

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

JULY-AUGUST 2007



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A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization
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The Grand Master's Message



Rolf Bergman

Message from Inger Hanright, GLCD Traditions With a Future

My name is Inger Hanright, and I have had the honor to be appointed Grand Lodge Cultural Director (GLCD) for USA/Canada. I was born and raised in Sweden, and I have lived in this country for 27 years. It puts me in a good position to be a connecting point between the two cultures. This is a big job, and it calls for a lot of communication between me and other cultural leaders between the two countries. The job also calls for cooperation between me and the Grand Lodge Cultural Director for Sweden, Gun Lith.

For this purpose we have developed a webpage for all things cultural. It is not only for the cultural leaders, but for anyone who is interested in Nordic culture. Hopefully it can be added to our tools to attract membership.

Nowadays when people search for something, they tend to go on the Internet to look. It's crucial that we have as much of a presence there as possible. For anyone out there in Vasa Land who is knowledgeable and savvy with computers and websites, this is a call to you to step up and bring us onto the web!

All lodges need to connect to our website for future programs to be successful. The web is part of our future, like it or not! Lots of people are connecting on the web these days.

Looking for a job, looking for love or looking for family, it's all happening there. Let's add "looking for new members" to the list.

It's important to remember that immigration from the Nordic countries hasn't stopped.

In fact it's picking up! The people coming over now are mostly young professionals with families. How do we attract these people?

Well...young people coming over here today don't need help with the language or finding a place or a job anymore. In fact, most of them are pretty international already.

After a while, however, they tend to miss some of the cultural things that they always took for granted at home and can no longer find. They long for special foods and traditional celebrations, especially when they have young children who are being schooled over here. They want their kids to learn the language. They want to have a traditional "Julbord" and dance the "Little frogs" around the Midsummer pole.

This is where we come in! We can provide some of these things, but it will take some effort to first brush up on all this stuff ourselves, and second advertise it to all of the new immigrants in the area.

These things can all be achieved through the Internet. And the cultural page is your "first stop" for knowledge.

I will be continually updating much of the information on it. The idea is for local cultural leaders to use this page to download reports and information to help with their task. The cultural leaders handbooks (binders) should function as a record of your work in the lodge.

When you pass it on to the next cultural leader, they will be able to see what you have done, and go from there. Hopefully this will make the cultural leaders job a little more accessible to people who might otherwise not consider themselves capable of doing it.

Traditional celebrations will be all important. Even though you can't always get people to show up for meetings, they will generally come out for special occasions and traditional foods.

I would call on every lodge to host/arrange at least one traditional party a year! If you happen to have a central point, like a Vasa Park for instance, lodges can get together and host a festival or market with Scandinavian vendors. People love that!

Invite as many potential members as possible! Go out of your way to spread the word.

The web let's us advertise for free. This is how we must use it. Make sure your lodge is connected, and has a page of it's own, using the Grand Lodge website structure provided!

The "Cultural Corner" webpage will be a clickable part of the VOA website, but if you want to go there directly the URL is: www.vasaorder/culture.net

Be patient as we build it up. Any suggestions for links or content can be sent directly to me from the e-mail link provided on the page.

**Submitted by: Inger Hanright
GLCD USA/Canada**

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Letter from the Editor

In only a few weeks I will be back in Mentor, Ohio. Eight weeks was still not enough time to do everything I had in mind. I often use a phrase from *Lord of The Rings*, "... all you have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to you." In my book review *Colorado Kid, A Swedish American Boy Goes West*, I think you can find that this *kid* is a good example of what you can do with your given time.

A man named Agne Lindblad, a talented and, successful woodcarver you can read about in the *Culture* section, was not given much time.

Agne Lindblad came from Södra Vi in Småland, a place I was able to see for myself while visiting with Gun, who has written the story about Agnes, and Gunnar Lith in Vimmerby, Småland. They were great hosts and we would never have covered so much ground in such a short time without them as guides. Thanks to Gun and Gunnar and their contacts, we were able to "advertise" our *Vasa Order* in the local Newspaper, *Vimmerby Tidning* through a short interview.

In the May/June 2007 issue of *The Vasa Star* we featured Astrid Lindgren. During our visit we were able to see for ourselves *Astrid Lindgren's World*, her grave and places from her stories such as *Bullerbyn*, *Emil's Katthult* and *Mariannelund* to mention a few.

A couple of other places of interest we were able to visit was the *aqueduct in Håvered*, Selma Lagerlöfs *Mårbacka* and *Nusnäs*, where the authentic Dala Horse is made, located near Mora in Dalarna. Under *Tidbits* is a short write up about why and how this wooden horse became world famous.

Sweden has a lot to offer during the summer and so does Jämtland where I grew up. Besides having the yearly *Storsjöyan* in Östersund (fair), and many other tourist attractions, I am proud to say that my nephew played the main character in a yearly outdoor play called *Arnljot*, written by Wilhelm Peterson-Berger that you can read about in the *Culture* section.

I mention the importance of using our time to the fullest in the beginning of this *Editorial*, and as you all know one of our times most famous movie director Ingmar Bergman has died. He was a man whose time was spent behind the camera directing movies such as *Fanny and Alexander*.

Well, it is time for me to wish you all welcome back reading *The Vasa Star* after this year's summer vacations, and as always I am open for suggestions on how to improve our publication.

Marie

Brev från Redaktören

Om bara några veckor är jag tillbaka i Mentor, Ohio. Åtta veckor var fortfarande inte tillräckligt med tid att göra allt som jag hade tänkt. Jag använder ofta en fras från *Sagan om Ringen*, "*det enda du måste bestämma är vad du ska göra med den tid som du fått.*" I min bokrecension *Colorado Kid, A Swedish American Boy Goes West*, tror jag att ni kommer att inse att barnet i boken är ett bra exempel på vad du kan göra med din givna tid.

En man vid namn Agne Lindblan, en talangfull och framgångsrik träsnidare, som du kan läsa om i *Culture* sektionen, fick inte så mycket tid.

Ange Lindblad kom från Södra Vi i Småland, en plats som jag själv hade tillfälle att själv besöka under vistelsen hos Gun, som har skrivit berättelsen om Agnes, och Gunnar Lith i Vimmerby, Småland. De var utmärka värddar och vi skulle aldrig ha kunnat besöka så många platser under så kort tid om inte de visat oss runt. Tack vare Gun och Gunnars kontakter, hade vi möjligheten att göra reklam för vår *Vasa Order* i den lokala nyhetstidningen, *Vimmerby Tidning* genom en kort intervju.

I maj/jun 2007 upplagan av *The Vasa Star* fokuserade vi på Astrid Lindgren. Under vårt besök fick vi möjlighet att själva se *Astrid Lindgrens Värld*, hennes grav och platser från hennes sagor som t ex *Bullerbyn*, *Emils Katthult* och *Mariannelund* för att nämna några få.

Några andra intressanta ställen som vi hade chansen att besöka var *akvedukten i Håvered*, Selma Lagerlöfs *Mårbacka* och *Nusnäs*, där den autentiska Dalahästen tillverkas, som ligger nära Mora i Dalarna. Under *Tidbits* finns en kort berättelse om varför och hur denna trähäst blev en "världskändis."

Sverige har mycket att erbjuda under sommaren och det har även Jämtland där jag växte upp. Förutom den årliga *Storsjöyan*, i Östersund, och många andra turistattraktioner, är jag stolt att kunna säga att min systerson spelade huvudrollen i friluftsspelet *Anljot*, skriven av Wilhelm Peterson-Berger som du kan läsa om i *Culture* sektionen.

Jag nämnde hur viktigt det är att utnyttja vår tid så mycket som möjligt i början av denna ledare, och som ni alla vet har en av vår tids mest kända filmregissörer, Ingmar Bergman gått ur tiden. Han var en man vars tid tillbringades bakom kameran och han regisserade bl a filmen *Fanny och Alexander*.

Ja, nu är det dags att välkomna alla tillbaka och läsa *The Vasa Star* efter denna sommar semester och som vanligt är jag öppen för förslag om hur jag kan förbättra vår tidning.

Marie

Cover:

Utsikt från Gripsholms Slott mot Mariestad
 View from Gripsholms Castle towards Mariestad

Picture by: Marie Carlson, Editor, The Vasa Star

ARCHIVES NEWS

Greetings Vasa members!

June 1st arrives with lush foliage, blooming flowers, and blustery conditions. The announcement came on the radio just minutes ago that the Quad Cities are on tornado alert until 1:45PM. We are not used to such conditions in this part of Illinois, but living in Bishop Hill one gains a very real acquaintance with the Wind. Don't cancel your trip to the Archives on this account—the Wind is insistent but characteristically fresh and friendly, giving all visitors a dramatic, *Strindbergian* flip to their hair.

Attending the District Lodge Lake Michigan #8 (its 99th) Annual Convention on May 19th in Brookfield, Wisconsin, I was given podium and microphone at the Saturday Banquet for a few minutes to introduce myself as the new manager of the *National Archives*. It seemed fitting to comment on my initial impressions of the Archives as a repository for historical documents and a location for meaningful social exchange. I wish to do something similar here.

The Archives' holdings rest securely but they are not quiet. Over 1,200 voices articulate stories of Swedish America in the Lennart Setterdahl Collection of interviews, thousands more scratched their signature on membership applications and recorded happenings in meeting minute's ledgers. Ritual garb that clothed devoted officers on auspicious occasions still sound (in color and ornate detail) a somber, ceremonial note. Charters of closed lodges carry memories of being draped on the passing of cherished members and of being held up when the local group was just beginning. Many happy members look to the camera at Convention Meetings, captured in photographs, as if to say, "we are all brothers and sisters" for the good of the Order.

The Archives remembers Richard and Lillemor Horngren's devoted service over the past fifteen years. The majority of the artifacts in exhibit areas were acquired during their tenure, testimony to their many contacts across Sweden, Canada, and America. The Archives also remembers Bertil Winstrom, founder and first President of the institution, and past board members, who gave of their time and talents to care for the building and its holdings.

Looking at me, standing alone, at the

back door of the Archives the first day of my employment, April 1st, Financial Secretary of the Archives, Jake Gruel, readying his return trip to Wisconsin, told me "you are never alone" meaning that eager friends of the Archives abound. The Horngrens, Jake and Marge Gruel, Sten and Nancy Hult, Lennart and Joan Petersson, Roger and Judy Anderson, and all the Bishop Hill Lodge #683 members, are a few of these willing friends who helped make Anne, Jesper and me feel very welcome and offered their attention to questions and concerns along the way.

The people who walk through the Archives front doors do not always know about the *Vasa Order of America*. It is an important educational moment for them. Invariably they say "Oh, Wow! It is nice in here." Perhaps they are interested in doing genealogical research or maybe they spotted the Dalahorse collection through the window and want to know more about this red, painted horse that seems to be synonymous with Sweden. A past District Master from the San Francisco area visited a few weeks ago, assisted by a walking cane, and accompanied by his daughter and grandchildren. *The National Archives* clearly was an important destination for him, having been involved in the Order for many years, something akin to visiting a national landmark. Another man came in with his two young daughters. He had gotten some key information about ancestors from Richard and Lillemor a couple of years before and wanted to share some of the excitement of tracking down one's ethnic roots with his daughters. The kids who come in always get so much from the attitude of their teachers, parents, and grandparents. As the saying goes, "Barnen gör som du gör, inte som du säger" (Children do as you do, not as you say). The Archives hosts memorable occasions to build a sense of Swedish heritage among young and old, Vasa members and those who have yet to join, and the marginally interested tourists who gain a strong impression that the Swedes have been and continue to be relevant in North America.

Stay tuned for future installments from the Archives. I will relate some of the fascinating paths of discovery that have opened for people through holdings and tools available here.

Lars Jenner

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Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 7

Hejsan – Hi there!!!

We recently attended some Vasa events and were gratified to hear that our lessons are being noticed. We were told that the lessons sometimes are used as part of the cultural event in the lodge.

There will be times when we may feel the need to teach some important grammar but starting with this lesson though, we will start with new words and conversation exercises. In this lesson we will introduce a new couple. This does not mean that we have forgotten about Erik and Ingrid, the family we used in our earlier lessons. They will return on a regular basis.

As before, we will start the lessons by listing any new words appearing in the story. Then we will have the story in Swedish followed by the English translation. Our hope is that you will practice the Swedish part until you know it so well that you do not need to check the English translation.

Sven and Svea are a married couple, having been married for many years. They have three children. They are all grown and work in other countries in Europe. There are no grandchildren. Sven is an engineer and Svea owns a craft shop. They have just bought the home next to Erik and Ingrid's home.

NYA ORD

Och	and
Granne, grannen, grannar	neighbor
Att flytta, flyttar, flyttade, flyttat	to move
Hus, huset, hus	house
Att stå, står, stod, stått	to stand
Tomt	empty
Ett tag	a while
Utanför	outside (in front of)
Dag	day
Att se, ser, såg, sett	to see (notice)
Stor	large
Lastbil, lastbilen, lastbilar	truck
Bil, bilen, bilar	car
Där	there
Också	also
Ett par	a couple
Att lämna, lämnar, lämnade, lämnat	to leave
Gå fram till (idiom)	walk towards
heter	be called (the name is)
Att bo, bor, bodde, bott	to live
Det där	that
Det här	this
Min	my
Fru	wife
Här	here
Länge	a long time
Några	a few
År, året, år	year
Att köpa, köper, köpte, köpt	to buy

Ville inte	did not want to
Att bo, bor, bodde, bott	to live
Längre	no longer
För mycket	too much
Brukade	used to

SWEDISH

Erik och Ingrids granne har flyttat. Huset har stått tomt ett tag. En dag ser Ingrid en stor lastbil utanför grannens hus. En bil stannar där också. När Ingrid ser att ett par lämnar bilen går hon fram till dem:

Ingrid: Hejsan, jag heter Ingrid. Jag bor i det där huset.

Mannen: Hej, jag heter Sven. Det här är min fru Svea.

Svea: Hej Ingrid. Har du bott här länge?

Ingrid: Några år. Har ni köpt det här huset?

Sven: Ja, vi ville inte bo i Stockholm längre. För mycket trafik.

Ingrid: Vi brukade bo i Stockholm också.

ENGELSKA

Erik and Ingrid's neighbor has moved. The house has stood empty a while. One day Ingrid notices a large truck outside the neighbor's house. A car stops there too. When Ingrid sees a couple leaving the car she walks toward them:

Ingrid: Hi there, my name is Ingrid. I live in that house.

The man: Hi, my name is Sven. This is my wife Svea.

Svea: Hi, Ingrid. Have you lived here long?

Ingrid: A few years. Have you bought this house?

Sven: Yes, we no longer wanted to live in Stockholm. Too much traffic.

Ingrid: We used to live in Stockholm too.

Because of the many new words we decided to cut short the conversation between these new neighbors. Please work on the new words first and get to know them before you start on the story.

Lycka till! – Good luck!

Lillemor and Richard

Deadlines for The Vasa Star:

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st

July/Aug. is June 1st

March/April is Feb. 1st

Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st

May/June is April 1st

Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

Deadline for Christmas ads: October 1st

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

GRAND LODGE NEWS

E. Jan Hartmann - The Swedish American of The Year 2007



The two District Lodges of *The Vasa Order of America* has chosen E. Jan Hartmann as *The Swedish American of the Year 2007*, No 48 in order. He is a first generation Swedish American who has had an outstanding career in American business and has made tremendous contributions in the fields of Swedish-American relations and preservation of the Swedish heritage in America.

E. Jan Hartmann was born April 1, 1929, in Stockholm, Sweden. He first came to the United States in 1951 as an exchange student at *Oberlin College*, Ohio. He then returned to Sweden to study law. In 1954, he again came to the United States, where he enrolled at *Indiana University* and *University of Michigan*. In 1958, he received the degree of *Master of Business Administration*.

During the coming decades E. Jan Hartmann had an outstanding career in American business. In 1970 he became Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of *Ziebart International Corporation*. *Ziebart* became the largest aftermarket services company in North

America, providing automobile accessories and related services. In 1994, E. Jan Hartmann retired as Chief Executive Officer of *Ziebart*.

While becoming an American citizen in 1960, E. Jan Hartmann has always been proud of his Swedish heritage. In the seventies E. Jan Hartmann was active in the *Detroit Swedish Council* and he has received the *Detroit Swedish Council's Distinguished Service Award*.

From 1984 to 1997, E. Jan Hartmann served the Swedish government as *Honorary Swedish Consul* for the State of Michigan. He served the *Swedish Council of America* as Chairman of the Board from 2001 to 2003.

He has given exceptional leadership in promoting financial support for the Council. *The Swedish Council of America* is the umbrella organization serving over 300 Swedish organizations whose purpose is to promote knowledge and understanding of the Swedish heritage in American life and to strengthen the cultural ties between America and Sweden.

In 1978, E. Jan Hartmann was awarded the *Order of the Polar Star* by King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

E. Jan Hartmann lives in Florida and he and his wife, Patricia have three children and six grandchildren.

The award as *The Swedish American of The Year* will be given to E. Jan Hartmann in Karlstad at the beginning of August.

This year's Swedish-American is going to travel to Sweden with our sponsor SAS Scandinavian AB Sweden to attend the Swedish-American celebrations in lieu with this award.

Submitted by: **Catherine Bringselius Nilsson**

E. Jan Hartmann Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2007

De båda svenska Distriktslogerna av *Vasa Orden av Amerika* har utsett E. Jan Hartmann, Naples, Florida, till Årets

Svensk-Amerikan 2007, den 48:e i ordningen. Han tillhör första generationens utvandrare i modern tid, som gjort en enastående karriär i USA.

E. Jan Hartmann är född i Stockholm 1929 och E. Jan Hartmann kom första gången till USA 1951, som utbytesstudent. Efter juridikstudier i Sverige återvände E. Jan Hartmann till USA för studier vid universiteten i Indiana och Michigan. 1958 avlade han magisterexamen i *Business Administration*.

Under de kommande decennierna gjorde E. Jan Hartmann karriär inom affärsvärlden och blev 1970 Chairman, President och Chief Executive Officer vid *Ziebart International Corporation*. Han lämnade chefsskapet 1994 efter att ha varit med om en utveckling från 150 försäljnings-ställen i USA till över 500 i 40 länder på 5 kontinenter.

E. Jan Hartmann blev amerikansk medborgare 1960. Han har alltid varit stolt över sin svenska bakgrund. Hans arbete för att vidmakthålla och utveckla goda svenskamerikanska relationer och bevara svenskt kulturarv i USA är avsevärt. E. Jan Hartmann har varit *Ordförande i Detroit Swedish Council*, svensk honorärkonsul i staten Michigan 1984-1997, *Ordförande i Swedish Council of America 2001-2003*. *Swedish Council* är paraplyorganisation för 300 svenska organisationer med syfte att främja och bevara svenskt kulturarv i USA.

1978 fick E. Jan Hartmann mottaga *Nordstjärneorden* av kung Carl XVI Gustaf.

E. Jan Hartmann bor i Florida och han och hans fru Patricia har tre barn och sex barnbarn.

Utmärkelsen Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2007 kommer att tilldelas E. Jan Hartmann i Karlstad i början av augusti.

Årets Svensk-Amerikan kommer att resa till Sverige med vår sponsor SAS Scandinavian AB Sverige för att närvara vid de svenskamerikanska firandena i samband med utmärkelsen.

Submitted by: **Catherine Bringselius Nilsson**

The Grand Lodge Elderhostel Award

The Grand Lodge of the Vasa Order of America offers two grants each calendar year, in an amount up to \$1,500 each. This award will pay tuition to an Elderhostel program related to Sweden or Scandinavia.

Eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a member of the Vasa Order of America at least 5 years, and
2. Applicant must be 55 years of age or above.

Requirements:

The following items must reach the Vice Grand Master prior to Nov. 1, 2007:

1. Completed application including a description of the program or session and the fee/tuition.
2. A written statement of the value of the program or session and how the applicant will use the information to benefit Vasa.
3. A statement by the local lodge secretary, complete with signature and the lodge seal, verifying the length of membership and age requirement.

Procedure:

1. Applicant selects an Elderhostel program [registers and sends in the deposit].
2. Applicant applies for the Grand Lodge Elderhostel Award. Application form accompanies this description or can be downloaded from the Vasa Order of America website: www.vasaorder.org.
3. Mail the completed application with all information requested to the Vice Grand Master.
4. On selection of the Award, the awardee registers for the program.
5. On receipt of the confirmation of enrollment from Elderhostel, the awardee sends a copy of the confirmation to the Grand Lodge Secretary for the check to be issued.

Grand Lodge Elderhostel Award 2007 Application

Applicant's Name: _____ Birth Year: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone number: _____

Address/city/state/zip: _____

Title of Elderhostel Program: _____

Program Number and Location: _____

Start and End Dates: _____

Brief Description of Program: _____

Attach no more than a one-page statement on the Value of Program and how you will use it to benefit Vasa

* * * * *

Statement by the local lodge secretary, complete with signature and the lodge seal, verifying the length of membership and age requirement.

Name of Applicant: _____

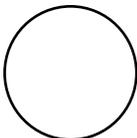
Applicant has been a Member of Local Lodge _____ No. _____

since _____.

Applicant meets the age requirement for the Grand Lodge Elderhostel Award of 55 years or above: Yes _____ No _____

Signature of Local Lodge Secretary: _____

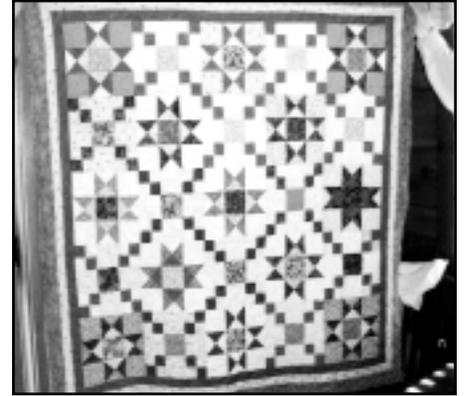
Lodge seal



Mail to:
William L. Lundquist, VGM
1456 Kennebec Road
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL Connecticut #1



On Sunday, February 11 District Lodge CT #1 held the annual Valentine's Brunch at the Dakota Steakhouse in Rocky Hill, CT.

We had a great turnout of adults and children with good food in a wonderful lodge type of setting with a blazing fireplace. During the brunch the Master of Ceremonies Paul Ljunggren DM reviewed the answers to his "How Swede It Is!," a quiz with questions about Swedish culture, geography, and history. The winners received Swedish candy and cookies! The awarding of the door prizes, Swedish candy and Swedish cookbooks followed the quiz. The finale was the big raffle featuring a beautiful Swedish doll in the national costume.

Vasa members Barbara Ann Ljunggren, DS (LL Diana Birger Jarl) and Margaret Hedwall (LL Karl XII) were honored for their work on the district cookbook entitled "Var så god - from Mormor's Kitchen." Barbara was the editor and Margaret (Peg) provided the artwork.

We also honored Sandra Parsons for her beautiful quilt titled "Stepping Stones to Sweden" which will be raffled off to benefit the District #1 Scholarship Fund.

It was wonderful to see so many Vasa members, family, and friends of District Lodge Connecticut #1 celebrating Valentine's Day. A heartfelt thanks you to everyone who supported and helped at this event.

Continued on page 8

DL Connecticut #1

Continued from page 7



Lunch at Drottningholm Palace.

The New England Stockholm Explorer Trip was a once in a lifetime trip. On April 16th the weather in New York was windy, foggy, and rainy- the results of a Nor'easter and over 500 flights were canceled at Newark Liberty Airport, but our trip to Stockholm was still scheduled to go. Dean Anderson of *Anderson Scandinavian Tours* had prepared a very special tour for us in Stockholm and had every detail looked after. The tour included a visit to *Stockholm City Hall* where the Nobel Prize dinner is held, *Millesgården* featuring the work of noted sculptor *Carl Milles*, the *Vasa Warship*, *Gamla Stan* where we had lunch in a medieval cellar by candlelight (just like the Vikings) and the *Stockholm Palace*. One of the days was a free day and our cousin Kerstin picked me up. We went to her condominium in Täby for a salmon feast and overlooked the archipelago. On Friday we were off on a boat through the archipelago to *Vaxholm*, which was constructed in 1549 by *Gustav Vasa* as a castle to protect Stockholm. After the boat ride out we had lunch. Most of us enjoyed the fried Baltic herring, which tasted like trout!

The best surprise was yet to come on Saturday after we had toured *Drottningholm Palace*. We saw a group of people with a *Vasa* sign. When they saw us it was like seeing old friends. Through my husband Paul's newsletter they knew we were coming and Pia Norrman had organized groups from *Mälardrottningen #563* and *Stockholm #589* to meet us for lunch. We laughed and told stories while lunching at an old guesthouse on the palace grounds that had been converted into a restaurant. The décor was blue and white and lovely

spring tulips decorated the tables. We felt so lucky to have met Pia, the members of *Mälardrottningen #563* and *Stockholm #589*, and thanked them for coming. Tusen tack!

We would also like to thank Dean Anderson (a true friend and professional), Agneta our favorite tour guide, and members and friends from of Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York for this once in life time trip.

Submitted by: Paul and Barbara Ljunggren, DL CT #1

Picture by: Judy Morris (LL Karl XII)

DL Lake Michigan #8

With risk of duplicating information from the District Master, I will not report on the actual convention and the work from the delegates and officers, other than that everything was well run. All of us from Linde Lodge #492 were delighted to have everybody come to Brookfield and Wisconsin for a long weekend.

What I will report on is the participation from all lodge members in the district and of course especially Linde members that took the task of hosting the convention to heart. Their support when buying raffle-tickets, program ads, or outbidding each other in the Silent Auction was gratifying. Not to mention the fundraisers Linde held in the last two years to help underwrite the expenses.

I like to take the opportunity to thank long time Linde members Marina & John Ebert, as they gave us wonderful items for our raffles and auction. Marina's Rättvik-Dalarna folk dräkt has a new owner - Judith Stuyvesant from Kronan #179 and I am the proud owner of a large *Dala Häst*. John and Marian, again *Tusen Tack!*

I like to mention that we were well represented from Sweden, as members from two of our sister lodges were here. It was wonderful to have Elisabeth Agge, her husband Karl-Erik Axelsson and her sister Anne-Sofie Hjort from Enköping #646, and equally great to see Lars-Åke and Hillivi Sjöberg from *Mälardrottningen #563* again. *Tack för att ni kom!*

Another highlight was that VGM Bill Lundquist finally tracked Linde #492 and Kronan #179's dual member Virginia Lindroos down, and honored her with a 75-Year pin. Not to give away good looking Virginia's age (she sure does not look a day older than the 75 years the pin represents), but let's be sure everyone knows that she started very young in the *Children's Club Vårblomman*.

This is also the right forum to proudly announce that during the banquet dinner, Linde also took the opportunity to celebrate its 80th Anniversary. We had 40 Linde members at the dinner, and it was great to see you all enjoy the festivities. 80 years is a huge milestone, and many thanks must go out to everybody that have been involved and members for many, many years. Linde is a strong lodge, and we are always looking for ways to improve and try new ideas so our younger generation will flourish and be ready to take over one day. Grattis to the 80th Anniversary and to many years to come.

Last - as a convention committee member - I like to express my sincere thank you to my two co-committee members Marge Gruel and Lillemor Horngren. You helped me out with all the ins and outs of running a convention, and I'm now an experience richer. Thank you girls!

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand



John and Marina Ebert

LODGE NEWS

Ingeborg Lodge #66

East Bridgewater, MA

The emphasis of our meetings this year is to study the styles within Sweden. Study and film were presented of the Swedish life. A focus on Sweden's glamorous palaces, noble kings and glowing queens both past and present. Ingeborg #66 members considered the culture from the early fairy tales to today's headlines. The Swedish Royal family were our guide through examples of their daily lives.

King Carl XVI Gustaf, Queen Silvia and children exemplified their royal roles while in Stockholm and the life together as a family in the Swedish countryside. Special note was also extended when the link between Sweden and the United States of America was shown by the Royal family visit to "New Sweden." This 350th celebration was highlighted with the 1998 White House meeting of the families of King Carl and President Ronald Reagan.

The next meeting was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at First Lutheran Church, Brockton, MA. We looked at a clean, modern and liberal Sweden today. It is underscored by seeing Göteborg as the active seaport, then to Helsingborg as a link to Europe. The travel ends by seeing the Arctic Circle of Jokkmokk and medieval center of Visby. This tour allows us to revisit our heritage from Stockholm to the countryside to see the many lives that shaped what we are today here.

Chairman Elsa Persson joined Ingeborg in the early 1970s. Her father came to our shores as a seaman from Blekinge. Her mother was from the land outside of Gothenberg. These beginnings allow Elsa to enjoy Ingeborg #66 because of the many members who share her background. Secretary Sonja Sigen joined Ingeborg to discuss with others what she received from her family. Sonja's parents and two older sisters were born in Sweden. Last year they traveled back to the old country and allowed Sonja to update us on their lives and traditions now. Sonja's relationship with our lodge is her link to her inheritance.

Our lodge proudly received the Paul Revere bowl given by District #2 at con-

vention to signify the increase in membership. Muriel Schedin of District presented this honor for the Vasa Order of America #2.

Installation of next year's officials was conducted at the April 18, 2007, meeting.

The yearly banquet took place on May 16, 2007, in celebration of another good year in the lodge.

The Midsummer gathering was held on June 21, 2007.

Special wishes to all members visiting friends and relatives abroad this summer.

Submitted by: John G. Nelson

Thule Lodge #127 Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

Hello from Thule Lodge #127, where we are having beautiful spring weather and warm temperatures. We look forward to a wonderful summer season of activities and events. We invite all to join us at the lodge.

Thule Lodge #127 continues to make plans for its 100th anniversary celebration on the first Saturday evening in December 2007. The event will include a dinner, and program of remembrance.

Lodge chairman Robert Fuller has been holding planning sessions and welcomes all to participate. Historian John Sipos continues to compile records and photographs for the special anniversary.

As the summer season approaches, so are the summer activities. The lodge is holding Friday night dinners on the first Friday of each month, and special meals such as the Father's Day herring breakfast in June, and another herring breakfast in August. Computer artist Susan Sipos has created a Swedish flyer with the dates of all events. The Thule Lodge will partici-

pate in the annual Scandinavian Festival held in Jamestown in July.

Lodge meetings were changed to the fourth Thursday evening of each month, and refreshments are always served after each business meeting. Diane Shaw is our lodge chaplain, with Susan Sipos as the inner guardsman and in charge of monthly drawings, and Nels John Nelson in charge of meeting drawings.

Recently the annual Memorial Day service was held at the lodge. Those Thule members who passed away during the last year were remembered in a special ceremony by the degree team.

Each member of the degree team would step forward and place a carnation on the altar in memory of the lost one when past district chairman Edwin Sandberg would read the name. At the same time, lodge secretary Lucile Marsh would ring a tone of remembrance. Steven Pickett and Lucile Marsh provided music. The final hymn played was the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Members of the degree team shown in the photograph are, standing: Past District Master Edwin Sandberg, John Johnson, John Marsh, Nels John Nelson, Vice Chairman Donald Carlson, Chairman Robert Fuller, and Cultural Leader Fanchon Fuller. Seated: Lodge Treasurer Alberta Nelson, Children's Dance Team Leader Donna Johnson, Financial Secretary Donna Sandberg, Allie Nelson Withers, Secretary Lucile Marsh, and Trudy Kraft.

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

Submitted by: John Sipos, Historian



Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 Mayfield Heights, OH



Smiles all around as Chairman Bruce Elfin presents Betty Arvidson with her 60-year membership pin. Not only has Betty been a long-time and loyal member, she has been very active, contributing so much to the good of the order over the years.

Submitted by: Mary Schoeniger

Tegnér Lodge #149 Oakland, CA

In April the members of Tegnér Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, enjoyed a Chinese stir-fry entree prepared by Chairman Marie-Ann Hill and side dishes brought by other members. At our business meeting, Elsy Mattson and Marie-Ann Hill were elected as delegates to the Golden Gate District #12 Convention in Modesto. At our May meeting they reported on the convention activities. At the convention banquet, Elsy, Marie-Ann, and Ann Tennis won raffle baskets and all three baskets were contributed by Fresno's Norden Lodge.

For our April cultural program, Ann Tennis read an article about the customs and history of Sweden's Easter Witches. We were visited by three young witches. The East Bay Singers and the three girls, accompanied by Dorinda Nyland on the piano, sang beautiful Swedish spring songs. Everyone enjoyed the program very much.

Our May cultural program was about majblomman, presented by Monika Feist. Several members brought samples of the flowers for the members to see and the Chairman had some to sell.

We were very happy to have members Virginia Campbell from Portland, OR, Ruby Nichelini, celebrating her 98th birthday, and her daughter, Carol Madigan at our May meeting.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

Oscars Borg Lodge #172 Philadelphia, PA

Oscars Borg Lodge #712 celebrated its 97th Anniversary at the Olympia Restaurant in Huntington Valley, PA, on Sunday, March 25. We enjoyed a delicious meal including the "blue and yellow" decorated anniversary cake and sparkling "toast" ... for many more years! Membership awards were also announced and certificates were presented to those in attendance and mailed to those who were unable to attend the festivities. Congratulations to David Carlson, Gene Martensen, Eric Olson, Frank Olson, James Olson, Jane Olson and Nancy Olson for 10 years; Lori Ackerman, Gosta and Marianne Baeckstrom and Hilda Joy Mathias for 15 years; Evelyn Gerling and Margit Rudzinski for 20 years; Ken Alexy and Hilda Mathis for 30 years and Eva-Birgitta Flink and Linda Smith for 45 years of membership.



We also congratulate our Officers for the 2007 term. Front row, l-r, Ginny Swedberg, Dot Paley DD, Helen Widman and Alice Thiee. Back row, l-r, Elin Gavaghan, Linda Alexy, Ken Alexy, Dale Smith, Margit Rudzinski and Charles Thiee (Karen Seaman, Maj-Britt Gabel, Linda Smith, Florence Evans and May Odell were unavailable for the photo).

The annual Egg Cracking Contest was won by a visitor, Helena Collins, and she generously shared her prize, a chocolate bunny, with those present.

Also on this day we held our annual Memorial Service to remember two Oscars Borg sisters: Elsa Anderson and Elsa Appelgren Solon. The service was followed by a sit-down dinner hosted by Alice and Charles Thiee and Helen Widman in the fellowship hall.

Submitted by: Linda J. Smith

Nobel Lodge #184 Portland, OR

What an honor to celebrate 40 years of membership in Nobel Lodge with these two "still active" members!

40-year membership awards went to Lisa Lemke who joined Nobel Lodge on October 20, 1967. Lisa has served in many offices during her membership, Master of Ceremonies, Chaplain, Co-Cultural Leader, Vice Master of Ceremonies, Financial Secretary, Chairman, and District Deputy. Lisa, being a member of the Vasa Rosebuds, was one of the representatives from Portland to go to Sweden as part of the Western Vasa Youth Group tour in 1964.

They performed in many places in Sweden and even performed for the King.

Jeff Klein also joined Nobel Lodge on October 20, 1967. Jeff has served as Master of Ceremonies, Musician and Chairman of Nobel Lodge. He also was a former Vasa Rosebud member and later provided the piano and accordion accompaniment for the Vasa Rosebuds for many years.

Lisa and Jeff have also represented Nobel at District #13 conventions serving as Delegates and Lisa as District Master of Ceremonies and Jeff as Executive Board Member, Vasa Star reporter and musician.

They were joined in their ceremony by Alice Iverson, our District Master.

Submitted by: Mary E. Laurie



Monitor Lodge #218 Sacramento, CA



Edward Netzel, Past Chairman

The 95th anniversary of Monitor Lodge #218, Sacramento, CA, was celebrated with a dinner/dance at the Dante Club in Sacramento. The program was presented by Chairman Dale Ingvarsen, Past Chairman Edward Netzel, and Don Carlson. A silent auction and raffle was conducted by Yvonne Magneheim.

Edward Netzel received the Past Jewel pin, and a 50-year pin went to Ethel Hubbell. Other recipients were as follows: 10-year pins - Karna Boyer, Emily Carlson, Lars-Erik Hammarin, and Jeana Hultquist; 15-year pins - Elizabeth Bushnell, Laurine Coplen, Frances Misenti, and Nancy Misenti; 25-year pins - Dale Ingvarsen, Elizabeth Johnson, Harry Johnson, Billye Nelson, and Maude Udvardy.

Submitted by: Dorothy Scherer



Svea Lodge #296 Erie, PA

May 19th marked our annual dinner at the Waterfall Restaurant. We came together for fellowship and good food. A Chinese Auction with items donated by members was entertaining.

We discussed plans for summer fun.

First was a Midsommer at Waldamer Amusement Park on June 23. July found us at an annual picnic at the home of members.

Submitted by: Linda Collin



Svea Lodge #296, Erie, PA, dinner at Waterfall Restaurant.

Linde Lodge #492 Erie, PA

In the early part of 2007, Linde Lodge received an opportunity to nominate a member from the lodge to the very special Award of Merit given by the *Swedish Council of America* in Minneapolis.

As always, awards are often difficult to give out, since so many members are hard working and deserving, and everyone has a specialty that they uniquely and individually should be recognized for.

When we evaluated one of our long time members, Lillemor Horngren, we looked at all her achievements that she (often together with her husband Richard Horngren) has achieved over the years, the choice became pretty easy.

The nomination for Lillemor was submitted with the following tribute:

"Lillemor was born in Stockholm and lived there until her twenties when she moved to America as an au pair. She met Richard and they were married in Milwaukee. They lived there until she and Richard were asked to be the archivists for the Vasa National Archives in Bishop Hill, Illinois, where they spent the next 15 years. Throughout her life, Lillemor has encouraged everyone to know the Swedish heritage. She has sponsored groups from the Scandinavian countries, helping them in any way to make them feel at home. Lillemor has been involved



We are so proud of having you in our lodge.

in Linde Lodge #492, servicing in many capacities. She has served as District Secretary for the Lake Michigan District # 8. She was elected to the Grand Lodge Executive Board where she was involved with the organization of new lodges.

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Linde Lodge #492

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Lillemor also writes the Swedish language lessons in the *Vasa Star* publication. She has recently retired and has said that since there is no lodge in Tennessee, she may have to start one!

It was not a surprise when we found out that she together with other nominees for other affiliations to the Swedish Council of American was to be honored and to receive the Award at the Swedish Council's 35th Anniversary on April 21, 2007 in Minneapolis.

Linde Lodge Secretary Liza Ekstrand accompanied Lillemor and Richard to Minneapolis. The event was to be held at Interlachen Golf & Country Club outside of Minneapolis, and it was a beautiful setting, from the manicured grounds, the valet parking, the delicious Hors d'oeuvre, to the dinner, the program, and the entertainment.

It was interesting to notice how well known Lillemor was amongst so many different affiliations, but of course not surprising with Lillemor's central placement at the Archives for so many years.

A comical incident occurred (doesn't it always with Lillemor in the picture??), when we entered and had received our table placement cards and Lillemor's corsage identifying her as one of the VIPs for the evening. We were heading for something to drink, and walked right toward a whole busload of people checking in and when Lillemor recognized the first person in that line, and hugged her, everyone behind followed suit and shook our hands or kissed and hugged us. Unbeknownst to us, we had suddenly become the receiving line!!

The dinner was very elegant, and proper protocol included the singing of the Swedish and then the American anthems.

There were many speakers, including the MC Brian Anderson, Introductions by Elise Peters, Invocation by Rev. Susan Peterson, Welcome by Bruce Larson, Presenting of awards by Urban Lundberg, and Remarks by Ambassador Gunnar Lund. The music selections were soothing and played by students from Bethel University

There were 19 recipients of the Merit Award this year. They were all called up together, and received their awards with honor and accolades.

Interesting enough we also had a couple other recipients from our area. Harry Anderson and Les Touve also received



Harry Anderson (left) and Les Touve.

Merit Awards via nominations from the Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Ambassador Gunnar Lund from Washington, DC, spoke warmly about the Swedish-American relationship and was especially excited over the new Swedish conservative government and Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt's efforts in strengthening our relations. He mentioned that the prime minister is scheduled to come to Washington in May and a meeting with President George W. Bush is also scheduled. He also proudly welcomes all of us to come and visit the new Embassy "The House of Sweden" on the banks of Potomac. Only the Swedish Embassy has been allowed to build new quarters there, and he feels we are very privileged to be at this excellent site instead of being just another embassy on Ambassador Blvd.

As there were many speakers, Ambassador Lund took to opportunity to lighten the atmosphere by telling a "Nordic" joke.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the GREAT SWEDISH HERITAGE AWARD. This award went to Nils Hasslemo, Ph. D. and was chosen for his enormous strength in education and especially his years at the Augustana College in Illinois.

With the mingling throughout the evening we had opportunities to exchange experiences with other Vasa districts and lodges, as well as the other Swedish organizations. We will cherish our memories for a long time.

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand

Nordstjarnan Lodge #575 Wetaskiwin, AB



Ken Banks, Doreen Nyroos, Norman Olson, Darl Brown and Oscar Sjolin.

Seventy members, along with their spouses and families, gathered together for the celebration of Nordstjarnan's anniversary, Sunday, May 6, 2007. A beautiful luncheon put on by a committee of ladies from the lodge was enjoyed by all. The hall was beautifully decorated with banners, a wall featuring previous anniversaries with pictures of the charter members present at the celebrations, a list of charter members and the families of these members who are now members, and lists of the previous executive, along with Nordstjarnan's history books and memorabilia.

The celebration opened with Chairman Oscar Sjolin welcoming all to the luncheon. He made a special welcome to the remaining charter member of Nordstjarnan, Norman Olson, District Master, Doreen Nyroos and her husband Ray, and GLMEB Ken Banks and his wife Carol. Oscar then gave a report of Nordstjarnan's history. Grace was read by member Dave Anderson.

Following lunch the charter was draped for the loss of member George Skjersven. A memorial song was sung by member Joyce Sjogren while members Don Fiveland, George Sjogren, Erin, Allison, Audrey, and Phyllis Ochoa played various instruments. These members then put on a short program. Member Shirley Dool also sang a song. The program was very well done and enjoyed by all attending.

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Nordstjarnan Lodge #575

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Birthdays were recognized for some of the members who were present at this celebration with the eldest being 90 years young (Elsie Eklund).

Last but not least, membership pins for 25, 40, 50 and 60 years were presented by Chairman Oscar Sjolín, while District Deputy Darl Brown presented Norman Olson with a plaque for his 75 year membership in Nordstjarnan Lodge #575. District Chairman Doreen Nyroos gave congratulatory greetings to the lodge as did GLMEB Ken Banks. Ken also presented a certificate to Nordstjarnan on behalf of the Grand Lodge.

To end this beautiful day (weather included) an anniversary cake in the form of tortes with fresh fruit (made by member Gertrude Dickau) and coffee was served.

Submitted by: L.S. Brown

Norden Lodge #684 Fresno, CA

Hello from Norden Lodge in Fresno, CA, where we just had our May meeting in the Sierra foothills at James and Marci Johansson's home. They have graciously offered their home the last 10 years for this annual *Valborgsmässoafton* event. Everybody brings finger food and later in the evening grilled hot dogs and mashed potatoes are served ending with sweet strawberries that grow in the valley.

We had a special guest, Wilma Erlandson, whose father Axel came from Halland, Sweden, in 1898 to Minnesota. In 1902 the family moved to Hilmar, CA. While there he started shaping trees in unusual shapes and designs. In 1945 they moved to Scotts Valley (CA) and opened a tourist destination called the Tree Circus. About 1985 Michael Bonfante bought the trees and transplanted them to his Bonfante Gardens Park in Gilroy. It is a park worth seeing and the trees quite amazing.

The evening ended with a sing-a-long while the bonfire (yes, but small) was burning and accordion musicians entertained us. Some couldn't resist getting up and dance.

Submitted by: Inger Lindhe

Holiday Lodge #699 Holiday, FL

April was a busy month for Holiday Lodge #699. Members and friends gathered at a local restaurant to celebrate its 34th anniversary. All enjoyed a delicious meal and a fellowship time reminiscing the past and plotting the future. At the regular monthly meeting there was a belated installation of officers. Due to illness Grand Deputy Dahlgren from Miami was unable to officiate, however, Chairperson Evelyn Johansson ably did the honors. Due to moving we will miss two workers, Ingrid Swenson is moving to New York, and "Gussie" Nygard to Colorado. With the exception of the monthly park picnics, meetings are "on vacation" until October, giving snowbirds time to get back to Florida.

Best wishes to all from Holiday Lodge #699.

Submitted by: Lorraine Folland

Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod #703 Cape Cod, MA

Due to illness of Chairman, Louise Fietz, Vice Chairman George Makris took over and conducted our April meeting with great aplomb. The meeting was brief, followed by a "Brown Bag" auction led by "auctioneer" Karl Pedersen. This man is really good – if you need to raise money in a hurry, Karl MIGHT be available. There were big bags, small bags, exotic bags, all containing very interesting new items; for a base bid of three dollars, how could one go wrong? This writer made out like a bandit, bringing home a beautiful plant and a dark chocolate bar – all for \$4.00. What a bargain! All money raised went towards the Vinland Lodge Scholarship Fund. It was a fun way to raise money. Incidentally, there are six candidates for the \$400.00 scholarship, the winner of which will be announced in June.

The focus of our May meeting was a celebration of May 17th, Norwegian Independence Day. Once again, Karl Pedersen came to the fore giving an interesting history of that momentous occasion. There was also an interesting display of Norwegian artifacts, books, newspapers and memorabilia from Norway. Karl, whose background is 100% Norwegian, is a first-generation

American, and is married to a first-generation American-Swedish girl. In fact, he has been known to tell us his sad story about their Christmas tree which is always heavily decorated from top to bottom with tiny paper Swedish flags. According to Karl, if you look very carefully, you will find ONE Norwegian flag tucked waaaay on to the trunk of the tree!

Lorraine Young, our Cultural Chairman, added to Karl's discourse, presenting further interesting information on Norway. The program was very much appreciated by our Norwegian members and all those who wished they were. Leading the cheering section was Johan Christensen. (We're glad you're here, Johan!)

A Memorial Ceremony was held to observe the passing of Vivian Lundquist and Henry Nelson. Chaplain Elsa Erickson paid tribute to these honored members and placed flowers on the altar in their memory.

Refreshments were served following the meeting.

Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman

Travelers Lodge #758 Elgin, TX

Travelers Lodge #758 had a learning experience from Joyce Dehlin who makes dolls and dresses them in traditional Swedish and Småland Province attire. These dolls are done from top to bottom inside and out, with authentic materials and colors. She said the belief is that a girl just "can't have too much lace," so the petticoats and pantaloons are adorned with lots of lace.

Joyce modeled a dress made and worn by her grandmother in the early 1900s. This dress is beautifully preserved and the material and workmanship are excellent. She grew up in a Swedish home in Minnesota and has a wonderful background of traditions and family stories. Joyce and her husband Glen now live at Sun City, Georgetown, TX.

Submitted by: Marjorie Matetzschk



Dolls made by Joyce Dahlin

SWEDISH NEWS

Södra Sverige #20

Vid Distriktsmötet den 13 maj 2007 valdes nytt ER för Södra Sverige Nr 20. Till ny Distriktsmästare valdes Catherine Bringselius Nilsson.

Submitted by: Catherine Bringselius



Sittande från vänster: MDER Ulf Alderlöf, VDS Ingrid Cannerhagen, DS Olle Wickström, DM Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, VDM Per-Olof Brinck, SLD Knut Rosenkvist, DK Bengt Hammargren. Stående från vänster: DU/SLU Morgan Pålsson, R/FÖM Kenneth Gustafsson, R/FÖM Sven Olov Stigsson, R/FÖM Olof Breitfeld, DH Börje Gunnarsson, DKL Margareta Berg, FDM Åke Mellnert.

Logen Knallen #745



Ordföranden i Logen Knallen Börje Olausson, Leif "Loket" Olsson och Harry Lundbäck, pristagare för bästa manliga dräkt.

Logen Knallen hade sin traditionella Vasafrukost söndagen den 25 mars på Militärpalatset på det gamla infanteriregementets (I 15) område i Borås. Vi hade i år inbjudits till "utvandrарfrukost", vilket innebar, att de som ville och kunde bar kläder, som påminde om emigrantepoken, framförallt under 1800-

talet. Vi åt som vanligt en stabil amerikansk frukost med allt vad det innebär. Där har de speciella plättarna med lönnsirap sin givna plats. Det var sedan ganska nyttigt att röra sig i en tipspromenad runt kaserngården. Det innebar emellertid inte bara en fysisk ansträngning. Våra kunskaper i amerikansk geografi och historia sattes också på hårda prov. Vår sekreterare, Britt-Inger Svahn, hyllades som klar segrare, ensam om att pricka in alla tolv rätt. Så vidtrog prisutdelning till bästa dräkter. Rosa Johansson Karlekqvist tog det kvinnliga priset för sin Kristina från Duvemåla-inspirerade kreation. Manliga priset gick till Harry Lundbäck, som i bonjour och plommonstop närmast fick tankarna att gå till den utvandrare pastorn.

Dagens underhållare, dock utan egentlig amerikansk koppling, var ingen mindre än Leif "Loket" Olsson. Han var en av initiativtagarna till det populära telefonbingo- och underhållningsprogrammet Bingolotto, som gått i svensk TV4 från Göteborg, i början på lördagar nu på

söndagar, i cirka 25 års tid. "Loket" var en mycket populär programledare under många år. Han berättade på sitt mycket medryckande sätt om sin egen bakgrund, men framförallt om Bingo-Lottos historia och utveckling. Han kryddade med några dråpliga samtal med högst speciella, mer eller mindre engagerade spelare runt om i landet och naturligtvis med en och annan rolig historia. "Loket" hjälpte oss också att med sitt medhavda vinsthjul förrätta dragningen i vårt eget lotteri. Många medlemmar lyckliggjordes med värdefulla vinster, förtjänstfullt insamlade av arrangörgruppen. Så var åter en Vasafrukost till ända.

Submitted by: Ingvar Carlén

New England Lodges Visit Stockholm

On a sunny Saturday, members from the two Stockholm lodges (Mälardrottningen #563 and Stockholm #589) met with five Vasa-members from New England. The American group came from Lodge Diana Birger Jarl #3, Lodge Karl XII #103, Norden Lodge #1 and Quahog Lodge #725. The group had been in Stockholm for a few days – seeing the Old Town, the Vasa museum, City Hall, the Royal Castle (today a castle for representation), the castle at Drottningholm (where the Royal family lives) and they had also gone to Vaxholm in the Stockholm archipelago.

We all met over a lunch in the Royal garden – at Drottningholmspaviljongen, a 1900th century villa turned into a restaurant. We had our own dining room so we could talk without "interference" from the outside. And did we ever talk.

Even though we just had about 1.5h at our disposal, we had a wonderful time getting to know each other. We found out that one person had been a Vasa member for over 50 years, while others were fairly new in our organization. We talked about our different lodge activities and rituals, the future of Vasa and lots of other subjects. It was a great exchange of thoughts and ideas.

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New England Lodges Visit Stockholm

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The entire group is represented, US lodges, Lodge Stockholm #589 and Lodge Mälardrottningen #563.

Meeting other Vasa members across the boarders and learning more about each other is a wonderful way of building bridges between our two countries and our two cultures.

Submitted by: Pia Norrman, Lodge Mälardrottningen #563

Vasamedlemmar från Sverige Besöker Distriktsmötet i Lake Michigan #8



Lars-Åke Sjöberg, LL 563, SLD Sten Hult och Karl-Erik Axelsson, LL 646.

Under maj passade logemedlemmarna Karl-Erik Axelsson, Elisabeth Agge, Anne-Sofie Hjort från logen Enköping #646 samt Lars-Åke och Hillivi Sjöberg

logen Mälardrottningen #563 att besöka distriktsmötet i Lake Michigan #8 samt och Linde lodge #492:s 80 års jubileum.

Många ordenssykon hade samlats och

vi från Sverige fick tillfälle att träffa Vice stormästare William "Bill" Lundquist med fru Sheila, Lillemor och Richard Horngren som tidigare förestod Vasa Arkivet. Vi träffade SLD Sten Hult med fru samt Dave och Charlotte Tollin som vi sedan tidigare haft många trevliga tillfällen med.

Distriktsmötet genomfördes på ett bra sätt och under en trevlig atmosfär, många visade ett aktivt intresse under mötet.

Vi svenskar passade på att se den utställning som gjorts av medlemmar från olika loger i District Lake Michigan #8, bl a kunde vi läsa och se bilder om Virginia Lindroos. Nämnas kan att hon under banketten på kvällen firades genom överlämnandet av en medlemsnål på 75 år av Vice Stormästaren William Lundquist. Lisa Ekstrand hade genom datans hjälp gjort ett kollage om vad Vasa betyder för henne i ord och bild.

På lördag kvällen genomfördes en bankett med anledning av firandet av logen Lindes 80 års jubileum. Vi bjöds på god mat och trevlig underhållning. Elisabeth Agge från logen Enköping #646 framförde hälsningar och gratulationer från Logen Enköping #646 och Logen Stockholm #589. Lars-Åke Sjöberg framförde gratulationer från logen Mälardrottningen #563.

På söndags morgonen genomfördes en vacker minnesstund för de distriktstjänstemän som avlidit under föregående period. Distriktsmötet avslutades sedan med installation av nästa periods nya tjänstemän. Varmt tack till DL Lake Michigan #8 samt Linde loge #492 för deras mycket varma mottagande av oss från Sverige.

Under den fortsatta veckan som vi Svenskar var i Milwaukee bodde vi hos Jake och Marge Gruel som vi känt sedan 1996 och fick möjlighet att umgås med familjen och fira familjens olika födelsedagar.

Vi blev dessutom inbjuden att delta i en veteransbilsutställning genom Vern och Jan Kamholtz som själva har en veteranbil. Även Waukesha polishus besöktes och Millers bryggerier.

Under den fortsatta veckan som vi Svenskar var i Milwaukee bodde vi hos Jake och Marge Gruel som vi känt sedan 1996 och fick möjlighet att umgås med familjen och fira familjens olika födelsedagar. Vi diskuterade också likheter och olikheter inom vår Orden.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge, Logen Enköping #646

Traditioner med framtid

Jag heter Inger Hanright, och jag har fått äran att bli utnämnd till Grand Lodge Cultural Director för USA/Canada. Jag är född och uppvuxen i Sverige och har bott i USA i 27 år.

Det ger mig en bra position att fungera som medelpunkt mellan de två ländernas kultur.

Detta är en stor uppgift, och det kräver mycket kommunikation mellan mig och alla kulturledare, och även mellan mig och Grand Lodge Cultural Director för Sverige, Gun Lith.

Av detta skäl har vi börjat jobba på en webb sida för kultur. Den är inte bara för kulturledare, men för vem som helst som är intresserad av Nordisk kultur.

Förhoppningsvis kan den fungera som ett verktyg att få in nya intresserade medlemmar.

Nuförtiden när folk letar efter något, så letar de på internet. Det är mycket viktigt att vi har så mycket material där som möjligt. För alla ute i Vasa Landet som är duktiga med en dator, ni har en viktig uppgift att få ut oss alla på Webben!

Alla loger måste bli inkopplade till Stor Logens hemsida så att framtida program kan bli lyckade. Internet är en stor del av vår framtid vare sig det gillas eller inte!

Alla människor kopplar upp sig på Internet nuförtiden. De söker efter jobb, kärlek eller släktforskar. Allt händer på webben! Låt oss tillägga "leta efter nya medlemmar" till listan.

Det är viktigt att komma ihåg att immigration av skandinaver till USA

fortfarande är aktuellt, och faktiskt ökar på senare tid. Folk som flyttar över idag är mestadels unga yrkesarbetande och företagare med familj. Hur kan vi få kontakt med dessa människor?

Ja...de som kommer idag behöver ingen hjälp med språket, jobb eller bostad. De flesta är rätt internationella redan. Men efter ett tag så börjar de sakna vissa saker som alltid var självklara hemma, men som inte finns att få här.

De saknar traditionella helgdagar och speciell mat, särskilt när de har unga barn som går i skola här. De vill att barnen skall kunna språket, de vill äta "Julbord" och dansa "små grodorna" runt Midsommarstången. Det är här som vi kan komma in!

Vi kan arrangera sånt som de saknar, och förhoppningsvis värva medlemmar som kan hjälpa oss i framtiden.

Vi behöver bekanta oss med traditionerna hemifrån igen, och så annonsera till nya immigranter i området.

Allt det här kan göras på internet, och "cultural corner" blir första stationen för information.

Jag kommer att uppdatera informationen på sidan så ofta som möjligt. Uppgiften är att kulturledarna skall ladda ner information som hjälper dem att utföra sitt jobb.

Kulturledarnas pärmar kan då fungera som arkiv för deras arbete i logen, och när jobbet går till nästa person, så kommer de att veta vad som har hänt förut. Det är mitt hopp att det här gör att jobbet blir lite lättare och mera åtråvärt, och kan

utföras av vem som helst som är intresserad och entusiastisk.

Traditionella fester blir en viktig sak. Även om vi inte alltid kan få folk att komma till vanliga möten, så kommer de flesta ut till speciella tillfällen och skandinavisk mat.

Jag skulle vilja se varje loge arrangera åtminstone en fest varje år! Om det finns en centralpunkt, t.ex. en Vasa park så kan loger slå sig ihop och arrangera en musikfestival eller en marknad med skandinaviska försäljare. Alla gillar det!

Bjud in så många människor som möjligt, och annonsera vitt och brett. Internet låter oss annonsera gratis, och det är så som vi måste använda det.

Se till att din loge är uppkopplad med egen hemsida till Storlogens site, och använd strukturmallen som finns där.

"Culture Corner" kommer att finnas att klicka på, på VOA hemsidan, men om du vill gå dit direkt, finns den här: www.vasaorder/culture.net

Var tålmodiga medan vi bygger upp den. Förslag till länkar eller annat som ni vill se kan skickas direkt till mig genom e-mail länken på Storlogens hemsida.

Submitted by: Inger Hanright, GLCD USA/Canada

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR

Todd Anderson

1383 Middlebrook Way
Rohnert Park, CA, 94928
Cell Phone: (707) 694-1345

E-mail:

audiovisual.vasaorder@yahoo.com

The Vasa website at www.vasaorder.com contains a "materials button" which has the listing of audio visual materials available.

If you are unable to use the Vasa website, you can still ask that a listing be sent to you by mail.

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Vasa Star*

YOUTH NEWS

Scholarship Winner 1979



Allison Gawlinski

Edward and Diane Gawlinski (Scandia Lodge 23, Manchester, CT) are proud to announce that their daughter, Allison graduated with the class of 2007 of the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in History and a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on May 30, 2007. Allison married Brett DeSimone on June 23rd. Allison and Brett will move to Montana for Allison's first duty station at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Submitted by: Edward Gawlinski

I am a fifty plus member of the Vasa Order of America and the mother of Karl Ruser, member of Kronan #433, District Lodge #7, Minnesota. I want to let you all in "Vasa Land" know what he has been doing since winning the 1979 Grand Lodge Scholarship. He won this scholarship with a winning essay about Carl Linnaeus. He did his college studies at Gustavus Adolphus College majoring in biology. While there, he worked at the college's Linnaeus Arboretum during its early years. Karl never returned to New Jersey as he married his college sweetheart, Christine, and they settled in St. Paul near the University of Minnesota campus. They have a son, Erik, who also graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and their daughter, Kirsten, is a sophomore there.

These are the highlights of his past 28 years. At the time of his college graduation he was also awarded a fellowship at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Horticulture. During his tenure there, he received his Master's Degree in Horticulture. While at the University he became interested with native wildflowers and prairie grasses so much so that in 1986, he started his own "Landscape Alternative" business. For over the past 20 years he has offered a wide selection of high quality, nursery grown wildflowers, grasses and other low maintenance perennials.

Karl's daughter is majoring in biology with a Scandinavian studies minor. She spent her January term studying the Swedish Health System in several different cities in Sweden. She is also involved with the campus Linnaeus Arboretum. Because of her knowledge of the Swedish language and her interest in botany, she was assigned to be a Campus Guide for the Linnaeus Symposium held on April 25, 2007, celebrating the 300th birthday of the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus. After dinner two speakers, Paul Alan Cox and Hans Odöo presented "Unfinished Journey: Carl Linnaeus and the Creation of Ethnobotany." Hans Odöo portrayed Carl Linnaeus during this presentation. Because of Karl's current involvement with plants, he attended this affair as his interests with Carl Linnaeus has remained over these past years. During the lecture

Continued on page 18

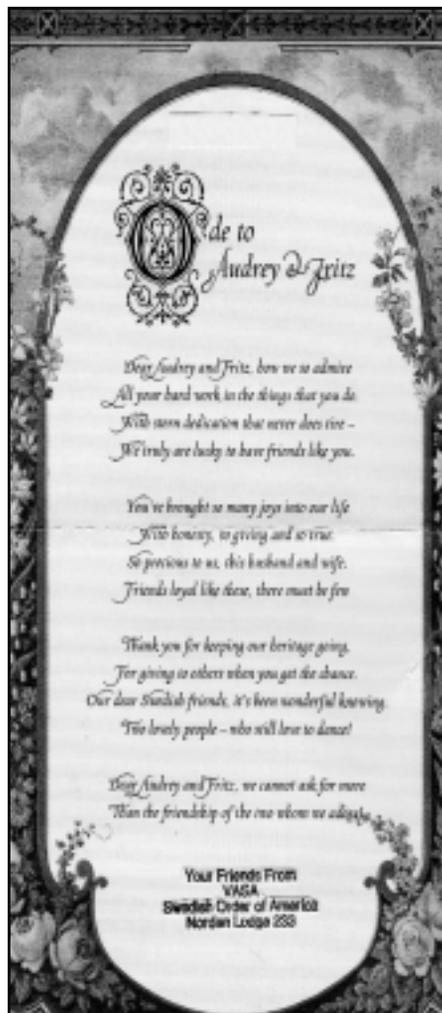
PLEASE MEET

Audrey & Fritz Grahn



Audrey and Fritz Grahn of Norden Lodge #233 in Tacoma, WA, are outstanding. This couple and their family have really given our lodge a big boost and this award was just a small "thank you" for what they have done and continue to do. Everyone has a talent and no matter how young or old you are, we can all contribute to keeping our heritage alive. From participating not only at meetings to cooking, demonstrations, crafts and sewing, festivals, conventions, offices, scholarships, and much more.

Submitted by: Members of Norden Lodge #233



Scholarship Winner 1979

Continued from page 17

his thoughts went back in time to when he wrote his winning essay and also to when he was a boy at home in New Jersey, he was forever growing "things" in his own special backyard garden plot.

Three hundred years separate these two men who share the same first name along with their love and curiosity about the natural world.

Submitted by: Charlotte Ruser

One of Evening Star Lodge's #426 Grand Lodge Scholarships Winners in 1982

Reston, Va. - Christian M. de Virgilio, M.D., professor of surgery at the UCLA School of Medicine, has been awarded the 2007 National Golden Apple for Teaching Excellence Award by the American Medical Student Association (AMSA). The award ceremony took place as part of AMSA's 57th Annual National Convention, "Health Care Justice: Pursuing the Dream of a Healthy Society," in Washington, D.C.

"What makes Dr. de Virgilio so special is that he is honest, forthright and relatable," says Kimberly Shapiro, a fourth-year medical student at the UCLA School of Medicine, who nominated de Virgilio for the prestigious award. "He teaches through being positive, is involved and always making it a priority



to be supportive and encourage his students. His humor, humanistic qualities and spirit of leading by example continually help shape students' lives and I am no exception."

Dr. de Virgilio serves as Vice Chair of Education and General Surgery Residency Program Director at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Professor of Surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Attending Surgeon at the West Los Angeles V.A. Medical Center. He has served as a research mentor for 20 undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students and residents every year for the last 10 years. A well-published academic, Dr. de Virgilio has authored or co-authored over 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. de Virgilio has received numerous awards in recognition of his teaching excellence, including Faculty Teacher of the Year at Harbor-UCLA in 1996, the Award for Excellence in Education from the UCLA School of Medicine in 2004, and the Golden Apple Award as Faculty Teacher of the Year from the UCLA School of Medicine in 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. He received his B.S. degree in Biology from Loyola Marymount University; his M.D. from the UCLA School of Medicine, and completed his General Surgery Residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

"He is a surgeon with the heart and mindset of a primary-care physician, and an unparalleled role model," describes a third year medical student of de Virgilio's. "Through his work with the underserved, commitment to medical education and efforts to improve health disparities, he completely embodies the objectives of AMSA and is therefore the best kind of medical school professor."

The American Medical Student Association, the nation's largest independent association for physicians-in-training, presents the National Golden Apple Award annually to honor the contributions of a medical school professor who has made a significant impact on the educational value that a medical student receives from his or her coursework. Their students as esteemed mentors and role models who have made a significant impact not only on their medical educations, but their personal lives as well view nominees.

Submitted by: Thomas Jahn

CULTURE

Agne Lindblad 1908 - 1939

Agne Lindblad was born in 1908, in a small village north of Vimmerby, in the southern part of Sweden. He lived with his parents on a small farm. As most children at that time he had to help his parents at home. Agne was a good son, said his mother, always ready to help them with all kinds of work that had to be done on their farm.

Agne's greatest interests, however, were drawing and painting in which he was very talented. When still a child he proved his artistic talents portraying his schoolmates. He was especially famous for being able to make his figures quite lifelike, and soon everybody wanted to be portrayed by him.

At about ten years old he was awarded first prize at a drawing competition arranged by a large Swedish newspaper; ten Swedish kronor. At this time he started to carve wooden figures out of birch or alder, which he first boiled to make it easier to cut. Gradually his interest of woodcarving grew greater and greater, and from the age of 19 he devoted all his spare time to this craft. When he was done working for the day he sat down to make his figures. They say he worked until late at night. In the winter and during rainy days Agne carved all day long. He didn't stop carving at dinnertime either and brought his penknife and a piece of wood to the table.

Agne was a self-taught wood-carver and there were many pieces of wood he had to throw away before he had mastered the technique of making his figures look just as he wanted them to look. The only tools he used were a penknife and a gouge.

There are now about 120 wooden figures at the museum in the village, none of them look the same. Agne's ability to make "his" wooden people show their state of mind is especially admired. You can see happiness, grief, pain, indifference and pride when looking at them. Many people came to see his wooden figures. As he became more known people came from far away to buy his woodcarvings. For his first figures he got 1,5 Swedish Crown.

At the age of 30 Agne got pneumonia.

Continued on page 19

Vasa Star July-August 2007

Agne Lindblad

Continued from page 18



Vedhuggare (en av Agne's allra första träfigurer).

In the thirties there wasn't any penicillin to cure people of such serious disease. After a few weeks of illness Agne died, only 31 years old.

One year later a museum wanted to borrow Agne's wooden figures and show them at an exhibition.

Agne's mother, however, said no. She felt her son's work were too precious and served as an invaluable memory of their son. But Agne's father managed to persuade her to let the museum borrow them all.

One day when Agne's parents were on their way home from town they saw their house was on fire. Agne's mother rushed into the house trying to save a few things. The fire was heavy so she only managed to get hold of one thing; a photo of Agne. It was just in time. She wasn't hurt but her skirt was burning. The fire brigade couldn't do anything and the house was totally destroyed and never built up again. For Sofi and Karl Lindblad it was a great catastrophe except for one thing; all Agne's wooden figures were safe in the exhibition at the museum. At least they had a keepsake from their very talented and beloved son.

Today Agne's wooden figures can be seen in Södra Vi, in the small museum, which is well worth a visit.

Agne Lindblad 1908 - 1939

Agne Lindblad föddes 1908 i en liten by norr om Vimmerby, i södra Sverige. Han bodde med föräldrarna på en liten bondgård. Som de flesta barn på den tiden fick han hjälpa till hemma. Agne var snäll och duktig, enligt mamman, alltid villig att hjälpa till med de många olika sysslor som behövde göras på gården.

Men det han helst ville göra var att teckna och måla, något han var mycket duktig i. Redan som barn visade han sina artistiska talanger genom att rita av sina skolkamrater. Särskilt beundrad blev han för att han kunde få sina bilder så porträttlika. Det dröjde inte länge förrän alla ville att han skulle rita av dem.

När Agne var i 10-årsåldern fick han första pris i en teckningstävling som en stor svensk tidning arrangerat; en svensk tio-krona. (Det motsvarar ungefär 200 Sv Kr i dagens penningläge). Det var också då han började skära ut figurer i björk- eller al-trä, som han först kokat för att de skulle bli lättare att arbeta med. Så småningom blev hans intresse för träsnideri allt större och från 19-års åldern ägnade han all ledig tid åt det. Så snart hans arbete var slut för dagen satte han sig för att tälja "gubbar". Han arbetade till långt in på nätterna. På vintern och om det var dåligt väder höll Agne på med sitt träsnideri hela dagarna. Han slutade inte ens när det var dags för middag utan han brukade ta med sig sin kniv och ett trästycke till matbordet.

Agne var helt självlärd och det blev många träbitar han måste kasta bort innan han hade lärt sig tekniken för att få sina trägubbar att se ut just så som han ville ha dem. De enda verktyg han använde var en pennkniv och en skölp (= verktyg träsnidare använder).

I Södra Vis Hembygds museum finns nu omkring 120 träfigurer, alla olika. Särskilt frapperande är Agne's förmåga att genom figurernas ansiktsuttryck skil-

dra deras sinnes-tillstånd. T.ex. kan vi i deras ansikten se glädje, sorg, smärta, likgiltighet eller stolthet.

Det var många som kom för att titta på Agnes träsnideri. När han blev mer känd, kom även folk långt ifrån för att köpa av honom. För de första träfigurer han sålde, fick han 1,50 Sv Kr.

Det var många som kom för att titta på Agne's träsnideri. När han blev mer känd, kom även folk långt ifrån för att köpa av honom. För de första träfigurer han sålde, fick han 1,50 Sv Kr.

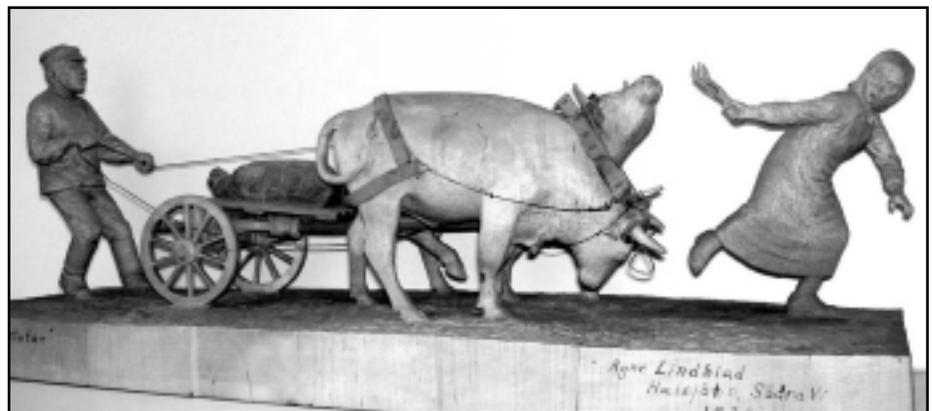
När Agne var 30 år blev han sjuk. Han fick lunginflammation, och på 1930-talet fanns det inte något penicillin som kunde bota en så svår sjukdom. Efter några veckor dog Agne, endast 31 år gammal.

Ett år senare ville ett museum låna Agne's träfigurer för att visa dem på en konstutställning. Men Agne's mamma sade nej. Hon menade att Agne's träfigurer betydde så mycket för henne och dessa var ett ovärderligt minne av deras son. Men fadern lyckades övertala henne att låta museet få låna alla Agne's figurer.

En dag när föräldrarna kom hem från ett stadsbesök fick de se att det brann i deras hus. Mamman rusade in för att försöka rädda några saker. Men branden var så häftig att hon bara lyckades få tag i en enda sak; ett foto av Agne. Det var i sista minuten. Hon blev inte brännskadad själv, men det brann i hennes kjol. Brandkåren kunde inte göra någonting och huset blev helt förstört och det byggdes aldrig upp igen. För Sofi och Karl Lindblad var det en katastrof, med ett undantag; alla Agnes trägubbar var i säkerhet vid utställningen på det museum som lånat dem. De hade åtminstone ett värdefullt minne av sin begåvade och älskade son.

I dag kan man beskåda Agne's träfigurer i Södra Vi och dess lilla museum, vilket är väl värt ett besök.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, SLKL Sverige



Agne's föräldrar med två stutar och vagn

Welcome To Our New Members

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

Tore Kellgren, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman

5971 W. Walbrook Dr.

San Jose, CA 95129

E-mail: tore@kellgren.org

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

Quinsigamond #517

Joseph Fournier

Lynn Fournier

Nicholas Genelli

Larry Stidsen

Nordic #611

Kenneth Briggs Jr.

Stanley Johnson

Birka #732

Robert Blomgren

Gustave Blomgren

Lara Collins

Andrea Swanson

Amy Tanzer

Judith Tanzer

Stenbock #138

Camille Scheel

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Svea #253

Faye Bevelhimer

Michelle Facos

John Gunderson

Satellite #661

Gena Baldwin

DL SUPERIOR NO. 10

Monitor #163

David Grigg

Robert Johnson

DL GOLDEN GATE NO.1 2

Tegner #149

Vivian Fahlgren

Svea #348

Quint Friesen

Sveaborg #449

Katharine Blumer

Nancy Soderberg

Norden #684

Carol Cahill

Skogen #700

Dorothy Montonye

Darlene Stratton

Valhalla Scandinavians #746

Clay Lindquist

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Norrskenet #189

Linda Newman

Solidaritet #396

James Andersson

Frihet #401

Justin Jordan

Tracy Jordan

Ronelle Pratt

Julie Stewart

Kali Watson

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Skandia #247

Candyce Farrell

Steve Rose

Susan Rose

Oak Leaf #685

Gene Freed

Michaela Freed

Baltic #689

Eric Peterson

Janine Peterson

Nicole Peterson

Sarah Peterson

Glenn T. Seaborg #719

Louise Putnam

ARIZONA NO. 21

Nordic Red Rocks #760

Warren Carlson

Karin Febbrini

Lois Johnson

Carl Schenholm

Sandra Schenholm

DL NEW YORK NO. 4

Thule #127

Jeff Anderson

Gary Olson

Ralph Veights

Lindbergh #505

Barbara Fransen

Carlton Fransen

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Gothiod #486

Robert Posey

DL MINNESOTA NO. 7

Runeberg #137

Sarah Anderson

Colleen Bie

Cheryl Olson

Emma Thofson

Vikingadramat Arnljot



Vikingadramat Arnljot skapades av den berömda tonsättaren och musikkritikern Wilhelm Peterson-Berger, född i Ullånger, Ångermanland, år 1867. Han kom bl a att studera musik i Dresden, Tyskland, och påverkades i tidens nationalromantiska anda av bl a Richard Wagner.

I Sverige verkade PB som musiksribent i Dagens Nyheter i hela 34 år. Under denna tid blev han av vissa kallad "Peterson-Arger" för sin många gånger kraftfulla och bitska kritik.

Men även andra områden tilldrog sig PS:s intresse. Han var en av pionjärerna inom tennis och han intresserade sig för friluftsliv, dels genom flitigt vandrande i fjällvärlden, dels som skribent i många av Svenska turistföreningars (STF) årsskrifter. Friluftsinterret tog PB till Jämtland första gången 1889 och han återkom sedan varje sommar. 1914 stod Sommarhagen färdig, och det var hans sommarhem fram till 1930 då han bosatte sig permanent på Frösön.

PS:s stora musikaliska produktion innehåller bla a fem symfonier, fem operor, ett hundratal romanser och ett stort antal pianostycken - däribland den mycket välkända sviten *Frösöblomster*.

Vikingadramat Arnljot, som omfattar tre akter, hämtar sin inspiration från historiska Arnljot Gelline i Snorre Sturlassons saga om den norske konungen Olav II Haraldsson - den helige. Dramat utspelar sig i den betydelsefulla brytningstiden mellan kristendom och hedendom, då norska och svenska kungar gjorde anspråk på Jämtland.

HIT HAR JAG LÄNGTAT

Året är 1025 och Jämtland befinner sig i en brytningstid. Både norska och svenska kungar gör anspråk på området och kristendomen hotar den gamla religionen.

Arnljot har återvänt till sin hembygd efter flera års vikingafärder i österled. Han finner sin släkt vanärad och sin

trolovade gift med en annan. Tillsammans med Sigurd i Slandrom har Arnljots mor. Unn, smitt planer om att Jämtland ska bli en fri och självständig stat under Arnljots ledning. Men faror hotar.

Tinget samlas på Frösön. Ska Arnljot få sin upprättelse och bli vald till Jämtlands konung?

Äventyret kan börja.

Taldramat Arnljot uppfördes för första gången 1908 vid Stocke på Frösön och operapremiären skedde två år senare i Stockholm. Sedan PB flyttade till Jämtland 1930, föddes tanken på att ånyo uppföra taldramat Arnljot på Frösön.

Under namnet "Frösöspelen" uppfördes Arnljot för första gången på av PB införskaffade Arnljotlägden 1935, med PB själv som regissör åren 1935-1939. Ur engagemanget och på PB:s initiativ växte såväl nuvarande Wilhelm Peterson-Berger Stiftelsen som Teaterföreningen Arnljotspelen fram 1937. Teaterföreningen Arnljotspelen har sedan dess haft ambitionen att varje år framföra dramat Arnljot. PG tog själv aktivt del i framtågande av den rekvisita och de dräkter som till viss del fortfarande används.

Det andra världskriget och PB:S död 1942 innebar ett avbrott för spelen 1940-1944. Spelet återupptogs med full kraft 1945 och har spelats varje sommar sedan dess - inte bara på Frösön utan även i bl a Stiklestad, Norge, på Skansen i Stockholm, i Ullånger samt i USA under en omfattande turné 1963.

SOMMARHAGEN, WILHELM PETERSON-BERGERS HEM, ligger vackert beläget ute på Frösön med Oviksfjällen som en blånande rundhorisont. 1914 höll han sitt "intåg i Sommarhagen" (då stod huset "vid Frösö Kyrka" färdigt. Där står nu det berömda huset, i tidsenlig byggnadsstil och material, men samtidigt med många av de tendenser vi i stilhistorien brukar kalla jugend.

I huset finns också inslag av nationalromantik i fornnordisk anda, reminiscenser från engelsk villastil och schweizerhus. Vackra målningar av Jämtlandskonstnären Paul Jonze pryder alla rum i huset.

Source: Arnljots informations häfte
För ytterligare information:
www.arnljot.se och ordf@arnljot.se

Submitted by: Marie Carlson, Editor
The Vasa Star

Swedish Interior Design and Architecture

Two excellent books on contemporary Swedish interior design as well as classical Swedish architecture were recently published in the U.S.

Swedish Interiors, written by Rhonda Eliesh and Edie van Breems, depicts the homes of contemporary Swedes, and those inspired by Sweden, who have melded the very best aspects of Swedish design and sensibility into their American homes. A New York City apartment mixes contemporary art and furnishings with period antiques, a Swedish immigrant's log cabin is restored to its original splendor while incorporating elements of the American West, and a Connecticut dairy barn is transformed into a spacious and light-filled home. *Swedish Interiors* represents the best of Swedish design in America.

Classical Swedish Architecture and Interiors 1650-1840, written by Johan Cederlund, offers an authoritative study of Swedish design in the Baroque, Rococo, Gustavian and Empire periods. The beautiful, often breathtakingly lavish architecture and interiors of Sweden between the 1600s and the early 1800s have been among the art world's best-kept secret. With this book, art historian Cederlund illuminates the genius of Sweden's architects, designers and builders, including such path breakers as Nicodemus Tessin the Younger and Carl Hårleman. It is a brilliantly photographed volume, filled with richly detailed descriptions of Sweden's majestic palaces, stately manor houses, coastal retreats and tapestry-like gardens. Both books are available at retailers and bookstores throughout the United States.

Image courtesy of Rhonda Eliesh and Edie van Breems

Source: *FRESH FROM SWEDEN, APRIL 2007



BOOK REVIEW

COLORADO KID, A Swedish-American Boy Goes West

Written by: Willis Peterson

Published by: Lost Fox Press

PO Box 4118

Cottonwood, AZ 86326

ISBN: 0-9773277-0-1

Printed in the United States of America

Price: \$24.95 US

Colorado Kid or *Willis Peterson* is about a boy growing up in the St. Paul, Minnesota, United States during the 30s. As a 7-year old, he moves to Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the Base of Pikes Peak where the dry air will help an ailing Willis who suffers severe attacks of asthma. His story takes place between the years from 1930-1943.

This is a time when people were ashamed of being from the "old country" and for some reason the 2nd generation children did not want to speak Swedish. Living in two cultures with a mother that was divorced was most disgraceful. On top of this, Willis and his mothers life was pretty much ruled by the ex-centric Great Aunt Louisa.

Willis interest of nature, animals and fishing leads to the creation of his very own fishpond and eventually he also creates his own "backyard zoo." His curiosity and hunger for learning turns him in to an inventive boy with great imagination using whatever "he can find," being "*Mr. Scientist*," according to his mother. Airplanes and their technology mesmerize Willis, and he is an avid Model airplane builder.

Holidays of great impact are of course *The Swedish Christmas*, *Midsummer*, and the *4th of July* celebrations.

This is the time during the *Great Depression*. The *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, was a reminder of such times and reading was another subject of interest. Their ancient dishwasher plays a significant part and becomes their bank during the *Great Depression*.

Politics were often discussed in the home and Willis mother was very knowledgeable and well read on this subject considering the time she was living in. "*One of the best things Roosevelt ever started in this country is Social Security.*"

Willis writes about several significant encounters during his school years as well as teachers who have influenced his life. Many friends have colored his life along the way and his very

best friend Stanley Smith dies in Italy during the 2nd World War.

The 2nd World War and news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor brings fear and people viewed the Orientals with suspicions. When "*The Nazis U. Boats landed saboteurs on the Shore of Long Islands on Jun 13th, 1942*" and four days later in Florida, it made people suspicious of just about anyone.

Willis tells about many other encounters and experiences during this economically struggling time.

During his college years his focuses on his great interest of writing and photography and graduates with major in English in May 1949, from *Arizona State College*. He holds a B.H. in English and a M.A. in Audio Visual Technology.

On April 4, he became a photo Journalist for the *Arizona Republic*. "*The Happiest guy in Phoenix, I lived in Clouds.*"

Willis Peterson is a photojournalist, freelancer, and college teacher. He is now retired and does safari travels and creates museum exhibits.

- In 1966 Peterson filmed for local channel 8, KAET, a segment of 16 shows.
- In 1968 Mr. Peterson was selected to start a photography program at Glendale Community College.
- Peterson's wildlife and nature photography has gained National and International recognition
- Many of his nature articles have been adapted to Children's books.
- Mr. Peterson has earned several awards between the years of 1966-1986.

Willis Peterson has been happily married to his wife Roberta for over 50 years, and they have three grown children.

Mr. Peterson is a member of *Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760* in Arizona. Willis has cousins in Småland.

Conclusion:

This autobiography presents an era from not so long ago but oh how different. A time when people had to struggle harder than one can imagine. The book richly describes in great detail how Willis life was during his growing years. It is easy to picture!

My hope is that more people take time and write real life autobiographies like this one. It is a treasure!

Review by: Marie Carlson

HAPPENINGS

Årets Kvinna

Årets Svenska Kvinna 2007 och tre stipendiater har utnämnts av SWEA International vid Världsmötet i Amsterdam den 19-20 april.

Den världsspännande svenska kvinnoorganisationen SWEA har vid sitt Världsmöte i Amsterdam i dagarna delat ut tre stipendier på vardera 10.000 dollar samt utsett Årets Svenska Kvinna som i år blev skaparen av Nordic Heritage Museum i Seattle Marianne Forssblad, född i Göteborg.

Sigrid Paskells stipendium för Scenkonsterna gick i år till en musiker, nämligen klarinettisten Marcus Forss för närvarande på Australian National University School of Music, med ett fantastiskt CV trots sin unga ålder 24 år. Sedan 2005 har hans studier pågått utomlands med diverse meriterande priser och utmärkelser samt framträdanden i USA, Australien och på Confidencen i Stockholm.

Musiken är inte bara hans liv och arbete utan också ett samlarobjekt, Marcus Forss

har tills nu samlat ihop 1700 CD skivor med musik av totalt 800 olika kompositörer. På sportfronten hör ishockey och baseball till hans favoriter.

Årets Litteraturstipendiat heter Yuliana Grigoryeva och är ryska, men det är det svenska språket och dess utveckling som är föremål för hennes avhandling vid S:t Petersburgs Statliga Universitet vid Institutionen för nordiska språk. Avhandlingen handlar om svensk språkhistoria och syntax med bibelöversättningarna

Continued on page 23

Årets Kvinna

Continued from page 22

från år 1917 och 2000 som grund. Yuliana Grigoryeva har sökt stipendiet för att kunna fördjupa studierna vid Lunds universitet samt utnyttja flera svenska bibliotek.

Yulianas avhandling kräver god kännedom om svenskt språkbruk. Hennes redogörelse vittnar om en ingående förståelse av de teoretiska spörsmålen och en utmärkt språkbehandling både muntligt och skriftligt. Som tolk och lärare av svenskt språk och litteratur i S:t Petersburg är Yuliana Grigoryeva van att stå inför publik. Förutom ryska och svenska har hon lärt sig engelska och danska och är på gång med franska.

Agneta och Gunnar Nilssons stipendium för studier av Interkulturella relationer har i år tilldelats 26-åriga Kajsa Hallberg, född i Umeå och uppvuxen på Gotland. Hennes studier började med statskunskap och har nu kommit in på ett mycket speciellt område, nämligen Migration och vad den för med sig:

För att kulturer skall kunna mötas måste människor röra på sig och det har vi gjort i alla tider. Urmänniskan vandrade från Afrika ut till de andra kontinenterna, senare har människor flyttat dit där gräset är grönnare, livet friskare eller närmare marknaden eller staden, säger Kajsa Hallberg, som just startar en fem månaders studievisstelse i Ghana vid Institute of African Studies med sikte på en doktorsavhandling om hållbar migrationspolitik. Samtidigt har Kajsa Hallberg en praktikplats vid International Organisation for Migration i Ghana, där hon ingår i ett projekt med syfte att integrera migrationsfrågor med Ghanas strategi för fattigdomsbekämpning.

Till Årets Svenska Kvinna har SWEA utsett Marianne Forssblad, som under 27 år varit eldsjäl och ansvarig för Nordic Heritage Museum i Seattle, som arbetar med och för samtliga nordiska länder – det enda i sitt slag i USA - och med en otroligt varierad utställningsverksamhet utifrån nordisk mångfald. Samtidigt har Marianne även mycket aktivt bidragit till spridande av kännedom om Sverige och svenska förhållanden och till stärkandet av utbyte och samverkan mellan Sverige och USA.

Marianne Forssblad är född i Göteborg och tog studenten där. När hennes 27 år som museichef avslutas i höst lämnar hon Seattle för att flytta till Laholm.

De lovande vitsorden kommer från många håll och är överväldigande. Anna Hasselqvist, ordförande i den Svenska Skolföreningen i Seattle säger: -Jag beundrar Marianne som med sådan ambition och inspiration gjort allt för att sprida svensk kultur och historia här i Seattle. Hon har

gjort så att vi alla kunnat vårda traditioner och minnen från Sverige och gjort det möjligt för oss att föra dessa traditioner vidare till våra barn.

Detta sammanfattar väl vad SWEA är och vill vara för sina 8 000 medlemmar

spridda i ett 80-tal lokalavdelningar i 40 länder över 5 kontinenter. Den senast införlivade lokalavdelningen finns i Moskva. Utmärkelserna delas ut i augusti vid SWEAs sammankomster i Sverige i Båstad och på Confidencen i Stockholm.

District 4 New York Convention

District #4 New York will hold its convention this October 5-7 at the Holiday Inn in Suffern, New York. For further information contact Karen Snowberg at (914) 741-2129 or e-mail at karen@nelsonresearch.com. The banquet on Saturday will feature music by *Smorgasbandet* and dancing by the *Barnklubben Elsa Rix*. Cost per tickets will be \$75 per couple or \$40 for singles.

Vadstena



Mötet med TV profilen Ragnar Dahlberg den 2:a maj samlade en stor skara och som puffat på det hela. Så nu ser vi verkligen framåt med Vasa Orden av Amerika.



Mötet med Ragnar Dahlberg den 2 maj.

TIDBITS

Cloudberries

For the uninitiated, what are they?

The Cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*) is a slow-growing species of *Rubus*, producing tasty fruit. The botanical name derives from the Greek *chamai* ("dwarf") and *morus* ("mulberry").

The Cloudberry grows to 10-25 cm high. The white (sometimes reddish-tipped) flowers form raspberry-sized berries. Each fruit is initially pale red, ripening into an amber colour in early autumn.

Cloudberries occur naturally throughout the Northern Hemisphere from 78°N, south to about 55°N, and very scattered south to 44°N mainly in mountainous areas. In Europe and Asia, they grow in the Nordic countries, the moorlands of Britain and Ireland, the Baltic states, and across northern Russia east to the Pacific Ocean. Small populations are also found further south, as a botanical vestige of the Ice Ages; it is found in Germany's Weser and Elbe valleys, where it is under legal protection. In North America, cloudberries grow wild across most of Canada and Alaska, and in the lower 48 states of the United States in northern Minnesota, New Hampshire, Maine, and a small population on Long Island, New York.

Years with much cloudberries are called "cloudberry-years". In the "cloudberry-year" 1966, the total amount of berries picked in Sweden was estimated at 1,200 tons.

It grows in bogs, marshes and wet meadows and requires sunny exposures in acidic ground (between 3.5 and 5 pH). The cloudberry can withstand cold temperatures down to well below -40°C, but is sensitive to salt and to dry conditions.

The ripe fruits are golden-yellow, soft and juicy, and are rich in Vitamin C. When eaten fresh, cloudberries have a distinctive tart taste. They are often made into jams, juices, tarts or liqueurs. In Sweden, they are also used as an ice cream topping. In Canada, cloudberries are used to flavor a special beer. Canadians also use them for jam, but not on the same large scale as Scandinavians.

Due to its high Vitamin C content, the berry is valued both by Nordic seafarers and by American Inuit as protection against scurvy. Its high benzoic acid content acts as an inbuilt natural preservative.

In ancient Scandinavian herbal medicine, the leaves of cloudberry were used as tea to cure urinary tract infections.

Swedish Ambassador

Gunnar Lund is leaving Washington this fall and will be replaced by the present Swedish Ambassador in Bangkok, *Jonas Hafström*.

The Dala Horse

Dalahästen, World Celebrity

It was in 1939 at the world exhibition in New York that the Dala horse became a world celebrity. The Swedish exhibition architect had struck upon the brilliant idea of placing a very large Dala horse outside the Swedish pavilion. Over 7,000 Dala horses were shipped over the World Fair – USA. Success was a fact.

Today this red painted wooden horse represents the Dala horse. Nusnäs is where you find the authentic horse. Nusnäs has about 200,000 visitors each summer.

Submitted by: **Marie Carlson, Editor,**
The Vasa Star

Ingmar Bergman

Ingmar Bergman dog 89 år gammal i sitt hem på Fårö måndagen den 30:e juli. Han bröt igenom som regissör med filmen *Hets* år 1944. Han har genom åren erövrat fyra Oscars för bästa utländska film och är känd internationellt med filmen *Fanny och Alexander*.

Många filmer visar den dominante manliga gestalten och hans filmer speglar ofta Ingmars egen mycket olyckliga och strikta uppväxt. Pappan var präst och mamman kom från överklassen.

Ingmar Bergman var gift fem gånger och efterlämnade många barn.

By: **Marie Carlson, Editor,**
The Vasa Star

Ingmar Bergman

Ingmar Bergman died 89 years old on Monday, July 30, in his home at Fårö. He became famous as a director with his movie *Hets* in 1944. He has during his career received four Oscar's for best foreign movie and is internationally most known for *Fanny and Alexander*.

Many of his movies often portray a dominant male character and Ingmar's movies often reflect on his own very unhappy and strict upbringing. His father was a priest and his mother came from the upper class.

Ingmar Bergman was married five times and has many children surviving him.

By: **Marie Carlson, Editor,**
The Vasa Star

FAMILY

Evelyn Schurman 100 Years Old

Evelyn Schurman of Svea Lodge #362, Sarasota, FL, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 13, 2007. She was born in East Providence, RI, on June 13, 1907. Her first husband died at an early age and a while later she married her late husband, Charlie. They moved to Florida many years ago and she still resides in the Siesta Rigo area of Sarasota. They had no children but her husband's niece has been nearby to her. She always dressed very fashionably and we understand she still wears very high heels!

She joined Svea Lodge #362, Rhode Island District #3 on April 22, 1925. Her parents, twin sister, and brother and sister-in-law were all members of Svea Lodge #362. The members of the lodge wish her continued good health and happiness in the future.

Submitted by: **Blanche L. Richmond**

RECIPE

Kerstin's Stockholm Salad

1 Bunch of Broccoli
1 Pkg Cranraisin's Trail Mix
(cranberries, nuts, raisins)
1 cup cubed Swedish Cheese
(if not available use Swiss or Monterey Jack)
Croutons
Half cup of mushrooms (optional)
Half cup of cashews (optional)
Break broccoli into smaller pieces.
Mix in rest of ingredients.

Dressing

1-cup mayonnaise
4 tablespoons of balsamic vinegar
(use more or less to taste) or you can use Ken's Bottled Italian Dressing.

We had the salad served with toasted *limpa* bread and cheese.

Submitted by: **Paul and Barbara
Ljunggren DL CT #1**

THANK YOU

Thank You From Eric Rudberg

This letter comes to us from Eric Rudberg, Ted and Jenny Rudberg's son. He is currently serving in Iraq and the lodge has sent him care packages:

Dear Vasa,

On behalf of my fellow soldiers, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all of the support that we've been receiving from you while deployed over here in Iraq. As I'm sure my parents, Ted and Jenny Rudberg, have told you, we are currently operating in the southern part of Baghdad, near the Tigris River. It is a very disturbing area in terms of financial demographics. Along the river are beautiful deserted houses which were owned by members of Saddam Hussein's party that are filled with gold chandeliers and marble fixtures while no more than a few hundred meters away are the common mud huts with 20-25 people living in a tiny space. The locals are always grateful whenever we give them items that you have sent to us. It is a way for us to break the ice for a conversation and physically shows that we are here to help them. They are realizing we are helping to build up their society. We are out interacting with the local people everyday and the children love the toys and supplies you have sent for them. They are so poor that they get so excited to even get a single pencil or crayon. We usually walk about 10-12 miles each day and carry the items in our pockets along with our 85 pound of gear, so the smallest items are the best. The boys especially like the little tiny cars and the girls like little jewelry or hair barrettes. We also appreciate the snacks of trail mix, power bars, nuts, etc., that serve as our meal until we return to our patrol base. We use a humvee to drop off supplies to local schools and primitive medical clinics when we have items.

On a side note, I've talked to quit a few locals about Sweden since that seems to be the destination of choice in terms of emigrating from here. Most people know someone who has moved there recently.

I'm sending you a small token of our appreciation for all of your support—an American flag that was carried out on our combat patrol on 21 Feb. 07. I've included a picture of my platoon holding this flag.

Thank you very much for the support you are giving my soldiers and me and the items for the Iraqi people.

1st Lt. Eric Rudberg-Platoon Leader
C Troop 1-40th CAV (Airborne)
Unit #42510
APO AE 09361-2510
e-mail: eric.rudberg@us.army.mil

Submitted by: Stig Magnus
Membership Chair and
Jennifer Martinez, Editor,
Phoenix Lodge #677, Arizona



Tussilago

In your March-April issue of the Vasa Star, page 14, under *Tidbits*, Per-Hugo Kristensson asks if anyone has ever seen "Tussilago Farfara," or Coltsfoot, in America.

Yes it does grow here.

Seeds can be acquired through Salt Spring Seeds:

<http://www.saltspringseeds.com/catalog/index.cfm?categoryid=101> or as plants through:

<http://portableherbarium.com/catalog-b-c.alph.html>

I would use care in growing it as it could be invasive.

Also, I have written a song for my Scandinavian 4-H Club which I would like to share with you. The music has a beat of ten. Enjoy!

Submitted by: Barry Ostrom

Norden O Norden

From the song *Be Thou My Vision* - Scandinavian 4-H Club Theme Song, by Barry Ostrom, July 28, 2006

MUSIC BY
arr. by Dallas Ferguson; or. by Mary E. Byrne, pub 1902; or. by Eleanor H. Hall, 1912

LYRICS
Irish melody; Arr.

1. Norden O Norden I dream of you still - When Vikings roamed free and fought with great skill.
2. We pay homage to our father's nation - With food, song, and joy-far co-lo-ha-dan.
3. Denmark is lovely with its gentle hills, its spreading beehives and meadow-lands;
4. Finland thy far-trees be-tween East and West - I yield to your far-ests and lakes to rest;
5. Ice-land glis-tens in the hour frost of noon, Ere came a son to the land of free-born.

The ar-dent ones van-ished in-to the past, To pro-tect their hon-ors we stand stand-fast.
We ho-our each lands vic-to-ry o'er strife; You give us joy and pur-pose in our life.
To see your cas-tles by a sea-lit sea - Denmark is the place I would re-tire to.
You are known as peo-ple with much si-ma - I die-to one day to re-tire to you.
The waves of the sea roll in with-out cease, May we soon re-tire to this land of peace.

6. Thrust from the North Sea and pierced with deep fjords - Snow on the mou-tains brings win-ter's re-wards;
Save our-selves, rose-mal-ing, cast in al-lure - Nor-way O Nor-way the land of gran-deur.

7. Pot-atoes and pea soup, and long ski mac-es - Swe-den's the home of Di-lan-a ham-es;
Red berries and hie-thick - Try some car-stim-ning; Hence I go to the land of the lov-ing.

8. Crossing the At-lan-tic, on a New York tide - Our fa-thers came to this place to a-bide;
Now it is time for our hearts to re-are, Now O Nord-on we shall re-tire to you.

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

ARIZONA

RON GARDNER passed away on April 15, 2007. He was born November 26, 1934. He was active in the Vasa Order, a Past District Master of Illinois District #8. He joined Tucson Lodge in January 1999 and was a dual member of Brahe Lodge #245. He is survived by wife Ingrid, 2 stepchildren, 3 step-grandchildren and other family members.

CALIFORNIA

EVELYN H. ERICKSON, born November 27, 1907, in San Francisco, CA, died on November 4, 2006, at the age of 98. She was initiated into Mayflower Lodge #445, Inglewood, CA, on September 21, 1961. She received her life membership in 1982, and 25-year pin on May 1, 1987.

MYRTLE F. HAINES entered into rest December 22, 2006. She was 102 years. Myrtle was born on July 21, 1904, in Tacoma, WA. She lived in Rocklin, CA, for close to 40 years. A Charter Honorary Member of Sierra Kronan Lodge #737. She is survived by 4 nephews and a niece. Myrtle will be missed by family and her brothers and sisters of Sierra Kronan Lodge #737.

ELIZABETH (BETH) KNOWLTON, born December 27, 1914, in San Francisco, CA, died on February 20, 2007, at the age of 92. She was initiated into Mayflower Lodge #445, Inglewood, CA, on November 6, 1969. She received her life membership in 1990 and her 25-year pin on May 1, 1995. She also was our Financial Secretary for 3 years and received her Past Chairman-by-degree in 1978.

EARLE NELSON, born March 14, 1924 in Culver City, CA, passed away on April 16, 2007. Earle became a member of Oak Leaf Lodge #685 on May 5, 2000 and was active in the lodge. He is survived by his sister, Lorraine Parriott, who is a member of Oak Leaf Lodge #685, 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

ILLINOIS

RUTH A. JOHNSON, 93, born October 27, 1913, died on March 28, 2007, in Batavia, IL. She was a 17-year member of Viljan Lodge #349, having

joined March 22, 1990. She is survived by her daughter Barbara (Neil) Olson and 3 grandchildren. She often attended meetings with her daughter.

INDIANA

AGNES SWANSON died on April 18, 2007. She was a member of Linné Lodge #153, South Bend, IN. Agnes held various offices in the lodge and District #8. She is survived by husband Helge, 3 daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

NEW YORK

CARL WILLIAM (BILL) JOHNSON passed away on March 25, 2007, just a few weeks shy of his 80th birthday. Bill was a Past Chairman of Freja Lodge #100, having joined the lodge on June 26, 1962. He was also a former President of the Swedish Ski Club, and lifetime member of the Mannheim Club, where he was a Past Chairman, among other positions. Bill was a wonderful singer, and he will long be remembered as having sung "O Store Gud" at many Vasa Funeral Services.

MARTHA E. JOHNSON, 100, born December 21, 1906, in Skeinge, Osby, Sweden, died April 23, 2007, in Glens Falls, NY. Martha joined Charles Lindberg Lodge #520, Worcester, MA, on May 10, 1941. She was a lifetime member of District Lodge #2 for a total of 75 years. She is survived by a daughter, son, 3 grandsons and 1 great-granddaughter.

GEORGE SIMPSON passed away on May 2, 2007 in Mahopac, NY at the age of 81. George was well known in the Swedish-American community. He joined Göta Lejon Lodge #84 in 1978 and transferred his membership to Freja Lodge #100 in 1992. George served in various positions in both lodges, including chairman. He also served on the District Lodge #4 NY Executive Board. George was a strong supporter of Swedish culture and in 1991 he was chosen to be Man of Year at Sweden Day. The Swedish-American community and Lodge Freja will miss him tremendously. His energy and enthusiasm for all things Swedish served as an inspiration to us all.

OHIO

ROBERT B. ANSTROM passed away April 14, 2007, in Youngstown, OH. He was born February 6, 1924, in Youngstown, OH, and was initiated into Harmony Lodge #465 on February 11, 1971. His wife, the former June Zimmerman preceded him in death in 1993. He is survived by sons Gregory B. and Douglas F.

RUTH M. CARTER, 78, of Medina, OH, and a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130, Cleveland, OH, over 50 years, died March 13, 2007. She was

born March 22, 1928, in Chicago, IL. Ruth will be remembered by many as a woman of strength and grace, one who had strong opinions and genuine thoughtfulness as she traveled through life, serving as a role model facing multiple sclerosis without complaints. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Ralph, daughters Mary Anne (Michael) Kenerson and Karen E. (Michael) Hagans, grandmother of Erick, Brett, Tyler Kenerson, and Brandon Hagans.

WALKER P. GUNDERSON, 98, died March 1, 2007, at Salida Woods in Mentor, OH. He was born February 19, 1909, in Superior, WI, aboard the ship *Perry George Walker*. Walker loved dancing and enjoyed hiking, skiing and wood carving. Survivors are his children, Joan (Glenn) Hollis, Eric (Penny) Gunderson, and Laura Wall, grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Walker was preceded in death by his first wife of 43 years, Elizabeth (Lahnanen) Gunderson, and second wife of four years, Elna (Johnansson) Gunderson. Walker was a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 in Cleveland, OH, having joined the lodge on January 3, 1969.

TEXAS

PEGGY DICKSON, born January 24, 1919, was 88 years old. Beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. Her true love was Robert E. (Dick) Dickson who she married in 1943. Peggy enjoyed entertaining, cooking, sewing, fashion, and teaching children to read. Her many friends and family members will always cherish Peggy.

WASHINGTON

MARY GILPIN, 89, died March 19, 2007, in Longview, WA. She was born August 19, 1917, in Runeberg Township, MN. She joined Svea Lodge #469, Longview, on September 10, 1938. She is survived by daughter Elizabeth Davis, 2 grandchildren, a niece and 2 nephews.

CANADA

DOROTHEA ELIZABETH WICKS (nee Hansen), Kenora, Ontario, Canada, passed away on January 18, 2007 at the age of 85. Dorothy was a member of the Vasa Order of America, Lodge Engelbrekt #293 for over 50 years and a long time member of the Executive Board for District Lodge Central Canada #16. When Lodge Engelbrekt dissolved, she became a Honourary Life Member of the District Lodge and Lodge Strindberg #259.

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.



Jake Gruel, Jr.

MEB - Midwest Region

Reinhold "Jake" Gruel, Jr.

Jake was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, just after the Great Depression. His parents were both of German heritage. After attending a Lutheran grade school, he chose Boys Trade and Technical High School for his high school days. At graduation time one of the teachers at the high school asked to see him. He wanted to introduce Jake to a friend at Wisconsin Telephone Company. Jake went to see him and was hired immediately. Eight months later, Jake joined the United States Air Force for a four-year hitch.

He returned to Wisconsin Telephone where he spent the next 30 years and 8 months at various positions. In 1982, when he was 49 years old, Jake was offered a management incentive to retire. He met all the qualifications for retirement! With encouragement from Marge, he signed the papers to retire.

Jake and Marge had started a laminating business in 1981 and now he could work at it full time! He had the best of both worlds. The business grew and Marge joined him full time the next year. With the expansion more space was needed so a new home was found for the business. Now 25 years later, they are still in the same location. They have a full time staff of six people and others on call when they are needed.

Jake and Marge have hosted many foreign exchange students. They have visited many of them in Europe. They have also visited with Marge's cousins in Sweden. On one of the trips to Sweden they were introduced to the chorus at Ulricehamn. This group was looking for a way to present some concerts in America. Jake and Marge decided to see what they could arrange. When they returned home they knew they had to find the Swedes in the area! During the Holiday Fair they decided to see if there was a Swedish group there. Richard Horngren and Arne Moxness greeted them. They both invited the couple to visit a Vasa meeting the following week. Before they left the meeting they were both Vasa members! Jake has held many positions in the Order since that day. He became the Lodge Secretary, then Vice-Chairman, followed by Chairman for two years. He was a delegate to the District Convention where he served as Chaplain, Historian, and later on the Executive Board. He served on several committees while on the board. He was elected Vice District Master and held the District Master position for two years. At the 2006 Grand Lodge Convention he served as a delegate for Lake Michigan #8. He was nominated and elected to serve on the Grand Lodge Executive Board - Midwest Region. He also was appointed to the Vasa National Archives Board serving as the Financial Secretary.

Jake is a member of Christ the Victor Lutheran Church in New Berlin, WI, where he serves as a reader and deacon, and on the Worship Committee. He is a past member of the church council, served as Sunday School Superintendent, and sang in the choir. Jake also served on several synod boards. His hobbies are photography, amateur radio, bird watching and traveling.

Jake and Marge celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary in August, 2006. They have four daughters: Janice, Joan, Julie and Jennifer, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Jake hopes to see the Vasa Order grow in the years to come. He encourages everyone who joins to purchase their own "white book" so that they understand the three levels of Vasa and how they work together toward a common goal.



Nightly news

Our late evening flight Newark–Copenhagen is back, four days a week from May 21 through August 31. The convenient departure time means you can sleep all the way to Copenhagen. Choose from three comfort zones – Business, Economy Extra and Economy. And take advantage of our combinable one-way summer fares. Call 1-800-221-2350 or visit www.flysas.com/us



Scandinavian Airlines

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 