-fee is \$25.00US per hour plus expenses.

Read more about us on www.genhouse-sweden.com. Contact us for further information.



Insjövägen 52 • 793 33 Leksand • Tel 0247-122 80 • e-post: leksand@genhouse-sweden.com

Superstition and Lore

Continued from page 24

So – what are the real backgrounds to all the traditions, which we still cherish today? We know that Swedes love their “julbord” or Christmas smörgåsbord, the lutfisk (at least some love it), the rice pudding, rice porridge, Tomte, Lucia, etc. I want to tell you what I have found in my Swedish books about some of their origins.

Meat

To start out: Why is so much pork in various forms served? The HERVARAR Saga from around 900 A.D. describes how promises and vows were made to the fertility god Frej at the Midwinter festival and a pig was sacrificed in his honor. Did you know you had such barbaric ancestors? Undoubtedly these old ways have had an impact on today’s customs. Another explanation is that October always was the month for slaughter. Meat was salted down to keep for a whole year until next October. However, a pig or two were saved, and a couple of weeks before Christmas during the time of the new moon, they were slaughtered. The new moon would make the meat tender and last longer. It was the men’s job, and always done before sun-up. The expression “svinotta” meaning very early morning, derives from this. For the women it was no small job to take care of the meat, nothing should be wasted: the hams were cooked, the heads and legs made great head cheese, the ribs were roasted, the feet boiled and served in their jelly, the fat and liver made wonderful liverwurst, and then there were all the different kinds of sausage.

Lutfisk

During the Middle Ages, the weeks before Christmas were a time for fasting in accordance to the Catholic church. Dried fish and porridge was the every day food. Lutfisk probably came about by mistake when someone dropped a dried fish by accident into a vat of lye (used for making soap), and realized that it became soft and palatable. December 8, the Anna Day (names-day) was the day the dried fish had to be put in soaking tub. The “History of the Nordic People” written by Olaus Magnus in the early 1500’s states: Above all the Nordic People eat dried fish. All this fish is stacked like wood in a woodpile. When one now wants to prepare this fish for human consumption, it is left to soak in lye for two days and in water for one day, so it will soften. When it has been cooked with salt and butter, this well-

liked and delicious fare “could be served even at the table of the prince.”

Ale

December 8 was also the day to start brewing the ale, which also was the women’s job. The woman who brewed the best ale became widely famous. Bewitched ale was an abomination. To prevent disaster, the women would make a fire in the first vat, to drive out anything evil which might lurk there, and a piece of iron, often used to guard against evil spirits, was thrown in the vat. All this took place while everyone yelled and cheered. The word “water” could not be mentioned, nor anything dirty or sour. The brewers must look very stern. You can imagine how important it was that the Christmas brew turned out the best!

Bake

Then of course there was the baking which took several days. It was a major production so there would be enough to give away and also so it would last till springtime. A special Christmas bread called a “såkaka” or sewing-bread was on display and not eaten during Christmas and was later kept in the grain bin until spring to ensure a good harvest. The shapes of the saffron buns we enjoy today, the oxen, the horse (kuse), the Christmas cross, the ram etc., were believed to have magical powers. The sweet cookies we know today were not made in the olden days. Instead deep-fried cookies, some with honey, became special treats.

Share

To give and to share was always a part of Christmas. The poor who came to the farms, always left with a bread, a taste of the Christmas food and a candle in their bundle.

Candles

Speaking of candles: The slaughter also produced plenty of lard for making candles, which were a necessity as well as a luxury in every-day life. The wicks were made of a special yarn; the thicker the wick, the better the light, but it also meant shorter burning time. The miser used thin wicks. In a diary from Stockholm 1803, Märta Helena Reenstierna described how she and helpers worked for 12 hours dipping candles, which resulted in over 2000. Candles with several arms were traditional

for Christmas. There would be one arm for each child so in a family with many kids, the candles could be magnificent! Naturally candle-dipping was surrounded by superstition and lore. For instance: it was not permissible to let out a little fart, it would make the candles spark. You could not cry either, then the candles would run. Everyone had to be cheerful and happy. The tradition to make candles is still a popular pre-Christmas pastime in Sweden. And what would Christmas be without candles!

Straw

Another way to bring festivity and Christmas peace into the home was to put a fresh layer of straw (the finest) on the floor, a custom dating back to the Viking era. It was called “julglädje” – Christmas joy, and the fragrant straw became a wonderful tumble-ground for young and old, who played the traditional games we still love today. Much superstition was connected with straw as well as with customs surrounding it. A sort of bird, julgöppan, was fashioned. Someone in the family put it on the floor and laid down himself with the bird behind his head. Then he threw his legs over his head, picked up the bird with his feet and threw it towards the door. If the bird landed with its head towards the door someone in the house would die the next year, but if it landed in the opposite direction, the family could expect an addition. Many beautiful decorations were made from the straw and from wood shavings, among other good luck birds – much like the biblical doves of peace. These also

Continued on page 26



Swedish Recipes
Dinner Planning Made Easy
Great Gift Ideas
www.morethanmeatloaf.com



NORDartDESIGN
Handcrafted reindeer leather bracelets from Swedish Lapland
nordartdesign.com



FOLK DANCE BOOKLET
Step-by-step instructions for 37 Scandinavian folk dances.
Includes sheet music - Also CD with 20 dances.
Keep Folk Dancing Alive
Order copy - \$20 – Contact Lennart Johansson, P.G.L.O.
910-383-3007 email: LenJohansson@att.net

Superstition and Lore

Continued from page 25

hung sometimes above the pulpit in church. At the end of the 19th century it was forbidden to have straw on the floor because of the fire hazard, but the custom to make beautiful decorations of straw (still) remains today.

Tomas Dagen

Until 1772, the 21st of December, the names-day of Tomas, was a holiday. Then, if not before, the Christmas ale should be ready for tasting. That day the Christmas poles, forerunners of our more modern trees, should be raised. The poles were de-barked spruce trees with a bunch of twigs left at the top. The sign for the Tomas-day in the old Rune-calendar was two crossed poles, or the day could be marked with a tankard or a barrel. Often fairs were held that day. Contracts were canceled for the coming year. According to old beliefs even the rats should be “canceled.” People ran around their houses hitting the walls and shouting that now it was moving day for the rats, and they were also told to which farm they should move – (to non-popular neighbors)!!

Bath

When all the preparations were finished, it was time for the yearly Christmas bath. Everyone, from the head of the house to children and farmhands bathed in the same water – probably in that order! – and then dressed in clean clothes.

All the heavy work was done, all was in order on the farm, and the “julfrid” – Christmas peace – was announced. Neighbors visited to taste the Christmas ale. Now the festivities could start with larks and games, among others, in later years, the “julbock,” Christmas goat, and the Tomte would pay a visit.

Tomten

The “Tomte” or Santa we know today, is a blend of Sankt Nikolaus, who traveled around with his goat, and of our own little gnome. The goat was considered evil, but later he became tamer, a funny figure with lots of pranks. He was often made into a straw figure. In several parts of Sweden, someone would dress up as a goat: fur, beard, horns and all, and come with small gifts on Christmas Eve. But the main source for our Tomte is the small, seldom seen, gray figure who lived on the farm all year round. He was a supernatural spirit; which everyone respected. All would be well if he were treated right. He had no sense of humor and was easily offended. He did not tolerate laziness, drunkenness nor indecent behavior, and therefore would sometimes move away from the

farm if he disapproved, taking the good luck with him. There are stories about destitute people who had to leave their homes because they had a falling out with the “Tomte.” He also was no friend to the children, who were scared stiff of him. But he cared for everyone and always did good things and kept the farm prosperous. He cared especially for the animals, who got extra food on Christmas Eve. In return and to keep him in good spirit, he was given a bowl of porridge.

In 1875, Victor Rydberg’s Christmas

story for children was published and illustrated by the artist Jenny Nyström, who transformed the old Tomte into a smiling, gift giving one, with gray clothes and a red cap. But – even so – don’t think you can misbehave during the year!! Tomten can hear you and if you have been bad, you won’t get any gifts on Christmas Eve!

There is more to tell and to learn, but I hope this little talk has let you feel your roots!! Thank you and God Jul!!

Submitted by: Ann-Marie Kinnison

Tomten

We are approaching the Christmas holiday and I thought some of you might be interested in *Tomten* or *Jul Tomten*? A *tomte* or *nisse* is a Mythical creature of Scandinavian folklore, believed to take care for a farmer’s home and barn and protect it from misfortune, in particular at night, when the house folk were asleep. *Tomte* is the common Swedish language name, derived from his place of residence and area of influence: the house lot or *tomt*. *Nisse* is the common name in Norwegian language, Danish language and the Scanian dialect in southernmost Sweden; it is a Nickname for Nils, and its usage in folklore comes from expressions such as *Nisse god dreng* (“Nisse good lad/boy,” cf. Robin Good fellow).

The *tomte* was often imagined as a small, elderly man (exact size varies from a few inches to about half the height of an adult man) with a full beard, gray or white; dressed in ordinary, gray clothing, with the exception of a bright-red knitted cap. As he was thought to be skilled in illusions and able to make himself invisible, one was unlikely to get more than brief glimpses of him, though.

Despite his smallness, the *tomte* possessed an immense strength, and even though he was protective and caring, he was easy to offend, and his retributions ranged from a stout box on the ears to other mischief. Like many other mythical creatures, one was also required to please him with gifts – but this gift was a bowl of porridge or Rice pudding on Christmas night. If he wasn’t given his payment, he would leave the farm or house which couldn’t survive without his nightly chores, or engage in mischief, such as tying the cows’ tails together in the barn, turning objects upside-down, and breaking things (cf. Poltergeist).

The tomte liked his porridge with a pat of butter on the top. In an often-retold story, a farmer put the butter *underneath* the porridge. When the tomte of his farm-

stead found that the butter was missing, he went straight on and killed all the cattle resting in the barn. But, as he thus became hungry, he went back to his porridge and began eating it, and so found the butter at the bottom of the bowl. Full of grief, he then hurried to a far away land with Magic cattle, milking much better than the ones he had put to death, and replaced the latter with the former. And so they lived happily ever after.

The *tomte* shares many aspects with other Scandinavian Wights, such as the Swedish *vättar* or the Norwegian *tusser*. These beings are social, however, whereas the tomte is always solitary. Some synonyms of *tomte* include *gårdbo* (yard-dweller) and *gardvor* (yard-warden). The tomte could also take a ship for his home, and was then known as a *skeppstomte/skibsnisse*. In other European folklore, there are many beings similar to the tomte, such as the Scots *Brownie*, the German *Wichtelmann* or the Russian *Domovoi*. The Finnish word *Tonttu* has been borrowed from Swedish.

The *tomte* is one of the most familiar creatures of Scandinavian folklore, and he has appeared in many works of Scandinavian literature. In the English editions of the fairy tales of H. Andersen the word *nisse* has been translated as “Goblin.”

The close association between the tomte, kindness (his usual attitude) and Christmas made it natural for Haddon Sundblom to use him in his design of the modern Scandinavian-American version of Santa Claus, as marketed by the Coca-Cola Company: a full sized man with all red clothes and white beard. In Scandinavia, *Jultomten* or *Julenissen* (Santa) is helped by toy-making *tomtenissar* rather than elves, as well.

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren
Source: Wikipedia

Christmas Recipes

Christmas Ham

Ingredients for serving 6 persons

- 1 Precooked ham
- 1 egg yolk
- 3/4 cup whole-seed sweet mustard
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup crushed gingersnap cookies

This is how you do it:

Mix the egg yolk and mustard in a bowl and spread the mixture evenly over the ham. Sprinkle with the bread crumbs and crushed gingersnaps. Heat the oven to 475 F (250 C) or make it golden brown with a kitchen blowtorch. (The bread crumbs should become golden brown.) If you use the oven, 5 to 10 minutes should be enough. Serve the ham at room temperature with sautéed cabbage and mustard.

Sautéed Cabbage

Ingredients for serving 8 persons

- 1 head green cabbage
- 1 finely chopped onion
- 1 cup apple juice
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup or honey
- Butter for frying
- Salt and pepper

This is how you do it:

Slice the cabbage thinly and sauté over medium heat together with the onion for a couple of minutes. Mix in the apple juice, balsamic vinegar, cinnamon sticks and syrup. Cover and let simmer until the cabbage softens. This will take about 15 minutes. Remove the lid and season with salt and pepper.

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren

tracks, can now be remembered as part of the community. **Ernest Kvarnberg**, President and his executive placed an official plaque on the Calmar post office. **Jean McIntosh**, a Leduc artist, was commissioned to paint the image. Funding for this project came from an Alberta Centennial Legacies grant.

Ernest Kvarnberg, a brother to **Verna Larson**, is also a grave dowser. With this thin copper wires out over the graves in the 100-year-old cemetery, 15 Km west of Leduc. Kvarnberg is conducting his work with the caretaker **Rick Nyman**. Records list the names and dates of death but graves are unmarked. He found 76 sites marked as old graves but without markers. Grave dowsing is similar to water dowsing, or water witching, a centuries old practice used to find a leak in a pipe or a good location for a well.

Submitted by: Mrs. Linnea Lodge,
Skandia Lodge #549,
Edmonton, Alberta



*Ring klocka ring i bistra nyårsnatten
mot rymdens norrskenssky och markens
snö;
det gamla året lägger sig att dö...
Ring själaringning över land och vat-
ten,
Ring in det nya och ring ut det gamla
och årets första skälvande minut,
Ring lögnens makt från världen grän-
ser ut,
och ring in sanningens till oss som fam-
lat.*

Archives News



Dagny Svensson from Thule Lodge #467 and Maidie Karling from Golden Valley #616, both District #15 lodges, made a special trip while visiting Chicago to see the Archives. They were so impressed and had heard so much about it that they had no problem driving the 3-4 hours to visit. They are standing next to the *ryarugs* depicting their favorite province shields featured in one of our exhibit rooms.

Submitted by: Lillemor and Richard
Horngren



HAPPENINGS

Calmar Historical Society

As part of the celebration of the Calmar Historical Society, a mural was unveiled which had been painted on the

Calmar Post Office. It is important to the society that the four grain elevators, which once stood beside the railroad



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

CALIFORNIA

JANICE LAREE STAUFFER passed away on July 20, 2006, in Woodland Hills, CA. She was born in Salt Lake City, UT, on December 11, 1938. Janice was a member of Oak Leaf Lodge #685 in Thousand Oaks, CA, where she served as Financial Secretary. She is survived by husband Gerald, 2 children and 7 grandchildren.

ILLINOIS

KARIN M. LINDMARK died on August 21, 2006, at the age of 104. She was born in Göteborg, Sweden, on June 10, 1902, and was a member of Siljan-Mora-Tuna Lodge #134, joining the Vasa Order in 1938. Her husband, Algot, passed away in 1982. She is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters and sons-in-law, 7 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and other relatives in the U.S. and Sweden.

HELEN L. McKNIGHT died on May 19, 2006, at the age of 92. She was born on October 20, 1913, and was a member of Siljan-Mora-Tuna Lodge #134, joining the Vasa Order in 1944. She is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 9 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandson and 1 nephew.

MICHIGAN

AUDREY DAVIDSON, died June 11, 2006. She was a 19-year member of Satellite Lodge #661. Although confined to a wheelchair, she was active in the local University community, as a music professor and founder of the Society for Old Music. She is survived by her husband, Clifford Davidson, also a retired WMU faculty member.

ROGER OLSON, died on May 27, 2006. He was a 15-year member of Satellite Lodge #661, Past Chairman and was also very active on the District level until he resigned due to health reasons. He is survived by his wife Carol, 3 children, and 8 grandchildren.

HELEN WESTLUND died on June 12, 2006. She was a 25-year member of Satellite Lodge #661, and had held several positions, including 13 years as Historian. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth E. Long, 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

NEBRASKA

ROLAND STEN BERGLUND, born May 15, 1926, and passed away September 5, 2005, at the age of 79 years. Roland is survived by his wife, Helen; daughters Gayle, Joyce and Carol, and 8 grandchildren. Roland joined Omaha Lodge #330 on November 10, 1984.

DOROTHY LARSEN, born April 16, 1931, passed away July 27, 2005, at the age of 74 years. She is survived by her sisters Alvina Hjortsvang, Ruth and Duane Benson; brothers Arthur, Irvin and Bobette, sister-in-law Shirley Larsen; nieces, nephews and cousins. She joined Omaha Lodge #330 in 2003.

NEW YORK

NAIMA MAZEAU entered eternal life on August 18, 2006, she was born February 27, 1929. She leaves husband Jerry, 9 children, Stig, Zoeann, Rene, Doris, Diana, Mary, Linda, Jere, and Paul. She is grandmother of 19, and a great-grandmother of 2. Naima joined Lindbergh Lodge January 24, 1959, and was a member for 47 years.

TAGE GUSTAV SANDBERG, (Sandy), entered eternal life on August 15, 2006, he was born in Sweden on November 6, 1914. Sandy was a VASA member for 36 years. He joined Lindbergh Lodge #505 on March 6, 1970. He leaves behind his wife Mildred, daughters, Signe, Ingrid, and Christle, 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grand children.

OHIO

JUANITA E. CARLSON, 78, of Akron, OH, and a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130, died August 12, 2006. She was born March 8, 1928, in Cleveland, OH, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on February 11, 1996. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Clarence F. ("Chic") Carlson; sons, Mark C. (Dimity) Carlson and Bruce A. Carlson; daughter, Elaine K. (Fred) Wolf; brother John (Rose) Day; sister, Gladys (Eddie) Triplett, and 9 grandchildren.

LEOMA JUNE JOHNSON passed away July 7, 2006, at Rockynol in Akron, OH. She was born on June 14, 1913, in Youngstown, OH, and was initiated into Harmony Lodge #465 on May 8, 1948. She is survived by 2 daughters, Linda Pearson and Kari Howells, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

HAZEL M. KUNTZ passed away August 7, 2006, in Youngstown, OH. She was born on August 8, 1916, in Debois, PA, and was initiated into Harmony Lodge #465 on May 23, 1959. Her husband, Fred B. Kuntz, preceded her in death. She is survived by a son, Alan D. Kuntz, 2 grandchildren, Jennifer Pimpinella and Tricia Heasley and one great-grandson, Palton Heasley.

BERT A. NORDER, 89, of Hudson, OH, died on July 5, 2006. He was born on July 25, 1916, in Hagfors, Sweden and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on November 23, 1934. He was a Life Member. Survivors are his wife of 11 years, Ella (Fredriksen); son, Robert H. (Patricia J.) Norder of Chardon; grandchildren Brian, Keith, April, and Wendy; and 7 great-grandchildren. His first wife, Edna C. (Johnson) and son, Bert F. Norder, both died in 1992.

ALVY B. THORSELL (nee Norbo), 89, beloved wife of the late Roy C., died July 27, 2006. She was born in Sweden on April 7, 1917, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on November 8, 1997. She was the dear mother of Evelyn Gardner (James H.),

Elaine Markey (Timothy), Roy C. E. (Carol); grandmother of James E. Gardner, Rebecca O'Linn, Jennifer Steffens, Roy C. E. Jr., and Alanna Thorsell; great-grandmother of Samantha, Jimmy, C.J., Lynda, Mitchell, and Katie, and sister of the late John Norbo.

OREGON

LELAND E. WESTLEY passed away on August 5, 2006, in Astoria, OR, at the age of 86. Leland was born in Astoria, OR, on May 20, 1920, and was initiated into Astor Lodge #215 in Astoria, OR, on February 12, 1998. He is survived by his son, Kurt, 2 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and 1 brother.

PENNSYLVANIA

ELSA DAGMAR ANDERSON, 82, passed away on May 19, 2006, in Australia, where she was born on July 9, 1923. She joined Oscars Borg Lodge #172 on October 17, 1980, while living in Pennsylvania. We will miss hearing from our "over-seas" member.

WASHINGTON

INGA ANDERSON, born in 1915 in Mountain Iron, MN, passed away on August 4, 2006. She was a member of Frihet Lodge #401 in Seattle, WA. Inga is survived by 3 daughters, Melin, Gretchen and Sigrid, 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, and relatives in Ostersund, Sweden.

GUNBORG BACKMAN, 90, died on July 25, 2006, in Longview, WA. She was born on March 25, 1916, in Ramvik, Sweden. She joined Svea Lodge #469 on October 9, 1934. Survivors include a sister, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

WISCONSIN

ELNA KINGSTAD (nee Bostrom), 100 years of age, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family and pets on April 10, 2006. Loving mother of 2 sons and 11 grandchildren. Also loved by 19 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends. Elna had been a Linde Lodge #492 member for 15 years and will be missed by all.

CANADA

VIOLET AGNES CURRIE was born in 1920 in Orion AB, Canada. She passed away July 13, 2006, in Calgary, AB. Violet joined Lodge Branting #417 on February 14, 1975, and was an Honorary Member. She was predeceased by husband, Neil. She is survived by daughter Sharon and Dr. M. Shewchuchuk plus grandchildren and 2 sisters.

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.



At SAS, we believe enjoying a thoroughly comfortable flight also means being comfortable with the fare. So on our fleet of Airbus A340s and A330s, you'll enjoy one of the widest choices of services and amenities in the air, now including inflight Wi-Fi service – SAS Net Access. Our schedule includes the most nonstops to Scandinavia's major hubs. Plus we offer convenient connections to 85 cities throughout the rest of Scandinavia and Europe. And we offer it to you all for a fare that serves your budget very well. For our latest fares and specials, call SAS at 800-221-2350.

www.flysas.com

Your legs have room to stretch.
Your budget has room to breathe.



Scandinavian Airlines

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

The Christmas Gift That Keeps Coming All Year Long...

Vestkusten is a thoughtful gift for anybody with connections to the Swedish-American community on the West Coast – perhaps yourself? For only \$30.00 per year Vestkusten is dropped into the mailbox twice a month (except for August and January 1) keeping you – or somebody you want to give a really long-lasting gift – updated with news from Sweden, arts & culture, politics, events, business, and sports.

Give us a call and we'll send you a sample copy.
Or better yet, give yourself and somebody you care about a one-year subscription for only \$30.00. We'll send a Gift Acknowledgement with the first issue if you like.



Vestkusten



1 YEAR
\$30.00

2 YEARS
\$55.00

1 YEAR TO SWEDEN
\$55.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

PHONE _____

Check for \$ _____ enclosed

Please return coupon to:
Vestkusten
237 Ricardo Road
Mill Valley, CA 94941-2517
415-381-5149



Rolf Bergman

Dr. Rolf S. Bergman

Grand Master

Rolf was born in Älvsbyn, a small city on the Piteå river, in the province/län of Norrbotten, Sweden. Norrbotten is the farthest north län in Sweden with almost half its area above the Arctic Circle. In June, 1951 – at age 10 – his family immigrated to the USA, settling in Two Harbors, MN, where the family of his mother's sister was living. He began school in the USA in fifth grade not knowing any English. After graduation from high school he moved to Minneapolis, MN, to attend North Central Bible College, thinking to go into the ministry in

the Assemblies of God denomination. He changed his mind about the ministry – but not till after he and Marty met – to pursue an engineering career so he switched to the University of Minnesota from which he received his BS, MS and PhD (1972) in Electrical Engineering.

On August 11, 1962 he married Martha 'Marty' Ott, of Terre Haute, IN. In January, 1963 he became a naturalized citizen of the USA. One son, Douglas, was born in 1967.

In 1973 the Bergmans moved to Cleveland, OH, where he had accepted employment with General Electric's Lighting Group. Over the next 28 years Rolf held many positions within GE Lighting the most significant was being Chief Scientist, Lamp Technology. He took early retirement in February, 2001, to set up his own consulting business, *Rolf Bergman Consulting*, which he still continues. While at GE Rolf authored or co-authored over 25 journal articles on various phases of lighting and has his name on 19 patents awarded to GE. He is still active in professional associations, participating in the Illuminating Engineering Society Technical Procedures Committee and is serving a four-year term as President of the United States National Committee of the Council of Illumination (CIE).

Rolf and Marty are active in their United Methodist church, *The Church of the Saviour*. Rolf is a Gideon. He and Marty have been involved with International Student Exchange organizations in the past, and have hosted about sixteen foreign students in their home. Of course he tries to save time – difficult at times – for the most important people in his life, his wife and his son and family, including grandson, Ian, who just bought a house in Norman, OK.

He was initiated into Nobel-Monitor Lodge No.130, Cleveland, OH, on May 18, 1982. He served the lodge as Cultural Leader from 1984 to 1994 and then as Chairman for two years, 1999 and 2000. Current activities in the local lodge include singing with the *Vasa Voices*, a mixed chorus that is also a member of the American Union of Swedish Singers (AUSS).

Rolf was elected as a delegate to District Lodge Pennsylvania No. 9 in 1984 and became a Trustee at that time. In 1990 he was elected District Master in a surprise election moving from District Chaplain to District Master. He served two two-year terms as District Master. In 1994 he was appointed District Deputy by GM Eric Johnson and in 1998 was elected by the DL as a delegate to the Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago.

At the 1998 Grand Lodge Convention in Chicago Rolf was elected to the GL Executive Board as GL Member of the Executive Board, At-Large. At the same time he was appointed by GM Lennart Petersson to be Membership Chairman for the Order, serving in that position for four years. In Edmonton, in 2002, Rolf was elected Vice Grand Master.

Carl Larsson Cards

10 Double Cards
5 of each motif
in size shown
with Envelopes
incl. Shipping
& Handling

Only US\$ **10**
Cnd\$ **12**



☺
The Carl Larsson cards are great for Christmas, but they also make very nice invitation cards and are perfect for almost any type of greeting.

☺
The cards have a thick glossy outside and a nice writeable matt inside, without any specific greeting text so that you can use them year round for any occasion!

☺
The back of each card has a short informative text about Carl Larsson and the motif.

YES

Please send me set(s) of Carl Larsson Cards x US\$10 or Cnd\$12= \$
 I also want 1year (4 issues) of *Scandinavian Press* magazine for \$10 **BONUS PRICE**
 and 1year (12 issues) of *Swedish Press* for the \$20 **BONUS PRICE**
 I enclose a cheque *or* Please debit my  *or*  card:

#: Exp. date:

NAME CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

ADDRESS CITY ZIP/POSTAL CODE

Mail to: Scandinavian, Box 4302, Blaine, WA 98230 USA *or* 1294 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6H 1B6 Canada.

For even faster service call **Toll Free 1-866-882-0088** or fax 604-731-2292 or order at **www.nordicway.com**



GUARANTEE:
If you for any reason would like to stop your subscription, we will refund the payment for outstanding issues.