

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

MARCH-APRIL 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!

By the time you receive this issue Daylight Savings Time will be a reality for all those in the US except Arizona. Can spring be far behind? In the last issue I said that winter had not arrived yet. It did, and with a vengeance! February was much colder than the last few years.

Marty and I were able to take a break from the Ohio winter to attend the DL Pacific Southwest No. 15 Convention in sunny San Diego the last weekend of February. It was a delight to renew acquaintances with our many friends in that part of the USA. Congratulations to the new officers in DL 15 and thanks to the retiring officers! I appreciate the hard work you do for Vasa.

Our Editor for this issue received a number of Lucia stories and pictures. However, we said in the Dec/Jan issue that all Lucia stories would appear in only the Jan/Feb issue. We must hold to that policy. Remember that this year. The deadline for receiving Lucia submissions will be December 24th.

Many of you may be expecting to find the Vasa Directory in this issue as has been traditional. You will not find it as we are changing the procedure. On page 25 you will see the announcement by the GL Executive Board on the change and the reasons for the change. The reasons are both logistical (not enough information received by the GS by the end of February) and financial (cost of printing and mailing). I find the directory very useful and always have a copy in my "white handbook;" this time by printing the one available on our website.

I began the discussion of the motto "**tradition with vision**" in the last issue. This time I want to talk about the White 3-ring binder Handbook provided by the Grand Lodge. I strongly feel that every officer in every local lodge should have and read this book. As purchased from VGS Helen Mingram, currently for \$7, it contains the Constitution of the Order (in three parts) and the Local Lodge Ritual. Other material, such as LL and DL By-laws and the Directory mentioned above can be added as needed. Further I recommend that the retiring officers retain the Handbook and new books purchased for the new officers. How the

financing is handled is up to the local lodge. My goal is to have every VOA **member** own a "white book." One way this can be done is for the LL to charge enough in Initiation Fees to cover the cost of the book. Why do I think having the book so important? How can we possibly act like an order if we don't know anything about how to act? The white book contains the information needed to carry out the **tradition** given to us.

A large part of the **vision** I have is to develop the Children's and Youth Clubs programs. One way of developing this vision for children and youth is through support and partnership with Concordia Language Village's capital campaign to build a village for Sjölund, so that the Swedish program can be developed more completely. We appreciate the use of the Finnish facility, Salulampi, but sharing facilities limits the Swedish program significantly. Next issue I will write about plans to work with Concordia to see that the plans for Sjölund go from a drawing to a real village.

Vasa Syskon!

När ni får detta nummer har vi infört sommartid här i USA, utom i Arizona. Kanske kommer våren snart? I förra numret nämnde jag att vintern ännu inte hade kommit. Men den kom, och det riktigt ordentligt. Denna februari månad, åtminstone i Ohio, var den kyligaste på många år.

Marty och jag fick möjlighet att lämna vinterkylan i Ohio och medverka i DL Nr. 15 distriktsmöte i soliga San Diego sista helgen i februari. Det var mycket trevligt för oss att återknyta bekantskapen med våra vänner i denna delen av USA.

Ett sätt att utveckla och bygga upp "visionen" jag har för ungdomsverksamheten i våra loger är genom att stödja och samarbeta med Concordia Language Village's huvud kampanj för "Sjölund," så att det svenska programmet kan utvecklas på ett bättre sätt. Vi är tacksamma över att ha fått använda den finska platsen "Salulampi" men i och med att vi delar på utrymmet begränsas det svenska programmet ganska mycket. I nästa nummer ska jag skriva mer om samarbetet med Concordia och att planerna för Sjölund på ritningarna blir förverkligade.

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Letter from the Editor

It's snowing outside today, even though we are past the middle of March, which is kind of unusual for Ohio these days. When I moved here from my hometown Östersund, Jämtland, 19th of March 1980, 27 years ago I left a winter wonderland and arrived here in drizzly spring-like weather.

About one hour drive north of Östersund you will come to a very famous ski resort called Åre, which recently hosted this year's *World Cup Competition* in ski racing. This is quite a big undertaking and a very exciting event for those who love this sport. Living in Sweden during the 70s and early 80s, everybody knows who Ingemar Stenmark is, a living legend. When I grew up in Sweden, everybody watched him race. I remember being at work during one of his ski races and the phone rang, 'Why on earth would anybody call now, Ingmar is racing!' They must be out of their mind! That's just the way it was. Even in school they used to interrupt class, bring in the TV and watch him race. Anyways, before I get to carried away reminiscing "the good old days," read about *Skiing at the World Cup in Åre* and some Legends under *Happenings*.

Also read about some Legends of our own that have dedicated a large part of their lives serving The Vasa Order of America under *Lodge News, Olympic Lodge #235*.

Under *Culture* is an essay, *What Vasa Means To Me*, written by one of our members that has through Vasa, regained her cultural awareness and pride, something that so easily gets lost in this day and age. Proof of that you can read in the following article, *Flat World*, and is pretty much about how our younger generation looks at today's *global arena*, a very "hot" topic. Comparing the two articles you can see how much the world has changed in just a short while. This is where Vasa plays an important role between our present and our past, to remember our heritage and traditions. Imagine what our 100-year old members under *Birthday*, have experienced in their lifetime!

Also read about a '300-year old Swede,' the very famous, *King of Flowers, Carl von Linné*, the scientist, botanist, zoologist, etc. On the cover is the *Linnéa*, a flower named after him.

Oh, I almost forgot, did you notice the Logo on the cover?

Marie

Brev från Redaktören

Det snöar ute idag, trots att vi har passerat mitten av mars, vilket är litet ovanligt i Ohio nu för tiden. När jag flyttade hit från min hemstad Östersund i Jämtland, den 19:e mars 1980, för 27 år sedan, lämnade jag ett vinterlandskap och kom hit i duggregrn och värliknande väder.

Ungefär en timmes körtid norr om Östersund kommer man till en väldigt känd skidort som heter Åre, och som nyligen var värd till årets *World Cup* i skidåkning. Detta är ett ganska stort åtagande och ett väldigt spännande evenemang för dem som gillar denna sport. Som boende i Sverige under 70- och början av 80-talet, vet alla vem Ingemar Stenmark är, en levande legend. När jag växte upp i Sverige tittade alla när han åkte. Jag kommer ihåg när jag var på jobbet under en av hans tävlingar och telefonen ringde, 'Vem i hela friden är det som ringer nu, Ingemar åker ju! Dom kan ju inte vara riktigt klok!' Det var bara så. Även i skolan avbröt de lektionen, hämtade TV:n och tittade på när han tävlade. I alla fall, innan jag blir allt för nostalgisk över den "gamla goda tiden," läs om *Skiing at the World Cup in Åre* och om några legender under *Happenings*.

Läs också om några av våra egna legender som har ägnat en stor del av sitt liv åt att tjäna Vasa Orden av Amerika under *Lodge News, Olympic Lodge #235*.

Under *Culture* finns en uppsats, *What Vasa Means To Me*, skriven av en av våra medlemmar, som har genom Vasa, återfått sitt kulturella medvetande och sin stolthet som så lätt kan försvinna i dagens läge. Bevis på detta kan du läsa om i artikeln som följer, *Flat World*, och som till stor del handlar om hur vår yngre generation ser på dagens *globala arena*, ett mycket "hett" ämne. Jämför vi de två artiklarna, kan vi se hur mycket världen har förändrats under bara en kort tid. Detta är var Vasa spelar en viktig roll mellan vår nutid och den förgångna tiden, att komma ihåg vårt kulturarv och våra traditioner. Kan du tänka dig vad våra 100-åringar under *Birthday*, varit med om under sin livstid!

Läs också om en '300-årig svensk,' den välkända *Blomsterkungen, Carl von Linné*, vetenskapsman, botanist, zoolog, osv. På omslaget är *Linnéan*, en blomma som har uppkallats efter honom.

Ojdå, jag glömde nästan, har du lagt märke till emblemet på omslaget?

Marie

Cover:

Linea borealis. Linnéa is the landscape-flower of Småland.

Picture by: Gunnar Lith

ARCHIVES NEWS

Look for exciting upcoming news in the May/June issue of The Vasa Star.



It is the first sign of spring in Bishop Hill when they hang this banner in anticipation of the Season opener.

Picture by: Lillemor and Richard

CORRECTION

In the Jan/Feb 2007 issue under *Happenings, Swedish Language Village Sjölundén*, the correct number is 218-299-3094.

IMPORTANT

Editor Marie Carlson has a new e-mail address effective immediately – mariec@swedes-r-us.com

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

Deadline for Lucia articles is Dec. 24 – picture and article, 200 words or less.

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Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 5

As we mentioned in an earlier lesson we will use some material from our original lessons in order for you to learn some basics in grammar and pronunciation. We are hoping to make these lessons fun and not a chore. We want them to be something you are looking forward to. Share what you have learned with your family and your Vasa friends.

In this lesson, we want to show you that certain Swedish vowels will give the letters g and k either a hard or a soft sound. Here are some examples:

HARD	= a, o, u, å
gata	= gawtuh, street
golv	= goelv, floor
gul	= gewl, yellow
gård	= gourd, yard or court

SOFT	= e, i, y, ä, ö
get	= yeht, goat
gissa	= yissa, guess
gyllene	= yilleneh, golden
gäst	= yest, guest
gömma	= yehmmah, hide

HARD	= a, o, u, å
kalkon	= kahlkoon, turkey
ko	= koo, cow
kurs	= cush, course
kål	= kohl, cabbage

SOFT	= e, i, y, ä, ö
kedja	= shedyah, chain
kil	= sheel, wedge
kyrka	= sheerkah, church
kärlek	= shairleck, love
Köpa	= shepah, purchase

VERBS

Swedish verbs, although they change forms from present to past, use the same form for all persons, i.e. I, you, he/she, it, we and they.

For instance, the infinitive, or basic form of the verb “to be” is “att vara.” The present tense is “är,” which means “am,” “are” or “is”

Present tense:

jag är	I am
du är	you are
han/hon är	he/she is
den/det är	it is
vi är	we are
de är	they are

Past tense:

jag var	I was
du var	you were
han/hon var	he/she was
den/det var	it was
vi var	we were
de var	they were

To have is “att have” or “att ha”

Present tense:

jag har	I have
du har	you have
han/hon har	he/she has
den/det har	it has
vi har	we have
de har	they have

Past tense:

jag hade	I had
du hade	you had
han/hon hade	he/she had
den/det hade	it had
vi hade	we had
de hade	they had

The reason for using the pronouns “den” and “det” for the word “it” is because “den” is a common word and “det” is a neuter word.

We have heard from some of you that you are anxious to find out what has happened to our little family whom you followed in our past lessons. They will return after we go over some more items you need to know as part of learning Swedish. So have patience and work on these 5 lessons we have presented so far.

Good luck in your studies.

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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 New Jersey #6

On Sunday, 12 November 2006, N.J. District #6 held its first *Veterans Appreciation Day*. The objective of the event was to honor our veterans, past and present, and provide some nice memories for everyone. This inaugural event was well attended by veterans, spouses and friends.

Veterans came in all sizes, wearing part of a uniform, a piece of a uniform, bringing along medals, hats, photos and even nicely folded complete uniforms! (For those concerned, there was no disrespect to a uniform, as these Vasa members are not on active duty.) PDM Dave Carlson was unbelievable, wearing his original complete uniform (without adjustments!) as if he had worn it only yesterday. Congratulations Dave! Also looking spiffy in complete uniform were Harry Swanson (USAF), Les Swenson (USA), Ken Christenson (USN), Joe Billich (USN) and Norm Omdahl (USMC). Fred Johnson was close to complete with his hat, dress jacket, shirt and tie, George Nord and Harry Sterner were wearing their service hats, and Vic Skaar was dressed as a Civil War soldier!

The event was also a solemn one, honoring all veterans past and present. A toast was given, followed by a moment of silence, to commemorate those veterans who have passed, and a toast was raised to honor those who are living and those service members presently serving and by so doing becoming our new veterans. District Master Art Björkner, himself a veteran, assisted by VDM Eric Johansson, honored each service member who had registered for the event with a Vasa Order of America, New Jersey District #6, Certificate of Appreciation and a small bag of mementos for the occasion.

Brother Carl Erickson played all the service hymns beautifully on his trumpet, and former members of each service stood in respect for their service song. Patriotic songs played throughout the afternoon on CD and provided a nostalgic background for the event. Brother Bill Sohl gave a presentation on the new *Veterans Memorial* to be built in Turkey Brook Park, Mt. Olive, just a short distance from Vasa Park. Anyone wishing to learn more can contact Bill or Art or Nancy.



A buffet luncheon was served during the entire affair. Arve Larsson was asked to make the first cut in the official Veterans Appreciation sheet cake. Our government with the presentation of a *Silver Star* had honored Arve, which was on display.

A lot of "sea and other stories" made the afternoon fun for those members who attended. As a matter of fact, Vasa Park has the distinct honor of having three submariners – who served in the same squadron, during the same 60's time

period, who did not know each other – who now live as neighbors in Vasa Park! Small world!

Owing to its obvious popularity, VDM Eric Johansson announced before the afternoon was over that the Executive Board had decided on the spot to continue this event next year! We know there are more veterans in Vasa who did not call to register to attend, so if you are one of them, please mark your calendar now to attend on November 11, 2007!

Submitted by: Art Björkner, DM

DL Arizona #21



Jennifer Johansen is presented an Arizona District #21 Scholarship by DM Vito Panteleo at a Phoenix Lodge #677 meeting. Also present are her grandparents, Hank and Nancy Johansen, sister Lisa, and Nathan Randall.

Submitted by: Sam Liden

LODGE NEWS

North Star Lodge #106

Los Angeles, CA

North Star's 100th Birthday!

We appreciate the fact that 150 people were in attendance on this spectacular day to pay tribute to the oldest lodge west of the Mississippi.

Chairman Erik Lindberg and lodge members welcomed all to our special occasion. North Star's old memorabilia was on display: albums, history books, the original meeting minutes in Swedish, and photographs from those early years.

It was amazing that this day had finally come. We were proud and pleased that we had continued on throughout the years actively. Everything looked lovely with bouquets and North Star's gold stars on each table, yellow balloons and lots of Swedish blue.

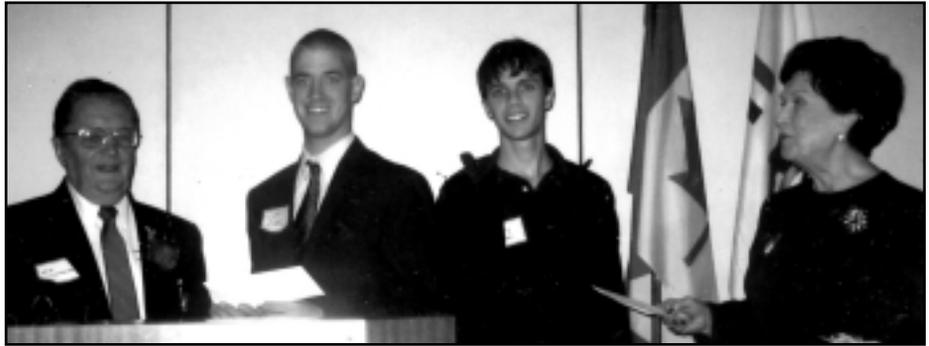
With a big "Välkommen" and toasts to our big "100," Chairman Erik with his wife Birgit, seated at his side, introduced the "Master of Ceremony" of the day, Peggy Pages, always so ready to charm the crowd.

Special guest was the Honorable Thomas Rosander, Consul General of Sweden in Los Angeles, CA. Also PGM Dr. Ulf Brynjestad, GLD Wayne Pierson, and Steve Leigard, DM PSW #15, attended, all seated at the head table. Each offered their congratulations.

There were several floral arrangements from other lodges. Letters and greetings from President and Mrs. Bush, also from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and a beautiful congratulatory proclamation from Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich.

Twelve over 50-year members were present out of a possible 23. We wish all would have been able to attend. We have had 15 District Masters. Clarence Bergquist, PDM, was with us that day.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of two scholarships. Christopher Earl, son of Michael and Linda Earl of San Diego, CA, and the grandson of the late Ruth Erickson, was a proud recipient. He is a student at the National Polytechnic College of Engineering and Oceanering in San Diego, attending classes in the College of Oceanering for a degree in Marine Technology.



Erik Lindberg, Chairman, presents scholarships to Christopher Earl and Gregory Dalton with Peggy Pages, Master of Ceremony of the day.

Gregory Dalton of Costa Mesa, CA, is the son of Greg and Kim Dalton, and grandson of Elinore Thornton. His great-grandparents were Hilda and Hilmer Johnson (PC 1935). Greg is a full time student at California State University of Long Beach, majoring in Computer Science. We wish both these young men success as they pursue their education.

We enjoyed a wonderful luncheon and a video show which included 60 photos from our history books. This was accompanied by music.

Anna-Charlotte Harvey, recording artist, accompanied by LeRoy Anderson on accordion, gave us a delightful musical program. This was another memorable occasion, precious moments in the company of long-time friends.

We are so fortunate to have Chairman Erik and his committee who so well organized this event. We look forward to many more years of being together.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton

Tegnér Lodge #109

Scotia, NY

In October of 2006 Vasa Lodge Tegnér #109 took part of the *Festival of Nations* in Albany, NY, for the very first time. It was a great time for cultural interactions as well as an opportunity to raise money towards our 100 Year Anniversary Gala in the spring of 2007.

In the food court Anders Fältskog, Ingrid Frank, Hans Henriksson, Marianne Senise and Karin Berrian sold delicious Swedish meatballs in gravy with lingon berries, limpa, lingon juice, coffee and home made Swedish cookies. We also had a table in the arts and crafts area where we sold traditional Swedish Christmas decorations and candy such as Daim and Kex.

Anna Volk was in charge of the Santa Lucia pageant. Her oldest daughter Julie Volk was Santa Lucia. She lead ten children dressed as maidens, star boys, and a little gingerbread woman slowly down the isle to the traditional Lucia song. After the beautiful performance of the children Anna Volk and Sara Melita read the story of Santa Lucia for the audience, dressed in traditional Swedish outfits.

All in all it was a wonderful experience. We raised close to \$1,100.00 after selling all items purchased for the festival and we're planning on returning next year to share our Swedish traditions here in America.

Submitted by: Paula Wallin-Eddy



Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY



Thule Lodge #127 chaplain Diane Shaw with lodge member Ann Hellman discusses upcoming spring activities at the lodge.

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

Thule Lodge #127 will celebrate its 100th anniversary in December, 2007. Lodge chairman Robert Fuller said that plans are being formulated for the celebration and invite others to take part in this very special event. Lodge historian John Sipos has been compiling photographs of the lodge chairmen for the last century into a special notebook, and this is one of the many historical records, which will be shown at the celebration. Sipos, along with many other lodge historians, have kept records, which have been stored at the lodge for all to view.

Chairman Fuller set events for the first half of the year, with monthly meetings to be held on the third Saturday at the lodge in January, February and March, and from April on the meetings will be held on the fourth Thursday evening of each month. Fuller has arranged for accordion player and lodge member Don Sandy to provide music at the February meeting.

Members will gather together at the end of March for the annual lodge clean up. In April the annual spring pancake breakfast will be held, with the famous Swedish meatball dinner in May. Friday night dinners will begin on the first Friday in May, and the annual Father's Day Herring breakfast will be in June.

The lodge, which is located at 4123 Pancake Hill Road, had some new renovations including a new roof, a new deck cover, and some landscaping. Fuller said that even though there is snow, the lodge parking lot remains open for lodge meet-

ings and activities. Fuller likes to keep members informed of events and activities, and with the help of computer artist and inner guardsman Susan Sipos, a special Swedish calendar was created and sent to all members.

Thule Lodge serves to preserve the Swedish heritage through events and activities. Everyone at the Thule Lodge #127 wish all a wonderful spring season. If you are in our area, we would be happy to visit with you. "God dag" to all.

Submitted by: John Sipos

Tegnér Lodge #224

Missoula, MT

Greetings from Tegner Lodge #224 in Missoula, MT. This fall was quite busy for our lodge with having a float in the Homecoming Parade for the University of Montana, followed by our annual Scandinavian Food and Craft Bazaar which was very successful. The members contributed with their specialty items such as breads, cookies, meatballs, lefse, and many craft items that delighted the people. For our Christmas celebration we enjoyed a traditional Scandinavian dinner and a gift exchange.

The first meeting of the year was the Installation of Officers for the year. Angie Swanson was installed as Chairman and her husband is Vice Chairman who is also a third generation Vasa member.

Happy New Year to all from our lodge.

Submitted by: Rick Swanson

Olympic Lodge #235

Staten Island, NY

On January 20, 2007, at the Swedish Home on Staten Island, NY, members and friends of Lodge Olympic #235 enjoyed a delicious luncheon followed by its biennial Installation of Officers. Newly elected as Chairman was Elaine Lindquist McGrath, who we learned is also going to be honored as New York's 2007 Sweden Day "Woman of the Year" in June. We are looking forward to a good two years with Chairman Elaine. We also had initiation of a new member, Marie Perri Grabher, who we warmly welcomed. The highlight of the afternoon was a tribute, given to two of Lodge Olympic's longest serving members –

Anna-Lisa Erickson and Harry Hedin – who stepped down from holding an office from their combined 139 years of Vasa Order membership.

The following tribute, given in a fairytale fashion, was composed and narrated by Carolyn Erickson, Anna-Lisa's daughter, and was well received by all in attendance. It honored Anna-Lisa and Harry as "Castle" Olympic's King and Queen, and even included the investiture of their gold crowns.

The Crowning of Queen Anna-Lisa and King Harry

Let me begin my tale by telling you about our King and Queen. Once upon a time a young boy named Harry was born on the medieval island of Manhattan in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-eight. As a small boy he wanted to dance, sing, and dance some more, so he joined a children's troupe called Barnklubban, which enjoyed much merriment while learning the dances of its ancestors from a faraway country in the North called Sweden. Young Harry danced with the troupe for many years, bringing joy to the people who saw them. The dance troupe received support from the people of nearby "Castle" Olympic, which was one of many castles in the Kingdom of New York District #4. So it was a natural step for Harry to join Castle Olympic when he reached the required age of 16.

Young Anna-Lisa was born in that faraway land called Sweden in the year nineteen hundred and twelve, and came to the new land called America as a young child. Her parents belonged to the "Castle" Strängnäs, in the village of Brooklyn, and k had much merriment meeting new and old friends from the old country. So it was no surprise that when Anna-Lisa turned the proper age of 16, she too joined "Castle" Strängnäs.

Now, from the time Harry and Anna-Lisa became a member of their village "Castle," that would be "Castle" Olympic and "Castle" Strängnäs, they each unknowingly started a reign of service that was to last many, many years. So far, Harry's reign has lasted 61 years and Anna-Lisa has an impressive 78 years. But I'm getting ahead of myself. After Harry and Anna-Lisa became Castle members they each started out by playing piano for the opening and closing portions of their castle meetings. It wasn't long before the two castles each voted Harry and Anna-Lisa to be their Recording Secretary, a position in which they stayed a very, very long time – each

Continued on page 9

Olympic Lodge #235

Continued from page 8

over a 40-year reign. Now that's a lot of minutes scribed by each one of them over the years.

But alas, at "Castle" Strängnäs the years had taken its toll on its members and the castle got smaller and smaller, until only a few people were left to run the castle. Then one day a knight in shining armor called Sir Harry beckoned the people of "Castle" Strängnäs to join with neighboring "Castle" Olympic. And so the people of both castles were very happy and continued as one.

With a bigger "castle" and more people for support, both Harry and Anna-Lisa rose to higher positions within the Kingdom of New York District #4. They each became Executive Board member and finally were each voted to the esteemed position of District Master by the people of the Kingdom.

Around this time Harry's achievements were being recognized outside the Kingdom by other Scandinavian Orders and he was given one of the highest honors from the King of Sweden – a medal of the Order of the North Star – so Sir Harry is indeed a true Knight of the Swedish Round Table.

During Anna-Lisa's reign as District Master she visited every "castle" in the Kingdom with the *Budkavel*, or message gaval. The *Budkavel* brought the "castle" closer together as it traveled from one "castle" to another bringing much merriment and happiness among its people in the Kingdom.

After Harry and Anna-Lisa's reigns as District Master, the Order of the Grand Kingdom knocked on "Castle" Olympic's door and crowned each one as the people's Grand Lodge Deputy, for which they represented the Kingdom's people with pride and distinction.

Along their long journey, Harry and Anna-Lisa were also recognized with other individual awards, one being the Order of Vasaforbundet's Man and Woman of the Year, and both achieved the position of Chairman within "Castle" Olympic, thus culminating a record of uninterrupted service since their days of initiation long ago. So ends my tale of Harry and Anna-Lisa.

So ends my tale of Harry and Anna-Lisa.

THE END.

By: Carolyn Erickson

Submitted by: Elaine Gyllenhamar

Picture by: Lois Erickson



Sitting, Harry Hedin and Anna-Lisa Erickson. Standing, Peg Lundblom and Elaine McGrath.

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA



We were pleased to induct our new officers for the year 2007. Pictured are, l-r, Lorraine Johnson, Auditor; Marian Lundgren, Inner Guard; Lisbeth Owen, Master of Ceremonies; Sara Goldsmith, Financial Secretary; Kay Lynne Picheco, Recording Secretary; Sandra Miller, Chairman; Tom Johnson, Treasurer; Cheryl Brown, Trustee; Carol Johnson, Assistant Recording Secretary; Leona Carlson, Chaplain; Joanne Dahlstrand, Outer Guard, and Linda Collin, Assistant Cultural Leader.

Submitted by: Linda Collin

Frihet Lodge #401

Seattle, WA

Sunday, October 22, 2006, dawned warm and sunny, just right for a gathering of 64 members and guests at Ivar's Salmon House on Lake Union for our 85th Anniversary Celebration. As the guests arrived for the 1:00 p.m. brunch, Ione and Brenda Bard, mother/daughter duo on the accordions entertained.

Then the feast began, everything from custom made crepes to country gravy and biscuits, Eggs Benedict, three kinds of salmon, crab legs, oysters on the half shell, etc., etc., many different salads and desserts! Oh my! It was sumptuous.

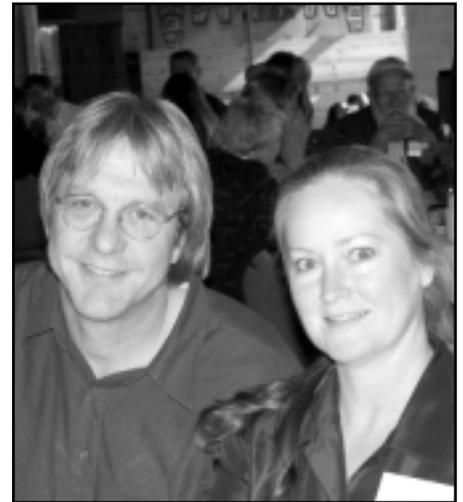
Special guests District Master Alice Iverson and her husband Mel, along with past District Master and current District Treasurer Judy Rust came up from Oregon to share in this special day.

Chairman Kathy Pratt gave a short talk on the history of Frihet, where it stands now, and what are some hopes for the future.



Karla Anderson, District Deputy and present vice chairman, Karen Risto, head of the coffee committee, and Karen's granddaughter Vanessa. Karla and Karen are sisters.

Frango mints were given as door prizes and it was fun seeing whose name was pulled. Everybody likes Frango mints! It was a lot of fun and we thank



Cliff Kravik, a Vasa Park board alternate and LeAnn Kravik, Recording Secretary.

everyone who came and made the celebration what it was. 2007 here we come!

**Submitted by: Helen Allen and
Kathy Pratt**

Northern Light Lodge #620

Ventura, CA

We are delighted to hear that our member meeting participation is highest in our District PSW #15. There may be several reasons involved like extra friendliness with each other or maybe it's having a surprise dinner, preceding the "business" program, cooked by very talented volunteers. We do have a constant happy spirit, which comes down from our exuberant chairman LeRoy Carlson. Who knows, it may be a combination! We have an age range from teenager to "eldest" – just like a great big happy family. We truly like each other.

Submitted by: Elsie Livengood



Bud Birch's 90th birthday with wife Betty and Lauren Cook, Miss Teen California and former Lucia.

Solstad Lodge #709

Sun City West, AZ



Members of Solstad Lodge #709 in the Sun Cities of Arizona enjoyed a delightful Christmas luncheon at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West. The program, presented by Cultural Leader Anne Levig, Linda Axelsson, Irene Majava, Ed Malmstrom, and Phillip Nordberg, Jr., focused on the legends of Lucia, the tradition of the jul-tomte, the history of the julbock and traditional Swedish yuletide foods. Greetings were read from Sister Lodge #618 in Jönköping and their gift of a white Småland horse, made by Vasa members in Sweden was passed around for Solstad Lodge members to admire.

Solstad Lodge's November meeting featured an enlightening and educational presentation by Alfred Nobel by Lloyd Axelsson. The program at January's luncheon meeting was a slide presentation on Bishop Hill, IL, and the Vasa Archives Building.

Submitted by: Anne Levig

Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719

Laguna Hills, CA



Seven is the lucky number for Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719 when they took in seven new members at their November 10, 2006, meeting. Pictures as they joined (from l-r), are Elizabeth McGinley, Madison Cornwell, Laura Cornwell, Cory Koning, Carolyn Cunningham, Karen and Russell Almquist. Watching the ceremony seated is Cultural Leader Robert Johnson while Past Chairman Eugene Carlson, PDM, assisted in the ceremony. Also pictured is future Seaborg member in 2020 – baby Britt Almquist.

Submitted by: Phyllis Brandon

Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

January 28, 2007, was the installation of the new and re-installed officers. We had the help of District officers, including District Master of the state of Arizona, Vito Pantaleo, Grand Lodge Deputy, Gisela Linden, District Secretary Pat Flippen, District Master of Ceremonies Louise Pantaleo, and Vice District Master Maureen Anderson. Also in attendance were District Treasurer Robert Anderson and Past Grand Lodge District Deputy Ruth Gregory.

Willis Peterson presented a biographical sketch. Willis is a local photographer. His photographs have appeared in *Arizona Highways* magazine. He brought several of his photos from different exhibits. The presentation was interesting, as Willis's career has covered a span of many years. His work has taken him and his wife to numerous countries. Willis has had an autobiography published of his life.

At our February meeting Gun Granath presented a program on Orrefors and Swedish Crystal. The meeting concluded with pea soup and Swedish pancakes. A period of time was offered after the meeting for making Valentine straw baskets. Carol Ingstad Bryant gave a biographical sketch telling of her life growing up in N.D. and her travels that have taken her to many parts of the world.

In March Darby Lofstrand informed us with a program about the Province of Dalarna and Dala Hästen.

Chuck and Marilyn Elston will give the April program. The subject is that of Nordic Flags & Music.

Submitted by: Carol Bryant



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SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Enköping Nr 646

Nu var dagen äntligen här. Barnen hade tidigare frågat när det var dags att få gå på julgransplundring hos Logen Enköping Nr 646. Medlemmar från Uppsala Nr 623, Eskilstuna Nr 633 och Mälardrottningen Nr 563 kom på besök för att tillsammans med sina barn och barnbarn, passa på att fira denna dag.

Vi började med att alla barnen samlades kring fiskdammen för att med hjälp av Leif Lindén, fiska upp en present från "sjön." Sedan startade dansen kring granen. Tillsammans med våra duktiga musikanter Taimi Johansson och Ivan Karlsson började de välkända sångerna att sjungas. Våra "lektanter" Pernilla och Emma satte fart på dansen och såg till att alla visste vad de skulle göra. Våra kommitterade Elisabeth Agge, Lilian Andersson, Anne-Sofie Hjort samt Hillivi Sjöberg, Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563, serverade korv, mos och bröd till alla.

Efter detta fortsatte vi med ytterligare sång och dans kring granen, bland annat sjöng vi "Björnen sover," och den första björn som sov var Lars-Åke Sjöberg från Mälardrottningen Nr 563. Kaffe med dopp serverades i samband med lotterdragningen. Plötsligt var det någon som sa: "Finns det några snälla barn här," och in kommer tomten med en stor säck. Den var så stor att när han skulle sätta ner den vid granen stötte han till den så att den vickade, men allt gick bra. Barnen såg med förväntan på när tomten tog fram godispåsar och detta år fick även de vuxna vara med.

Dagen avslutades med den gemensamma "raket" innan tomten skulle ge sig iväg. Innan han gick, berättade han att i år hade det varit svårt att ta sig fram med släde i Sverige pga den ringa snön, så han hade själv fått strö snö framför släden för att hinna fram i tid.

Ordförande i Logen Enköping Nr 646 Karl-Erik Axelsson tackade våra duktiga musikanter Taimi och Ivan samt "lektanterna" Pernilla och Emma, för deras arbete. Vi kände alla igen oss i denna traditionella julgransplundring, som så många av oss vuxna minns som barn.

Trötta men nöjda begav sig alla hem för att invänta nästa års julgransplundring och ännu en gång få träffa tomten.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge



Julgransplundring hos Logen Enköping Nr 646.

Logen Filbyter Nr 714

Linköping

Peter Casseldagarna år 2007 genomföres i Kisa lördag-söndag 18-19 augusti. Programmet är inte helt klart ännu men som vanligt kommer det mesta att gå i emigrationens tecken. Bland annat underhållning med ett sångspel "Karl-Oskar och Kristina – en musikalisk resa," infor-

mation om släktforskning, föredrag och mycket annat. Vi återkommer med ett utförligt program i nästa nummer av The Vasa Star.

Varmt välkomna till Östergötland och Kisa!

Submitted by: Arne Samuelsson

Stort Intresse i USA för en Vasaloge i Vadstena – Sveriges Kulturhuvudstad!

"*Intresset är stort,*" säger en av faderlogernas ordförande Arne Samuelsson Logen Filbyter Nr 714 i Linköping.

"*Vasaorden av Amerika hör hemma i Vadstena,*" säger Vasa Ordens Publicity Director i Sverige, Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt. Trots snöoväder och kyla samlades 25 blivande Vasamedlemmar under startmötet på Stockmakaregatan i Vadstena. En av de små pittoreska gatorna i Vadstena.

Man räknar med att installationen av logen kan ske i September i år. Ordf. Arne Samuelsson logen Filbyter i Linköping uttryckte sin glädje över Lisbeth H. Qvarfordts stora framtidstro för Vasa Orden av Amerika. Och hennes eget valspråk "Vasa Orden i Tiden bel-

yser detta." Många Vasamedlemmar från USA besöker Vadstena och söker sina rötter på *Landsarkivet i Vadstena Slott*. De kommer att känna sig än mer hemma när de också upptäcker att det finns en loge i Vadstena som snart instiftas. Redan nu kan man läsa i Vasa Ordens olika tidningar här hemma, USA och Kanada, om den blivande logen i Vadstena.

En interimstyrelse finns redan som arbetar vidare tillsamman med Lisbeth för att få en fungerande loge. Vasaorden har många kulturarrangemang som nu vill komma till Vadstena och där logen Vadstena kommer att spela en betydande roll.

Continued on page 13

Vadstena

Continued from page 12

FD marknadschefen i Kolmårdens Djurpark Lisbeth är känd för sin energi och att inte ge upp, utan påbörjat arbete skall avslutas med framgång, så även Logen Gustav Vasa i Vadstena. "Nu kommer arbetet i Vadstena gå framåt inte minst nu när jag har fått hjälp av en interimstyrelse på sju personer som är absolut beslutna av att Logen Gustav Vasa i Vadstena ska bli en verklighet," säger Lisbeth.

I Vasa Orden i USA och Kanada finns många företagare som börjar höra av sig över vilka företag som finns i Vadstena. Där finns en hel del som man kan besöka när de kommer till Sverige. Här kommer logen Vadstena att bli en länk till samarbete och gemenskap, vilket är ett av vår Ordens syften.

Logen Bråviken Nr 751 Ordf. Majoren Bo Svensson, deltog vid de senaste mötet och såg de stora möjligheterna som finns för en Vasalodge i Vadstena. Kyla och snöstorm på Östgötaslätten avskräcker tydligen inte de blivande Vasamedlemmarna i Vadstena.

Submitted by: Maggie Ahlin Thelin
Picture by: Inge Hallberg SFF/BLF



This is probably what the homepage will look like. Lodge number 760 is an assumption and might be another. It will be decided at the establishment.

Great Interest in USA for a Vasa Lodge in Vadstena – The Culture Capitol Of Sweden!

"There is great interest," says one of the godfather lodges chairmen, Arne Samuelsson, Lodge Filbyter #714 in Linköping.

"The Vasaorder of America belongs to Vadstena," says the Publicity Director in Sweden, Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt. Despite snowy and cold weather 25 attending Vasamembers gathered during the start-up meeting at Stockmakaregatan in Vadstena. One of the small picturesque streets in Vadstena.

It should be possible to have the installation of the lodge this coming September. Chairman Arne Samuelsson, Lodge Filbyter, expressed his joy over Lisbeth H. Qvarfordts great belief in the future for Vasa Order of America, and her own motto "Vasa Order in time," shows that. Many Vasa members from America visit Vadstena, looking for their roots at the *Lands Archives in Vadstena Castle*. They will almost feel at home

when they discover that a new lodge will be found in Vadstena.

You can already read in the different Vasa Order newspapers in Sweden, America and Canada about the coming Vasa Order in Vadstena. An interim committee is already in place working with Lisbeth to get a well functioning lodge.

The Vasaorder has many cultural arrangements that will be of interest for Vadstena and the Vadstena Lodge. The former Marketing Director of Kolmårdens Zoo, Lisbeth, is known for her energy, not to give up. If you start working on something you should end it successfully, like Lodge Gustav Vasa in Vadstena. "The work in Vadstena will proceed with the help from an interim committee of seven people who are absolute determined that Lodge Gustav Vasa in Vadstena will be reality", says Lisbeth.

There are many business owners in America and Canada that has contacted

Vadstena community to see what kind of companies they have. There will be plenty to visit when they come to Sweden. This is where Lodge Vadstena will be an important link, cooperation and fellowship is one of our Orders purposes.

Lodge Bråviken #751 chairman, Major Bo Svensson, was attending the last meeting and saw the great possibilities that the Vasa Lodge in Vadstena will have. Cold weather and snowstorms will not prevent the Vasa members in Vadstena to participate.

Text Maggie Ahlin Thelin
Photo: Inge Hallberg SFF/BLF



YOUTH NEWS

Internship in the US



Maja Debeljak

My name is Maja Debeljak and I am a 21-year old student from Växjö, Sweden. I came to Cleveland in the beginning of February to do my internship at the *Swedish Consulate* in Cleveland. I study International Administration at *Växjö University*, which is located in Southern Sweden, almost in the middle of Småland.

International Administration Studies consist of English and Political Science studies. At the end of our last term, we are required to do an internship abroad in an English-speaking country, at an English-speaking organization or some another English-speaking authority. Therefore, my classmates and I had to find internships in different organizations and companies somewhere in the world.

My interest was mostly focused on the US. Since I had never been in the US, I really wanted to go there. As a result,

I received a positive response from the Swedish Consulate in Cleveland. I gladly accepted that offer which I believed would be very interesting and instructive.

My internship at the *Swedish Consulate* will be from February to May, or until the beginning of June. Some of the tasks that I do for the Consulate are providing assistance and information about different inquiries about passport applications, translations, information about Sweden and other things. However, my assistance is not entirely limited to the Consulate. I provide some assistance for *SACC-Ohio* (Swedish American Chambers of Commerce) and other Swedish Organizations that would want my help.

So far I am really enjoying my stay in Ohio. I have met a great number of nice people and I hope to meet many more. I have not traveled around much yet, but I want to do that as soon as the weather gets better. I would like to go to Florida, New York and Washington DC.

Praktik i USA

Mitt namn är Maja Debeljak och jag är en 21-årig student från Växjö, Sverige. Jag kom till Cleveland i början av februari för att göra min praktik på *Svenska Konsulatet* i Cleveland, Ohio. Jag studerar Internationell Administration på *Växjö Universitet*, som ligger i södra Sverige, nästan mitt i Småland.

Internationell Administration är ett program som består av studier i engelska och statsvetenskap. I slutet av sista terminen ska vi göra praktik utomlands i ett engelskt-språkigt land, en engelsk organisation eller någon annan engelsk-språkig myndighet. Därför fick jag och mina klasskamrater hitta praktik-platser i olika organisationer och företag någonstans i världen.

Mitt intresse var främst riktat mot USA. Eftersom jag aldrig hade varit i USA ville jag helst åka dit. När jag då fick ett positivt svar från det *Svenska Konsulatet* i Cleveland tackade jag ja till det erbjudandet, vilket jag tyckte lät intressant och skulle bli lärorikt för mig.

Min praktik på det *Svenska Konsulatet* kommer att vara från februari till maj, eller till början av juni. Några av de uppgifter som jag har är att ge information om olika förfrågningar gällande passansökan, översättningar, information om Sverige och andra frågor. Mitt arbete är inte enbart begränsat till konsulatet, jag står också till förfogande för *SACC-Ohio* (Svensk-Amerikanska Handelskammaren) och andra svenska organisationer som vill ha min hjälp.

Så här långt trivs jag med min vistelse i Cleveland. Jag har träffat en hel del trevliga människor, och jag hoppas få komma i kontakt med fler. Jag har ännu inte rest omkring så mycket men jag vill göra det så fort vädret blir bättre. Jag vill jättegärna åka till Florida, New York och Washington DC.

Submitted by: Maja Debeljak

TIDBITS

Tussilago - Hästhovsört

Vi som är födda i Sverige ser varje vår "Tussilago" piggt titta fram mot solen i leran vid dikeskanterna. Letade efter namnet "Tussilago" i Svensk Ordbok utan resultat. Ringde då till min allvetande gode vän Rei Stråhle i Uppsala. Han upplyste att det svenska namnet är Hästhovsört och det latinska faktiskt "Tussilago Farfara." Det svenska namnet står i Svensk Ordbok. Från början var namnet Hosthovsört - för man använder extrakt att bota hosta med. Sedermera blev namnet förvanskad till "Hästhovsört."

Vi har aldrig sett denna blomma i Amerika. Kanske någon läsare i vårt vidsträckta land vet annorlunda? Låt oss veta!

Coltsfoot - Tussilago

We who are born in Sweden could every year in the spring see Coltsfoot - "Tussilago" look up towards the sun in the mud along the roads in Sweden. Looked for the name "Tussilago" in Svensk Ordbok - but not listed. Then I called my all-knowing friend Rei Stråhle in Uppsala. He quickly enlightened me that the Swedish name of the flower was "Hästhovsört" and in Latin actually "Tussilago Farfara." The Swedish name is actually listed in Svensk Ordbok. Originally the name was "Hosthovsört" because extract is used to cure cough. Then the name changed to "Hästhovsört."

We have never seen this flower in America. Maybe some of the readers of

the "Vasa Star" know differently? Then let us know.

Submitted by: Per-Hugo Kristensson, Austin Lodge #466

Picture by: Inge Hallberg



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

Carl XVI Gustav #716
Teresa Segerstrom

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

Spiran #98
Kimberly Morgan
Clair Tranhlan
Linda Wright

DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3

Pioneer #506
Hildegard Denzer
Annka Gliottone
Wayne Loughheed
Susan McCrillis
Brian McCrillis

DL NEW YORK NO. 4

Olympic #235
Marie Grabber
Lindbergh #505
Kenneth Johnson

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Arlington #62
Yasin Ozkan
Linne #429
Kim Feddersen
Carolyn Hakom
Gothiod #486
Anthony Bernabei
Alyssa Bernabei
Anthony Cuomo
Joseph Byron
Norman Johansen
Marjorie Pierson
Ronald Pierson
Thomas Steiner
Andrew Zafiropoulos
Viking #735
Kirsten Osborne
Nancy Peterson
Todd Peterson

DL MINNESOTA NO. 7

Framat #166
Mary Lunderoff
Gota Lejon #251
Janet Swart
Maury Swart

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Svea #253
Patricia Hoffman
Lake Michigan
Jeannette Levin
Donald Olson
Charlotte Thompson
Linde #492
Laura Bergunde
Elaine Johnson
Linnea Stephenson
Jubileum #755
Jeannette Levin

Donald Olson
Adrian Swanson
Charlotte Thompson

DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

Nobel-Monitor #130
Lage Jonsson
LeRoy Klein
Allan McAllister
Valerie McAllister
Kari Maier
Svea #296
James Bennett
Rose Bennett

GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Nord #392
Nanette Kelly
Paige Nickell
Framat #405
Andreas Ade
Louise Vogelsberg
Sveaborg #449

Robert Bergman
Carl Larson
Patricia Richter
Lindbergh #494
Dru Anderson
Robert Anderson
Julia Komissarchik
Ann Richardson
Linnea #504
Julie Groneman-Machado
Julie Machado
Norden #684
Dee Donnelly
Sherri Johnson
Robert Olson
Ruth Riggs
Kristina Roper
Carole Sell

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Norrskenet #189
Charlene Fykerud
Astor #215
Bernard Bjork
Susanna Bjork-Bell
Peter Troedsson
Solidaritet #396
Dave Davenport
Elaine Davenport
Loren Davenport
Pamela Dix
Frihet #401
Alana Brandstrom
Christine Howard
Barrett Monsaag

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Gustav #175
Carl Englund
Ingrid Englund
Evening Star #426
Diane DeLaurenti

Patricia Franta
Peter Franta
Kristina Westover
Carol Wolf
Golden Valley #616
Ingela Sorensson
Baltic #689
Jennifer Weisbat
Glenn T. Seaborg #719
Karin Almquist
Russell Almquist
Carolyn Cunningham
Cory Koning
Laura Cornwall
Madison Cornwall

DL CENTRAL CANADA NO. 16

Strindberg #259
Norma Goodman

DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17

Norrskenet #331
Beverly Bader

DL ARIZONA NO. 21

Solstad #709
Goran Jakobsen
Philip Nordberg
Scandia #728
Cassandra Pavka

NYA MEDELMAR I

DL 19 2006
Göteborg No 452
Gunilla Wickman
Vänersborg No 471
Ingrid Erixon
Leif Erixon
Karin Nejdmo
Tommy Nejdmo
Gösta Olausson
Ingrid Olausson
Mälardrottningen No 563
Maria Nihlén
Michael Nihlén
Anne Nordström
Stockholm No 589
Lill-Britt And
Bo Engelius
Eva-Marie Ibsen
Barbro Sonska
Jaroslav Sonsky
Birgitta Wittwängen Lundh
Engelbrekt No 619
Krister Danielsson
Anders Faxén

Barbro Ihrsen
Sven-Åke Ihrsen
Irmeli Modig
Sten Ståhlberg
Upsala No 623
Göran Carlsson
Margit Carlsson
Carin Hulth
Gotland No 624
Jan Calderon
Owe Hallqvist-Larsson
Elisabeth Hellekant
Karl-Olof Hinas
Lars-Åke Jacobsson
Sonja Jacobsson
Sven-Åke Jörneborg
Karin Mörck
Tommy Mörck
Yvonne Larsson
Anette Stjernström
Birgitta Tell
Lars Tell
Hjälmaren No 625
Stig Axelsson
Eva Edmark-Axelsson
Ingemar Linnell
Carl-Magnus Lindström
Margareta Lindström
Birgitta Sandkvist
Kerstin Seger
Roland Seger
Ann-Charlotte Stenström
Karlstad No 632
Anna-Britta Arvidsson
Bengt Arvidsson
Eskilstuna No 633
Barbro Engberg
Göran Engberg
Nils Liljenstolpe
Hans Lundvall
Lidköping No 636
Marianne Andersson
Eva Berg
Sven-Erik Berg
Ingrid Blanck
Helena Hultén
Ulla Wedin
Uddevalla No 638
Elvy Axelsson
Lena Boustedt
Roland Grundberg
Strömkarlen No 653
Dorothy Mäkelä
Paul Mäkelä
Kristina No 656
Bernt Gustavsson

Härmösand No 673
Astrid Nyberg
Bengt Nyberg
Järnbärarna No 697
Birgitta Axelsson
Ingrid Hägg
Christina Johansson-Linder
Bo Linder
Hortance Strandberg
Lars Strandberg
Kongahälla No 702
Marianne Andersson
Kerstin Josefsson
Sven Olov Josefsson
Bertil Karlsson
Inge Nilsson
Irené Olsson
Lillemor Sand Nilsson
Filbyter No 714
Conny Arvidsson
Gunilla Gustafson
Gun Kristensson
Ulf Kristensson
Knallen No 745
Ann-Britt Andersson
Bengt Blomqvist
Rose-Marie Blomqvist
Birgit Hellström
Håkan Hellström
Kickie Henrichson
Gunilla Kallenius
Jan Kallenius
Gunnel Lindqvist
Birgitta Lund
Lars Lund
Mari-Ann Sagert
Barbro Thorsson
Bråviken No 751
Sven-Åke Andersson
Ulla Andersson
Monica Calander
Bengt Ekström
Marie-Louise Hultin
Ingrid Ingesson
Lars-Olof Ingesson
Margaret Larsson
Inga-May Lönnberg
Bo Mannerskog
Lillemor Nilsson
Olov Nilsson
Bengt Ståhl
Charlotta Ståhl
Ingemar Åkerberg
Rose-Marie Åkerberg

In the Nov-Dec VASA Star issue under new membership welcome, our new members Joanne Carlburg and Frank Hirt were listed under Pacific Northwest #13 instead of PA #9.

Kay Lynne Picheco, Sec. District #9, SVEA #296

What Vasa Means To Me

Vasa has come to mean so much to me. It is a place of happiness and a time for wit, wisdom and lively discussion. It is a sense of belonging and a warmth of companionship. It is an idea that bridges time and space to connect people and communities with heritage. Vasa is a testament to the courage and strength of those who came before us and who brought us to where we are today. It is a shared experience that simply and constantly confirms my belief in the values and virtues of our Swedish origin. And, as I put my thoughts in writing, I realize it means even more....

My mother and father were born in Idre, then a tiny village in the north of Sweden. Those were trying times, for much of Europe was in the throes of depression, uncertainty and threatened hostilities. Emigration must have offered a tantalizing and freshening promise to a young couple. It would have spoken to their hearts, their optimism and their shared sense of adventure.

Dad was first to venture out and make the journey. Alone, he sized up the prospects in Alberta, determined it was feasible and returned to Idre to persuade his sweetheart, not yet past her teens, that her future – their future – lay in a new world across the sea. I have no experience to compare with the pain and apprehension they must have felt on leaving behind their family, their friends and their birthplace. But, with their faces and their futures set to the West, they joined forces and fortunes. Dad's initial dream became their vision. This vision became their compass, their goal and their new life.

God knows it was no easy path they chose. To homestead in Central Alberta in 1927 was to accept, and face head on, the privations and challenges of pioneer farming. Like some fearless boxer, this young Swedish couple went toe to toe with the hard edge of Canadian wilderness. They claimed their land, they broke their land, and they nurtured their land. They rejoiced in its bounty. They grieved when it failed. The land was a full partner to their marriage. In return, the land nurtured and blessed them. It made my parents what they were and, in due course, it made me, my sisters and my brothers what we are today. It was our farm, our home, and our life.

Because it rekindles and refreshes these priceless memories, my Vasa experience is like my looking glass through which I am transported back in time to a farm kitchen, a cow barn, fields and gardens of a Swedish immigrant homestead and the warm presence of my dear old mom and dad. Late at night, in those gentle moments when sleep is close but not complete, I am able now to cast back to the sweet and simple farm life of childhood. Images of those distant times now drift across my mind's eye, mixing and melting, and washing over me with a peaceful satisfaction.

I will see my mother hard at work in her natural environment, her kitchen. She is busy, useful and happy to be surrounded by the bustle and energy of as many as eight growing daughters – each of whom may have her own agenda – but is ever mindful to listen to mom's instructions and to lighten mom's burdens.

I can see my dear father, also hard at work, walking to and from the barn and pastures. To some he may have appeared as a humble immigrant farmer, but looks can be deceiving. True, my mom's pace was light and brisk. True also, my dad's was slower, purposeful and methodical. In point of fact, however, he was a model farmer, a social activist, a community leader, and a politically saturated citizen of his adoption nation. I would watch him from the kitchen window as he crossed the farmyard, collar up and jaw set, with his mind churning and intense. And there would be my teenage brothers, caught in his wake and well in tow, awaiting direction, advice and guidance. Dad was a man who never sat idle and who understood well that it is action, not talk, that cuts ice, moves mountains and gets results. He and my uncles shared a common trait born of experience. Each could take charge, inspire confidence and show leadership. My father, in particular, projected an aura of elder statesmanship. Small wonder I found his company to be so comforting and reassuring.

I am the youngest of thirteen children born to Carl and Ingeborg Johnson. More than a generation earlier they had departed their native Sweden. In typical immigration fashion, their transplanted Swedish kin had settled close to my par-

ents' homestead. My parents were mature and middle-aged at the time of my arrival. I was, therefore, instantly immersed in a well established extended family, presided over by the grey eminence of my father and mother.

My parents, as I now recall, took great pride in all things Swedish. Our modest farm home was a centerpiece for the preservation of Scandinavian culture and a gathering place for an extended family of émigré aunts, uncles, cousins, and a lively circle of neighboring Swedes and Danes. At such gatherings, be it Lucia, Christmas or our Midsummer celebration, the mother tongue was spoken, old country traditions were honored, and the dinner table was resplendent with Swedish cooking, baking and handicrafts.

I recall my mom (and my sisters) to have patiently instructed me in the domestic arts. Mom was a traditionalist, to be sure. Where my father was an outdoorsman, big game hunter, community-oriented and politically active, my mother's beauty and wisdom were projected inwards to protect and nurture her flock. Her realm, indeed her universe, was the home and hearth. Hers was a gentler presence, but equally remarkable and inspiring. Without ever preaching, my mother taught me the lessons of commitment, consistency and perseverance. Raising thirteen children on a back country homestead did not allow for days off,

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HE & SHE

**Art glass exhibit of
Bertil Vallien and
Ulrika Hydman-Vallien
Rockford Art Museum
March 30-July 8**

*Plan now to attend this
one-time exhibition*

www.rockfordartmuseum.org

815-968-2787

What Vasa Means To Me

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statutory holidays or mental health breaks. She was necessarily focused, sensible and task-oriented.

Birth order determined my belated entry into their lives. The other end of this equation is that they left mine all too soon. However, I now can see they were the ultimate role models – sage and savvy for the experience of their years. It is true that my father did not appreciate Beatlemania and my mother had no time for high heels and eye shadow. Nevertheless, I am richer by far on account of their seasoned, loving guidance through my formative years.

I once lacked the ability to reflect and was without any detailed recall of these treasured remembrances. My own hectic young adulthood, complete with the demands of my home and children, distracted me from those memories. Personal stress and the peaks and valleys of everyday life blurred the vision of my youth and heritage.

When I joined Vasa in 1978, as a charter member of the Red Deer Lodge, it was in response to a small, but growing sense of what I had lost. I had only the vaguest notion of what I might regain. A quarter century plus of Vasa fellowship has changed all that. It has given me a cultural pride and awareness that are reminiscent of what I felt in my parents' home. Vasa has sharpened my focus, cleared my vision, and serves now as the lens by which I can see and appreciate the richness and meaning of Swedish roots. And, without ever before putting it into words, I now realize Vasa is the golden thread by which I have re-attached and re-committed my life to the lessons, values and wisdom of an immigrant Swedish farmer and his loving farm wife: my parents, Carl and Ingeborg.

Epilogue

My father loved poetry. For some time now, certain lines have been rolling about in my mind. Very recently they found their way on to paper...

*Tired of Europe's war and pains,
In search of peace and hopes and gains,
They braved Atlantic's fog and rains,
These few intrepid Swedes and Danes,
With blood of Vikings in their veins.*

**Written by: Frida Johnson
Red Deer Lodge, Alberta, Canada**

Flat World



Political Science professor at California Lutheran University explores challenge affecting ethnic groups such as Scandinavian-Americans in today's 'flat world'

How do ethnic groups such as Scandinavian-Americans retain their heritage while functioning effectively in face of global change?

Dr. Jose Marichal of the Political Science Department at California Lutheran University offered that conundrum during his presentation at a meeting of the American Scandinavian Foundation of Thousand Oaks.

He used PowerPoint graphics and charts to underscore and elaborate on his message as he addressed 25 ASF members and visitors during his Jan. 12 presentation.

Referring to students in his classes, he explained that they have unlimited choices about who they are and what they want to do, thanks to the leveling brought about largely because of the Internet. To illustrate, he offered a mini-drama that might be a metaphor related to the changing world. He played the role of one of his multi-tasking students during the class lecture. He depicted the student looking down, typing on his laptop and listening to his I-pod—then suddenly looking up in response to a point in the lecture that got his attention.

Though his background is Cuban, said Dr. Marichal, he could choose to project himself as a Scandinavian, because he could create a new persona based on selections from the array of information so easily accessible in today's global arena. However, that kind of "thin culture" could be as easily dropped for another makeover, he added.

From the audience, Lana Lundin, who has taught business leaders in Sweden, disagreed that he could become Scandinavian. He laughed when she said he would have to practically eliminate his dramatic gestures to look like a low-key Scandinavian.

So he continued in his Latino style, as he explained that the value of heritage would be to use that in contributing to positive change in society now. Hunkering down with your Scandinavian roots, for instance, may provide temporary security and a narrow sense of community, but could confine you to the past and limit your impact on life today and tomorrow.

Tribal identities can build strong boundaries and a temporary sense of security, he explained, but they cause resistance and hostility that would threaten such inward-looking groups.

Ironically, he noted, the Scandinavians of an earlier era were pioneering practitioners of a basic form of democracy. Even for the Vikings, that called for a degree of inclusiveness, rather than the exclusiveness today that could result from ethnic isolationism.

Referring to the "flat world" depicted by Thomas Friedman and other writers, he reminded the audience that education and communication in other countries are challenging the world leadership and domination commanded by the United States.

In reflecting about his own life, Dr. Marichal admitted that his once-strong Latino identity from his Cuban

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Flat World

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enclave in Florida has moderated greatly, particularly after living and teaching for many years in the West. The Anglo ideas that he once might have scoffed at now seem enriching, just as his past can impact life in a positive way at California Lutheran University.

He emphasized that his thoughts and concerns relate to all ethnic groups, not just Scandinavian-Americans. In conclusion, he said that the United States offers both a challenge and an opportunity for ethnic groups to join with others to solve the ongoing social problems here and across the "flat world."

At the end of the meeting, Anita Londgren, president of the American Scandinavian Foundation, thanked Dr. Marichal for reinforcing the organization's desire to "highlight our heritage in a practical way." She added that ASF and other Scandinavian groups face the daunting task of motivating youth such as the students at Cal Lutheran to see and learn about the value of their Scandinavian heritage in the dynamics of today's world. Their disinterest indicates they presently see little connection between the ethnic past and present "flat world."

For more information, contact Richard Londgren, ASF publicity chair, at KronaPress@verizon.net or (805) 241-1051. An attached photo shows Dr. Marichal during his presentation.

Submitted by: Richard Londgren

Carl von Linné – Blomsterkonungen

Carl Linnaeus föddes 1707 i en liten by, Råshult, nära Växjö, i Småland, södra Sverige. När han var två år flyttade familjen till det närbelägna Stenbrohult, där fadern utnämns till kyrkoherde, precis som morfadern före honom föräldrarna tyckte därför att Carl också borde bli präst, något han inte alls ville.

Faderns hobby var blommor och trädgården, där han vistades nästan all ledig tid. Carl var alltid med pappan och blev snart också intresserad av blommor. Han läste allt han kunde hitta om växter och hur de kunde användas. Då han var 18 år skrev han för hand en Örtabok, som handlade om växter som kunde bota sjukdomar.

Då Linné var 20 år, lämnade han skolan och Växjö och fortsatte till universitetet i Lund för att studera medicin. Efter något år flyttade han till Uppsala,



Carl von Linné

där han även kunde studera botanik. Hans första år var svåra, då han var fattig och jämt hungrig. Men det blev bättre för honom då några professorer upptäckt hans intresse för och kunnskap i botanik. Snart bad de Linné undervisa andra studenter i botanik. Han blev en mycket populär lärare, som hade nya idéer.

Han utarbetade ett klassifikationssystem för växter, djur och mineral, men chockade en del med sina idéer om växternas sexualsystem.

Då Linné var 25 år fick han av Svenska Vetenskapsakademien en summa pengar för att företa en forskningsresa till Lappland. Han red norrut, lämnade kusten och kom till ett helt okänt land; vildmark, myrar, mygg, blåst och kyla. Han gick vilse och trodde han skulle dö. Men då han för första gången fick se fjäll med snö på toppen och det mest fantastiska av allt; midnattssolen, tyckte han sig uppleva ett mirakel. Han skrev dagbok och det blev senare en bok, *Linnés Lappländska Resa*. Han blev ombedd att göra ännu en forskningsresa, nu till Dalarna. Därefter fick han pengar för att fortsätta utforska andra delar av Sverige. I staden Falun i Dalarna mötte han den vackra Sara Lisa Moreus, som han gifte sig med då han fått ett välbetalt arbete som läkare.

L. gjorde några resor till andra länder. Han besökte England, Frankrike, Tyskland och Holland, där han kunde avsluta sina medicinstudier med en uppsats om malaria. Han skrev vidare 14

böcker och hoppades kunna få oss att se på världen på annat sätt. Efter tre år återvände Linné till Sverige och öppnade läkarpraktik i Stockholm. Han fick många patienter och blev berömd för sin skicklighet att bota sjuka människor. Han blev bekant med många inflytelserika människor och vetenskapsmän. Tillsammans med andra lärda män var han med och bildade *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapsakademien* 1739. Två år senare utnämndes han till professor i medicin och botanik. Då flyttade han med hustru och barn till Uppsala till det hus som i dag är Linnémuseet. Han byggde om huset och gjorde trädgården större med nya växthus och drivhus för exotiska växter. Linné var den förste europé som lyckades odla bananer. Till slut fanns 3.000 olika växter från hela världen i *Linnéträdgården* som numera är museum.

I 50-årsåldern köpte Linné *Hammarby Gård* på landet utanför Uppsala. Där bodde han och Sara Lisa med sina fem barn om somrarna. Linnés Hammarby är ett populärt och välbesökt museum.

Linné var pionjär inom många områden och ett geni. Han var vetenskapsman, botaniker, zoolog och geolog, han var också en skicklig lärare och läkare. 1757 adlades han av konungen och Carl Linnaeus namn blev då Carl von Linné.

Under sin lappländska resa fick Linné för första gången se en låg växt med små klocklika blommor, som doftade svagt av mandel. Blomman växer även i skogarna i Småland men är svår att upptäcka, då den är så oansenlig och nästan gömd under mossan. Linné tyckte att blomman var som en symbol för honom och hans liv, och den fick sedan sitt namn efter honom; *Linnea borealis*. *Linnea* är nu Smålands landskapsblomma. Linné var inte så blygsam, han myntade uttrycket: "Gud skapade världen – och Linné ordnade upp den."

Linné dog vid 70 års ålder, och efterlämnade närmare 200 böcker, uppsatser och korrespondens med många ledande personligheter från hela världen. Han var före sin tid, men har haft stor betydelse för dem som kommit efter honom.

Trehundraårsminnet av Linnés födelse kommer att firas under hela året på många platser i Sverige. Det blir utställningar, föreläsningar, konserter och exkursioner. Det började i Växjö den 28 jan i närvaro av kungen och drottningen. I 14 andra länder, bl.a. Holland, England och Japan, kommer man också att högtidligt minnet av *Carl von Linné, Blomsterkonungen*.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, DKL DL 20

Carl von Linné - The King of Flowers

Carl Linnaeus was born in 1707 in Råshult, a small village in the county of Småland, south of Sweden. When he was two years old, the family moved to a village nearby called Stenbrohult where his father had been appointed vicar, just like his grandfather had done earlier. Carl's parents wanted him to become a priest too, which wasn't at all what he wanted.

His father's hobby was flowers and his garden where he spent most of his spare time. Carl always accompanied his father and was soon interested in flowers too. He studied everything he found about plants and how they could be useful. When he was 18 years old he wrote an "Herb book" by hand which was about using plants to cure sick people.

When he was 20 years old Linné left school in Växjö and went to the *University of Lund* to study medicine. After a year he moved to the *University of Uppsala* where he could study botany too. His first years in Uppsala were hard; he was very poor and always hungry. Gradually better days came. Some professors had noticed Linné's great interest in and knowledge of botany and he was asked to teach other students in this subject. He was a very popular teacher, loved by his students. He created a classification system for plants, animals and minerals, but chocked some people with his ideas about the sexual system of plants.

When Linné was 25 years old, the *Swedish Academy of Science* gave him a large sum of money to make a research trip to Lapland. He rode northwards, left the coast and came to quite a strange landscape; wilderness, mires, bugs, mosquitoes, wind and cold. He lost his way and thought he was going to die. But when he, for the first time, saw the mountain massifs with snow covered peaks and even more, the midnight sun, he thought he had experienced a miracle. He kept a diary and later on he wrote a book: *Linné's Lappländska Resa*. He was asked to make another research journey, to the county of Dalarna. After that visit he received money to do research in other parts of Sweden. It was in Dalarna he met the beautiful Sara Lisa Moraeus, whom he married after some years when he had become a well-paid doctor.

Linné made some trips to other countries as well. He visited England, France, Germany and Holland where he finished his medical studies presenting a thesis about malaria. He also wrote 14 books

hoping to change the way people looked at the world. After three years abroad Linné returned to Sweden and opened a doctor's office in Stockholm. He had many patients and was famous for his ability to cure sick people. He got to know many influential people and scientists. Together with other educated men he founded the *Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences* in 1739. Two years later he was appointed Professor of Medicine. Then he moved to Uppsala and settled down in the house that today is the *Linnaeus Museum*. He rebuilt the house and made the garden much bigger, built greenhouses and hothouses for exotic plants. Linné was the first European to successfully cultivate bananas. Finally there were 3.000 different plants from the entire world in the *Linnaeus Garden*, which is now an open-air museum.

When he was around 50 years old Linné bought a farm, *Hammarby Gård*, just outside Uppsala, where he and Sara Lisa and their five children lived in the summer.

Linné was a pioneer and a genius in many fields. He was a scientist, botanist, zoologist and geologist. He was also a skilled teacher and doctor. In 1757 the king honoured him by making him a "nobleman." Carl Linnaeus' name then was Carl von Linné.

While Linné was in Lapland he saw for the first time a low plant with bell-shaped light red flowers with a slight scent of almond. This flower is common in Småland too, but it's difficult to find, as it's almost hidden in the moss. Linné thought this flower was a symbol of him and his life and it was later named after him; *Linea borealis*. Linnea is now the landscape-flower of Småland.

Carl von Linné was not very modest and coined the expression: "God created the world – and Linnaeus put things in order."

Carl von Linné died around the age of 70, leaving behind almost two hundred books, lots of theses and correspondence with many influential people around the world.

The tercentenary of Linnaeus' birth will be celebrated on many locations in Sweden this year. Exhibitions, lectures, concerts and excursions will be arranged. The celebration started in Växjö on January 28 in the presence of our king and queen. In 14 other countries, e.g. Holland, England and Japan, they are also going to celebrate the memory of *Carl von Linné, the King of Flowers*.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, DCL DL 20
Picture supplied by: Gunnar Lith

Valhalla

The other day I saw an interesting, albeit confused, use of the term "Valhalla" in the food section of the local paper. The writer exchanged Valhalla for Nirvana or Heavenly (taste). A member's e-mail question about the word Valhalla subsequently appeared in my mailbox. "What does the word Valhalla mean?" Great question! I'm sure it is of interest to many of our members and affiliates judging by the keen interest in Steve Wilson's very informative and entertaining genealogy presentation last Friday at Viking hall. Although he did not find records going back to the Viking era his diligent research into our past was met with great interest from the audience.

In old Norse mythology – Valhalla is the hall of Odin, in which he receives the souls of heroes slain in battles. From its 540 gates each morning the warriors go to fight, and at night they return to feast with the gods, Valkyries being their servitors.

Valhalla as in *Valhalla Scandinavians Lodge #746*, it is used as a reference to our Vasa Order of America, a Swedish-American Fraternal Organization.*

The long of it, when talking of the mythological term Valhalla, the reference is to the imaginary pantheon of Norse gods and the place where Vikings (in the later versions) – showing valor in battle and died with the sword in their hand – spend their supposed after-life. The idea is true for many mythological belief systems and it is often too hastily assumed that the Norse Ragnarök with the dependant Valhalla system are in great part the outcome of Christian influence: of an imitation of the Christian Judgment Day and the Christian heaven respectively. Owing to the lateness of our material, it is, of course, impossible to decide how old the beliefs may be, but it is likely that the Valhalla idea only took form at the systematizing of the mythology in the Viking age. The belief in another world for the dead is, however, by no means exclusively Christian, and a reference in *Grimnismal* suggests the older system out of which, under the influence of the Ragnarök idea, Valhalla was developed. The lines, "The ninth hall is Folkvang, where Freyja rules the ordering of seats in the hall; half the slain she chooses every day, Odin has the other half," are an evident survival of a belief that all the dead went to live with the Gods, Odin having the men, and Freyja (or more probably Frigg) the women; the idea being here confused with the later system, under which only those who fell in battle were

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Valhalla

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chosen by the Gods. Christian coloring appears in the last lines of *Völuspá* and in Snorri, where men are divided into the "good and moral," who go after death to a hall of red gold, and the "perjurers and murderers," who are sent to a hall of snakes.

For Ragnarök also a heathen origin is at least as probable as a Christian one. I would suggest, as a possibility that the expectation of the Twilight of the Gods may have grown out of some ritual connected with the eclipse, such as is frequent among heathen races. Such ceremonies are a tacit acknowledgment of a doubt, and if they ever existed among the Scandinavians of old, the possibility, ever present to the savage mind, of a time when his efforts to help the light might be fruitless, and the darkness prove the stronger, would be the germ of his more civilized descendant's belief in Ragnarök.

By turning to the surviving poems of the Skalds, whose dates can be approximately reckoned from the sagas, we can fix an inferior limit for certain of the legends given above, placing them definitely in the heathen time. Reference has already been made to the corroboration of the Valhalla belief supplied by the elegies on Eirik Bloodaxe and Haakon the Good. In the former (which is anonymous, but must have been written soon after 950, since it was composed, on Erik's death, by his wife's orders), Odin commands the Einherjar and Valkyries to prepare for the reception of the slain Eirik and his host, since no one knows how soon the Gods will need to gather their forces together for the great contest. Eyvind's dirge on Haakon (who fell in 970) is an imitation of this: Odin sends two Valkyries to choose a king to enter his service in Valhalla; they find Haakon on the battlefield, and he is slain with many of his followers. Great preparation is made in Valhalla for his reception, and the poet ends by congratulating Haakon (who, though a Christian, having been educated in England, had not interfered with the heathen altars and sacrifices) on the toleration, which has secured him such a welcome. A still earlier poet, Hornklofi, writing during the reign of Harald Fairhair (who died in 933), alludes to the slain as the property of "the one-eyed husband of Frigg."

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

IN MEMORY OF

Vivian Lundquist



To know Vivian Lundquist was to love and respect her, for she was an exemplary lady of high standard in every phase of life. A loving mother, World War II veteran, and member of several clubs on Cape Cod, MA, Vivian died November 30th following a short illness.

Born August 11, 1920, in Höganäs, Sweden, she was the daughter of J. Albin and Nanny Elizabeth (Engstrom) Anderson. She was married to Stig Lundquist, who died in November 1995.

A Swedish immigrant who lived through the Great Depression, served with the U.S. Navy during World War II, and went on to raise a family, died peacefully with her son and daughter at her side at Women's and Infants' Hospital in Providence, RI.

A 1938 graduate of Brockton High

School, Vivian moved to Worcester, MA, in 1939, was employed at Norton Co., and resided in Holden before moving to Cape Cod in 1971.

A Dennisport resident, Vivian was a Charter Member and past Chairman of Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod, VOA, a member of Dennis-Yarmouth Women's Club, and a life member of the Waves National. She was also a life member of the former Scandinavian Ski Club, a past president of the Scandinavian Athletic club, and a member of Old Ironside unit of the Waves. She had a life-long love of reading and gardening, and one of her rose bushes was recently featured in the Dennis Garden Club Report.

She is survived by her daughter Betty Beach, Ph.D., of Wilton, MA, her son, Eric S. Lundquist of Andover, five grandchildren, Jed Beach, and Adam, Jesse, Alex, and Kate Lundquist of Andover. She is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Sonja Sigren of West Bridgewater, and Mrs. Elizabeth Austin of East Dennis. She was predeceased by one sister, Mrs. Mildred Olmstead of Vienna, VA.

A memorial service was held on December 18 in South Dennis at the Doane Beal and Ames Funeral Home, which was filled to capacity by family and her friends.

Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman

FAMILY

WEDDING

Past Grand Master of the Vasa Order of America Newly Wed



Dr. and Mrs. Ulf Brynjestad.

On Saturday, January 27th, 2007, Dr. Ulf Brynjestad married Cynthia Lynn.

The wedding and reception was held in Alpine, California. On this day, the Swedish Consul of San Diego and past Grand Master of the Vasa Order of America celebrated the quiet ceremony with close family and friends.

Mrs. Cynthia Lynn Brynjestad is a Registered Nurse at Palomar-Pomerado Hospital and a writer of romance novels. She has two daughters from a previous marriage, Allison and Heather, who were her bridesmaids. Best men were Andrew and Alexander Mc Whorter, Dr. Brynjestad's son-in-law and grandson.

The reception was held at the Alpine Inn, where the guests enjoyed an all-American cuisine and a delicious cake.

**Submitted by: Anna Bylin,
Consular Assistant, San Diego**

BIRTHDAYS

Marie B. Glad-Moon



Marie B. Glad-Moon will be 99 years old on April 29, 2007.

Marie and her sister Jennie Goldbloom were Past Presidents of Linnea Lodge in North Bend, OR. Marie Moon was the last President of this lodge that had to close because members had to be of the Swedish decent. She attended and helped with meatball dinners at Skogsblomman lodge #378 in Preston, WA, with her daughter Janice Clemens until her two surgeries in August & September. She now resides in an adult home in Bellevue, WA. She celebrated her last birthday at Vasa Park in the original cabin.

Submitted by: Janice Moon-Clemens

Art Larsen 100 Years



Arthur Haumacher, Helen Haumacher and Arthur Larsen.

Lodge Tryggve #88 has the honor of having a member celebrating a very special day, his 100th birthday. His family, as well as members of Tryggve was present to honor him, December 26. Art's parents were Norwegian and Swedish by his last name can you guess which? He grew up in East Orange, NJ, proudly serving in the East Orange Fire Department for 31 years, rising to the rank of Captain. He is a 45-year member, joining Tryggve in 1961. He currently is a resident of the Fireman's Home, 565 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, NJ, 07005. If anyone wishes to send a greeting, he would love it.

Submitted by: Helen Haumacher

Anna E. Nelson 100 Years



Anna E. (Granstrand) Nelson.

Anna E. (Granstrand) Nelson of Portland, OR, turned 100 on December 11, 2006. Anna joined Harmoni Lodge #472 on October 14, 1955, making her a 51-year Vasa member. Anna was a very active member of Harmoni for many years where she served the lodge with grace and sweetness. She was always willing to help where she could and she always did this with a smile on her face and happiness in her heart.

Anna was born in Småland, Sweden, and she immigrated to the United States in September 1923. She married Steve Nelson in Chicago in September 1937.

Anna has suffered from blindness for the last few years so she has been unable to attend functions of the lodge. She lives in an adult foster home, she is still cared for by many of the members that she befriended from Harmoni Lodge, and she loves to hear about the activities of the lodge that was a part of her life for many years.

Many of Anna's friends were present to help her celebrate this big day. Special 100-year greetings came to Anna from her family in Sweden, her friends here in Portland, President and Laura Bush, and Ron Wyden, Oregon's Senator.

Submitted by: Judy Rust

*Advertise
in the Vasa Star*

HAPPENINGS

2007 Trollebo Swedish Family Camp

The Trollebo Swedish Family Camp will be held August 2nd through August 5th, 2007. The VASA Recreation Club #1 and the Golden Gate Resort Center jointly sponsor the camp.

Activities are geared to all age groups. Programs will include Swedish language, crafts, music, and other summer activities such as swimming, hiking, fishing, water sports, and campfire programs. As implied by the name the camp is family-oriented, and activities will allow the entire family to participate in many of the programs.

Location of the camp is the same as last year, at Silver Lake on Highway #88, about 50 miles east of Jackson, CA, and 40 miles from Lake Tahoe. It is in the high Sierra in a lakeside and forest setting, giving all participants an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful area in the Sierra.

Three (3) nights lodging, nine (9) meals are included.

For further information contact Edythe Anderson, 1386 Laser Drive, Sparks, NV, 89436, tel. (775) 626-0657.

Submitted by: **Baxter Swaffar, Publicity Director, Trollebo Camp**

District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8's 99th Annual Convention May 18-20, 2007

Linde Lodge #492 is hosting District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8's 99th Annual Convention May 18-20, 2007. The Banquet dinner will also be in honor of Linde's 80th Anniversary. Please make every effort to visit our Convention & Anniversary Celebration and help us supporting the events by buying raffle tickets and program ads. For additional information please contact Secretary Liza Ekstrand at 262.782.2238 or e-mail lekstrand@wi.rr.com.

New Application Procedures for Increased Passport Security

Swedish embassies and consulates general will introduce new passport application procedures in 2007 in order to increase the security of travel documents such as passports and national identity cards. The Consulate General of Sweden in New York plans to introduce the new procedures on March 1, 2007.

It has become increasingly important that documents required to travel – passports and identity cards – are secure. For this reason, all Swedish embassies and consulates general will install photo stations during 2007, in accordance with a decision by the Swedish Riksdag. The Consulate General of Sweden in New York plans to introduce these new procedures on March 1, 2007.

According to the new procedures, an applicant for a regular passport or identity card must make a personal visit to a Swedish mission where photo stations have been installed. Swedes living abroad may also apply for a new passport while visiting Sweden. This can be done at any passport office with a normal wait time of one week. The procedures for emergency passports will remain unchanged and will still be handled by honorary consulates.

Along with photo stations, the Consulate General of Sweden in New York will also receive the technical equipment needed to produce the basis of passports and identity cards. The application information is sent electronically to Sweden, where the passport is manufactured, reducing the wait time for the applicant.

As Swedish missions abroad begin to use photo stations, honorary consulates will cease to act as passport offices. New passports and identity cards may still be picked up at honorary consulates until Sweden introduces fingerprints in travel documents, which is planned for 2008.

More information is available on the website of the Consulate General of Sweden in New York: www.swedennewyork.com/passport

Nya rutiner införs 2007 för säkrare pass

Under 2007 införs nya passrutiner på svenska ambassader och generalkonsulat för att göra resehandlingar såsom pass och nationella id-kort säkrare. Generalkonsulatet i New York planerar att införa de nya rutinerna den 1 mars 2007.

Det har blivit allt viktigare att våra resehandlingar är säkra. Som ett led i denna strävan kommer fotostationer att installeras successivt på alla ambassader och generalkonsulat under 2007, i enlighet med riksdagens beslut. Generalkonsulatet i New York planerar att börja med den nya hanteringen den 1 mars 2007.

De nya rutinerna innebär att den som söker ett nytt vanligt pass eller nationellt id-kort måste göra ett personligt besök på en utlandsmyndighet där fotostationer finns installerade. Utlandssvenskar kan även ansöka om pass i samband med ett besök i Sverige. Man vänder sig då till närmaste passmyndighet och kan normalt få det färdiga passet eller id-kortet efter en vecka. Hanteringen av de provisoriska passen förändras inte och vid samtliga honorärkonsulat kan man fortfarande ansöka om ett provisoriskt pass.

Samtidigt som fotostationer installeras får generalkonsulatet i New York även den tekniska utrustningen för att ta fram underlag till pass och id-kort. Ansökan skickas elektroniskt till Sverige där resehandlingen tillverkas, vilket innebär en kortare väntetid för sökanden.

I takt med att utlandsmyndigheterna börjar använda fotostationer upphör honorärkonsulaten att vara passmyndigheter. De kan dock fortsätta att lämna ut pass och id-kort till dess Sverige inför fingeravtryck i resehandlingen. Detta planeras under 2008.

Generalkonsulatets hemsida innehåller ytterligare information om vad de nya rutinerna innebär: www.swedennewyork.com/pass

Ny Ordförande i SWEA

Åsa-Lena Löf heter nya ordföranden från 2007 för de 8000 svenska kvinnor som ingår i *SWEA Internationals* världsvida vänskap. Uppvuxen i Katrineholm är Åsa-Lena nu bosatt i Florida men hennes väg dit har gått via Los Angeles, Boston och London där hon bl a var rektor för Svenska Skolan samt aktiv i att starta SWEA UK.

I april när SWEAs stipendiater och *Årets Svenska Kvinna* ska utses vid världsmötet i Amsterdam kommer Åsa-Lena att få sin internationella debut och samtidigt debuterar Ninni Pettersson-Wästberg som vice ordförande. Ninni är född i Strängnäs, uppvuxen i Karlskoga och har under sitt vuxna liv varit bosatt och arbetat eller studerat i USA, Bombay, York, Paris, Milano mm samt varit redaktör för *SWEA Forum*, den internationella organisationens gemensamma tidning.

SWEA är en av de största Sverigefrämjande ideella organisationerna,

spridd över 5 kontinenter i ett 80-tal lokalavdelningar fördelade på 40 länder.

Submitted by: **Eva Malm**
SWEA International

SWEA's New Chairman

Åsa-Lena Löf is the name of the new Chairman starting this year, 2007, for 8000 Swedish women that are included in *SWEA Internationals* worldwide friendship. Åsa-Lena was born in Katrineholm, but is living in Florida. Before moving to Florida she has lived in Los Angeles, Boston and London. In London she was the Principal for *Svenska Skolan* and played a very active roll for the startup of SWEA in the UK.

In April when SWEA will present their scholarship award and select the *Swedish Woman of The Year*, is when Åsa-Lena Löf will make her international debut at the same time as Ninni Pettersson-Wästberg will make her debut as Vice Chair. Ninni is born in Strängnäs, grew up

in Karlskoga and has during her adulthood lived, worked or studied in USA, Bombay, York, Paris, Milano etc. and was also the Editor for *SWEA Forum*, a common publication for the international organization.

SWEA is one of the largest non-profit organizations promoting Sweden that cover five continents, with about 80 local branches spread over 40 countries.

Translated by: **Marie Carlson**,
The Vasa Star



Åsa-Lena Löf



Ninni Pettersson
Wästberg

The Swedish Center – A Modern Venue for Sweden and America

At the end of 2006 a group of Swedish community leaders got together to officially set up *the Swedish Center*. This idea is something that has been evolving over the past several years.

The center has been initiated to create a forum for the entire Swedish community. The Swedish Center is to function as an organization reaching out to all the Swedish groups in the region. The focus is on academic exchange, cultural and scientific enrichment and involvement – connecting Sweden with our future generations of the region.

The possibilities offered through the cooperation between the Swedish Center and San Diego State University, SDSU, are unique. The association is being located in the recently built Arts and Letters building at SDSU, and makes this a groundbreaking opportunity for Americans interested in Sweden as well as the Swedish community.

The modern and tasteful facilities at SDSU, such as the fully equipped Ulla Lotta Wiik auditorium, are perfect venues for events, seminars and gatherings. The Swedish Center will continuously promote Sweden and Swedish interests amongst the present and future generations by bringing together the academic world with the grass root organizations and the community.



Ms. Agneta Nilsson, Dr. Paul Wong, Ms. Britta Armstrong, Ms. Marianne Svedlund, Consul General Thomas Rosander, Dr. Ulf Brynjestad, Consulate of Sweden, San Diego.

The Swedish Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Consulate of Sweden in San Diego, SDSU, SWEA, The Vasa Order of America and the House of Sweden have expressed their support for the creation of this center.

The founding committee consisted of: Dr. Paul Wong, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at SDSU; Ms. Nancy Lemkie, Director of Development at the College of Arts and Letters at SDSU; Mr. Thomas Rosander, Consul General of Sweden in Los Angeles; Dr. Ulf Brynjestad, Consul of Sweden in San Diego and past Grand Master of the Vasa Order of America; Dr. Robert Swanson,

Professor Emeritus at the Department of Physics at UCSD; Dr. Anne-Charlotte Harvey, Professor Emeritus at the School of Theatre, Television and Film at SDSU; Dr. Carl Englund, President of House of Sweden in San Diego; Ms. Agneta Nilsson, founder of SWEA International; Ms. Britta Armstrong, President of SWEA Western United States; Ms. Marianne Svedlund, President of SWEA San Diego; Nina Asplund and Anna Bylin, Consular Assistants at the Swedish Consulate in San Diego. The Committee elected Dr. Ulf Brynjestad as its organizing President.

Submitted by: **Anna Bylin**,
Consular Assistant, San Diego

Skiing, World Cup in Åre

Åre and its sister area Duved, in the middle of Sweden, are the largest and best designed ski resorts in Scandinavia. It's only an hour drive away from the nearest city, Östersund, which has an international airport. Åre overlooks a beautiful Lake for summer recreation as well. Åre and Duved offer great skiing as soon as snow covers the slopes. There are more than 50 lifts on the mountains, including a cable car, the only one in Scandinavia that rises above the Åreskutan Peak to a restaurant. Nice hotels make it a popular destination for tourists from Europe and Great Britain. Ski racing has strong roots there: in 1954, the FIS World Championships took place at Åre, the only one ever in Scandinavia. The World Cup tour came to Åre in 1970's and the Finals were held there three times in 1971, 1990 and 1993. They'll be back in 2001.

It's also in Åre that the first men's World Cup downhill in Scandinavia were held in 1986 on the first course ever designed by the legendary Bernhard Russi. Ingemar Stenmark won there six times, but a rare loss to America's Phil Mahre in February 1981 remains more famous. It was a crucial success for Mahre who later beat the Swede for the Overall World Cup title. Many other big names are on the winners' list. The women's races are becoming a "Classic" event. The first night-GS was run in Åre in February 1998 on the illuminated Olympia run where Thomas Fogdö clinched the slalom World Cup title against Alberto Tomba in 1993.

Legends Raced in Åre

Ingemar Stenmark won his two runs. In the end the Nordic team had to see them beaten by Team Krizaj when the legends made their come back in Skistar Invitational.

Sven "Plex" Pettersson, legendary Swedish TV commentator, greets the close to 20 000 spectators who have showed up in "Stjärnbacken" Saturday night.

"This is a competition with former World Champions, 50-year olds who still look promising," he says and the audience agrees.

"We watched every race with Stenmark on the television during the 70ies and the 80ies. It is great to see him again," say locals Eli Larsson and Christina Olausson who actually saw Stenmark race in a World Cup here in Åre in 1984.

The competition format is a parallel slalom between Team Stenmark, with ten Nordic racers, and Team Krizaj, with ten international stars. The simple rules are - two runs per racer and one point for each victory.



First out to race is Stig Strand, Sweden and Piero Gros, Italy. The race is incredibly even but the Swede takes it with a couple of hundreds of a second.

"Now I can lose the next race," says a very satisfied Strand after the race. He is one of the few to win a race for Team Stenmark.

In the following race Bengt Erik Grahn, Sweden, meets Bernhard Russi from Switzerland. Bernhard Russi is so fast, that he can even slow down just before the finish line to catch a glimpse of his contender.

When Luc Alphand, France, and Lars-Börje "Bulan" Eriksson cross the finish line they throw away their skis and performed a double-seal.

Piero Gros throws his hat out into the audience after his second run. At the end Team Krizaj wins with the standing 14 to 6.

"It is even funnier to compete nowadays," declares Team Krizaj's team captain, the Slovenian Bojan Krizaj.

Team leader Stenmark appreciates to meet his friends from former days, but he also declares that he got a bit more

tired from racing now.

Skistar Invitational is a charity competition for Active Life Foundation, founded by former Swedish team racer Thomas Fogdö.

"It is amazing that all these stars are here for this competition. I want to thank the racers, the organizers and the spectators for being here," says a noticeably touched Fogdö after the race.

Elevation Area: 420 m - Summit: 1 400 m

Information:

Tourism-Office

tel: + 47 61 282105

fax: + 47 61 282315

Nearest International Airports: Östersund

Nearest Train Station: Åre Station

Web Site

<http://WWW.ARE2007.COM>

Web Site

<http://www.WORLDCUPARE.COM/>

Organisation:

Åre 2007 AB

Box 2007

S-830 13 Åre. SWE

Phone: +46 (647) 61 2007

Fax: +46 (647) 136 99

Email: info@are2007.com

Website: <http://www.are2007.com>

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Vasa Order Of America

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization



Official Address List

Grand Lodge Officers, District Officers and Local Lodges

Usually Included as Part of the Vasa Star
March/April Issue

OFFICIAL ADDRESS LIST

It is the listing for every lodge in the Vasa Order, with meeting locations and officers, and addresses and telephone numbers for all Grand, District, and Local organizations.

WHERE IS IT?

Did you look for it? You would usually find the Official Address List, also known as the Vasa Directory, in this issue of The Vasa Star. However, in an effort to keep costs down, the Grand Lodge Board has decided to use a different method of distributing them.

SO, HERE IS THE PLAN

The directory will be printed in the same format, but will be three-hole-punched so you can place it in your white handbook.

Copies will be mailed to each Local and District Secretary, as well as to all elected and appointed Grand Lodge officers.

Extra copies will be available from the Vice Grand Secretary.

DIRECTORY IS ON THE VASA WEBSITE

You can also check the Vasa website www.vasaorder.com to locate Grand, District, and Local Lodge information.

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

GUNVOR ANDERSEN passed away in Fillmore, CA, on November 17, 2006. Gunvor was born in Hangö, Finland, on September 9, 1910, and immigrated to the U.S. in 1949. She was a member of Northern Lights Lodge #620 and Oak Leaf Lodge #685. Son Henning and his family survive her.

ELEANOR HILLS passed away in Los Angeles, CA, November 1, 2006 at the age of 77. Eleanor was born on July 26, 1928 in California and was initiated into Mayflower Lodge #445 on November 20, 2003.

GUNNAR KRONVALL passed away in Los Angeles, CA, on May 1, 2004, at the age of 82. Gunnar was born on March 4, 1923, in Malmö, Sweden, and was initiated into Mayflower Lodge #445 on November 6, 1969. He received his 25-year pin on May 1, 1994, at which time he also became a Life Member of the lodge.

ALICE SJOBERG passed away in Thousand Oaks, CA, on December 5, 2006. Alice was born in Vasa, Finland, on March 8, 1923. She was a member of Golden Valley Lodge #616 and Oak Leaf Lodge #685. She is survived by husband Knut, two sons, and two daughters.

FLORIDA

ELSIE F. FILEHENE passed away on September 29, 2006, at the age of 93. Elsie joined Nobel-Liljan Lodge #64 on January 22, 1932, and transferred to Holiday Lodge #699, on December 13, 1983. Two sons, Kenneth and Richard Petersen, one stepson, two stepdaughters, and seven grandchildren survive her.

LILLIAN J. SKANBERG died November 27, 2006, at the age of 100. Lillian was born in Halland, Sweden, on November 7, 1906. She joined Siljan-Mora-Tuna Lodge on March 27, 1952, and transferred to Holiday Lodge

#699, on February 15, 1975. Survivors include two daughters, Mary Nelson, and Nancy Kane, a brother and three sisters in Sweden, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

ILLINOIS

ELLEN B. FREBURG passed away on November 25, 2006, in Rockford, IL, at the age of 92. Ellen was born in Kirkland, IL, on December 27, 1913, and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on December 14, 1930. She is survived by her stepson Clarence (dyvonne) Freburg. Ellen was a 75-year member.

KENTUCKY

GRETA (KARLSSON) PETERSON, 90, of Cincinnati, OH, died on December 12, 2006. Charter Member of Fokus Lodge #681. Wife of the late Martin Peterson, mother of Daniel Peterson, Greta Kay (Carlos) Martinez, Staffan (Bonnie Lorenzen) Peterson, Karin (David) St. John, and grandmother of Julianna, Alex, Emma, and Dylan.

JACK H. SCHLANSER, 84, of Cincinnati, OH, died on December 13, 2006. 35-year member of Fokus Lodge #681. Husband of 60 years to Hilma Schlanser, father of Eric (Diane) Schlanser, Susan (Jim) Koenig, Jack (Penny) Schlanser, Amy (Dan) Ewald, and grandfather of Jenny, Jill, Carrie, Claire, and Karin.

OREGON

ETHEL ARSTED passed away on December 2, 2006, at the age of 93. Ethel was born in Duval, WA, on July 21, 1913, and joined Nobel Lodge #184 on April 18, 1969. She had served as Cultural Leader in 1970-71. She is survived by one daughter, one son, and nine grandchildren.

WASHINGTON

MARIE JOHANNA STEDMAN, 101, born May 7, 1905 in Mont Morenci, Indiana, died peacefully on December 29, 2006 in Olympia, WA. Marie joined Frihet #401, on September 15, 1971. Predeceased by husband Cecil and son David. Marie is survived by son Edward, 3 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

SVEN I. FRANZON, 88, born May 15, 1918 in Dalum, Sweden, died on January 8, 2007 in Bellevue, WA. He married Inga-Lisa Hennig in 1956 and they owned and operated Bellevue Florist for 30 years. Sven joined Frihet #401, Seattle on June 15, 1966.

DONALD G. FORSMAN, 72, born in Ballard, WA. on September 7, 1935, passed away unexpectedly on January 18, 2007, in Seattle. Wife Syrene of 45 years and Donald joined Frihet #401 on November 18, 2001. Also survived by 2 daughters and 2 granddaughters.

WISCONSIN

ALBERT "AL" BRANDSTROM, 83, entered God's loving arms on December 2, 2006. Al leaves wife Diana (of 50 years), a son and daughter, grandchildren, other family and friends. Al had been a Linde Lodge #492 member for eight years – most of the years as an Outer Guard.

CANADA

HULDA MARIE RODWAY (nee WADSON) passed away on October 16, 2006, at Red Deer, Alberta, at the age of 83. She was born on February 20, 1923, at Everts, Alberta. Hulda became a member of Red Deer Vasa Lodge #733 on November 19, 1984, and served as Treasurer and Sunshine Committee member for 22 years. She is survived by her daughter Brenda (Shaun) Pierce, son Kevin (Dianne), and four grandchildren, two brothers, Roy (Olive) Wadson and Johnny Wadson. She was predeceased in May by husband Tom of 58 years, two brothers and two sisters, and a granddaughter, Sherry.

THOMAS WILLIAM "TOM" RODWAY passed away on May 29, 2006, at Ponoka, Alberta, at the age of 89. He was born on December 14, 1916, at Endiang, Alberta. Tom became a member of Red Deer Vasa Lodge #733 on November 19, 1984, and served as Trustee and Inner Guard for many years. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Hulda, daughter Brenda (Shaun) Pierce, son Kevin (Dianne), four grandchildren and a brother Fred. Tom was predeceased by two sisters, and a granddaughter, Sherry.

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.



Joan Graham

Grand Secretary

Joan Lindquist Graham

Soon after joining Framåt Lodge #405 in 1978, Joanie was encouraged to run for an office and went on to serve in many offices including several terms as lodge Secretary and nine terms as Chairman. She was District Secretary for three terms, three years as District Trustee, one term as Vice District Master; served as District Master (District Lodge Golden Gate #12) in 1988-89, and District Deputy for various lodges in the District #12. She was District Newsletter Editor for five years. She also served as chairman of the Past District Master's Club # 28, Vasa Recreation Club #1 and the Golden Gate Resort Center in District #12. As a delegate to the 2002 Grand Lodge convention in Edmonton, she was elected to the Grand Lodge Executive Board for the Western Region and appointed Grand Lodge Membership Chair. Last year in San Diego she was elected Grand Secretary. Joanie is also a member of the Swedish Cultural Events Committee in San Francisco.

Joanie was born into a Vasa family in Gilroy, California, in the southern end of what is today called Silicon Valley, then a valley of orchards and garlic fields. She is a third-generation Vasa member, her grandparents were active members of Jenny Lind Lodge #338 in Turlock, California, beginning in the early 1920s and then in District #12 in the mid-1930s. Her parents were members of Lindbergh Lodge #494 in Los Altos, California. All four grandparents were born in Sweden.

Joanie grew up in San Jose and Santa Clara, California, and in 1960 married Bob Graham, a Congregational youth minister and later an ordained minister. They have two children: son Pete (daughter-in-law Carol) and daughter Terry (son-in-law Dan); and a 10-year-old grandson Dallen Graham. Dallen is a 5th-generation Vasa-member-in-training. The Graham family served several churches, including churches in Southern California, Oregon, Minnesota and Kansas. Joanie attended San Jose State University and finally received her Bachelor of Science in Education degree at Emporia State University in Kansas in 1978. During these years, she also served as a church organist.

When the Graham family returned to California in 1978, Joanie joined the staff at the University of California, Berkeley, in the central fundraising office, and retired in 2005 after 27 years. At her retirement party, she was recognized for having raised over \$13 million for UC Berkeley.

Joanie is convinced that cultural programs are the key to growth in membership. Vasa members in America cherish the Swedish culture and are interested in maintaining the traditions, whether they are Swedish-born or a generation or more away. And, publicity is the way to make your lodge known in your community. Newspapers have community columnists and they are happy to tell about your activities and programs at no cost. Another source of free publicity is your public library. Most libraries have a display case for Midsummer, Lucia, or other Swedish displays. Vasa brochures can be supplied on their community information shelves. We have a wonderful tradition to share and all it takes is a little effort and a lot of determination.



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Your budget has room to breathe.



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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 