

# THE VASA STAR



## *Vasastjärnan*

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007



Official publication of  
THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA  
*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization*  
Organized September 18, 1896



# The Grand Master's Message



Rolf Bergman

## Vasa Brothers and Sisters!

Thank you to GLCD, USA & Canada, Inger Hanright, for her informative message written (in both English and Swedish) in place of my message in the Jul/Aug Vasa Star. I felt that you needed to hear from Sister Inger herself to see what was being planned in the area of culture. Thank you also to VGM William Lundquist who wrote the message in the May/Jun issue when the Scholarship awards were presented in the Vasa Star.

Since I have not had a chance to write since the Mar/Apr issue I have not publically thanked the various districts for their hospitality in hosting Marty and me this past spring. In a stretch of seven weeks from the last weekend in April to the second weekend in June, Marty and I participated in five district conventions; DL Golden Gate No. 12, DL New Jersey No. 6, DL Södra Sverige No. 20, DL Norra Sverige No. 19 and DL Alberta No. 18. We remember fondly the renewal of old friendships and new ones made. The constant travel can make you weary, and short on laundry, but the enjoyment of seeing other places, particularly Sweden, and meeting old friends makes it all worthwhile.

I write this message a couple of weeks before the first GL Executive Board meeting of this quadrennial. It will be held from 12-14 September in Marlborough, MA just prior to the DL Massachusetts No. 2 convention on Sept 15. The EB has a very full schedule to review agenda items left over from the Grand Lodge meeting in San Diego as well as reviewing our finances and programs. A major program focus of the EB meeting is to come together on plans for our Cultural and Youth programs and how to better use the internet to promote and schedule these programs. To do this effectively I have invite some of the appointed officers to meet with the GL Executive Board on Friday, September 14. You will hear more of the results from this meeting in future issues of the Vasa Star.

On August 10th Concordia Language Villages (CLV) dedicated the first two buildings, a weaving studio and a boathouse, to complete Phase I of their three-phase, roughly \$3 million, program to provide separate facilities for Sjölund, the Swedish Language Village. Unfortunately I could not attend the festivities. Through my initiation the GL Executive Board has agreed to participate in the Sjölund capital project by donating the proceeds of our annual Education Fund stamp drive to the project. Sometime in the beginning of October each Vasa member who gets the Vasa Star will receive an envelope with two sheets of stamps, an introductory letter from me and a financial commitment card

from CLV. The stamp shows an architect's rendering of the Sjölund village as currently envisioned. I encourage you to make a significant contribution to this project, which, I believe, will benefit the Vasa Order in many ways, particularly in instilling the Swedish language and culture in the children that attend. Partnering with Concordia Language Villages on building a new Sjölund is an exciting part of the vision I have to help further the Children's and Youth Clubs programs.

## Vasa Syskon!

Först vill jag rikta ett tack till Inger Hanright, Storlogens kulturdirektör för USA och Kanada, för hennes information-srika budskap (på både engelska och svenska) i stället för min artikel i juli/augustinumret av Vasastjärnan. Jag tyckte att ni borde få höra direkt från Syster Inger om vad som planeras inom kulturområdet. Tack också till vice stormästare William Lundquist som skrev i maj/juninumret när stipendierna presenterades i Vasastjärnan.

Eftersom jag inte haft tillfälle att skriva sen mars/april-numret har jag inte offentligt tackat de olika distrikten för deras gästfrihet gentemot Marty och mig i våras. Under loppet av sju veckor från sista veckoslutet i april till andra veckoslutet i juni deltog Marty och jag i fem distriktsmöten: distriktslogerna Golden Gate nr. 12, New Jersey nr. 6, Södra Sverige nr. 20, Norra Sverige nr. 19 och Alberta nr. 18. Vi minns med glädje förnyandet av gamla vänskaper och stiftandet av nya. Det ständiga resandet kan bli tröttsamt och de rena kläderna tar slut, men nöjet att besöka nya platser, särskilt i Sverige, och träffa gamla vänner gör det värt mödan.

Jag skriver detta ett par veckor innan det första mötet med storlogens verkställande råd under denna fyraårsperiod. Det kommer att hållas den 12-14 september i Marlborough, Massachusetts, alldeles innan mötet i distriktslogen Massachusetts nr. 2 den 15 september. Det verkställande rådet har en diger uppgift att behandla de agendapunkter som kvarstår efter Storlogemötet i San Diego samt gå igenom våra finanser och program. En viktig programpunkt är att enas om planer för kulturella och ungdomsprogram samt hur vi kan använda internet för att annonsera och planera dessa program. För att göra detta effektivt har jag inbjudit några utvalda befattningshavare att delta i mötet fredagen den 14 september. Ni kommer att få höra mer om resultaten av detta möte i kommande nummer av Vasastjärnan.

Översättning: Bo Carlsson

## Letter from the Editor

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Full Page Color	\$800.00

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10% discount for Vasa Lodges and Members

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Dear Readers, as always I am glad to hear from you, your willingness to share some of your memories that might surface after reading something in The Vasa Star, your kind comments and little reminders when something isn't quite right. This is wonderful! It simply means that you care and read our stories with interest. Thank You!

We have a "little" something for everyone in this issue, and many reminders of activities we participated in during the summer. Some of these activities might have taken place near our home, or they might have meant that we had to travel a bit in order to "go home." I think one time or another during our lives we have at some point felt "homesick" and not always been able to "cure" that feeling. Well, I think Branting Lodge #417 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, might just have come up with the right idea! Look in the *Lodge Section*.

Finally, our *Youth Section* will show that *The Vasa Order* has a much to be proud of!

Marie

PS. I know it seems early, but remember those CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!!!!!!

## Brev från Redaktören

Kära läsare, som vanligt är jag glad när ni hör av er, er vilja att dela med er av minnen som "flytit" fram efter att ni läst något i *The Vasa Star*, era vänliga ord och små påminnelser när något inte blir riktigt rätt. Det är underbart! Det betyder helt enkelt att ni bryr er och läser våra berättelser med intresse. Det tackar jag för!

Vi har litet av varje för alla läsare i denna upplaga, och många påminnelser om aktiviteter som vi har deltagit i under sommaren. En del av dessa aktiviteter har kanske utövats nära våra hem eller så har det inneburit att vi måste åka en bit för att "komma hem". Jag tror att någon gång under vårt liv, har vi vid något tillfälle känt hemlängtan men inte alltid kunnat "bota" den känslan. Men, jag tror Branting Lodge #417 i Calgary, Alberta, Canada, har löst det problemet! Titta under *Lodge News*!

Så till sist, vår *Youth Section* visar att *Vasa Orden* har mycket att vara stolt över!

Marie

PS. Jag vet att det verkar tidigt, men glöm inte JULHÄLSNINGARNA!!!!!!

### CORRECTION

In the Jul/Aug 2007 issue the cover picture text should say *Mariefred* and not *Mariestad*.

I Jul/Aug 2007 upplagan på omslagsbilden skulle det ha stått *Mariefred* och inte *Mariestad*.

In the Letter From The Editor: *Håvered* should be *Håverud*.

I Brev från Redaktören: *Håvered* should be *Håverud*.

### Deadlines for The Vasa Star:

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st

March/April is Feb. 1st

May/June is April 1st

July/Aug. is June 1st

Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st

Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

**Deadline for Christmas ads:  
October 15th Deadline for Lucia  
articles is Dec. 24 – picture and  
article, 200 words or less.**



### Cover:

The Vasa Archives after a "freak" snowstorm in Oct. 2006.

Vasa Arkivet efter en "underlig" snöstorm i okt 2006.

Photo by: Lillemor and Richard Horngren

# ARCHIVES NEWS



Einar Torson

As I write this installment of Archives News, we at the Archives are preparing for the Annual Meeting of its Board Members held at Bishop Hill, August 17-18. I very much look forward to the gathering of interested parties over the issues incumbent upon a national archive. An overarching question on everyone's mind is "Where do we go from here?" I think one of issues the Board and the Order at large should consider is the ongoing process of modernizing the Archive's access to researchers through computer digitization. As it is, we have large databases of membership and genealogical records available in digital format, and cd-roms of Swedish censuses and immigration records, but everything else is either on microfilm or in its original print form. Could we, starting now at least, try to collect things in digital format in addition to print format?

The Vasa Archives could, for example, broaden its access to the outside world through digitization of its photographs. Photographic collections are amazingly lively resources for researchers. This principle was elegantly illustrated by a genealogist who emailed me in April looking for information about one of his relatives. The researcher, Mark Torson of Dublin, Ohio, had one primary source – a photograph taken of his relative, Einar Thorson, likely in the early 1900s, in which the Vasa Order of America membership pin is visible on his lapel. As Mark Torson wrote in his email, "once [Einar] moved away from the East Coast, he was never heard from again."

Well, the Archives did in fact have records of his membership in Klippan Lodge #16 in Torrington, Connecticut, membership year 1909. The records also revealed birth date, emigration port, and the fact that many alternative spellings of *Einar* were used, including *Ejnar*. Further research showed that he was recorded toward the end of his life by the name

*Inar*, which at various points had even been misspelled *Ivar*. A lack of standardization in the spelling of names is one of the first obstacles genealogists run into when looking at older records. There were variations of names used in Sweden and, especially, in America where those keeping records were not always very careful about getting the names right when filling out paperwork for immigrants. Today we would consider a misspelling of our name completely unacceptable, inviting chaos in all the various databases that hold our information, but round the turn-of-the-century misspellings and free use of variations were commonplace.

I looked at the meeting minutes of Klippan in Torrington and saw clearly that the relative went by Ejnar Thorson in 1909. Looking further into the minutes on microfilm, I tried to see whether there was any mention of Ejnar, but unfortunately the search came up empty. I did find, however, an interesting glimpse into the past of another relative, Edward Thorson, also a member of Lodge 16, who was "home January 11, 1957 with severe cold, taken to hospital January 15, 1957 for x-rays and to break up his fever."

"Regarding Edward Torson," writes Mr. Torson, "well this was really interesting! I can tell you for certain that he recovered nicely from his bout in 1957 with a severe cold, because he just passed away last month at age 87! He was also very active," Mr. Torson continues, "in getting me started in our family genealogy, because he worked for years gathering this information and traveling to Sweden. Ejnar was the one relative he could not locate, so he was presumed deceased."

Mr. Torson promised to send me a brief of all the steps that led to his finding out in the end that Inar Torson "passed away far too young, at age 32 on April 16, 1921 of tuberculosis." He indeed was able to trace the movements of Inar in America quite well, beginning with a single photograph. I found all of this very inspiring, which led me to think more extensively about the possibilities of digitization. If we had all of the photographs the Archives currently holds and all of the pictures we collect in the future in digital format on, say, a searchable website, think of all the connections genealogists might make by visiting the Vasa Archives in person or in cyberspace.

Lars Jenner,  
VOA National Archives, Bishop Hill

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# Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

## LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 8

Hejsan – Hi there!!!

We really appreciate hearing from many of you how pleased you are that the lessons have returned. We know there are many avenues available for anybody wanting to learn a foreign language, such as bookstores, libraries, Internet etc etc. Having the lessons available in the Vasa Star, we are hoping that it will encourage you to continue looking for more material to use in your study of the Swedish language.

### NYA ORD

Inte	not
Stor, stort, stora	large
Vardagsrum, -rummet, ---	living room
Sovrum, -rummet, ---	bedroom
Badrum, -rummet, ---	bathroom
Kök, köket, ---	kitchen
Plats för	room for
Matsalsbord, -bordet, ---	dining room table
Stol, stolen, stolar	chair
Gästrum, -rummet, ---	guest room
Att bli, blir, blivit, blir	will be, become
Kontor, kontoret, ---	office
De båda	both of them
Att använda, använder, använde, använt	to use
Måla om	re-paint
Att tycka om, tycker om, tyckte om, tyckt om	to like
Färg, färgen, färger	color
Nya	new
Matta, mattan, mattor	rug
Också	too, also
Rensa ogräs	weed
Trädgården	garden
Eftersom	since
Ganska länge	quite a long time
Mycket att göra	much to do
Inomhus	indoors
Utomhus	outdoors
Att bo, bor, bodde, bott	to reside in
Ingen användning	no use for
Trädgårdsredskap	garden tools
Att behöva, behöver, behövde, behövt	need
Skaffa	get, acquire
Att börja, börjar, började, börjat	to begin
Arbete	work

The nouns are listed as follows: The first is the singular form. The second tells you if it is a neuter or common noun. The last entry is the plural form. If there are lines it means that the plural form is the same as the singular form.

### SWEDISH

Sven och Sveas hus är inte stort. Det har ett vardagsrum, tre sovrum, två badrum och ett stort kök med plats för ett matsalsbord med sex stolar. Ett sovrum ska bli ett gästrum och ett blir kontor som de båda kan använda. Svea vill att Sven ska måla om de två rummen. Hon tycker inte om färgerna. Hon vill ha nya mattor där också.

När Sven målar ska Svea rensa ogräs i trädgården. Eftersom huset stått tomt ganska länge finns det mycket att göra både inomhus och utomhus. När de bodde i Stockholm hade ingen användning för trädgårdsredskap. Det är mycket de behöver skaffa innan de kan börja med arbetet.

### ENGLISH

Sven and Svea's house is not large. It has one living room, three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a large kitchen with room for a dining room table with six chairs. One bedroom will become a guestroom and one will be an office they both can use. Svea wants Sven to re-paint those two rooms. She does not like the colors. She wants new rugs there too.

When Sven is painting Svea will weed the garden. Since the house has stood empty quite a long time there is much to do both inside and outside. When they resided in Stockholm they had no use for garden tools. There is much they need to get before they can start with the work.

Lycka Till!  
Good Luck!

Lillemor and Richard

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The Vasa website at [www.vasaorder.com](http://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.

# GRAND LODGE NEWS

## GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT MAY 1, 2006 thru APRIL 30, 2007

	Assessment Per Capita	OA & B	Education Fund	Archives	
DL Connecticut #1	\$3,272.50	\$96.25	\$57.75	\$577.50	(2006)
DL Connecticut #1	\$4,680.00	\$90.00	\$360.00	\$540.00	(2007)
DL Massachusetts #2	\$10,699.00	\$205.75	\$823.00	\$1,234.50	(2007)
DL Rhode Island #3					
DL New York #4	\$6,757.50	\$198.75	\$119.25	\$1,192.50	(2006)
DL New Jersey #6	\$14,703.00	\$282.75	\$1,131.00	\$1,696.50	(2007)
DL Minnesota #7	\$3,328.00	\$64.00	\$256.00	\$384.00	(2007)
DL Lake Michigan #8	\$17,251.00	\$331.75	\$1,327.00	\$1,990.50	(2007)
DL Pennsylvania #9	\$8,515.00	\$163.75	\$655.00	\$982.50	(2007)
DL Superior #10	\$2,327.00	\$44.75	\$179.00	\$268.50	(2007)
DL Rocky Mountain #11	\$1,755.00	\$33.75	\$135.00	\$202.50	(2007)
DL Golden Gate #12					
DL Pacific Northwest #13 (check short \$0.50)	\$16,705.00	\$321.25	\$1,285.00	\$1,927.50	(2007)
DL Pacific Southwest #15	\$12,758.50	\$375.25	\$225.15	\$2,251.50	(2006)
DL Pacific Southwest #15	\$18,265.00	\$351.25	\$1,405.00	\$2,107.50	(2007)
DL Central Canada #16	\$728.00	\$14.00	\$56.00	\$84.00	(2007)
DL Iowa-Nebraska #17	\$2,197.00	\$42.25	\$169.00	\$253.50	(2007)
DL Alberta #18	\$8,281.00	\$159.25	\$637.00	\$955.50	(2007)
DL Norra Sverige #19	\$15,386.25				(2007)
DL Sodra Sverige #20 (overpayment \$660.10)	\$13,266.00				(2006)
DL Arizona #21	\$5,070.00	\$97.50	\$390.00	\$585.00	(2007)
LL Facklan #248	\$408.00	\$12.00	\$7.20	\$72.00	(2006)
LL Miami #554					
LL Jubilee #692	\$598.00	\$11.50	\$46.00	\$69.00	(2007)
LL Holiday #699	\$663.00	\$12.75	\$51.00	\$76.50	(2007)
LL Nordic #708	\$1,638.00	\$31.50	\$126.00	\$189.00	(2007)
LL Carl XVI Gustav #716	\$949.00	\$18.25	\$73.00	\$109.50	(2007)
LL Carl Larsson #739 (overpayment \$20.80)	\$943.50	\$27.75	\$16.65	\$166.50	(2006)
LL Carl Widen #743	\$923.00	\$17.75	\$71.00	\$106.50	(2007)
LL Williamson County #753 (Disbanded 2006)	\$85.00	\$2.50	\$1.50	\$15.00	(2006)
LL Forsgard-Olson #757					
LL Travelers #758					

\* Adjustment has been made to reflect the year for which assessments are paid.

No 2007 assessments received/deposited before April 30th from DL Rhode Island #3, DL New York #4, DL Golden Gate #12, DL Sodra Sverige #20, LL Facklan #248, LL Miami #554, LL Carl Larsson #739, LL Forsgard-Olson #757, or LL Travelers #758

Student Loans: Brian Sten \$ 1,400.00 Paid in Full

### GENERAL FUND

Sale of: Printed Material and Cuts	\$ 1,923.50	
Jewelry & Emblems	5,075.08	
Flags & Regalia		
Rituals/Constitution, Etc.	156.20	
History Books		
Postage	217.39	
Miscellaneous	1,909.40	
Per Capita Assessments	172,151.75	
Total General Fund		\$181,433.32
Transfers - OA & B	96,520.00	96,520.00

### REIMBURSEMENT FUND

INSURANCE 1,239.00 1,239.00

### EDUCATION FUND

Assessments	\$ 9,602.50	
Stamp Donations	4,813.16	
Loan Repayments	200.00	
Memorials - Irma and Knute Carlson	100.00	
Miscellaneous - Scholarship Fund - Schwab	2,250.00	
Total Education Fund		\$ 16,965.66

OLD AGE AND BENEFIT FUND \$ 3,006.26 \$ 3,006.25

### ARCHIVES FUND

Assessments	\$18,037.50
Membership	1,435.00
Donations: Memorials	300.00
Endowment	10,000.00
Interest	9.82
Miscellaneous	
Total Archives Fund	29,782.32

### VASA STAR FUND

Advertisements	\$4,825.80
Obituaries	793.24
Sales/Subscriptions	160.00
Foreign Mail Fund	36.00
Miscellaneous	281.60
Labels	61.35
Total Vasa Star Fund	\$ 6,157.99

GRAND TOTAL RECEIPTS \$335,104.54

Deposited - Wells Fargo Bank, Minneapolis, MN  
deposit numbers #1 through #22

Joan L. Graham  
Grand Secretary

# GRAND TREASURER'S REPORT

## For the Fiscal Year ended April 30, 2007

### EDUCATIONAL FUNDS

	General Fund	National Archives Fund	Reimbursement Fund	"Vasa Star" Fund	Regular Fund	Larson Scholarship Fund	Nilsson Scholarship Fund	Birtwistle Scholarship Fund	Old Age Trust Fund	Old Age Allocations Fund	Total
Fund balances May 1, 2005	\$6,266.70	1,052,229.88	120,390.93	21,651.58	374,786.62	166,421.60	29,507.91	31,846.43	3,936,576.77	223,669.86	5,983,348.28
Receipts:											
Dues & assessments	\$172,151.75	26,717.50	1,239.00	---	9,602.50	---	---	---	3,006.25	---	212,717.00
Sales of merchandise	7,154.78	---	---	160.00	4,813.16	---	---	---	---	---	12,127.94
Investment income	2,300.38	35,985.97	5,304.89	1,962.87	16,514.56	8,214.46	1,300.23	1,394.47	146,604.12	---	219,581.95
Net gain on sales of securities	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	125,375.34	---	125,375.34
Advertising & resolutions	---	---	---	5,619.04	---	---	---	---	---	---	5,619.04
Student loan repayments	---	---	---	---	200.00	---	---	---	---	---	200.00
Donations received	---	15,628.91	---	---	2,350.00	---	---	---	---	---	17,978.91
Inter-fund transfers	-59,800.00	39,000.00	300.00	770,500.00	-50,000.00	---	---	---	-35,000.00	35,000.00	---
Other receipts	2,001.87	---	---	376.95	---	---	---	---	---	---	2,380.82
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$123,608.78</b>	<b>117,332.38</b>	<b>6,843.38</b>	<b>76,620.66</b>	<b>-18,519.66</b>	<b>8,214.46</b>	<b>1,300.23</b>	<b>1,394.47</b>	<b>239,985.71</b>	<b>35,000.00</b>	<b>595,961.40</b>
<b>Total assets available</b>	<b>\$130,075.48</b>	<b>1,167,562.26</b>	<b>127,234.82</b>	<b>100,472.44</b>	<b>358,266.84</b>	<b>194,638.06</b>	<b>30,808.14</b>	<b>33,040.90</b>	<b>4,176,562.48</b>	<b>258,669.86</b>	<b>6,579,329.26</b>
Disbursements:											
Grand Lodge Convention	76,066.37	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	76,066.37
Merchandise purchases	2,390.85	161.50	---	---	3,716.14	---	---	---	---	---	6,266.49
Services:											
Grand Secretary	5,400.00	---	---	---	720.00	---	---	---	---	1,080.00	7,200.00
Grand Treasurer	1,740.00	---	---	---	660.00	---	---	---	---	1,200.00	3,600.00
Editor	---	---	---	4,749.17	---	---	---	---	---	---	4,749.17
Circulation Manager	---	---	---	2,400.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	2,400.00
Archivist/Bldg. Manager	---	20,250.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	20,250.00
Archives Financial Secretary	---	1,200.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,200.00
Archives Consultant	---	1,627.50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,627.50
Vice Grand Secretary	1,800.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,800.00
Expenses for:											
Grand Master	1,372.04	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,372.04
Grand Secretary's Office	3,339.77	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3,339.77
Grand Treasurer's Office	1,260.09	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,260.09
Grand Treasurer	1,152.73	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,152.73
Archives President	---	6,373.41	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6,373.41
Archives Financial Secretary	---	1,650.23	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,650.23
Other Exec. Board Members	4,500.00	---	---	346.24	278.43	---	---	---	---	---	5,124.67
Circulation Manager	---	---	---	1,387.47	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,387.47
Editor	---	---	---	516.63	---	---	---	---	---	---	516.63
Vice Grand Master	1,267.24	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,267.24
Grand Lodge Audio-Visual Dir.	367.98	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	367.98
Grand Lodge Youth Dir.	---	---	---	---	45.64	---	---	---	---	---	45.64
Grants to Youth Club Leaders	---	---	---	---	5,600.00	---	---	---	---	---	5,600.00
Webmaster	1,083.50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,083.50
Grand Lodge Activities Dir.	120.85	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	120.85
Accounting & tax preparation	2,375.00	1,490.00	185.00	720.00	1,125.00	240.00	120.00	120.00	---	1,340.00	7,716.00
Costs-Bishop Hill properties	---	24,997.47	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	24,997.47
Trustee's fees	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	14,020.62	---	14,020.62
Old Age Benefit Payments	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	96,400.00	96,400.00
Scholarships Awarded	---	---	---	---	11,800.00	17,000.00	---	1,500.00	---	---	30,300.00
Memberships promotion	5,393.26	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	5,393.26
Printing, mailing, office supplies	5,805.22	489.16	---	88,522.69	709.60	---	---	---	---	---	96,526.87
Bank charges	880.22	90.88	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	971.08
Donations, dues, subscriptions	2,967.00	256.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3,223.00
Student loan granted	---	---	---	---	9,000.00	---	---	---	---	---	9,000.00
Binding of "Vasa Star" Magazines	---	---	---	560.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	560.00
Grand Lodge Deputies	476.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	476.00
Computer related expenses	459.95	8,745.67	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	9,205.82
Advertising	300.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	300.00
Time share assessments	459.04	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	459.04
Refunds	346.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	346.00
Recording	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
"The Vasa Star March"	300.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	300.00
Legal Fee	---	300.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	300.00
Other expenses	1,500.00	317.47	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,817.47
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>\$121,623.11</b>	<b>67,631.80</b>	<b>185.00</b>	<b>99,202.20</b>	<b>33,654.71</b>	<b>17,240.00</b>	<b>120.00</b>	<b>1,620.00</b>	<b>14,020.62</b>	<b>100,020.00</b>	<b>455,317.44</b>
Fund Balances, April 30, 2007	\$ 8,452.37	101,930.48	127,049.82	1,270.24	324,612.13	177,396.06	30,688.14	31,420.90	4,162,541.86	158,649.88	6,124,011.84

C. Richard Overberg  
Grand Treasurer

# Summary of Notes, Bonds and Certificates of Deposit as of April 30, 2007

Due Date	Description	Purchase Date	Yield %	Maturity Value	National Archives	Reimbursement Fund	EDUCATIONAL FUNDS			Total Cost	Market Value	
							Regular	Larson Scholarship Fund	Nilsson Scholarship Fund			Birtwistle Scholarship Fund
<b>2008</b>												
8/15	Ford Motor Credit Corp.	11/01	6.75	30,000.00	30,770.70	---	---	---	---	30,770.70	29,722.80	
<b>2015</b>												
7/15	Federal National Mortgage Assn.	9/06	5.30	30,000.00	27,755.00	---	---	---	---	27,755.00	28,488.00	
<b>2015</b>												
12/3	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	11/02	5	50,000.00	---	50,005.00	---	---	---	50,005.00	48,705.00	
<b>2017</b>												
5/26	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	1/04	5.14	60,000.00	---	---	59,216.00	---	---	59,216.00	58,063.60	
<b>2018</b>												
7/23	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	7/03	5	77,000.00	---	---	77,000.00	---	---	77,000.00	73,777.55	
<b>2019</b>												
5/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	3/05	5.6	1,500.00	---	---	---	15,228.50	---	15,228.50	14,802.80	
<b>2020</b>												
2/12	Federal National Mortgage Assn.	7/-6	6	20,000.00	19,920.12	---	---	---	---	19,920.12	19,878.00	
10/19	Federal Home Loan Bank	10/05	4.8	25,000.00	---	---	---	26,627.50	---	25,627.50	24,695.00	
11/16	Fed.l Home Loan Mortgage Assn.	11/05	5.80	55,000.00	---	55,905.82	---	---	---	55,905.82	54,388.85	
<b>2021</b>												
7/22	Toyota Motor Credit Corp.	7/05	4.5	30,000.00	---	---	30,000.00	---	---	30,000.00	28,642.50	
12/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	7/04	5.4	5,000.00	---	---	5,181.25	---	---	5,181.25	4,978.65	
<b>2022</b>												
1/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	10/4	5.65	65,000.00	---	---	68,212.34	---	---	65,212.34	64,471.55	
2/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	9/04	5.62	10,000.00	---	---	10,427.97	---	---	10,427.97	9,588.10	
3/7	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	3/03	5.74	50,000.00	---	---	54,500.00	---	---	54,500.00	49,776.00	
<b>2023</b>												
4/7	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	6/04	6	53,000.00	---	---	---	52,981.88	---	52,981.88	51,542.50	
5/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	6/03	4.85	60,000.00	---	---	---	---	29,739.88	31,420.90	58,002.40	
8/15	Household Fin. Corp.	9/04	6.0	10,000.00	---	---	---	10,522.70	---	10,522.70	9,814.70	
<b>2024</b>												
1/30	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	9/05	5.12	40,000.00	19,089.28	---	20,000.00	---	---	39,089.28	38,450.00	
<b>2025</b>												
4/4	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	3/05	5.87	10,000.00	---	---	---	10,229.38	---	10,229.38	9,858.00	
7/11	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	8/05	5.8	71,000.00	72,728.08	---	---	---	---	72,728.08	70,048.60	
<b>2029</b>												
1/30	Fed. National Mortgage Assn.	9/05	4.5	10,000.00	---	9,776.07	---	---	---	9,776.07	9,635.00	
11/15	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.	3/05	4.88	50,000.00	---	---	---	51,262.91	---	51,252.91	48,883.50	
<b>Units Unit Investment Trusts:</b>												
2603	Claymore Sec. Defined #364	---	---	---	25,014.10	---	---	---	---	25,014.10	26,269.73	
3203	Claymore Sec. Defined #383	---	---	---	30,011.98	---	---	---	---	30,011.98	32,964.94	
3327	Claymore Sec. Defined #367	---	---	---	33,007.83	---	---	---	---	33,007.83	33,044.42	
3059	Claymore Sec. Defined #371	---	---	---	30,021.74	---	---	---	---	30,021.74	33,315.87	
1245	Claymore Sec. Defined #347	---	---	---	13,302.10	---	---	---	---	13,302.10	13,123.04	
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>\$301,620.83</b>	<b>115,686.89</b>	<b>324,537.58</b>	<b>165,742.87</b>	<b>29,739.88</b>	<b>31,420.90</b>	<b>968,749.03</b>	<b>943,228.20</b>

## Grand Summary of Assets as of April 30, 2007

Assets	General Fund	National Archives	Reimbursement Fund	"Vasa Star" Fund	Regular	EDUCATIONAL FUNDS			Old Age Trust Fund	Old Age Allocation Fund	Totals
						Larson Scholarship Fund	Nilsson Scholarship Fund	Birtwistle Scholarship Fund			
Wells Fargo Bank, Minneapolis: NOW checking account	\$7,152.37	110,419.28	11,362.93	770.24	74.57	---	---	---	---	---	129,779.39
Cash and Investments, Money Market Fund	---	2,071.75	---	---	---	11,653.19	948.26	---	---	---	14,673.20
State Bank of Toulon, Illinois Checking Account	---	68,211.88	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	68,211.88
State Bank of Toulon, Illinois Savings Account	---	2,000.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2,000.00
Waukesha State Bank, Wis. - Checking Account	---	10,389.36	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	10,389.36
Citizens National Bank, Galva, IL NOW Account	---	1,642.71	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,642.71
Bank of America, Tampa, FL Checking Account	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	158,849.68	158,849.68
Petty Cash Funds:											
Grand Secretary	1,000.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,000.00
Vice Grand Secretary	300.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	300.00
Circulation Manager	---	---	---	500.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	500.00
Due Date Notes and Bonds and Unitrusts, at cost, per schedule											
A attached (market value \$943,228)	---	301,620.93	115,688.89	---	324,537.68	185,742.87	29,739.88	31,420.90	---	---	968,749.03
Stocks at cost, per Schedule B attached (market value \$410,462)	---	353,611.61	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	353,611.61
Archives Plant Fund Assets, at cost:											
Land	---	4,160.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4,160.00
Buildings (2)	---	207,607.44	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	207,607.44
Furniture and Equipment	---	39,620.50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	39,620.50
Monument	---	175.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	175.00
Order of Vasa Trust Fund cash and investments, at book value (Market value, \$5,182,346)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3,936,576.77	---	3,936,576.77
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$8,452.37</b>	<b>1,101,930.46</b>	<b>127,049.82</b>	<b>1,270.24</b>	<b>324,612.13</b>	<b>177,396.06</b>	<b>30,688.14</b>	<b>31,420.90</b>	<b>4,162,541.86</b>	<b>158,649.86</b>	<b>6,124,011.84</b>

C. Richard Overberg  
Grand Treasurer

# The Grand Lodge 2008 Scholarship and Essay Contest

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

**ONE \$3,000 GRAND SCHOLARSHIP:** for full-time graduate study in the United States, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, or Norway. *Applicant must have become a Vasa member prior to February 15, 2006 to qualify.*

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

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

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

*Applicant for the above scholarships must have become a Vasa member prior to February 15, 2007.*

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

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

*To qualify for the Nilsson and Birtwistle awards applicant must have been a Vasa member prior to January 1, 2007 in DL Connecticut #1, DL Massachusetts #2 or DL Rhode Island #3.*

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

*Applications are available at the Vasa website until January 15, 2008.*

*To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 11, 2008 to be considered.*

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

### Suggested Essay Subjects

1. The role youth can and should play in Vasa.
2. Your vision of the future of Vasa.
3. My local lodge and the community.
4. What Vasa means to me.
5. My Swedish Heritage (for non-Vasa members applying for Larson Award)

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

**William L Lundquist  
Vice Grand Master**

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

# Vasa Scholarships to Swedish Language Camp

The Grand Lodge Executive Board will award up to **ten** Sjölundens Scholarships to qualified applicants from the U.S. and Canada.

**Eligibility:** Applicant must be between 12 and 18 years of age as of April 1, 2008.  
Applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent must be member of the Vasa Order of America for at least two years prior to April 2008.

**Requirements:** Award winner is expected to provide:  
A. evidence of health and accident insurance absolving the Vasa Order of America of any liability,  
B. a letter of recommendation from a current teacher and the latest records of grades,  
C. a brief essay on "WHY I SHOULD BE CHOSEN TO GO TO THE SJÖLUNDEN SWEDISH CAMP,"  
D. a letter, bearing the Local Lodge Seal, verifying that applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent will be a member for at least two years prior to April 1, 2008,  
E. other comments that will assist in selecting the winners.

**Awards:** The Vasa Order of America will pay the basic tuition (around \$1,400) for the two-week 2008 Summer Program and will reimburse travel expenses up to \$300 against submitted receipts. All other costs will be born by the recipient.

**Date of Camp:** *August 4-16, 2008*

Winners will be notified and names submitted to the Language Village. – Tuition will be paid to the Village. – Winners will then receive application forms from the Language Village that must be completed and returned to them together with the evidence of insurance as requested above. – The program is a unique opportunity for young students interested in learning the Swedish Language and Culture. – Exciting language, cultural and recreational programs are offered by well-trained and highly qualified staff members. – Participants live in cabins with their own counselors who organize all activities and teach the language. – Tuition includes food, lodging, instruction and instructional material. – Villagers may bring spending money that will be converted to Swedish currency for purchases at the Village Store. – Sjölundens is located at the Finnish Language Village site by the Turtle River near Bemidji, Minnesota. – The village is surrounded by beautiful Scandinavian looking woods and is accessible by commercial air travel.

Mail the application below, together with all information requested above, to:

**William Lundquist, Vice Grand Master**  
**1456 Kennebec Rd.**  
**Grand Blanc, MI 48439**

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number with Area Code \_\_\_\_\_

Address/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Vasa Member's name: Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge \_\_\_\_\_

Name of LL Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** You are still eligible even if you have registered to attend Sjölundens this summer but please check here \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid double billing.

**POSTMARK DATE IS FEBRUARY 11, 2008. LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

**Good Luck!**

# DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

## DL Rhode Island #3



*Princess Megan Anderson and Queen Bernice Pearson.*

DL Rhode Island #3, "Midsommar," sponsored jointly by Pioneer Lodge #506 and Quahog Lodge #725 was very successful. The event was held at Little Rhody Vasa Park in Foster, RI, under beautiful sunny skies. The afternoon got underway with the flag raising ceremony by Kristina Club #161 - they also led in the singing of the anthems of the United States, Sweden, and Canada. The children grabbed parents and friends and formed a circle around the Maypole to dance.

The guest for the day was introduced from Connecticut and special guests from Longview, WA, Don and Bernice Pearson. Bernice is Grand Lodge Deputy of DL Pacific Northwest #13. They were visiting relatives in New Haven, CT. Connie and Ray Johnson met them at the Grand Lodge Convention last year and gave them directions to our park.

Ken Johnson Jr. of the District Scholarship Committee awarded scholarship to Tory-Lee Renaud of Quahog Lodge #725 and Nathasha Zawislak of Svea Lodge #362.

Mid-afternoon the Queen and Princess were chosen and crowned, Queen Bernice Pearson and Princess Megan Anderson. They were presented with a bouquet of flowers and a gift. In the late afternoon the children were gathered to play games. There was basketball toss, fish dam, scavenger hunt, leapfrog, sack races and the treasure hunt in the sawdust pile. A perfect end to a perfect day with a ham dinner and all the fixings.

**Submitted by: Ray Johnson, PDM**  
**Photo by: Ray Johnson, PDM**

## DL Alberta #18



*From left to right, Ken Banks, Lennart Petersson, Eric Johnson, Joan Petersson, Gerald Sjöberg (hidden), Ray Nyroos, Lloyd Eriksson, Arnold Wylie, and Bert Johnson.*

The 67th Street Holiday Inn at Red Deer, AB, was the destination for those who attended the 38th Biennial District Lodge Convention, June 8-10. Hosting Local Lodge was Red Deer Lodge #733.

The Opening Ceremonies commenced Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. with Chairman of Red Deer Lodge #733, Linda Nielson, welcoming those present. The newly chartered Past District Masters Club presented the flags during the flag ceremony. Joan Petersson read the descriptions of the eight flags that were presented, while the National Anthem was played for each country represented.

Red Deer #733 member Lennart Petersson introduced the District Officers present.

Introduction of visitors to the convention was made. These people included: Grand Master Rolf Bergman and wife Marty, from Cleveland, OH; Eric Johnson, PGM and wife Phyllis, both of whom are Honorary Life Members of District Alberta #18; Baxter and Marlene Swafer from Reno, NV; and Ted Simonson, District Master of District Lodge Central Canada #16.

District Master Doreen Nyroos gave a short welcome to those attending the convention.

A wine, cheese and fellowship evening followed the opening ceremonies giving everyone a chance to make new and renew old friendships.

Saturday, June 9, commenced at 9:00 a.m. with DM Doreen Nyroos opening the session with a welcome to all and introducing past and present GL Officers.

Six new members were initiated into District Lodge Alberta #18 giving a credential report of 36 Voice and Vote, 13 officers, 7 honorary members, 16 delegates and 8 visitors.

Officers Reports, committee assignments and committee reports were presented for action.

Following a lunch of soup and sandwiches, the afternoon session commenced with a genealogy information/history interview by District Cultural Leader Deanna Summy. She explained the importance of keeping up with one's history, both orally and written, especially for the younger members of ones family. Information was presented on how to do this by Deanna interviewing Lennart Petersson and was assisted by Gertrude Dickau, who interviewed Ray Nyroos.

Nomination and Election of 2007-2009 Officers took place with the following filling the positions:

District Master - Donna Englund, Vice District Master - Fae Doty, District Secretary - Thelma Spielman, Assistant District Secretary - Celia Long, District Treasurer - Don Melin, Members of Executive Board - Carol Banks, Karin Ziegler, Sandra Petersson, District Trustee - Darl Brown, District Auditor - Lloyd Eriksson, District Cultural Leader - Deanna Summy, District Historian - Lois Brown, District Rep. to Vasa Archives - Ray Nyroos, Children's Club Supervisor and Membership Chairman will be appointed.

After a group photograph, a beautifully served banquet was held at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment was by a Unity Group consisting of 16 folk dancers from Red Deer, Calgary and Edmonton, under the leadership of Carol Borg. Also stories and a musical act were presented by Gilbert Nielson, a.k.a. Ollie from Innisfail.

Sunday, June 10, commenced at 9:00 a.m. with greetings from Red Deer

*Continued on page 12*

## DL Alberta #18

Continued from page 11

Mayor Morris Flewelling, who made a donation to the District of a game about Red Deer and a book. The Memorial Service was conducted by Linda Nielson, Chairman of Red Deer Lodge #733 as M.C. while Minister Lavina West officiated. Following the service, coffee and anniversary cake was enjoyed, in honor

of the following Local Lodge Anniversaries: Lodge Branting #417 for 85 years; Lodge Nordstjarnan #575 for 75 years, and Lodge Lethbridge #579 for 75 years.

The meeting commenced with installation of new members followed by presentations to retiring District Master

Doreen Nyroos. District Master Donna Englund concluded the convention by thanking all who participated in the convention and wishing all a safe journey home.

The 39th Biennial Convention in 2009 will be hosted by Lodge Skandia #549.

Submitted by: L. Brown

# LODGE NEWS

## North Star Lodge #106

Los Angeles, CA



Left to right, Great-grandmother Evelyn Earls, grandmother Kathleen Corrigan, mother of Midsummer Queen Patti Succa, Queen Alexandria Succa (in costume), celebrate Midsummer at Vasa Park. The family are all North Star Lodge #106, southern California, members.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton

## Fylgia Lodge #119

San Francisco, CA

Victoria Peterson, Vice Chairman, attended *The Swedish Bridge Conference* as a delegate of Fylgia Lodge, Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, 2006, in Karlstad, Värmland, Sweden. In April 2007, Victoria gave an interesting and informative lecture to Fylgia Lodge about her experience at the Bridge Conference. In her remarks she noted the differences and commonalities in the United States and Sweden relating to freedom of expression.

During her stay at Karlstad, Victoria was befriended by one of the Bridge Conference performers, Ms. Carina Ekman of *Ole i Skatthult musical theatre group*. The *Ole i Skatthult group* performed at our lodge in September 2007.

In June 2007 Muriel Beroza, who is the author of the book "Golden Gate Swedes," presented "Fylgia – The First 100 Years." She had many slides of the past and a detailed history of the activities of Vasa Order as well as Fylgia Lodge. We are still working diligently on our celebration of our 100th Anniversary and will have a program and "smörgåsbord" on October 21, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the Swedish American Hall. Please come and join us in this celebration. More information is available on our webpage: <http://www.scandinavicus.com/vasa/fylgia.html>

Submitted by: Jean Stohl Nelson

## Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

Hello from Thule Lodge #127 in Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY. We are having a wonderful season of warm weather and our lodge is active in many events.

Our Friday night dinners on the first of each month feature a special dinner along with a fish fry. The annual Scandinavian Festival was held in the end of July in Jamestown, and the Thule Lodge held its famous Swedish meatball dinner, which was enjoyed by all. At the festival, all enjoyed the music, dancing, and cultural activities. Many thanks are extended to Don Sandy for his organizational skills and music talents used in the festival. Two of our members talked about their experiences traveling from Sweden to America nearly eighty years ago. Brother Nels John Nelson, and his sister Allie Nelson Withers, had their passports, tickets, and family photographs on display when they spoke of this major move to America for their family.

Thule Lodge has been in the Jamestown area for 100 years now, and in December of this year, an anniversary dinner and program will be held. Lodge chairman Robert Fuller, along with vice chairman Don Carlson, have been meeting with a committee to plan the anniversary event. All are invited to participate in the anniversary celebration, which will be by reservation.

Monthly business meetings are held, and always with refreshments. Cultural leader Fanchon Fuller gives a message pertaining to activities that month, and helps with refreshments. Others who participate usually in refreshments are Betty Lawson, Ed and Donna Sandberg, Nels and Alberta Nelson, Allie Withers, chaplain Diane Shaw and John and Susan

Continued on page 13

## Thule Lodge #127

Continued from page 12



Left to right, Nels "John" Nelson, Allie Nelson Withers and John Sipos celebrating their July birthdays.

Sipos. At a recent meeting of the group, July birthdays were celebrated.

If you are in our area, we would be happy to have you visit our lodge. Happy fall season to all! "God Dag" to all.

Submitted by: John Sipos

## Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA



Ruby Nichelini of Tegnér Lodge #149 celebrates her 98th birthday.

Tegnér Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, was pleased to have Ruby Nichelini, a 50-plus

member, attend its May meeting. The members helped Ruby celebrate her 98th birthday. Ruby was accompanied by her daughter Carol Madigan who has been a member of the lodge for 40-plus years.

Ruby has been a very active member of the lodge and of the Bay Area Swedish community. However, health problems have prevented her from attending many lodge meetings lately. All were happy to see her and her daughter at the May meeting.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

## Facklan Lodge #248

Kansas City, KS

Facklan Lodge #248 of Kansas City held the June meeting on Saturday the 23rd at the Hollis Renewal Center three miles north of Edwardsville, Kansas. The occasion was the annual Scandinavian "Midsommar" potluck event held for the young and old. It was a resounding success with wonderful fun activities beginning with the decoration of the "Majstång." Later the Scandinavian Fiddlers from Lawrence, Kansas lead the parade to the "Majstång." The dancing children played the sleeping bear game before everybody hurried to join the lines to the potluck supper. After the meal, children gathered around the tables for face painting and making the "blomkrans" or for the boys (and some of the girls too), exploring the wonders of the creek and woods nearby while the older folks sat and visited. Door prizes furnished by the Honorary Danish Consul and the Scandinavian Place Shop in Independence, Missouri were awarded

the lucky individuals of the drawings. The evening was culminated with the Danish tradition of the burning of the witches.

Our next potluck dinner meeting included a short program by member Susan Druen on Carl Linneus who was born 300 years ago on May 23rd. The honorable Carl Von Linné contributed much to science, famous for his system of classification of plants, minerals, and animals, a system that is in use today

The Croziers operated a video presentation on Swedish costumes, which described the materials and designs from various provinces of Sweden. In addition to this presentation, Michelle Crozier, was wearing a costume from Mora, Dalarna and her husband Doug, was wearing a costume from the province of Ångermanland,

July brings to us the annual "Glass Fest" at the home of member Elyn Urie. This annual event is well attended and gives the members a wonderful evening of delectable tastes of cookies and sweets brought by members to add to the home made ice cream, and a wonderful time to sit and visit together.

The 28th annual "Ethnic Enrichment Commission Festival" held at *Swope Park* in Kansas City, Missouri on the third weekend of August the 17th through the 19th. There are 39 booths this year presenting wonderful ethnic foods and also crafts for sale as well as continuous entertainment on stage for everybody to enjoy. Ample free parking is available on site with cost of \$3.00 per person with children 12 and under free. More information is available at the new web site [www.eckc.org](http://www.eckc.org).

Submitted by: Dean Larsen



The early workers decorate with the addition of the Scandinavian flags. Pictured are the hosts Verne Knudson and Earl Rogers of the Sons of Norway and Dean Larsen of the Denmark Lodge #56.

## Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA

Every year we celebrate Midsummer at Waldameer Park in Erie, PA. It is a family event that lasts all day. The weather was beautiful and the crowd was the largest in memory.

The Maypole was lovely and the dancers did very well, of course, the food was sumptuous. We all hated to see the day end.



Midsummer Dancers at Waldameer Park - Erie, PA. Back Row, L-R: Amy Swenson, Lynnette Donnelly, Beth Overberg, and Chris Rowane. Front Row, L-R: Maria Brown, Rebecca Brown, Lena Donnelly, Anna Overberg, Tyler Overberg, Lindsey Rowane, Ashlyn Rowane, and Alexa Rowane.

We are now beginning to dismantle the exhibit that has been on display for 3 months. It has been in a beautiful old mansion belonging to the *Erie Historical Society*. The theme has been "The ethnic immigrant experience of the Scandinavians." It has been an exciting experience – something of considerable pride for us. We have received "kudos" for the events we scheduled: food, dance, music, films, classes. And it seems that some events will continue – those learning Swedish language – those learning dances – will continue – as will the friendships we have discovered throughout these months. Erie will not soon forget its Scandinavian population!

Submitted by: Linda Collin

## Branting Lodge #417

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

In a pang of homesickness, one is tempted to dial "home" when gazing at the red phone booth in Vasa Park on Pigeon Lake, Alberta.

We imagine those sweet voices of loved ones in beautiful Sweden, until reality sets in and we hear the wind in the trees make soft music and we see the frilly ripples on the lake and then splash on the shore. Wild flowers send off a clean fragrant scent and somewhere the birds sing melodies that seem to be just for you.

It is the summer and we are here in Alberta. What a joy it is to really have the best of both worlds. The phone booth Telia only adds to the perception and should you, would you dial that number? There was a function at Vasa Park and I was a guest. I was a tempted guest for that phone booth was magic. The lodge is so fortunate to have a park, which to me is a piece of Sweden along with all its culture at one's fingertips. I am sure one will recognize by the picture the phone



Phone Booth Telia at Vasa Park on Pigeon Lake Alberta.

booth and lake at Vasa Park. I cannot help but submit this thrilling piece of culture in District #18, Alberta.

Submitted by: Deanna Summy

## Linde Lodge #492

New Berlin, WI

June 24th was a picture perfect day for a traditional "Midsommar" at *Old World Wisconsin*. Among the entertainment was performance and "ringlekar" by *Skansen Children's Club*. A Swedish meal was provided for those that did not bring their own picnic lunch. Some of the picnic fare included sill, egg, new potatoes, freshly picked strawberries and other goodies. Norwegian dance groups also provided

entertainment and there were sing-along.

Linde had a crayfish party on August 25th and a Picnic on September 8. There will be a Craft night on November 13, a "Lucia" performance on December 16, and "Jul-Otta" on Christmas Day. If anyone is interested in participating, contact Liza Ekstrand at 262.782.2238 or [Lekstrand@wi.rr.com](mailto:Lekstrand@wi.rr.com).

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand



"Små grodorna," accompanied by Mary Stetson and Erik Anderson.

## Linnea Lodge #504

Petaluma, CA

“Midsummer Fest” sponsored by Linnea Lodge #504, Petalunia, held at Jorgensen’s garden near Santa Rosa. About 75 plus people enjoyed decorating the Maypole and dancing around it. The potluck was very good. The Sonoma Co Scandinavians and members from other lodges joined in this celebration. Lorna Rockman had great activities for the children.

Submitted by: Thelma L. Jorgensen



Midsummer 2007 Jorgensen’s Garden in Santa Rosa, CA. We are gathering to dance around the decorated Maypole.

## Nordic Lodge #611

Worcester, MA



The Arvidson Family.

Our March 15th Danish Night featured Lisa Caramanica, who described her one-year experience as an exchange student in Denmark. Lisa discussed the bonding process with her “new family,” and talked about her impressions of wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen and the surrounding countryside. Cultural Leader Dan Borg also presented a program on the hymnody of Carolina Sandell Berg, featuring the well-known Swedish hymns *Day by Day* and *Children of the Heavenly Father* (*Tryggare kan ingen vara*). The latter

piece is as popular in Sweden as *Amazing Grace* is in North America. The Berg hymns have long been staples in ELCA and Covenant hymnbooks.

The May 17th event was our annual Svensk Afton, with accordionist Bob Trottier and guitarist Sue Johnson, and a program of sing-along and dancing. Dan Borg made a cultural presentation on the “Swedish coffee pot” and there was a discussion of copper mining at Falun in Dalarna, Sweden. This is where the cottages and barns in Sweden obtain their distinctive red color.

The season ended on June 21st with the always popular Strawberry Festival, with our Cultural Leader Dan Borg discussing the ill-fated attempt at establishing Sweden’s only American colony at New Sweden on the Delaware. The colony was established in March 1638, and was captured by the Dutch in 1655. At the end of the evening, while we were all enjoying our strawberry shortcake, we were entertained by the Arvidson family. Erik and Hannah Arvidson have been singing and dancing since they were children, starting at the age of three. It is nice to see that these youngsters really appreciate their Scandinavian heritage. At this very popular event Hannah played the flute while Erik played the guitar and they sang *Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus*. Hannah then played the piano and performed a solo of *Glorify Thy Name*, followed by Erik with *Watch The Lamb*, with hardly a dry eye in the room. He then ended the singing part of the program with his guitar and a song by Josh Groban called *My Confession*. After they finished singing, their grandfather, Richard Arvidson, played the accordion while they danced the waltz, shottis, polka and the hambo. Hannah will be a freshman at Keene State College in September, while Erik will be a junior at the University of New Hampshire. It was a wonderful evening indeed.

Submitted by: Betty Becker

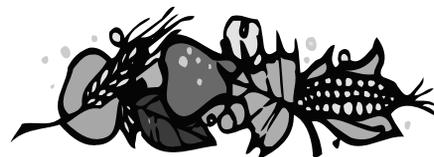
## Joe Harbor Lodge #534

St. Joseph, MI



Members of Joe Harbor Vasa Lodge #534, taken at our 78th Anniversary dinner held at Tosi’s Restaurant in Stevensville, Michigan, May 17th.

Submitted by: Eleanor Anderson



## Norden Lodge #684

Fresno, CA

Greetings from us here in HOT Fresno! We enjoyed our annual crayfish party and potluck at our August meeting. Mike and Corky Peterson had cooked all the crayfish for us and we had fun eating them. They also said their cat had fun chasing some of the crayfish that managed to get on the floor in the kitchen.

On a serious note we draped the Charter in remembrance of Debbie Kenshalo who passed away on April 22, 2007. Our chairman Mary Morton sang a beautiful song "The Promise" for Debbie. She served as the 2005-2006 District Master for District 15 and was a dual member of Evening Star and Norden Lodge. Debbie was very devoted to Vasa and we will all miss her and her beautiful smile.

We are pleased to have added a number of new members in recent months.

At our September meeting we will celebrate our 39th anniversary as a lodge.

Submitted by: Inger Lindhe

## Nordic Lodge #708

Atlanta, Georgia

On April 14, 2007, a beautifully clear day in N. Georgia, a group of 7 VASA members traveled to *Amicalola State Park* and enjoyed a hike of about 3 miles near and around the falls. The first part was an easy walk downhill beside the falls with the return trip being a more strenuous hike back to the top via a ridge trail and a forest service road. After the walk, we enjoyed a great lunch in the lodge restaurant.

Submitted by: Dale P. Nordin



L - R: Joe Dupcak, Guye Dupcak, Dale Nordin, Monika Eklund, Conny Ericsson, Carl Ericsson. Not shown Lilian Nordin.

## Viking Lodge #730

Flint, MI



Gun Ohlson and Willow Hagens.

The lodge celebrated its 26th Anniversary at a festive dinner at the Elk's Club. Chairman Eric Swanson greeted DM James Nystedt and wife Mary Jean, and members VGM Bill Lundquist and wife, VDM Sheila Lundquist, and we were treated to an exciting program regarding artist and sculptor Anders Zorn.

Willow Hagens, president of the *Detroit Swedish Foundation*, and representative of the *Swedish Council of Detroit* told of Zorn's amazing accomplishments and philanthropy for arts and crafts. She included a video, a display of some of his works and craft items he encouraged.

"Midsommar" was observed June 24 at Dr. Bob Pearson and wife Marcia's home in Chesaning, MI. Bill Lundquist won the morning golf outing, and following a "smörgåsbord," a great "Majstång" was erected. Gun Ohlsson led circle dances while her son Bengt ran the tape player.

Bill Lundquist awarded Marlena Westerlund, recipient of a Grand Lodge \$1,000 scholarship, with one of the lodge's seven \$500 scholarships toward a career in nursing.

Sheila Lundquist arranged a tour of IKEA in Canton, MI, in August and the September 9 fishboil was discussed. Planning has begun for the 2008 District #8 convention in historic Frankenmuth.

*The Flint Journal* recognized the many accomplishments of Viking Lodge members Dr. Candice C. Collins, April 7 and Dr. Howard E. Weaver, June 3.

Dr. Collins, graduate in physical medicine and rehabilitation at *Wayne State University*, Detroit, and a social activist since the 1960s, is an anthropologist, army reserve major, and environmentalist.

Dr. Weaver, a *Cornell University* Ph.D. in Nature and Science Education, former park naturalist, forestry educator, professor and curator, received the 2007 Great Lakes Region National Association of Interpretation's Distinguished Retired Senior Award; a \$1,000 scholarship was named in his honor.

We miss the enthusiasm of Stephanie Brewer, proud of her Icelandic heritage, memorialized May 4, and the infectious smile and loyalty of Richard Hanson, who passed away May 26.

Submitted by: Howard E. Weaver

## Red Rock Lodge #760

Sedona, Arizona

Our Lodge celebrated midsummer with a picnic that was held in Cottonwood at the home of Warren Carlson. Good picnic food was enjoyed. Members talked about the areas in which they were born, and raised, and talked about the longest day of the year.

There were no meetings in the months of July and August but on Sept. 30th we return for our fall meeting. Judy Anderson will talk about why "Kings don't wear crowns."

What is it like to be invited to a Troll Party? Well, we will find out on Oct. 28th. Louise Pantaleo is going to have a party for all of the "local Trolls."

Submitted by: Carol Ingstad Bryant, Historian



# SWEDISH NEWS

## Logen Höganäs Nr 634

We celebrated our 6th of June just like your 4th of July with a parade. Some of our Lodge members participated: Leif Larsson, Christina Magneklint, Birgitta och Lauritz Bohlin.

In Lodge Höganäs #634 we have a *Swedish-American day*. Lodge Höganäs #634 introduced this "hollyday" back in 1971. The *Swedish-American Day* is a formal meeting where we have a parade of flags, different medals are given to members and many speeches are being held.

This year it took place on the 30th of June. Vasa members from different parts of Sweden came to celebrate. At this event we also initiated two new members. They are Mai and Jan-Ola Sandberg, they were introduced by Ove and Märta

Thornblad. We had an American visitor as well, Ann-Marie Kinnison from Tucson Lodge #691, Arizona, and as always we are honored to have guests visiting from the US.

After the meeting we all sat down to eat salmon with newly plucked summer potatoes and with a sauce that was outstanding. It tasted heavenly! As dessert we had home made ice cream, whipped cream and strawberries. It all sound delicious, doesn't it? My suggestion is that you plan a trip to Sweden next year and make sure you are here on the last weekend of June 2008, and you can experience this event for yourselves. You are all very welcome!

Submitted by: **Elise Ek, Cultural Leader**  
Pictures by: **Berit och Hasse Bogren**



*Celebrating Sweden's National Day. Leif Larsson, Christina Magneklint, Birgitta and Lauritz Bohlin.*



*New Members Mai och Jan-Ola Sandberg med faddrar Ove och Märta Thornblad samt Ordf. Leif Larsson.*

## Logen Knallen Nr 745

Lördagen den 26 maj var det dags för Logen Knallens årliga vårutflykt. Nära sextioålet deltagare samlades utanför ordenslokalen för att embarkera den moderna tvåplansbussen. Det var en behagligt kort tur vi hade framför oss. Vi skulle inte lämna Sjuhäradsbygden. Varför gå över gränserna när vi har så mycket vackert och intressant att se och uppleva i den närmast omgivningen? Första etappmålet var **Dalsjöfors**, endast ungefär en och en halv mil från Borås men tillhörande Borås kommun. Här fanns fram till 1970-talet ett stort och välkänt väveri. Så stort och så dominerande att det gav Dalsjöfors en karaktär av brukssamhälle. En veteran med många års träget arbete på "bruket" är Gustav Mårtensson. Hans känsla för företaget drev honom att försöka bevara så mycket som möjligt av inventarier men framförallt väveriets alster. Med stöd av den gamla företagsledningen och genom eget engagerat och slitsamt arbete har han sålunda byggt upp ett museum, som utgör en ovärderlig tillgång att minna framtida generationer om svunna tiders textil- och industrikultur. Vi hade förmånen att få en guidad visning av högst den samme, Gustav Mårtensson. Han berättade om företagets historia och visade oss runt på dukar, gardiner och allehanda textila produkter.

Efter ytterligare en kort bussförflytning hamnar vi hos vår logesyster Anita Dahlén som tillsammans med sina döttrar framgångsrikt driver **Dahléns Konfektion**, inriktad på damkonfektion med jackor och kappor som specialitet. Men även uniformer, till bland annat flygbolag fanns i sortimentet och, minsann, paraduniformer till Kungliga svenska armén. Här tillät vädret att vi ute i det gröna kunde njuta en härlig kaffestund. Vi underhölls under tiden av vår logebroder Stig Rundqvist, som till eget gitarackompanjemang och i något nummer i duett med Syster Märta Hedin framförde några kända visor. Dessutom fick vi se en mannekänguppvisning, där döttrarna Dahlén tillsammans med några av våra logesyskon visade prov på företagets produkter. Det var en härlig stund och en upplevelse av vad denna bygd förmår

*Continued on page 18*

## Logen Knallen Nr 745

Continued from page 17

skapa med den rätta känslan för produkten – och affärerna.

Så rullade vi de resterande kilometrarna till resans slutmål, Ågården och familjen Wingborn med svensk och amerikansk flagga hissad. Här väntade den helstekta grisen, underbart tillredd och välsmakande i sig och med härliga tillbehör i fast och flytande form. Vi intog vår måltid i gårdens loge av jätteformat under glad och uppsluppen stämning. Det sjöngs, lektes och tävlades, och familjens gode vän Anders Ljungqvist från Skövde spelade piano. Ett pingstbrudpar bland logesystrarna uppvaktades på sin 52-åriga bröllopsdag.

Efter måltiden gjorde vi ett studiebesök på säteriets eget kraftverk. Viskan rinner i ett vattenfall genom gården. Syskonen Anne-Louise och Bengt Wingborn hade utnyttjat denna möjlighet genom att bygga ett kraftverk, som försörjer gården med el och vid god vattentillgång även medger leverans till kraftbolag.

Vid den avslutande kaffestunden underhöll Wingborn med sång till piano-



Några glada logesystrar på gården. Den gula herrgårdsbyggnaden skimtar i bakgrunden.

ackompanjemang. Denna otroliga familj, som ännu en gång visat sin gästfrihet och generositet. Ett stort tack!

Efter allt vi varit med om kom vi ändå

hem i behaglig tid denna pingstaftonskväll. Så är det när allt finns inom nära räckhåll.

Submitted by: Ingvar Carlén

## Vadstena #762

It is getting closer to the start-up of Lodge Vadstena #762 which means that SLPD Lisbeth's work to establish a new Vasa lodge has come to an end. The 20th of October 2007 is the date when the Swedish Culture capitol goes into the Vasa fellowship. The initiation will be held at *Klosterhotellet* and the Grand Banquet will be held at *Bjällboettens Palace*.

The executive council in District 19 has received the necessary documentations, and now the Grand Lodge will do the Charter letter and seal. This will be another historical moment for Vadstena now that they establish a lodge for *The Vasa Order of America*.

This is a lodge that SLPD in Sweden, Lisbeth H Qvarfordt has dreamed of since she started working as VDM in the District Lodge, Northern Sweden #19.

Lisbeth is the initiator and its been exactly one year since it all started and now is when the practical work will begin; to educate the new members and to receive all the necessary equipment and regalia, in order to be able to perform a correct installation according to the rules of *The Vasa Order of America*.

At a recent meeting in Vadstena decisions and selections about the different staff officers that are to be appointed, and the members to be, showed great enthusiasm.

SLPD Lisbeth has received help from Gunnar Nordh who is the sponsor for Lodge Bråviken #751 and myself, Arne Samuelsson from Lodge Filbyter #714.

Gunnar and I will serve as contact men for ER in DL 19, and we will also introduce the newly appointed officers into their positions. SLPD Lisbeth still has the overall planning.

Submitted by: Chairman, Arne Samuelsson, Lodge Filbyter #714  
Picture by: Inge Hallberg



# YOUTH NEWS

## Viking Village Youth Camp

On Sunday June 22, 2007, during the Midsummer celebration at Vasa Park in Agoura Canyon, California, with a mixture of excitement and anxiety, twenty six children of Scandinavian heritage converged to attend the week long *2007 VIKING VILLAGE YOUTH CAMP*. Children from Southern California, Utah and Nebraska were in attendance under the direction of Ann Heinstedt, with the assistance of Gary, Gunlog and Bjorn Spaberg, Rolf and Thomas Jahn, Sheryl Pages, Lori and JJ Schetter.

*The Viking Village Camp* started in the evening with a delicious dinner and dessert for children and parents. Thereafter the six-day camp was successfully underway.

During the weeklong camp, Vasa children were given the opportunity to learn about their Scandinavian heritage. In the daytime, the children participated in the *Vasa Park Camp Keystone's* activities which included archery, go-carts, water-slide/swimming, rock climbing, horseback riding, paddle riding on the river,

and riding the new and famous Zip Line. In the evenings, they children were immersed in Swedish Culture such learning the Swedish language, dancing, singing and various forms of Scandinavian art with music provided by the magic violin of Chuck Pages.

Gary, Gunlog and Bjorn Spaberg prepared breakfasts and dinners with the assistance of Lori Schetter, Thomas Jahn and Sheryl Pages. The children had the opportunity to enjoy nighttime swimming; horseback riding and riding go carts with desserts of Swedish pancakes and heart shaped waffles as an unexpected treat.

In the evening of Friday, June 27, the week concluded with a Pizza party for the children and their families. There were lots of hugs and goodbyes, phone numbers and email addresses exchanged and all the children look forward to the opportunity to participate again next year.

**Submitted by: Thomas Jahn**

**Photographed by: Thomas and Rolf Jahn, DL Pacific Southwest #15**

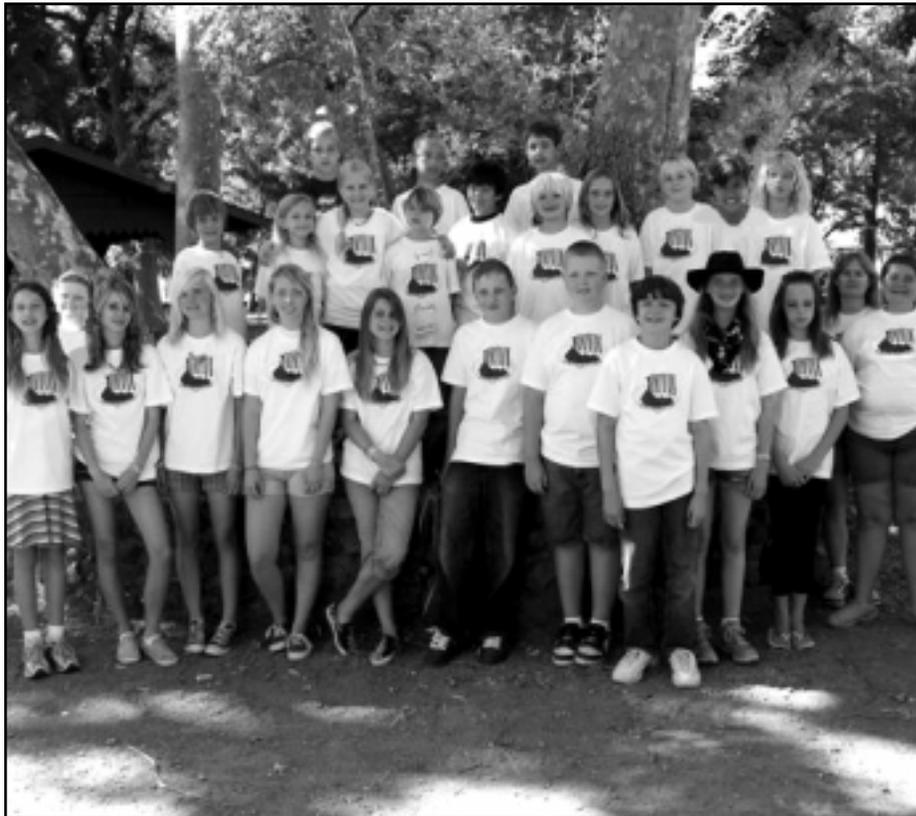
## Youth Day at Evening Star Lodge

On July 15, 2007, under a beautiful warm and sunny California afternoon at Rush Park in Rossmoor, Evening Star Lodge #426 hosted our *7th Annual Youth Day*. After the posting of the United States and Swedish Flags, hot dogs, soft drinks, fruit and candy were served. Following the serving of food, the children started the various planned game activities such as Tug-o-War, Water Balloon Toss, Three Legged Races, Potato Sack Races, Water Melon Eating Contest and many other fun activities. Many thanks must go to District Vi-Queen Kersti Martinsson and Vi-King Anders Heinstedt of Nordic Heritage Lodge for directing all the games. The afternoon ended with the ever-popular breaking of the Piñata. A few grownups ventured into a contest of the Hula Hoop twirling.

We were pleased with having in attendance Grand Lodge Historian Carolyn Salk, District Youth Supervisor Ann Heinstedt, District Secretary Arlene Lundquist and District Trustees Thomas Jahn and Robert Salk.

**Submitted by: Thomas Jahn**

**Photo by: Thomas Jahn, DL Pacific Southwest #15**



*Children from Southern California, Utah and Nebraska.*



*Watermelon eating contest with hands tied behind the children's backs.*



# Thorsby Rush Soccer Team



L - R: Kristen Eliasson, Jessica Melin and Jessica Samuelson.

Thorsby Rush Soccer Team – Under-16 won the Gold for Alberta. They are part of the Thorsby Soccer Association and each team member received their medals on July 8, 2007. What is so unique about this team is that three of the girls live at Vasa Park, Pigeon Lake year round. Kristen Eliasson, Jessica Melin

and Jessica Samuelson are members of Skandia Lodge #549, Edmonton, Alberta. Two special fathers, Bruce Samuelson and Trevor Melin acted as co-coaches. Members of Skandia Lodge #549 thank all the team members and the support that surrounded these young ladies.

**Submitted by: Linnea Lodge**

# Midsummer Queen

Alexandria Succa, a 5th generation Vasa Order member became Midsummer Queen during the celebration at Vasa Park in Southern California on June 24.

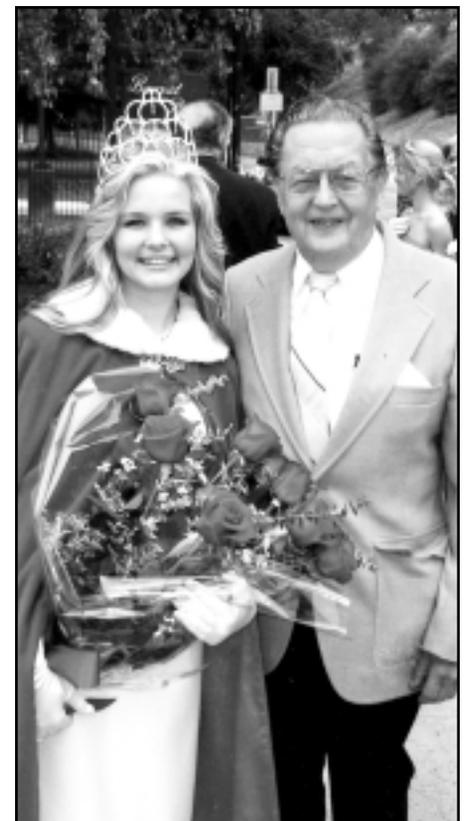
Lovely Alexandria, 17, had the great honor and represented North Star Lodge #106, Los Angeles. The lodge that is 100 years old! Evelyn Earls, our very active member and current Chaplain, is the great-grandmother of Alexandria. Evelyn was so full of pride that day. Eighty-eight years ago Evelyn had been in the pageant as a young girl carrying the train of the Queen at that time!

Alexandria’s grandmother, Kathy Corrigan, her mother Patti and Aunt Lorene had also been former pageant participants.

Alexandria is the daughter of Chris and Patti Succa. She recently graduated from Thousand Oaks High School and has set her goals to attend college and major in Communications.

She also served as “Santa Lucia” and crown bearer at earlier Midsummers. We wish Alexandria every good wish for a happy, fulfilling future.

**Submitted by: Elinore Thornton**



Alexandria Succa, Midsummer Queen at Vasa Park, Southern California, with North Star Chairman Erik Lindberg.



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Artist & Designer

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of the Stars*

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# 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](mailto:tore@kellgren.org)

## **DL CONNECTICUT NO. 1**

*Kronan #2*  
Marta Sylvan  
*Diana Birger Jarl #3*  
Karen Ann Baker  
Katherine Olsson Carter  
Walter J. Dawless  
Douglas Gray  
Marie Gray  
Miles Kirschner  
Steve Ljunggren  
Catherine McMullin  
Robert McMullin  
Joseph P. O'Leary  
Maryann F. O'Leary  
Michael Smith  
Stephen Smith

## **DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2**

*Brage-Iduna #9*  
David Marsh  
Carolyn Swanson  
*Viking #756*  
Shirley Johnson

## **DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6**

*Dalahast #742*  
Bernice Carlsson

## **DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9**

*Drott #168*  
Carrie Anderson  
Larilyn Andre  
Nathaniel Andre-Erwin  
Keiko Bjorkmen

Laurie Bolster  
Ann-Marie Brisbois  
Arne Dunhem  
Eva Dunhem  
Janet Gallagher  
Dennis Harrington  
Janet Sue Johnson  
Arlene Joyce  
Madeline Kruhsberg  
Erland Magnusson  
Katherine Tallmadge  
Kara Chantal Schwartz  
Blaise Strandquist  
Geoffrey Urehara

## **DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12**

*Fylgia #119*  
Juliana Olsson  
*Nord #392*  
Andrew Botto  
Marlene McDonald  
*Lindbergh #494*  
Larry Notton  
Pernilla Quarforot  
Judith Vdranstky  
Shumin Zhai

## **DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13**

*Odin #726*  
Kathryn Cox  
Robyn Hathcock  
Walter Schullstrom

## **DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15**

*Scandinavian #667*  
Oscar Burman  
Dale Lighthizer  
Martha Lighthizer  
Colleen Swanson  
Pamela Swanson  
*Desert Viking #682*  
Jan Wilgers

## **ARIZONA NO. 21**

*Scandia #728*  
Sandra Bennington  
Judith Hopkins  
Barbara Kossen

*Advertise in the*  
*Vasa Star*

# FAMILY

## WEDDINGS

### Smith-Miller



Michelle Renee Smith married John Gregory Miller May 12, 2007, at *The Holden Arboretum* in Kirtland, OH. The bride is the daughter of James W. and Gail K. Smith. The groom is the son of Jack A. and Karen L. Miller.

A reception was held at *The Holden Arboretum* to honor the couple before a wedding trip to Lake Tahoe, NV, and *Yosemite National Park*. The couple will make their home in Chagrin Falls, OH.

Michelle is shown wearing the Vasa Bridal Crown. Gail K. Smith, Michelle's mother, is a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 in Cleveland, OH.

**Submitted by: Sharen (Swanson) Tizzano, Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130**

### Costa-Johnson



It is with pleasure to announce the wedding of my son, Scott Johnson, to Christina Costa on May 5, 2007, in Cottonwood, CA. Christine wore the Vasa Bridal Crown furnished by Skogen Lodge, District #12, where they attend meetings.

Scott has been a 10-year member of Mayflower, District #15, where his parents were active in various board positions. As a child Scott's mother, Carol Wood, attended Lindberg Lodge, NY, with her father and brother.

**Submitted by: Carol Wood Johnson**

Heritage, so we never felt it being a chore.

When we wanted to retire for real, the natural choice was to join our daughter Lisa in Tennessee. So that is where we headed just before Christmas last year. Our first months here were spent unpacking and organizing things while wondering what kind of winter we would have to endure in our new home state. When the temps hovered around the 30's and the people complained about the harsh winter, we knew we had escaped the northern climates we were used to.

Lillemor has been asked about her accent ever since she came to the United States in 1957. She thought this would be a question she would not be asked since the people in Tennessee have their own accent. Wrong!!! They hear that Lillemor does not have a southern accent but at the same time they have no clue where it is from...maybe from up north somewhere.

This has given us a golden opportunity to talk about Sweden. Some of the responses we get are that they know somebody who has a neighbor who knows somebody who is Swedish etc, etc. We have checked out the local newspapers and telephone directories. There are not very many Swedish or Nordic sounding names there. We realize that the *Vasa Order* no longer requires that a person has to be of Swedish or a Nordic Heritage to belong to or start a Vasa lodge but there has to be true nucleus of Swedes to build a strong foundation for a lodge.

We have a mat by the front door with "Välkommen" on it. The cars in Tennessee only use one license plate in the back, so we put a metal flag of Sweden on the front bumper. The welcome mat caught the attention of a service man. He mentioned that he knows a Swedish woman from Halmstad. When we contacted her she told us that she is in regular contact with several Swedes in the Nashville area.

Our daughter plays many string instruments, among them the Swedish "Nyckelharpa." Since she plays with many different groups she has been asked to bring it to jam sessions and gigs. Can you imagine the sound of the Nyckelharpa included in bluegrass and country style music? The reaction when she starts playing is a neat and unusual experience and it sounds great. Could this be a new trend...a Bluegrass and Country Music "Nyckelharpa" concert?

*Continued on page 23*

## HAPPENINGS



*Richard Horngren*

An open letter and a hello to all our friends in Vasa land. Through this publication, our *Vasa Star*, we will give you a short overview of what we have been doing since we left Bishop Hill last December. What an adventure! To pack up and move to another state at our age has to be considered a bold move. This was not the first move we made that was considered bold. Having lived in Wisconsin for years, we moved to Illinois in 1991. The purpose of that move was to take care of the *Vasa Archives* in Bishop Hill and it was in itself an interesting change in our lifestyles. For us it was supposed to be a semi-retirement position but it turned out to be far from that. However, it was with great joy that we undertook the important task of representing the Vasa Order and our Swedish

## Letter from the Horngrens

Continued from page 22

We are often asked, "Is there a Vasa Lodge in Nashville" or "Are you going to start a Vasa Lodge." The answer to the first question is "No" and to the second "Probably." The nearest Vasa Lodge is in Atlanta about three hours from here and Svea Lodge in Indianapolis is about five hours. Until a lodge is established here, we will try to visit one of them.

Since early 1960 we have belonged to and been active in several ethnic, civic and business organizations, non-stop, until last December. We are now enjoying true retirement without concerns for keeping schedules and preparing reports. We know that down the road we will get involved again and when that happens we are confident we will be able to get a group together for the benefit of preserving things Swedish, "Svenskhetens bevarande."

Our question to you all, do you have friends and/or relatives in the Nashville area who you know are **really** interested in being part of a Swedish/Nordic organization where our Heritage, such as "Lucia, Midsommar" and other events will be shared with the community? Please contact us at either [samochsvea@bellsouth.net](mailto:samochsvea@bellsouth.net) or [samochsvea@hotmail.com](mailto:samochsvea@hotmail.com). In case you do not have a computer our mail address is: 2539 Barwood Dr, Greenbrier TN 37073.

Richard and Lillemor Horngren, Vasa members in Linde Lodge #492 since 1960.

## Midsummer Celebration

On Sunday, June 24, 2007, the Swedish American Central Association of Southern California hosted the 87th Midsummer celebration at Vasa Park in Agoura, California.

A warm and sunny day greeted all who joined in the celebration that started with a sermon by pastor Staffan Simonsson and his wife Janet from St. Erik's Church in San Pedro.

Food was served starting with a superb breakfast, followed by lunch consisting of meatballs with red potatoes, and hotdogs with mashed potatoes.

At noon, the Maypole was raised, and singing and dancing, led by the Midsummer Queen and her Royal Court, begun to the music of *Vestkusten*

*Spelmanslag*. In the afternoon, the program continued with the procession of the Midsummer Royal Court, Folk Dancers and Musicians. *The Vasa Junior Folk Dance Group* and the *Los Angeles Swedish Folk Dance Club* presented a wonderful selection of Swedish dances. The day continued with dancing, singing, swimming and many other activities, and just enjoying the day with old and new friends.

Submitted by: Thomas Jahn, DL  
Pacific Southwest #15  
Photo by: Thomas Jahn



Many vendors offered the opportunity to purchase Scandinavian items.

## Linnaeus Celebration

The Swedish Center in San Diego will present its first public event with a celebration of Carolus Linnaeus at San Diego State University, September 23.

2007 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of one of the world's most famous natural scientists, namely Swedish botanist, naturalist and zoologist Carolus Linnaeus.

"Linnaeus who?" you may ask. Professor Anne-Charlotte Harvey, founding member of the Center, explains:

"That's just it – It's precisely because Linnaeus, the father of natural science worldwide, is still not widely known in the USA today that the *Swedish Center* is especially happy to introduce him to San Diego with this celebration," adding "He is also an amazing man to introduce – he really knows all about the birds and the bees!"

Linnaeus, sometimes called The King of Flowers, set out to list and order the whole of creation. He personally described, named, and classified thousands of plants, animals, and minerals around the world. He showed that all



Carl von Linné

human beings are a single animal species: *Homo sapiens*, and also taught the world to value the knowledge of nature.

The varied and entertaining program will include a lighthearted collage of Linnaeus' sage and spicy advice for a healthy and fruitful life, interwoven with 18th century songs.

Roland Thorstenson, professor of Scandinavian Studies at *Gustavus Adolphus College*, and photographer Anders Björling will take the audience along on their 2006 journey in the footsteps of a young and adventurous Linnaeus, from Uppsala to the Arctic Circle and the wilderness beyond. In addition, children from the *Swedish School* in San Diego will present a tribute of Swedish flower songs.

Following the program there will be a reception where wine and other refreshments will be served.

This event is made possible through grants from the Swedish Council of America and Gustav V Lodge, Vasa Order of America.

### Tickets and information:

For purchase of tickets, contact the Consulate of Sweden via phone at (619) 233-1106, or email at [sandiego@consulateofsweden.org](mailto:sandiego@consulateofsweden.org)

Parking is included.

Submitted by: Erik Johansson,  
Consular Assistant for PR &  
Communication, Consulate of Sweden  
San Diego  
Photo: Swedish Institute

## Vasa Voices Raised in Song

On Sunday, June 3, the *Vasa Voices* of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 presented their *Annual Spring Concert*. Under the guidance of director Judith Higbee, the 24 singers practiced their music, and their Swedish, for several weeks prior to the concert. As seen here, they are smiling in response to their audience's enthusiastic applause.

Submitted by: Mary Schoeniger



## Swedish Language Lessons

The *Swedish Language Class* in Los Gatos, CA, is all smiles. They are pictured with their spouses at the last class in June. Some in the class traveled to Sweden this summer and tried out what they had learned during the year. They should have no problems conversing in Swedish.

Submitted by: Gerd Salmonson



The Swedish Language Class in Los Gatos, CA.

# TIDBITS

## Poems

### LINNE' LODGE #153

When people leave their homeland  
Seeking life of a different kind,  
They often find they are missing  
The things that they left behind.  
They miss the music they danced to  
Since they were very young,  
They miss the foods they grew up on  
And the sound of their native tongue.  
So they seek out other newcomers  
And meet with them frequently  
To encourage and cheer one another,  
That's how Linne' Lodge came to be.  
We want to remember our founders  
Who, way back in 1909,  
Saw the plight of the immigrants  
And found ways for their lives to entwine.  
Then along came other good leaders  
Showing us what to do  
To preserve the precious past  
But to live in the present, too.  
Now what better way can we thank them  
Than by keeping our lodge in high gear,  
Making sure that we thrive and grow  
As we move toward our hundredth year?

By: Thelma Nelson

### MINE WERE NOT THE ONLY HANDS

Years ago, when I was born,  
mine were not the only hands reaching out  
to welcome new life,  
for He knew me before I knew Him.

Mine were not the only hands  
clasping that tiny bouquet of dandelions  
that proudly presented with love  
to Mom on Mother's Day.

Running to greet my Dad  
when he came home from work,  
mine were not the only hands  
that softened Dad's heart  
as I threw my arms around his neck.

When I popped my brother in the nose  
giving him a nosebleed, those were my  
hands, but mine were not the only hands  
that caused me to return  
and remorsefully say "I'm sorry."

Mine were not the only hands  
who adopted and nurtured two baby squirrels,  
a baby pheasant, lost cats, kittens and  
dogs, baby birds, and a three-legged turtle.

When I held his arm as my husband  
put the wedding ring on my finger,  
mine were not the only hands  
touching my husband.

Mine were not the only hands  
that loved, comforted, played with,  
guided and prayed for  
our growing daughter.

I know His hands were in the ambulance,  
the emergency room, in surgery,  
with those who visited me, called me,  
prayed for me, sent cards, and brought  
food to my house.

For you seen on April 11, 2007, at 7:30  
a.m. when my van skidded out of control  
on an icy country road,  
missing trees, telephone poles, a culvert  
and pilings – mine were not the  
only hands on the steering wheel.

Elinor Pihl Huggett April 15, 2007

# Recipes

## SWEDISH RICE PUDDING

1 cup brown rice  
5 cups milk (powered or evaporated milk works just fine)  
2 large eggs, well beaten  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
2 tbsp. butter  
1/3 cup slivered almonds  
1/3 cup raisins

Combine rice and 1 cup boiling water in deep, heavy saucepan. Bring to boil and reduce heat. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add milk (if powered or evaporated milk is used, mix with water to equal fresh milk consistency). Simmer rice in milk, covered, for 45 minutes. Stir in eggs and remaining ingredients. Pour into greased casserole. Set in pan of hot water and bake at 400°F for 45 minutes. (Serves 6).

Like all rice puddings, this one is good for any meal. Wrapped in wax paper, cooled, it does well in a lunch box. The brown rice and brown sugar is not only more nutritious but also more flavorful.

## BONDBRÖD (Farmer's Bread)

Swedish style flat wheat bread  
2 lbs. flour  
3-4 tbsp. rye flour  
1 quart lukewarm milk  
2 cubes yeast  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 stick butter  
1 coffee spoon salt

Place flour in bowl and stir in salt. Mix sugar and yeast in a cup. Mix melted butter and milk and stir yeast and sugar into it. Stir this mixture, 2-3 cups at a time, into the flour. Knead into a dough. Let rise to double the size. Place dough on table and work it. Cut it into chunks and roll to 1/4 inch thickness and let rise once again to double the thickness. Mark dough with fork and bake at 350°F.



## GUBBRÖRA (Gentleman's Delight)

4 hard-boiled eggs  
1 onion, preferably red  
1-1/2 - 2 tbsp. butter  
8-10 Swedish anchovy fillets  
(a 4-1/2 oz. or 125g can)  
2 tbsp. finely chopped parsley

Chop finely eggs, anchovies and onions. Do not mix. Melt butter in a heavy skillet and fry onions until golden brown and transparent. Add anchovies. After 1-2 minutes gently stir in eggs. Warm thoroughly. Sprinkle over parsley.

Serve as a first course with hot buttered toast or Swedish rye crisp bread.

Submitted by: Per-Hugo Kristensson

## Thank You

Thank You for a most beautiful cover on the March/April 2007 "Vasa Star!" It was Carl Linneus *twinflower* (*Linnea*), and thank you for the very fine article about his life. The *twinflower* has always been a favorite of mine too, since I first found masses of them high on cliffs in the San Juan Islands here in Washington State. They are so fragrant and so intricate and tiny. I wish I could also thank Gun Lith (DCL DL20) who wrote the article. What an amazing life Linneaus had! I thank You!

Sincerely, Roberta Mueller, Camano Island, Washington

### TWIN-FLOWER (*Linnaea borealis*)

Twin flower is so dainty and gay with flowers during summer months that it may be thought of as a flower although the woody vine brings it within the shrub grouping. A person won't go far into shady cool woods without seeing the thin spreading vines, perhaps 3" - 4" long, crawling over the forest floor. The little evergreen leaves are less than 1/2" long and almost round. Notice the several well-separated nicks or teeth along the upper half of the leaves. This feature will clear up any identification trouble.

In June and July numerous slender flower stems shoot up 2" - 4" from the vine. Each stem carries a pair of pink "twin" flowers so delicately scented their fragrance won't soon be forgotten. Linnaeus, the famous Swedish botanist and founder of the present system of botanical classification chose the twin-flower as his favorite plant.

**QUICK CHECK:** Slender vine with alternate, oval to round, evergreen leaves with few minute teeth on upper half. Pink "twin" flowers.

**RANGE:** Cool, moist coniferous woods throughout Washington. From sea-level to timberline.

*L. borealis longifolia* has flowers about a third longer than the above.

## Mariefred

It was a very pleasant surprise to see a picture taken of Mariefred from *Gripsholm Castle* on the cover of *Vasa Star*. I have spent many times in this lovely town and my wife Margareta and her family have spend her summers here in her younger days. Margareta's grandfather was the main guard and custodian of the castle. We have members from Evening Star Lodge that spend their summers there.

I have taken many pictures of this hamlet and a very good friend painted one of my favorite pictures in water-color.

Thomas Jahn, PDM  
DL Pacific Southwest #15



## Searching For Your Swedish Ancestors?

Do you need help in searching for your ancestors in Sweden? I can locate their parish household records, birth records, death records, emigration records, etc. for you.

Please call, write or e-mail your request with any information that you may have that could help in my search for your ancestors. My fee is \$25 / hour. Most searches go beyond 4 hours but I will not charge more than \$100. If I am unable to locate your ancestors there will be no charge. Payment for services are due upon completion of search. Copies of all records found will be mailed to you.

Merle Olson  
379 - I Brittany Ct.  
Geneva, Illinois 60134 - 3658  
(630) 262 - 0907  
molsolson@sbcglobal.net

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

**CALIFORNIA**

**RUTH HALLQUIST**, born in Sweden August 8, 1922, passed away June 6, 2007, shortly after her return to Sweden. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Herman and long-time friend, Gustav Liljquist. Ruth was a long-time member of Fylgia Lodge #119, San Francisco, CA, and Linnea Lodge #504, Petaluma, CA.

**HELEN ANNA MARIE HORST**, born February 28, 1919, passed away on June 18, 2007, in Turlock, CA. She was a member of Jenny Lodge #339.

**ILLINOIS**

**GERALD D. CARLSON** passed away on June 17, 2007, in Rockford, IL, at the age of 73. He was born August 19, 1933, in Rockford and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on September 10, 1970. He is survived by daughters Judith (Michael) Wilcop and Katherine (Marvin) Letsinger and son Curtis Carlson.

**VICTORIA G. ECKLUND** passed away on June 13, 2007, in Rockford, IL, at the age of 96. She was born March 13, 1911, and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on February 24, 1954. She is survived by her grandson Glynn Garnett. She was a 53-year member of Brahe Lodge #245.

**RONALD Y. GARDNER** passed away on April 15, 2007, in Rockford, IL, at the age of 73. He was born November 26, 1934, in Rockford, IL. Joined first Hilding, then Elvira, and finally Brahe Lodge #245 on March 10, 1966. Ron held several District and Lodge Offices. he is survived by wife Ingrid.

**MINNESOTA**

**STANLEY ARNE PALM**, age 83 of White Bear Lake, MN, passed away on April 10, 2007. Stan is survived by wife Amaryllis "Amy," nieces Barbara and Mary, nephew Timothy. Member of Kronan Lodge #433 for 60 years. He served as Past Chairman and District Master.

**FORREST L. VANCE**, passed away on April 25, 2007, at the age of 77. Forrest is survived by wife of 56 years, Janice; children Timothy (Kishiko), Rebecca (David) Menken and Jessica (James) Schuster, and grandchildren. Forrest was a member of the V.O.A. Kronan Lodge #433.

**NEW YORK**

**MARGARET GUSTAVSSON** entered eternal life on June 3, 2007. She was born on April 12, 1924, and was 83 years old. She leaves behind her husband Karl-Ragnar, 5 children, 8 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Margaret joined Lindbergh Lodge #505 in Long Island, NY, on February 4, 1966.

**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 will long be remembered as having sung "O Store Gud" at many Vasa funeral services.

**GEORGE SIMPSON** passed away on May 2, 2007, in Mahopac, NY, at the age of 81. He joined Göta Lejon Lodge #84 in 1978 and transferred to Freja Lodge #100 in 1992. George was a strong supporter of Swedish culture and in 1991 he was chosen to be "Man of the Year" at Sweden Day.

**OHIO**

**ONALEE JOYCE BECK**, age 72, passed away on May 18, 2007. She was the wife of the late Roy H., mother of Laura Beck-Wilson (William), Roy S. (Laura), and Deanna Beck-Abbott (Nathan), grandmother of 6 and great-grandmother of 3. Onalee was a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130, Cleveland, OH, having joined the lodge on February 10, 2002.

**OREGON**

**MATHILDA MOLINE** passed away April 26, 2007, at the age of 101. She was born in Linsell, Sweden. Mathilda joined Nobel Lodge on August 6, 1965. She served in many capacities as well as Chairman. She was a generous and warm person and very devoted to Vasa. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

**ROBERT WILKINS** passed away on April 14, 2007, at the age of 84. He joined Nobel Lodge on October 20, 1978. He lived in Hammond, OR. He is survived by his wife Marta, children and grandchildren.

**WASHINGTON**

**IRENE MARIE (DEAN) NELSON** passed away on June 24, 2007. She was born on November 4, 1921, at home in the Fife Valley. She was preceded in death by her late husband Alfred Knute Nelson and first born daughter Arline Marie Nelson. She was a member of Norden Lodge #233. She is survived by her only close living relation, daughter Diana Nelson, nieces and nephews, and 2 pet dogs and 2 cats. She was so proud of her heritage of English and Native American (Puyallup and Yakima Tribes) her Indian name, O'coma meant "Peace in the Valley."

**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.



**Pamela A. Genelli**

# GLEBM - Eastern Region

## Pamela A. Genelli

When I was fourteen years old, my mother, Norma Hohne was District Master and in charge of the *Axel S. Carlson Membership Seminar* which was being held in Massachusetts. She handed me a Vasa application and asked me to fill it out. You never argued with my mother.

Prior to joining VASA, I had memories of attending Christmas parties at *Vasa Hall* in Quinsigamond Village where my father was Santa, but I couldn't tell anyone; attending lodge installations; an anniversary banquet at Fylgia where everyone was dressed up in gowns and tuxedos, and they even had a birthday cake for me, I was 3; the cookouts at Thule were unforgettable. So when I joined the Order, I really couldn't say that I was "new" to Vasa. I already

had fond memories and many friends, even though they were quite a bit older than me.

I was initiated into Quinsigamond Lodge No. 517 in May 1972. My initial duties for Vasa basically consisted of chairing the "Kitchen Committee" for every meeting that was held at my parents' home, there was a committee of one. There were Vasa Day Committee meetings, Executive Board meetings and let's not forget the party for the *Grand Lodge Executive Board* when they visited Massachusetts in September 1992, my father, Gordon Hohne was Grand Lodge Deputy at the time.

Upon graduation from high school, I received a *Grand Lodge Scholarship* and was the first recipient of the *Massachusetts District #2 Scholarship*. My first convention as a delegate landed me in the position of District Auditor. At the time, my father told me that there was no turning back. The following year I was elected District Treasurer and remained in this position for several years. Vice District Master was the next position that I was elected to. Before I finished my term, I was asked to assume the duties of District Master due to the resignation of my predecessor. I held that position for two and a half years, and officiated at three District Conventions.

During my years in the District, I have traveled around the Northeast and have met many friends that have become part of my Vasa family and hope to expand that family as I travel around United States, Canada and Sweden. Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts even revived the *Tri-State Festival* a few years ago that had not happened for 25 years. I hope we can do it again!

I believe that I have inherited my Grandfather's passion for Vasa. He was a very active member of the Order and in fact, I occupy the same seat he did when he was on the *Grand Lodge Executive Board* over 50 years ago. I cannot discount both my mother and father as well. My mother served as District Master twice and also was District Secretary for over 20 years, serving a total of 30 years on the *Massachusetts District Executive Board*. She also served as Grand Lodge Deputy under PGM George Nord.

Although, not Swedish, my father joined the Order and was District Master and served as Grand Lodge Deputy under PGM Alice Carlson. My parents remain active today in both their local lodges as well as the District.

My ties to Sweden are very strong and I am a fourth generation Swede to be a member of the Vasa Order. My great-great Grandfather and Grandmother immigrated from Hälsingland and Norrland respectively. My paternal great Grandmother and Grandfather came from Hudiksvall and Laxå, and my maternal great grandparents from Dagersfors and Linköping.

I was born in Worcester Massachusetts and grew up in West Boylston. I have two siblings; a brother and a sister. I am a graduate of *West Boylston High School* and attended *Becker Junior College* and *Worcester State College* and received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration. I have been employed in the Insurance Industry for 25 years and spent most of that working in the area of Human Resources. Currently I am employed at *Eastern Casualty Insurance Company* where I hold the senior staff position of Director of Human Resources and Administration.

My husband, Jim and I were married in September 1989. We have been blessed with two wonderful sons, Nicholas and Matthew. Nicholas recently joined the *Vasa Order* and is already looking forward to his first officer's position (Of course, he doesn't know that this position will be "Chairman of the Kitchen Committee"). My husband is also a member, but of course, that was part of the prenuptial agreement, according to my parents. If you asked him, he would say he's just the chauffeur, but he's much more than that. Without his support, my dreams would not have been realized. I am very proud of my family and pleased that they are as active as they can be.

I believe in my Swedish Heritage and the Traditions that my forefathers brought to this country. I have worked diligently to keep those memories alive through my children and our communities by promoting the Order and will continue to do so. Won't you join me in keeping Vasa and our Swedish Culture alive? Spread the word....As I learned in New Jersey, "TV....TV....Talk Vasa!"



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Scandinavian Airlines

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



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