

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2007



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!

God fortsättning på det nya året! 2007 has arrived with a whimper. So far, here in northeastern Ohio, winter has decided to take a vacation. In fact my cousins in northern Sweden said that it has been so unusually warm there that it rained in Kiruna just before Christmas, strange as that sounds.

As you may have noticed already this issue is filled with Lucia pictures and stories. Thanks to everyone who worked hard and fast to send their stories in to our editor by Christmas. Special thanks to Editor Marie, and our editor at Zimmermann Printing, Jill Schroeder, who had to work extra hard with the later than normal entries to get all the stories edited. Remember that we made a decision not to publish any Lucia stories in the next (March/April) issue, and that next year all the Lucia stories and pictures will only be printed in the Jan/Feb 2008 issue.

I mentioned in the last issue that I would discuss the motto **“tradition with vision”** in more detail. Below is a long beginning to that discussion. To set the stage I cite some troubling numbers as background information.

The Vasa Order has been losing members at a steady rate for quite a long time. Over the last eight years we have lost 6,000 members and the total membership in VASA is now about 15,000. Twenty-four local lodges have been disbanded and ten have merged in the same time frame while only 5 new lodges have been instituted. We clearly need a **vision** to address the tide of membership loss or our Order will not survive for many more years.

What **vision** do we have that can counter the membership losses we have been experiencing? I wish my sight were clearer than it is. What I see clearly is that in order to grow we need to provide something that attracts people interested in different aspects of Swedish culture and tradition – with the vote at the last GL convention that now includes **anyone** interested in Sweden. Since membership is gained or lost only at the local lodge level, it is also clear that any empowering vision must be focused on helping the local lodge revitalize its life and activities. In this discussion I am focusing mostly on the lodges in the USA and Canada, since the issues for Sweden, while important, are different.

With respect to revitalization of the lodge I see that the local lodge needs to provide benefits for members to join and become active. Here I want to focus on two areas that the Grand Lodge will address. First, I have a vision that each lodge continue to educate itself in the language, music, history and tradition of Sweden and other Nordic countries. We should be learning what we can so we can teach others, even those outside our lodges. To support this vision I am asking the appointed Grand Lodge Cultural Directors, Audio/Visual Director and Webmaster to work together to gather, prepare and make available program material for use by the lodges in their cultural programs. In this we need your help as well. If you have worthwhile program ideas let the GL Cultural Director for the USA and Canada, Inger

Hanright, know. She can be reached at hanright@optonline.net, and is equally proficient in English or Swedish.

Another **vision** I have is that we can strengthen our current Children's Clubs and create new ones. To this end the Youth Directors for the USA and Canada, Lynda Smith, with the help of VGM William Lundquist, have already assembled materials on how to start a Children's Club and are gathering more information. The vision is to make this material available through the Vasa website as well as by contact with the Youth Director. Lynda can be reached at lamsmith@hotmail.com.

Finally we need a **vision** on member recruitment. I do not have room to develop these ideas in this message but will come back to it. Suffice it to say that there are friends, children and grandchildren of members who live in areas where no lodge exists as well as new Swedish immigrants all over the USA and Canada who could join our lodge. How do we reach them and what do we offer them?

While I am convinced we need to change how we operate to be effective there are limits in what we allow ourselves to do to attract new members and keep those we have. I believe we need a unifying **vision** for change, but this vision has to be in line with our obligation to uphold a one-hundred-plus year fraternal **tradition**. We are an 'Order' with a set ritual structure for our formal meetings. We have been given an elaborate and carefully designed structure for carrying out our work. With the help of that structure we learn to care for each other both financially and socially, especially in illness and death. We hold that a person's moral development is something we should foster, particularly those characteristics of Generosity, Truth and Unity. We care passionately about Sweden, the mother country that helps define who we are and how we live. We endeavor, with limited success, to pass on our rich Swedish traditions and customs to our children and others of the same heritage through language, music, food, special celebrations and through contact with Sweden including particularly the Swedish lodge members.

In spite of our rich heritage, many think we must minimize the **tradition** believing that a less structured organization and less ritualistic meetings will make Vasa more attractive to new members. I strongly disagree. In fact, I believe that a large part of our problem is that we are too lax in our ritual practice during the meetings and training our lodge officers in what is expected of them in their term of office. If we demanded more would we not get something more that we would be proud of? I think so. Thus I will focus a good part of the Executive Board's effort on what we can do to help rebuild the traditions and ceremonies bequeathed to us by our founders.

Upholding the tradition and developing a vision for growth are things we must do simultaneously. **Tradition with Vision!** What do you see?

Vasa Syskon!

Tyvär, det finns inte plats att skriva mer på svenska. I det här numret få ni bara läsa om "tradition with vision" på engelska.

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Letter from the Editor

Just as our Grand Master mentioned in his message, I would also like to thank everyone for sending articles relating to our Lucia celebrations and pictures to me so fast. With the extended deadline for this particular Jan/Feb 2007 issue, there will still be Lucia stories coming my way that I will *not* be able to publish.

As soon as Christmas and New Year's have passed, many of us start planning for our summer vacation in Sweden. A lady named Agneta Nilsson, founder of SWEA, *The Swedish Women's Education Association*, was planning for such a trip when she received a phone call from the Swedish Ambassador to the US, Gunnar Lund in early spring of 2006. He wanted to congratulate her on being named the *Swedish American of The Year 2006*. During this 12-day celebration in her honor, she recorded pretty much everything she was able to experience as the *Swedish American of The Year*. As far as I know, none of the earlier recipients of this award have written and recorded their experience in such detail. We have her condensed story under *Please Meet* in this issue.

Last but not least, on the Cover of this issue we feature an exclusive look at an architectural rendering of what the future site of the *Swedish Language Village*, *Sjölunden* will look like at the *Concordia Village Camp*. Read about the exciting progress under *Happenings*. Also in this section, don't miss reading about our latest hero, Christer Fuglesang, *The first Swede in Space* by Gun Lith.

Swedes have put their mark all over the globe, and as of now, in space, but you will be surprised to read about a tough neighborhood in New York City that is named after a Swede. Look under *Culture*.

Thank You for all your kind comments! It helps in my effort towards making *The Vasa Star* a better publication.

Marie

Brev från Redaktören

Precis som vår Stor Mästare nämner i hans meddelande, vill jag också tacka alla för att ni skickat in artiklar angående våra lucia-firanden och fotografier till mig så snabbt. Trots den förlängda tiden innan press-stopp för just denna jan/feb 2007 upplaga, kommer det fortfarande att komma lucia-artiklar till mig som jag *inte* kan publicera.

Så snart julen och nyåret har passerat börjar många av oss planera vår sommar semester i Sverige. En dam vid namn Angeta Nilsson, grundare av SWEA, *The Swedish Woman's Education Association*, planerade just inför en sådan resa när hon fick ett samtal från Sveriges Ambassadör till USA, Gunnar Lund tidigt våren 2006. Han ville gratulera henne för att hon blivit vald till *Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2006*. Under detta 12-dagars firande i hennes ära, bokförde hon nästen allt hon kunde erfara som *Årets Svensk-Amerikan*. Så vitt jag vet, har ingen av de tidigare mottagarna av denna utmärkelse skrivit och bokfört deras upplevelser så i detalj. Vi har hennes förkortade berättelse under *Please Meet* i denna upplaga.

Sist men inte minst, på framsidan av denna upplaga har vi en exklusiv arkitekt-ritad bild av hur den framtida *Svenska Språk-staden*, *Sjölunden* kommer att se ut i *Concordia Village Camp*. Läs om denna intressanta utveckling under *Happenings*. Också i denna upplaga, missa inte att läsa om vår senaste hjälte, Christer Fuglesang, *Den första svensken i rymden*, av Gun Lith.

Svenskar har lagt sitt "märke" litet här och där över hela jordklotet, och nu även i rymden, men du kommer att bli förvånad att läsa om ett tufft bostadsområde i New York City som har uppkallats efter en svensk. Titta under *Culture*.

Tack för alla fina kommentarer! Det hjälper i min strävan mot att göra *The Vasa Star* en bättre tidskrift.

Marie

Deadlines for The Vasa Star:

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st

March/April is Feb. 1st

May/June is April 1st

July/Aug. is June 1st

Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st

Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

*Deadline for Christmas ads: October 1st***Cover:***Sketch of Swedish Language Village Plaza (View from the East).*

ARCHIVES NEWS

PLEASE, HELP SUPPORT YOUR VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES

As we are writing this message to you, Vasa members in the United States, Canada and Sweden, we will only have a few weeks left until December 21st before we leave the Vasa Archives and Bishop Hill.

It is well known why the Archives were built in Bishop Hill, the most Swedish of any area in the United States. This village has almost become a "Mecca" for our members both here and from overseas. It is a "must" place to visit and they are never disappointed having taken the time to venture off the beaten path to reach Erik Jansson's Utopia. Upon returning to their hometown the word spreads and more and more people make this "pilgrimage."

It is so very important for our members to know that the Archives belong to all Vasa members. You will rest assured that important records will be kept safely for all times and be made available for research to those interested in finding out about early immigrants.

We will appreciate receiving important records from our lodges such as membership lists/applications and minutes. These are very useful when trying to find facts about our Vasa members, no matter where they were born. This information is entered into our various computer programs and can be retrieved easily.

Please help also by sharing your family's pedigree charts. There is a misconception that we do not want non-Nordic family members. NOT SO. If they are family we want everyone included.

We will all benefit by your generosity in remembering a loved one with a memorial contribution or recognizing somebody's special anniversary. This kindness will last longer than flowers. A special card will be sent to the recipients and a copy of the card will be kept at the Archives in a special cabinet, built for that purpose.

Tack så mycket!!!

Members of the Archives' board will continue to submit articles to the Vasa Star to keep you informed what is going on.

Any comments are always welcome.

Please write to Vasa Archives, Box 101, Bishop Hill IL 61419 or vasa_archives@hughes.net

Thank you for all support we have received during the last 15 years.

R&L Horngren

CORRECTION

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Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 4

God fortsättning på det nya året. We hope you made some good resolutions such as learning at least one new Swedish word a day. That is how we all learned whatever our mother tongue is. Many of us have probably trained babies how to say a new word... over and over again, day in and day out. This is what we want you to do. Practice the same word until you know it before moving on to the next word.

Now to our lesson:

In Swedish there are grammatical genders – common and neuter. Every noun will be one or the other, and takes an article or other modifier, such as color or size corresponding with the gender. For instance, common nouns use “en” for the article “a,” while neuter nouns use “ett.” In addition the definite article “the” is added to the noun. There are more common nouns than neuter nouns in the Swedish language.

Stol = chair en stol = a chair stolen = the chair
Bord = table ett bord = a table bordet = the table

Just as common nouns take “en” while neuter nouns take “ett,” there are common or basic forms of adjectives, along with neuter forms.

A brown chair would be “en brun stol,” because stol is common noun

A brown table would be “ett brunt bord,” because bord is a neuter noun

A large red chair would be “en stor röd stol”

A large red table would be “ett stort rött bord”

The plural form is the basic form plus an added “a,” for example:

Large	stora
Red	röda
Brown	bruna

This form is also used with “den” or “det” when saying:

The large brown chair	Den stora bruna stolen
The large brown table	Det stora bruna bordet

Common adjectives:

	Common	Neuter	Plural
Green	grön	grönt	gröna
Black	svart	svart	svarta
Yellow	gul	gult	gula
Blue	blå	blått	blåa
White	vit	vitt	vita

Here are some phrases you may find useful:

How are you?	Hur mår du?
I am well, thanks	Tack bra
You are welcome	Var så god
Excuse me	Ursäkta
Yes	Ja
No	Nej
Speak slowly	Tala långsamt
Please say it again	Var snäll och upprepa
I understand	Jag förstår
Do you understand?	Förstår du?
I do not understand	Jag förstår inte
Thanks for today	Tack för idag
Bye (then)	Hej då

Many of you have wondered when we will get back to our story about our little family. We want to cover some of the basics before we find out what the family was involved in the four years we were away. So have patience we will bring them back.

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR

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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.

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL Rhode Island #3

Rhode Island District No. 3 sponsored a "Nordic Masquerade" as a fundraiser. Members were asked to attend dressed as their favorite Scandinavian personality, fictional, living or deceased. Among the personality that were present were, the King and Queen of Sweden, present and past. Queen Kristina, Carl Larson, the Swedish Chef and maidens in native costumes. There were famous movie stars such as Ann-Margret, Greta Garbo, Ingrid Bergman. From the world of sports there was Björn Borg, Ingemar Johansson, Annika Sörenstam and Jesper Parnevik. From the book world there was Pippi Longstocking with her pet monkey Mr. Nilsson. There was a hoard of Vikings, men and maidens. Imaginations ran ram-



Above: King and Queen, Dottie and Carl Lundbohm, PDM, PGLD.

part with other less notable heroes and heroines. Everyone enjoyed a mini-Scandinavian buffet with "sill," salmon,



Ann-Margret, Carolyn Dagenais, DM.

and Swedish meatballs. The evening was complete with music, dancing and a raffle.

Submitted by: Ray Johnson

DL Pacific Southwest #15

The 56th Annual Scandinavian Autumn fest and "Marknad" was held on September the 17 in Vasa Park, Agoura Hills. Vasa members and guests enjoyed performers, vendors and each other's company. This Sunday the caretaker's chickens put some extra color in the scenery. Running free they shared some of the "breakfast-eaters" pancakes, yellow jackets tried to get some part of the action too but were obviously not as welcomed.

Wonderful and loyal Alfon Bergstrom was there with his equally wonderful and loyal accordion. "The two" played for the National Anthems as well as for the Swedish Folk Dance Group of Los Angeles and Vasa Jr. Folk Dance Group. A couple of new programs were introduced this time. Rolf Gustafsson of Nordic Heritage Lodge brought his guitar and his troubadour voice. Very nice! There was also a group of young Irish Folk Dancers, which were terrific. The audience enjoyed seeing something else but the traditional Swedish program.

There is much to be said about traditions, but as times changes our lives and interests do too. Twenty years ago many of the ladies would wear their Swedish costumes. Today we opt for being comfortably dressed during the September heat.

The Wandering Minstrel Gayle Halverson is becoming a regular of the "Marknad." Gayle walked around with

her key harp and played for anyone who wanted to listen and there were quite a few. The vendors sold their goodies and chatted with friends and visitors.



DMC Maidie Karling at the mike.

A day in our Vasa Park is always great and this was no exception.

Submitted by: Nel Solt

Photos by: Joan Johnson



District Master Steven Leigard flipping pancakes.

Distrikt Södra Sverige Nr 20



Ett stort tack till Storlogen och District Lodge Pacific Southwest no 15 för minnesrika dagar vid Storlogemötet i San Diego. Medlemmar i Logerna, Höganäs Nr 634, Malmöhus Nr 643, Tre Hjärtan Nr 665, and Carl von Linné Nr 678.

LODGE NEWS

Göta Lejon Lodge #84

Yorktown Heights, NY



(L-R): DL New York No. IV Cultural Leader Karen Snowberg, Crystal Terhune, District DL Norra Sverige No. 19 Cultural Leader Ulla-Britt Essgren.

Lodge Göta Lejon #84 manages to break a few traditions when it holds its annual Lucia Fest. Most people associate a Lucia Fest with a dark winter's evening on or close to December 13th. Due to scheduling problems, our Lucia Fest is always held on a Sunday afternoon several weeks before that. This year the event was held on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3rd, which proved to be a warm, sunny day. We had to use our

imaginings a bit to conjure up the darkness and cold of Sweden, but there was no lack of spirit amongst the lodge members who turned out to make a delightful fest for our guests. Grace Johnson is in charge of the affair each year and she was kept busy manning the kitchen, seeing that the food tables were well-laden, and coordinating the New York Swedish Folk Dancers who provide the Lucia Tableau each year and traditional folk dancing later in the afternoon. Göta Lejon's youngest member, Crystal Terhune of Mahopac, NY, was our Lucia this year, following in the footsteps of her grandmother, Treasurer Greta Upham, who had been Lucia when she was the same age. We were privileged to have a special guest from Sweden's Northern District Lodge at our Lucia Fest this year. DL #19 Cultural Leader Ulla-Britt Essgren of Göteborg was visiting DL #4 Cultural Leader Karen Snowberg for a week. She, and everyone else in attendance, had a wonderful afternoon enjoying a taste of Swedish culture.

Submitted by: Karen Snowberg

Freja Lodge #100

White Plains, NY

Lodge Freja #100 of White Plains, NY, resumed its meetings in September after the summer break. Although attendance was light since some of our members were still living up north at their summer homes, we still had a delicious luncheon and a productive meeting.

In October we enjoyed a small smörgåsbord made by Barbara Peterson, Mary Nordlund, and Karen Snowberg. Vice Chairman Jennifer Dreaper, who had traveled to Sweden this past summer with the New York Swedish Folk Dancers, gave our cultural presentation for the day. Highlights of Jennifer's trip included meeting Ulla-Britt Essgren, Cultural Leader for DL Norra Sverige #19, attending wonderful performances at Nordlek in Göteborg, and visiting relatives. Jennifer really managed to pack a lot of activity into her trip. Our members are now looking forward to meeting Ulla-

Britt when she comes to visit New York in December.

Submitted by: Karen Snowberg
Photo by: Karen Snowberg



Vice Chairman Jennifer Dreaper shows some of the materials she collected on her trip to Sweden this summer with the New York Swedish Folk Dancers.

North Star Lodge #106 & Scandinavian Lodge #667

Los Angeles, CA

Diane Michele Earl, dual member of North Star Lodge #106 (Los Angeles) and Scandinavian Lodge #667 (San Diego), was selected by the San Diego Chapter, *Swedish Woman's Educational Association* (SWEA) to be their Lucia at the 29th Annual Christmas on the Prado event held on December 1 and 2, 2006, in San Diego, CA.

The charming Santa Lucia Procession, candle lighting, and Swedish *Jul choir* takes place at the San Diego Museum of Man in Balboa Park as part of a 2-day event, December Nights, which is the largest free community festival in San Diego attracting more than 250,000 visitors this year. Entertainment and holiday cheer are all part of this classic San Diego celebration including food from around the globe.

Diane also currently serves as the Queen for the *House of Sweden*, one of the many International Cottages located in Balboa Park. After participating in Lucia and multi-cultural dance performances including the Swedish *shottise*, Diane then helped in the serving of over 850 *köttbullar*, *inglad gurka*, *limpa*, and *lingon* snacks each evening of December Nights.

Submitted by: Lenda Earl



Diane Michele Earl

Fylgia Lodge #119

San Francisco, CA

The members of Fylgia Lodge #119, San Francisco, CA, celebrated their 99th Anniversary with a delicious potluck dinner on October 10 at the Swedish American Hall, where they have met for 91 years.

District Master Todd Anderson was present and noted some of the new changes in the Order and hoped for a bright future.

Fylgia is second in origin west of the Allegheny range and has preserved its cultural heritage as well as lived up to its motto: *Generosity, Truth and Unity*.

A committee is now working diligently for a large 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Swedish American Hall on the weekend of October 20-21, 2007. Fylgia extends a welcome to all to join them for this auspicious occasion.

Submitted by: Jean Nelson

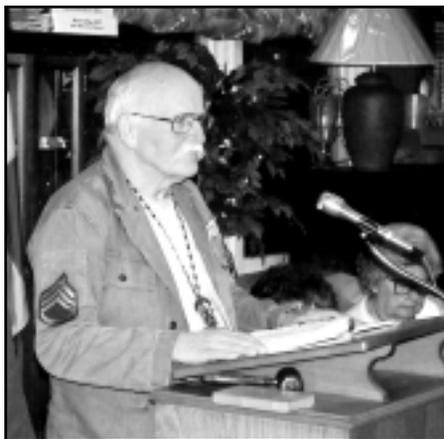
Photo by: Robert Olson



Front Row: Jean Nelson, Ruth Lombard, Astrid Olsson, Inger Jernberg, Victoria Peterson, Yasuko Wooster and Christine Olson. Back Row: John Lombard, Ted Olsson, DM Todd Anderson, Richard Wooster, Duane Erickson and Robert Olson.

Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY



Lodge chairman Robert Fuller conducting the meeting during costume day, wearing his old uniform.

Hello from THULE LODGE #127, Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY. Our fall season has brought wonderful sunny weather conditions to the southwestern New York State. Our lodge held many events including a harvest dinner in October, and a buffet dinner in the beginning of November. The October meeting

was a costume party and many attended wearing festive outfits. Chairman Fuller wore his old army uniform, which he said still fit him after all these years.

The annual elections were held in November, with lodge chairman Robert Fuller being elected to serve another term, and Donald Carlson to continue to serve as the vice chairman. Fanchon Fuller was elected to serve as the cultural leader, and Lucile Marsh is the lodge secretary. Donna Sandberg is the financial secretary and Albert Nelson is the treasurer. Diane Shaw is the lodge chaplain, and Susan Sipos is the inner guardsman. Nels John Nelson was elected as the outer guardsman. Wayne Nelson was elected as the master of ceremonies, and Tim Miller as the assistant master of ceremonies.

December we did the installation of officers, and the annual "Doppa Gryta." Our lodge has changed to its winter schedule of meetings, which will be held on the third Saturday of the month in the afternoon.

Chairman Fuller introduced an extra activity following each monthly meeting

such as fun bingo, with Fuller being the caller. Refreshments are always served following the meetings, and a special thanks goes to Robert and Fanchon Fuller, Betty Lawson, Edwin and Donna Sandberg for all of their efforts serving at many meetings.

Everyone at Thule Lodge wish all a Happy New Year. We always welcome visitors to our lodge, and if you are in our area, we would be happy to visit with you. "God dag" to all!

Submitted by: John Sipos

Runeberg Lodge #137

Minneapolis, MN



Sarah Anderson

Sarah Anderson is our 2006 Lucia; our past Lucia, Caila Schreiber, crowned her at our practice in September. She has been a member of Vasa Kornet #4 and Linnea #16 for almost 12 years. Her parents, Julie and John Anderson, and grandmother, Janice Lehman, are members of Runeberg Lodge #137. Sarah is a third generation Vasa Junior Folk Dancer and has been doing Lucia along with her mother since she was 4 months old.

Sarah is a freshman at Totonio Grace High School in Fridley, MN. She enjoys school - is in the band and plays the clarinet. When it comes to sports she likes playing soccer and basketball. She takes part in the Positive Peer Leadership Program at school. In the winter she likes snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and to snowmobile with her dad when they go to their cabin in Ely, MN, in the summer it's swimming and shopping with mom!

One of her favorite places to eat is Mings in South Minneapolis, but that is only when she is visiting grandma or when her cousins are in town.

Submitted by: Janice Lehman

Vasa Star January-February 2007

Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA

We celebrated the lodge's 98th Anniversary at a restaurant in Alameda in November. Honored guests were DM Todd Anderson, PDMs Tore and Birgitta Kellgren, and Grand Secretary Joanie Graham. We were very pleased to have a group of Berkeley Framåt Lodge #405 members join us.

Membership pins were presented to our Chairman Laura Nordendahl - 10 year, and to a mother/daughter duo, Ruby Nichelini - 50 year and Carol Madigan - 40 year. Ruby has not been able to attend our meetings for some time so we were all happy to see both her and her daughter receive their pins in person.

The Tegnér Singers plus Tore Kellgren sang a wonderful rendition of "Hälsa Dem på Hemma." It even brought a complimentary remark from a Norwegian lady eating in another part of the restaurant.

About 75 people enjoyed the Tegnér Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, smörgåsbord and St. Lucia program on Dec. 10, 2006. All members helped in one way or another, but Stig Björk, Jan Norberg, Doris Nordendahl and Rhoda Gilbertson deserve special thanks for all they did to set out a wonderful smörgåsbord. Chairman Laura Nordendahl baked the delicious Lucia buns that were passed out at the end of the program.

Marie Ann Hill was director of the Vasa Singers who presented a program of Christmas songs in Swedish and English. Dorinda Nyland played the piano.

Doris Nordendahl was again director of the beautiful Lucia program. Her granddaughter, Shelby, was St. Lucia. The following were in the Lucia court: Madelyn Andrews, Cassidy Clark, Juliana Herrera, Keegan Lister, Alexandra Oakstar, Karl Mattsson, Kelsey Root, Kristopher Root, Annemarie Ross, and Kirsten Sibley. Kristin Root, last year's Lucia, read the St. Lucia story.

Shelby Nordendahl is the daughter of Don Nordendahl of Pleasanton, CA, and Julie Nordendahl of Pagosa Springs. She is the granddaughter of Tegnér members Doris and Bill Nordendahl and niece of Tegnér Chairman Laura Nordendahl. She attends Fairlands Elementary School in Pleasanton, where she is active in band, the Go Green Club, and other special activities. Shelby is a Junior Girl Scout, a



Shelby Nordendahl

member of the Sharks Swim Team, and a member of the Children's Choir in her church. Shelby also is an avid reader. She likes to write stories and poems and has won awards in the Pleasanton Library's Youth Authors Program and the PTA's Reflection Program. Shelby is a member of the Vasablad Children's Club and loves to do Swedish folk dancing. She has been a part of Tegnér's Lucia program since she was six months old, sitting in her little red wagon and watching her big sister as Lucia. Over the years she has performed or taught her friends much about Swedish traditions, helped at Sweden Day, the District Convention, and other lodge events. She is a proof reader, illustrator, and mail clerk for the Tegnér Telegram.

Submitted by: A. Tennis

Kronan Lodge #179

Chicago, IL

After the Grand Lodge Convention of 1998 held here in Chicago, IL, the theme "Hands Across the Sea," became personal.

When Elisabeth Agge, Karl-Erik Axelsson, Enköping Lodge #646, Hillivi and Lars-Åke Sjöberg, Mälardrottningen Lodge #563, returned to the U.S. in 1999, they were treated to a luncheon at the Swedish Museum in Andersonville by members of our lodge. As the years have passed, their visits have included many

fun times, both in my home and sights in Chicago.

In September 2003, Knut, wife Margareta, daughter Gunilla Sernbo, Malmöhus Lodge #643 arrived for a visit in Chicago. Kronan members served them a welcome breakfast which they enjoyed as well as the warm weather and Sightseeing.

For Marianne Wallden, Utvandrarne Lodge #680, I sent a copy of a Christmas skit we performed at Kronan Lodge and a poem "Kalaset i Lillgaln". She sent a return letter and described her lodge activities including pictures of her old fisherman summer cottage on her own island.

Marianne Bodetoft, Three Hearts Lodge #665 has shown interest in US culture such as our 4th of July, which we so often take for granted. Three Hearts Lodge is located in Halmstad, which is my father Axel Wiland's hometown.

Sven Valfridsson, Järnbärarna Lodge #697 has sent letters and greetings including photos.

Barbro Sundgren Härnösand Lodge #673 has also sent pictures of their 4th of July celebration and picnic with Sundsvall #705.

Eivor Hoorgren, Kärnan Lodge #608 has sent greetings signed by all members with photos including updates on their activities.

Greetings and best wishes to our members were sent by: Siv and Gunnar Mossberg, Ronneby Lodge #608, Lars and Kerstin Helgeson, Malmöhus Lodge #643, Leif Larsson, Nybyggarna Lodge #698, Gun Andree, members of Göteborg Lodge #452, and Synnove Nilsson send their holiday wishes.

As a fellow Vasa member, it's been such a delight for me to convey all your many greetings, photos, sharing your lodge doings to our members of Kronan Lodge #179, Chicago, IL, and hope it continues for many years to come, as we continue to learn from each other.

Submitted by: Virginia Wiland-Lindroos



Skandia Lodge #247

Pasadena, CA

Skandia members gathered together for the annual visit from the District Officers at the regular October business meeting. Prior to the meeting, the District officers were treated to a delicious baked ham dinner served by Dr. Jackie Ahlen and the dinner committee. The great decorations really showcased the fall season and District Cultural Leader, Nel Solt, brought a timely program about Swedish winter drinks. The dessert was a special Princess Tort in recognition of the many years of service to Vasa by Dorothy and Walter Lepisto who will be moving north to be with their family in Washington. We look forward to many visits from Walter and Dorothy and wish them well in their new home. Many thanks to District Master, Steven Leigard, and his staff for taking their time to visit us and also to lead our meeting.

Skandia Women's Club President, Miriam Berndes, thanked everyone for their participation in the recent Fashion Show and Tea co-sponsored with the Swedish American Women's Club. Miriam, and her sweet Earl, expressed



Betty Holm (left) and Nel Solt (right), both of Skandia Lodge #247, help Mary Orcutt celebrate her 100th birthday.

their appreciation to the lodge by presenting a beautiful large bronze wall clock for the Lodge Room. Many thanks to Miriam and Earl for their thoughtfulness.

Submitted by: **Jacqueline E. Ahlen**
Picture by: **Richard Orcutt**

Facklan Lodge #248

Kansas City, KS



Facklan Lodge #248 of Kansas City began the Christmas season December 15 with Denmark Lodge #56. The celebration began with Santa Lucia, Heidi Ekborg-Ott, and her attendants serving buns to all at the meeting in Lenexa Senior Center. After the processional, the Swedish lodge and the Danish lodge enjoyed a catered meal served by Tom Anderson of the Gourmet Grocer.

The Scandinavians enjoyed the dinner and the conversations at the tables and toasts to wish each a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Years with the shouts of Skøl!

After the dinner, Norm Danielsen, Honorary Danish Commissioner of the Kansas City Ethnic Enrichment Commission, told the story of Nisse. Carla Hanson sitting on her bench eating her Christmas pudding portrayed Nisse. The mice that also wanted a taste interrupted Nisse's repast. The audience entered the story by shaking and banging wooden spoons to scare away the mice that came to eat the rice pudding of the Nisse.

Christmas carols were sung by all and at the last song, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, the jolly old elf made an appearance. Dressed in red and trimmed in fur, St. Nicholas presented a tangerine to all and admonished each and everyone to be good little girls and boys and left the building with a wish for each to have a very Merry Christmas.

Following the end of the meeting, many stayed around to enjoy talking and to wish each other a Happy Holiday as we from Facklan Lodge #248 extend this greeting to each of you.

Submitted by: **Dean Larson**

Göta Lejon Lodge #251

Two Harbors, MN

December 9, 2006, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Two Harbors, MN, was a bustling place when Göta Lejon #251 invited the whole community and surrounding area to join in the annual St. Lucia Festival. Beautiful poinsettias, candlelight, beautiful music by our own Betty's Band and two piano solos by Star Boys Spencer Linse and Ben Westin added to the enjoyment of the packed house. St. Lucia, Taylor Udenberg, led the procession with her tray of Lucia buns and presented them to her parents, Vince and Sherry Udenberg. Each Star Girl and Boy were the children or grandchildren of Göta Lejon #251 members.

A wonderful Swedish smörgåsbord of Lucia buns, cookies, ham, cheese, sausage and coffee brought smiles to everyone as Mistress of Ceremonies, Jan Swart, encouraged everyone to enjoy the start of the Swedish Christmas season. A special treat for all was the visit of Bertil Erickson, Past District Master of Minnesota District #7. Göta Lejon member, Arlie Wilkes, presented her Student's Art Show, once again a highlight when combined with the St. Lucia Festival. We were thrilled with the appreciative comments and we hope to continue this tradition for many years.

Submitted by: **Patricia Olson**



Göta Lejon #251 St. Lucia Court, back row, L-R: Harlie Olson, Zane Carlson, St. Lucia Taylor Udenberg, Spencer Linse, Ben Westin. Front row, L-R: Morgan Beardsley, Madison Beardsley, Paige Westin and Frankianne Olson.

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA



Ingrid Hedlund is shown at the celebration of her 90th birthday. Her daughter, Berit Benacci, also from our lodge, is shown with her mother. Her son, Raymond, also pictured, came from Sweden, along with other family members, for this very special occasion.

Nicole Bardwell was chosen as our Lucia. She is 17 years old and a student at Fort Le Boeuf High School, where she now is a senior. She plans to attend Gannon University here in Erie and major in Physical Therapy. She loves to listen to music and read. Among her pets she has a dog, cat and a bird. Her favorite animals are, however, horses.

Our 41st Annual Lucia Festival was held Dec. 10 at Bethany Outreach Center. A large crowd attended the program, and the "Kaffe och Dopp" (Swedish refresh-

ments), Lucia buns and cookies were served. Swedish decorations could also be purchased. We all enjoy the start of the Christmas season on this special day.

Many Scandinavian Erie residents, among them lodge members, participated in the Erie Historical Society's "Celebration of the Season" at the lovely old Watson-Curtze mansion. Every year it is traditionally decorated for the holidays. It is a multi-faceted exhibit featuring professionally decorated evergreens,



Nicole Bardwell

fireplace mantles, doorways and windows in addition to 19th century furnishings. The Holiday Heritage Festival, which celebrates customs from around the world, features traditional holiday decorations from the Italian, Polish, Russian, German and Scandinavian ethnic groups, as well as the Hanukkah and Kwanzaa celebrations. Victorian holidays also included traditional musical performances, seasonal foods, and so much more!

Submitted by: Linda Collin

Balder Lodge #343

Eureka, CA



Logan Lancaster, Robin Lancaster, Madona Yosinta (exchange student from Borneo), Helene Ramer (exchange student from Switzerland), Josephine Olbers (Lucia, exchange student from Göteborg, Sweden), Nina Carlson, Elizabeth Hedlund, Imogene Carlson and Isabella Leopardo.

More than 80 members, family and friends turned out for Balder Lodges annual Lucia celebration in Eureka, California.

Robin sang the "Steffan song". Josephine, Elizabeth and Helene sang "Nu är det Jul igen", "Nu tändas tusen Jule-ljus" and "Gläns över sjö och strand." Isabella read a poem about the four candles of Advent. All sang Swedish songs and Christmas carols.

Santa Claus (Bob Berg) arrived, visiting everyone and handing out candy and fruit. Marianne Walsh led ring dancing around the Christmas tree, then a traditional "lång-dans."

Submitted by: Don Christensen and Marianne Walsh
Pictures by: Don Christensen and Marianne Walsh

Svea Lodge #348

San Jose, CA



Lucia Helena Montin

Svea Lodge's November program was a big success. Three Swedish born women did a fantastic job; each one presented a famous woman from our Swedish history.

Marie Elgenberg spoke about Heliga Birgitta, we heard about her revolutions, her life and her influence over the Pope. We saw a map over the journeys Birgitta made all over Europe during the 14th century and Marie's easy relaxed way of speaking made the story and the person come alive in front of us.

Elisabeth Khaghani told the story of the Danish Queen Margareta, how she with her cunning political way got Albrecht of Mecklenburg out of Sweden and then how she united Sweden with both Denmark and Norway during the 15th century. Elisabeth was also an excellent speaker and captured everyone in the audience, we even got to hear a song; Rida rida ranka, which was from the time king Haakon of Norway was riding to propose to Margareta, that is still a nursery rhyme in Sweden.

Tina Graham gave a great presentation with lots of information, and pictures of Queen Kristina, who abdicated from the throne in 1654, brought with her 12 ships of treasures and moved to Rome. Kristina is said to be the first Swedish modern woman who dared go her own way.

All members and those of us who grew up in Sweden, learned more than the history books provided, enjoyed this program. For the rest of the American born members three new famous Swedish women were discovered.

Sunday, December 10, Svea Lodge of San Jose, gave another wonderful Christmas party for the children of Vasa

members and the Swedish School of San Jose.

Lucia this year was Helena Montin; 40 children followed her. Karin Elneborg, Karin Jacobson and Jay Jacobson arranged the music and the procession. The children sang many songs loud and clear in Swedish. Zaida Singers followed with more beautiful Christmas songs. After refreshments everyone danced around the Christmas tree. The room was filled with yule songs, everyone knew the words and sang along, thanks to Jan Nordin, who has taught us and lead us in the games around the Christmas tree for the last 25 years. It was a great start of the Christmas season; Santa Claus also came before the evening was over.

Submitted by: Mona Clements

Solidaritet Lodge #396

Mt. Vernon, WA

We are once again saddened by the passing of one of our great leaders, Leo Olson, who died Sunday, July 30, 2006, after a long illness. Leo was well known in District #13 as well as the Grand Lodge where he was elected Grand Lodge Executive Board member in 1986 for a four year term. Then he was re-elected again in 1990.

In 1993 Leo was given Honorary Life District Membership for his two terms as Executive Board member.

In 1979 Leo was elected Vice District Master of Pacific Northwest #13 and then elected District Master in 1981.

In 1976 Solidaritet Lodge purchased the present Vasa Hall and Leo handled the transaction which has been a milestone for Solidaritet's lodge.

Many of the Swedish pancakes has been flipped by Leo during the 28 years of serving breakfast at the Solidaritet. Leo was always willing to help with whatever was needed to benefit the Vasa Lodge of America. Everybody loved Leo, he will be surely missed.

Submitted by: Majken Warns



Leo Olson

Framåt Lodge #405

El Cerrito, CA

In the dark of night, on a lonely farm, the Tomte alone was awake. Tomte, 10-year-old Dallen Graham, peered into corners and checked that the farmhouse was safe and quiet, and then recited the poem "The Tomte" by Victor Rydberg. Suddenly, he observed a sight seen only once a year – the lovely Lucia, 14-year-old Caitlin Whitney, appeared and brought candle light and sweets to those gathered in Framåt Lodge's meeting hall on the evening of December 8th.

Joanie Graham read the Legend of Lucia. Following the pageant, Marilyn Jackson of Framåt Lodge #405 and Marie Ann Hill of Tegner Lodge #149 in Oakland, CA lead the Allsång. Member Dr. Karl Mettinger expertly provided piano accompaniment.

The Lucia pageant followed a sumptuous smörgåsbord dinner prepared by all the members. Each family brought a Swedish dish from a prepared menu. Maria Helberg and Diane Maynard and their committee festively decorated the dining room.

The Lucia Pageant presented by the Graham family – Dallen Graham is the grandson of Framåt member and Grand Secretary Joanie Graham and Caitlin Whitney is Joanie's step-granddaughter.

Submitted by: Joanie Graham



Caitlin Whitney and Dallen Graham



Evening Star Lodge #426

Los Alamitos, CA



Lucia Rachel Westover

An SRO audience was present for the 84th Anniversary celebration of Evening Star Lodge #426 and the 39th Anniversary of the Morning Star Children's Club #172.

Linde Lodge #492 (Milwaukee) and Skansen Children's Club #113, held its annual Swedish Christmas program on Sunday December 10, 2006. The program started with Sankta Lucia, her possession of attendants and star boys. The 2006 Lucia was Jayme Moon; a talented and busy sophomore student at New Berlin West High School, and of course a member of the children's club. Our club has many new very young members, and we asked the audience to participate in the singing for a fuller volume. We had Jayme read a poem in Swedish, as well as one of the young girls (Dasha Horton -7) singing a solo of "Nu tändas tusen juleljus." A couple of the dads, Kurt Anderson and Erik Martenson, helped out with background music as well as the "Staffan var en stalledräng" song.

Open-faced sandwiches and all sorts of Christmas baked goods were to feast on afterwards and even during the second phase of the program. The children quickly changed into their Skansen costumes and showed three dances they have learned, "Här kommer lilla vännen här kommer jag," "Rågen," and "Så går vi runt ett enerissnår." If every step wasn't perfect, the willingness to show what they have learned made it all worth to watch and enjoy.



Morning Star Children's Club #172 performing our Lucia Pageant.

The evening started with a beautiful Lucia Pageant presented by the Morning Star Children's Club led by Lucia Rachel Westover. The magic guitar of Tom Stauffer provided music. Accolades were presented to Elizabeth Stauffer and Gunlog Spaberg for their work with our children. The Master of Ceremonies was Christina Kenshalo, Chairman of Evening Star Lodge and member of the District #15 Executive Board. Twelve of our past Lucia's were present for this event and many of their children were participating in the program.

The evening continued with a traditional Swedish dinner prepared by Ann-Marie Vance, Margareta Jahn and their staff, followed by singing and dancing around the Christmas tree. The children were delighted with the coming of Santa Claus.

We were honored with the presence of District #15 Grand Lodge Deputy Wayne Pierson, Grand Lodge Historian Carolyn Salk, District #15 District Master Steven Leigard and Vice District Master Susan Premo.

Submitted by: Thomas Jahn

Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI

Phase three included fun for everyone, and it was so encouraging to see that just about everyone was on the dance floor. The "ring lekar" around the live Christmas tree are very popular; everyone loves these; mormor, morfar, farmor and farfar helped their grandchildren with these dances while Erik Anderson made beautiful music with his accordion.

Thanks again to Les and Jan Touve who have contributed with a tree every year, just to raffle it off and give the proceeds to the Rescue Mission.

The final – phase four was the icing on the cake for all the children, as Santa Claus showed up. Everyone got a chance to make sure Santa has an updated list from them, and he gave every nice girl and boy an apple, popcorn, and candy.

Raffle tickets, and sales of "Dalahäst" pins and the CD with Lucia music sold well. Some of this will be used for the Convention 2007 in May, hosted by our lodge.

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand



From left Rex, Niklas, Dasha, Ellen, Elizabeth, Annika, Lucia/Jayme, Anne-Marie, Jennifer, Sophie, Rachel, Lola, Mitchell, missing Krister and Grant. In back parents: Kurt, Erik, and Toren.

Vasa Hope Lodge #503

Seattle, WA

In the summer months of July, August and September we do not have any lodge meetings. But on August 9, 2006, we did have our Annual Picnic held at beautiful Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish. There were 26 in attendance, 10 guests, 10 committee members, and 6 members. Our own "Whiz Liz" Bogus, carrying her bullhorn loudspeaker, got our attention as she conducted many various activity games for fun.

One was a guessing game called "How Many" for contestants to try to guess the number of items contained in various see-through jars. Another fun game was a relay between two rows of 12 contestants each. There was much laughter and excitement to hurry their teammates ahead. There also was a miniature wooden horse racing game played with the six names of USA, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. Rewarding prizes were given for the winners' efforts.

A real typical picnic lunch of hot dogs, potato salad, beans, and watermelon and cookies was eagerly awaiting everyone as they helped themselves at the buffet table.

October 10, 2006 - Vasa Hope Lodge #503 met for a social hour, lunch and meeting.

There was a presentation of membership pins for those who had been members for 60 years. These were for: Lillian Anderson, Margaret Anderson, and Harold and Evelyn Nilsen.

Submitted by: Elsie J. Busch



Sten Krahn at the Vasa annual picnic at Vasa Park.

Lindbergh Lodge #505

Dix Hills, NY



Lindbergh Lodge #505 members, Marian and Ed Emerson, awarding Patrick Booton the District Lodge #4 scholarship.

Submitted by: Mary Booton

Nordstjärnan Lodge #575

Wetaskiwin, AB

Nordstjärnan #575 remains an active Local Lodge of District Lodge #18. Not only does this local lodge host events for its members and friends, other local lodges in the District, but has functions open to the public as fundraisers.

During the past year Nordstjärnan has held 11 events for the above purposes. They also held 10 meetings during the past year. As one can see this lodge continues its activities almost every month of the year.

Examples of these events were: for the District members – joint installation with Red Deer Lodge #733 plus hosting the District campout at Vasa Park in August for all members of the District.

Members and friends activities included the curling day with pot luck lunch, Scandinavian outing and games day held at one of the members homes, pancake supper and the Christmas and Lucia concert.

Continued on page 15

Norden Lodge #513

Meeting Creek, Alberta, Canada

Norden Lodge #513 celebrated Santa Lucia. The festivities began with a smörgåsbord dinner enjoyed by all!

The children then presented the Santa Lucia pageant.

Niklas Lee favored us with piano selections.

To the delight of all, "Jultomten" arrived with gifts for the children.

The day concluded with fun trivia questions and a gift exchange for the adults with much laughter and fellowship.

**Submitted by: Carol Montgomery
Lill Roth Lee**



Colleen Swedberg was Santa Lucia followed by her attendant, Jessica Lee. Star boys were Nicklas Lee and Steven Bergstrom.

Nordstjärnan Lodge #575

Continued from page 14

For members only the activities were the Lutefisk supper, bowling, Scandinavian night dinner, and the Scandinavian ornament making day.

The big fundraiser for the year is a BBQ and dance, and being a small country lodge without the beautiful facilities and large population, our lodge relies on friends and neighbors in close proximity for our fundraisers.

Members work hard to achieve these goals and keep Nordstjärnan alive. Hopefully the members that do participate in the above functions realize the hard work and commitment to the lodge the organizers of these events have.

All the above activities were fun to attend but the weather was the best for the Scandinavian outing and games day. In the rays of the sun one was able to take part in volleyball, "Kubb" (a fun Scandinavian game), bocci ball, croquet, horseshoes plus the fellowship of other members and friends. The day ended with a weiner roast and many extras for the evening meal.

At this time I would like to thank my fellow members for jobs well done in all aspects of organization and leadership for the continued longevity of Nordstjärnan #575.

Submitted by: L. Brown

Northern Light Lodge #620

Ventura, CA

Our lodge member, June Pence, taken in spring.

Submitted by: Elsie Livengood



June Pence

Norden Lodge #660

Whittier, CA

Nordic Lodge #660 this year honored a long-time member who was aced out of being St. Lucia when she was of the appropriate age because she got married one week prior to the pageant.

Arlene Lundquist, who has served in every board position in the lodge as well as district governor (Pacific Southwest #15), was dubbed Lucia and feted in appropriate Scandinavian fashion at the December meeting. It took many years for her to get this honor!

The lodge decided to bestow on her the St. Lucia honor at the regular club meeting since it was also the same day as her wedding anniversary. She and her husband, Hans, were celebrating 55 years of wedded bliss.

Over the past years as a lodge member, Arlene has worn several hats: leader of the children's group, playing the accordion and teaching them Swedish songs; organizer of lutefisk suppers and pancake breakfasts; provider of pea soup and "plättar" suppers, organizer of lodge anniversary parties; and faithful office holder in the lodge and district. She has



Arlene Lundquist

served as lodge recording secretary for more years than she wants to remember.

Arlene annually provides the Lucia pendant to the celebration participants. Both of her daughters and her granddaughters have been St. Lucia. Finally, Arlene has joined the ranks of this prestigious Swedish tradition.

Submitted by: Carolyn E. Johnson

Gold Nugget Lodge #662

Paradise, CA

It's been a long time since Gold Nugget Lodge #662, Paradise, CA, has submitted our 'news,' perhaps some may have wondered if in our advanced ages we'd all gone to 'Paradise.' However, despite our inordinate amount of health issues, we're still going strong. We've gained a few new members over the past couple of years and they are instilling great pride in our heritage and our lodge. Laurel Paulsen-Pierce has made fantastic strides in fine-tuning her skills on the nyckelharpa - she's gone to Sweden to learn all she could on that and other older musical instruments and she's entertained us at all our special events. Dick Connell dove right in and is teaching us to speak the Swedish language (about time we learned). He's ably served as Vice Chairman and has been a great supporter of all our efforts. Peggy Higgins is now our Chairman and we're green - or is it blue and yellow - with envy that she's spending several weeks in Sweden with family. Recently we enjoyed our potluck picnic at Janice and Ted McKinnon's home in the pines. Several members of Skogen Lodge #700 joined us in making the event even more special. We were delighted to help celebrate Bertil and

Lilian Larson's 70th wedding anniversary as well as Lilian's 90th birthday. What a pair they are! Many Northern California's Twelfth District members have known and enjoyed this super couple over the years. Now we're preparing to celebrate our lodge's 45th anniversary and then, of course, the event of the year, Lucia Fest. We're excited about the lovely Cheri Sword serving as "Lucia." And, the Sword family and children from Bit O'Heaven Day Care will again be featured with their innovative and delightful dance routines and musical presentations.

We of Gold Nugget Lodge wish each and everyone Gott Nytt År.

Submitted by: Margaret Flaughter



Lucia Cheri Sword.

Phoenix Lodge #677

Phoenix, AZ



Sara Sofia Lagerman

The Lucia for the 2006 Phoenix Lodge #677 Lucia Fest was Sarah Sofia Lagerman, daughter of Honorary Consul Lars and Susan Lagerman and sister of former Lucia, Ellen Lagerman. Sarah is 15 years old and a sophomore at Xavier College Preparatory where her favorite subjects are mathematics, Spanish and



The Swedish Council of America awarded the 2006 Award of Merit to LaVonne Lindall and Ann Johnson of Phoenix Lodge #677. This award is given to those who have devoted their time and talents at the "grassroots" level to assure the well-being of their organization, all done with remarkable sense of enthusiasm, dedication and hard work in the service of the Swedish-American cause. Siri Eliason, Chairman of the Council, and Urban Lundberg, Chief of the Award Recognition Committee, flank LaVonne and Ann.

history. She also enjoys dance, singing, and soccer. After graduation she would like to go to college in Southern California. Sarah has close ties to Sweden with grandparents in Vasterås, and cousins in Stockholm. She often visits

Vasterås and Öland where she picks blueberries and mushrooms with the best of Swedes. Sarah appreciates the opportunity and honor of serving as your Lucia for 2006.

Submitted by: Sam Lidén

Norden Lodge # 684

Fresno, CA

Our annual Lucia-Jul celebration on December 9, 2006 with 150 attending went extremely well a our Lucia Joy-Marie had her mother Pernilla and Swedish friends in charge of the procession this year which consisted of 24 young people – not bad. Maybe it had something to do that Joy-Marie's Mormor Rose-Marie came all the way from Sweden to see her granddaughter be the Lucia. Anyway, everybody really helped out and of course the kitchen duties were many and we thank Carolyn Peterson and all her helpers for that. Everybody thought it was a great Lucia festival.

Our first meeting of 2007 was another annual party – consisting of "julgransplundring", dancing around the old Christmas tree and throwing it out! Monica Shipley, our one and only cultural leader always have a surprise for those attending.

We also said our thank-you to Helen Fosdick who has been our faithful chairman the last four years. She has been great with lots of inspirations about Sweden and we look forward to our new chairman, Mary Morton who has entertained us many times with her beautiful singing voice.

Submitted by: Inger Lindhe

Cariboo Lodge #690

Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada

Vasa Lodge #690 of Quesnel, British Columbia, Canada celebrated Christmas 2006 with a gathering of members, relatives and friends at the Vasa hall. Christmas dinner was served and enjoyed by all, followed by the Santa Lucia pageant where the story of Santa Lucia was read, saffron buns served and the singing of Christmas carols sung by the cast.

Submitted by: Sandra Telford



The pageant cast is from left to right: Tutta McLennan, Lise Aaslie (Santa Lucia girls), Dorothy Hildebrand, Sandra Telford, Jean Davis, Janet Magnuson, (Choir) and Audrey King (playing the accordion).

Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

So. Dennis, MA

After a summer hiatus, broken only by a highly successful Midsommarfest, Vinland Lodge held its September meeting. It was gratifying to have so many members of the District Lodge attend. Among the visitors were Pam Genelli, GLEBM, Marian Parco, Meriel Doyle, Norma Hohne, and Shirley French.

The business meeting was purposely cut short in order for us to benefit from a “brain-storm” session in were members were invited to offer suggestions for increasing Lodge membership, expanding cultural programs, and, in general, affecting more stimulating and inviting future meetings. Pam Genelli, returned from The Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego gave a synopsis of recommendations, which would benefit Vinland Lodge. As usual, Pam “delivered” and we all enjoyed hearing her report. Following that, Shirley French gave an insightful speech concerning the future of Vasa Order of America and the necessity of each member’s active participation, thus giving vitality to VOA. We all appreciated Pam’s and Shirley’s remarks.

In October we were delighted to have as our guest, Jim Coogan, a retired teacher and co-author with Jack Sheedy, of several books on Cape Cod. Among

The annual Christmas party this year was a true success. A full house of about 120 people – 37 of them was kids! – came to Berkeley Hills Country Club to meet Santa Claus and eat all the goodies on the “smörgåsbord,” such as “julskinka,” “gravlax” and “köttbullar.” We even had some guest appearances by two of Atlanta’s own Thrashers hockey team in attendance with their families.

In honor of the day, the room was festively decorated with Swedish ornaments and flags in the Christmas tree and around the room. As people arrived, they were greeted with the customary homemade “glögg” served to the strains of “Nu är det jul igen” and other Swedish Christmas songs, performed by accordionist Ed Hendela and string bassist Göran Rygert.

After the yummy dinner Atlanta’s Swedish men’s choir, “Vasa Drängar,” performed some popular Christmas songs. The musicians played again, and the children now were more than full of expecta-



Rune Borgman at his “workbench” aka MY dining room table!

their books are “Sail Away Ladies,” stories of Cape Cod women who accompanied their sea captain husbands at sea, in an age of sail. Jim is a dynamic, articulate speaker who immediately holds one’s attention, and we members were enlightened and delighted by his address. Not only did he stimulate our minds but also our appetites, which were requited by a bountiful table.

Our November meeting found forty-four members enjoying a delicious luncheon at the Yarmouth House in West Dennis. The Co-Chairmen of this event were Dr. Lee Johnson and his wife, Peg, who did a super job in arranging the

luncheon meeting. The Yarmouth House is noted for its exceptionally fine food and décor, which, at that time, had already anticipated Christmas and was beautifully decorated

My husband, Rune, a man of many talents, had cut out fifty, small plywood Dalahästar, with names of each attending member inscribed on the base. It was fun to see the tiny red horses pinned on each member who seemed quite pleased with them. All in all, it was a joyous, highly successful luncheon, and we appreciate the work the Johnsons did to make it so.

Our best wishes to all in 2007.

Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman

Nordic Lodge #708

Atlanta, GA

tion. Finally “tomten” showed up and all kids flocked around him, each one waiting for his or her turn to sit on his lap and receive a Christmas present. The last one to take a seat on his lap was tomten’s guest of honor of 2006, Lilian “Doris” Nordin, one of the first members of the Nordic Lodge #708, and always ready to

help out. She also received her Christmas present from Santa.

After more music, singing and dancing – and glögg – it was time to go home. Everybody had fond memories of this glorious evening!

Submitted by: Göran Rygert

Picture by: Jan Rygert



37 children came to meet Santa Claus.

Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719

Laguna Hills, CA

Honorary Life Member and PDM Eugene and his lovely wife Kathy Carlson celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary with friends and Vasa Family at the September meeting of Glenn T. Seaborg #719 in Laguna Woods, CA. Son-in-law Ed Brennan gave a wonderful toast, while daughter Suzanne Brennan served a beautifully decorated cake. Long distance wishes were received from daughter Pam. Others expressed their best wishes, including a special toast by Seaborg Cuisine Coordinator, Chef Anders Eriksson who had made Carlson favorites for the evening meal. Everyone was amazed at the number of years because they are both truly young at heart. Their secret, Gene's jovial wit and Kathy's elegance and patience. Congratulations to Gene and Kathy, with love from all your friends in Vasaland.

November 2006 was a great month for Seaborg initiating seven new members!



PDM Eugene and his lovely wife Kathy Carlson.

Great monthly cultural programs, wonderful potlucks, and honoring each other as Vasa family members are among the many reasons for all the growth. This membership award-winning lodge has fun together and laughs a lot. Members also met in November to plan the Lucia fest (smörgåsbord and Lucia Pageant). One of the highlights of the year for Seaborg lodge is the annual Lucia fest which raises much needed funds for the lodge.

Submitted by: Phyllis Brandon

Stenland Lodge #727

Palisades, NY

On December 9th Stenland Lodge #727 of the Vasa Order of America presented their annual Lucia Program at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Pearl River. Twenty-two children participated in the St. Lucia celebration. The children sang both Swedish and English Christmas carols; some children recited poems, other children told about how Lucia Day is celebrated in Sweden today, and two girls played *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*. One girl played the flute and the other girl played the guitar. Tanya Rizzuto, the soloist, sang *Oh Holy Night*.

One popular Swedish version of the legend of St. Lucia states that Sweden was in the grip of a terrible famine. At the height of that dark, icy winter, hunger and suffering were at their worst. But on the long night of St. Lucia Day, December 13, a brilliantly lit ship sailed across the stormy waters of Lake Vänern. At the helm stood a beautiful young woman dressed all in white. Her face was so radiant that there was a glow of light all about her head. At her command the ship landed along the shore at different points, where large quantities of food were distributed among the starving people. St. Lucia became Sweden's beacon of light during the darkest period of the year. To this day December 13th is one of

the high points of the Christmas season.

Over 100 people attended this affair. After the program everyone enjoyed refreshments and fellowship. The members of Stenland Lodge baked cookies and desserts to share with everyone present.

Casey Heffernan from Pearl River portrayed St. Lucia. She wore a white long dress, a red sash around her waist, and a crown of candles on her head as a symbol of the real St. Lucia. We are already looking forward to next year. Our Lucia Fest will be on the second Saturday in December.

Submitted by: Beatrice Rasmussen



Casey Heffernan

Birka Lodge #732

Hamilton, MA

Sarah Williams, age 11, daughter of Sharon Williams and granddaughter of Nancy and Gordon Hayward, longtime Birka Lodge #732 members, all of North Reading, portrayed Santa Lucia at the annual Jul Fest held on November 25th. Sarah has a great love for Sweden and has had this since she was a young child. She has a great desire to learn everything there is to know about the country and its people and really lives her Swedish roots. Every year she convinces her mom to put the Christmas tree in the middle of the living room floor so that they can dance around it! Sarah has been practicing being Lucia for many years awakening her mom early on the morning of December 13th with "lussekatter" (saffron buns) and coffee thus ushering in the Christmas season.

She is a 5th grader at the Christian School in Wilmington. She plays soccer and is a very active Girl Scout; she plays hand bells in two church hand bell choirs and is a member of Dra-Vo (a performing drama-vocal group at school) and also gymnastics. Sarah is an avid reader, enjoys art and music and is an excellent student.

Her sister Sonja, age 8 and in the second grade, was one of Sarah's attendants. Also included were her cousins Alex and Ashley Bakom, ages 5 and 3.

Submitted by: Lois Johnson



Sarah Williams

Jubileum Lodge #755

Madison, WI

On Sunday, November 12, 2006, over seventy attendees celebrated Jubileum's 10th anniversary. The Madison Chapter, which received its charter on November 17, 1996, was started by a group of over forty individuals, championed by Bengt Johnson, Melanie Heald, Alice Olson, and the Burlings to name a few. Many members have helped to sustain the energy and commitment of the lodge over the years and were acknowledged as well.

Charter members were honored at the festive dinner. Many of them and their

families were in attendance. The lodge produced a video to recognize the history of Jubileum, the efforts of the founders, and the hopes for the future of the lodge. The viewing of the video was the highlight of the evening's program.

Other guests included the District Board members. Lillemor and Richard Horngren were recognized for their years of dedicated work with Vasa, including with Jubileum.

Tack så mycket to all!

Submitted by: Carol Hassemer



Charter and long-time members – Janet Peterson and sister, Connie (Robert) Nelson, Wendy (Bengt) Johnson, Jan (James) Johnson, Martha and Ralph Stromquist.

Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

After our October 22, 2006 meeting we had a fun- and laughter-filled program. Janelle Brainard and Louise Pantaleo taught us the fine art of Bunco.

December 10, 2006 was our Lucia Celebration. We had a scrumptious "smörgåsbord" with traditional foods and of course, "glögg." We had a bake sale and craft sale table this year. Our members have been busy all year working on these craft items.

Plans are in the making for a trip to Stockholm in May-June, 2007. We will be going down the Göta Canal for one week and the rest of the time is on your own. There will be more details in the next issue. If you have any questions now, please contact Janelle at 1-928-282-1775 or Vito at 1-928-282-3469.

Submitted by: Kristin Boyes



Viking Lodge #756

Greenfield, MA

Viking Lodge #756 held its Lucia Pageant on December 10, 2006, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The church was filled with family and friends and everyone had a wonderful time. After a greeting by PDM Phil Johnson, Chaplain Judd Blain gave a reading about the history of Lucia.

The church was darkened when Lucia made her grand entrance followed by her attendants and star boys. We all enjoyed the reading and songs, then all gathered downstairs for coffee and Lucia buns and other treats. *Silent Night* is a favorite of our pageant, sung in English, Swedish, German, French, and Chinese.

This year's Lucia was Kristina Athey, her attendants were Anna Athey, Lily Blain, CeeCee Boyd, Lucy Chase, Anneka Johnson, Avery Johnson, Emma Kelly, Carlyn Perry, Elizabeth Saulnier, Madeline Savoie, and Katie Tease. Star



boys were Sam Chase, Sigurd Kohlin, and Gus Kohlin. Cello was played by Nancy Pond. Tomte Far was PC Torvald Kohlin.

Chairman Margareta Athey led the singing.

Submitted by: Phil Johnson

SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563



Arbetsmöte med jullunch 17 december

Vi var 30 syskon som hade samlats för ett arbetsmöte och efterföljande jullunch. Vid detta möte diskuterades budget för 2007 samt valdes 2007 års styrelse och tjänstemän.

Naturligtvis var det julbord som gällde. Via catering, hade beställts Lilla julbordet, som bestod av de självklara rätterna som ett julbord ska bestå av. Allt smakade gott och faten tömtes snabbt.

Därefter väntade vi spánt på Lucias ankomst. Det var syskonen Ulla och Lage Jenneflods barnbarn Julia (Lucia) och Anna (lilltomte) som, tillsammans med två kamrater, underhöll oss med vacker sång – både traditionella luciasånger och några som var mer okända för oss.

Vad kan en julsammankomst inte vara utan tomten förståss! Han kom med en välfylld säck. Det var en mycket vänlig tomte som hade med klappar till alla samlade.

Som avslutning läste Leif Sahlman en fin dikt för oss alla.

Submitted by: Pia Norrman



Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Twice a year some of our brothers and sisters are entertaining the rest of us. This is what we call our informal meeting. This last meeting was October 14th and afterwards we were all waiting for a meal to be served. Seven of our brothers were dressed as "garçons" as this was an evening à la France! We had "pâté, coq au vin" and coffee with a cake. The seven brothers started by out by singing "Willkommen, bienvenu, welcome." One brother told us that a relative of Edith Piaf's was in the building and, in fact, was a brother of our Order! He began singing very much out of tune, but moved around fantastically. He sure made us laugh! Then we all sang some songs together and later three of the brothers had become "sisters," so to speak. Oh yes, they danced

the cancan!!!! Oh what a sight!

On November 11th is our formal meeting where we have a dress code. After the meeting we had a meal consisting of goose. In Sweden we always eat this kind of bird on November 10th or 11th as a remembrance of a priest back in 1760. This priest did not want to be elected into a higher position within the church so he hid amongst the geese. But as we all know these kinds of birds are never silent. So the priest was found and elected for a higher position anyways. The birds that revealed him were slaughtered! This began a tradition that started in the south of Sweden back in the middle of 1850. Now it is a tradition practiced all over Sweden.

Submitted by: Elise Ek



Kjell Nilsson, Berne Jönsson, Stig Nilsson serving wine.



"The Can Can girls" Bo Norberg, Berne Jönsson, Åke Sennström samt Kjell o Stig Nilsson, Bengt Persson och Hans Bogren.

Logen Enköping Nr 646

Den andra december passade logen Enköping Nr 646 att genomföra Luciafest och logemöte.

Medlemmar från logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563, Logen Stockholm Nr 589 samt logen Engelbrekt Nr 619 hade också sökt sig till denna tillställning.

Vi började kvällen med ett stilfullt möte i Vasaanda. Sedan bjöds vi ner till det hemmagjorda välsmakande julbordet som våra duktiga kommitterade Ingrid och Alan Tammerfors tillsammans med Lillemor Eriksson hade tillagat. Under maten sjöng vi sånger och umgicks. När kaffet sedan serverades hörde vi vackra stämmor ute i tamburen och in skred årets Lucia med tärnor, stjärngosse och tomt. De bjöd på mycket vacker och njutfull stämning med många välkända julsånger. När Lucia sedan skred ut med sitt tåg hördes många applåder. Sekreteraren i logen Enköping Nr 646, Elisabeth Agge framförde ett varmt tack till Lucia-tåget från logen och överlämnade sedan varsin ros.

Efter Lucia var alla förväntansfulla på det traditionella julletteriet som i år hade många fina skänkta gåvor från ordenssyskon. Som vänligt var intresset stort för det fina pepparkakshuset som skänkts av Börje och Gull-Britt Pettersson i logen Enköping Nr 646. I år vanns den av ordförande i logen Engelbrekt Nr 619 Peter Sundqvist som med stolthet visade upp det. Kvällen fortsatte sedan i en förväntansfull atmosfär om att julen snart är här.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge



Ordförande i Logen Engelbrekt Nr 619 Peter Sundqvist och den som gjort pepparkakshuset och skänkt som en gåva är Börje och Gull-Britt Pettersson i logen Enköping Nr 646.



Luciatåget är Lena Edlund, Louise Store, Agnes Forsell, Ingrid Lekberg, Camilla Widegren samt Rasmus Mocklin.

Logen Härnösand Nr 673

Härnösandslogen gjorde den 10:e september en mycket innehållsrik och trevlig bussutflykt. Resans första stopp var ett besök i Ytterlännens Ga kyrka vilket var en fantastisk upplevelse. Olle Svanholm kunde ge en speciell ton åt de skatter och gamla målningar som kyrkan innehåller. Han kunde även ge en livfull historieskildring av bygden med speciella personligheter som funnits och verkat i och omkring kyrkan.

Efter en förmiddagsfika i solen på kyrkbacken fortsatte färden mot Skadom. I Klockhuset gav oss Torbjörn Holmer med fru en mycket trevlig genomgång och berättelse omkring inte alla 750, men många av de klockor han lyckats samla ihop. Eftersom samlingen ökat så i antal är hans speciellt byggda hus snart för litet. Han blev dessutom mycket intresserad av Vasa Orden och kommer att närvara vid nästa logemöte.

Tillbaka i bussen stannade vi efter några mil längs vår vackra Ångermanälv i Sollefteå för lunch på Nipan. Resan fortsatte sedan till Bollstasågen där Christoffer Lundholm mötte oss. Han kunde visa och förklara hur ett av Sveriges modernaste sågverk fungerar. Han förklarade bl a att 70 timmer-bilars last, kan omvandlas till olika virkesdimensioner och övriga produkter under endast ett dygn med få anställda i produktionen. Vi kunde följa stockarnas väg in i såghuset vidare genom olika faser i tillverkningen fram till plastklädda paket färdiga för export. Mycket imponerande!

Efter en eftermiddagsfika på Hornöberget med utsikt över Höga Kusten Bron styrdes så kosan hemåt. Adel som så vänligt och trevligt lotsat oss runt bland en del av traktens historia, kultur och moderna industri tackades hjärtligt för att ha gjort färden så trevlig.

Fredag den 27:e oktober hölls månadsmöte som besöktes av paret Axelsson från Logen Skövde Nr 626. Det är alltid uppskattat med besök från andra loger.

Astrid och Leif Nyberg recipierade och upptogs som medlemmar. De hälsades givetvis hjärtligt välkomna i vår Orden. Vi utsåg 1:a nominering av styrelse och tjänstemän för 2007 samt upptog förslag till kommande års mötesdagar och beslut togs ang årsavgift varefter dagens mötesförhandlingar kunde avslutas. Kvällen värdpar Wallin, Grankvist och Högberg skötte kvällens servering med en utsökt måltid.

Lasse Sundgren Logens hobbybi odlare berättade kunnigt om vad som händer under ett år i och omkring bikupan. Intresserade åhörare fick också svar på

Continued on page 22



Logen Härnösand Nr 673

Continued from page 21

många frågor. Sedan smakade det utmärkt med kaffe och hembakt kaka.

Ulla-Britt Nordin fortsatte att leda glada sånger, Bert Wallin och Bosse Selin spelade dragspel. Bert underhöll även med några virtuosa dragspelsstycken. Mycket uppskattat! Kvällens lotterier försvann snabbt samt att logen fick ett gott kassatillskott därav.

Den 24:e november hölls en högtidlig stilfull presentation för de under året bortgångna bröderna Dean Persson och Bengt Tillberg.

Val av 2007 års styrelse och tjänstemän förrättades. O. Leif Claesson avslutade mötesförhandlingarna på sedvanligt sätt. Därefter tog så värdepåren Wikström, Gilliusson och Nygren emot i matsalen med egenförfattad innehållsrik välkomstvisa, varefter en smaklig måltid med lämplig dryck serverades. Kjell Hamrin ledde som vanligt sången under måltiden. Höstens (årets) bingspel följde.

Submitted by: Barbro Sundgren

Photo by: Lars Sundgren



Ytterlännäs Gamla Kyrka.

Logen Knallen Nr 745

Borås

Logen Knallen samlades till "Thanksgiving Day" - firande tredje torsdagen i november, i Odd Fellowhuset, med sina vackra rum för både högtid och gamman. Högtiden hade samlat drygt åttio medlemmar och gäster. Ordföranden Br Börje Olausson hälsade alla välkomna till den sedvanliga ceremonin i logesalen. Gäster från logen Kongahälla, DN Br Gunnar Gustavsson tillsammans med tre logesyskon, deltog.

Dagordningen föredrogs och mötesförhandlingarna vidtog. Bl a föredrog Nancy Kindblad förslaget till nya tjänstemän och kommittéer för 2007, förslaget godkändes av mötesdeltagarna. Vår kulturledare Sy Ulla Carlén informerade om olika kulturevenemang i Borås och även konstutställningar i Göteborg värda att besöka. Som avslutning av mötet gav en stunds meditation till stilla musik under stjärnhimlen en fin stämning.

Vid efterkapitlet hälsades flera gäster välkomna och traditionsenlig kalkonmiddag med alla tillbehör avnjöts. Före och under middagen underhöll Arne Larsson med pianomusik och historier av flera folkkära författare.

Br Gunnar Ödman berättade om hur "Thanksgiving Day" - traditionen vuxit fram i den Amerikanska historien från början av 1600-talet till våra dagar. Även den svenska traditionen med Tacksägelse berördes.

Br Åke Swahn föredrog därefter en svensk översättning av Presidentens, George W. Bush, tal till den amerikanska nationen inför "Thanksgiving" - helgen.

Aftonen avslutades med glad och vänskaplig samvaro till kaffet och äpplekakan i de trivsamma salongerna.

Submitted by: Ingvar Carlén

*Advertise in the
Vasa Star*

En ny Loge i Vadstena?

Lördagen den 28 oktober samlades åter det "järngäng" som brinner för bildandet av en Loge i Vadstena. Vi var dels logemedlemmar från Norrköping och Linköping med eldsjelen SLPD sy Lisbeth H Qvarfordt i spetsen samt blivande medlemmar personer från Vadstena-Motalatrakten, inalles ett 20-tal personer. Mötet ägde rum i IOGT/NTO:s lokal i Vadstena.

Efter välkomstord av SLPD Sy Lisbeth H Qvarfordt inleddes mötet med ett framträdande av trubadurerna Kenneth Edlund och Jan Wahlström som underhöll med en kavalkad av Evert Taubes sjömansvisor. Mycket uppskattat!

Efter en kort repetition av Sy Lisbeth om Vasaordens historik, uppbyggnad och syften kom vi fram till "kärnfrågan:" Finns det en möjlighet att bilda en Vasaloge i Vadstena? Ja! De församlade ansåg att det såg lovande ut. Det finns all anledning att fortsätta arbetet. En av de intresserade från orten med goda kunskaper av Sverige-Amerika-frågor åtog sig att vara lokal kontaktperson, och övertog de nästan 35 namnuppgifter, som visat sig intresserade runt om i Vadstena.

Det bildades en trupp på tre personer som nu tar hand om nästa möte. Nu gäller det att var och en ser till att ta alla tillfällen i akt för att informera och intressera lämpliga personer för ett engagemang för en Vasaloge i Vadstena. Den 25 november samlas vi till ett julföreläsning då vi hoppas ha tagit ytterligare ett eller flera steg på vägen till en ny Loge.

Efter att ha avnjutit kaffet med dopp som Sy Lisbeth och Br. Inge som vanligt bjöd på, åtskildes vi nöjda med dagens arbete. SLPD Sy Lisbeth hoppas att fram i vårdagarna installera logen Vadstena.

Logen Filbyter Nr 714, Linköping och Logen Bråviken Nr 751, Norrköping fadderar för nya Vadstenalogen.

**Text: Arne Samuelsson
Logen Filbyter Nr 714**

**Foto: Inge Hallberg
SSF/BLF LL Nr 751, LL Nr 663**



De två Trubadurerna, Vadstenaföretagarna och ev. chartermedlemmar, Kenneth Edlund och Jan Wahlström höll en uppskattad underhållning av en musikalisk resa i Evert Taubes fortspar.



SLPD Lisbeth H Qvarfordt, samt representanter från fadderlogerna, FDO Viveka Skott från LL Bråviken Nr 751 och O. Arne Samuelsson från LL Filbyter Nr 714, i samarbete inför upptakts - möte nr 2 i Vadstena.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

YOUTH NEWS

Nordikids Musikklubb #208

On December 10, 2006, Nordikids Musikklubb #208, DL Lake Michigan #8, honored Miss Abigail Ogrentz as their 2006 Lucia Queen at the Wicker Park Social Center in Highland, IN. During an afternoon-long celebration Nordikids performed a traditional and contemporary mixture of Christmas songs and Abigail sang "I Juletid" as her solo.

Abigail Ro Ogrentz has been a member of Vasa Children's Clubs since she was 3 years old starting with Solstralen Children's Club in Evergreen Park, IL. She later joined Nordikids Musikklubb in Northwest Indiana under the Supervision of Lynda Smith, Musical Direction of Lynnea Sinwelski and Cultural Leadership of Annelise Gingold-Nelson.

Abigail is the daughter of Timothy and Linnea Ogrentz of Chicago, Illinois, and the granddaughter of Jean (Bogren) Oak and the late Roland Oak of Chicago, and Jean (Lundquist) Ogrentz and the late

Thomas Ogrentz of Dyer, IN. Abigail's maternal great-grandparents were from Skåne, Närke and Värmland and immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900s and settled in Minnesota and Chicago. Abigail's fraternal great-great grandparents were from Dalarna and Stockholm and settled in Minnesota, Chicago and Colorado.

Abigail hopes to visit her mormor's first cousins, Hasse and Berit Bogren, in Höganäs, Sweden with her family one day. They are active members of Vasa Logen Höganäs Nr 634 and recently visited the U.S. at the Vasa Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego, CA. They also visited in Chicago with the entire family.

When not attending Nordikids or singing Swedish songs, Abigail can be found learning at home with her younger brother Harrison (Harry) Ogrentz. Being home-schooled allows Abby to give extra time to her other interests which include piano, violin, swimming, writing and performing in community theater.

Submitted by: Linnea Ogrentz



Abigail Ogrentz

CULTURE

Stadsdelen The Bronx i NY

Om det tillåts en liten utsvävning typ världelöst vetande från själva järnvägsspåret (när vi nu ändå diskuterar platsnamn i NY) så är det intressant att konstatera att vi svenskar har satt avtryck lite varstans i världen. Så exempelvis är stadsdelen The Bronx (som omnämns i inläggen ovan) egentligen uppkallad efter en från Sverige via Amsterdam utflyttad sjökapten på 1630-talet. Mannen i fråga hette Jonas Bronck och var född i Komstad inte så långt från Jönköping i Småland.

Att stadsdelen heter The Bronx, och alltså med bestämd artikel "the," sammanhänger naturligtvis med att det egentligen är en språklig ellips för "The Bronck's farm/alternativt/land" eller "The Bronck's River." Det som kommer efter Bronck's är alltså underförstått. Namnet Bronck med sitt genitiv-s har med tiden sedan förändrats till nuvarande The Bronx med x på slutet. En del av Jonas Broncks personliga vapentavla är för övrigt inkorporerad i New Yorks heraldiska vapen och finns även med i stadsdelen The Bronx egen flagga.

Citat från amerikansk källa om svensken Jonas Bronck:

"In 1639, the first European settler came to establish himself on the mainland north and east of the Harlem River. His name was Jonas Bronck. Born in Sweden, he had made a living as a commercial sea captain sailing out of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. He, his wife and his indentured servants from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands gradually cleared the woods and cultivated the lands between today's Bronx and Harlem Rivers, mostly south of modern 150th Street.

When Bronck died in 1643, the only thing that was named after him that remained over the years was the Bronck's, or, abbreviated, Bronx, River."

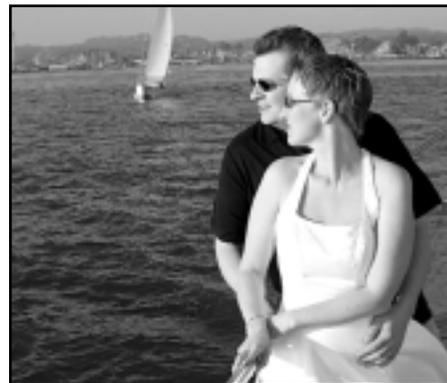
Och sedermera fick alltså hela området officiellt namnet The Bronx efter denne Smålandsfödde svensk!

Submitted by: Lasse Ericksson, member of The Swedish Cultural Society in Cleveland, Ohio

FAMILY

Ulrika Kellgren and Quint Friesen were married on October 22, 2006. The event took place under full sails on the 70' sailboat Chardonnay II on the Pacific Ocean just outside Capitola, CA. The two-hour sailboat outing was a wonderful venue for the wedding; the weather cooperated fully, with 70-degree weather and clear skies.

Ulrika is the daughter of GLEBM Western Region Tore and PDM Birgitta Kellgren. Ulrika is a member of Svea Lodge #348, San Jose CA. Quint is the son of Don and Martha Friesen of Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada. The couple will live in Scotts Valley, CA.



PLEASE MEET

Swedish American of the Year 2006 - Agneta Nilsson, Founder of SWEA

When the Swedish Ambassador to the US, Gunnar Lund, called me in early spring of 2006 to congratulate me on being named the Swedish American of the Year 2006, I really did not know much about this fine award that has been given to a person in the US since 1960. Ambassador Lund asked me if I would be in Sweden the two first weeks in August. Delighted and honored to receive this award, I told him I would be in Sweden all summer. The celebration was really a huge arrangement that lasted during 12 days and spanned the provinces of Värmland, Växjö and Stockholm.

On August 4, a friend of Erik Gustavsson picked up Kjell Lagerstrom and me the grand old man in New York that has headed the John Ericsson Society for as long as I can remember. We arrived at the hotel in Karlstad, where a small group of Vasa members had gathered to greet me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, a speech and a delightful lunch. The evening we spent at Erik and Elinor Gustavssons summer home on the shore of lake Vänern. Some 50 Vasa members and other friends came for this delicious barbeque.

On Saturday the Karlstad "Kommun" had a lovely lunch for us and I received a beautiful picture and a book as a memory of Karlstad. After lunch we dashed off to Filipstad, an hour's drive away, in order to participate in the honors given John Ericsson at his Mausoleum. When this was over, we went to the park next to the lake for some more entertainment and speeches honoring me, the Swedish American of the year, with flowers and more gifts. Finally there was the yearly reenactment of the Battle of Hampton Courts, with John Ericsson's Monitor versus the Merrimack. After all this commotion and shootings, it was time for our little group to return to Stockholm.

Monday we continued to celebrate. I had lunch with the ÅSA committee and in the evening the Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy, Steven Noble and his wife, served an elegant reception in their large apartment on Strandvägen. I met many old friends, several SWEA members had come and so had Princess Christina with her husband Tord.

Thursday, Aug 10, now in Växjö, the Vasa Order had arranged for a press con-

ference and again it resulted in some nice articles about the Vasa Order, SWEA and myself. We had lunch with the entire ÅSA committee. That evening the Växjö "Kommun" held a lovely dinner in town for us. After dinner there was entertainment by a lovely Swedish singer, dressed in her Värends folk costume.

Friday morning we left by car for an all day visit to Kosta, Boda and Orrefors glass factories. We had great guides at all the factories and the sales manager Hans Ljungdahl was our host during lunch at Orrefors and also guided us behind the scenes. I was given the opportunity to blow glass. Again I was given a lovely vase as a memory of this trip to the glass factories. This evening was the big Gala event that the two Swedish District lodges in Sweden had put together at the Grand Ballroom of "Stadshotellet." More than a hundred Vasa members, SWEA members and other friends arrived for this festive event. The two district masters Åke Mellnert, SD #20 and Lisbeth Qvarfordt Hallberg, ND #19, members of the ÅSA committee called me to the stage and in a solemn ceremony they declared me the "Swedish American of year 2006" and presented me with two elegant, heavy crystal candle holders from Orrefors. The dinner ended with fabulous music entertainment by Wieska and Hubert Szymczynski.

Saturday morning a group of us walked to "Utvandrarnas Hus" where we were met by Professor Emeritus, Ulf Beijbom. He took us on a grand tour of the house. After this enlightening visit we walked on to Östrabo Mansion where the bishop of Växjö resides. Anders and Kajsa Wejryd had invited a small group for lunch this day. Here I met Robert Hilton and his family from the US Embassy and Klas Hansson, the new head of SKUT (The Swedish Church abroad), had come from Uppsala that day. Anders and his wife Kajsa is a charming, down to earth couple and he will become a greatly appreciated archbishop for Sweden. Saturday evening we were all invited to the annual meeting of the Emigrant Institute. The lovely musician couple from last night performed again, a different program this time but just as great.

Sunday morning, Minnesota Day in Växjö, it was raining as we all walked to



Catherine Bringselius Nilsson och Agneta Nilsson på mottagning hos amerikanska Charge d Affaires den 7 augusti.

the "domkyrka" for the morning service. The "domkyrka" is a striking building with two towers and inside it has an altar, completely made of glass by the famous glass artist Bertil Vallin. Robert Hilton's wife Olivia, who is a minister, took part in this day's service.

Växjö Kommun was again host for an exquisite meal, this time lunch at the "Stadshotellet." Ulf Wickbom was the speaker of the day. I was again asked to come up on stage and take the cover off the big frame and there I found my name inscribed on a copper plate together with all the previous Swedish Americans! It was quite a feeling to see this and to think that maybe one day in the future my grandchildren would travel to Sweden and come to this museum and see "farmors" name!!! The two district masters and the committee also presented me with a handsome plaque, a frame proclaiming me the S-A of the year, a table standard from each district and a beautiful bouquet. After this lovely ceremony we walked back into the main square and the Governor and his wife had invited us all to a fun and casual reception with a super-tasty buffet.

It was time to say good-bye to all our new friends and to thank everyone; I had a fantastic experience being ÅSA 2006!

The following Tuesday, in Stockholm, all the festivities surrounding the Swedish American of 2006 had its grand finale in a lunch that our Foreign minister, Ambassador Jan Eliasson, hosted in the official dining room of the Foreign Office.

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Swedish American of the Year

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I am very proud to have been chosen "Swedish American of the Year 2006" and I am especially happy for the Organization SWEA, a worldwide network among Swedish women that is getting a lot of publicity this way. It is important for us to continue this worthwhile work for Sweden abroad and at home. I feel that this is only the beginning of more important work for us in the future.

**Submitted by: Agneta Nilsson,
Swedish American of the Year 2006
Pictures by: Kerstin Alm**

Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2006 – Agneta Nilsson SWEAs Grundare

Tidigt i våras ringde den svenske ambassadören i USA, Gunnar Lund, på min telefon och meddelade; "Gratulerar, Du har blivit utsedd till Årets Svenskamerikan, kan Du var i Sverige de två första veckorna i augusti"?? Omtumlad, överrumplad och mycket glad svarade jag, ja visst, jag kommer att vara i Sverige hela sommaren i år!

Jag visste inte mycket om denna fina utmärkelse då, men nu efter de fantastiska dagarna i Värmland, Växjö och Stockholm tillsammans med de två distriktslogerna av Vasa Orden, vet jag så mycket mera.

Den 4 augusti bilade jag ner med väner, bl.a. Kjell Lagerström från New York som i många år varit John Ericsson Society ordförande i New York. Den fredagen möttes vi av medlemmar ur den lokala logen av Vasa Orden med blommor och en härlig lunch i trevligt sällskap. Samma kväll var vi bjudna till Emigrantregistrets chef i Karlstad, Erik Gustavson och hans fru Elinors trevliga sommarställe på Hammarön för en stor barbecue i sällskap av många Vasa Orden medlemmar.

På lördagen bjöd Karlstad kommun på fin lunch i Mariebergsskogen, med tal och överlämnande av presenter till Årets Svenskamerikan. Därefter for vi kvickt iväg till Filipstad där Kjell Lagerström och Årets Svenskamerikan skulle delta i högtidligheterna och kransnedläggningen vid John Ericssons grav i hans vackra Mausoleum. Därefter fortsatte festligheterna i parken vid Kanonudden, högtidstal, hyllning av Årets



Prinsessan Christina fru Magnusson, Tord Magnusson, prinsessans make och Agneta Nilsson den 7 augusti.

Svenskamerikan och sist men inte minst en rekonstruktion av Slaget vid Hamptons Roads 1862 då John Ericssons Monitor kämpare mot Merrimack (Virginia). Efter "det stora spännande kriget" med mycket skjutande på sjön framför Filipstads vackra kyrka, bilade vi så åter till Stockholm lördag em.

Måndagen den 7 augusti höll USA's Chargé d'Affairs en mottagning i sitt hem på Strandvägen i Stockholm. Många gamla vänner fanns med denna vackra svenska sommarkväll, flera Sweor hade kunnat slita sig från sina sommarställen och Prinsessan Christina med sin Tord hedrade oss denna afton.

På onsdagen började fem dagar av intensivt firande i Växjö. Den 9:de på kvällen var Landshövding Lars-Åke Lagrell med fru Yvonne värdpar för en intim middag på sitt vackra residens mitt i staden. Utsökt middag, trevliga tal och mysigt umgänge bl.a. med vår nye generalkonsul i New York, ambassadör Ulf Hjertonsson med fru.

Torsdagen var det en liten presskonferens med ÅSA-06 (resultat i flera lokala tidningar) lunch med Vasa Ordens distriktsmästare och ÅSA - kommitté. Kommunen och fullmäktiges ordförande, Åke Eriksson var kvällens värd för en glad och utsökt middag på "Mat och Dryck" i Växjö. Kvällen avslutades med fin underhållning av vacker flicka i Värendsdräkt.

Fredag morgon regnade det och vi bilade iväg, några tappra Sweor och några tappra från Vasa Orden, till glasriket och började med Boda, sedan Kosta och sist Orrefors, där försäljningschefen Hans Ljungdahl bjöd på lunch och sedan spännande besök bakom kulisserna på detta vackra glasbruk. Jag fick även chansen att blåsa en vas och vid dagens slut överlämnades en vacker Orrefors vas till ÅSA-06.

Det stora Gästabudet i Vasa Ordens regi, hölls den kvällen på Stadshotellet Elite och 100-talet vackert fest-klädda gäster minglade. Många Sweor hade

lyckats ta sig till Växjö denna speciella afton och det kändes ju extra roligt för mig. Denna kväll fick jag mottaga ett par tunga vackra kristall-ljusstakar (Orrefors) av de två distriktsmästarna Åke Mellnert för Södra Distriktet Nr 20 och Lisbeth Qvarfordt för Norra Distriktet Nr 19. Det var en verkligt festlig kväll med strålände musikalisk underhållning av Wieska och Hubert Szymczynski.

Lördagen innebar guidning runt Utvandrarnas Hus med professor em. Ulf Beijbom, och vi fann ett verkligt spännande museum och imponerande forskningsanstalt. Så promenerade vi en liten skara upp till Östrabo Biskopsgård, dit den blivande ärkebiskopen Anders Wejryd med hustru Kajsa inbjudit oss till lunch. Jag fick också glädjen att där träffa Klas Hansson, SKUTs nye chef från Uppsala. Det var roligt för mig att få träffa både Kajsa och Anders, ett trevligare Ärkebiskoppar får man leta efter. Denna kväll var det årsmiddag på Utvandrarnas Hus och vi fick höra mer intressant historia och ytterligare ett fantastiskt, men helt annorlunda uppträdande av Wieska och Hurbert.

Så var det söndag den 13 augusti och *Minnesota-dagen* i Växjö, med regn, just denna dag, då vi skulle vara utomhus! Morgonen började med stor gudstjänst med nattvard i Domkyrkan med vackert alltarskåp i glas (Bertil Hydman Vallin). Så bjöd kommunen igen på lunch på Elite Stadshotell och sedan promenerade vi ner till Utvandrarnas Hus. Där höll Ulf Wickbom högtidsdalet som handlade om den största emigrationen från Sverige, nämligen från Öland. Jag kallades upp på scenen, fick avtäcka tavlan med mitt och alla andra ÅSA namn genom tiderna. Distriktsmästarna och ÅSA-kommittén överlämnade plakett, tavla, flaggor och en utsökt bukett blommor till mig och så höll jag mitt 14:de och näst sista tal! Det var en fin ceremoni och därefter promenerade vi tillbaka till residenset där Landshövdingen och hans Yvonne höll en mottagning med härlig buffé som avslutning på de fantastiska dagarna i Växjö. Alla spriddes för vinden men vi kände att vi fått så mycken trevnad och gemenskap och jag ser fram emot att få vara med om detta fantastiska firande i framtiden också!

Som kronan på verket på denna "ÅSA-gata" höll utrikesminister Jan Eliasson en lunch för mig på UD den 15 augusti.

Jag hade verkligen en fantastisk upplevelse som ÅSA 2006!

**Submitted by: Agneta Nilsson, Årets
Svensk Amerikan 2006
Pictures by: Kerstin Alm**

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 JURSDICTION 0

Nordic #708

Stephan Germany

Jay Lutz

Christopher Mimms

Mary Lou Seltzer

Carl Widen #743

Debbie Warren

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

John Ericsson #25

Margaretha Bouthiller

Avis Landgren

Ingeborg #66

Gertrude Ciancarelli

Spiran #98

Judith Armelin

Carol Thompson

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Kronan #179

Susan Johansen

Viljan #349

Ingrid Anderson

Paul Anderson

Linde #492

Magnus Edstrand

Carl Granetzke

Jan Granetzke

Jubileum #755

Ingrid Bender

Nordic Folk #761

Greta Howard

Andrew Johnsen

Kaitlin Westlund

DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

Nobel-Monitor #130

Jenny Wilson

DL ROCKY MOUNTAIN NO. 11

Enighet #178

Angel Forsling

Tara Lindburg

Brittany Peterson

Donald Peterson

Kelly Peterson

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Svea #348

Carol Johnson

Helena Montin

Andreas Walters

Nancy Walty

Gold Nugget #662

Cecilia McKinnon

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Skogsblomman #378

Samantha Jacobsen

Gold Nugget #662

Cecilia McKinnon

Harmoni #472

Anna-Frida Abrahamsson

Neal Hagstrom

Cariboo #690

Barbara Aspin

Edith Kopseng

Bessie Murray

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Skandia #247

Nicholas Martin

Wendy Martin

Mayflower #445

Jens Johansson

Seaborg #719

Lucia Landry

Elizabeth McGinley

Elaine Schurb

DL ALBERTA NO. 18

Norden #513

Jessica Lee

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IN MEMORY OF

Ruth Linné Erickson



Ruth Linné Erickson was born to Robert and Anna Linné at Angels Hospital, January 9, 1921.

After graduating from Manual Arts, Ruth was employed by Bullocks Wilshire where she continued to work throughout the war years. Starting as a cashier wrapper, she was quickly moved to Payroll and the Cashier's Office when her financial skills became apparent.

On August 21, 1943, she married Dr. Leonard E. Erickson. Prior to the war, Len had left Manual to enlist in the US Navy, serving as a Fireman, 2nd Class on the USS Maryland. He returned to school and graduated from Manual Arts Evening High School (Class of '39) and Los Angeles Chiropractic College (Class of '41). Later recalled during WWII, Len served as a Pharmacists Mate 1st Class on a seaplane base as a member of the Admiralty Islands Expeditionary Force. Following the end of the war, he developed a successful chiropractic practice located on Crenshaw Blvd. near Olympic.

Ruth and Leonard had three children:

Robert, a high school teacher, William, a cabinetmaker, and Lenda, a physical therapist. During the children's school years, Ruth was the consummate homemaker and seamstress. Ruth was a Cub Scout Den Mother, Girl Scout Leader, and owned her own small business decorating cakes for weddings and other special events. She was an exceptional cook, and enjoyed planning and executing birthday, holiday and special event parties. Her traditional Swedish Christmas *Jul Bord* honored her mother Anna both in presentation and taste, and she never missed an opportunity to decorate her home for every holiday that showed up on the calendar.

Retirement was a time for enjoying her three granddaughters and one grandson – she spoiled them all and was proud of every accomplishment they achieved. But Mother Nature decided to shake things up a bit. When her apartment in Santa Monica was red-tagged after the January '94 earthquake, Ruth made the decision to leave Los Angeles and relocate closer to her daughter's home in San Diego.

Retirement provided time for Ruth's involvement in Swedish American organizations. Ruth as a past Chairman, District Delegate, and member of North Star Lodge #106, VOA, and served as Historian for the Swedish American Central Association of Southern California. She was an active member of the House of Sweden in Balboa Park (San Diego). She enjoyed trips to Laughlin with the Vasa Sports Club and looked forward to her monthly trip to Los Angeles

to attend lodge meetings and to play International Rummy with her friends. She also traveled to Sweden with both her mother and daughter to visit relatives.

Ruth took great joy in perpetuating the celebration of Swedish Midsummer. She spent long hours organizing both the SACA Court Selection and Midsummer Festivals. Midsummer Queen in 1937, she was delighted that all three of her granddaughters were members of a Midsummer Royal Court. Amazingly, Ruth faithfully recorded over 30 years of Midsummer Festivals in the history books of the Swedish American Central Association.

Faith-filled, optimistic, loving, dedicated, hard working, and kind. Her memory will be cherished by son Robert (Terry) Erickson, and grandchildren Kimberlee (John) Daugherty and Trisha Erickson, daughter Lenda (Michael) Earl, and grandchildren Christopher and Diane, niece Carole d'Ann Erickson, and children Diana and David Erickson, nephew Roger (Melodie) Erickson, and children Kristin and Karla.

The pansy was Ruthie's favorite flower. She always said that she could see a smiling face in each blossom, and that pansies meant "thoughts of you." Leave here today thinking about her simple, happy flower and when you see one, we hope it fills your heart with loving thoughts of our mom, grandmother, and aunt. Ruthie would like that.

A long-time member, she served as Chairman and held other offices.

Written by her daughter Linda

HAPPENINGS

Swedish Language Village Building Culturally Authentic Site

By Amanda J. Peterson

Students attending *Sjölunden*, the Swedish Language Village near Bemidji, Minn., next summer will be the first to enjoy culturally authentic buildings at the Village's new site. It's the first step in creating a permanent home for *Sjölunden*, where nearly 150 young people immerse themselves in Swedish language and culture each summer.

The three-phase, \$2,750,000 construction project is anticipated to be complete in 2010. Phase One is currently underway at the Turtle River Lake site and includes a weaving studio and cabin. With grants from the Pro Suecia Foundation, San Francisco, Calif., The Raymond and Florence Berglund Family Foundation, St. Paul, Minn., and several families with ties to *Sjölunden*, \$438,000 has been raised to meet the first goal of \$485,000. Phase Two will include three additional cabins and a boathouse, and Phase Three will add a main building containing a dining hall, classrooms and library. Designed as a fishing village, architects

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Sailing

Swedish Language Village Building Culturally Authentic Site

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are modeling the buildings after traditional Swedish architecture, complete with popular red exterior paint and airy, open indoor spaces. The Village's main path will become a "main street" with buildings tightly grouped around it. Low rooflines and awnings will give it the inviting feel of a small Swedish town.

"It's our future and it's a permanent home for our villagers," said Allison Spenader, Swedish Language Village dean and Concordia Language Villages' assistant director for year-round programs. "We've always felt like we've stayed connected as staff and villagers, but we didn't have a site to further unite us. Now we can hopefully welcome villagers back years from now as they have their own families."

Started in 1975, *Sjölunden* is the largest Swedish language and cultural immersion program in North America and the only accredited high school program offering four levels of Swedish in the United States. It is also one of 14 language camps offered by Concordia Language Villages and open to young people ages 7 to 18 during one-, two- and four-week summer sessions. Villagers learn Swedish language and culture through unique curriculum that incorporates conversation, singing, folk dancing, cooking, sports, crafts, delicious Swedish meals and, soon, a culturally authentic site.

"When we have the ability to put kids in authentic surroundings, it puts them more in touch with the language and culture," said Patricia Thornton, Concordia Language Villages' director for summer youth programs. "It has the impact of increasing authenticity for the villagers and that increases their learning."

The site will also bring new programming options, including more summer sessions for youth and families as well as more year-round programs for families and adults. For example, the addition of a library to house the Village's extensive Swedish book and video collections will provide a cozy meeting place and serve as a rich resource for student research projects. The boathouse will store *Sjölunden's* fleet of sailboats and provide classroom space for those attending *Sjölunden's* Sailing Adventure Program. The weaving studio will house seven floor looms and offer weavers of all abilities a place to meet and perfect their craft.

In the past, *Sjölunden* has held its ses-



Swedish Dancing

sions at Salolampi, the Finnish Language Village. The construction plan has been carefully laid out to take full advantage of the new Swedish Language Village's close proximity to Salolampi, located only a five-minute walk away. *Sjölunden* villagers will be able to enjoy the architectural similarities between these neighboring countries as they utilize some of Salolampi's existing facilities along with the new buildings during the construction phases.

"Now they'll have their own dedicated space, in their own style," said Warren Schulze, Concordia Language Villages' assistant director for facilities. "It's really setting the learning environment for them."

The experienced architectural firm Wessel Design of Roseville, Minn., is the creative mind behind the project. The Swedish heritage of the Wessel family includes four generations of architects and master builders. The Wessel lineage extends from Great Grandfather Bror and

Grandfather Hans, who were both born in Malmö, Sweden, to Father Brian and Son Kerrik, who along with Kerrik's wife, Heather, have designed the Village site.

Concordia Language Villages is a program of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. Since 1961, the Language Villages has prepared young people for responsible citizenship in the global community, with more than 11,000 students attending each year. A 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, Concordia Language Villages invites you to consider a gift to the *Sjölunden* capital campaign. For more information contact Sheila Koser at 218-200-3094 or via e-mail at Koser@cord.edu. You can also learn more about Concordia Language Villages by visiting www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org.

Amanda J. Peterson is a writer in the Office of Communications and Marketing at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.

Christer Fuglesang Den Första Svensken i Rymden

Christer Fuglesang, som har svensknorskt ursprung, har studerat Teknisk fysik vid Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan i Stockholm och blev civilingenjör 1981. År 1987 disputerade han på experimentell partikelfysik och blev fyra år senare docent. År 1992 blev han i hård konkurrens uttagen att bli en av ESA:s (European Space Agency) astronauter. Året därefter utvaldes han, som en av två för specialträning till kosmonaut vid Stjärnstanen utanför Moskva. Fuglesang är alltså behörig både som astronaut och kosmonaut, dvs både som amerikansk och rysk rymdfarare.

Fuglesang är gift och i familjen finns tre söner. Fuglesang är elitmotionär. Han

åker utförsskidor och har genomfört tre maratonlopp i Stockholm. På fritiden, om sådan finnes, ägnar han sig åt sina intressen, som är idrott, segling, skidåkning, frisbee, spel och läsning.

I augusti 1996 började Fuglesang att träna med Nasas uppdragsspecialister och blev två år senare färdig med den utbildningen och listad som behörig uppdragsspecialist. Då kunde han också bli utvald till uppdraget med rymdfärjan Discovery. Fuglesang valde att kalla sitt uppdrag "The Celsius Mission," som en hyllning till den svenska vetenskapsmannen och astronomen Anders Celsius.

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Christer Fuglesang

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Uppdraget gick i första hand ut på att föra upp och montera nya byggelement till ISS, internationella rymdstationen,

Den 10 december, Nobeldagen, ägde uppskjutningen från Cape Canaveral rum, två dygn senare än planerat på grund av dåligt väder. Även den 10:e var väderleksförhållanden osäkra och ovisst om det skulle gå att genomföra en uppskjutning. Men 9 minuter före starttid 02:47 (svensk tid) gavs klarsignal, och Discovery, som fått smeknamnet 'den flygande tegelstenen' sköt iväg ut i rymden. Dagen efter kunde den utan problem docka med ISS.

Det var tänkt att Christer Fuglesang och amerikanske kollegan Robert Curbeam skulle göra två rymdpromenader, men det blev i stället tre. Vid den andra promenaden, som tog över fem timmar och betecknades som en framgång, tackade och skojade markkontrollen med Fuglesang på svengelska: "Is this fina fisken, Christer?" Christer svarade: "Yes, fina fisken." Markkontrollen: "Det är jättebra." Christer: "Ja, jättebra."

Under den tredje, oplanerade rymdpromenaden, försökte och lyckades de båda rita ut solpanelerna på ISS, som man tidigare haft problem med att dra tillbaka.

Den 22 december kl. 22.32 (svensk tid) genomförde Discovery en perfekt landning, som även den fick senareläggas på grund av vind-och väderförhållanden, varför astronauterna fick ta en extra sväng runt jorden och det blev rymdfärjans 204:e varv. Då var arbetet egentligen avslutat och Fuglesang berättade att han kunde njuta av utsikten, särskilt det färgsprakande norrskenet, som syntes då de passerade Norrland.

Många svenskar har med spänning följt rymdfärden, och många var de som vakade för att även se landningen. Sveriges utbildningsminister hörde till dem, och han ville utnämna Christer Fuglesang till en modern hjälte. Han trodde även att den här bedriften kan väcka intresse för naturvetenskapliga studier hos många ungdomar, vem vet.

Det här skrives dagen före julafton, 23 december 2006, när jag och en stor del av svenska folket äntligen kan pusta ut efter att ha sett Christer Fuglesang, Sveriges förste astronaut, lyckligt och väl landa på jorden igen.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, DKL DL 20

Christer Fuglesang, The First Swede in Space

Christer Fuglesang, who is a Swede with Norwegian background, received a Master of Science degree in Engineering Physics from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in 1981, and a doctorate in Experimental Particle Physics from the University of Stockholm in 1987 where he later became a Docent in Particle Physics. In 1992 he was selected to join the Astronaut Corps of the European Space Agency and began a training program in Star City, Russia. Fuglesang is qualified both as a Cosmonaut and an Astronaut.

He is married and has three sons. An avid sportsman, Fuglesang has completed three marathons in Stockholm. In his limited spare time he enjoys sailing, skiing, Frisbee, games and reading.

In August 1966 Fuglesang entered the Mission Specialist Class at the NASA Johnson Space Centre in Houston and finished his training two years later when he became a mission specialist. Fuglesang called his assignment "The Celsius Mission" in honour of the Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius (1701-44).

On December 10, Nobel Day, and two days behind schedule due to fickle weather right up to the last possible minute, Discovery, with its crew of seven, finally lifted off from Cape Canaveral. A day

later "The Flying Brick" as she was nicknamed docked with the ISS. The plan was that Christer Fuglesang and his American colleague, Robert Curbeam, should have made two space walks, but it turned out to be three. On the second space walk Mission Control in Houston thanked and kidded Fuglesang in Swedish: "Is this fina fisken, Christer?" Christer replied: "Yes, fina fisken." During the third, unscheduled, space walk the two astronauts successfully folded up a stubborn solar panel.

On December 22 at 10:32 pm (Swedish time), with the whole nation glued to the tube, and after an extra 204th spin around earth due to high winds and bad weather conditions, Discovery made a perfect landing in Florida. When his mission assignments were finally finished. Fuglesang said he could enjoy the view from space – especially the brilliantly colour aurora borealis which were visible when Discovery passed over northern Sweden. Among the Swedish spectators who watched the landing was the new Minister of Education who immediately declared Fuglesang a modern hero and predicted that his trip would inspire many young people to study the natural sciences. Who knows?

I write these words on December 23, 2006, when a large majority of the Swedish people and myself can finally exhale after having seen Christer Fuglesang, Sweden's first astronaut, return to earth happy and well.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, DKL DL20

Telegram från DL Nr 19 och DL Nr 20 till Christer Fuglesang

Våra resp Distriktsmästare i DL19 och DL20 kom på idén att skicka ett lyckönskningstelegram till Christer Fuglesang. Det är trevligt när svenskar gör sig gällande i den stora världen (och utanför eller kanske man ska säga ovanför världen).

Telegram from DL Nr 19 och DL Nr 20 till Christer Fuglesang.

Our District Masters in DL 19 and DL 20 thought it would be a good idea to send a telegram wishing Christer Fuglesang the best of luck. It is very nice when Swedes make an impression in the world (and outside or to better say: above the world).

**Submitted by: Birgith Siegers,
Distriktssekreterare för Distriktlogen
Nr 19 Norra Sverige**



Vasa Drängar's 10th Anniversary Concert

Vasa Drängar of Atlanta is a Swedish men's choir founded in 1996. Its origination began with members of the Nordic Lodge #708, and they appeared for the first time at the lodge's crawfish party on September 14th, 1996. This choir is an all-volunteer organization comprised of talented men from the Scandinavian community.

The famous men's choir *Orphei Drängar* of Uppsala, Sweden, was the inspiration for the choir's name. Their repertoire consists of traditional Swedish and Scandinavian men's choral music, popular songs and even jazz. Songs are sung in English as well as in the Scandinavian languages. Last year *Vasa Drängar* performed a number of songs in Finnish at a Finnish dinner for the ambassador of Finland, Jukka Valtasaari, who afterwards commended the choir's Finnish pronunciation.

On October 28th *Vasa Drängar* celebrated its 10th anniversary with a concert at the Lutheran Church of the Apostles in Sandy Springs, Georgia. Conducted by its founder and leader Göran Rygert, the choir put on a magnificent show.

Maria Lindberg-Kransmo, with her

beautiful soprano voice, appeared as a soloist in a number of pieces from *Carmen to Lullaby of Birdland* to Swedish folk songs. The choir's own troubadour, Sten Ekberg sang *En valsmelodi* by Ferlin/Söderlundh and Taube's *Min älskling du är som en ros*. Andrew Fazackerley, one of Atlanta's finest jazz musicians and also a church organist, was the piano accompaniment for the choir. He supported the choir in a most excellent way and also gave proof of his talents as a jazz pianist and composer in his own composition, *Madonna and Child*.

The choir performed beautiful Swedish folk songs such as *Ack Värmeland du sköna* and *Uti vår hage*. We heard exciting jazz rhythms in *Sheik of Araby* with Swedish words, *Tulipunaruusut* in Finnish, two of Mr. Rygert's own compositions with lyrics by Swedish poets Gabriel Jönsson and Ruben Nilson, and much more.

The program was highly entertaining and varied and the audience showed its appreciation with a standing ovation.

By: Janet A. Rygert
Submitted by: Göran Rygert

Leif Eriksson Day in Cleveland, Ohio

Under the most beautiful sunny skies with a light autumn breeze blowing, 50 Scandinavian-Americans gathered at the *Leif Eriksson Monument*, adjacent to the *Shooters Restaurant in the Flats*, and raised a cup of *Aquavit* to our beloved Viking explorer. All local TV stations and newspapers were invited to our celebration, but they apparently were too busy doing *their* extensive coverage of *Columbus Day* in *Little Italy* to come to *our* party!

Mike Miller, the Honorary Counsel to Sweden for the state of Ohio, gave the official toast to honor Eriksson, and also applauded the effort it took to actually build a \$30,000 monument to Leif along Cleveland's waterfront. Chris Langmack, the Honorary Counsel to Denmark for the state of Ohio, has offered to handle next year's toast, so mark your calendars now for the next *Leif Eriksson Day*, *Tuesday, October 9, 2007!!* Following the toast, the *Shooters* staff once again did a marvelous job of feeding everyone (on separate checks) efficiently and, of course, the food was great!

Since the monument dedication, we have now met for *5 Leif Eriksson Day* celebrations, and I am pleased to report that we have had an increase in attendance *every single year*. It indicates that we could have quite a crowd next year if everyone who has come to even one of our events invites just one new person to join them. This gathering is the only event that welcomes every local Scandinavian organization, and we have found it is a wonderful time to share and compare stories!

Meanwhile, despite having my left arm and shoulder being confined in a brace thanks to my accident in Denmark, it was once again a pleasure to organize this event. Please know that any funds spent on the event come from an account completely funded through the generosity of Bengt Gerborg, CEO of Viking Sewing Machine, which pledged \$10,000 to the project in 2000.

Once you finish this note, I ask you to please forward it on to any appropriate email list, or friends who might enjoy our *Leif Landed First* celebration. And please emphasize that this is one of those rare "holidays" that is *always* held on the *same day.....OCTOBER 9!*

Submitted by: Emilie Knud-Hansen
Chairman of the Cleveland Leif Eriksson Committee



Vasa Drängar of Atlanta

9th Leif Eriksson Festival

The 9th annual Leif Erikson Festival was held on September 30th at beautiful Vasa Park in Budd Lake NJ. The weather started out perfect with sunny skies and cool temperatures in the 60's. As always, the 40+ vendors started setting up at dawn and were all ready to sell their Scandinavian foods and crafts when the gate officially opened at 10:00 AM.

The opening ceremony's started promptly at 11 AM with a parade of Vikings, Bag Pipers, and Swedish Children folk dancers. They marched from the Club House to the out door pavilion where the 1200 plus crowd was greeted with an outstanding performance by the Rory O'Moore pipe and drum corp. The national anthems of all the Scandinavian countries were played by Eric Johansson and sung by Ingrid Olsen Feingold. Jeanne Erickson Widman did a marvelous job as MC. After the national anthems the crowd watched the Vasa Children perform. NJ's Skansen children's club and NY's Elsa Rix performed several traditional Swedish folk dances, to the delight of everyone. The very popular Vasastjarnan Jr. Club followed them.

Not only was there great entertainment in the Pavilion, there was great entertainment all over Vasa Park. The Society of Creative Anachronism demonstrated a Viking forge and staged several battles throughout the day. The Ostvik Vikings demonstrated an authentic Viking home as it was 1000 years ago. The NJ Archery club gave archery demonstrations while Tom Martin and Allan Swenson gave historical talks inside Viking Hall. Later in the day the crowd enjoyed the Swedish Folk dancers of NY, who are celebrating their 100-year anniversary. Of course, the Leif Eriksson Festival would not be complete without the great Scandinavian Accordion club of NY, who performed 2 sets outside and then played dance music well into the night inside Viking Hall.

The Leif Eriksson Festival was started in 1997 with the intention of raising awareness of the great accomplishments of Leif Eriksson and the Norse people during the Viking Age. Also, the Board of Trustee's of Vasa Park sponsors the Leif Eriksson Festival and raises much needed funds to keep our great park going, as well as attract new members to Vasa and NJ district # 6. The Leif Eriksson festival has always been a very activity based event with many attrac-

tions for children and young adults. Our hope is to get them involved with great Norse ancestry, and hopefully join Vasa and become active. As such, there were many activities for kids all day long. There were hayrides, face painting, Viking shield making, archery demonstrations, the 1000-year-old Viking Kubb game, and much more. The Anne Galle Danish ballet group performed inside Viking hall and was tremendous.

Finally, the Leif Eriksson Festival would not be complete without the Viking Ship Norseman, whose crew travel from Philadelphia every year. Many of the Viking battles were staged next to the Viking Ship Norseman.

When 5:00 PM came the Leif Eriksson Festival moved indoors and 200+ people stayed for the great Viking Feast which was a 100 lb. pig roast and

turkey. The pig was cooking on the spit since 4 AM on Saturday and dinners sold out. George Landberg, the Swedish Cowboy performed during the dinner hour and then the Scandinavian Accordion club took over with fabulous music and dancing until 9 PM.

All in all it was a great day at Vasa Park. John Larsson, the LEF chairman reported that this was the best LEF ever, and profit for Vasa Park was approximately \$10k. The LEF committee once again did a tremendous job. Special thanks to Elve and Kevin DeFeo, Barbara Saam, Eric Johansson, Carol and Steve Boyle, Lenny Kudlack, DM Art Bjorkner, Kris Antonucci, Art and Helen Haumacher, and the entire Board of Trustee's of Vasa Park.

**Submitted by: John Larsson,
Chairman – Leif Eriksson Festival**



Chairman John Larsson in front of outside bar.



Opening Ceremonies parade.

Reunion

Carol Deckert (Mayflower Lodge #445) and **Sam Lidén** (Phoenix Lodge #677) met at a 50-year High School Reunion held in Arcadia CA on October 15. They both graduated from Pasadena High School in June 1956. Sam said that he dated Carol once on a double date but that he was shy and probably didn't make a good impression. Carol said she reads *Vasa Star* and has seen Sam's name in print many times.

Submitted by: **Sam Lidén**



Carol Deckert and Sam Lidén

House of Sweden



*Photo: Thomas Quiggle
Source: www.imagebank.sweden.se*

In October, Sweden officially inaugurated its stunning new embassy in Washington, DC, called the House of Sweden. The new embassy was designed to glow at night like the setting Nordic sun. Besides housing Sweden's embassy, the building also houses an exhibition hall, a conference center and leading representatives of Swedish commerce.

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope that you and all your loved ones are healthy and happy. More than any other time of year we find ourselves looking to help others and do something charitable during the holidays. As strong as our generosity of spirit may be it is often difficult to figure out exactly what cause to dedicate our time and money to. So I thought I would tell you about mine and give you the opportunity to brighten the lives of some of the most beautiful and inspiring kids I have ever had the pleasure to meet.

As many of you know, I recently left my job in publishing to join *Teach for America*, an organization that places teachers in the highest need schools in the country. Since September, I have been teaching nineteen second graders in the South Bronx. My kids lead hard lives that no seven years old should have to experience. They live in poverty and violence and have very little opportunity to really act like kids. Most come to school at 7 a.m. and don't leave again until 6 p.m. They have no recess, no gym, no arts program and very little resources. And worst of all, they have no confidence. They embrace the low expectations that have been set for them by society and cannot imagine themselves succeeding. I look at them and I see something different. I see overwhelming potential. They are smart, funny, talented and kind and deserve to have every opportunity possible. They deserve to be loved and respected and to be told everyday that they can be anything and everything that they could possibly imagine. They deserve the kind of education that I had and most of you had.

In order to achieve the dreams I have for them, my students need to excel in school because education truly is their best avenue out of the cycle that their communities are in. I want my students to love reading yet due to our lack of resources, our classroom library is woe-

fully under stocked and my students find themselves reading the same books over and over again. So over the past few weeks with the help of my students I have compiled a wish list of books that we could use in our classroom. Many of the books I have put on it focus on promoting a multicultural environment and on dealing with our emotions. Others are just fabulous stories that I love and hope they will love too. We will take new books, used books, books from the list, books that you enjoy that aren't on the list, any and every book that you would like to donate. I have been telling my students that everyone knows how smart they are and is rooting for them to succeed and I think that receiving donations of books from people they don't even know could do wonders to reinforce that attitude.

You can access the wish list through amazon.com. Simply put in my email address meaghan.larsson@gmail.com and the wish list will pop up. Once again we would love any and all books you would like to send us. Even one old used book would benefit my kids in huge ways by showing them that someone cares about them. The address of the school is saved on Amazon but if you'd like to send books not on the list, please send the books to Miss Larsson, PS 230 275 Harlem River Park Bridge, Bronx, NY 10453.

And please be sure to include an address where we can reach you and let you know how very much we appreciate the books. I will be sure to send you thank you notes and a picture of the kids so you can see how excited they are! Thanks so much and have a wonderful holiday.

Love,

Meaghan Larsson

PS: If you know of anyone else who would be interested in helping out please feel free to forward this on to him or her!

Submitted by: **John Larsson, GLD,
PDM, VOA NJ #6**

The use of glass and wood throughout the building conveys a uniquely northern sensibility and communicates the message that Swedish government and politics are characterized by transparency and openness. The screen-printed glass comes from Sweden and resembles early morning mist in the Swedish countryside. The wood, however, is fake, echoing the old

Swedish tradition of imitating wood and marble in what used to be a rather poor country. Faux wood was used as a way to minimize any problems that would occur to real wood in the high humidity of Washington, DC.

Submitted by: **Membership chair
Stig Magnus, Phoenix Vasa
Lodge #677**

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

CALIFORNIA

AGNES ANDERSEN, member of Balder Lodge #343, passed away in Fortuna, CA, on October 12, 2006. She was born February 6, 1914 and married Hans Andersen on October 11, 1940. Her daughter, son, granddaughter, grandsons, their families, and many friends survive her.

HERBERT PAUL HALLBERG entered into rest on September 13, 2006, at the age of 89. He was born in Chicago, IL, on March 3, 1917, and was a teacher in Hawaii, teaching various positions, including metal arts at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. He also taught aviation science, physics and math at the Honolulu Community College. He retired as Dean of Instruction for the Honolulu Community College. He was a member of Sierra Kronan Lodge #737. He is survived by his wife, Marian, of 65 years, son Jerry, daughter Marilyn, son David, deceased in 1997, grandchildren Kristin and Michael.

ORVILLE HUTTNER entered into rest on July 4, 2006, at the age of 79. He was born in Minneapolis, MN, on June 27, 1927. He was a 40-year member of Vasa. He was a member of Sierra Kronan #737 and Scandia Lodge. He served his lodge as Chairman, Treasurer, and as a Delegate to many District 12 Conventions. He was in the United States Navy at the age of 17 and served in World War II and the Korean War. After his military career he graduated from Sacramento State University and served as a Corrections Counselor at Folsom, CA, State Prison for 20 years. He was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is survived by his wife Donna, 5 daughters and their spouses, 1 son and daughter-in-law, 11 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren. They miss Orville every day and live with beautiful memories.

FLORIDA

ERIC H. FAGERSTROM passed away on May 31, 2006, at the age of 100. He was born on October 9, 1905, in Sweden. He joined Vasa-

Holiday Lodge #699 on November 3, 1973. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Nadine, 2 stepsons and 1 stepdaughter; 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

ELSIE F. FILEHNE passed away on September 29, 2006, at the age of 93. She was born on June 27, 1913, in Brooklyn, NY and joined Nobel-Liljan Lodge #64, Brooklyn, NY, on January 22, 1932, transferring to Holiday Lodge #699, New Port Richey, FL, on December 13, 1983. Sons, Kenneth and Richard Petersen, and 7 grandchildren survive her.

IRMA A. JOHNSON HAFDELIN passed away on September 9, 2006, at the age of 102. She was born in Germany on July 25, 1904. She moved to Florida from Loudon, TN, in 2000 and joined Vasa-Holiday Lodge #699 on January 1, 2000. She is survived by a son, David G. Johnson, 4 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

FLORENCE LOMAS passed away on June 17, 2006. She was born on May 13, 1925, in Long Island, NY, and moved to Florida in 1989. She joined Vasa-Holiday Lodge #699 on March 26, 1991. She is survived by her husband, Robert, and 2 nieces, Elin Larson and Ingrid Larson.

ILLINOIS

ROBERT H. HANSON was born on September 11, 1923, and passed away on September 28, 2006, at the age of 83. Bob joined Concord Lodge #572 (now merged with Siljan-Mora-Tuna Lodge #134, Chicago, IL), on December 27, 1945. He was preceded in death by his wife Catherine. He is survived by a sister-in-law, a nephew, a niece and family.

W. ROBERT "BOB" JOHNSON, 71, passed away August 8, 2006, at Trinity Medical Center, Rock Island, IL. He joined Nobel Lodge #288, Moline, IL, in October, 1998, and served as Lodge Vice Chairman.

KNUTE LAVINE passed away on October 5, 2006, in Rockford, IL, at the age of 98. He was born in Karlstad, Sweden, on May 9, 1908, and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on September 5, 1969. He was a loyal member. Survivors include his wife Ruth and daughter Kris (Larry) Johnson.

ALICE G. LUDWIG passed away on October 3, 2006, at the age of 82. She was born on May 3, 1924, a member of Siljan-Mora-Tuna Lodge #134, Chicago, IL. She was preceded in death by husband, Lawrence. She is survived by 3 sisters, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, nieces and nephews.

CLARA F. MILLER, 85, passed away on September 3, 2006. She joined Nobel Lodge #288 on November 3, 2003.

OREGON

MILDRED ELLSBERG joined Portland Nobel Lodge #184 on February 3, 1963. She was born in Eveleth, MN, on March 5, 1912, and passed away on May 16, 2006, at the age of 94. She is survived by 2 daughters, Lisa Lemke and Launa Tardiff, 2 sisters, 1 brother, 2 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

BRUCE ELMGREN passed away on October 13, 2006, at the age of 88. Bruce was born in Portland, OR, on June 1, 1918, and joined Nobel Lodge #184 on October 10, 1997. Bruce is survived by many friends, cousins, a sister-in-law, 4 nieces and a nephew.

AGNES MARTINSON joined Portland Nobel Lodge #184 on February 2, 1973. She was born in Whitefish, MT, on April 7, 1907, and passed away on April 14, 2006, at the age of 99. She is survived by 1 son, Ralph, 1 daughter, Ina McCaffrey, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

WASHINGTON

CARL BERGMAN, 84, was born in Stockholm, Sweden, on January 7, 1922, and died in Seattle on October 25, 2006. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1945 to marry Helen (Bardi). They were married for 58 years. Carl joined Frihet Lodge #401 in 2001 and left a lasting impression. He leaves 1 daughter.

SIGNE BRASK, 99, passed away in Kirkland, WA, on June 16, 2006. She was born in Angermanland, Sweden, in 1907. She is survived by a son and daughter, 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. Signe joined Frihet Lodge #401 in 1948 and was a life member.

ASTRID HAUGLAND, 95, was born on March 7, 1911, in Malmo, Sweden, and passed away on July 16, 2006, in Seattle. She joined Frihet Lodge #401 in 1983. She was known for her Swedish cooking, gardening, and oil painting. She is survived by 2 children, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

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.



William L. Lundquist

William L. Lundquist

Vice Grand Master

Bill joined the Vasa Order, Viking Lodge No. 730 in Flint, Michigan in 1982. He served the local lodge as Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Chairman. During the ten years as an officer at the local lodge level he was instrumental in establishing a local lodge scholarship fund that continues to offer up to four \$500.00 scholarships annually to eligible college students. He continues to serve on this Scholarship Committee. He was also instrumental in planning and coordinating 3 district conventions held in the Flint area during his local lodge membership.

In 1986 Bill began serving as an officer in District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8. He has served as the District Master of Ceremonies, Executive Board Member, Vice District Master and District Master from 2000-2002. While on the District Board Bill served as Chairman of the District Membership Committee, Chairman of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, Chairman of the District Scholarship Committee, Chairman of the District Publicity Committee, Chairman of the District By-Law Committee and Treasurer of the Grand Lodge Convention Committee for the 1998 Grand Lodge Convention held in Chicago, IL.

Bill was elected Executive Board Member for the Midwest Region at the Grand Lodge Convention held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in July of 2002 and was elected Vice Grand Master at the most recent convention held in San Diego, CA, in July of 2006. Bill served as Chairman of the Grand Lodge Youth Committee and was a member of the Grand Lodge By-Law and Membership Committees while MEB for the Midwest. During that time he was instrumental in developing information available to local lodges to help establish children's clubs and worked to formulate a closer relationship between Sjölund Language Camp and the Vasa Order.

Bill has been married to Sheila for 39 years. Bill served in the United States Marine Corps. from 1969-1971. He is a retired executive of Sears, a private business owner and an avid golfer. Both he and Sheila are originally from the Swedish community of Sister Bay in Door County, WI. Their grandparents were Swedish immigrants to that picturesque peninsula. Sheila is a graduate of Swedish Covenant Hospital School of Nursing and North Park College in Chicago and continues to work as the Asst. Director of Nursing for a Regional Health facility in Flint. She is the Cultural Leader for Viking Lodge No. 730 and Vice District Master of District Lake Michigan No. 8. Bill and Sheila have three married daughters, Onnika, Erika and Marta and sons-in-law, Bill, Scott and Andy as well as four grandchildren, Ben, Faith, Olin and Disa.

Bill currently serves on the Parish Planning Council as Treasurer of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Grand Blanc, MI. Bill and Sheila have hosted numerous Scandinavian music and dance groups that have come to the U.S. on tour and hosted a Swedish exchange student from 1984-1985 who has returned for numerous visits. They are active members of the International Institute of Flint.

Bill's vision for the Order is to increase involvement thereby increasing membership. He hopes the Order will keep its formality and traditions as it searches for ways to interest new members. He feels local lodges need encouragement and support to create and publicized stimulating cultural programs. He sees Vasa members taking part in community projects while maintaining close friendships within the Order. The interest stirred in adults will filter down to our youth to encourage a stronger interest in our shared heritage, our future as an Order. Bill's responsibilities will include the presentation process of GL collegiate scholarships and Sjölund Language Camp scholarships while serving on the GL Executive Board over the next four years.



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