

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

MAY-JUNE 2008



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



Message from the Vice Grand Master



Rolf Bergman

Vasa Syskon, Dear Friends,

Once again it is an honor for me to greet all of you in this special edition of the Vasa Star. This is the issue that includes the Scholarship Awardees for 2008. These are the scholarships for our young members who are currently attending College or Vocational School or enrolling this fall. This issue also brings to you the names of the up and coming Vasa members who were awarded Sjölundén Language Village Scholarships.

Congratulations to all of them!

I also want to commend all of our young students who applied. If only the Vasa Order of America could award a scholarship to all of our students and be able to send every Vasa child and grandchild who applied to the Language Village. Supporting our youth with scholarships is the most important thing we can do to keep our heritage alive for each generation to come.

This is the second year of my four years chairing the Scholarship Committee. It is an honor to hold this position as it gives me the unique opportunity to “get to know” the youth in our organization. I feel fortunate to gain insight into how they feel about Vasa, their Scandinavian heritage and their ideas for the future. It is amazing to read how active and energetic our young members are. Much of the information in their essays has been forwarded to the appointed Grand Lodge Youth Director for the U.S. and Canada, Lynda Smith, to study for future use in designing programs/projects that would more closely resemble what the youth of today need and want.

This year the Grand Lodge awarded thirteen collegiate and vocational scholarships and six Sjölundén Language Scholarships. Many of you gave generously to the last Vasa stamp project that was earmarked to help support the creation of the Swedish camp at Sjölundén in Bemidji, Minnesota. As many of you know the Swedish camp has been using the Finnish village on the property. The new Swedish village will help those who attend identify with and immerse into the Swedish way of life as well as give greater scheduling flexibility. Your generous donations help make scholarship awards possible. Please remember our youth who are our future. Keep your donations coming since there is no better cause. Tack så mycket!

The pictures and information about recipients, including their school and Vasa activities, can be found in this issue. Fifty-four applications were received from which the thirteen winners were chosen. Three judges, not affiliated with Vasa, faithfully served to judge the essays submitted. I thank them for their time and expertise. Eleven applications for the six Sjölundén Language Village Scholarships were received. Their names and local lodge connections are also in this issue.

In addition to notifying the recipients (also those who did not receive a scholarship) a cover letter with a certificate is sent to their District's Grand Lodge Deputy who attempts to present the scholarship award at an official Vasa function. The Grand Secretary, upon confirmation of the recipient's collegiate choice, prepares a voucher to have a check written to that institution. Similarly, the Language Village is notified of the recipients and funds are sent directly to Concordia College. The Village Coordinator then deals directly with those who will attend.

The announcement of the annual Vasa Scholarship program appears in the Sept./Oct. issue of the Vasa Star as well as on the Grand Lodge website, www.vasaorder.com under 'benefits' on October 1 each year.

Parents and grandparents, please encourage your children or grandchildren to join Vasa so they can be eligible for this wonderful membership benefit. Vasa members, please remember our Youth. Our goal must be to provide avenues for our young people to learn and experience their heritage and culture. The Scholarship Program is the most important benefit the Grand Lodge has available for its members.

Sheila and I have had the opportunity to travel to many of your Districts and even meet some of the scholarship winners. We have made many friends through Vasa and are grateful for your support, generosity and suggestions you give that help the Grand Lodge more clearly understand your needs and concerns. We look forward to seeing and meeting many more of you in the coming years.

*In Truth and Unity,
William L. Lundquist, VGM*

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Letter from the Editor

When you think about something made in Sweden one of the first things to enter your mind is the *Dala Horse*, this little red, wooden horse that has become the symbol of Sweden. I know, we still have *IKEA* and *H&M*, but I do think for most people it's still the *Dala Horse*. You might wonder what made it so famous. Find out all about it under *Culture*.



In my previous Editorial I wrote about special celebrations. We in *Nobel Monitor Lodge #130* – my lodge – recently celebrated our 100th anniversary and it was a wonderful celebration with many participants. Such an event takes a lot of time to plan and organize, and everyone involved did a terrific job. It is hard to image our oldest Vasa Member was born before our Lodge was formed but so it is. Find out more about this person under *Archives News*.

In my family we will soon celebrate our daughter's graduation from High School. When one compares such a young person with our oldest Vasa member, you wonder how different their vision of the future was/is, early 1900s vs early 2000s. What will happen in the next 100 years?

Marie

Brev från Redaktören

När du tänker på något som är gjort i Sverige är en av de första sakerna som kommer i åtanke, den svenska *Dalahästen*, denna lilla röda häst har blivit en symbol för Sverige. Jag vet att vi har *IKEA* och *H&M*, men jag tror för de flesta av oss, är det fortfarande *Dalahästen*. Du undrar kanske hur den blev så känd, de kan du få reda på under *Culture*.

I mitt förra *Brev Från Redaktören* skrev jag om något speciellt firande. Vi i *Nobel Monitor Loge Nr 130* – min loge – firade nyss 100-års jubileum och det blev ett mycket fint firande med många deltagare. Att planera och organisera ett sådant evenemang tar mycket tid och alla som var med och arrangerade gjorde ett fantastisk jobb. Det är svårt att tänka sig att vår äldsta Vasa medlem var född innan vår loge installerades, du kan lära dig mer om denna person under *Archives News*.

I min familj kommer vi snart att fira vår dotters gymnasie examen. Jämför man hur det var att vara ung idag med vår äldsta Vasa medlem, undrar man hur olika deras vision var/är inför framtiden, tidigt 1900-tal mot tidiga 2000-talet. Vad kommer att hända inom de nästa 100 åren?

Marie

CORRECTION NOTICE

TRIBUTE TO A BUILDER

Instead of:

To create – be it **spine** of Dome: it should read: To create – be it **spire** or dome.

Poem published in the Mar/Apr 2008 VS, written by: Alice Jean Smistad

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:

Midsummer Celebration

Vasa Lodge #248 Midsummer celebration. Face painting was a favorite of the youngsters as was the making and wearing of flowered head wreaths.

Vasa Lodge #248 Midsommarfirande. Ansiktsmålning tillhörde favoriterna bland de yngre barnen likaså att göra blomsterkrans att sätta i håret.

Submitted by: Dean Larsen

ARCHIVES NEWS



Who is the oldest living member of Vasa?

Goodness knows that we have some great longevity within the Vasa Order membership, thanks to those hearty Nordic genes, but there is one member who may hold the special distinction of being the oldest living member: Elsa Carlson of Rhode Island, who last August celebrated her 104th birthday and a few years ago received her 80-year pin at Norden Lodge #1 in Hartford, CN. I first learned of her last summer when her 83-year-old eldest son, Arnold Carlson, and his traveling companion, Bill Hultgren, visited the Archives to inform us that they believed Mrs. Carlson was the oldest.

I want to use this issue's column to tell a little bit about Elsa Carlson and at the same time ask the membership whether there is a member known to be older. The membership database at the Archives, though sometimes containing both birth and death information, does not consistently contain both for each member, so it was doubtful that we could come up with an accurate assessment.

Elsa Carlson was born Elsa Maria Kristina Johansson in Dalstorp, Sweden (Västergötland) August 17, 1903. She emigrated to America October 17, 1922 and soon married Gustav Carlson, who had begun courting her in Sweden and respected her family's wishes to wait until after she was eighteen to marry and take her far from home. They both became active in the Vasa Order as members of Norden #1.

The powerful forces of love for her future husband had given Mrs. Carlson the courage to travel to America in the first place, but they were married only six years before Gustav Carlson died of polio in 1927. As a widow with two young sons, she traveled back to Dalstorp that same year to gather her family around her. After their return to Hartford she started anew, always maintaining contacts in Sweden. She recalls that Hartford had a large Swedish population at that time. She turned her home into a boarding house to make ends meet, and also did the boarders' laundry. A couple of years later, she married a widower, Conrad Carlson, whom she knew through Vasa and who had been very active and an officer in Norden #1. He worked in the tool and die industry.

Elsa and her family remained in the Hartford area where they enjoyed a full a life of family, friends, church, and Vasa. She says that family has always been the highest priority in her life and she put great care into "the art of making a house a home." Elsa and Conrad Carlson enjoyed 54 years of marriage before he died at the age of 97.

Bill Hultgren (member Nordic #661 in Worcester, MA) and Arnold Carlson shared that Mrs. Carlson also actively fostered an interest in Swedish culture among family members. Two of her sons have received 50-year pins in Vasa. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren have shown great interest, eager to wear folk dress at holiday time and display their dala horses. Two of her grandchildren have taken the opportunity to study in Sweden. Ties with relatives remain very strong. Mrs. Carlson has traveled back to Sweden 21 times, and on the occasion of her 100th birthday six relatives from Sweden came to attend. She still speaks with her 85 year-old sister in Dalstorp by telephone on a weekly basis.

She currently resides in a care facility in Wickford, Rhode Island, where she moved a couple of years ago to be near her sons Paul and Gordon Carlson. Her hobbies include cribbage, bridge, and staying up on world news. She attributes her long life to good food and staying active. This coming August 2008, she will celebrate her 105th birthday.

What does the Vasa membership say? Is there a member who is known to be older than Elsa Carlson? Send any information you have to the Archives.

Great thanks go to Bill Hultgren and Arnold Carlson for bringing this story to our attention. Also, credit is due staff writer Barbara Polichetti of the Providence Journal who published the article "She Shares Longevity Tips" in August 2007, where I was able to learn some of the details about Elsa Carlson's life.

Summering på svenska.

Vi på Arkivet fick lära oss i fjol att det var en 104-årig medlem i Vasa Ordern. Hon heter Elsa Carlson och bor i Wickford, Rhode Island, fast hon och familjen tillbringade för det mesta hela livet i Hartford, Connecticut där Mrs. Carlson är medlem vid Norden #1. Elsa Carlson, född Johansson, i Dalstorp, Sverige växte upp i Västergötland och utvandrade till Amerika 1922. Hon har varit med i Vasa Ordern i över 80 år. Nu på den 17:e augusti 2008 fyller hon 105 år. Hennes familj och Norden Loge #1 skulle vilja veta om det var någon medlem nu i livet som var äldre. Var snäll och meddela Arkivet i Bishop Hill med väsentlig information: Vasa_archives@hughes.net

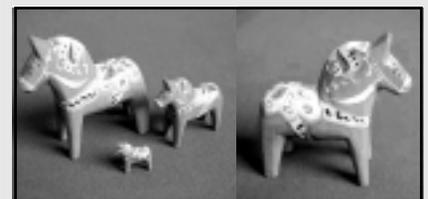
Submitted by: Lars Jenner

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Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 12

How is your studying coming along? Have you planned a PRATSTUND in your lodge or when you meet socially with your Vasa members? We do know that many lodge members meet once a month for lunch at some local area restaurants. How about practicing your Swedish while you wait for everyone to show up? Those arriving late will then have missed out on the opportunity to speak the language of their forefathers. Bet they will show up early next time!!!

NYA ORD/NEW WORDS

att åka, åker, åkte, åkt	to travel, to go
fjäll, -en, ---	mountain
hade inte	had not
planer	plans
tvungna	forced to
att berätta, berättar, berättade, berättat	to tell
att uppleva, upplever, upplevde, upplevt	to experience
att bo, bor, bodde, bott	to live in
stuga, -n, stugor	cottage
två	two
sovrum, -met, ---	bedroom
vardagsrum, -met, ---	living room
bastu	sauna
kök, -et, ---	kitchen
tillräckligt	enough
mat	food
att räcka, räcker, räckte, räckt	be enough
hela	whole
vecka, -n, veckor	week
kylväska, -n, kylväskor	cooler
kött	meat
kyckling	chicken
fisk	fish
stor	large
kartong, -en, -er	box carton
konservburk, -en, -ar	can
grönsak, -en, -er	vegetables
frukt, -en, -er	fruit
mjök	milk
ägg	egg
att köpa, köper, köpte, köpt	to buy
speceriaffär	grocery store
by, -n, byar	village
skidbacke, -en, skidbackar	ski hill
ganska nära	quite near
första	first
förskräckta	frightened
aldrig	never
stor	large

backe, -n, backar	hill
andra sidan	other side
skidloge, -n, -er	ski lodge
att vänta, väntar, väntade, väntat	to wait
stavar	(ski) poles
gav sig iväg (idiom)	took off

SVENSKA/SWEDISH

Lars Olof och Karin åkte med familjens grannar till fjällen. De hade påsklov och hade inte några planer. Både Erik och Ingrid var tvungna att arbeta och kunde inte få ledigt från sina arbeten.

När barnen kom hem igen hade de så mycket att berätta om allt de fått se och uppleva i fjällen. De bodde i grannens lilla stuga som hade två sovrum, ett vardagsrum, ett badrum med bastu och ett kök. Grannarna hade tagit med sig tillräckligt med mat som de hoppades skulle räcka hela veckan.

De hade en kylväska fylld med kött, kyckling och fisk. En stor kartong fylld med många konservburkar med grönsaker och frukt. Mjök och ägg köpte de i en liten speceriaffär i byn.

Skidbacken låg ganska nära. När de kom dit första dagen blev tvillingarna mycket förskräckta. De hade aldrig sett en så stor backe. Sven talade om för dem att det fanns en liten backe på andra sidan skidlogen.

Barnen blev glada och kunde inte vänta så de tog sina skidor och stavar och gav sig iväg till backen.

ENGELSKA/ENGLISH

Lars Olof and Karin traveled to the mountains with the family's neighbors. They had their Easter holiday and had no plans. Both Erik and Ingrid had to work and could not take off.

When the children came home again they had so much to tell about everything they got to see and experience in the mountains. They lived in the neighbor's small cottage which had two bedrooms, one living room, one bathroom with a sauna and one kitchen. The neighbors had brought along enough food they were hoping would be enough for the whole week.

They had a cooler filled with meat, chicken and fish. A large box filled with cans of vegetables and fruit. They bought milk and eggs in a small grocery store in the village.

The ski hill was quite near. When they arrived there the first day the twins became very frightened. They had never seen such a big hill. Sven told them that there was a small hill on the other side of the ski lodge.

The children were happy and could not wait so they took their skis and poles and took off to the hill.

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Barbro Osher Swedish American of the Year 2008

Barbro Osher, born 1940 in Stockholm, a graduate of *Stockholm University* with a degree in languages and political science. After working in publishing, and as a copywriter in Sweden she moved to the United States in the 1980s. She has done, and is still doing, valuable efforts for Sweden and the US from different point of views.

From 1995 to 1998 she served as the *Consul General of Sweden* in Los Angeles. Now she serves in the same capacity in San Francisco. Together with her husband Bernard Osher, she does philanthropic works of great importance through their funds dedicated to mainly education, medicine and culture.

Barbro Osher is chairman of the *Bernard Osher Foundation* and president of the *Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation*. The *Pro Suecia Foundation* supports Swedish-related cultural and educational projects in North America and Sweden. Among the Foundation's grantees are several American universities, including the *University of California at Berkeley*, *Gustavus Adolphus University*, and the *University of Texas at Austin*, whose programs advance understanding of Swedish culture and tradition both in Sweden and in America.

Over the years, she has represented the *Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences* and the *Swedish Tourist Board*.

Barbro Osher is also the founder of the *Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA)* chapter in San Francisco and was president of *Positive Sweden/North America*, an organization furthering the image of Sweden through educational activities in the United States. She serves on the Boards of the *University of California (Berkeley) Foundation* and the *American-Scandinavian Foundation*.

Barbro Osher was for many years the owner and publisher of *Vestkusten*, one of the few Swedish-American newspapers in the United States, established in 1886 and providing news from Sweden on politics, business, and sports as well as information on the active Swedish-American community in the West. Now

Vestkusten and *Nordstjernan* are working together in the field of Sweden America.

Among numerous recognitions, including several American honorary degrees, Osher received the *Eliason Award from the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce* of Greater Los Angeles in 1999. She was a recipient of His Majesty the King's Medal in 2002. In 2004 Barbro Osher was named *SWEA International's Woman of the Year*, and in October, 2006, she was awarded an *honorary doctorate in art* from Göteborg University, Sweden.

Barbro Osher is also a very active member of the *Consular Corps* of San Francisco.

**Submitted by: Catherine
Bringselius Nilsson, District Master,
DL Södra Sverige No. 20**

Barbro Osher Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2008

Barbro Osher, född 1940 i Stockholm. Studentexamen i Motala, dit familjen flyttade när fadern blev chef för Göta Kanal. Efter filosofie kandidatexamen blev Barbro redaktör på *Bonnier Forum*, därefter copywriter under 70-talet. I början av 80-talet flyttade Barbro till USA, där hon utifrån sin nya plattform kommit att göra värdefulla insatser för Sverige.

Barbro Osher har innehaft uppdrag för *Svenska Turistrådet*, *Kungliga Ingenjörsvetenskaps-akademien* och *Positive Sweden/North America*, en organisation som sprider upplysning om Sverige i USA. Sedan 1998 håller Barbro Osher ställningarna för Sverige i San Francisco som *generalkonsul*. Barbro verkar för svenska intressen på många olika plan, bland annat som *grundare av SWEA i San Francisco* och från 1990 som utgivare av den svensk-amerikanska tidningen *Vestkusten*, som fungerat som en viktig länk mellan USA och Sverige genom att bevaka svenska nyheter inom politik, ekonomi, sport med mera och informerat om svensk-amerikanska aktiviteter på det lokala planet. *Vestkusten* har nyligen gått ihop med tidningen *Nordstjernan*.



Barbro Osher

Tillsammans med sin make Bernard Osher är Barbro en stor donator. *Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation* ger stora bidrag till institutioner och organisationer i både Sverige och USA. Förutom åtskilliga miljoner till *Karolinska Institutet* har stora summor donerats till svenska institutioner så som *Nationalmuseum*, *Moderna museet*, *Confidencen*, *Vadstena-akademien*, *Judiska museet* och *Opera på Skäret*, och till amerikanska institutioner och universitet, som verkar för förståelse av svensk kultur och svenska traditioner.

Bland utmärkelser, som Barbro Osher erhållit, är *hedersdoktorat vid Göteborgs universitet*, *Eliason Award från Svensk-amerikanska Handelskammaren* i Los Angeles, utnämning till *Årets Kvinna 2006 av SWEA International* och *mottagare av Hans Majestät Konungens medalj 2002*.

Vasa Orden av Amerika har sedan 1960 utnämnt en *Årets Svensk-Amerikan* för att hedra våra emigranter för deras insatser i Amerika. *Årets Svensk-Amerikan* har antingen varit engagerad i svenskamerikanska kulturutbyten eller gjort en enastående karriär i det amerikanska samhället. Bland tidigare mottagare av denna hederstitel märks *nobelpristagaren i kemi 1951, Dr Glenn T. Seaborg*, astronauten *Edwin Aldrin*, *skådespelerskan Signe Hasso*, *ordföranden i USA:s högsta domstol William H. Rehnquist*, *Marilyn Carlson Nelson*, *VD för Carlson Companies Inc.*, *Agneta Nilsson*, *grundare av organisationen SWEA*.

Information om *Årets Svensk-Amerikan* kan fås av ordföranden i kommittén för *Årets Svensk-Amerikan*, Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, tel 0470-28588 eller vice ordföranden i kommittén Gunnar Gustafsson, tel 0303-54113.

VASA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mr. William Lundquist, Vice Grand Master and Chairman of the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee, is pleased to announce the winners of the VASA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS for 2008.



**THE GRAND LODGE
SCHOLARSHIP – \$3,000.00**
KATHERINE DESAU
Nobel Lodge No. 184
DL Pacific Northwest No. 13

Katherine graduated from Willamette University in Salem, OR in May of 2005. She has been taking pre-requisite classes at Portland State University where she has been accepted into the Masters degree in Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages program. Katherine is fluent in Spanish and is passionate about teaching. She celebrates her Scandinavian heritage and has performed with many Scandinavian folkdance groups.



**THE ELLIS F. HILLNER
AWARD – \$2,000.00**
ALLISON OSBORNE
Viking Lodge No. 735
DL New Jersey No. 6

Allison graduated from Allentown Central High School in Allentown, PA this year and plans to attend Wake Forest University in North Carolina in the fall studying a pre-medical curriculum. She is an accomplished musician in piano, voice and oboe. She is also gifted with a tremendous talent for science and has won several medals at the state level. Allison has shown great enthusiasm for pursuing her Swedish heritage and has performed in many local lodge programs.



**THE GLADYS A. AND RUSSELL
M. BIRTWISTLE AWARD –
\$1,500.00**
NICOLE NELSON
John Ericsson Lodge No. 25
DL Massachusetts No. 2

Nicole plans to graduate in 2009 from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She has received numerous collegiate honors and is a member of several professional organizations. Nicole is a dedicated, hard working student in a difficult career path. She is also active in her church and served as a peer minister and on numerous projects that help those in need. Nicole is active in her local lodge where she serves as Asst. Master of Ceremonies and has attended a district convention as a delegate.



**THE IRMA AND
KNUTE CARLSON AWARD –
\$1,000.00**
DANA ELFVIN
Nobel Monitor Lodge No. 130
DL Pennsylvania No. 9

Dana has completed her 3rd year of undergraduate study at St. Mary's College of California in Moraga, CA. She has chosen politics and religious study as career paths. Dana's dedication to education has shaped her plans for the future. She is committed to her education, athletics, family and her Swedish heritage. Dana received a Vasa scholarship to Sjolunden language camp and has had the opportunity to travel to Sweden.

The Grand Lodge 2009 Scholarship Program

Grand Lodge collegiate scholarships as well as scholarships to Sjolunden Language Camp are clearly defined on the Vasa website. Completed applications are due February 15 of each year. The Grand Lodge is pleased to offer this program and encourages all students to apply.

For further information look at the Vasa website
www.vasaorder.com
or contact:

**William L. Lundquist, Vice Grand Master,
Chairman, Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee.**
Phone: 810-695-3248, E-mail: wmlund1@aol.com

\$1,000 COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL AWARDS

Each of the students below has qualified for an award to be used at the institute of higher learning of choice.



MAIJA BUTLER
Drott Lodge No. 168
DL Pennsylvania No. 9

Maija attends Franklin College in Sorengo, Switzerland specializing in International Relations. She was an exchange student to Sweden and is fluent in the Swedish language. Maija currently tutors English as a second language in an elementary school program in Lugano, Switzerland. She attended Sjolunden language camp with her twin sister, Lisa, five summers and was active in her local lodge.



ULRIKA SWANSON
Jubileum Lodge No. 755
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Ulrika Swanson is attending North Park University in Chicago, IL. She plans to graduate with her undergraduate degree in music in 2010. She is an accomplished violist who is a scholastically gifted student maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Ulrika spent her fall semester in Jönköping, Sweden where she was able to study and play in the Jönköping Orkesterförening. Ulrika was able to visit a Vasa lodge in Sweden and attended her district convention in the Milwaukee area last year. She was able to participate in Lucia and Midsommar festivities in Madison.



LAURA KUNAS
Skandia Lodge No. 549
DL Alberta Canada No. 18

Laura graduated from the American International School in Budapest, Hungary in May of this year. This high school offers a college preparatory curriculum. Laura has enrolled in the full International Baccalaureate Program. She is a highly competent athlete who has led her team to two Central/Eastern European soccer championships. Laura and her family live in Europe but return to Alberta every summer where she is an integral member of Skandia Lodge.



DAVID ANDERSSON
Solidaritet Lodge No. 396
DL Pacific Northwest No. 13

David currently attends Chapman University in Orange, CA, where he is majoring in Creative Writing. He toured with the Chapman University Chamber Orchestra and is currently a DJ on Chapman Radio at the university. He is producing music which is played in the U.S. as well as other countries worldwide. David is hoping to study abroad at the University of Uppsala this summer and may continue postgraduate studies there focusing on linguistics, Swedish and Swedish literature.



NOELLE NERO
Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No. 4

Noelle is currently a student at Boston University, Boston, MA, where she is majoring in Psychology. She has been involved in athletics and music as well as volunteer projects that help the less fortunate and the Girl Scouts of America, receiving that organization's highest award, the Gold Award. Noelle has been active in the Barnklubben Elsa Rix No. 1 which is a Swedish folk dancing youth group. She has performed in many Scandinavian affairs in New York City and elsewhere. Noelle is a "Cultural Ambassador" for Olympic Lodge where she presents reports and supports her friends.



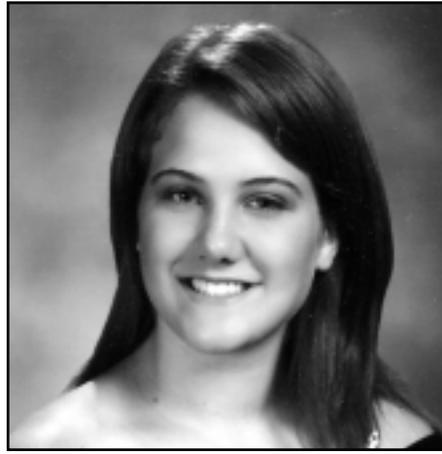
DEIDRE MCGRATH
Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No.4

Deidre graduated this year from H. Frank Carey High School in Franklin Square, NY, where she laid the groundwork for a successful future. She has been accepted at several universities and plans to pursue a career in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. She was a member of many clubs and committees as well as athletics while in high school. Deidre is active in her church, in Olympic Lodge as a "Cultural Ambassador" and Barnklubben Elsa Rix Swedish Dance Club.



STEPHANIE LUNT
 Evening Star Lodge No. 426
 DL Pacific Southwest No. 15

Stephanie is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development and a minor in Psychology at California State University Long Beach. She is performing with excellence at the university and has received many honors for her academic achievements. Her goal is to be able to make a difference in the world by helping others through a career in the medical field. She volunteers at a local retirement home while working to help offset the costs of higher education. Stephanie served as Lucia in her local lodge as well as in many Midsommar and Easter programs.



MAJ-BRITT FRENZE
 Drott Lodge No. 168
 DL Pennsylvania No. 9

Maj-Britt graduated this year from Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, VA, with high honors and has applied to many prestigious universities. She has a vast array of talents and hobbies and is an excellent student with interests in medicine, writing and English, and law. She enjoys languages, particularly French and Swedish and can speak some Swedish. Maj-Britt has attended Vasa events since she was a toddler and joined Lucia pageants and Midsommar parades. She has served as Lucia and sung with the chorus in Swedish.



SAMANTHA MCGANN
 Bessemer Lodge No. 203
 DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Samantha is a student in her sophomore year at Millikin University in Decatur, IL, working toward her bachelor's degree, with a double major in Music Business (with vocal emphasis) and Human Services. She has an outstanding scholastic record as well as a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Samantha volunteers at a shelter for victims of domestic violence and at an animal shelter. She was a member of Solstrålen Children's Club for over 10 years performing in the Chicago area.



To All Applicants For The Grand Lodge Scholarship Program:

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee wishes to thank you for participating in this year's competition. The committee and the independent judges are very impressed with the quality of all the applicants and salute your extensive involvement in your lodge and community and the welfare of your fellow citizens.

We wish you success in your studies and look forward to your participation in the 2008-2009 contest. Details will be found in the September/October issue of the Vasa Star.

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee
 William Lundquist, Vice Grand Master, Chairman
 Dr. Rolf S. Bergman, Grand Master
 Joan Graham, Grand Secretary

Learn Swedish Language and Culture While Having Summer Fun!

2008 SJÖLUNDEN LANGUAGE VILLAGE AWARDS

Wm. Lundquist, Vice Grand Master and Chairman of the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Sjölund Language Village Awards. They are:

Name	Address	Lodge Info
Erik Dyrssen	604 South Pinckney St. Elk Point, SD 57025	Erik's father, Christian Dyrssen, is a member of Norrskenet Lodge No. 331, DL Iowa-Nebraska No. 17
Zachary Henderson	1405 N. 37 Ave. Hollywood, FL 33021	Zachary's mother, Annica Henderson, and grandmother Ingrid Georgesco, are all members of Miami Lodge No. 554, GL Florida Region
Jennifer L. Larson	4321 El Camio Real Irvine, CA 92602	Jennifer's mother, Valerie Larson, and grandmother Peggy Pages, are members of North Star Lodge No. 106. Peggy is a dual member in Glenn Seaborg Lodge No. 719, DL Pacific Southwest No. 15
Sam Salwasser	7170 Hidden Valley Trails Cottage Grove, MN 55016	Sam and grandmother, Alice Erickson, are members of John Morton Lodge No. 488, DL Minnesota No. 7
Emma Thofson	3097 NE 69th St. Medford, MN 55049	Emma and parents, David and Suzanne Thofson, are members of Runeberg Lodge No. 137, DL Minnesota No. 7
Katie Westlund	55 W. Joliet St. Schererville, IN 46375	Katie and parents, Steve and Shelly Westlund, are members of Nordik Folk Lodge No. 716, DL Lake Michigan No. 8

**In Truth and Unity,
Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee**

Wm. L. Lundquist, Vice Grand Master, Chairman; Rolf Bergman, Grand Master; Joan Graham, Grand Secretary

Grand Lodge Activities Clubs



Folkdansare från Kungälv, Sweden Activities Club.

The Vasa Order of America has a number of Activity Clubs, which includes clubs involved in singing, folk dancing, square dancing, genealogical activities, computer activities, PDM clubs, and more. Activity Clubs are a vital function of the Vasa Order as their formation is such that it encourages young people and adult groups to be involved in such activ-

ities. In order to apply for a Charter for an activity club, a request should be made to the Grand Lodge Activity Club Director with the following information:

- Name of the club
- Date and place the club was organized
- Purpose and goals

- Number of members
- Names of the officers and address of contact person
- District in which the Activities Club exist
- A copy of the bylaws

Only about half of the members of an Activity Club need to be Vasa members, which sometimes makes it easier to recruit members. The hope, of course, is that they all will become Vasa members at some point.

The Vasa Folkdansare från Kungälv are an active and elegantly dressed group of folk dancers as shown in the picture where they danced in connection with *Linné days in Kungälv*. Members of the *Smultron Activity Club* in Eugene, OR, attend a bi-weekly Swedish class and involve themselves in the many cultural activities such as decorating the Majstången and enjoying crayfish.

If you wish further information about Vasa Activity Clubs, please contact Judy Rust at jlcrust@msn.com, or write her at 2000 NE 148th Place, Portland, OR 97230.

**Submitted by: Judy Rust
Activities Club Director**



INTRODUCING
The Vasa March



*Written and Performed by
Alfon Bergstrom*

The "Vasa March" was officially adopted by the Grand Lodge in session in San Diego in 2006. Composer Alfon Bergstrom, a member of Valley Vikings Lodge #701 and a dual member of Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719 in DL Pacific Southwest #15 proudly performed "The Vasa March" for the Flag Ceremony during the Opening Ceremonies and has given the Grand Lodge copyrights to the music.

"The Vasa March" has been reproduced on CDs and has been sent to every lodge for use during meetings, ceremonies, and all your events. We hope you will enjoy this lively march and encourage you to use for ceremonies in your lodge including introductions of visiting Vasa dignitaries, initiation of new members and installation of officers.

Contact Grand Secretary Joanie Graham if your lodge did not receive a CD.

DL Pacific Southwest #15

The 94th Convention of District Lodge Pacific Southwest # 15 was held at the Marriott Hotel in Torrance California February 22nd to the 24th of 2008. The Past District Masters Club of District Lodge Pacific Southwest #15 was the Hosts for this event.

A beautiful reception was held Friday night, hosted by Mayflower Lodge # 445 in the picturesque Presidential Suite with Grand Lodge Officers, District Officers, District delegates and guests in attendance. Everyone enjoyed wonderful refreshments and the company of old friends and meeting new Vasa brothers and sisters.

On Saturday, the election of the 2008 District officers was held followed by a wonderful reception for the outgoing District Master Susan Premo. In the evening, a formal banquet was held with Kenneth Murphy as the Master of Ceremonies and Dr. Christian DeVirgilio as the Keynote speaker. The scholarship winners were presented by our Scholarship Chairman Maidie Karling. The evening concluded by dancing to the music of the Sam Conty Band.

On Sunday, the business of the convention continued followed by a Memorial Service and a tasteful luncheon. In the Afternoon the newly elected District officers were installed by Grand Lodge Deputy Wayne Pierson and his staff.

The convention was honored with the following guests: Rolf Bergman, Grand Master; William Lundquist, Vice Grand Master; Joan Graham, Grand Lodge Secretary; Tore Kellgren, Grand Lodge Executive Board Member Western Region; Ulf Brynjestad, Past Grand Master; Eric Johnson, Past Grand Master; Edward Netzel, District 12 District Master and Staffan and Janet Simonsson, Pastors of the St. Erik's Church of Los Angeles.

Submitted by: Thomas Jahn



DL NEWS

DL Connecticut #1



The 2008 calendar of events for DL Connecticut #1 began with our annual Valentine's Brunch at the Rocky Hill, CT Dakota Steakhouse. This is a great way to begin our calendar of events for the year in a location easily accessible to all the membership. The day included a little business advising everyone of upcoming events, great food in a friendly atmosphere, a raffle, and a little quiz entitled "How Swede It Is?" Judging by the turn out and the reviews everyone had a fun afternoon. Thanks to all the members and friends of District Lodge CT #1 who attended for their help and support.

Other upcoming events include Vasa Day - "Midsommer" June 22 and Kräftskiva - Steak and Crayfish at the Park August 17. All Vasa members on vacation and in the area are invited to attend. Contact the DL #1 for information on these and other scheduled events.

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren

LODGE NEWS

Freja Lodge #100 White Plains, NY

On March 8th, Lodge Freja #100 of White Plains, NY, and Lodge Stenland #747 of West Nyack, NY, met for a “smorgasbord” and joint installation of officers. Following a delicious luncheon coordinated by Barbara Peterson, DM Karen Snowberg of District Lodge #4 New York turned the installation over to District Deputies Kenneth Olson and Beatrice Rasmussen. After the installation, the new officers were congratulated and the installation team was given thanks. Members of both lodges were encouraged to reserve Sunday, October 19th for the gala celebration of Lodge Freja’s 100th anniversary.

Submitted by: Karen Snowberg



Lodge Freja #100 Members - 1st row (L-R): Trustee Margaret Bruce, Secretary Sonja Derrien, Auditor Alice Erhard, Chaplain Arthur Peterson, Chairman Karen Snowberg, Guard/Greeter Kristen Purdy, Fran Johnson, Vice Chairman Jennifer Dreaper, & Master of Ceremonies Barbara Peterson. 2nd row: Cultural Leader Victoria Homberg, Financial Secretary Mary Nordlund, & Treasurer Don Jacobson. (Unavailable for photo: Asst. MC Evelyn Seastrand, Auditor Ray Kallio, and Trustee Jim Peterson.)

North Star Lodge #106 Los Angeles, CA

There was a significant moment at North Star’s February meeting when it was necessary to drape the charter for three active members. Thyra Anderson, 102 years old, Åke Sandler at 94 years and Knut Petterson who attended meetings when he could. Evelyn Earls, Chaplain, led the draping and ended with the Lord’s Prayer. These members will be missed.

On that same day, Allison Dalton, daughter of Kim and Greg Dalton, was presented with a \$1,000 Scholarship by Scholarship Chairman Jane Sandler and Mary-Ethel Pierson. Allison incidentally happens to be my lovely granddaughter. She appreciated the award very much and it will be used toward her education. She is majoring in Communications and Law.

We miss Clarence Bergquist at our meetings due to medical problems. And our former Cultural Leader, now in Colorado, continues to entertain the staff where she lives and often surrounded by puppy dogs, cats, and birds.

Central Association Delegate Evelyn mentioned selection of Midsummer Queen’s court soon. We do have a candidate.

New members, Eleonora Nyren and Uno Kaspersen (dual members of Mayflower) provided the most delicious mouth-watering semlor as per Swedish

Lenten season tradition. Rich, creamy, delicious! Who could say more - oh yes, a few calories!

The Pacific Southwest District #15 convention was excellent, efficiently led by now PDM Susan Premo. Prior to the Saturday evening banquet several of our members gathered in Chairman Erik’s room where our Scholarship Chairman, Jane Sandler, and Mary Ethel Pierson presented a \$1,000 Scholarship to Jim Weldon, son of Jeannette Engstrom. Jim was happy to receive the award to further his education in Civil Engineering. Jim attends Cal State Fullerton and is involved in research projects in addition to his Civil Engineering studies ... and he is my diligent grandson!

Erik had the MC’s at our meeting, newly elected VDM Mary Ethel to the altar to be recognized and congratulated. Also Peggy Pages, Past District Chaplain for her efforts and many blessings she bestowed. Each received a floral bouquet.

Jeanette Engstrom (Valley Vikings Lodge #701 in Bakersfield) and dual member of North Star Lodge was elected as District Outer Guard. We do congratulate the new District Master, Isabella Muscarella. She is full of vigor and enthusiasm. She and her officers are invited to visit us in the near future.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton



Allison Dalton being presented with the North Star Lodge #106, \$1,000 scholarship from the Scholarship Committee, Mary Ethel Pierson and Jane Sandler.



Jim Weldon receives his \$1,000 scholarship at North Star Lodge #106, from Scholarship Committee, Jane Sandler and Mary-Ethel Pierson.



Fylgia Lodge #119 San Francisco, CA

On January 8, 2008, Fylgia Lodge #119 held a business meeting with yearly reports and a schedule of future events. The new officers, led by Victoria L. Peterson, Chairman, were installed by our Deputy, Marie Ann Hill of Tegner Lodge #149 and Joanie Graham of Framåt Lodge #405, the Grand Lodge Secretary. The installation was efficiently performed and an incentive for the new year.

In February, Mr. Steve Wilson, of Valhalla Lodge #746 and Svea Lodge #348, presented "How the Swedes Settled Turlock" and he also had slides and information regarding the Mission

Covenant Church.

In March Ms. M.E.A. McNeil had slides and lecture on the "Evolution of a Myth: How a God of Ancient Egypt Became the Wild Lover of the Finnish Eric Kalevala." She has written many books and articles for publication and is also an illustrator. Refreshments had been served after each program and we are looked forward to a presentation regarding weaving in April.

All are welcome to our cultural events.

Our Web Site is: www.scandinavians.com/vasa/fylgia.

Submitted by: Jean Nelson



Accepting the Thule Lodge #127 annual historian's report are Robert Fuller, immediate past chairman, Eugene Johnson, lodge chairman, and John Sipos, lodge historian.



Fylgia Lodge Officers - 2008 - left to right: Jean Nelson, Vasa Star Rep., Trustee, Historian; Robert Olson, Past Chairman; Torborg Lundell, Secretary; Victoria L. Peterson, Chairman; Theodore C. Olsson, Vice Chairman; Richard Wooster, Outer Guard; Peggy Peterson Bley, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, and Yasuko Wooster, Chairman.

Thule Lodge #127 Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

Hello from Thule Lodge #127 in Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY. Our lodge has already begun their busy season, with activities and events being set for the year.

Eugene Johnson, lodge chairman, has set the dates for all events, and published a Thule Calendar for 2008.

At the February meeting, Chairman Johnson welcomed all to the meeting, which was a St. Valentine's celebration. Many of the lodge members were dressed in red. Refreshments were served following the meeting. Allie Nelson Withers led everyone in the Swedish table grace. Lodge chaplain Diane Shaw gave the opening and closing message.

During the February meeting, the annual report of the lodge historian was presented. John Sipos has served as the

lodge historian for seven years, and compiled a record which included photographs of lodge activities and Swedish events, news articles, copies of lodge newsletters, and various communications. Computer artist and lodge member Susan W. Sipos created a special cover design and title page, with a Swedish design. Accepting the report for the lodge were past chairman Robert Fuller and Chairman Eugene Johnson.

At the March meeting, St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated, along with the egg "sexá" for Easter. A variety of Swedish food will be served to all. The lodge will hold its annual spring cleanup at the end of March, and this will open the grounds for future events. A pancake breakfast will be held in April, and Friday night dinners will begin on the

first Friday in May. The annual meatball dinner will be in the middle of May, and the lodge Memorial Service will be held close to Memorial Day.

Thule Lodge is now into its 101st year and looks forward to many years of preserving the Swedish heritage. The lodge welcomes visitors, and if you are in our area, we welcome you. God dag to all!

Submitted by: John Sipos

Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 Mayfield Heights, OH

Saturday, April 19, 2008, was a great night of celebration for the members and friends of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130. While Nobel Lodge #130 was instituted on January 18, 1908, the major 100th anniversary celebration event was delayed for the better weather of April. And, the weather cooperated for the 140 attendees of the event held at the Holiday Inn – Cleveland East in Wickliffe. A festive tone was set with rooms brightly decorated with table linens and balloons in Swedish blue and yellow. Center pieces featured Swedish and American flags and fiber optic light bouquets.

Guests viewed a display of historic photographs and documents as well as a number of written greetings as they gathered before dinner and the program. Mugs, photographs, pins, books and other items were available to commemorate the evening. But, renewing friendships and recalling memories of past events and experiences highlighted the gathering time.

Continued on page 14

Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130

Continued from page 13

As guests were seated for dinner, Lodge Chairman, Bruce Elfvin, welcomed all present. Chaplain Len Gotrich offered the invocation, and event Master of Ceremonies, Bo Carlsson, offered an anniversary champagne toast in blue souvenir glasses. Lively conversation continued through an attractively served dinner which ended with cheesecake and lingonberries.

Nobel-Monitor Lodge's own Vasa Voices sang during dessert. Their songs featured spring time, "Ack Värmeland du Sköna," and a humorous number on the Swedish emigrant's perceived attractions of America.

The formal program began with recognition of special guests and greetings from Swedish Counsel Michael Miller, Grand Master Rolf Bergman, Vice Grand Master Bill Lundquist, and District Master Linda Smith. Special guest was Lilly Setterdahl. She was a member of our lodge for over 30 years before she transferred to IL. She donated a portion of the sale of books to the lodge. She is quite well known for her work, and her late husband, Lennart, as well. Past Chairman, Lynn Binnie and wife Cheryl, came in from Whitewater, WI to be with us. They still maintain their membership with us.

Bo Carlsson presented an interesting and informative history of the beginnings and development of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130. As no formal history of the lodge has been written, the 100th anniversary committee wanted to use this event to collect as much historic material as possible. Bo's research has moved us far along the path in developing that formal history.

The entertainment highlight of the evening was *Smörgåsbandet*, i.e., Jeanne Eriksson Widman, and Wayne Soderlund. Jeanne is the daughter of well known Swedish accordionist and performing artist, Walter Eriksson. Guests enjoyed their Scandinavian accordion music during the gathering time and dinner. As promised Jeanne engaged all in singing, and later a good number in folk dancing.

Center pieces from the tables were awarded to the oldest member attending, the member with the longest tenure, the newest member, the family with the most attending, and the person coming the longest distance. Other center pieces and commemorative

programs will go to shut-in members.

A fundraising silent auction was held for gift certificates at several restaurants in the area.

The anniversary committee is planning to prepare a commemorative CD including a summary of Nobel-Monitor's history, historic photographs, and highlight photos of the anniversary gala. The cost will be \$10 per copy. Ordering information will be included in the next newsletter.

Thank you to the anniversary committee and others who contributed their time, ideas and resources to make the 100th Anniversary Gala a success.

Submitted by: Dick Ericksson



Wayne Soderlund, Grand Master Rolf Bergman and Jeannie Eriksson Widman.

Tegnér Lodge #149 Oakland, CA

Tegnér Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, had a most enjoyable Fat Tuesday dinner in February. Doris Nordendahl prepared the roast pork and Past Chairman Laura Nordendahl baked and served semlor with almond paste, whipped cream, and warm milk. As Cultural Leader, Laura told us about Tegnér's early history for we are celebrating our 100th Anniversary this year.

The charter was draped in memory of member Shirley Schader who died last December. Member Virginia Campbell was here from Portland and gave a loving tribute to her long-time friend, Shirley.

We were pleased to have our District Deputy Maria Helberg, her husband Jim,

and Patsy Nilsson, all of Framåt Lodge at our meeting.

Tegnér had a pea soup and oven pancake supper at its March meeting. Our visitors were Past District Master Myrtle Widmark and Dorothy Scherer of Monitor Lodge and two little Easter witches, Shelby Nordendahl and Annemarie Ross. For our program, Shelby, with the help of Annemarie, read a poem about Easter witches which Shelby had written. Then Elsy Matsson and Ingrid Anderson joined the girls and they sang in Swedish "Blåsippar" and "Blinka Lilla Stjärna där."

Laura Nordendahl and Ann Tennis were elected as delegates to the Golden Gate District #12 convention in Redding the end April. Marie-Anne Hill and Elsy Matsson will be alternates. It is hoped that other members will be able to attend the convention.

Submitted by: A. Tennis

Easterwitches

In the long dark nights of early spring
Just at the earth's awakening,
People believe the strangest thing.
They saw witches everywhere,
Walking in the forests,
Flying through the air.
Mothers kept the children inside.
Farmers locked up their sheep and
goats at night.
Bonfires bright lit up the night to give
the witches a bad fright.

That was then!

And Now?

The people have become more sophisticated.
The memories of trolls and witches have faded.
But spring is coming,
The land is feeling invigorated.
Did you hear it?
What a wonderful sound!
Look out, the Easterwitches are still around!

They have rosy cheeks and soot on their faces.
And they have practiced all the Easter phrases.
They ride on their brooms and
"Glad Påsk" they shout.
It appears, the Easterwitches will stay around.

Shelby Nordendahl - age 12
March 2008

Harmoni Lodge #472 Portland, OR

Harmoni Lodge #472 in Portland, OR, started off the year 2008 with another well performed installation of officers. The installation was planned once again by our able District Deputy, Andy Toth. Andy has been in charge of this for a number of years now and every year he makes it a meaningful experience.

Our February social was actually held on March 1, when members and friends of Harmoni enjoyed a delicious crab feed. During the social time preceding and during the crab feed, everyone was invited to participate in a silent auction put together by members of Harmoni. Some of the wonderful items to bid on included a stuffed moose and moose beer, baked goods, and a weekend at a beach cabin. The crab feed and silent auction were truly enjoyed by all, with a little competition in the bidding for certain items. It was a fun event and profitable for the lodge too.

At our March social we enjoyed an evening of getting to know more about some of our members. It was fun and interesting to hear from about six or seven members who were immigrants and learn how and why they came to the U.S. and how they ended up in Portland. We even found out that one of our members had been a part of the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus. We are looking forward to continuing this event and learning more about other members.

Upcoming events include a speaker from a Portland nursery, a casino night, and participation in midsommar where we will serve Swedish pancakes in addition to celebrating the event.

Submitted by: Judy Rust

Lindbergh Lodge #494 Los Altos, CA

February's meeting featured a delicious dinner of pea soup and pancakes. This combination is always a favorite with the Swedish community. The theme of the meeting was Swedish copper pieces. We were fortunate to have Ruberth "Swede" Englund from Skogen Lodge #700 in Redding, California. Our distinguished guest has a prodigious collection of Swedish copper. Copper work became a favorite for early craftsmen because Sweden had some copper mines. Wealthier countries had their artifacts

fashioned from gold or silver, but Sweden was blessed with this very beautiful and practical resource. The craftsmanship was introduced by Germans about 1600. Copper was discovered in Sweden about 1708. He displayed many pieces and told how they were used. The evening was rounded out with an old fashioned barbershop quartet singing many lovely old songs - a cappella.

The theme of the March meeting was Gamla Stan, (Old Stockholm). Our cultural leader Dean Babcock gave a well-prepared presentation about this charming area of the capital city. It was a nice mix of pictures and history. Even the origin of the name Stockholm was discussed. Stock meaning log and holme meaning small island. There are 14 islands in the Stockholm area. This was illustrated in the various official seals of the city showing log cabins...the building material of choice in a wooded country like Sweden. True to the theme of the month, Corned Beef and Cabbage was the dinner entrée. A rousing chorus of 'semi-Irish' voices closed the meeting with a rendition of *My Wild Irish Rose*.

Submitted by: Muriel Nelson Beroza

Phoenix Lodge #677 Phoenix, AZ

Our members rejoiced with Dr. Ted and Jenny Rudberg when their son 1st Lt. Eric Rudberg, was back from South Baghdad safe and sound at Ft. Richardson, Alaska. A graduate of West Point he was a Paratrooper in the Light Infantry, serving with the Cavalry as a Platoon Leader. He received a Purple Heart Medal, a Bronze Star for Valor and a Bronze Star for Service. His family had a Welcome Home Reception for him. The room was filled with young and old friends and relatives plus many VASA members. Ted and Jenny's daughter, Anna, was home from college to help in the celebration. The July-August 2007 Vasa Star had an article by Eric from Iraq, because of that article he heard from members in the United States and in Sweden. The letter below is written in response to that support.

Our January Lodge meeting began with a noon meal. The Charter was draped for three long-time members who died since our last meeting, Mary Salter, Ingrid Connell and Forrest Barr. Several District #21 Officers were

present to help with the installation of our officers. The ceremony was conducted by our capable District Master, Vito Pantaleo. He encouraged us to get new members and thanked us for our hospitality.

The new Honorary Consul, C. Mattias Stolpe, Arizona Consulate of Sweden, was introduced. He told us a little about himself, his work and then answered a number of questions from the audience. It was good for us to meet him and for him to get to know us.

Letter from Eric Rudberg in South Baghdad, Nov. 2007

Thank you for your support. It really means a lot. Every day I am just amazed at what I see over here. Granted I see some of the worst in human nature but overall I see the best. It is just an honor for me to be serving with my fellow soldiers. It is so great seeing a soldier in full combat gear giving high five's to kids while out on patrol. Things in my area have definitely turned around recently. Locals are joining forces with us to help secure their town and rid it of Al Qaeda and other insurgents. They are finally realizing what it truly means to be free, especially from fear. They are taking pride in their community and bettering it for their children. They are working hard to establish schools and clinics in areas that never had them before. They now see that we are here to help them with these issues but that they need to take it upon themselves to make these dreams a reality. It means the world when a grandmother comes out of her house with some freshly cooked bread and offers it to us while we walk by. Even though it is not much, it is her way to thank us for what we are doing for her family. I hope everything is going well for you. Thanks again for everything.

Take Care

Eric Rudberg

Submitted by: Elna Lidman



Anna, Eric, Jenny and Ted Rudberg.

Bishop Hill Lodge #683

Bishop Hill, IL

The 40th Anniversary of Bishop Hill Lodge #683 was celebrated at the March meeting. Helen Anderson, the only charter member, was honored at the program that followed a Swedish pancake and traditional yellow pea soup dinner. The dining room and tables were beautifully decorated in Swedish and spring décor. VASA archives representative, Lars Jenner, gave a very interesting historical

account of Lodge #683. Chairman, Jeff Anderson, conducted the ceremonial meeting.

The Youth group of the Bishop Hill Lodge helped with the preparations and serving for the delicious meal. A monetary gift was given to the Youth for their part of the evening. A 40th Anniversary cake was enjoyed by all!

Submitted by: Cheryl Dowell

Tucson Lodge #691

Tucson, AZ

Tucson Lodge #691 recently participated in the EMAT Fair, in Tucson, AZ, on March 1-2, 2008.

EMAT stands for the *European Multi Ethnic Alliance of Tucson*, where the Tucson Lodge # 691 is a member. Every year all the 16 countries participate in the 2-day fair with information about their respective countries, some food but

above all, some great entertainment.

The Vasa Swedish Folk Dancers of Tucson Lodge #691 (with 10-12 dancers and of which I am the director) performed a number of traditional dances, to the delight of the audience - a lot of fun and a good way to "tout" our heritage!!

Submitted by: Ann-Marie Kinnison



The Vasa Swedish Folkdancers.

Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

Cape Cod, MA



This replica of an ancient "nyckelharpa," made by Rune Borgman, drew a lot of interest from visitors to the Fair, especially young musicians.

Our March meeting saw the installation of new officers, and we were honored to have Marian Parco GLD, Dawn Briggs DM, and Shirley French DCL in attendance. It is always a pleasure for us to greet representatives of the Grand Lodge. The current officers of Vinland Lodge are: Chairman Judith Peterson, Vice-Chairman George Makris, Secretary Xenia Christiansen, Assistant Secretary Dolores Pedersen, Finance Secretary Enid Makris, Treasurer Karl Pedersen, Chaplain Elsa Erickson, Cultural Leader Lorraine Young, and Inner Guard Virginia McNamara. At this time we would like to thank Louise Fietz, our Past

Chairman, who fulfilled her duties faithfully during the past three years.

Another highlight of events in March was Vinland Lodge's participation in the *Multi-Cultural Fair at Cape Cod Community College* in Hyannis. Without prejudice, I can write that we had, by far, the most interesting display among the many other countries represented. There wasn't a time throughout the day when there were fewer than fourteen or fifteen people at our tables, admiring the display and seeking information and brochures on Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Norway. Because there is a Finnish Lodge on Cape Cod, their members had their own display. Vinland members who manned the display were Judith Peterson, Lorraine Young, Dolores and Karl Pedersen, Rune and Marion Borgman, Virginia McNamara, and soon-to-be new members Ewind and Marilyn Sohoel. It was a pleasurable day for all of us.

Submitted by: Marion Borgman

Carl Larsson Lodge #739

Raleigh, NC

On Saturday, February 9th, Carl Larsson Lodge (CLL) #739 in Raleigh, NC initiated 5 new members. Following the ceremony, Chairman Craig Jonson gave each new member a bouquet of 3 yellow roses to represent Vasa's Motto of Generosity, Truth and Unity.

In addition, a full slate of officers was elected that same evening. By special invitation to the meeting from the lodge's Chaplain, Kerstin Gothson, was North Carolina's Honorary Consul, Magnus Natt och Dag. Later in the evening, he gave an informative program about SAAB, the company he represents.

Carl Larsson Lodge continues its fine tradition of serving Swedish meals each month, with "kåldolmar" (stuffed cabbage rolls) as the featured dish in February. The family recipe was shared by the lodge's head chef, Jan Fagerberg, who was assisted by PC Paul Hollinghurst and his wife Rita, Corresponding Secretary.

Carl Larsson Lodge continues to be a strong and active group within our Vasa family. For the past 10 years, the lodge members have worked throughout the year in order to host what has become the largest *Scandinavian Christmas Fair* in the Southeast. Visitors come from states beyond North Carolina. The annual

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Carl Larsson Lodge #739

Continued from page 16

“Julmarknad” is held the first Saturday in December at the State Fairgrounds. Mark your calendars now! You don't want to miss it.

With warm greetings to all our Vasa Sisters and Brothers in Canada, Sweden and the USA.

Submitted by: Ruth C. Gustafson



(from L to R in photo): Diane Olsen, Jenny Jagdman, Luis Fondo, Elizabeth Dear and Tammy Johnson.

Dalahäst Lodge #742

Tinton Falls, NJ

Alfhild (Tootie) Lindquist joined Lodge Höga Nord #194 on November 4, 1932. Tootie was a faithful member of Höga Nord and served her lodge faithfully over the years as Financial Secretary, Inner Guard, and Chaplain and in many other capacities.

With the year-end 2004 disbandment of Lodge Höga Nord #194, Tootie, and her husband, Roy A. Lindquist, PGLEBM and PDM NJ District 6, transferred to Lodge Dalahäst #742 in Tinton Falls, NJ. Lodge meetings were now only a short drive from where they were living. Dalahäst members welcomed Tootie and Roy to their family and have been very proud of having Roy as our very first Past District Master. Tootie continued to attend all Dalahäst meetings and functions at Vasa Park with Roy until she moved to an Assisted Living facility last summer.

So, on a rainy February afternoon this

year, it was with honor and pleasure that Dalahäst Lodge recognize Tootie on her 75th anniversary as a Vasa Member. Chairman, Frank Csulak presented Tootie with her 75 Year Pin. Her son, Eric, and daughter-in-law, Carol Lindquist and granddaughter, Jeanne Norton, were delighted to be present to see Tootie receive her pin and a little bouquet of flowers.

Eric, a 50 year Vasa member, and Carol are also members of Lodge Dalahäst #742. Tootie's granddaughter, Jeanne, is a member of Lodge Baltic-Framåt #360. Other Dalahäst members who congratulated Tootie were Ines Csulak, Ingrid & Kurt Carlson, Ed & Cherstin Peterson. Brother Roy, who received his 70 year pin, last year, was not able to be with us on this particular day.

Submitted by: Cherstin Peterson



Eric Lindquist, Ingrid Carlson, Carol Lindquist, Kurt Carlson, Frank Csulak, Cherstin Peterson, Ines Csulak, Jeanne Norton, and Alfhild (Tootie) Lindquist.

Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

In our lodge we installed four new officers. They are as follows, Diane Gentry as Treasurer; Marge Larson, Secretary; Karin Febbrine Cultural Leader and Deanne French as Master of Ceremonies.

Vasa and its history were presented by Warren Carlson at our February meeting. It was interesting to learn how the people who had come to this country from Scandinavia gather together to share their culture, religion and food.

At our March meeting Andy Anderson and Dennis Marlake shared their talent of auctioning off items at our White Elephant making us laugh and enjoy the afternoon. Always fun to see how people wrap their raffle items and to see what is inside of the sale item.

Vivi Arnett shared with us Native Dress and Costumes of Norway. She made her presentation very interesting, she is also from Norway.

We are looking forward to our Mid-Summer picnic to be held June 22nd. We do not meet July or August.

Submitted by: Carol Ingstad Bryant

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR

Todd Anderson

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

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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.

SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Höganäs Nr 634

The first meeting of the year was on January 19, 2008, with installation of the new officers.

Chairman Leif Larsson welcomed guests from Local Lodges Kärnan #608, Malmöhus #643 and Nybyggarna #698. He also welcomed two new members and two transferred members to our Lodge.

District Deputy Bodil Walles installed the new officers in a beautifully executed ceremony.

Berit Bogren and Ove Thornblad were appointed Honorary Life Members of the Lodge.

Following the Installation everyone enjoyed a wonderful dinner.

The meeting on March 8 was "the evening of the Sisters" and 80 members attended. After a delicious dinner the Sisters presented a funny show with lots of songs from the good old days.

Submitted by: Hans Bogren



Honorary Life Members: Ove Thornblad and Berit Bogren.



Chairman Leif Larsson and new members Krystyna and Roy Aronsson, and Mai and Bo Fredriksson.

SVENSK-AMERIKANSKA ARRANGEMANG 2008 DISTRIKTSLOGEN SÖDRA SVERIGE NR 20

- Juni 15** **Kalmar Sverige-Amerikadagen på Kalmar Slott**
Logen Calmare Nyckel Nr 628
Kl. 14.00 Gudstjänst på engelska/svenska i Slottskyrkan
Kl. 15.00 Underhållning i Gröna Salen, Kalmar Slott
Kl. ca 16.30 Ostkakegille med underhållning i Krusenstiernska Gården
Kontakt: Hans-Erik Lindeblad 0480-47 19 44
- Juni 28** **Höganäs Svensk-Amerikanskt Logemöte**
Kl. 17.00 Logen Höganäs Nr 634
Kontakt: Leif Larsson, 042-34 03 11
- Juli 4** **Rydsnäs, Ydre Kommun Sverige-Amerikadag,**
Andrew Petersonsällskapet i samarbete med Logen Småland Nr 618.
Kl. 18.30 Sångspel om Andrew Peterson, Vilhelm Mobergs förebild till Karl-Oskar
Kontakt: Jan Hermelin 0381-501 57
P-O Brinck 036-16 04 81
- Juli 4** **Halmstad Sverige-Amerikadagen**
Logen Tre Hjärtan Nr 665
Kl. 19.00 i Svarta Örnshuset, Erik Dahlbergsgatan 2
Kontakt: Elve Lensvall, 035-15 70 58
- Juli 20** **Runsten ÖLAND-AMERIKADAGEN**
Kl. 13.00 i Tornlunden, Runsten
Ordf. i Runstens Hembygdsförening, Carl-Erik Jakobsson hälsar välkommen.
Ordf. i Emigrantinstitutets Vänner, Ulf Beijbom
Högtidstal av Kyrkoherde Rickard Grügiel
Sång och musikgruppen ANNA CONDA
Hälsningar från när och fjärran
Servering, lotterier mm.
Arrangör: Runstens Hembygdsförening och Emigrantinstitutets vänner
Kontakt: Hembygdsföreningen Karl-Gunnar Larsson 0485-56 10 62
- Aug. 2** **Barkeryd, Nässjö Kommun BARKERYDSDAGEN**
Kl. 14.00 Logen Småland Nr 618.
Dagen firas som en hyllning till S M Swenson från Barkeryd, som byggde ett ranchimperium i Texas. Dessutom firas 20-årsjubileet av Texas Luciornas besök i Barkeryd.
Kontakt: Barkeryds Hembygdsförening Alf Karlsson 0380-220 14
Logen Småland Nr 618 Per-Olof Brinck 036-16 04 81
- Aug. 10** **Växjö Minnesotadagen med Årets Svenskamerikan**
Kl. 10.00 Svensk-Amerikansk gudstjänst i Domkyrkan
Kl. 14.00 Minnesotadagen firas i Museiparken i Växjö
Kontakt: Arrangör: Svenska Emigrantinstitutet
Catherine Bringselius Nilsson 0470-28588
- Aug. 16** **Kristianstad Svensk-Amerikanskt Logemöte**
Kl. 18.00 Logen Christian Nr 617
Kontakt: Karin Holmqvist 044-24 13 78
- Aug. 17** **Önnestad Sverige-Amerikadagen / Hans Mattsson-dagen**
Kl. 11.00 Logen Christian Nr 617
Svensk-Amerikansk gudstjänst i kyrkan. Fanparad till Hembygdsparken.
Tal, plakettutdelning. Musik, folklöre och utställningar.
Kontakt: Karin Holmqvist 044-24 13 78

PLEASE MEET

LEROY ANDERSON 1908 – 1975

2008 will be Leroy Anderson's Centennial year. Orchestras throughout the world are planning tribute concerts that will celebrate the composer's musical legacy. The music of Leroy Anderson is firmly entrenched in American popular culture. A composer of distinctive and delightful miniatures, his best-known works include *Sleigh Ride*, *The Syncopated Clock* and *Blue Tango*. His music continues to be extensively recorded and performed by a wide range of musicians and is frequently used to entertain dignitaries at the White House. Leroy Anderson was born on June 29, 1908 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His parents were Swedish immigrants who came to the United States as children. They lived at 269 Norfolk Street in Cambridge. His father, Bror Anton Anderson, came from near Kristianstad in the province of Skåne. He worked as a postal clerk at the Central Square post office and played the mandolin. His mother, Anna Margareta Anderson, came from Stockholm. She was an organist at the *Swedish Church in Cambridge*. They moved to 12 Chatham Street when Leroy was one year old and he remained there until 1936 when he moved to New York City. It was at this house that he arranged many of his compositions for Arthur Fiedler and the *Boston Pops Orchestra*.

In 1919 he began piano and music studies at the *New England Conservatory of Music*. In 1925 he composed, orchestrated and conducted the *Cambridge High and Latin School orchestra* in the class song for his graduation. He was in high school when his father bought him a trombone so he could play in the front row of the *Harvard Band* where he was accepted as an underclassman.

Leroy received a B.A. magna cum laude in 1929. He earned an M.A. with a major in music in 1930. He continued his studies at *Harvard* through the early 1930's working toward a PhD in German and Scandinavian languages, while working as a music tutor at *Radcliffe College*. He was a gifted linguist and eventually mastered Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic, German, French, Italian, and Portuguese in addition to the English and Swedish of his upbringing. Not thinking that a career in music held much promise, he intended to become a language teacher. He applied

for and was offered a position at a private school in Pennsylvania, but at the last moment he gave music one final try and sent his regrets to the school.

As a graduate student Leroy became *Director of the Harvard Band* and wrote several clever arrangements for the band that brought him to the attention of Arthur Fiedler, Director of the *Boston Pops Orchestra*. His first arrangement for Fiedler in 1936 was a medley of Harvard songs - *Harvard Fantasy*. In 1938 the Pops performed his first composition, *Jazz Pizzicato*. It was an immediate hit. Fiedler encouraged him to write original compositions for the orchestra. Leroy wrote *Jazz Legato* in 1939. During these years he also performed along with his brother Russ in various popular dance orchestras as well as on cruise ships of the Norwegian Line crossing between New York and Scandinavia.

World War II interrupted his career as a composer. Leroy was drafted into the Army as private in 1942 and assigned to Iceland as a translator and interpreter. Before departing for Iceland he married his wife Eleanor Firke. Promoted to the rank of Captain he was assigned to the *Pentagon as Chief of the Scandinavian Desk of Military Intelligence*, where he wrote *The Syncopated Clock*. While still in service, Captain Anderson conducted the *Boston Pops* in premieres of *The Syncopated Clock* and *Promenade*. Captain Anderson was offered the position of *U.S. Military Attaché* to Sweden but declined, deciding that composing was to be his sole occupation. He was released from active duty in 1945.

The Anderson family spent the summer of 1946 at Painter Hill in Woodbury, Connecticut. It was here that he composed *Sleigh Ride* during a heat wave. Two years later the Anderson's settled in Woodbury. During these years he wrote many of his well-loved compositions, among them *Blue Tango*, *The Typewriter*, *Serenata*, *Belle of the Ball*, *Bugler's Holiday* and *Forgotten Dreams*.

Fiedler continued to premier Mr. Anderson's works including *Sleigh Ride*, *Fiddle-Faddle* and *Trumpeter's Lullaby*, until 1950. After that Leroy conducted the premieres of his works recording them for *Decca Records*. Among these pieces were *Belle of the Ball*, *Blue Tango*, *Bugler's Holiday*, *Forgotten Dreams*, *Horse and Buggy*, *Plink, Plank, Plunk*, *Serenata*, *The Typewriter* and *Waltzing Cat*. It was his

recording of *Blue Tango* that was #1 on the Hit Parade of 1952 and remained there for 22 weeks. By 1952 he was established as the pre-eminent American composer of light concert music.

Leroy also experimented with the longer form in his most ambitious work - *Concerto in C for Piano and Orchestra*. The family released the work posthumously (unrevised) in 1988 and it is now performed many times each year. He also tried his hand at musical theater writing the musical scores for *Goldilocks*, his only musical. It opened October 11, 1958 in New York City.

Over the years, his pieces have been employed as themes in both radio and television. In the early 50's, CBS-TV chose *The Syncopated Clock* as the theme for its new program "The Late Show." CBS used it for more than 25 years. *Plink, Plank, Plunk!* was known to many in the '50's as the theme for the TV game show "I've Got a Secret," and *The Typewriter* has become a favorite for a variety of radio news productions.

In 1972 the *Boston Pops* paid tribute to Leroy in a televised concert that was broadcast nationwide. Leroy appeared on the program and guest-conducted one piece. It was, as he said to his wife Eleanor, "the most important evening of my life." He continued to compose and to conduct his music throughout North America until his death from cancer in 1975.

Included among the numerous honors and tributes Leroy Anderson received a star on the *Hollywood Walk of Fame* in 1976 at 1620 Vine Street for his contribution to the recording industry. He was elected posthumously to the *Songwriters Hall of Fame* in 1988, and *Harvard University* named its new band quarters the *Anderson Band Center* in his honor.

It is important for us to understand and take pride in the contribution that we as Swedish/Nordic Americans have made to the cultural fabric of our country. Our thanks to the Leroy Anderson's family for the material they made available and for reviewing this article. Additional information can be found at <http://www.leroyanderson.com>.

Kristianstad, the town in Sweden where Anderson's father was born, will be presenting an exhibit, concerts and a musical show honoring Leroy Anderson. Information can be found at www.kristianstad.se/leroyanderson

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren

The Dala Horse – Sweden's Souvenir Number One

The history of the Dalecarlian Horse goes far back in time. In pre-Christian time the horse was a sacred animal in Sweden, a symbol of strength and power. The foremost Aesir god, Oden, had an eight legged horse, Sleipner, a steed running faster than other horses.

The Dalecarlian woodmen used to sit by the fire after a day's hard work in the forest. To while away (the time of) the long dark winter evenings they carved toy figures from waste material for their children using very simple tools.

Very often they made wooden horses which are easy to understand as the horse was very important for the woodmen. It was a faithful friend, in winter hauling heavy loads of lumber through the forest, in summer the horse was of great value "working" in the fields. The horse also pulled carts to the market and took the family to church on Sundays.

In the 19th century the carvers began to paint their wooden horses in bright colours, mostly red, with a typical Dalecarlian pattern, called kurbits.

At first the Dala Horse was a toy for children. "Door-to-door" salesmen, however, travelling all over the country found the horses so beautiful that they bought lots of them and soon they were sold all over Sweden.

In the beginning of the 20th century there were many Swedish families living in poverty. As the wooden horses got more and more popular many families started to make horses (to offer) for sale to make some extra money.

The Olsson family at Nusnäs, Dalarna, had nine children and they all had to help their father making horses every day after school. In 1928 two of the sons borrowed 400 Swedish kronor from the bank (an enormous sum of money at that time). They then could buy a band saw and so start a small factory. Today the third generation Olsson maintain the ancient tradition, but now in a bigger factory with many employees. Every year hundreds of thousands of Dala Horses are made in Nusnäs and other villages around. One

fifth (1/5) of the horses are exported. Today they are made of pine or alder wood in 20 sizes, from 10 mm to 75 cm, measured from the foot to the top of the ear.

In 1939 the Dala Horse became world famous at the World's Fair in New York. The designer of the Swedish exhibition had a gigantic Dala Horses placed at the entrance of the Swedish pavilion. It was 2, 8 m high and a great success. The following year about 20.000 Dala Horses were exported to New York for sale.

The Dala Horse is still very popular and Sweden's souvenir number one.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, GLCD

Pictures by: Gunnar Lith

Dalahästen – Sverigesouveniren nummer ett

Dalahästens historia går långt tillbaka i tiden. I förkristen tid var hästen ett heligt djur i Sverige, en symbol för styrka och makt. Den förnämste av asagudarna Oden hade en åttafotad häst, Sleipner, som kunde springa fortare än andra hästar.

Under de långa mörka vinterkvällarna i Dalarna brukade skogsarbetarna sitta vid brasan efter en dags hårt arbete i skogen. För att fördriva tiden täljde de leksaker av spillvirke till sina barn.

Ofta blev det en häst vilket är lätt att förstå, eftersom hästen var mycket viktigt för människorna.

Hästen var en trofast arbetskamrat, som på vintern drog tunga timmerlass genom skogen och på sommaren var till stor nytta i jordbruksarbetet. Hästen drog också vagnslaster till marknaden och på söndagarna tog den familjen till kyrkan.



På 1800-talet började man måla hästarna i klara färger, mest rött, med ett typiskt dalamönster, benämnt kurbits. Till en början gjordes dalahästen som en leksak. Men försäljare som reste över hela landet tyckte att hästarna var så vackra att de köpte massor av dem, och snart såldes de i hela Sverige.

I början på 1900-talet var fattigdomen stor i många svenska hem. Då hästarna blev allt populärare började många familjer tillverka hästar för att tjäna lite extra pengar.

Familjen Olsson i Nusnäs, Dalarna, hade nio barn, som varje dag fick hjälpa till att göra trähästar efter skolan. 1928 lånade två av sönerna i banken 400 kronor, en enorm summa på den tiden. Med hjälp av pengarna kunde de köpa en bandsåg och starta en liten fabrik. I dag är det tredje generationen. Olsson som för traditionen vidare i Nusnäs, men nu i en större fabrik och med många anställda. Varje år tillverkas tusentals Dalahästar i Nusnäs och andra byar runtomkring. En femtedel av hästarna exporteras. De tillverkas i fur eller al och görs i 20 olika storlekar, från 10 mm till 75 cm, mätt från foten till toppen på örat.

1939 blev Dalahästen världsberömd vid Världsutställningen i New York. Designern för den svenska utställningen lät placera en jättstor Dalahäst vid ingången till den svenska paviljongen.

Hästen var 2,8 m hög och succén blev enorm. Året efter exporterades ungefär 20.000 Dalahästar till New York.

Fortfarande är Dalahästen mycket populär och Sveriges souvenir nummer ett.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, SLKL



Dala Horses

Humble Beginnings

by Millie Ring

I was born in Scandinavia. There are five countries that are part of Scandinavia, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland. I was born in Sweden. It is a cold country and has long dark winters. The sun rarely shines by the arctic circle where it is dark night and day for about four months in the winter. In the summer it stays light so long that you have to have your shades pulled down at night so that you can sleep.

I was almost five when my parents, Lilly and Ingemar, came to the United States to find a better life. The boat we came on was called the Gripsholm, and it took ten days to reach this wonderful country called America. There were no planes in those days, but now it only takes 9 hours on a jet to span the ocean from Sweden to the U.S.A.

Neither my parents nor I could understand nor speak one word of English. I went to kindergarten and the kids all teased me because I could not understand them. I soon learned to speak English without any special lessons. Then my parents learned the English language from me. We were so very proud of our achievement and happy to be living in this remarkable country called the U.S.A.

We lived in a small four room apartment. There was not a bit of grass or a yard where I could play. There were only cement sidewalks. My dad, Ingemar, worked as a carpenter and made about \$15.00 a week with no vacations and no sick pay or pensions. My mom, Lilly, was a housewife.

We were very poor. I only had one pair of shoes, coat, hat, sweater, and gloves. I also had one dress for Sunday School and two blouses and two skirts for school. There were no big decisions to be made about what we were to wear for school. When it was winter and zero weather, we wore rubber galoshes with buckles.

We did not eat the way we do today. There were no delis, or frozen foods. Our main diet consisted of oatmeal or a piece of toast and squeezed orange juice for breakfast. For lunch we had peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and a bowl of home-made soup. For dinner we had meat once or twice a week, some fish, many potatoes, rice dishes, fresh vegetables, and hard breads. We did not eat many salads. It was simple fare, but we grew up healthy and strong.

We played simple games such as cards,

checkers, bunco, and dominos. There were no computer games, Nintendo, or Game boy. There was no software, and hardware was a place to buy nails. The Internet was something like a hairnet. We had roller skates which fit on our shoes. We needed a skate key to tighten the clamps on our skates so they would stay on our feet. We jumped rope, played Run Sheepy Run, Baby in the Hole, and other outside games. We had no TV, only a single radio.

As I got older and was in the sixth or seventh grade, I got my first second-hand bike. What a thrill that was. Now the kids get their first car at 16. We sent to a second-hand store and bought movie magazines for five cents each. We girls saved movie stars' pictures in a big cardboard box, and then traded those pictures with our friends for each of our favorite stars. My favorite was Loretta Young.

In those days, smoking was an expensive habit that only some could afford at 29 cents a pack. We picked up silver wrappers from cigarette packages that had been discarded. We made silver balls out of the foil, sold it, and got about 5 cents for a big ball.

We went ice skating in the winter at the park. Our biggest enjoyment was going to Lake Michigan to swim and fish in the summer time. There was no Outer Drive then. It was only sand and jagged rocks where we would dive off and swim in the very deep water. No swimming is allowed there now, and all those huge rocks have been leveled off and are now walkways.

When I was 11, the movies with a stage show, cost only 15 cents for kids and 25 cents for adults. We saw the top follies, and many of the big movie stars gave us their autographs at the stage door. We saved our milk money, which was 5 cents a day, so we could go to the movies on Saturday afternoons. That was the biggest thrill of our week.

I went to grade school for eight years and then had 4 years of high school. No one could afford to send their kids to college. After finishing high school, most of the boys my age were drafted into the 2nd World War. They were only 18 or 19 years old and afraid.

We walked to school both ways summer and winter, often through much snow and below zero weather. Our lunch time was one hour. We had no hot school lunches. Mom packed up our lunch in a brown paper bag, or sometimes we went home where she was always there to greet us with hot chocolate made out of dry cocoa and milk. There were no instant things in those days. Everything was made

from scratch, even baby food. Mom had to strain the food and make it. We could not afford to go out to restaurants. There were no McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken, or Burger King, etc.

We did not have any of the electrical appliances we have today. We had a toaster that opened on both sides so two pieces of bread could be toasted at the same time. We had to turn and watch the toast so it would not burn. We had no automatic dishwasher, Mom was it. We had a washing machine with a hand wringer, and no automatic dryers. There were no microwaves, no toaster ovens, no showers, and silent movies only, no talkies.

We did a lot of walking in those days. I think the streetcar cost 5 cents, and we could not afford the fare. There were no transfers, and there were two conductors on each streetcar. When we got a hole in the sole of our shoes, we would put a piece of cardboard in so our feet would not get wet. We only had black, brown, or white shoes, not all these multi-colored ones that we have today. We also did not have all those fancy named sneakers as we do today. We had gym shoes. The girls wore green romper gym suits, and wore gray tank suits for swimming. They looked awful.

Christmas was a big event. Santa always came in person with a small pack on his back on Christmas Eve. We were so excited. We each got two or three presents. I got a petticoat, woolen stockings, and maybe one toy which was either a ball, jump rope, jacks, or a game like Checkers or Parcheesi. We each had a Christmas stocking that was not hung by the fireplace, because we did not have one. In our stocking we found raisins, some penny candy, and an orange or an apple.

On Christmas Eve we had Swedish "Smörgåsbord," which consisted of "Köttbullar" (meatballs), "Dopp i gryta" (dipping in the drippings), "Skinka" (ham), "Ost" (cheese), "Limpa" (bread), and, of course, "Glögg" (spiced wine). Then we went to church Christmas morning for "Julotta." We had real candles on our tree. The Christmas tree cost \$1.00. We used strung cranberries on a chain and popcorn balls to trim it. We also used multi-colored paper chains, paper baskets, and little Swedish flags as decorations. It was a marvelous feast and celebration with our many loved ones.

These are only a few of my wonderful memories of growing up in the beautiful country called America.

Millie Ring is a member of Kronan Lodge #179, Chicago, IL.

A Young Boy's Journey

by Borje "Swede" Pettersson

Norrskenet Lodge #331, Sioux City, IA

To my sons and grandchildren

I was born on January the third in the year of 1937 in the small town of Säter in the lan of Dalarna in the Kingdom of Sweden.

I was christened Per Börje Pettersson, the son of Gustaf Adolph Pettersson and Elna Viola Pettersson (Ericsson). My grandparents (farfar and farmor) were Gustaf Pettersson and Elma Pettersson, who lived on a farm close to Säter. They both died when I was 4 or 5 years of age. My grandparents on my mothers' side (morfar and mormor) were Karl Ericsson and Judit Ericsson, who lived in Nora a small village in Västmanlands Län. They both died when I was 13 or 14 years of age.

Remembering life as a boy at the age of 5 or 6 (1942-1943) in Säter, I had a wonderful upbringing. My mother and my 4-year younger brother were alone during this time, because my father was in the Swedish Army. He was stationed on the Norwegian border, however, he would come home on leave from time to time.

Times were quite rough for most Swedish people during this period, my mother would work part time in a flower shop in Säter. Also she would take my brother and I out to the nearby forest to pick blueberries, lingonberries, wild strawberries (smultron) and wild raspberries which she would can or make soft (juice) that would sustain us throughout the long winters. We also had a garden in the summertime, for meat we raised rabbits plus meat and fish from the local butcher shop.

As time went by and the war in Europe was over and my father came home from the Swedish Army, times improved for all of us. (1945-1949) My brother and I learned to ski and ice skate at a very early age. In the summertime we would go swimming and fishing at the lake and river that was close to Säter. In the springtime older children would go down by the lake and the local sawmill and jump from log to log. Also we had one of the most beautiful parks in Sweden, it was called Säterdalen and in the summertime many people from all parts of Sweden and other countries would come and celebrate the many activities in the park. We would go to the football (soccer) games usually on Saturdays between Säter and Hedemora or Falun. Also as a family we would bicycle to Hedemora for motorcycle races, coming back 10 or 11 pm at night when it was still light (sum-

mer light). In the wintertime they would have motorcycle races on the ice at the lake in Säter. At times to make a little extra money I would work at the local rifle range behind a large bunker. I would put black or white patches on very large targets (4 ft. x 4 ft.).

When fall came I would go back to school which was only 3 or 4 blocks from our house. As I got a little older my parents would send me on a train to visit my grandparents in Nora Stad which I enjoyed very much. My grandfather would take me fishing when he was not working and during the week I would take swimming lessons at the lake. The lake next to Nora had an island and you would have to take a boat back and forth for the lessons. At the end of the summer they would have races and I won a bronze medal in my age category. Also during this period my parents would take my brother and I to the big city of Örebro in Närke Län. My mother had an aunt and cousin that lived there.

My father worked in a large factory that made hard tack bread and when he got off work my brother and I would meet him and we would ride our bicycles home together. One day when we came home my mother told my father that there was a letter for him from America. The letter was from my father's aunt who lived in Sioux City, IA. She had immigrated to America in the late 1800s along with her 3 brothers. One brother came back to Sweden and became my grandfather. The letter in essence asked my father if he and his family would like to come and settle in America. My father and mother decided that this would be a opportunity for our whole family.

So by June 1949 we were packed and ready for the long journey to America. We said goodbye to all our friends in Säter and boarded a train for the seaport of Göteborg on the West Coast of Sweden. There we boarded the Swedish ship S/S Gripsholm for our passage to America. I was now 12 years old. In the eyes of a young boy the Gripsholm was a beautiful ship, a true adventure. It had everything you could imagine - from a movie theater to a swimming pool and all kinds of good food and ice cream, anytime of the day. The weather in the North Atlantic Ocean in the last part of June and the first part of July was very good and after 10 days I finally saw land.

The ship docked at Halifax, Canada, to drop passengers off and that afternoon we made sail for New York City. Early the next morning we were awakened with the news to come out of our cabins if we wanted to see the Statue of Liberty. We

all got dressed very quickly and went outside, what a beautiful sight to see in the misty morning as we sailed into New York harbor.

After going through immigration our family spent one day in New York and then boarded a train for a 3-day trip to Sioux City, a city located in northwest Iowa bordering Nebraska and South Dakota. We had a small layover time for a transfer in Chicago but arrived in Sioux City on July 6 or 7, 1949.

My father's aunt met us at the train station in downtown Sioux City, a town of approximately 80,000 people. The temperature was close to 100 degrees. My brother and I became the main attraction of the neighborhood for the next couple of weeks since we couldn't speak any English, but somehow we could communicate with the children that we played with. The temperature continued to be very high throughout the months of July and August, I could hear my mother saying how she missed the cool summers of Sweden. During this first year period, my father's aunt passed away.

By the first of September it was time to start school and I was enrolled in the neighborhood grade school (Everett Elementary School). Since I couldn't speak any English, I was required by my teacher, Miss Schults, to come in one hour before school and stay one hour after school. After several months of extra classroom work I was able to speak English quite well. My first teacher, Miss Schults, will always be dear to my heart. My parents had a much more difficult time learning the English language than my brother or I. At home we could speak only in Swedish and that probably didn't help our parents. My parents joined Augustana Lutheran Church (this was a Swedish-American church) where we met many people of Swedish descent and where I later was confirmed. Also my parents joined the Scandinavian Society and the Vasa Order where we would go on Saturday nights for fellowship.

In time I passed on to Junior High School (West Junior) and then on to Senior High School (Central High). At this time my goal was to become Americanized. I didn't think much about where I came from or my nationality, my parents and myself had become naturalized, we were Americans now. During this time frame, I had a paper route, worked in a small grocery store, and was a member of the school track and swimming team. I also played ice hockey on the Sioux Hawks Junior team. When I

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A Young Boy's Journey

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was a senior in high school, tragedy struck our family. My mother died of a stroke at the age of 43. My younger brother and I became more responsible for ourselves as my father worked nights as a baker for the Wonder Bread Company. After graduation from high school in 1956, I spent time in the Air Force and the Iowa Air National Guard. Later on my brother Bengt Arne Pettersson would join the U.S. army and spent 25 years as a helicopter pilot before retiring to White Lake, NC. In 1959 I married a Sioux City girl named Sandra Lee Hayes and we are still married after 42 years. We have 2 sons and 9 grandchildren.

My wife's profession was a nurse and I worked for the Sioux City Community School District for 38 years. First I worked as a carpenter, then as the construction supervisor. The last 10 years as Director of Physical Operations, in charge of 175 personnel that included maintenance personnel, custodial personnel, bus drivers, secretaries and 4 supervisors. I had the responsibility for 38 school buildings with annual budgets of 5 to 6 million dollars.

In 1992 my father died at 82 and was laid to rest next to my mother. He never had or wanted the opportunity to go back to his place of birth.

I was more fortunate than that when in 1993 and also in 1996 my wife and I traveled to Sweden. It had been 44 years since I left Sweden as a young boy. We went to Säter and there I met former schoolmates and saw my old school and the place where I grew up. We took many walks through the beautiful Säterdalen. Then we continued to the village of Nora to see my grandparents' grave. From the cemetery I walked right to the house where they had lived and I had spent many wonderful times. I had no trouble finding it. Then we went to see my aunt on my mother's side and her husband. They lived in Lana, a small hamlet outside of Örebro. We had rented a car and we saw a lot of Sweden, I am very thankful for this opportunity. My wife and I are still residing in Sioux City, where we are members of Vasa Order. Once a year my sons and I have the privilege of cooking for the lodge, yellow pea soup and Swedish pancakes.

In conclusion I still have the spirit of adventure as I get on my Harley Davidson and travel throughout the midwest. I tell my grandchildren it is in my Viking blood!

Vasa Star May-June 2008

HAPPENINGS

Preparing for the Homecoming Event



Edsleskogs Wårdshus

From the 1st of August until the 17th of August all Swedish Americans and their relatives who originate from the province of Dalsland or from other parts of Sweden, are welcome to join the *Homecoming year 2008* event. During this time they have the chance to meet again, get in touch with their roots and dive in to the world of genealogy. A time to reconnect and bond by visiting the emigration conference in Mellerud the 15th and 16th of August, and take the time to visit pleasant sites and enjoy the wonderful Swedish summer.

This is also the perfect time to explore all what the province of Dalsland has to offer. Dalsland is called *Sweden in miniature*; you will get to know the lakes, forests and hills that Dalsland is known for. Your stay will be an unforgettable experience with the help of the enthusiastic people in the province who are waiting for this event.

For example you can visit the little village of Edsleskog in the northern part of Dalsland between the village of Bengtsfors and (runner up "most beautiful town under 10.000 inhabitants in the world") Åmål. In Edsleskog lakes, forests and hills literally meet. Lake Edslansjön, and the large forests meet at Dalslands highest point "Baljåsen." You can enjoy hiking in the surrounding hills, take a day trip in a canoe or a pleasant stroll in the surrounding forests. Edsleskog offers accommodation in a typical Swedish Guesthouse (Wårdshus) where you can meet many Swedes. You can take a walk on a long distance pilgrim path, visit a beautiful church and find out about an old "murder mystery," visit a "healing-water-well" and a priest house where the well-known Anders Fryxell used to live. Dalsland is living up to its reputation and is a wonderful area to visit in the summer.

Submitted by: Johan Postma, Edsleskog

The Swedish Chamber Orchestra Visits Cleveland, OH

At just 12 years old and with only 38 players, the Swedish Chamber Orchestra is fast establishing itself as one of the most interesting ensembles today. Together with Danish conductor, Thomas Dausgaard – who has been the orchestra's music director for 10 years – the tightly knit ensemble has recorded the complete Beethoven Orchestral works for Simax and embarked on a new project with BIS which will include all the symphonies of Schumann as well as orchestral works by Dvořák and Bruckner. The first of these BIS recordings appeared in January 2007.

In 2004 the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and Thomas Dausgaard made their USA and UK debuts with performances at the London Proms and Lincoln

Center, Mostly Mozart Festival. The *New York Times* wrote: "It has been a long-standing complaint in the classical music world that as recordings and jet travel have shrunk the globe, an international sound has been fostered that has filtered out regional differences in timbre and interpretation ... And every now and then an orchestra comes along with a sound that is surprising and fresh. The Swedish Chamber Orchestra, led by its music director, Thomas Dausgaard, produced a distinctive and consistently vibrant sound ... Mr. Dausgaard made the Beethoven into a high-energy dazzler, driven by sizzingly brisk string playing, with biting brass figures giving the music a stormy edge and

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The Swedish Chamber Orchestra Visits Cleveland, OH

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making the neglected Fourth Symphony seem nearly as titanic as the Third and the Fifth.”

The Swedish Chamber Orchestra is working hard on the “surprising” and “fresh” sound accredited to them and is constantly looking at expanding its repertoire and opening new doors to further challenges. Alongside their work with Thomas Dausgaard, the Swedish Chamber Orchestra regularly performs with early music specialist Andrew Manze and conductor/composer HK Gruber. With this range of repertoire and styles the ensemble has established its own unique voice, as *The Daily Telegraph* commented, “Imagine the London Sinfonietta crossed with say the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and you might come up with something near the flexibility offered by the Swedish Chamber Orchestra.”

With a commitment to contemporary music the orchestra regularly commissions and performs new works, both at home and abroad. The orchestra’s most recent commission is a new violin concerto by Magnus Lindberg which was given its European premiere by the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and soloist Lisa Batisvili in October 2006. Reviewing the concert the *Times* wrote: “Poised between appearances at the Mainly Mozart Festivals in New York and the Barbican (July 2007), Magnus Lindberg’s new Violin Concerto has just received standing ovations at its European premiere in the quiet Swedish town of Örebro. Why Örebro? Because that is the home of the Swedish Chamber Orchestra which co-commissioned the work, and played it, under the baton of their chief conductor Thomas Dausgaard, with the sharp-eyed intensity that has become their hallmark.”

Further upcoming world premiere performances include works by Swedish composers Daniel Börz, Karin Rehnqvist, Sven David Sandström, and Christian Lindberg whilst Scandinavian premieres include works by Joe Cutler and Steven Mackey.

In March 2007 the Swedish Chamber Orchestra undertook a major tour of Europe which included performances at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Zurich Tonhalle, Dresden Frauenkirche, Berlin Konzerthaus and Munich HerkulesSaal. In July 2007 the ensemble returned to

London to perform at the Mostly Mozart Festival where they gave the UK premiere of Magnus Lindberg’s violin concerto together with Lisa Batisvili.

Tour highlights in 2008 include a return visit to the States with concerts at New York’s Lincoln Center, Washington, Cleveland, and the West Coast as well as an Autumn tour to Germany and Austria.

Thomas Dausgaard

Danish conductor, Thomas Dausgaard, was recently described by *The Daily Telegraph* as “a conductor of rare conviction and insight.” He is renowned for his dynamic conducting style, his fresh approach to a broad range of repertoire, his prolific discography, and the exciting results he has achieved as Chief Conductor of the Danish National Symphony Orchestra/DR and as Principal Conductor of the Swedish Chamber Orchestra.

Dausgaard became Chief Conductor of the Danish National Symphony Orchestra/DR in August 2004. The orchestra has developed impressively under his leadership, embracing his energy and creativity. With Dausgaard they tour worldwide, performing in Berlin, Vienna, Paris, Amsterdam, and London, and they have also recorded extensively together. Of particular note is their recently released disc of Nielsen works which has been nominated for a 2007 Gramophone award. Dausgaard and the orchestra have welcomed the new opportunities presented by the Internet and many of their forthcoming performances will be made available for download. In January 2009, they will per-

form the inaugural concerts at the eagerly awaited new concert hall opening in Copenhagen, designed by Jean Nouvel, after which they will become the hall’s resident orchestra.

The Swedish Chamber Orchestra has also flourished under Dausgaard’s direction since he took up his position there in 1997. Having brought this group from a regional orchestra to international attention over the past decade, he and the orchestra have recorded all of Beethoven’s orchestral music for Simax, a project which has received outstanding critical acclaim for the fresh and dynamic approach that Dausgaard and the orchestra bring to this repertoire. They continue to record prolifically, breaking with tradition as a chamber orchestra to record all of Schumann’s symphonies and a selection of symphonies from Dvořák, Schubert, and Bruckner for BIS, for a series which has appropriately been labeled “Opening Doors.” In October 2005 they undertook their first Japan tour which was a huge success and recent tours have included Italy, Germany, Holland, Spain, the USA, and the UK.

Thomas Dausgaard guest conducts several of the world’s leading orchestras. He enjoys a special relationship with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra conducting them on tour as well as in their home city and future guest conducting engagements include the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Radio Symphony Berlin, the Czech Philharmonic, the Verdi Orchestra, Milan among others. He works with the leading Scandinavian Orchestras,

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Piotr Anderszewski, pianist, was off to California for yet another guest appearance after visiting Cleveland. In the picture Eva Carlson from the Swedish Cultural Society in Cleveland, had a chance to chat with him.

The Swedish Chamber Orchestra Visits Cleveland, OH

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including the Oslo and Stockholm Philharmonics and has conducted the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra in St. Petersburg and on tour in Italy, where he also works with the RAI Turin and La Scala Philharmonic Orchestras. In the UK, Dausgaard returns to the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, with whom he made his Proms debut, in the 2007-08 season and will work with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra again in 2008-09.

Thomas Dausgaard also conducts regularly in North America. He has worked with many of the major orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Houston Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, and the Montreal Symphony. He conducts the Toronto Symphony every year, and makes regular appearances at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York.

Thomas Dausgaard already has a discography of more than 30 recordings with companies such as Chandos Records, Dacapo, Simax, and EMI Medley. His recent releases have included Nielsen and Langgaard works for Dacapo and Berlioz for Chandos. His much praised DVD recordings of Langgaard's opera *Antikrist* on the Dacapo label was released last year.

"Dausgaard brought it (Brahms's Symphony No. 1) not only freshness and drive but also depth and maturity. He deserved and received a magnificent response from his players, crowning an inspiring concert." – David Flanning, *The Daily Telegraph* (reviewing the BBC prom concert with Danish National Symphony Orchestra/DR).

Piotr Anderszewski, pianist

Polish-Hungarian pianist Piotr Anderszewski is widely regarded as one of the most exciting pianists of his generation. Since first coming to public attention at the 1990 Leeds Piano Competition, he has become a familiar figure on the international concert platform, recognized for the intensity and originality of his interpretations.

Anderszewski's engagements in the 2006-07 season included a critically acclaimed recital at Carnegie Hall, which Jay Nordlinger of the *New York Sun* described as "a feat of pianism and a feat

of musicianship." He performed with the Royal Concertgebouw, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, and Philadelphia Orchestra, and was a guest artist in the London Symphony Orchestra's prestigious Mozart concert series.

The 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth saw Anderszewski directing the composer's concertos from the keyboard with various chamber orchestras – including the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the soloists of the Berlin Philharmonic. Most notable has been his collaboration with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, with which he has performed extensively and recorded a disc featuring the G major and D minor concertos. This partnership continues into the current season.

Anderszewski has made a number of highly-praised recordings since becoming an exclusive artist with Virgin Classics in 2000. His first release for Virgin was Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations*, a disc which received exceptional critical acclaim, including a *Diapason d'or* and a *Choc du Monde de la Musique* in France. The recording was also the subject of a

film by Bruno Monsaingeon, creator of documentaries on Sviatoslav Richter, Yehudi Menuhin, and Glenn Gould. Other notable releases have included Grammy-nominated CDs of Bach's Partitas 1, 3 and 6 and a selection of solo pieces by his compatriot Szymanowski, which received a Classic FM Gramophone Award in 2006 for best instrumental disc.

Piotr Anderszewski has been singled out for several high profile awards – the Szymanowski Prize in 1999 for his interpretations of the composer's music and, in 2001, the Royal Philharmonic Society's 2000 Best Instrumentalist award. In April 2002 he was named Gilmore Artist, succeeding previous winner Leif Ove Andsnes.

In the 2007-08 season, Mr. Anderszewski appears with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, tours the United States with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, and embarks on recital tours of the United States, Japan, and Europe, the latter including appearances at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Theatre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, and the Wiener Konzerthaus.

Source: Cleveland Museum of Art Program, www.clevelandart.org

Scandinavian Studies Association

Since 1990 the Scandinavian Studies Association has been a support group which fundraises for a second professorship in Scandinavian languages at the *University of Alberta*. Professor Christopher Hale is presently in charge of the Scandinavian program in the *Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies*. The languages of Denmark, Norway and Sweden are taught at the *University of Alberta*. Every 50 board meetings of the association are recognized with a celebration. On December 18, 2007, the 150th meeting honored the volunteers for their support in the fundraising program. Among the guests were Roar Tunglund, the Norwegian Consul in Edmonton, and Kristina Williams, Swedish Consul for Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

Submitted by: Linnea Lodge, Scandia Lodge #549, Edmonton, Canada



The four presidents of the association who have served during these years are: l-r: Roald Enokson, Sons of Norway, Solglyt Lodge #143, Lennart Petersson, Vasa Order of America, Skandia Lodge #549, Dr. Roger Morton, Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences, Sons of Norway, Solglyt Lodge #143, and Linnea Lodge, Vasa Order of America, Skandia Lodge #549.

Picture by: Pirkko Karvonen

STOCKHOLM

The Beautiful Capital of Sweden

It surprises me greatly that so few Americans visit Sweden. It seems that most people here visit London, Paris and Rome.

Stockholm is no doubt one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is built on fourteen islands and the city is not the Venice of the North as they say. Venice has canals, Stockholm has waterways, some very narrow, other very wide.

In the center of the city people sit fishing salmon while the biggest ocean liners dock right there. Outside the city is a wonderful archipelago of 24,000 islands, where only a thousand people live the year round. But in summertime, people from the city come out here to enjoy the quiet atmosphere.

So what is there to see in Stockholm? Well, the number one tourist attraction is the VASA museum, which holds the war ship VASA that sank in the harbor in the early 1600's and was found and raised in 1961. Inside the museum you can walk around this fantastic ship and see how the soldiers lived. There is a film in English, which tells the whole story about how and why it sank.

The Old Town is wonderful with the Royal Palace and the beautiful churches. At noon every day you can watch the changing of the guards behind the castle. There are lots of nice restaurants and stores with everything you can imagine. If you own a house there are you not allowed to change the facade without the permission of the City Council. Walking around here you really feel as you are in medieval times.

The Royal Castle holds 700 rooms; you are allowed to visit some sections, including the guest rooms. The King of Sweden has an office here, but he lives with his family outside the city in Drottningholm Castle. Coming here as an American, you will be happy to find that:

- a. Everybody speaks English.
- b. There are very few beggars and everybody is friendly and helpful.
- c. You find everything you need in the stores and there are several huge department stores, such as NK (Nordiska Companiet), PUB, Ahlen & Holm, etc. In there you can walk around for hours and then sit down with a cup of coffee or tea or a nice meal.
- d. You can feel quite safe in most of the city.

Here are some other places to visit:

several lovely museums, such as Nordiska Museet, Nationalmuseet, also some magnificent churches such as Storkyrkan, Tyska Kyrkan (the German church) and many others.

On Kungsholmen (the western island) you can visit the wonderful City Hall! If you go up in the tower, you have a magnificent view of the whole city.

On the island of Djurgården, you find the lovely Skansen Park that holds everything from aquariums to zoos, glass blowing and nice restaurants. There are lovely concerts here in summertime.

The hotels in the center of town are very expensive. But you can choose from hundreds of Beds & Breakfasts at very decent prices. I myself have been to a few of these and I found them very comfortable.

A visit to Stockholm will be well worth the time and expense. For more details you can contact me any time. I lived in Stockholm during the war and have been back many times.

**Submitted by: Lennart Gohrn,
North Star Lodge #106,
Los Angeles, CA**

6th June

From Flag Day to National Day



The Swedish flag takes its colours from the coat of arms King Magnus Ladulås from 1275 and from the national coat of arms with three golden crowns on a blue background introduced by King Albrekt of Mecklenburg in 1364. In 1448, King Karl Knutsson combined these two to form a new national coat of arms consisting of four fields divided by a golden cross. This is usually seen as the origin of the Swedish national flag which was first flown by warships in the mid-16th century.

Göran H. Fredriksson/Mira

For a long time Sweden was perhaps the only country in the world with no official national day, which in turn is fairly symptomatic of the Swedes' skepticism nowadays of patriotic manifestations generally. The death of King Gustavus Adolphus, the great general and statesman, in the Battle of Lützen against the German Imperial forces on 6th November 1632 is no longer celebrated – as it used to be – with patriotic speeches in schools and military barracks. Instead, afternoon coffee is served with a “Gustav Adolf pastry” bearing the portrait of the hero king.

In the years round about 1900, by con-

trast, there was an upsurge of romantic national sentiment, and many enthusiasts wanted Sweden, like other countries, to have a national day. But the country had to manage without until, in the shadow of the First World War, and as a result of private initiatives, “Swedish Flag Day” began to be celebrated on 6th June. This day was chosen because Gustav Vasa, who delivered the country from the union with Denmark, was elected King of Sweden on that day in 1523, besides which, one of Sweden's constitutions was signed on 6th June 1809.

From 1916 onwards, every 6th June, the King presented flags to representatives of various corporations in a great festival parade at the Stockholm Stadium. This occasion was subsequently transferred to the Skansen open-air museum, at the same time as the military element virtually disappeared. But it was not until 1983 that 6th June officially became the national day. And note the moderation of nationalism whereby the national day is still a working day. For this reason, the flag presentation and ceremonial speeches occurring in many places are mostly put off until the evening, like the royal presentation of flags at Skansen, and 6th June in Sweden is anything but a “folk festival” (unlike its counterpart in Norway, for example). On the other hand, there are few countries where private flag poles are as thick on the ground as in Sweden, and both on 6th June and other “public flag days,” e.g., Midsummer Day, blue-and-yellow flags will be seen fluttering in most gardens, outside country cottages and from tower block balconies.

Source: The Swedish Institute

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

Gustaf #716
Myron Tolls
Jane Zuegel

DL CONNECTICUT NO.1

Kronan #2
Robert Johnson Jr.
Karl the XII #103
Olivia Martincheck

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

John Ericsson #25
Matthew Annunziata
Danielle D'Amato
Nordic #611
Kyle Hedin
Carol Morrissey
Kristin Morrissey
Ruth Nordstrom
Vinland of Cape Cod #703
Barbara Cormier
Trapin Hughes
Betty Lornell
Wallace Lornell
Sophie Lombard
Deborah Sohoel-Goldberg
Eivind Sohoel
Marilyn Sohoel

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Arlington #62
David Holmkvist
Bill Nelson
Susan Nelson
Nancy Tuthill
Ake Winlund
Karen Winlund
Linne #429
Lee Daniels
Linda Daniels
Gerald Rafferty
Lois Rafferty
Carole Pierorazio
Dalahast #742
Nathaniel Fiske

DL MINNESOTA NO. 7

Runeberg #137
Maud Nelson
Caila Schreiber
Kari Solheim
Kronan #433
Robert Miklya
John Morton #488
Ellen Brand

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Siljan-Mora-Tuna #134
Jeffery Kirscher
Jubileum #754
Gunilla Rubasch
Erica Turrell

DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

Nobel-Monitor #130
Bo Hammarling
Kristina Johnson
Jill Levine
Anna Rietsch
Vicken Totten

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Svea #348
Torsten Langelius-Sundahl
Lindbergh #494
Alfred Hughes
Else Hughes
Marty Martinsen
Raul Muniz
Thomas Rossing
Norden #684
Bodil Christina Ahroon
Mark Carlson
Shelly Carlson
Clarence Hedberg
Inga Hedberg
George Sell
Ulla Maria Thornton

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Tegner #224
Mary Stubb
Odin #726
Jarle Stenersen

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Viking #256
Louis Sevillanos
Golden Valley #616
Petra Anderson
Bonnie Funnander
Mattias Gunnarsson
Ann Heinstedt
Helene Johansson-Kayem
Susann Kinhead
Nordic #660
John Dorming
Oak Leaf #685
Einar Hallen
Valley Vikings #701
Ann-Christin Sebek
Marcus Sebek
Martin Sebek
Valhalla #715
Jan Crandall
Marilyn Keith
MaryAnn Skelly
MarieAnn Vaughn
MayAnn Williamson
Nordic Heritage #741
Annukka Thoren
Nils Thoren
Colette Trygg

DL CENTRAL CANADA NO. 16

Strindberg #259
Sherri-Lyn Whitelaw

ARIZONA NO. 21

Tucson #691
Stephanie Sams

NORRA SVERIGE NR 19

Logen Engelbrekt Nr 619
Karl-Axel Haglund
Margareta Haglund
Lisbeth Sjödin-Puggioli
Claus Puggioli
Logen Skövde Nr 626
Tell Andreasson
Christer Andersson
Filip Bergström
Siv Forsberg
Birgitta Häll

Elisabeth Ågren
Logen Karlstad Nr 632
Inger Nilsson
Stefan Nilsson
Logen Lidköping Nr 636
Birgitta Eriksson
Gunnar Eriksson
Jan-Erik Björk
Maj-Lis Edvardsson
Elisabet Svensson
Logen Kristina Nr 656
Ralph Brattsand
Ulla Brattsand
Logen Nicolai Nr 663
Lisbeth Elmeborg
Alfred Elmeborg
Logen Härmösand Nr 673
Lars-Erik Magnusson
Ulla Magnusson
Ivar Pettersson
Maud Pettersson
Logen Knallen Nr 745
Berit Andersson
Bo Andersson
Rakel Larsson

SÖDRA SVERIGE NR 20

Logen Kärnan Nr 608
Anna Björkman
Mats Johansson
Ingela Svedlund
Mats Lindquist
Christel Lindquist
Logen Christian Nr 617
Bertil Borgenstierna
Julia Kärrdahl
Rosa Mattiasson
Marianne Olsson
Mats Cassel
Anita Gimre
Börje Karlstedt
Ursula Karlstedt
Logen Småland Nr 618
Birgitta Ek
Carl-Gustaf Ek
Logen Calmare Nyckel Nr 628
Sophiangjai Bergström
Karl-Fredrik Bergström
Helen Ekberg
Ola Ekberg
Björn Erlandsson
Christine Erlandsson
Stefan Lander
Anna-Karin Månsson
Ulf Månsson
Agneta Persson
Curt Persson
Pia Rydberg
Staffan Rydberg
Ann-Chatrin Roupert
Thompson
Olof Westerlund
Logen Ronneby Nr 630
Birgit Jonsson
Logen Höganäs Nr 634
Maj Fredriksson
Bo Fredriksson
Logen Malmöhus Nr 643
Barbro Höglund
Boel Fagerström
Logen Carl von Linné Nr 678
Christina Persson
Helen Hult-Sannéus
Pontus Sannéus
Lena Håkansson
Paul Håkansson
Logen Utvandrarna Nr 680
Ulla Bergqvist
Bengt Bergqvist
Helena Clementson
Annika Johansson
Kaj Johansson
Logen Nybyggarna Nr 698
Birgitta Almström
Börje Nilsson
Lena Wijkmark
Anders Hårdvall
Ann-Marie Norlin
Carl-Olof Norlin
Logen Trelleborg Nr 734
Sylvia Oscarsson
Kjell Oscarsson
Logen Klockan Nr 747
Birgitta Kristiansson
Lars-Inge Kristiansson
Kerstin Bäckman
Bertil Bäckman

IN MEMORY OF

Anna Lisa Erickson 1912-2008



The Vasa Order lost a dedicated and loyal member when Anna Lisa Erickson passed away on January 14, 2008 at the age of 95. She was born in Gothenburg, Sweden and immigrated to the USA with her parents at the young age of seven. They settled in Brooklyn, New York and she joined Lodge Strängnäs when she was 16 years old, becoming an active member right from the start.

In 1937 she married Karl Erickson and together they became an active Vasa couple, becoming a Vasa family when their daughters also joined the Lodge.

Anna Lisa had an impressive 79 years of Vasa membership, in which she always was a Lodge officer, even after the Lodge merged with Lodge Olympic #235. She was Recording Secretary for almost 40 years as well as Treasurer, Chairman, Chaplain, and attended almost every meeting during those 79 years. She also served as New York's District Master and during her term introduced the "budkavel" which traveled from lodge to lodge, bringing them closer in friendship through entertaining programs. She was also very faithful in her visits throughout the New York District during her term as Grand Lodge Deputy.

Anna Lisa was a grand lady who made friends easily and will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and her humble demeanor. She followed the true meaning of the Vasa motto...Generosity, Truth and Unity. She will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her and our great loss is Heaven's gain.

Sov i ro, Anna Lisa!

**Submitted by: Daughters,
Carolyn and Lois Erickson**

Gullan Kristensson



The family of Gullan Kristensson, long-time resident of Chicago, IL, and Park Ridge, announced her passing at age 96, on October 22, 2007, at Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago.

Mrs. Kristensson was born Gunhild Charlotta Elisabeth - but since childhood always known as Gullan.

Gullan was the daughter of Karl Karlsson (Verkmästare) supervisor at the Swedish premier ballbearing factory, the largest in the world, and Ida, who owned Hotell Solid in Gothenburg. She worked as a young woman at Josephson's, a store featuring fine crystal and china near the Gothenburg Cathedral.

She married Nils Kristensson (who died December 24, 1988), and they started their family in Sweden. They visited relatives and friends in America for an extended visit in 1946-47 and moved to Chicago in 1949. She was especially proud of her Swedish citizenship and heritage and took a very active role in the Swedish-American community with folk-dancing and major Lucia and other cultural events. She ably assisted in hosting hundreds of choruses, folkdance and accordion groups - even a symphony orchestra and various soloists especially from Sweden and local performances and sightseeing.

Mrs. Kristensson mentored many young Swedish immigrants and even appeared on television with their dance group, the Swedish Newcomer Society Folkdancers and took part in many parades to further good will. The family had a very authentic Swedish-style cottage, red with white trim, for 30 years at Good Templar Camp in Geneva, IL, where she also took an active part.

She was elected IOGT District #2 president for the Chicago northwest area and suburbs and president of Jupiter Lodge #3 of IOGT founded in the Turner Hall at Sheffield University and Diversey in Chicago 1884 and was honored last September for 50 most active years in the organization.

Gullan Kristensson served diligently as a delegate to the Chicago Swedish Central Committee since its inception in 1960, as a member of the Swedish Cultural Society since 1962 - founded in the Gold Coast Dewes Mansion 1923, and was a member of the world's largest fraternal organization, the Vasa Order - Austin Lodge #466 since 1958.

For her 92nd birthday in 2003, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas appointed Mrs. Kristensson as deputy treasurer. In 2004 Gullan, on her own decided to celebrate her 100th birthday in case she might not be around to do so in 2011. This became quite an event not only at the Swedish Cultural Society but also in the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church in Logan Square where she had developed numerous friends including Pastor and Mrs. Bernhard and Vivien Pedersen.

Among the more than 200 mourners attending her funeral service October 27th at Irving Park Lutheran Church in Chicago were Park Ridge Lutheran Church in Chicago were Park Ridge Mayor Howard Frimark, Sweden's Consul General Kerstin Lane, Swedish Consul Annette Seaberg, Karin Moen Abercrombie - Executive Director of the Swedish-American Museum and many other leaders from the Swedish-American community and many friends from the Good Templas led by Janet Frediinger of New Lenox - the immediate past president of Central States IOGT Council.

The Rev. Brooke Petersen of Irving Park Lutheran Church gave an outstanding homily about Gullan, Ingrid Eiesland sang in both Swedish and English and uplifting music was rendered by violinist Jennifer Silk, trumpeter Pat Dessent and organist Bob Egam.

Mrs. Kristensson is survived by her son and many nieces and nephews in Sweden and the U.S. Final interment is planned for Partille, Sweden, near Gothenburg, where she will be buried next to her husband.

Submitted by: Per-Hugo Kristensson

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

CALIFORNIA

MARY J. BORN passed away in Auburn, CA, on January 31, 2008, at the age of 90. She was born in Clovis, NM, on April 27, 1917. She joined Mayflower Lodge #445 on September 18, 1952 and served our lodge as Chairman in 1982 and Assistant Secretary in 1965. Mary received Life Membership 1982, 25-year pin 1978, 40-year pin 1993, and 50-year pin 2003.

LINNEA MAGNIE passed away in Ashland-Jackson, OR, on June 11, 2006 at the age 100. She joined Mayflower Lodge #445 on April 22, 1937. Honors bestowed on Linnea were Life Membership 1972, 40-year pin 1987, and 50-year pin in 1997.

DR. JOSEPH A. PETERSON died on November 20, 2007. He was born to Carl Erik Seth and Katharina (Piroth) Peterson on June 10, 1923. He married Selma Rose Ford in 1952 and they raised 10 children together. Until her death in 1995, Selma attended Evening Star Lodge #426 with her husband. He is survived by nine children and nineteen grandchildren.

FLORIDA

ELSA FJELL passed away on February 25, 2008. She is survived by her daughter, Doris, son-in-law John, grandson John (Joyce), granddaughter Kristine (Steve) and 4 great-grandchildren. She was born in Laxarby, Dalsland, Sweden, on April 5, 1907. She was a member of Royal Palm Lodge, Florida, and Manhem Club in New York.

GUS SUNDBERG, 82, of New Port Richey, FL, died January 17, 2008, in East Troy, WI. He was born June 19, 1925, in Gränna, Sweden. He joined Vasa Holiday Lodge #699 on October 27, 1992. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Ann-Marie, daughters Jeannette Lindberg, Marianne Sens, a granddaughter, Lena Lindberg, and a brother, Karl-Erik, of Eksjo, Sweden.

IOWA

JEAN ANDERSON was born in New York on May 18, 1920. She came to work in Sioux City, IA. She and her husband, Ormund, were active members for many years. Jean served in many capacities for Norrskenet Lodge #331 until diabetes forced her to stop. She loved sharing her Swedish recipes. She died on June 29, 2007. She is survived by a son, daughter, and several grandchildren.

AGNES NYGARD was born in Sioux City, IA, on November 11, 1913. She was active in the Norrskenet Lodge #331 as a child. She continued active membership until the death of her husband in 1994. She kept her membership in the association until her death on December 17, 2007. She is survived by a son and several grandchildren.

PER BORGE PETERSON died October 12, 2005, at the age of 68. He was born January 6, 1937, in Sweden. He came to America as a youth. He was a faithful member of Norrskenet Lodge #331 of Sioux City. He cooked pea soup and pancakes for lunches. He is survived by his wife, Sandy, two sons and several grandchildren.

SANDY PETERSON was born on December 6, 1939, in Sioux City, IA. She died on November 11, 2007. Sandy was active in Norrskenet Lodge #331 until the death of her husband, Borge, in 2005. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, and several grandchildren.

PAUL POLSON was born in Cleghorn, IA, on April 25, 1925. He died there on May 10, 2006. He drove 120 miles

to attend the meetings of Norrskenet Lodge #331 each month until his health failed. He is survived by a son, daughter, and several grandchildren.

BERTIL TAGSTROM was born in Bollnäs, Sweden, on October 22, 1922. He came to America as a youth. He died in Sioux City, IA, on January 21, 2007. He and his wife, Carlene, joined Vasa Lodge #331 in 2005. He was an active member for those few years. He is survived by his wife, Carlene, and twelve children.

MICHIGAN

ROY FREDRICKSON, 86, of Kingsford, MI, passed away January 8, 2008, at St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay, WI. He was born October 7, 1921, in Homestead, WI. He joined Framat Lodge #463 on April 17, 2005. He is survived by his wife Jeanette, sons and daughter, plus grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

STANLEY JOHNSON passed away February 12, 2008, in Escanaba, MI. He was born December 31, 1921, in Ingallsston, MI. He was proud of his Swedish heritage and joined Framat Lodge #463 in August, 1964, where he served as Chairman, and District #10 as Vice District Master. He is survived by his wife Ily, two sons and grandchildren.

NEW YORK

GUSTAF ANDERSON died on December 6, 2003, in Connecticut. He was born on December 2, 1909, and was initiated into Olympic Lodge #235 on December 6, 1930.

ALFONSE DANZICO died in November 2006 in Jackson Heights, NY. He was born on September 2, 1923, and was initiated into Olympic Lodge #235 in March 1987.

ANNA-LISA ERICKSON died on January 14, 2008. She was born in Sweden on July 9, 1912, and was initiated into Olympic Lodge #235 on April 19, 1975. Prior to this lodge she was a member of Strangnas Lodge in Brooklyn, joining in 1929. Anna Lisa held positions in all branches of Vasa having served as a District Master (#4), and also a Grand Lodge Deputy. Last January the lodge paid tribute to her for her 78 years as a member of our Order. The "presentation" written by her daughter, Carolyn, appeared in The Vasa Star, March-April 2007, issue.

ERIC-OLOF ERICSON died on March 8, 2004, in Long Island, NY. He was born on June 10, 1915, in Sweden, and was initiated into Olympic Lodge #235 on April 21, 1962. Eric Olaf was a violinist and an accordionist. There was never an anniversary party, birthday party, or any other celebration held for the Children's Club or Olympic Lodge that he didn't entertain us all with his musical talents.

INGEGERD ERICSON died on November 26, 2003, in Long Island, NY. She was born on February 23, 1923, in Sweden, and was initiated into Olympic Lodge #235 on April 21, 1962. For many years during her adult life she was the Business Manager of Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 Children's Club.

THOMAS HADLEY died in March, 2003, in Manhattan, NY. He was born on May 7, 1936, and was initiated into Olympic Lodge #235 on May 2, 1994. He was a dual member of Scandia Lodge #399.

KATE HANSEN died in September 2006 while on her annual visit to her niece in Denmark. She was born on May 17, 1924, and served on the Board of the Swedish Home where Olympic Lodge #235 met until February of this year. She was initiated into Olympic Lodge #235 in February, 1977.

FLORENCE LINDSTROM died in December, 2006, in New Hyde Park, NY. She was born on November 28, 1923, and was initiated into Olympic Lodge #235 in October 1988. She was one of those faithful members who rarely missed a meeting of the lodge.

RUDY MATTSON died on May 30, 2006, in The Bronx, NY. He served with the Armed Forces in the second World War II. He was born October 23, 1926, and was initiated into Olympic Lodge #235 in April, 1976.

OREGON

LORETTA "TONI" RITA passed away on February 18, 2008, at the age of 103 years. Loretta was born in Washington, DC, and joined Nobel Lodge #184, Vasa Order of America, on October 20, 1972. She served as Assistant Master of Ceremonies and Banner Bearer. She is survived by three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

PENNSYLVANIA

RUTH JOHNSON SCHELANDER passed away December 21, 2007. She was a member of Balder Lodge #308 for 71 years. She is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

CANADA

JOHN HOAS, March 16, 2008. John was born February 17, 1913 in Gammelsvensky, Ukraine. He immigrated to Canada in 1930 where he established a dairy and grain farm in Manitoba. John was proud of his Swedish heritage and was an active member of Lodge Strindberg No. 259, which he and his late wife Kristina joined in September of 1961.

MYRON W. KERR passed away on February 4, 2008, in Edmonton, AB. He was born in Preeceville, SK, on August 21, 1919. On May 6, 1978 he became a member of Skandia Lodge #549, Edmonton, AB. He assumed the role of Cultural Leader for two years. For some time Myron and Kathleen enjoyed a cottage at Vasa Park, Pigeon Lake, AB, and were seen at many functions. He leaves his wife Kathleen of 62 years, three sons, Robert, Grant & Colin; eight grandchildren. They were married in Moose Jaw, SK, in 1946. Myron was first a teacher in a one-room school at Parkbeg, SK (near Moose Jaw), and later became a principal of a grade school in White Rock, BC. It was in Calgary, AB, that he worked for the Federal Government. By now he wanted to venture out on his own business enterprises which took the form of sales in insurance and real estate as well as being a travel agent.

WILLARD MODIN was born in Bruce, AB, on March 31, 1915, and passed away February 29, 2008. He joined Skandia Lodge #549, January 5, 1952. He leaves his son, Wayne and daughter-in-law, Audrey, grandchildren Barry, Jason and Nancy, and three great-grandchildren. When the War of 1939 began Willard joined the Army and at Currie Barracks, Calgary, studied to become a mechanic before leaving for overseas. He was a foot soldier and was part of troops going to the continent. He received many medals for his service to Canada. There was shrapnel lodged in his hip which sometimes caused a noticeable limp. He was a lifetime member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Mulhurst, AB, having joined in 1974 and was their Treasurer for many of those years. He handled the Bingos and cared for this funding also. Telford House in Leduc enjoyed the services of Willard for 20 years as their Treasurer. After the War he continued with his trucking service which included hauling whitefish from Pigeon Lake to Edmonton, which would be served around the world. New York City likes to include this item on dining room menus. Later Willard drove a school bus for the County of Calmar and he knew all the children. As he had the necessary license to drive a bus we engaged him to transport the Lucia and all her attendants around the city performing at each of five stations. Willard was a great cook - he could smoke fish, bake tunnbröd and rice pudding. In fact when his tunnbröd became so famous around the lake he produced his product and packaged it for sale. Willard was a permanent resident at Vasa Park and on his morning walk would note any areas that might need repair or renovation. He was predeceased in death by his wife Evelyn.

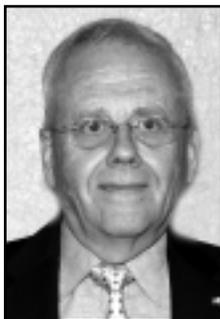
MEMORIAL NOTICES

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.

MSLER (GLEBM) Sweden

Tore Tellberg



Tore Tellberg

Lodge Sundsvall #705 of the Vasa Order of America, was established in 1974 under District Lodge Northern Sweden #19.

My wife, Margareta, and I became members in 1976 and since our initiation I have had the pleasure of holding several offices such assistant Cultural Leader, Vice Chairman, Chairman, District Delegate, Vice District Master and District Master. During 2002 I was elected Grand Lodge representative for DL #19 and at the Grand Lodge convention in Edmonton, Canada I was elected MSLER at Large. During the Grand Lodge Convention in San Diego I was Elected MSLER for Sweden.

I was born and raised in Sundsvall. After spending time in Skåne, where I met my wife Margareta, we moved back up north to Sundsvall.

I served in the cavalry during my military services, and since 1962 my military position is an airfield Engineer.

My family consists of my wife of 43 years, and Lodge member Margareta. We have two sons and they each have two children.

Our hobby and passion is sailing and we have participated in races such as *Gotland Runt* and *Fastnet Race in England*. We purchased our first sail boat in 1976 and have since owned five of them.

I started a consulting firm in 1976 and employed 10 engineers for the building industry. We sold the company in 2006. We also sold our house in Sundsvall and moved to our summer home at Alnö outside of Sundsvall. We can now spend more time exploring our other interest such as *The Vasa Order of America* and spend time traveling.

It is with sadness I see how the membership is declining within our Order. I am convinced that *The Vasa Order of America* has a great future. *The Vasa Order of America* will fill, for many, an unknown social and cultural void. In order to keep our members and also to recruit new members we do not only have to improve and develop our internal functions but also be seen outside our lodge meetings as well. We have to make our lodge activities more attractive, have interesting programs, and well educated officers. By exposing the Vasa Order out in the open, and by participation in charity functions we have yet another goal for our organization to reach. Together with our local loges we are strong and can locally and internationally support the poor individual.

Our future lies within the creative, open and young mind. We should however preserve our rituals and traditions so that *The Vasa Order of America* will stay an Order.

By doing so, we will reach our goal, "Tradition with Vision."

1974 Instituerades Logen Sundsvall Nr 705 av *Vasa Orden av Amerika* under beskydd av Distriktslogen Norra Sverige Nr 19.

Jag och min hustru Margareta blev medlemmar och Vasasyskon 1976. Sedan dess har jag haft den stora förmånen att bli vald till: Biträdande Kulturledare i 3 år, Vice Ordförande 2 år, Ordförande 6 år, Distriktsdeputerad 5 år, Vice Distriktsmästare 2 år och Distriktsmästare i DL 19 under 4 år. 2002 blev jag vald till Storlogedelegat att representera för DL 19 vid Storlogemötet i Edmonton, Canada.

Storlogemötet 2002 valde mig till MSLER at Large. Vid Storlogemötet i San Diego 2006 valdes jag till MSLER för Sverige.

Jag är född i Sundsvall staden mellan bergen mitt i Sverige. Efter en tid i Skåne när jag skaffat hustru Margareta flyttade jag och Margareta hem till Sundsvall.

Militärtjänstgöringen gjorde jag som kavallerist. Min militära befattning sedan 1962 är flygfältsingenjör.

Familjen: består av hustru och syster Margareta sedan 43 år. Vi har två söner, som vardera har två barn. Yngste sonen graderade från High School i Kalifornien 1985. Den äldste sonen arbetar för Hewlett Packard.

Hobby: 1976 skaffade vi den första segelbåten. Sedan dess har det blivit fem segelbåtar och 24 st *Gotland Runt* och ett *Fastnet Race* i England = sammantaget 65 000 nautiska mil havskappsegling och 15 000 nautiska mil familjesegling.

1976 startade jag eget konsulterande företag med i genomsnitt 10 anställda byggnadsingenjörer, verksamma inom byggnadsekonomi. 2006 sålde vi företaget. Vi sålde även huset i Sundsvalls centrum och flyttade ut till stugan på Alnö. Efter 30 år som företagare känns det skönt att få disponera min lediga tid till andra intressen, t ex *Vasa Orden av Amerika* och resor.

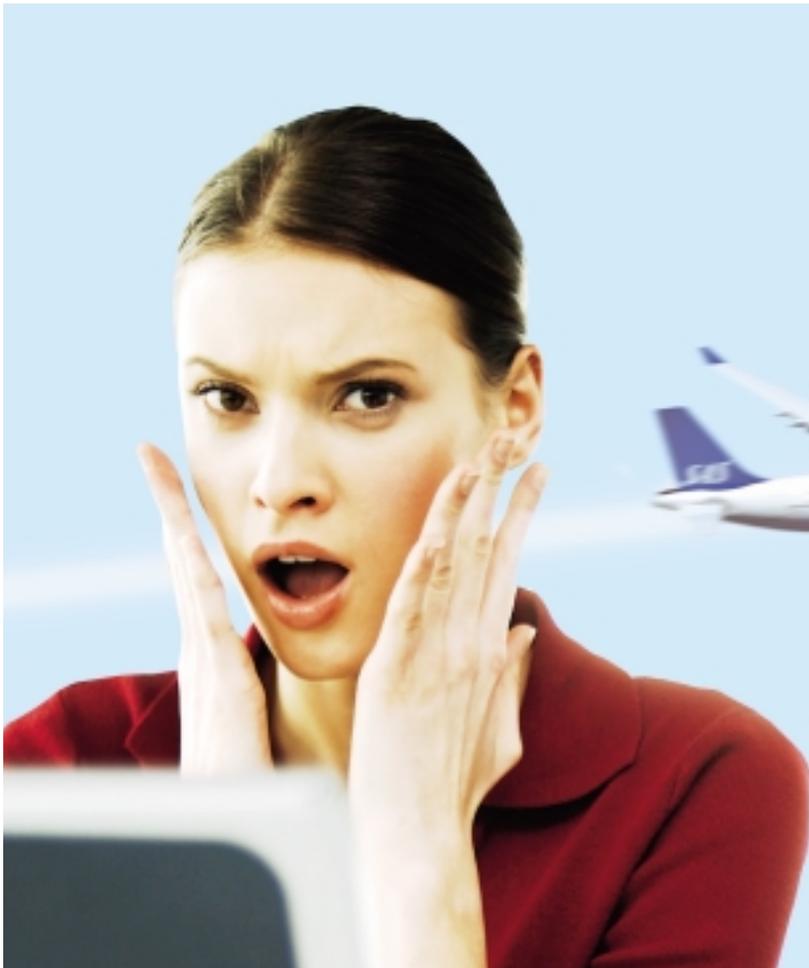
Det är med sorg i sinnet jag ser hur medlemsantalet i vår Orden inte kommit ur den negativa tillväxtspiralen. Jag är övertygad om att *Vasa Orden av Amerika* har en framtid. *Vasa Orden av Amerika* fyller ett för många ännu ej upptäckt socialt och kulturellt behov. För att lyckas behålla medlemmar och även skaffa nya, måste vi inte bara utveckla den interna verksamheten, utan även synas utanför våra Logelokaler.

Loge verksamheten blir för våra medlemmar intressantare och bättre, med pålästa och tränade tjänstemän, samt intressanta och givande efterkapitel.

Vi kan synliggöra *Vasa Orden* till exempel genom att medverka i externa välgörenheter, som gör att vi får ytterligare ett mål för vår verksamhet. Många är de medmänniskor enskilda och i föreningar, som lever under ytterst knappa förhållanden. Tillsammans i våra Lokal Loger är vi starka och kan på lokalt och internationellt plan hjälpa och stödja med en för den enskilde medlemmen liten slant, men sammantaget blir det för mottagaren en stor och välkommen summa.

Ordens framtid kan vi trygga genom att gemensamt gå in i Vasa Ordens framtid med ett kreativt, öppet och ungdomligt sinne. Vi skall bevara och vårda ritualer och traditioner, detta för att *Vasa Orden* skall fortsätta att vara en Orden. Då uppnår vi Tradition med Vision.

Eng translation by: Marie Carlson



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