

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2008



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



The Grand Master's Message



Rolf Bergman

Vasa brothers and sisters!

God fortsättning på det nya året! I hope you had a wonderful celebration of Lucia at your lodge and that Christmas was a time of joy from the gathering of family and friends. While the time just before Christmas can be a time of stress, at least for those that have responsibility for decorating the house, cooking special foods, etc., the extra work seems worth while when we finally stop to enjoy the presents and the gifts of people in our lives. Hopefully we had time to remember that the gift of a Child in Bethlehem long ago is the main story that brings hope to the world. That is a cause for joy.

As you will notice, if you have not already, this issue is filled with Lucia pictures and stories. Thanks to everyone who worked hard and fast to send his or her stories in to our editor by Christmas. Special thanks to Editor Marie, and our editor at *Zimmermann Printing*, Jill Schroeder, who worked very hard to put together the various stories sent in, most of which did not arrive until just before Christmas, in about two weeks time. On top of that we had so many entries that we had to add a few pages to get them all in. Because of the timing and amount of material this issue of *The Vasa Star* will be a couple of weeks later than planned.

In case you were wondering the production plan is to have *The Vasa Star* delivered around the middle of the two-month period for which it is dated. That means that the Jan/Feb issue should arrive around February 1. There will be variations depending on location and local post office delivery schedules as *The Vasa Star* is sent as bulk delivery and the post office has a few days discretion in delivery.

Somewhere in this magazine you will find a summary, written by the Grand Secretary, Joan Graham, of the actions taken by the *Grand Lodge Executive Board* in its meeting in Massachusetts at the end of September, 2007. If you have any questions or need clarification on an item send GS Joanie or me a note. Further the next *GL Executive Board* meeting will be in May, 2008, the week before *DL Lake Michigan No. 8* celebrates its 100th Anniversary in its annual convention in Frankenmuth, MI. Again, if any of you have items or concerns that you would like to have the *GL Executive Board* discuss, please send me a note.

Many of the local lodges have received letters from the IRS concerning their tax status. According to the letter the

ruling takes effect in 2008. It is our current understanding that the local lodges do not need to respond to this as the Grand Lodge files an annual tax status form that include all local and district lodges in the United States. However, I have asked GT C. Richard Overberg to look into this issue in more detail and write a letter to each lodge as well as publish this in the March/April issue of *The Vasa Star*.

Vasa Syskon!

God fortsättning på det nya året! Jag hoppas at ni alla hade trevligt under Luica-festlig- heterna uti Era loger, och att ni under julen kunde glädjas åt att fira tillsammans med era familjer och vänner. Tiden före jul innebär också en hel del stress med allt julpyntande, matlagning och en hel del annat som hör till, men man får "lön för mödan" när allt till sist är färdigt och det är dags att njuta av presenter och de gåvor som människorna i våra liv ger oss. Förhoppningsvis tog vi oss tid att minnas gåvan i form av ett litet barn från Betlehem som föddes för länge sedan, som är huvud-orsaken till hopp och tro i världen och som fyller oss med glädje.

Som ni ser är denna upplaga fylld med lucia artiklar och bilder. Ett stort tack till alla ni som skickat in detta i god tid och skickade dem till redaktören före jul. Ett speciellt tack går till redaktörerna Marie och Jill Schroeder på *Zimmermann Printing* som har jobbat hårt med att ta in och förbereda allt, där det mesta materialet inte kom förrän strax innan jul, vilket gav endast en par veckor till att sätta ihop allt. Dessutom hade vi så många bidrag vilket gjorde att vi fick lägga till några sidor för att få med allt. På grund av detta blir *The Vasa Star* ut-skickad några veckor senare än planerat.

I denna upplaga får ni läsa en summering, från SLS Joan Graham, av handlingarna från *Storlogens Exekutiva Råd* möte i Massachusetts i slutet av September, 2007. Om ni har några frågor eller undrar över något av det som är skrivet, skicka gärna ett e-mail eller ett brev till mig eller Sy Joanie. Vidare, nästa möte med *Storlogens Exekutiva Råd* ska hållas veckan innan *DL Lake Michigan Nr 8* firar sitt 100-års jubileum i mitten av maj 2008. Igen, om någon har något som ni skulle vilja att *Storlogens Exekutiva Råd* ska diskutera på detta möte, hör av Er.

Rolf

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Letter from the Editor

Christmas is such a wonderful time but I do miss not having snow! Growing up in Sweden during this time of the year still brings back memories of going to school during the dark winter months, white snow shimmering and making crunchy noises under your boots as you walked. The air was so crisp and clear it made it very special and the brisk cold really woke you up!

As the GM explains in his message we feature our Lucia's in this Jan/Feb issue, it is the ONLY issue we will have Lucia's. I still continue to receive Lucia articles and beautiful pictures that I cannot put in. PLEASE look at our deadlines for these submissions on Page 3 under *Deadlines for The Vasa Star* listed in every issue. I also want to remind you that pictures that are attached to an e-mail should be scanned in a JPEG file at a resolution of 300 dpi for best possible appearance in *The Vasa Star*; lower resolution will make them look "blurry."

We have some changes for upcoming issues that you should be aware of. Starting with this year's (2008) Lucia contributions we will have a special centerfold that will feature only the Lucia's, their name, lodge and a short bio; no articles please. There are several good examples of what we are looking for in this issue; *Svea Lodge #253, Omaha Lodge #330* and *Balder Lodge #343* deserve mention. Other contributions will be treated as usual and put under *DL News, Lodge News*, etc.

Another change beginning with the Jul/Aug 2008 issue is that the cost structure of *Obituaries* will be changed. Beginning with that issue, the cost for up to one column inch will be \$8.00; longer obituaries will be charged at the flat rate of \$25.00.

I know that not only *The Vasa Star* changes, but also the world we live in is constantly changing. There will likely be many changes in our personal lives as well during 2008.

With these changes in mind, I wish you "Welcome" to a New Year with *The Vasa Star*. Please send me your ideas or suggestions for changes in order to improve our publication. Marie



Brev från Redaktören

Julen är en sådan underbar tid men jag saknar snön! Att växa upp i Sverige under den här årstiden, påminner mig om när jag gick till skolan under de mörka vinter-månaderna, vit snö som glittrar och som knarrar under stövlarna när du går. Luften var så klar och ren, det var verkligen speciellt, och den kalla luften gjorde dig ordentligt vaken.

Som GM förklarar i sitt meddelande så har vi många lucior i detta jan/feb nummer, och det är den ENDA upplagan som vi kommer att ha lucior i. Jag får fortfarande lucia artiklar och många fina bilder som jag inte kan föra in. SNÄLLA titta på våra press stopp (deadlines) för dessa bidrag på sidan 3 under *Deadlines for The Vasa Star*, det står i varje nummer. Jag vill också ta tillfället i akt och påminna er om att bilder som skickas genom e-mail bör scannas i en JPEG fil med en skärpa av 300 dpi för bästa möjliga klarhet i *The Vasa Star*, annars ser de "suddiga" ut.

Vi har några förändringar som kommer att träda i kraft och som jag vill att ni uppmärksammar: Från och med årets (2008) lucia-artiklar kommer vi att ha ett speciellt mitt-uppslag som endast innehåller lucior, deras namn, loger och en kort biografi, inge artiklar. Det finns flera bra exempel på vad vi vill se i den här upplagan, *Svea Lodge #253, Omaha Lodge #330* och *Balder Lodge #343* för att nämna några. Andra bidrag behandlar vi precis som vanligt och samlar under *DL News, Lodge News* etc.

En annan förändring som vi kommer att införa i och med jul/aug 2008 upplagan är priser för *Dödsannonser*. Med början i den upplagan kommer en spalt inch (ca 3 cm) att kosta \$8.00 dollar, längre dödsannonser kommer att kosta \$25.00.

Jag vet att det är inte bara *The Vasa Star* som förändras, vi lever också i en värld som ständigt förändras. Det kommer antagligen också att ske en hel del förändringar i vårt personliga liv under 2008.

Med dessa förändringar i åtanke, önskar jag Er varmt *Välkomna* till ett nytt år med *The Vasa Star*. Var snäll och skicka mig era idéer eller förslag till förändringar så vi kan förbättra vår tidning. Marie

Deadlines for The Vasa Star:

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st

March/April is Feb. 1st

May/June is April 1st

July/Aug. is June 1st

Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st

Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

Deadline for Christmas ads: October 15th

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

Cover:

Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 members and Grand Master Rolf Bergman.

ARCHIVES NEWS



Lucia, Marie Fredrickson.

The Archives hosted much holiday cheer during November and December. While the visiting season wound down, we enjoyed several bumps of activity: two weekends of *Julmarknad* and the glorious two-day event in Bishop Hill called *Lucia Nights*, when the museums, shops, and restaurants stay open into the evening, each with its own Lucia serving *Lussekatter* and providing the promise of light that will soon arrive. The village was covered in snow and completely illuminated with white lights in the windows and luminaries along the walkways. *Bishop Hill* looked the part as a *Christmas Village*, wintry yet warm with light and fervent anticipation.

Two Lucia's served in the Archives and several jultomtär, Jesper Jenner, Sally and Josh Christianson, all members of our local *Vasa Children's Club Pride of the Family*.

When I remarked on the bustling energy of youth in the Archives during *Lucia Nights*, not only from our own group but also from various families coming through, one of the *jultomtär* piped up "Yeah, the Vasa Archives are like a kids' magnet!" The *Children's Club* leader, Patti Christianson, and I agreed with a giggle that, if so, The *Vasa Order* could look forward to a whole lot of energy coming down the pike and moving us into the future.

Submitted by: Lars Jenner, Archivist/Manager, VOA National Archives

A Message from the VOA National Archives, Inc.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the Vasa Order of America!

The time has come for the National Archives to be self-sufficient. To do so we need to increase the endowment fund so that the income from it can support the operation and development of the Archives. We ask your support.

The National Archives is a 501 (c) (3) corporation and memberships and donations to the Archives are tax deductible.

In addition to the normal operating expenses, there will always be a need for additional funds to finance any repairs and renovation. For example renovation expenses of \$13,500 for repairs of damage caused by excess humidity, which is now controlled, and maintenance of the adjoining residence are current needs. This year's generous donation from District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8 will be used towards these repairs. We hope other district lodges and local lodges will also consider annual donations.

This appeal is going out in the Vasa Star to reach you and invite you to become a member of the Archives, to make a donation or both. You may be working for a business that has a matching gift program, which may double your donation. If you are in the leadership of a corporation, the Archives Board asks you to consider a donation in the name of your corporation. We will also respect anonymous donations.

During December we received a generous gift from a deceased member's estate. Please consider the Archives in your financial planning.

At the present time we have two types of annual memberships, \$15 individual and \$30 sustaining (which includes: District Lodges, Local Lodges, PDM Clubs, Youth Clubs and Vasa Activities Club) as well as a \$100 Life Member.

The Archives Board is herewith announcing a fourth category, The Archives Patron's Club, a one time contribution of \$1,000 from individuals, lodges, couples, or corporations. The members of the Archives Patron's club will be suitably recognized in the Archives reception area. The Life member contribution, the Archive Patron contribution and other donations will be placed in the Endowment fund unless directed otherwise.

Please give serious consideration to supporting our Archives by becoming a Member or making a donation.

For the convenience of members in the US and Canada we have included an envelope in the center of this issue for mailing your membership and/or donation to the Archives.

Svenska medlemmar ombedes sända medlemsavgifter och donationer via Stödföreningarna. To those of you who are already members we can't express our thanks often enough.

In Truth and Unity,
The Archives Board

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Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 10

Hejsan,

Här kommer lektion nummer tio – Here comes lesson number ten.

This lesson will appear during the wintertime when many of you experience the kind of weather that makes you housebound. What a great opportunity to work on the Swedish lessons. Try to learn a new word every day and repeat it often. If you can associate it with something you see or use everyday, so much better. As an example while setting the table repeat these words every time...gaffel – fork, sked – spoon, kniv – knife, tallrik – plate and glas – glass.

NYA ORD/NEW WORDS

snö	snov
att börja, börjar, började, börjat	to begin
att snöa, snöar, snöade, snöat	to snow
mycket	very
tidigt	early
morgon	morning
att sluta, slutar, slutade, slutat	to end
förrän	until
eftermiddagen	afternoon
går i skolan	attend school
att behöva, behöver, behövde, behövt	to need
att åka, åker, åkte, åkt	to travel
dag, dagen, dagar	day
att föreslå, föreslår, föreslog, föreslagit	to suggest
att hjälpa, hjälper, hjälpte, hjälpt	to help
granne, grannen, grannar	neighbor
många	many
gå ut	go out
när	when
äldre	elderly
att skotta, skottar, skottade, skottat	to shovel
hellre	preferred
åka skidor	ski
kälke, kälken, kälkar	sled
vän, vännen, vänner	friend
att servera, serverar, serverade, serverat	to serve
god	tasty, good
grönsaksoppa	vegetable soup
ost	cheese
smörgås, smörgåsen, smörgåsar	sandwich
mjölk	milk
kaffe	coffee
olika	different
hem, hemmet, ---	home
bland annat (bl.a.)	among others/those
att duka, dukar, dukade, dukat	to set the table
bord, bordet, ---	table
måltid, måltiden, måltider	meal (time)
servett, servetten, servetter	napkin
kaffekopp, kaffekoppen, kaffekoppar	coffee cup
att undra, undrar, undrade, undrat	to wonder
varje	each
gå förbi	pass by

skyffel, skyffeln, skyfflar	shovel
att fråga, frågar, frågade, frågat	to ask
skotta snö	shovel snow
att hinna, hinner, hann, hunnit	to have time to do
trottoar	sidewalk
körväg	driveway
tacksamma	grateful
verkligen	really
uppskattade	appreciated

SVENSKA/SWEDISH

Snö!!! Det började snöa mycket tidigt på morgonen och det slutade inte förrän sent på eftermiddagen. Tvillingarna, Lars Olof och Karin Helena, som går i skola inne i Stockholm, behövde inte åka dit den dagen. Deras pappa Erik, föreslog att de skulle hjälpa de grannar som inte kan gå ut när det har snöat. Han sa att många är äldre som inte kan skotta snön. Barnen hade hellre velat åka skidor eller kälke med sina vänner.

Innan de gav sig ut åt de lunch. Ingrid serverade en god grönsaksoppa, en ost smörgås, mjölk och kaffe. Tvillingarna måste hjälpa med olika arbeten i hemmet. Bland annat (bl.a.) får de duka bordet vid varje måltid. För denna lunch tog de fram en sopptallrik, en sked, en kniv, en gaffel, ett glas, en kaffekopp och en servett för varje person. Ingrid undrade varför de tog fram en gaffel men hon sa inget.

Erik och barnen gick förbi grannen med sina skyfflar på en kälke. När grannen Sven såg dem, frågade han vad de skulle göra. När han hörde att de skulle skotta snö, tog han fram sin skyffel och gick med dem. De hann med att skotta flera trottoarer och körvägar innan det blev mörkt ute. Det var många tacksamma grannar som verkligen uppskattade hjälpen.

ENGELSKA/ENGLISH

Snow!!! It started to snow very early in the morning and it did not end until late in the afternoon. The twins, Lars Olof and Karin Helena, who attend school in Stockholm, did not need to go there that day. Their father Erik, suggested that they should help those neighbors who cannot go out when it has snowed. He said that many are elderly who are not able to shovel the snow. The children had preferred to ski or ride the sled with their friends.

Before they headed out they ate lunch. Ingrid served a tasty vegetable soup, a cheese sandwich, milk and coffee. The twins must help with various chores in the home. Among these they have to set the table for every meal. For this lunch they brought out a soup bowl, a spoon, a fork, a glas, a coffee cup and a napkin for every person. Ingrid wondered why they brought out a fork but did not say anything.

Erik and the children passed by the neighbor's with their shovels on a sled. When the neighbor Sven saw them, he asked what they were going to do. When he heard that they were going to shovel snow he brought out his shovel and went along. They managed to shovel several sidewalks and driveways before it got dark outside. There were many grateful neighbors who really appreciated the help.

Lillemor and Richard

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Highlights of the September 2007 GL Executive Board Meeting

The Grand Lodge Executive Board held its first annual meeting in Marlborough, MA September 12-14, 2007. Special thanks go to Board Member Pam Genelli for making all the meeting arrangements. All the board members stayed on to attend District Massachusetts #2 Annual Convention the following weekend.

Many topics were discussed at the board meeting; most importantly, the issues that were **referred to the board** from the Grand Lodge meeting held in San Diego in 2006 composed over half the agenda. Here are the highlights of the meeting. If you have an interest in any topic discussed, please contact the Grand Secretary for more information (vasajlg@aol.com).

1. **The Vasa March**, composed by Vasa member Alfon Bergstrom will soon be available to every lodge as DVDs and sheet music. Brother Alfon generously donated the copyright to the Vasa Order.

2. The **Bo and Sigrid Bjorling Memorial Music Scholarship** has been established with a generous bequest from the estate of member Sigrid Bjorling. The first award will be presented in 2009.

3. Plans are being made for a **Youth Seminar** to be held in 2009.

4. **Vasa Archives Report**: Board Member (and Archives Secretary/Financial Secretary) Jake Gruel reported that the new Archivist Lars Jenner is on duty and has many new ideas and suggestions for the Archives. The board acknowledged, with thanks, the contributions of funds, equipment, and/or work from: District Lake Michigan #9, Jake and Marge Gruel, Sten and Nancy Hult, Lennart Petersson, and Roger and Judy Anderson.

5. The Grand Lodge has selected Concordia College's Sjolunden Language Village fundraising campaign as the **charity of choice** for this four-year term. \$1,000 will be donated each year. District and Local Lodges, as well as individual members are encouraged to support Concordia College in building a Swedish village at the Language Camp.

6. A review of the **budget** prepared at the Grand Lodge meeting in San Diego

showed that General Fund expenses came in under- and on-budget during the first year of this term. The Vasa Star budget was over-budget due to increased costs. A review of costs, circulation, and printing for Swedish members will determine ways to keep costs within overall budget.

7. Grand Lodge Membership Chairman Tore Kellgren reported that the new, one-page **Membership Application** is now available on the Vasa web site (vasaorder.com) in an interactive format.

8. The four-color **informational brochure** that was provided free-of-charge to every district last year will be made available on the Vasa website for downloading and printing. It is being reformatted to fit on standard 8-1/2 x 11 paper. Copies may also be requested from Vice Grand Secretary Helen Mingram.

9. For those members who have earned the **Years of Service Jewels** for membership of 50 or more years, the Local Lodge Secretary may request the first jewel gratis, to be provided by the Grand Lodge free of charge. When the member reaches the next level (55 years, 60, 65, 70, 75) it is expected that the previous jewel will be returned in exchange. If the member wishes to keep the jewel, a bill will be sent with the next-level jewel. Only the Local Lodge Secretary may order the membership pins and jewels.

10. Procedures, tracking and clarification of eligibility of the **Old Age and Benefit Fund** were reviewed. Any member, in the USA or Canada, of five continuous years or more, and in need of financial aid and assistance may apply through their local lodge secretary. Assistance from the OA&B Fund is also available to local lodges unable to pay per capita tax. Contact Grand Secretary Joanie Graham for more information and application forms.

11. **Change-of-address forms** will soon be printed in *The Vasa Star*.

12. Discussion was held concerning the **consolidation** of several one- and two-lodge districts.

13. The Executive Board is working with the Vasa Webmaster to develop a members-only site on the **Vasa web site**, accessible with a user ID and password.

Many upgrades are planned for the Vasa web site, including Cultural program ideas, expanded Youth page, photos, etc.

14. Local Lodge **Institution Ceremony** will be made available in a format to fit the "white book."

15. **Officer training materials** used in Sweden will be translated and made available in USA and Canada.

16. Grand Secretary Joanie Graham reported that the every lodge received copies of the updated **Constitution and Bylaws**, the single-page **revision to the Order of Business**, as well as the **Official Address Listing** for 2007. Any member may order copies from Vice Grand Secretary Helen Mingram.

17. The **Official Address List 2008**, giving the names and addresses for all lodges in USA, Canada, and Sweden will be distributed as it was in 2007, mailed to every lodge. Any member may order the directory from VGS Helen Mingram.

18. GS and GT process: **All forms** used by the Grand Secretary will soon be available in an interactive format on the computer. The receipt and payment structure for GL finances was reviewed. Vouchers will be computerized. All checks will continue to require both GM and GT signatures. Electronic fund transfer between USA and Sweden has been set up.

CORRECTION NOTICE

1. In the Nov/Dec 2007 issue of the Vasa Star Greeting DL 8 in District No. 8 Christmas greeting Lowell Nordling should be Tom Cleveland.

Submitted by: Sheila Lundquist

2. "A Fragment of a Memoir." The picture is of David and his older sister Dorothy Olson Horr. Roberta Mueller, Solidaritet Lodge #396, submitted article. Translated into Swedish by Stefan Bengtsson.

3. In the Sep/Oct issue, DL Rhode Island #3 left out the name of John Boisvert of Svea Lodge #362 as one of the scholarship recipients receiving his award from Kehn Jonson, Sr.

Submitted by: Blanche L. Richmond

CAMPAIGN RESULTS

Membership 2006 – A Campaign For Vasa

Congratulations to **DL Central Canada #16**, to **LL Bråviken #751**, **LL Solstad #709** and **LL Glenn T. Seaborg #719**, and to **Bob Burman** of LL Sveaborg #449. Each has won an Award in the Grand Lodge Membership Contest

New Local Lodges:

Nordic Folk #761 Club, DL Lake Michigan #8 \$200

New Activities Clubs:

37 - Smultron DL Pacific Northwest #13 \$200

38 - DL #18 PDM Club DL Alberta #18 \$200

New Children's Clubs - None

Top three winners of the **District Lodge Award** for the highest percentage gain* are:

Rank	% Gain	DL Name & No.	Prize
1st Place:	3.6%	DL Central Canada #16	\$250 and Grand Master's Trophy
2nd Place:	2.6%	DL Iowa-Nebraska #17	\$200
3rd Place:	1.3%	DL Norra Sverige #19	\$100

Top five winners of the **Local Lodge Award** for the highest percentage gain* are:

Rank	% Gain	LL Name & No.	Prize	Membership
1st Place in District:	29.4%	LL Bråviken #751, DL #19	\$100	66
1st Place in District:	21.4%	LL Solstad #709, DL #21	\$100	34
1st Place in District:	20.6%	LL Glenn T. Seaborg #719, DL #15	\$100	73
4th Place:	15.6%	LL Olympia #550, DL #13	\$ 40	37
5th Place:	15.0%	LL Vänersborg #471, DL #19	\$ 30	45

The winner of **Most Members Initiated Award** by a local lodge:

LL Bråviken #751, in DL Norra Sverige #19 by initiating 16 new members and will receive \$100.

The winner of **Most Members Sponsored Award** (in 2006)

First Place: Bob Burman of Sveaborg #449 in DL # 12 with 9 members. Brother Bob will receive \$100.

Second Place: Barry Ostrom of Tre Kronor #713 in DL #13 with 6 members. Brother Barry will receive \$50.

This year four District Lodges did not submit their reports in time to be considered for the membership awards. There well could have been others who had greater numbers, but unfortunately, their reports were not submitted by the deadline.

The Vasa Order experienced a very deep decline during 2006. Of the thirteen districts reporting, you can see that although there were three districts in the Largest Percentage Gain category above, only two Districts had a net gain of members, both of them **increasing by only one single member**. (This may seem confusing, but by rule, percentage gain does not take members lost due to death into account.) They were the only Districts that show any gain. Two Districts had no gain and the rest lost more than they initiated. **We are not initiating as many new members** into the Order as in past years and, more importantly; **we are not keeping our members**. Of the losses experienced in 2006, 32% were lost due to death, 1% transferred to other lodges, and 67% dropped their membership.

“Membership 2007 – A Campaign for Vasa” can be an incentive for Local Lodges and District Lodges to create something new in their lodges. New Children's Clubs! New Activities Clubs! New Local Lodges!

The Grand Lodge has available a “Prospective Member Packet” and a “Welcome to New Members Packet” which can be ordered from the Vice Grand Secretary. Order a supply today.

Local Lodge and District Secretaries: Be sure to get those Yearly Reports turned in by the deadline, so that your lodges will be in the running for Cash Awards at the close of “Membership 2007 – A Campaign for Vasa”! Let's turn this around and start an UPWARD trend!

Awards to new Activities Clubs are subject to verification of active status at the time of the award.

* The District and Local Lodge **Membership Contest Rules** are as follows: Percentage gain is determined by: total # initiated minus # lost for other reasons, divided by total membership at beginning of the year, multiplied by 100. Transfers, dual members and those lost by death are not counted. New Lodges instituted are not included, nor are those due to mergers. Deadline is March 31st - District Secretaries must have their reports to the Grand Secretary to be included.

In Truth and Unity,
Tore Kellgren – Grand Lodge Membership Chair – Membership@vasaorder.org

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL Connecticut #1

District Lodge CT #1 along with the *Apollo Singing Society* and *The Scandinavian Women's Chorus* of CT (AAUS) have joined together to present a *Lucia Fest* and *Christmas Concert* each of the last three years at one of the area churches and at *Ikea*, New Haven. This has been a great opportunity to reach out to the community!

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren



Lucia Fest and Concert at Ikea New Haven.

DL Rhode Island #3

District Lodge Rhode Island #3's Kristina Club #161 held their annual "Toys for Children" drive. They staged Santa's Workshop and made toys for him. They sang and danced around the Yule Tree and sang the Gingerbread Song led by Karen Soderberg-Gomez and Edna Wilson on the piano. The last part of the program was the St. Lucia Pageant with the Starboy. MC for the program was Lily Zarli, she led the singing of Christmas songs while they prepared for the Lucia pageant. Admission for the program was one or more new toys unwrapped. To end the program the Tomte appeared shouting God Yul and passing out candy canes to all the children. After the program light refreshments were served. The toys were sent to



L to R: Laurie Doyle, DM, Tomte, Youth Supervisor Beverly Cianfarani.

two organizations this year, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in West Warwick, RI, and the Marines "Toys for Tots."

Submitted by: Ray Johnson

DL New York #4



Smörgåsbandet; Einar Ericson, Jeanne Ericksson, Rolf Bergman and Wayne Soderlund.

District Lodge New York #4 held its *59th Biennial Convention* at the Holiday Inn in Suffern, NY, from October 5-7. The hosting lodges were: Lodge Göta Lejon #84, Lodge Freja #100 and Lodge Stenland #727. A welcome reception opened up the convention on Friday night and Vasa friends had a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones.

After breakfast, the Opening Ceremonies commenced with a *Presentation of Flags* and singing of the anthems. District Master Margaret Lindblom made introduction of visitors and honored guests prior to her welcoming speech. The Grand Lodge honored guests included: Grand Master Rolf Bergman, Grand Treasurer C. Richard Overberg and Grand Lodge Cultural

Director Inger Hanright. Other guests were from New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Officers' reports were given and motions were discussed and voted on during the Saturday morning and afternoon sessions.

After a wonderful cocktail hour, the Saturday banquet began with an impressive flag ceremony and folk dance exhibition by 22 members of *Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1*. Someone pointed out that the future of Vasa lies with our youth and how it made them proud that three *Elsa Rix* college students traveled to the convention to be a part of this special performance. *Smörgåsbandet*, consisting of Jeanne Ericksson Widman, Wayne Soderland and Einar Ericson, all Lindbergh Lodge #505 members, provided music for the evening. The dance floor was always in use and nobody wanted this magical night to end.

A beautiful memorial service, led by Donna Sandberg (Thule Lodge #127), opened the Sunday session and the delegates and guests joined in singing several lovely hymns accompanied by *Smörgåsbandet*.

Nominations and election of officers produced the following slate of officers for the 2007-2009 terms:

District Master – Karen Snowberg (Freja Lodge #100 & Göta Lejon #84), Vice District Master – Carl Geffken (Svea Lodge #340), District Secretary – Alice Schmutz (Svea Lodge #340), Vice District Secretary – Gail Olson (Svea Lodge #340), Treasurer – Dennis Johnson (Göta Lejon #84), District Cultural Leader – Miriam Emerson (Lindbergh Lodge #505), Member of the Executive Board – Elaine Lindquist McGrath (Olympic Lodge #235), Trustee – Edwin Sandberg (Thule Lodge #127) and Auditor – Edwin Emerson (Lindbergh Lodge #505).

The new officers were installed and congratulated. Grand Master Rolf Bergman and Grand Treasurer C. Richard Overberg had some very uplifting words regarding the future of Vasa and the importance of traditions. District Master Karen Snowberg thanked everyone for coming and wished them well in the years ahead. No decision was made in regards to the hosting of the *60th Biennial Convention* in 2009.

Submitted by: Elaine Lindquist McGrath

LODGE NEWS

Brage-Iduna Lodge #9

East Longmeadow, MA

Winter arrived early in December with a quick succession of storms! The fourth storm forced postponement of the Lucia celebration into January. On December 8, however, members of Brage-Iduna Lodge traveled to Boston to enjoy what has become the largest Scandinavian event in New England, the annual *Swedish Yuletide fair* presented by *The Swedish Women's Educational Association*.

Upon entering the historic *Cyclorama exhibition building*, we were suddenly among a throng of visitors browsing the many vendors' booths displaying all sorts of handcrafted holiday products, from knitwear, to Santa figures, to bakery goods, to "Hemslöjd" (homemade painted woodcarvings).

The cavernous hall resounded with Swedish music all day — a trio of gentlemen on accordions, the *Stämbandet* vocal group, and the *Boston Scandinavian Ensemble*.

In the adjoining *Children's Corner* room, folk dance lessons were underway! Two experienced dancers led the practice with a live violinist and accordionist playing the spirited tunes. At low tables, youngsters busily crafted colorful decorations and got acquainted with *Astrid Lindgren's* storybooks.

Meanwhile, families were sampling Swedish cuisine at the "Kaffestugan" (köttbullar med lingon), the "Våffelstuga" (Swedish waffles with topping), the "Lill-Stugan" (pastries), and of course the "Glögg booth."

Then out came a splendid Lucia procession of young participants from *Svenska Skolan Boston* and children of *SWEA* members. They captivated the large audience with lyrics in beautiful unison, their clear, sharp voices ringing out in such distinctly enunciated Swedish! So exhilarating!

Members of *SWEA* (see <http://sweboston.org>) are Swedish women who now live abroad; chapters are in 35 countries.

Submitted by: John Morgan

Freja Lodge #100

White Plains, NJ

Three new members were recently initiated into Lodge Freja. Jim Peterson is the grandson of two of Freja's founding members. Although he lives in Massachusetts, he comes "home" to check up on his folks (his dad is 90) fairly often, and tries to time it so he can make our meetings.

Our second new member, Kristen Purdy is the granddaughter of one of our members and the daughter of another. Kristen is our youngest member and had attended meetings with her mom for many years. As a single Mom, Jennifer toted Kristen wherever she went on the weekends. Kristen has been a cheerful addition to our group, even before she was "official."

The third new member contacted me after looking us up on the website. Victoria Holmberg is a young woman from Sweden who now makes her home in this country. She is a delightful gal, and is looking forward to being part of our Freja "family."

Submitted by: Karen Snowberg,
Chairman

North Star Lodge #106

Los Angeles, CA

We, at North Star Lodge #106, Los Angeles, CA, wish all of our Vasa friends a Gott Nytt År. We had a full, interesting year with luncheons following our meetings.

We began the year celebrating our 100th year, under the leadership of Chairman Erik Lindberg. We convinced Erik to lead us again this year. Most officers will retain their positions, but Henny Heuberg will be our new asst M.C.

We had a joyful Christmas luncheon following our December meeting. *Nordic Fox Restaurant* catered our Scandinavian meal. District Officers Nel and Bob Solt joined us. Eleonora Nyren and Uno Kaspersson joined North Star as dual members from Mayflower.

On January 15, 2008, District Officers were invited to join us as we celebrated 101 years! *Nordic Fox* again catered our luncheon.

North Star contributed monies to the *Scandinavian Cultural Center* at *California Lutheran University* – a good decision.

Unfortunately, immediately after this New Years, we had a big loss. Åke Sandler, District Deputy, passed away. He was 94 years young and a very fine gentleman with a keen sense of humor. He had an illustrious career. Åke was often a contributor to *The Vasa Star*. He will be greatly missed by his friends, and especially his dear wife, Jane and family.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton

Fylgia Lodge #119

San Francisco, CA



GS Joanie Graham and Chairman Bob Olson with a framed letter from GM Rolf Bergman congratulating Lodge Fylgia #119 on its 100th anniversary.

On Sunday afternoon, October 21, 2007, Fylgia Lodge #119, San Francisco, CA, celebrated their 100th Anniversary at Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St. The Master of Ceremonies was Ted Olsson, Chairman of Fylgia, Robert E. Olson, welcomed all and presented awards. We were honored to have the Consul General of Sweden, Barbro Sachs-Osher present, who gave greetings from Sweden. Also, we had greetings from Joan Graham, G.L. Secretary and present was Helen Mingram, Assistant G.L. Secretary. Ed Netzel, District Master of Golden Gate #12, spoke and many of his officers were present. A delicious smörgåsbord buffet was provided

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Fylgia Lodge #119

Continued from page 9

by Pelle Nilsson and enjoyed by all. The hall was beautifully decorated by Carol Martin and her sister, Marilyn Schroeder. Tea lights and flowers graced the hall and all decorations in blue and yellow. Musical entertainment included Dråm, Erik Ask-Upmark, and Anna Rynefors, a Chamber Chorus, and Nordahl Grieg Leikarring Dance Group. Jean Stohl Nelson presented a centennial poem with slides prepared by Ted Olsson. The committee that worked so hard and long was Victoria L. Peterson, Chair, Barbara and Dennis Erickson, Torborg Lundell, Carol Martin, Jean Stohl Nelson, Christine and Robert E. Olson, and Astrid and Ted Olsson. Richard Wooster, Past Chairman, handled all the printing for the fest.

Fylgia looks forward to the next 100 years. We had a Julfest (julgorg) in December.

Please visit Fylgia's website for more information and the 2008 schedule of cultural events. www.Scandinavius.com/Vasa/Fylgia.html

Submitted by: Jean Stohl Nelson
Photo Submitted by: Tore Kellgren

Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY



Grand Master Rolf Bergman presenting to Thule Lodge #127 chairman Robert Fuller, a certificate for the 100th anniversary at the recent celebration.

Hello from Thule Lodge #127. Our lodge celebrated its 100th anniversary on December 1st in Jamestown, NY with many people, visitors and officials attending. Lodge chairman Robert Fuller has been planning this very special event

for one year, and held planning sessions with a committee of people. Fuller was enthusiastic about this celebration and put forth much effort into making it a very memorable event. Serving on the committee with Fuller were Don Carlson, John and Susan Sipos, Allie Nelson Withers, Edwin and Donna Sandberg, Nels John and Alberta Nelson, Betty Lawson, Donna Johnson, John Johnson, John and Lucile Marsh, Don Sandy, Wayne Nelson, Tim and Randy Miller, and Richard and Trudy Kraft. Betty Lawson hand addressed all of the invitations, which were created by computer artist Susan Sipos. Susan Sipos also created the program for the evening, featuring a color photograph of the lodge and many Swedish pieces of artwork.

The celebration included music provided by the group known as the *Svenska Spelman*, and included Don Sandy, Kathy Petersen, Hannah Petersen and Tim Coney. *The Swedish Children's Dance Team* performed prior to the dinner, under the direction of Donna Johnson, and after dinner *The Adult Swedish Dance Team* performed. Dancing and happy Swedish music was enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

Chairman Fuller opened the program with a welcome to all, and historian John Sipos, who gave a brief history of the pledge first, led the pledge of allegiance. Rev. Alan Anderson gave the invocation. Darlene Hetrick led the group in the singing of many songs, both Swedish and American versions. Also taking part of the Swedish song singing was Gary Kindberg accompanied by accordion player Don Sandy.

On display were items of the lodge from years ago, including dress uniforms, historical records, photographs of the past chairmen, and the original charter, dated December 17, 1907. Chairman Fuller recognized all of the past chairmen of the lodge during the program.

Present for the dinner celebration were Rolf Bergman, Grand Master from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and Grand Treasurer C. Richard Overberg from Erie, Pennsylvania. The county executive Greg Edwards was present and congratulated the lodge on reaching this remarkable goal.

Thule Lodge looks forward to many years of preserving the Swedish heritage through events and activities, and welcomes visitors from other lodges. If you are in our area, we welcome you. "God dag" to all!

Submitted by: John Sipos, Lodge Historian



Melanie Antes

Melanie Antes, a member of Thule Lodge #127, was chosen as the Lucia of the 50th Lucia Fest in Rochester, NY, on December 1. Twenty-two children, including star boys and "Tomte," participated in the event by singing several Swedish and English songs, with instrumental songs, and Swedish dances. Philip Tierney was the emcee, and told the history of Lucia. Scandinavian treats were enjoyed after the program. Melanie's sister, Melissa was also the Lucia a few years ago.

Melanie is a senior in high school, and will enter college in the fall. Melanie's grandparents are also members of Thule Lodge # 127 in Jamestown, NY.

Submitted by: Ted Fredrickson

Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130

Cleveland, OH

In spite of the snowy weather, Noble Monitor Lodge #130 enjoyed their *St. Lucia Fest* on Saturday, December 15, with more than 180 members and guests in attendance. The array of food, supplied by the Lucia Committee and Lodge members, was plentiful and featured many of Sweden's traditional foods. *The Vasa Voices'* men's chorus with an amusing rendition of "Lutefisk, Oh Lutefisk," serenaded diners.

Following dinner, the Lucia Procession, led by this year's St. Lucia, Kristi Johnson, made their way

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Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130

Continued from page 10



Lucia was Kristi Johnson

to the stage where the children's chorus charmed the audience with their sweet voices. The program ended with the dedicated *Vasa Voices* singing a

number of traditional songs, all in Swedish. A truly memorable program, enjoyed by all.

Submitted by: Mary Schoeniger

Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA

We celebrated our 99th Anniversary at a restaurant in Alameda on November 10th. More than 30 members and guests, including District Master Ed Netzel and his wife Judy, District Cultural Leader Swede Englund, and PDMs Birgitta and Tore Kellgren ate, drank, and reminisced about the lodge's activities over the years. 10-year pins were presented to Christina and Roger Lister, DM Ed Netzel presented a 40-year pin to our Chairman, Marie Ann Hill, and a 50-year pin to Jan Norberg. We are looking forward to our 100th Anniversary next year.

The members met the next week for their regular potluck supper and business meeting. Stig Björk prepared the "kåldolmar" for our entree. We were pleased to have PDM Myrtle Widmark and Dorothy Scherer of Monitor Lodge with us. We were also very happy that Carol Madigan brought her 98-year-old mother, a long-

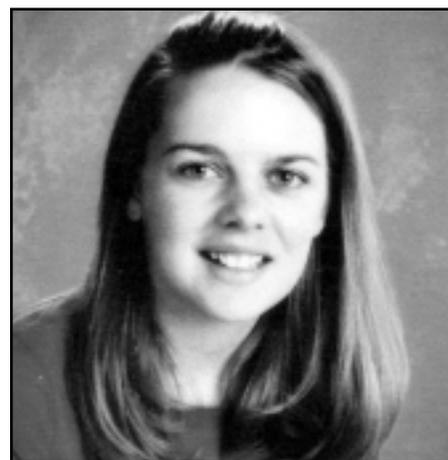
time member, to the meeting. "Happy Birthday" was sung to our past Chairman, Laura Nordendahl. We discussed plans for our December Lucia program.

The Charter was draped in memory of 92-year-old Walter Nyland, who died October 22, 2007. He was a long-time member and had served our lodge as Chairman, Trustee, and Delegate to conventions. He was very active in the Bay Area Swedish community and held offices in several other Swedish-American organizations. He will be greatly missed.

For our cultural program Ann Tennis

talked about her trip to Scandinavia last summer, concentrating on the Falun copper mine, the "Tällberg Majstång," and the *Dala Horses of Nusnäs*.

We were proud and happy to have Kelsey Root of Pine Grove, CA, as Lucia at our Christmas program this year. Kelsey, age 14, daughter of Roger and Jackie Root and granddaughter of Nancy Root, a 40-year member of Tegnér, is a



Kelsey Root

freshman at Amador High School. She loves to play volleyball and belongs to Interact, a community service club, and likes to help at her church. Last summer she enjoyed a trip to Washington, DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York.

For many years the Root family have made the long trip from Pine Grove to attend our Christmas celebrations. For several years, Kelsey has been an attendant and her brother, Kristopher, has been a star boy. Her older sister Kristin was our 2004 Lucia.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

Linné Lodge #153

South Bend, IN



District Master Ed Netzel presenting 50-year pin to Jan Norberg after giving a 40-year pin to Chairman Marie-Ann Hill at Tegnér's 99th Anniversary dinner.



Here is a group picture of the Linné Lodge 153 at our Christmas party held at Perkins Restaurant in Elkhart, IN, on Saturday, December 1, 2007. We had several visitors, including Tim Anderson from Elkhart, Jim and Darcy Anderson from Rolling Prairie, IN, JoAnne Cobbum from Elkhart, IN, and Ken Huggett from Lakeville, IN. We shared good fellowship and great food.

Submitted by: Virginia Johnson

Astor Lodge #215

Astor, OR

The Astoria Yacht Club rang with good fellowship as members and guests ate their fill of soup and rye bread at Astor Lodge's Annual October Peasoup Special. Candles in a Swedish-made candelabra shed a warm glow on tables festive with fall flowers and placemats with fall leaves.

First on the agenda was the awarding of a Lifetime Membership in Pacific Northwest Lodge #13 to Peter Strandberg. District Master Alice Iverson presented Peter with a certificate honoring his 54 years of service to Vasa. Peter joined Klippan Lodge #16 in Connecticut originally, then transferred to Astor Lodge in 1968. He has served many times as Chairman of his local lodge, two terms as District Secretary, two terms as District Master, and as Grand Lodge Deputy and Grand Lodge Delegate. Peter was accorded a standing ovation for a job well done!

The evening's program, given by Professor Doreen Simonsen, was entitled "The Swedish Troubadour Tradition." Doreen's mother, Ella Simonsen, joined Astor Lodge in 1967. Doreen "grew up in Vasa" and is now a Humanities and Fine Arts Librarian at Willamette University in Salem, OR. She was Miss Denmark at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival in 1975 and a leader of the Viking/Nordic Folk Dancers. She created the weekly Scandinavian hour, a program of ethnic music, culture, and literature, on KMUN Public Radio in Astoria. After studying in Denmark and Germany, Doreen earned her dual Masters' in Germanic Languages and Literature from the University of Oregon and in Library Studies from the University of Michigan.

Doreen featured music from 1766 to 1994 beginning with Carl Michael

Bellman. She covered many of the beautiful melodies and lyrics celebrating the Swedish love of nature, but what made her program especially relevant was the information that many of the composers in the early 20th century were social activists who helped Swedish immigrants gain equal rights in the workplace. Ture Nerman who, in 1918, wrote "Den Vackraste Visan" ("The Loveliest Song") was a Swedish socialist born in Norrköping. He was a journalist who wrote poems and songs. In 1915 he traveled to America to write articles for Swedish newspapers. He started a speaking tour to American workers of Scandinavian origin in Minneapolis and Chicago. One previously fact not known to Astor Lodge: that in March 1915 Nerman arrived in Astoria to visit his morbror who worked with the Union Fishermans' Cannery. Other details of this visit are unknown, but those present vowed to research more on Nerman and his Astoria activities.

Joe Hill (born Joel Emmanuel Hägglund in Gävle, Sweden), composed "De Är Makt i En Union" ("There is Power in the Union"). The melody is simple and to the accordion accompaniment of Sven Sundstrom, the audience sang the words in Swedish. Doreen explained that Joe was an occupational songwriter, a labor activist, and a member of the Industrial Workers of the World.

One of the most beautiful songs sung was Ulf Lundell's "Öppna Landskap" ("Open Landscapes"). Doreen said it is now considered a second national anthem in Sweden. The evening ended as everyone sang Evert Taube's beloved composition "Calle Schewens Vals" ... "here dances Calle Schewen with Roslagen's rose. He dances while up comes the sun." Everyone agreed it was great to have Doreen home and that her program was marvelous.

Submitted by: Maureen Sundstrom

Tegnér Lodge #224

Missoula, MT

Greetings from Tegnér Lodge #224 in Missoula, MT. The summer has gone by so fast and here it is fall again. We had our annual Midsummer celebration at the farm of Otto Benson, a farm that has been in the family for over 100 years. At this gathering we gave out our annual \$500 Scholarship to Jerilyn Valentine, a girl from Sentinel High School. After receiving the award, she treated the lodge members to several songs and they were much appreciated. At one of our meetings we had a pea soup supper, which they all enjoyed. The coming meeting will be busy making meatballs, baked goods, and crafts for our bazaar the middle of November. Our regards to all.

Submitted by: Rick Swanson



Jerilyn Valentine receiving the \$500 Scholarship award from Bruce Swanson.



Left to right: Peter Strandberg receives a Certificate of Lifetime Membership from DM Alice Iverson of Pacific Northwest Lodge #13.

Advertise
in
The Vasa Star

Göta Lejon Lodge #251

Two Harbors, MN



This photo was taken at the Festival of St. Lucia held in Two Harbors, MN, on December 8, 2007. This annual event is sponsored by Göta Lejon Lodge #251. St. Lucia is Krissy Shogren, daughter of member Jim Shogren and his wife Jenny. The star boys and attendants are grandchildren or great-grandchildren of Göta Lejon members.

Submitted by: Pat Olson

Svea Lodge #253

Indianapolis, IN



Safina Jamal

Svea #253 is pleased to present our 2007 Saint Lucia, Safina Jamal. Safina attends Junior High School where she participates as a percussionist in the band. She is also active in "Math Counts," yearbook committee, and acting. Her hobbies include soccer, table tennis, basketball, and piano. Safina has participated in previous years as "Tärna" and was proud and grateful to represent her Scandinavian heritage as this year's Lucia. Thank you Safina!

Submitted by: Josue Escalante

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA



Danielle and Nicole Bardwell

Our lodge celebrated the St. Lucia Festival on Sunday, December 9. It was held at Bethany Outreach Center of Luther Memorial Church. Danielle Bardwell was our Lucia this year, following in the footsteps of her sister Nicole, who was Lucia in 2006. Their mom assured me that she has no more daughters!

Danielle is in 11th grade at Ft. Le Boeuf High School. She plays xylophone in the school band. She loves animals and horseback riding. When in college she

hopes to become a veterinarian or a marine biologist.

The beautiful program truly begins the holiday season for us all. Besides, Lucia, John Tell was Star Boy, Valerie Gustafson was Chris Kindle. The "Jul Tomtar" were the youngest children, all in red, and led by Les Fobes. Many Swedish boys and girls in costume sang accompanied by Wallace Wiese.

After the program, all were invited to the church hall, which had been transformed with tables decorated with red cloths, Dala horses, and place settings. A large array of refreshments included Lucia buns and cookies. The cast welcomed everyone, singing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas!" A Swedish "store" filled with decorative items, jewelry and shirts for sale provided a shopping opportunity for all.

The wreath made of \$300 in dollar bills was our raffle item. Lucia drew the winning name – Donna Sandburg from Jamestown, NY, who belongs to our lodge as well as Thule Lodge. Congratulations.



Sandy Miller with her wreath made from 300 \$1 bills.

Our lodge welcomed new members, they are Nancy Beckman, Bob Gibbs, and Betty Gibbs.

Submitted by: Linda Collin



Omaha Lodge #330

Omaha, NE



Emmalie Bettin

Emmalie Bettin was Lucia for the annual celebration of Omaha Lodge #330 in Omaha, NE, on December 9. Emmalie lives in Fort Calhoun, NE, where she is a freshman in high school. She enjoys volleyball and swimming. One of her attendants was her cousin, Kaitlyn Bettin. They are granddaughters of lodge member, Darlene Bettin.

Other attendants were Erin Clough and star boys Ben Clough, Alec and Dylan Meyer, all grandchildren of lodge member, Marlene Clough.

Submitted by: June Soderlund

Norrskenet Lodge #331

Sioux City, IA

In June we celebrated Midsummer. It was held at the home of the Cultural Leader, Stan Swanson. It is a very happy day and has grown. His family is so willing to help with the preparations. You wouldn't believe all the dancers around the pole!

We are very fortunate to have Chris Dryssen (born and raised in Sweden) as our dance master and our teacher of the Swedish lessons from the Vasa Star, as well as chief pancake maker with his sons, Topher and Eric.

December - time for decorating the

meeting hall. Members are making the woven heart-shaped baskets out of Christmas ribbons and garlands of Swedish flags. We have a great time exchanging inexpensive gifts and singing at each meeting. Ron Johnson as our song leader! He is determined to have us singing as many Swedish melodies as possible.

Submitted by: Arlynn O'Connor



"The Swedish chef" alias Eric Dryssen.

Balder Lodge #343

Fermdale, CA



Viktoria Larsson

Viktoria Larsson, a Swedish exchange student attending Eureka High School, portrayed St. Lucia during Balder Lodge's annual Christmas program on December 15. Viktoria is a lovely singer and participates in choir.

The program featured St. Lucia and her procession, musical selections, Christmas carols, a visit from Saint Nicholas and dancing around the Christmas tree and throughout the hall.

Submitted by: Don Christensen

Celebrating 100 Years Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130

Cleveland, Ohio

Saturday, April 19, 2008

You are invited!

For details:

Dick Erickson

216-991-7450

Svea Lodge #348

San Jose, CA



Lucia Rebecca McCombie

December 9 brought warm festivities to a cool night in San Jose.

Svea #348 celebrated Lucia and Santa came with gifts for the kids. Well, Santa was a little thinner, and must have had "taller" shoes this year, but the kids had a great time.

This year Rebecca McCombie was the Svea #348 Lucia. The procession was well attended and the accomplished Zaida Singers supported the singing. After the Lucia departure, the Nordin's led the group with singing, dancing and stomping around the tree.

But then it happened; Santa came with just the right number of gifts. It is always good to see the kids have fun, dancing and refreshments made the evening complete.

Submitted by: Ty Swanson

Skogsblomman Lodge #378

Preston, WA

Members of Skogsblomman Lodge #378, Preston, WA, were saddened by the sudden death of long-time member, Carolyn Ann Purser. Carolyn played such a large part in the day-to-day running of the lodge. She was instrumental in re-vamping and decorating the lodge in a typical Swedish manner complete with hand-painted wildflowers and various Swedish symbols. As cultural leader, we were entertained and informed of many past Swedish customs and she always taught crafts to the children at the annual Children's Swedish Camp held at Vasa Park in Bellevue. Carolyn also assisted in the conversion of an existing building at Vasa park, Bellevue, into an authentic

Stuga and furnishing it appropriately to Swedish standards. She also took language classes at the Swedish Cultural Center. Her Swedish heritage was very important to her, her mother having been born in Jamtland and she maintained close contact with her cousins through her many visits to Sweden, including conducting tours for her friends. As we now prepare for our annual Christmas Lucia pageant she will be in our thoughts.

Submitted by: Rose Zappert

Framåt Lodge #405

El Cerrito, CA

November 9th was our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, thanks to Joanie Graham for baking the turkey. As usual our tables were overflowing with delicious food.

November ended a three-month Heritage Series. In September we had Emigrant-Immigrant stories, October was an Oral History interview, November, guest speaker Steve Wilson from Svea Lodge, San Jose, CA, held us spellbound as he showed us with slides and explained the steps he took to trace his family roots. This, with the resource materials he provided gave us a better understanding of the process of finding our Swedish roots.

We are looking forward to future culture programs.

Submitted by: Patsy Nilsson

Sveaborg Lodge #449

Concord, CA

Solveigh McDonald, membership secretary, proudly introduced 10 new members, a new record for the chapter. They are Judy, Larry and Michael Ard, Marily Brar, Linda and Michael Gorman, David and Debbie La Due, Ray Olsen, and Geneva Walker.



Ten new members initiated at the October meeting.

The evening ended with a riotous version of "The Chicken Dance."

Highlights of the annual Julfest of the Sveaborg Lodge, Concord, CA, was the

presentation of the Lucia Pageant by the lodge's youth group, Vasablad. Led by this year's Lucia, Johanna Sluser, the group sang in Swedish and gave readings describing the history of the Lucia legend. Rosemarie Fassel is the group's leader. Music director/pianist was Bob Burman, with Sven Chilton on violin.

Once again there was a delicious smorgasbord, prepared by the "Swedish Chef" Pelle Nilsson, imported from San Francisco.

There was also a visit by Santa Claus (Larry Ard), who presented the children with Christmas presents (from their parents).

This is a growing Vasa chapter. Persons in Contra Costa County interested in joining should contact Solveigh McDonald, Membership Chair, at 925-934-7630.

Submitted by: Bob Burman



2007 Lucia Johanna Sluser, a 7-year member of the Vasablad Youth Club. She is also involved in Girl Scouts and competitive year-round swimming.

Photo by Betsy Sluser

Harmoni Lodge #472

Portland, OR

On Saturday, September 22, 2007, Harmoni Lodge #472 members enjoyed another delightful outing put together by the Harris Family Tour Co. Vic and Alice Harris, long-time Harmoni members, can put together an outing that makes you wonder why they do not do it for a living. Also participating in making the event successful was their son Chris, Harmoni member, and his wife Tomoko.

The day began with boarding the tour bus at 8:00 a.m., a bit early but with all the delightful events, getting up early was

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Harmoni Lodge #472

Continued from page 15



In front of church in Elbe

not a chore. Our first stop was a short drive across the Columbia River into the state of Washington and our neighboring city of Vancouver to pick up some of the tastiest and freshest donuts and cinnamon rolls ever. They were delightful and served along with iced orange juice and some good Swedish coffee brewed earlier by loyal members. We were then on our way north up Interstate I-5. Delightful trivia and social interaction kept us company until we turned off toward rural Washington towns of Morton and Mossyrock. Most of us never take time to get off the beaten path and see what wonders nature has to offer. This part of Washington is full of mountains, rivers, and little towns and farms. We then stopped in Elbe to view an old Lutheran church built in 1906 by German immigrants from the Elbe River area near Hamburg. The little white church only seats 46 people and is a unique and popular wedding site today.

Back on the bus we proceeded through many scenic areas. We passed through Eatonville and were surprised to see many new houses being built, especially when we did not see a city where they could be employed for over 50 miles.

The culmination of the trip was the Northwest Trek Wildlife Park close to Tacoma, WA. We first enjoyed a great catered box lunch and then hopped the park tram for a trip through the 635 acres of amazing animal diversity in natural habitats. We spied elk, moose, caribou, bison, Rocky Mountain goats, mountain sheep, geese, etc. What fun to see such majestic animals up close. A walking tour afterward enabled us to view cougar,

bear, fox, lynx, bobcats, and animals of prey in large natural exhibits.

What a delightful day, culminating with a drive back to Portland with afternoon treats and more friendly conversation, guessing games, and a sing-along of Swedish and lively American tunes.

Harmoni Lodge #472 is a very active organization. Our membership enjoys keeping our Swedish heritage alive. Much was planned for fall and winter. In November we celebrated our 82nd Anniversary with a Lutefisk and Meatball dinner with many extras provided by members. Our December meeting once again featured the Vasa "Rosebuds" Youth Group who danced, sang, and performed Lucia. We are so fortunate that they love to come and be with us for this celebration. Of course, Tomten was there. In February we will celebrate with either a public Valentine party and dance or a Crab Feed.

So if you Vasa members are in the Portland area at any time, look us up on our website, www.harmonilodge472.org and come visit. You are sure to have a delightful time.

Submitted by: **Judy Rust and Alice Harris**

Harmoni Lodge #472 & Nobel Lodge #184

Juli Brown is our 2007 Lucia. Juli is an 11-year-old 5th grader at *Milwaukee Elementary*. Her Mother, Lynne Brown is a member of Harmoni Lodge. Juli joined the *VASA Youth Group* at age 3 and has

been performing with the group for 8 years. The children's performances include *The Oregon Symphony*, *The Portland Youth Philharmonic*, passing of the Olympic torch, *Portland Children's Theater*, *The Portland Rose Festival*, *The Oregon Zoo*, *IKEA*, *Scanfair*, *Midsummer* and various Scandinavian events throughout the Northwest.

Juli loves to dance, and wants to be a performer when she grows up. She is looking forward to becoming a lead dancer next season with the *VASA Youth Group* where she will help instruct the smaller dancers and pass on to them the dances she has learned over the years. There are currently 32 girls and boys in the dance group ages 2-17.

In her spare time, Juli participates in Hip-Hop and Modern dance. She loves to play softball, listen to her favorite band *The Jonas Brothers*, and hang out with her friends. She also loves to explore new places, and hopes to travel to Sweden and meet her many relatives very soon.

Submitted by: **Lynne Brown**



Lucia Juli Brown

Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI

As tradition has it, Linde Lodge's offspring Skansen Children's Club put on a great performance to celebrate Lucia and Christmas on December 16. This year's Lucia was 7th-grader Jennifer Moon. Lucia, her six attendants, two star boys, and one little tomte did us all proud. The social included open face sandwiches, "köttbullar," herring, "lusse katter" and lots of baked goods along with coffee and juice. The children performed special dances, and then just about everyone - young and old - partook in the "ringdans" around the Christmas tree. Great food baskets, a Linnea table runner, and a "Pepparkakshus" (gingerbread house)

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Linde Lodge #492

Continued from page 16

were raffled off. Special guest Santa finished off the evening, listening to all special requests, and handing out bright red apples to all the good boys and girls.

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand



Lucia is Jennifer Moon.



Alec and Santa

Lindbergh Lodge #494

Los Altos, CA



Lucia was Alexa Wallin, granddaughter of Chairman Chuck Wallin.

Submitted by: Tore Kellgren

Linnea Lodge #504

Petaluma, CA

On November 10, 2007, Linnea Lodge #504, Petaluma, CA, celebrated their 80th Anniversary with a banquet at the Quail Inn in Santa Rosa. The hall was lovely with flowers, Viking ships, and warm Vasa fellowship.

Joanie Graham, the Vasa secretary, was our guest and she recalled that her mother was present when our lodge was founded. She presented 60-year membership pins to Sylvia Anderson and Harriet Moline, 40-year pins to Linnea Koagedal and Lorentz Koagedal, and 25-year pins to Gun and Roland Janson.

Carl Anderson, whose parents were Charter members, recounted that he probably started attending meetings when he was six months old – all the parents brought their children.

Kris Palo was Master of Ceremonies and Linnea Koagedal and Cynthia Machado were the other committee members.

Erika Jorgensen, daughter of Toni and Fred Jorgensen of Orland, CA, was Lucia at our 2007 Lucia Fest and Smorgasbord on December 9. Erika is the granddaughter of the late Einar Jorgensen and Thelma Jorgensen, active Linnea members.

Erika attends Washington State University at Pullman, WA, on an academic scholarship.

There were about 40 children in the lovely procession and 200 people enjoyed the delicious dinner, prepared and served by our members.

Submitted by: Thelma L. Jorgensen



Erika Jorgensen, 2007 Lucia

Phoenix Lodge #677

Phoenix, AZ



Savannah LeMond

After a traditional Swedish bountiful meal, a lovely Lucia Program was presented. Savannah LeMond, our Lucia this year, is the daughter of Gina LeMond and of Ron and Kim LeMond; granddaughter of Lynnea Melander: great-granddaughter of long time members Fred and Bernice Melander. Eleven attendants, two Star Boys and an Elf, accompanied her. Savannah read the Lucia Legend then Ron LeMond presented his daughter with the Lucia pendant. The Lucia entourage sang "Stilla Natt," "Staffanvisan," "Nu Tändas Tusen Juleljus, Jingle Bells, and "Jultomten" is coming to Town, with a Duet by Savannah LeMond and Greta Westberg singing "När Juldagsmorgon Glimmar" with Barbara Langland at the piano. After the program the Lucia and attendants passed Swedish cookies to everyone.

With Anders Flink accordionist and Margareta Flink as leader there was joyful dancing around the Christmas tree. Around and around the tree they went with the words, motions and movements that make it fun for young and old alike. In the meantime Santa found his chair so after the dancing each child received a gift. Saturday, December 8, 2007 was a memorable enjoyable afternoon for all. As friends were leaving we could hear Merry Christmas or "God Jul." And we wish the same for all of you adding our wish for a Happy, Prosperous, and Peaceful New Year! - Elna Lidman.

Submitted by: Sam Liden

Desert Viking Lodge #682

Cathedral City, CA



Erika Bocker

Over 100 people gathered at Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert, CA, for Desert Viking's 40th Lucia celebration. The afternoon began with a craft sale and bake sale of yummy goodies. A delicious Swedish meatball dinner was prepared and served by Charter member Viola Wyler and her crew. Barbara Gast, Cultural Leader, was Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. Christmas carols were sung, accompanied by Tanya Wood on the piano. Readings about the Christmas Star, the Advent Candle (including verses in Swedish read by Lauren Kosvic, who spent a year in Sweden as an exchange student), and the Santa Lucia legend were enjoyed. Nine previous Lucias were introduced including the lodge's very first Lucia, Lennea Danielsson Deyo. Erika Bocker was presented as Desert Viking Lodge's 2007 Lucia. Maiden Kajsa Frary and daughter Olivia sang two beautiful songs in Swedish. The afternoon ended with Santa (Tom Bartel) arriving with gifts for the children.

Submitted by: Kristi Wilson

Bishop Hill Lodge #683

Bishop Hill, IL

Since 1846, Swedes have been crossing the ocean to come to *Bishop Hill*. In keeping with this tradition, November 16th, 2007, two guests from Sweden visited the monthly meeting of Lodge #683. Vivecka Skott and Una Jerlock from the LL Bråviken 751 of Sweden brought greetings and gifts to our Lodge. They were warmly welcomed, as well as guests Lennart and Joan Petterson from the LL #549 Skandia Lodge from Canada.

Russell Anderson and three of his young grandchildren entertained the lodge and guests with many musical numbers. Nothing like a sing-along with great piano music to get everyone in a happy mood!

The Lodge's youth group, *Pride of the Family*, attended the Lindsborg, Kansas festival in October. It was reported that the group learned new dances and had a wonderful visit. *The Pride of the Family* participated in the Bishop Hill *Lucia Night Festival*, helping at the *National Archive* building. *Lucia Night Festival* was held December 7 and 8 in. All shops and museums had a Lucia serving treats while all buildings in the village were lit with one candle per window. This has been a tradition in Bishop Hill for about 40 years. Tourists come from miles to visit and participate in this beautiful festival. All are welcome!!

Submitted by: Cheryl Dowell



Kim Litchfield

Norden Lodge #684

Fresno, CA



Andrey Johnson

Our one big fundraiser, the annual Lucia celebration, took place on December 8 here in Fresno with lots of helper's young and old. Our Lucia was Andrey Johnson, 14, daughter of Sherri Johnson. She is a 9th grader at Clovis North High School and is involved in

cheerleading, horseback riding, drama, choir and volunteers with youth at her church. Andrey has also played on the school's tennis team. She is a busy young lady. Furthermore, she has traveled with her family twice to Sweden to visit relatives.

The dinner consisting of meatballs, sausage, herring, rice pudding and "lut-fisk", Lucia buns and cookies were served as well as "glögg" and of course "Tomten" came too. About 150 people attended, including our District Deputy Ivan Johnson who traveled quite a ways to see us. Our outgoing chairman, Mary Morton, sang several beautiful songs. Overall, a wonderful evening.

Submitted by: Inger Lindhe

Tre Kronor Lodge #713

Salem, OR



Caitlin Cameron, our Lucia for 2007. She is the granddaughter of Lodge Chairperson Audrey Cameron.



Victoria Wilson of the Lucia Court playing with our "Jul Bock."

Submitted by: Barry Ostrom

Stenland Lodge #727

Palisades, NY



Julia Syvarth

Julia Syvarth, daughter of Wendy and Daniel Syvarth, has been selected as the Lucia for Stenland Lodge's annual Lucia Fest and Christmas Party held at *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*, Pearl River, NY.

Julia has been a member of the children's group performing the Lucia Pageant for 9 years. She is a 6th grade student who has been honored for her scholastic achievements. Julia plays the violin both in the school orchestra and in the *All County Orchestra*. She also enjoys playing the guitar and singing.

Julia comes from a long line of Vasa members. Her proud grandmother, Ingrid (Lofgren) Allison is a member of Skandia Lodge #356 in NJ District 6 and a Charter Member of Stenland Lodge #727 in Rockland County, NY District 4. Julia's great grandparents, Carl and Judith Lofgren were very active members of Vasa serving NJ District #6 and Skandia Lodge #356 in many capacities. Carl Lofgren was District Master of NJ in 1964-65.

Submitted by: Ingrid Allison

Scandia Lodge #728

Prescott, AZ

Scandia Lodge #728, Prescott, AZ, had a wonderful holiday gathering on December 9, 2007. The highlight of the afternoon was the elaborate smorgasbord enjoyed by about 70 people. Cold table, glogg, hot table, dessert table. What more could we want? Candlelight, music, a light snow falling outside, and the company of our friends. Shaylene Milam was

our Lucia and her sister Abby served as her attendant. Shaylene is 10 years old and a gifted student at Lincoln School in Prescott. She is in the New Horizons program and Math Olympics and is avid about horses. She hoped to get one for Christmas! Her other interests are tetherball, volleyball, and hanging out with her friends. She is the great-granddaughter of long-time member, Andria Odean. The large and beautiful Scandinavian Christmas basket raffle was won by Al and Gunhild Albrechtsen. We all appreciated the hard work of the committee, led by Sue Malarkey, for planning such an enjoyable event to remember our culture and traditions. Scandia met on January 13 for a program called "Norwegian Fisherman." We are also looking forward to the Arizona District #21 Convention to be held at the Dobson Ranch Resort in Mesa, AZ, on April 4-6.

Submitted by: Pat Flippen



Lucia Shaylene Milam and attendant (her sister), Abby.

Viking Lodge #730

Flint, MI

Kassandra Marie Ohlsson, age 16, daughter of Bengt Ohlsson and Anne Grosinsky, Flushing, MI, was again Viking Lodge's 2007 Lucia. The 2007 pageant and smorgasbord was held December 16, 2007, for the first time at Grand Blanc, MI's Senior Activity Center.

Kassandra, an 11th grade honor student at Flushing High School, plays flute and oboe in the Concert Band and performs Flag and Rifle routines with Marching Band Color Guard that won second place in Michigan's High School Color Guard Competition.

Her grandparents, Franz Ohlsson of Ostersund, and Gun Tingstrom from Stockholm, immigrated to America in the 1950s.

Submitted by: Howard E. Weaver



Kassandra Marie Ohlsson

Birka Lodge #732

Hamilton, MA

We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Richards, 12, of Beverly, MA, became Santa Lucia during the annual Jul Fest held at the lodge on November 24. Jennifer is the daughter of Debbie and David Richards and niece of long-time Birka members, Helen and Warren Riddle.

Jennifer is in the 7th grade and has been in the Lucia procession for 4 years. She loves music, especially cultural music. She loves to read, write, swim in the ocean, draw, Irish step dance and play with her 1 year old Maltese puppy, Halley. She has also taken violin lessons for the past 7 years.

The festival of Santa Lucia begins before dawn on the 13th of December, which under the old Julian calendar (used in Sweden before 1753) was Christmas Day and the longest night of the year. Throughout Sweden the eldest daughter in each household comes to her sleeping parents dressed in a long white gown tied with a red sash and wearing a crown of lingonberry leaves in which are set seven lighted candles. She carries a tray of steaming hold coffee and Lussekatort. The procession includes her sisters and brothers also dressed in white, holding lighted candles and singing of the light and joy of Christmas. The sisters of the Lucia Bride wear a wreath of tinsel in

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Birka Lodge #732

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their hair and a piece tied around their waist, while the boys have tall pointed caps sprinkled with stars. Awakened by the lights and the singing, the parents rise and eat the breakfast served.

Submitted by: Lois Johnson



Jennifer Richards

Viking Lodge #735

Moorestown, PA

The Lucia Singers of Viking Lodge #735, New Jersey District #6, Vasa Order of America, sang a medley of Swedish Yule songs, Christmas carols, and, of course, "Sankta Lucia" as a part of the 28th annual Lucia Fest held at Muhlenberg College's Edgar Chapel in Allentown, PA, Sunday, Dec. 2. Viking member Allison Osborne and her sister, Kresten, daughters of Viking Shirley Nylund, provided the prelude on piano and flute respectively.

The event was sponsored by the faculty of the college and featured the children of faculty members portraying Light Bearers, Folk Customs, "Tomtegubbar," star children and, of course, Lucia. This year's Lucia is Katharine Schick, age 16. Katharine is an 11th grader at William Allen High School in Allentown. The Lucia Singers have been performing in the pageant almost from its inception.

Following the Fest members of Viking Lodge retired to the college's Seeger Union Building for their annual Christmas feast. Cheeses and hot "glögg" preceded the dinner which consisted of salmon, pork, mixed vegetables and chocolate tort. Pianist Barbara Budlong, Professor of Music at Moravian College,

provided the dinner entertainment.

The Muhlenberg Lucia Fest is modeled after the Lucia Fest performed at St. James Church in Kingsessing in West Philadelphia. It is one of the old Swedish churches located in the area that in colonial times was known as "New Sweden."

Scandinavians throughout the world celebrate the Lucia Fest usually on the morning of Dec. 13.

Viking Lodge is composed of over 90 members from throughout eastern Pennsylvania and western New Jersey. Memberships is open to persons of Scandinavian background and their spouses. The group, which is dedicated to maintaining the culture and heritage of the Scandinavian peoples, meets the third Sunday of each month at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Moorestown, PA. Persons interested in membership information should contact Paul Thenstedt at 610-691-2296. Proceeds from lodge events primarily provide scholarships for high school students to attend Scandinavian language camps.

Submitted by: Lars Larmon



Katharine Schick of Allentown was the Lucia for the Muhlenberg College/Viking Lodge's 28th annual Lucia Fest.

Carl Larson Lodge #739

Raleigh, NC

During the Carl Larsson Lodge October meeting, Katie Iocona was awarded the 2007 *Ellis F. Hillner Award!* She is currently studying at *UNC-Wilmington* and will major in Pre-Medicine or Pharmaceuticals. To honor her achievement, Katie and her parents, Vince and Cindy Iocona, and her grandparents Len and Nancy Johansson were

present for the ceremony. To make this evening truly special, the Southeast Region Grand Lodge Deputy, Guye Dupcak and her husband Joe traveled all the way from Roswell, GA to Raleigh, NC in order to present the Grand Lodge certificate to Katie in person! On behalf of the Carl Larsson Lodge, the Chairman, Craig Jonson, presented Katie with a dozen red roses and a card with a small gift in honor of her award.

During this same meeting, Grand Lodge Deputy Guye and the Lodge celebrated Past Grand Lodge Executive Board member Len Johansson's 50th year of VASA membership. The 50-year pin belonged to Len's mother, and Guye had the honor to affix this to Len's lapel. Chairman Craig Jonson also honored Nancy Johansson's 40th year of VASA membership. Our Lodge also acknowledged Cindy Iocona's 30 years of VASA membership and Vince Iocona's 20 years of VASA membership. Truly impressive! The next time you see the Johansson's and Iocona's please give them a hearty congratulations!

Submitted by: Craig Jonson, Chairman V.O.A.



Katie Iocona, family members, and Guye Dupcak.

Viking Lodge #756

Greenfield, MA

Viking Lodge #756 held its Lucia Pageant on December 9, 2007 at *St Paul's Lutheran Church*. The church was filled with family and friends and everyone had a wonderful time. After a greeting by PDM Phil Johnson, Judd Blain gave a reading about the history of Lucia.

The church was dark when Lucia made her grand entrance followed by her attendants.

We all enjoyed the readings and songs. "Silent Night" is a highlight of our

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Viking Lodge #756

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pageant, it is sung in English, Swedish, Finnish, German, French, and Chinese. Then all gathered downstairs for coffee and Lucia buns and other treats.

This year's Lucia was Lucy Chase, her attendants were Anna Athey, Lily Blain, Megan Hrinada, Anneka Johnson, Avery Johnson, Leah Pion, Mackenzie Pion, Emma Kelly, Ashley Ploskonka, Katie Tease, and Anna Walker. Starboys were Sam Blain, Sam Chase, Luke Hrinada, Sigurd Kohlin, Gus Kohlin and Kenny Olchowski. Nancy Pond played cello. "Tomte Far" was Torvald Kohlin.

Submitted by: Phil Johnson



Lucy Chase

Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

As you can see the local *Trolls* came out for a good time at our October meeting. They were just in time for the food which was as follows, *Trolls toes – Mushrooms, dried up dung and beetles – raisins, carrion bones brew – coffee, ants eggs cookies – oatmeal cookies, horse liver cake – pumpkin cake* to name a few of the goodies that were at the *Troll table*.

November was a time for celebration as we enter our fourth year at our lodge. Deanne and Mike French were inducted as our new members. Allen Bergquist spoke about his travels in the Far East and also about the three years that he and his wife spent in Singapore.

December 9th was our Lucia Celebration. Traditional foods were served at our Smorgasbord. There is always something to look forward to!

Starting out the New Year Chuck Elston, and Vito Pantaleo will present a program about Raul Wallenberg.

At the February meeting, Donna Collins and Carol Bryant will inform us about Sigurd Undset and her writings.

Submitted by: Carol Ingstad Bryant



Nordic Red Rocks "local trolls."

SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Since I last wrote to you we have had two meetings. The meeting in October is called "Evening of the Brothers" and it always have a theme. This year it was called "Skånsk Afton." This evening 85 brothers and sisters got together to have great food and then the show began. Nine brothers were singing old "Skåne"-songs and we all sang together. They also told some jokes. It was a fun evening!

Skåne is located in the southern part of Sweden and it is an old part of Scandinavia. In 1658, after a war between the Swedes and the Danes, Skåne became a part of Sweden, as we know it today. We have had our own language but it is long gone.

In November we have a formal meeting.

We in Lodge Höganäs #634 like to keep the old ceremonies and we have about three formal meetings per year. It is nice to keep the old ceremonies because it adds some dignity to it all and we remem-

ber why we once applied for the membership in the Vasa Order of America.

That is all for now!

Submitted by: Elise Ek

Pictures by: Berit and Hans Bogren



Formal Meeting. The guests arrive, DHM Gull-Maj Högsted, VDS Ingrid Cannerhagen, DD Bodil Walles, SLKL Gun Lith och SLD Knut Rosenkvist.

Logen Mellerud Nr 644

In March 2007, some people from the *Home Coming Year* network joined Logen Mellerud Nr 644. The group was very honored to become members and get the opportunity to connect to so many new friends, interested in the Swedish-American heritage.

The *Home Coming Year* network is a group of people who joined together about two years ago to start planning an event to welcome Swedish-American relatives to explore the beautiful landscape of Dalsland, Sweden. This is a rural area of Sweden where almost half of the population went to America to find a way to build a more fulfilling future. Almost every family in Dalsland have relatives in the USA or Canada. Sadly many connections have been lost during the years.

The network plans to arrange a *Home Coming Year* event in the summer of 2008. This event wish to strengthen the relationships between the Swedish people in Dalsland and their American relatives and friends. Dalsland is a Sweden in miniature with forests, lakes and blooming green meadows and with many interesting cultural venues to visit.

The *Home Coming Year* event also wish to be a resource for connection between those who have lost the links to their ancestors. Among other things, Dalsland can offer help to find ancestors through the museum in Mellerud. Other things that are part of the planning for summer 2008 are such things as ancestor search seminars, Swedish language and cooking classes, theatres, handicraft fairs, hikes or horseback riding in the forests, fishing and moose safaris.

Contact person for the network is Eiwor Backelund. Please feel free to contact her at eiwor@gatewayc.com.

Swedish

I mars 2007 fick logen Mellerud Nr 644 några nya medlemmar som kom från nätverket *Home Coming Year*. Dessa var mycket hedrade att bli medlemmar och ha möjlighet att knyta kontakten med så många nya vänner, som också är intresserade av det svensk-amerikanska arvet.

Nätverket *Home Coming Year* består av en grupp människor, som slöt sig samman för ungefär två år sedan, för att börja planera ett evenemang för att välkomna svensk-amerikanska släktingar att utforska det vackra dalsländska landskapet. Dalsland är en lantlig del av Sverige, där nästan hälften av befolkningen emigrerade



Här hälsas Birgit Hansson, Stig Nelson, Christina Larsson, Eiwor Backelund, Jonny Salén och Elisabeth Stigen-Salén, samtliga medlemmar i Nätverket Home Coming Year, välkomna till Mellerud Nr 644 av Logens Ordf. Bernt Blomgren. De nya medlemmarna flankeras av Ceremoniästarerna May-Britt Björkstål och Else-Britt Andersson. Annelie Andersson och Jim Nordstedt också från Home Coming Year, har tillkommit som medlemmar i Logen efter att fotat.

till Amerika, för att skapa sig en bättre framtid. Nästan alla familjer i Dalsland har släktingar i USA eller Kanada. Tråkigt nog har många kontakter gått förlorade under årens lopp.

Nätverket planerar att arrangera ett *Home Coming Year* event sommaren 2008. En önskan med denna tilldragelse är att stärka relationerna mellan svenskarna i Dalsland och deras amerikanska släktingar och vänner. Dalsland är ett Sverige i miniatyr med skogar, sjöar och blommande gröna dalar och med många intressanta kulturplatser att besöka.

Home Coming Year evenemanget hop-

pas också på att fungera som en resurs för att det som förlorat kontakten med sina förfäder ska kunna återfå den. Dalsland kan, bland mycket annat, erbjuda hjälp att finna sina förfäder genom museét i Mellerud. Annat som ingår i planeringen inför sommaren 2008 är släktforskningsseminarier, kurser i svenska språket och svensk matlagning, teatrar, hantverksmässor, vandringar och ridturer i skogen, fiske-och älgsafaris.

Du är välkommen att kontakta nätverkets kontaktperson Eiwor Backelund på eiwor@gatewayc.com.

Submitted by: Berith Blomgren

Logen Enköping Nr 646

Under lördagen den 6 oktober 2007 hade logen Enköping Nr 646, glädjen att få besök av *Vilhelm Mobergs* dotter Marianne Forssell som tillsammans med sin make Bo Forssell berättade om *Vilhelm Moberg* och sjöng emigrantvisor. Även medlemmar från Västerås och Stockholm hade samlats i Enköping för att få en inblick av den kände författaren *Vilhelm Mobergs* liv.

I Mariannes berättelse om sin far fick vi bl a reda på att *Vilhelm Moberg* var en av sju i sin syskonskara. Det var bara han och två systrar som överlevde till vuxen ålder.

När *Vilhelm Moberg* var 11 år dog hans bror Hjalmar 18 år gammal klockan 07.20 vilket var ett starkt minne för honom hela sitt liv och klockslaget fick troligen en betydelse när *Vilhelm Moberg* senare avslutade sitt liv genom att gå ner till sjön en augusti morgon 1973. Då lämnade han en lapp på nattduksbordet som bl a talade om att klockan var 07.20

Swedish Costumes for Children

from Scanda HomeDecor

pehrdahlin@hotmail.com

Marianne berättade också att *Vilhelm Moberg* skrev *Rasken* 1927 och det blev en stor succe. Böckerna om utvandringen tog 12 år att skriva. Han började 1947 med sin forskning kring första boken om utvandrarerna, som sedan kom ut 1949. Mariannes egen del i den boken var när Kristina boken *Utvandrarna* började blöda näsblod på fartyget Charlotta. Den delen kom till utifrån att Marianne med fadern *Vilhelm Moberg* var på en båtresa

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Logen Enköping Nr 646

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till medelhavet och Marianne började blöda näsblod på båten.

Vilhelm Moberg författade 60 tal titlar, 25 skådespel och gjorde även många små artiklar till tidningar.

Enligt dottern var Moberg en varm och snäll människa men ibland kunde han också vara något stingslig. Han tyckte om att fiska och tillsammans med dottern Marianne var han ofta ute och tog upp fiskenät när tid för fiske fanns. Marianne arbetade också som sin fars sekreterare vilket krävde rätt så mycket, eftersom *Vilhelm Moberg* var mycket noggrann med orden och kunde skriva om sitt manuskript tre gånger.

Det var ett mycket intressant föredrag om honom som Marianne Forssell delgav åhörarna och i en paus framförde även Marianne och Bo Forssell några trevliga emigrantvisor med gitarrackompanjering av Bo Forssell.

Efter föredraget och emigrantvisorna överlämnade logens ordförande Karl-Erik Axelsson rosor till Marianne och framförde ett varmt tack under tiden åhörarna applåderade.

Kvällen fortsatte sedan med lotteri dragning och vår DD Liberth Karlsson framförde gästernas tack till de kommitterade Inger och Torbjörn From samt Lena och Sven-Olof Johansson för den utsökta maten.



Marianne och Bo Forssell sjunger emigrantvisor.

Den 1 december firade logen Enköping Nr 646 sin Lucia. Vi började efterkapitlet med att hälsa Ulf Olsson och Yvonne Axelsson varmt välkomna som gäster samt våra logesyskon som kommit till själva efterkapitlet. Därefter bjöds vi på ett julbord med alla de goda rätterna som brukar finnas under ett julbord. Våra duktiga kommitterade Lillemor Eriksson, Ingrid och Allan Tammerfors hade lagt mycket möda i att vi alla skulle trivas och känna att maten var hemmagjord.

Efteråt kom årets Lucia med tärnor,

stjärngosse och tomte. De bjöd på en egengjord reportoar med många gamla fina luciasånger men också nya vackra julsånger som de framförde acapella och då blev det alldeles tyst i lokalen.

En eloge till vårt fina Luciatåg med

ungdomarna Louise Store, Ingrid Lekberg, Agnes Forsell, Lovisa Lord-Torvfelt, Lena Edlund och Rasmus Mocklin samt till de kommitterade för denna trevliga avslutning på år 2007.

Submitted by: PS LL, Elisabeth Agge



Lucia tåg

Logen Bråviken Nr 751

Inge Hallberg Chartermedlem som arbetat för att Logen Bråviken lever upp till "Vasa Orden i Tiden," och därmed leder till ett nyskapande med sunt förnuft utan att tumma på konstitutionen. Br. Inge har också sett till att många loger fått reportage och information i tidningar och på hemsidorna som nu gjort att *Vasa Orden av Amerika* börjar bli ett begrepp.

Gunnar Nordh är Chartermedlem, Bråvikens första ordförande och mästare i allt Vasaarbete och för logens framåtskridande. Både Gunnar Nord och Inge Hallberg är verkliga två eldsjalar för Vasa Orden. Gunnar Nordh var tillsammans med Ordf i Logen Filbyter Nr 714 också ett starkt kort för SLPD Lisbeth H Qvarfordt i slutledningen av Logen Vadstenas tillblivelse.

Vid jubiléet träffades också samtliga ordförandena som varit med från starten. Bland dem fanns så klart också två tidigare ordföranden Lisbeth H Qvarfordt som värvade som Ordf. 24 medlemmar och logen fick det året pris som bästa medlemsökning från *Storlogen*. Viveka Skott värvade som FDO 16 medlemmar och fick DL 19 pris, en Amerikaresa för två i den rekryteringskampanj som Lisbeth H Qvarfordt startade som DM. Logen fick också pris från *Storlogen*, för sin medlemsökning.

Det blev en riktig högtidskväll med Logen Bråviken Nr 751, den näst yngsta logen med en ung och framåt ordf. Bo Svensson 39, fadderloge till den nya Logen Vadstena Nr 762, endast tre veckor gammal.

Submitted by: Anette Ek, LL Bråviken Nr 751

Picture by: Jan Hult, LL Bråviken, Nr 751



Hedersmedlemmar och värvarproffs, från v Lisbeth H Qvarfordt SLPD. Logen Bråvikens första hedersmedlemmar Inge Hallberg och Gunnar Nordh samt Viveka Skott FDO som fick en Amerikaresa som belöning.

Welcome To Our New Members

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

Tore Kellgren, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman

5971 W. Walbrook Dr.

San Jose, CA 95129

E-mail: tore@kellgren.org

DL GRAND LODGE JURISDICTION NO. 0

Nordic #708

Patience Erickson
Bonnelyn Dodson
Gunnar Holm
Christine Robinson

DL CONNECTICUT NO. 1

Diana Birger Jarl #3

Christine Solomon
Keith Solomon

DL N.Y. NO. 4

Freja #100

Victoria Holmberg
James Peterson
Kristen Purdy
Olympic #235
Heather Grasso
Wendy Mattson-Grasso
Laura Perri

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Siljan-Mor-Tuna #134

Jeffrey Wilczynski
Austin #466
Anthony Bryan
Paul Gruber
Ruth Rettke
Jubileum #755
Susan Eckerie

DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

Nobel-Monitor #130

Michael Nilsson
Pam Nilsson

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Svea #348

Kelly Foster
Karin Jacobson
Rebecca McCombie
Sveaborg #449
Michael Ard
Judy Ard
Larry Ard
Marilyn Brar
Ray Olsen
Davie LaDue
Debbi LaDue
Michael Gorman
Linda Gorman
Geneva Walker
Linnea #504
Jennifer Humble
Sierra Kronan #737
Blanche Bradley
Lois Bycroft

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Astor #215

Chelsea Mattingly
Michele Nielson
Lisa Sundstrom
Skogsblomman #378

Becky Dargitz

Jim Dargitz

Ronald Erickson

Jon Mathison

Solidaritet #396

Ed Lafquist

Isaac Williams

Cariboo #690

Vickie Campbell

Chelsey Horn

Tre Kronor #713

Michael Timshel

Odin #726

Christine Rider

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Golden Valley #616

Hanna Dios

Kristoffer Dios

Wenche Eklund

Northern Light #620

Heather Peckfelder

Desert Viking #682

Donald Dietz

Sally Hedberg

Jeanne Matthews

Baltic #689

Monica Weisbart

Valhalla #715

Thomas Figueras

Jean Martin

Glenn T Seaborg #719

Karin Carlson

Susan Carlson

Judy Godvin

Elin Kindig

Jane Kindig

Norman Kindig

Valerie Larson

DL ALBERTA NO. 18

Skandia #549

Annette Jensen-Bergg

Steven Bergg

Cameron Bonnar

Dessg Bonnar

Kristi Bonnar

Gregory Brodeur

Niklas Eliasson

Richard McMurray

Jessica McIn

Matthew Oldham

Gary Rhodes

Andrea Samuelson

Brad Samuelson

Jenelle Serediak

Carmen Spence

Kristina Williams

ARIZONA NO. 21

Red Rocks #760

Deanne French

Michael French

NORRA SVERIGE NR 19

Mälardrottningen Nr 563

Beatrice Hogg

Sven-Erik Sjögren

Gotland Nr 624

Margareta Thelander

Sten Thelander

Gunilla Lindström

Lars Lindström

Eva-Lisa Hansson

Anna-Lena Claesson

Lennart Claesson

Karlstad Nr 632

Magnus Persson

Conny Carlsson

Barbro Bucht

Eskilstuna Nr 633

Margareta Ågren-Elfkvist

Bo Elfkvist

Lidköping Nr 636

Christina Bergdahl

Lars Bergdahl

Birgitta Carlehed

Anders Carlehed

Inga Maj Andersson

Karl-Axel Andersson

Marianne Johansson

Peter Lundin

Elly Selin

Eivor Jönsson

Logen Uddevalla Nr 638

Samuli Litmanen

Carina Andersson

Astrid Rudklint

Mellerud Nr 644

Anneli Andersson

Jim Nordstedt

Stig Nelson

Birgit Hansson

Christina Larsson

Jonny Salén

Elisabeth Stigen-Salén

Eiwor Backelund

Claes Sagerström

Nicolai Nr 663

Marcus Sjöström

Maire Wiklund

Åke Petersson

Eva Sjöström

Birgitta Petersson

Lisbeth Lindahl-Gustafsson

Tage Wiklund

Jan Gustafsson

Kongahälla Nr 702

Jan Augustsson

Margaretha Augustsson

Inge Andersson

Karin Andersson

Filbyter Nr 714

Siv Furubacke

Henry Axelsson

Logen Knallen Nr 745

Lena Levén

Lars Levén

Karl-Åke Claesson

Ann-Charlotte Claesson

Arne Widell

Per-Axel Jertborn

Logen Vadstena Nr 762

Eva Andersson

Jan Andersson

Margareta Andersson

Birgith Arkevert

Inger Berg

Gunnar Carlsson

Gösta Cederin

Anna Cederin

Ulf Cederin

Solveig Davidsson

Jessica Gustavsson

Sudarat Hallberg

Leif Hallberg

Magnus Jernér

Monica Jernér

Barbro Kardell

Ingrid Viola Karlsson

Ingela Molander

Susanna Normann

Inger Palm

Ing-Britt Persson-Cederin

Laila Pettersson

Emma Westlund

SÖDRA SVERIGE NR 20

Logen Kärnan Nr 608

Eva Bewell

Arbro Hedström

Rikard Löfdahl

Margita Norrman

Ann-Britt Strufve

Lars-Olof Strufve

Arne Tönnesson

Logen Småland Nr 618

Ettan Bratt

Lennart Sjöqvist

Göte Bengtsson

Maureen Bengtsson

Logen Calmare Nyckel Nr

628

Birgitta Fagerström

Hans Fagerström

Siv Hurtig

Mats Hurtig

Karin Johansson

Jan Johansson

Katarina Kahl

Logen Ronneby Nr 630

Gunilla Lindell

Sewe Lindberg

Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Mai Sandberg

Ola Sandberg

Anita Gripenstam

Jarl Gripenstam

Logen Malmöhus Nr 643

Berit Jellhede

Bert Jellhede

Logen Tre Hjärtan Nr 665

Elis Ljungek

Gunnel Ljungek

Margaret Larsson

Logen Westervik Nr 679

Yvonne Andersson

Sven Larsson

Irene Larsson

Logen Utvandrarna Nr 680

Berit Andersson

Lennart Andersson

Logen Nybyggarna Nr 698

Karin Johansson

Claes Johansson

Marie Lindelöv

Bodil Olofsson

Stig Olofsson

Logen Trelleborg Nr 734

Ingrid Andermyr

Hans Andermyr

Siv Jönsson

Bo-Inge Jönsson

Margareta Finnhult

Tomas Finnhult

Ulla-Britt Persson

Lars-Erik Persson

Gun Schmidt

Peter Schmidt

Logen Blå Jungfrun Nr 749

Håkan Andersson

Anita Andersson

Torsten Ivarsson

Anna-Maj Ivarsson

Hans Peter Kjellgren

Lena Larsson

Lennart Johnson

Sune Nyberg

Birgit Sandgren

Logen Vadstena Nr 762

Den 20 oktober 2007 är en dag att minnas i DL 19:s historia. Då instiftades en ny loge i DL Norra Sverige Nr 19. Många ordensyskon hade samlats i Vadstena denna dag för att glädjas åt att en ny loge hade bildats och att den ceremoniellt skulle inträda inom vår Orden. Bland ordensyskonen som närvarade kan nämnas SLMDER för Sverige, Tore Tellberg, SLMDER at-large Bertil Ericsson samt DL 19:s SLD Ewa Pilhammar-Andersson.

Under den högtidliga ceremoni, som distriktsceremonimästare Connie Gröns lugna hand framförde med värdighet, gav ett mycket vackert intryck när den nya logen instiftades. Samtidigt blev ca 17 nya medlemmar även chartermedlemmar i denna loge. Till DD för logen Vadstena Nr 762 utnämnde DM DL 19 Gunnar Gustafsson och br. Einar Savolainen-Grön från logen Lidköping Nr 636.

Många vasasyskon önskade sedan att få framföra sina gratulationer till den nya logen genom telegram och gåvor, bl a den Amerikanska flaggan, som var en gåva från den *Amerikanska Ambassaden*, samt den Svenska flaggan som var en personlig gåva från ordensyskonen Sonja och Lotta Hall, logen Stockholm Nr 589.

Genom Harriet Jansson och Svante Jansson i logen Upsala Nr 623 försorg, överlämnades som tack, varsin bukett, från enskilda medlemmar i lokallogerna till SLPD Lisbeth Qvarfordt-Hallberg och Inge Hallberg logen Bråviken Nr 751 samt till lokalloge medlemmarna Arne Samuelsson i Filbyter Nr 714 och Gunnar Nordh logen Bråviken Nr 751 för deras arbete med att bilda den nya logen Vadstena Nr 762.

Även Chartermedlemmarna i logen Filbyter Nr 714, Mary Dahlström och Elsa Johansson överlämnade en ros var till dessa ordensyskon för deras fina arbete att bilda logen Vadstena Nr 762.

Kvällen fortsatte sedan med en trevlig middag med dans till orkester, där bla Vadstenas kommun representerades. Många telegram lästes upp med bla lyckönskningar från *Hans Majestät Konungen* och *Hennes Majestät Drottningen av Sverige*.

Vi som var där önskar logen Vadstena 762:s medlemmar Lycka Till och hoppas att det för vår *Orden* framåt i en ljus och positiv anda.

**Submitted by: Karl-Erik Axelsson och Elisabeth Agge, Ordenssyskon i LL 646
Pictures by: Inge Hallberg**



USA Ambassaden i Sverige gav Vadstena logen sin fana Stjärnbaneret som överlämnades av Lisbeth Qvarfordt till Vadstena logens Ordf Laila Pettersson.



Vasaveteranen Sonja Hall Logen Stockholm 89 är på dagen tillsammans med från v Monica Callander och FDO Viveka Skott, Logen Bråviken, Sonja Hall, Ulla Gunnarsson, Logen Nicolai och Marie-Louis Hultin, Logen Bråviken.

Brobyggare

Vasa Ordens Brobyggare Lisbeth arbete för Vasa Orden i Tiden gavs unika plaketten "The Bridge of Friendship"

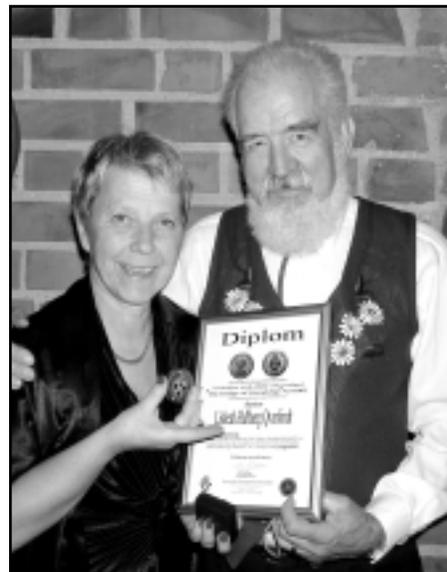
Lisbeth H Qvarfordt Norrköping Vasa Orden av Amerikas Publicity Director i Sverige och FDM i Distrikt 19, har visat en stor känsla, kunnsighet och ett brinnande intresse för *Vasa Orden av Amerika*. Det visade Lisbeth inte minst vid den stora träff jag hade som Logehistoriker i Logen Bråviken Nr 751 under ett möte i Finspång. Vid detta projekts första möte visade Lisbeth H Qvarfordt sin kunnsighet om Amerika och dess svenska emigranter i USA, och entusiasmerade och fängslade sin publik. Detta var ett möte för att samordna *American Volkspport Association, Vasa Orden* och *Internationella Volkspportverband*, som finns i 49 länder, där jag just nu är president i den svenska avdelningen *Svenska Folkspportsförbundet* som samordnar och organiserar träffar med *Vasa Orden* för projektet "Finn Dina Rötter."

När Lisbeth så reste till *Grand Lodge Convention i San Diego 2006* hade hon en plakett med sig, samt en förfrågan om att få denna plakett godkänd för att delas ut till utvalda personer som arbetar med att bygga "The Bridge of Friendship" Det finns två olika utgåvor; En för *Internationell Folkspport* för vandring och en för *Vasa Orden av Amerika* och anhängiga till Emigranter. Den 28 juli 2006 godkände så *Storlogens Executiva Råd* plaketten "The Bridge of Friendship."

Lisbeth H Qvarfordts arbetet för *Vasa Orden av Amerika* och intresset för *Finn Dina Rötter*, gör att Lisbeth får plaketten

nr 0001 med Diplom, med följande motivering: Lisbeth har sitt hjärta inom Vasa Orden av Amerika och känd för sin energi att inte ge upp utan påbörjat arbete skall avslutas med framgång. Så även i senaste fallet bildandet av Logen Vadstena Nr 762, i sanning en verklig "Byggmästare."

**Submitted by: Åke Sjöblom,
Logehistoriker Bråviken Nr 751,
President i Svenska
Folkspportsförbundet**



Som President av Svenska Folkspport Förbundet var det med stor glädje och vördnad jag överlämnade plaketten till Lisbeth H Qvarfordt Storlogens Publicity Director i Sverige, vid instiftandet av den nya Logen Vadstena i helgen.

YOUTH NEWS

Nordikid's Musiklubb #208



Erica Stoica

Nordikids Musiklubb #208 of Northwest Indiana proudly presents Erica Stoica, of Highland, IN, as their reigning 2007 Lucia. This year's celebrations took place on December 2, 2007 at *Wicker Park Social Center in Highland, Indiana* where Erica sang "Härlig är Jorden" (Beautiful Savior).

Erica, a Nordikid member for 6 years, is in 7th grade at *Highland Middle School* where she participates in orchestra as a violinist, choir and volleyball. She also enjoys tennis, writing poetry, and cooking. Erica and her family are active members of *Griffith Lutheran Church* where Erica is a confirmation student.

Erica is the daughter of John and Jenny Stoica. Mrs. Stoica is a charter member of Nordikfolk Lodge #761 where she is also the current treasurer. Her paternal grandfather's parents were both from Sweden where their families were stone masons and for several generations worked on the construction of the canal connecting Stockholm and Gothenborg. Jenny's paternal grandmother's parents were Norwegian and came to the U.S. in 1882.

Erica's cousins were members of Varblomman Children's Club #54 on Chicago's North Side for many years. Erica's favorite Swedish Christmas tradition is making, decorating and eating Spritz cookies!

Submitted by: Linnea Ogrentz

Vasa Swedish Junior Folk Dancers

The Vasa Junior Folk Dancers, combined clubs of Linnea #14, Janice Lehman, leader and Vasa Kornet #16, JoAnn Thoreen, leader, held their annual Lucia Fest on Sunday, December 2, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN.

This year these clubs are celebrating their 80th Anniversary. The afternoon festivities included the "Festival of Lights" with Lydia Ellen Thoreen as our Lucia, folk dances performed by the group, raffle prizes, carol singing, and refreshments.

Lydia is the daughter of Brian and Sonja Thoreen of Oakdale, MN. She has been a member of the dance club for 10 years. Her paternal great-grandfather immigrated from Småland, Sweden, in 1907 and settled in Minneapolis, MN. He was a veteran member of Stenbock Lodge #138, Minneapolis, MN. Lydia, her parents and her great-aunt, JoAnn Thoreen, are all members of Stenbock Lodge.

Lydia has been home schooled from kindergarten to 10th grade. As a junior,



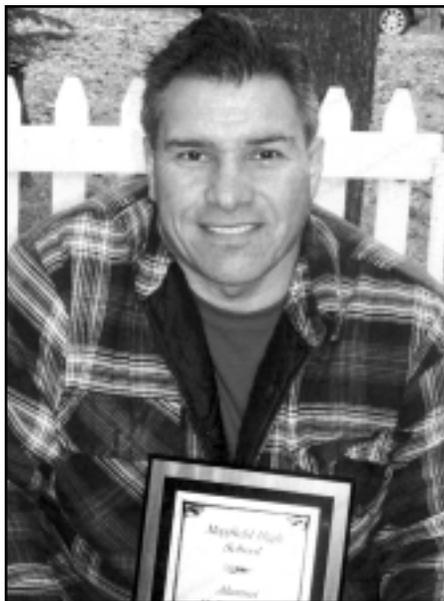
Lydia Thoreen, Vasa Jr. Folk Dancers

she is currently attending Century Community College and plans to graduate high school with an Associate of Arts degree exploring Interior Design. She participates in Ashland Production musicals and their Performance Company. She also enjoys singing, dancing, playing the piano, and sketching fashion designs.

Submitted by: JoAnne Thoreen, Leader Vasakornet #16

PLEASE MEET

Mayfield High School Honorees Changed The World



Nick Cirino

The four men who stood on the *Mayfield High School* stage October 4 have helped save the world, and helped bring the world closer.

The men, Nick Cirino, John Norman, Lyle West, and Keith Winters spoke to students that morning, and at a VIP ceremony in the evening at Landerhaven.

"When I was in high school, no one would have guessed that I would spend ten years working on anthrax. Bio-terrorism didn't exist then," Cirino, said further, "I wanted to be a marine biologist, but that isn't easy to do in Cleveland."

NICK CIRINO - CLASS OF 1983

Nick Cirino graduated from *Earlham College* in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in Biology, and in 1995 earned his doctorate in Biochemistry from *Case Western Reserve University*. His extensive career began in 1994 at the *Cleveland Clinic* as a

Continued on page 27

Please Meet

Continued from page 26

Research Fellow and from there he moved on to the *Los Alamos National Laboratory* where he received a patent on anthrax toxin diagnostics and therapeutics. In 1999, Dr. Cirino's professional journey brought him to *Battelle Memorial Institute* in Columbus, Ohio where he managed a team of researchers focused on microbial diagnostics. In 2002, he became the Director for the Bio-defense *Laboratory, Wadsworth Center* at the *New York Department of Health*. He currently works on evaluation and validation of field and lab diagnostic systems for bio-terrorism. In addition, Dr. Cirino's work has involved developing policies, guidelines and protocols for first responders during a bio-terrorism event.

Most recently, Dr. Cirino had taught as an assistant professor in the *Department of Biomedical Sciences, SUNY Albany, Department of Public Health*.

In addition to his extensive professional resume Dr. Cirino also has received numerous accolades, which include *University of California Outstanding Innovations Award; NYSDOH Commissioner's Recognition Award in 2004, 2005, 2006; and Cosmopolitan Who's Who in Science award*. Collectively, he has over 31 published works and five patents. Throughout his career it has been Nick' Cirino's goal to work in the field of science and to improve public health. During his extensive career he has not forgotten his Mayfield roots. He truly is a great reflection and extension of the Mayfield family.

Submitted by: **Ellen Cirino, Mother,**
Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130,
Cleveland, OH

Source: **The Sun Messenger,**
a local newspaper

Happy New Year

Önskar



Kerstin Johansson
Småland #618

IN MEMORY OF

Eugene (Gene) Carlson 1920 - 2007



Eugene (Gene) Carlson, a long-time Vasa member, passed away Easter Sunday, April 7, 2007. He began his Vasa life at the age of 4 in a children's dance group and at the age of 14, in 1934, Gene joined Atlas Lodge and remained active until he left for military service where he remained during the cold war serving as a spy based in the Arctic Circle.

Gene was very proud of his Swedish heritage and he was an extraordinary, enthusiastic Vasa member with a terrific sense of humor – which included many Sven and Lena jokes! He could tell the best stories with his famous Swedish accent!

What a huge loss for everyone who knew him, especially his wife of 65 years, Kathie and his children: Duane, Suzanne and Pamela, as well as his

grandchildren. What a huge loss for the Vasa Order of America – a devoted 74-year member!

At the time of his death Gene was a member of Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719 (since 1998) in Laguna Hills, CA, but he and Kathie had been very active, supportive members of Trillinggren Lodge #332, Baltimore, MD, where he served 12 terms as Chairman and in the PA District Lodge where he started on the Executive Board, served as Vice District Master and District Master for 2 consecutive 2-year terms! The PA District presented him with Life Membership and Past District Officer honors. Many referred to Gene as "Mr. Vasa" – a mentor – and someone who would gladly answer your questions and advise you on by-laws: Local, District or Grand Lodge! Tack så mycket.

Gene was an inspiration to us all and what a profound impact he had on our lives. He was also a devoted Lutheran and both he and Kathie were very active members of their church in Maryland and The Lutheran Church of the Cross in Laguna Woods. I am honored to have known him. We all miss you, but I personally miss the night time cross-country phone call when he would ask in his deep voice, "How are you, Linda." And I would reply: and how are YOU? His reply: "Don't get old!" You were so special to us.

Sov I Ro Gene.

Submitted by: **Linda J. Smith**

We Wish You All a Happy and Prosperous 2008

We would also like to thank you for the continued support and hospitality shown.

Bill (VGM) and Sheila (VDM) Lundquist

DL No. 8

Grand Blanc, Michigan

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR

Todd Anderson

1383 Middlebrook Way • Rohnert Park, CA, 94928

Cell Phone: (707) 694-1345

E-mail: audiovisual.vasaorder@yahoo.com

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

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

CULTURE

A Knead for Swede

Source: Duluth News Tribune

Article by: Staff Writer Janna Goerd

Irma LaBelle had to move to Two Harbors from her native Sweden – where she was born in 1915 – before she ever even heard of the Santa Lucia festival.

“We were not real well off,” LaBelle remembers. For Christmas, “we’d go to some big shot’s home, they would have a Christmas tree, and they would give us oranges and apples.” It was the only time LaBelle would see such treats during the year.

But today, LaBelle and other members of the Göta Lejon Lodge #251, a Swedish organization in Two Harbors, will put on a smorgasbord for everyone at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church. And, after a full day of baking, LaBelle’s cardamom-spiced Santa Lucia buns will be part of the spread.

Her childhood in the northern region of Sweden, where LaBelle was raised by her aunt, came during difficult times. LaBelle remembers people making blood sausage, blood bread and head cheese so as not to waste any food – never mind splurging on Santa Lucia treats.

The feast of Santa Lucia has been celebrated in Sweden for centuries, and has more recently come into vogue in the United States. It’s a celebration of light in the darkness of winter and has come to represent the beginning of the holiday season for Swedes.

And for many, the tradition of the family’s eldest daughter dressing in a white robe, a red sash, a crown of lingonberry twigs and lighted candles has come to symbolize the holiday. The daughter would rise early in the morning and deliver saffron buns and hot coffee to the rest of the family – a symbol of St. Lucia, a real saint who cared for the poor in early Roman history.

The legend of Lucia’s kindness and eventually martyrdom traveled north to Sweden, and the custom of bringing food to the slumbering family is thought to have originated among the more wealthy farming regions in the country.

But that didn’t include LaBelle’s family in the 1920s.

“I learned to work from the time I was five years old,” LaBelle said. “I remember standing on a little stool and doing the dishes. I didn’t miss Santa Lucia. I never even knew about it.”

But after LaBelle immigrated first to Duluth and then up the North Shore – she arrived in Two Harbors about 1950, and lived in Silver Bay for a while – her Swedish heritage has been a more central part of her life. She still writes to relatives in Sweden, and can automatically switch to her native language when she gets a phone call from Scandinavia.

LaBelle, who has to use her fingers and toes to number all her grandchildren, likes the gathering of family that comes with Santa Lucia. Her eldest daughter, Diane Kucinski, will be there with her eldest granddaughter, who once dressed as Santa Lucia at the Two Harbors festival, lit candles and all.

Mae Moore, who heads the Göta Lejon Lodge in Two Harbors, said her father’s family used to carry out the Santa Lucia traditions at his home in Sweden. The Göta Lejon Lodge started doing the same about 20 years ago, she said.

“It’s just nice to carry on some of the traditions,” Moore said. She made about

eight dozen Santa Lucia buns for the feast. Other lodge members will contribute ham, cookies, cheese, rice pudding, and other delicacies – but no lutefisk.

Early on Friday morning, LaBelle worked her experienced hands steadily through her Santa Lucia bread dough.

“It’s starting to feel good,” LaBelle said. The trick is to keep the dough slightly sticky, but not too sticky, she said. After the dough has risen in LaBelle’s sunny living room, it was ready for shaping into buns.

Up and down, up and down, pulling out a bit of dough to roll into a ball, and dropping it on a greased tray. It wasn’t long, though, before Kucinski and family friend Arlee Wilkes of Two Harbors wanted to get in on the action, and soon all three Swedish women were pulling and rolling and getting ready for today’s festival of lights.

Submitted by: Pat Olson,
Vice Secretary, Göta Lejon Lodge #251,
Two Harbors, MN

Selma Lagerlöf

Den svenska författaren Selma Lagerlöf är den första kvinna och första svensk, som fått Nobelpriset i litteratur. Det var 1909 och *Svenska Akademiens* motivering lød: “på grund av den ädla idealitet, den fantasiens rikedom och den framställningens själfullhet, som präglade hennes diktning.” År 1914 invaldes hon som första kvinna i *Svenska Akademien*.

Selma Lagerlöf föddes 1858 på gården *Mårbacka* i Värmland och där dog hon också 1940, 82 år gammal.

Många svenskar ser fortfarande Selma Lagerlöf nästan dagligen, då hennes bild finns på de svenska 20-kronor sedlarna. Där finns också några ord från början av *Gösta Berlings Saga* och en illustration från *Nils Holgerssons Underbara Resa*, två av hennes mest kända böcker.

Selma Lagerlöf hade på sätt och vis en dystert barndom. Hon hade en medfödd höftskada och kunde inte deltaga i de andra barnens lekar eller längre fram i de många baler som hölls på gårdarna runtom i Värmland. I stället levde hon i fantasins värld genom att sluka alla böcker hon kom över och genom att lyssna till sagor och fantastiska berättelser om vad som hänt i Värmland för länge sedan. Ganska tidigt började hon själv drömma om att skriva egna berättelser, hon hade ju hört så mycket hon skulle kunna berätta om.

Då Selma Lagerlöf var 23 år, flyttade

hon till Stockholm och studerade för att bli lärare. När hon var klar, arbetade hon i 10 år (1885–1895) som lärare i Landskrona, en liten stad i södra Sverige. 1890 hade hon skickat de fem första kapitlen av *Gösta Berlings Saga* till tidningen *Iduns* romanpristävling och hon vann första pris. Året efter gav hon ut hela romanen, som gjorde succé och därefter kunde hon vara författare på heltid.

En av hennes stora romaner är *Jerusalem*, ett epos i två delar, som berättar den sanna historien om en grupp människor från Nås i Dalarna. Av religiösa skäl sålde de sina gårdar och utvandrade till det heliga landet för att bo där och vänta på Guds rikes återkomst. Selma Lagerlöf gjorde själv en resa till Jerusalem och besökte dalakolonin för att kunna skriva sin roman. Medan hon arbetade med den romanen, blev hon ombedd att skriva en geografibok för skolbarn i 10-årsåldern. Hon tvekade först, men eftersom hon behövde pengar, lovade hon att göra det. Hennes far hade dött och barndomshemmet sålts på grund av misskötsel. Selma Lagerlöfs stora mål blev därefter att försöka köpa tillbaka sitt hem. Visserligen trodde hon inte att en skolbok som hon skrev för svenska barn skulle kunna bli någon storsäljare, men *Nils Holgerssons Underbara Resa* kom faktiskt att bli

Continued on page 29

Culture

Continued from page 28

världsberömd. Den har även filmats precis som flera andra av hennes romaner.

Efter framgångarna med bl.a. *Jerusalem* och *Nils Holgersson* kunde Selma Lagerlöf köpa tillbaka *Mårbacka*. Då hon fått Nobelpriset köpte hon även tillbaka den jord och skog, som tillhört gården. Hon flyttade tillbaka till *Mårbacka*, där hon startade eget jordbruk med moderna idéer, där de anställda bl.a. fick pension och sjukförsäkring.

I många år har *Mårbacka* besökts av många turister och litteraturvetare, bl.a. flera Nobelpristagare. De har vittnat om vad bl.a. *Nils Holgerssons Resa* betytt för dem. 1994 års Nobelpristagare, japanen Kenzaburo Oe, lärde sig den till och med utantill.

Men *Mårbacka* blev hennes ålderdoms både glädje och plåga, det kostade så mycket pengar. Sedan hon fått Nobelpriset fick hon också tiggarebrev från hela världen, och hon skänkte mera till behövande än hon hade råd med. Trots det hade hon alltid dåligt samvete.

Från läsare och beundrare fick hon över 30.000 brev. Alla besök och uppvaktningar av körer, skolbarn, studenter och turister tröttade ut henne även om de också glädde henne. Selma Lagerlöf fick verkligen uppleva att det inte bara är glädje med att vara rik och berömd.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, SLKL
Sverige

Selma Lagerlöf

The Swedish writer Selma Lagerlöf is the first Swede and first woman who have ever received the *Nobel Prize* in literature, "in appreciation of the lofty idealism, vivid imagination and spiritual perception that characterize her writings." The year was 1909, and in 1914 she was an elected member of the *Swedish Academy*, the first woman ever.

Selma Lagerlöf was born on the farm of *Mårbacka* in Värmland, and where she also died in 1940, 82 years old.

Many Swedes still "meet" her almost every day as the Swedish 20 kronor banknote features a portrait of Selma Lagerlöf. It also has a short text from the beginning of *Gösta Berling's Saga* and an illustration to *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*; two of her best known books.

In a way Selma Lagerlöf's childhood wasn't very happy. From birth she was handicapped, having one leg shorter than the other. She couldn't be out playing with other children, nor could she later on par-



ticipate in the many dances that were given in estates all over Värmland. Instead she lived in her own world of fantasy reading all the books she could get a hold of. She also loved to listen to fairy-tales and myths about things having happened in Värmland long ago. Rather early she began to dream of writing books herself, using some of the fantastic stories she had heard.

When Selma Lagerlöf was 23 she moved to Stockholm where she studied to become a teacher. After having finished her studies she worked for ten years (1885 – 1895) in Landskrona, a small town in southern Sweden.

In 1890 she had sent her first five chapters of *The Story of Gösta Berling* to a book writing competition given by Idun, a weekly paper, and she won first prize. The following year the rest of this novel of *Gösta Berling* was published. It was a great success, and after that she gave up teaching and became a full time writer.

One of her great novels is *Jerusalem*, relating to the true story about a group of people from Näs in Dalarna. For religious reasons they sold their farms and emigrated to the Holy Land to live while waiting for the return of the Kingdom of the Lord. Selma Lagerlöf herself made a journey to Jerusalem visiting the 'dala colony' to be able to write her novel. While working with the novel she was asked to write a geography book for children around 10 years of age. At first she hesitated but needing money she promised to do so. Her father had died and her home, *Mårbacka*, had been sold because of mismanagement. Selma Lagerlöf's greatest goal was from that day to try to buy her home back. As she was writing this schoolbook for Swedish children she didn't think it would be sold much abroad, but in fact *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* became world-famous. Like so many other of her books it has been filmed too.

After her successful books *Jerusalem* and *Nils Holgersson*, Selma Lagerlöf was

able to buy *Mårbacka*. After having received the *Nobel Prize* she also bought the land and woods, which had once belonged to the farm. She moved back to *Mårbacka* where she started a modern farm with new ideas, where those employed received pensions and health insurances.

For many years lots of tourists and people interested in literature, i.e. *Nobel Prize* Winners, have visited *Mårbacka*. They have declared what books like *Nils Holgersson* has meant to them. The *Nobel Prize* Winner of 1994, Kenzaburo Oe, Japanese, said he had even learnt it by heart!

Mårbacka, however, caused both happiness and pain in her old age, it cost too much money. After the *Nobel Prize* she received letters from people all over the world begging for money, and she gave more money to poor people than she could afford. Nevertheless she always had a bad conscience.

From readers and admirers she received over 30.000 letters. All visits by choirs, children, students and tourists made her happy but also tired. Selma Lagerlöf indeed experienced that it isn't only happiness to be rich and famous.

Selma Lagerlöf has written about 30 books, many of them have been translated into about 50 languages. Some of her books that are translated into English are:

Gösta Berlings saga.

The Story of Gösta Berling

Jerusalem I och II

Jerusalem I och II

Nils Holgerssons underbara resa

The Wonderful Adventures of Nils.

Kejsaren av Portugallien

The Emperor of Portugallia

Löwensköldska ringen

The Löwensköld Ring

Osynliga länkar

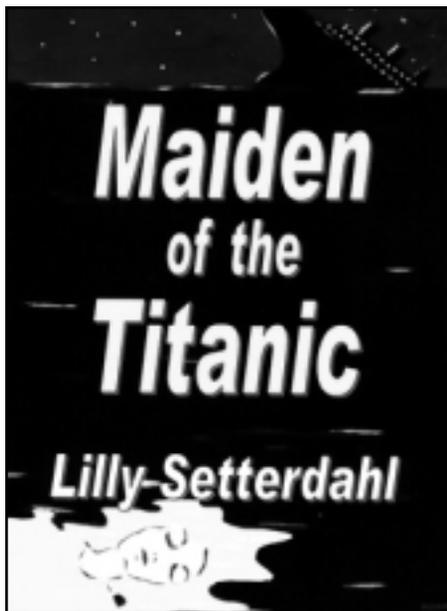
Invisible Links

Submitted by: Gun Lith,
GLCD Sweden
Picture by: Gunnar Lith

BOOK REVIEW

Source: *The Dispatch*, Moline, Illinois, Review by correspondent Julie Jensen.

Setterdahl's 12th Book a History-Maker



The release of “Maiden of the Titanic,” a novel by Lilly Setterdahl of East Moline, IL, involves several firsts. It is the first novel published by the Midwest Writing Center, and Ms. Setterdahl said, “Possibly, I’m the first Swedish immigrant woman to have authored a published novel in English.”

This is not her first book, however. It’s her 12th. The others document the history of Swedish immigrants and settlements in the U.S., and she published a historical novel in Sweden as a serial in 1988.

In the fall of 2006 she attended a novel-writing workshop taught by Michael Romkey at the Midwest Writing Center. The work of participants in “Building a Novel” was judged, and Ms. Setterdahl’s manuscript won. The prize was publication by the Midwest Writing Center and production by Fidlar Printing Company.

She chose a fascinating subject – the sinking of the Titanic and its aftermath – writing the story of Anna, a Swedish-American lady’s maid traveling with a high-society family from Boston on the liner’s maiden voyage. When the ship sinks in the early hours of April 15, 1912, an Italian lifeguard rescues the comatose

Anna from the dark waters of the North Atlantic and is responsible for corroborating her mistaken identity after the disaster.

The cover was created by Ms. Setterdahl’s daughter-in-law, Cecilia Svensson Setterdahl, who creates and sells her art in Neuchatel, Switzerland. It’s a dramatic image of the severely tilted ship in the distance and a beautiful girl afloat on the dark water in the foreground.

The 279-page paperback is handsome, proving that truly professional book production is available in the Quad-Cities. Tim Kilfoy from *Fidlar Printing Company* said they co-sponsored the contest because “We are trying to get the word out that with today’s technologies, anyone can get their book in print for a very reasonable price.”

The story opens with these stark words, “The bodies, clad in lifejackets, bounced like corks on the calm but bone-chilling waters of the North Atlantic.”

The first character encountered in Roberto, the Italian lifeguard who is the sweetheart of Lydia Addison, Anna’s employer. He recognizes and rescues Anna. When he discovers that she has been identified as Lydia, probably because she was wearing clothes given to her by her mistress, he decides it would be best for both of them to let that mistaken identity stand.

Anna is taken to the Addison family mansion in Boston. As she very gradually comes out of her coma, she is thought to be Lydia, and she plays the part well, her real life buried in fragments of dreams. The butler recognizes her as Anna but keeps that knowledge to himself.

She had met John Whitmore on the trip to the Mediterranean with the Addisons, and she rediscovers him by reading her own diary. She goes to the Cunard pier in New York to meet his returning ship, sees him kissing an attractive young woman, and is heartsick. Wandering in the harbor area, she gets lost and is robbed.

Later, she learns the young woman was John’s sister, and the love affair intensifies.

It’s easy to have empathy with Anna and root for her to “live happily ever after.”

The \$11.95 paperback book is avail-

able at the Midwest Writing Center, at area bookstores and on Amazon.com.

About the author

Lilly Setterdahl is the author or co-author of eleven books of nonfiction, and numerous research articles dealing with the history and experiences of Swedish immigrants. Her major book titles are: *Swedes in Moline, Illinois* (2003), *Minnesota Swedes*, two volumes (1996 and 1999), *Rockford Swedes* (co-authored 1993), and *A Century of Song* (1992).

She has chronicled her travels with her husband, Lennart Setterdahl, from coast to coast in the United States, parts of Canada, and Sydney, Australia, in search of Swedish-American archival material and oral histories, resulting in the book *I Emigranternas spår: Människor vi mött, 1959-1995*, which was published in Sweden in 2002. On her frequent trips to Sweden, she is often asked to give presentations about her own and her husband’s work.

In 1989, *Kvällsstunden*, Västerås, Sweden, published her first historical novel, *Banbrytaren*, (The Trailblazer) as a serial novel. She has also authored children’s stories, and is working on a creative nonfiction manuscript, “Growing up in Sweden.”

Lilly is a native of Sweden and an American Citizen. She came to the United States with her family in 1959, settling at first in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1971, the family relocated to East Moline, Illinois, where Lilly still resides.

In 2003, Lilly was recognized by the city of Moline with a plaque and a designated “The Lilly Setterdahl Day” (September 9). She has been honored with awards from the Royal Gustav Adolf Academy, the Swedish Emigrant Institute, the National Swedish Historical Society, the Swedish-America Day committee (Hans Mattson plaque), the Trolle-Ljungby community, and others.

Lilly has three sons and six grandchildren, living in three different countries, Switzerland, Norway, and the United States.

Lilly Setterdahl is a member and officer of Nobel Lodge #288 and Vasa member since 1961 when her late husband and I joined Nobel Lodge #130 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Submitted by: Lilly Setterdahl

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

ARIZONA

ERIK JOHANSSON, a founding member of Tucson Lodge #691, passed away on July 27, 2007, in Tucson. Erik was born in Helsingborg, Sweden, on January 10, 1921, and began his working life with the Swedish Merchant Marine. After settling in Tucson he became part owner of a barber shop. He was preceded in death by his wife Jean.

JOHN OSTROM, member of Tucson Lodge #691, passed away in Tucson, AZ, on October 17, 2007, at the age of 91. He was an Air Force veteran, born in Superior, WI, on September 20, 1915. He joined Tucson Lodge #691 on January 22, 2005.

CALIFORNIA

ARLENE MARIAN ANKENNEY passed away on September 4, 2007. She was born on June 26, 1923, in Maddock, ND. She lived in Auburn, CA. A member of Sierra Kronan Lodge #737. She is survived by 3 children, Linda, Chuck and Tom, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be missed by her loving family and her brothers and sisters of Sierra Kronan Lodge #737.

ELIZABETH OLIVIA CALBOW, 93, passed away on September 3, 2007. Born in New York of Swedish immigrants on April 16, 1914, and a proud member of Vasa Order of America. She follows her husband of 62 years, Chester, and sister, Eva Valumstad of Los Angeles, CA. She is survived by her sons, Gene of San Diego, CA, and Terry of Santa Barbara, CA, daughter Karyn Benjamin of Santa Barbara, CA, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. An active member of Northern Light Lodge #620 transferred from Riverside, CA, several years ago, became most active, shortly showing her special love for us all. She is truly missed.

ELIZABETH HAGLUND CORT, born on June 5, 1923, in Wakefield, MI, passed away on October 26, 2007, in Sonoma, CA. A distinguished career as a naval officer in the U.S. Public Health Service included serving as an assistant to the U.S. Surgeon General in Washington, DC, for 10 years, after which she retired with rank of Rear Admiral in 1985. She moved to Santa Rosa, CA, in 1986 and in 1995 joined Linnea Lodge #504, Petaluma, CA. Surviving are her husband, Owen Cort, sister Nancy (Tom) Beber, step-daughter Cynthia (Dr. Lowell) Nickel, step-grandsons Alex and Scott, special relative Louis Bordeaux, many nephews, nieces, and grand-nieces.

HARLAN R. HANSEN passed away in Boise, ID, on June 10, 2007, at the age of 84 years. He was born on December 13, 1922, in Tracy, MN, and was initiated into Mayflower Lodge #445 on October 18, 1973. He received his Life Membership on May 1, 1994, and 25-year pin in 1999.

HELEN HOFTEIG passed away on September 8, 2007, in Thousand Oaks, CA. She was born on February 15, 1915, in Sterline, MN. Helen married Melvin Butzner in 1935. Melvin was killed in Belgium during World War II. Helen married Bjorn Hofteig on March 17, 1946. Helen became a Charter Member of Oak Leaf Lodge #685 on September 29, 1968. She is survived by 4 sons and their wives, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

RUTH "BABE" NELSON was born December 3, 1925, in Alameda, CA, and passed away on November 23, 2007, in Reno, NV. She was a former member of Reno Lodge #711 and Tegner Lodge #149. A hard working and devoted member of the Vasa Order all her life.

WALTER H. NYLAND, passed away on October 22, 2007, at the age of 92. He was born on November 15, 1915, in Balboa Island in southern California. He joined Tegner Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, on February 5, 1975. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Dorinda and 2 children, 4 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Walter was active in the lodge and he was a Trustee for many years. He will be missed.

MARY ANNA HANSON ORCUTT, born October 17, 1906, in Phoenix, AZ, died on October 25, 2007, in Arcadia, CA. Member of Skandia Lodge #247 for 26 years. Served as

Treasurer. Married to Chester Orcutt for over 50 years. Survived by son Richard, 2 granddaughters, and many nieces and nephews.

FLORIDA

CECELIA NILSSON passed away on September 3, 2007. She was born May 31, 1919. She transferred from Linne Lodge #153 to Holiday Lodge #699 on January 2, 1984. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Carl E. Nilsson, brother Edmond Climan of Belgium, 3 brothers-in-law, several nieces and nephews.

ILLINOIS

EDA L. BERG, 87, passed away on March 19, 2007. She was born on November 25, 1919. She joined Nobel Lodge #288 in May of 1954. Services were held on March 23, 2007, and burial at Chippianock Cemetery, Rock Island.

ERNEST HAROLD GRANHOLM, 96, passed away on April 10, 2007. He was born December 20, 1911, in Moline, IL. He joined Nobel Lodge #288 in May of 1987. Services were at Trinity Lutheran Church and burial at National Cemetery, Rock Island Arsenal Island.

ANDERS JOHANSSON, 83, of New Port Richie, FL, died peacefully in his sleep on May 17, 2007. Anders was born in Tranås, Sweden. He is survived by daughters Phoebe Smith and Tina Megarry, grandchildren and companion Mona Brodin.

NEBRASKA

ELSIE ALBERTHA POLSON HOLMQUIST was born in Höganäs, Sweden, June 28, 1908, and passed away on June 7, 2007, at the age of 98 years. She was preceded in death by her husband Clifton. Elsie is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Dayle, step-grandson Tom Skahill and his wife Heather, 3 great-granddaughters, 3 sisters, nieces, and nephews. Elsie joined Omaha Lodge #330 on April 11, 1970.

NEW JERSEY

LORRAINE A. JOHNSON passed away on August 16, 2007, in Montclair, NJ, at the age of 78. She was born in Chester, PA, and was a member of Trygve Lodge #88, along with her husband Karl E. Johnson of Bloomfield, NJ. Lorraine is survived by Karl, 2 daughters, Diane Johnson and Jane, and her husband Bhrett.

OHIO

MARIE J. ANDERSON (nee ANDERSON), age 95, died October 29, 2007, in Jamestown, PA. Beloved wife of the late William Edmund. Cherished daughter of the late John and Anna Anderson. Loving sister of the late Einar Anderson. Fond aunt of Diane Cieslo (husband Joseph), Steve Anderson, and Susan Howe. Marie was born on October 17, 1912, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on October 9, 1983.

SARAH CANNON passed away on October 23, 2007, in Youngstown, OH. She was born in Struthers, OH, on November 29, 1921, and was initiated into Harmony Lodge #465 on May 10, 1952. Her husband, John Cannon, whom she married on May 17, 1941, preceded her in death on December 5, 1980. She is survived by 3 children, Nancy Williamson, Charlene Dobran and John Cannon, 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

RUTH E. (nee OLSON) CARLSON, age 96, of Euclid, OH, passed away on October 6, 2007. She was born on January 8, 1911, in Sweden. Survivors are her grandchildren, Jennifer, Billy, and Andrew Carlson. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Herman, and sons David and William. She joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on February 13, 1983.

OREGON

JENNIE CARLSON was born in Clatskanie, OR, and passed away on April 19, 2007. She joined Nobel Lodge on July 18, 1980. Jennie was proud of her Swedish heritage and attended meetings whenever possible. She is survived by her cousin Rudy Larson.

RHODE ISLAND

R. LENNART JOHNSON passed away on November 11, 2007, at the age of 80. He was a 59-year member of Pioneer Lodge #506. He is survived by his wife Millie, a daughter and 2 grandchildren.

TEXAS

EVERLYN MARIE CARLSON passed away on November 3, 2007. She was born on September 23, 1917, in Type, TX, near Elgin. She was a Charter Member of Carl Widen Lodge #743, joining on February 12, 1989. She is survived by her brother Eric and wife Margery, nieces and nephews.

JACK IRENUS GRONBERG passed away on December 14, 2007, after a brief illness. He was born to Swedish immigrant parents in Chicago on May 27, 1921. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Margaret Jane Stroud Gronberg and 5 children, 7 grandchildren, and 2 step-grandchildren. He graduated from SMU in 1944, served as an instructor during World War II,

attended and taught at Purdue University as well as Colorado A&M. He is the founder of Dynamic Component Sales, and retired in 1985. He was active at Shreiber Memorial Methodist Church.

WASHINGTON

DOROTHY DAVIS, a lifetime resident of Hoquiam, WA, passed away on July 11, 2007, at the age of 92. Dorothy was a teacher from 1940 until she retired in 1974. To honor Dorothy's services the Hoquiam School District established the Dorothy Davis Award, given to outstanding female athletes. She is survived by a son, a daughter, and 3 grandchildren.

ESTER "ESSIE" M. KREBS passed away on October 9, 2007. She was born on June 19, 1934, in Turku, Finland. She worked in pharmacy, a teacher of foreign languages, a free lance interpreter and translator. Her beloved husband and friend, Abe, passed away in December, 2001. She is survived by 2 sisters and a brother, all in Finland. She was a member of Vasa Lodge #550 in Olympia, WA. She will be greatly missed.

MARY R. KRISTROM, a lifetime resident of Hoquiam, WA, passed away on October 11, 2006, at the age of 94. She owned her own restaurant in the 1950s until health problems forced her to sell. She will be remembered for her unconditional love and total devotion to her family. Mary is survived by a daughter, daughter-in-law, 5 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

GEORGE W. STOHL passed away on July 1, 2007, at the age of 95. He was a member of Vasa Lodge #550 in Olympia, WA. He is survived by two daughters, Truene Smith and Georgia (Sale) Nelson and 5 grandchildren.

WALTER B. SUNDLING passed away on August 4, 2007, at Harbor View Medical Center. He was 75. Born in Michigan and raised in Raymond, WA. Walter joined the Navy and was a member of the Seabees. He was a union carpenter for 35 years. Walter was a member of the Eagles, VFW, and NRA. He is survived by his wife, 2 daughters, a son, and 3 grandchildren.

CANADA

ESTHER CHARLOTTE LOUISE ANDERSON passed on March 9, 2007 at the age of 87 years. She was an active member of Vasa Lodge for over 50 years and set an Alberta provincial record for selling the most memberships in one year! She was born on the family farm at Box Springs, Alberta to John Frederick and Anna Sophia (Benson) Anderson who immigrated to Canada in 1910 from Pennsylvania. Her lifelong sales career started in Medicine Hat, AB where she sold jewelry at Woolworth's. During a time when women were not accepted into the "man's world of sales," Esther moved to Calgary, AB where she sold newspaper display advertising and then life insurance. She transferred into public relations, orchestrating the opening of the Holiday Inn & Sheraton Hotel. Returning to Medicine Hat in 1970 to look after her mother, Esther broke another barrier becoming a manufacturer's rep; her territory covering the three western provinces. Esther's motto was, "Live life to the fullest and give back where you can." She enjoyed entertaining, gardening, dancing and modeling. Her daughter Carol Ann Ross, Medicine Hat and seven stepchildren survive her.

SIDNEY (SID) HANSON, born October 5, 1945, in Saskatchewan, Canada, passed away in Winnipeg on November 3, 2007, at age 62, after a short illness. Sid was initiated into Lodge Strindberg #259, Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada, in 1984 and was very active in the Swedish community.

SWEDEN

HANS-OLOF SODERSTROM of Eskilstuna, Sweden, died October 18, 2007, after a short illness. He belonged to the Vasa Lodge in Eskilstuna #633. From 1973 Hans-Olof held many positions in the Vasa Order in Sweden, also in 2006 represented Sweden at the Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego, CA. He got his engineering degree in 1955 and worked for 10 years before he became a teacher until he retired in 2002. He visited the U.S.A. many times and especially California, as he had relatives there. He leaves his wife Berit, 2 daughters, Katarina and Kristina, 4 grandchildren, one brother and his 2 daughters. He was an outstanding person and will be missed very much by his family and friends.

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.



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Scandinavian Airlines

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

**WASHINGTON D.C. 2010
GL CONVENTION RAFFLE**
Vasa Order of America
Raffle closes: July 3, 2009 & 2010
2010: 1st: \$1,500.00; 2nd \$ 750.00; 3rd \$ 375.00
2009: 1st: \$1,000.00; 2nd \$ 500.00; 3rd \$ 250.00
1 TICKET, \$5.00 donation
5 TICKETS, \$20.00 donation
CONTACT: Ellen Cirino, (440) 449-7644
No. 123456

DL Pennsylvania No. 9 is pleased to announce that it is hosting the Grand Lodge Convention in Washington D.C. in 2010. Please support by obtaining raffle tickets.

Three annual raffles for cash will be held that close on July 3 of 2008, 2009 and 2010. Winners to be announced by Committee by September 15 each year. Cash prize drawings increase substantially each year.

**WASHINGTON D.C. 2010
GRAND LODGE CONVENTION RAFFLE**
VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
First Drawing—July 3, 2008
1st Prize: \$500
2nd Prize: \$250
3rd Prize: \$125
1 Ticket, \$5.00 donation — 5 Tickets, \$20.00 donation
CONTACT: Ellen Cirino, (440) 449-7644
No. 123456

Everyone eligible to win each year

Tickets will be inserted in the center of March/April Issue of The Vasa Star each year

Tickets will also be sent to each lodge