

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008



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



The Grand Master's Message



Rolf Bergman

Vasa brothers and sisters!

Lucia and Christmas greetings to you from Marty and me!

We wish you all a wonderful time with your lodge activities and celebrations as well as a time of refreshment and recreation with family and friends. May you stop long enough in your work to give thanks for the blessings received from and passed on to others in our life of mutual exchange of God's love.

Aren't you glad that all the political ads are now history, resulting in a historically important election of an African-American President for the USA.

Marty has been looking through old issues of the Vasa Star to collect published information by our local lodge, Nobel-Monitor #130, as well as DL Pennsylvania # 9, precipitated by both celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2008. I reviewed the December 1988 issue now 20 years old. GM Carl G. Lindquist wrote the GM message talking about his goals "for strengthening Vasa's position as the leader in offering Scandinavian fellowship with culture and heritage to qualified, prospective members." That goal seems to repeat itself to every Grand Master. I noted that the Swedish Language lesson was written by Lillemor and Richard Horngren (Lesson 33), so some things stay the same. It was also interesting to read the Christmas greetings from many of the lodges, some of which, sadly, are now dissolved.

The only district meeting attended in the last two months was DL Pennsylvania # 9's 100th anniversary convention held at the Marriott at Metro Center, Washington, DC, the same hotel that will be used to host the GL Convention in July 2010. I wish to thank the members of Drott Lodge #168 for a great job in organizing the district meeting and the tours offered prior to the convention. See the write-up later in this magazine for more details.

Please read the highlights of the GL Executive Board meeting, held in May 2008, written by GS Joanie Graham, found later in this issue. I wish to emphasize two items. Item 8: Local and district secretaries, please be diligent in getting the annual forms filled out and returned by the date requested. This becomes more important as the IRS is taking more active notice of non-profit organizations these days and the information you supply is used to file IRS documents. Item 14: GL Youth Director for the USA and Canada, Lynda Smith, has just sent information to the relevant youth leaders concerning the Youth Seminar planned for next July in Chicago. We will publish more specific information on this in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue so that anyone interested can participate if desired. Further, I will discuss item 15, concerning web developments, in more detail in the next Vasa Star.

I thank all of you that sent in donations to the GL Education Fund as requested when the education stamps were received. GS Joanie informs me that our income is up over previous years; good news indeed. If you have not yet sent in your contribution, please take time to do so.

The printing and distribution of the Vasa Star in Sweden for the Swedish households was carried out without any significant

problems of which I am aware. Thank you to all involved. For those of you in Sweden who now receive the magazine by post I would like to hear from you as to what this means to you. In response, as we now have a much larger reading audience in Sweden, so we will consider printing more pages in Swedish, hopefully with English translation.

Vasa Syskon!

Lucia och Julhälsningar från Marty och mig!

Vi önskar Er alla en trevligt tid tillsammans i era gemensamma loge aktiviteter och firanden samt tid till avkoppling och vila med nära och kära. Försök att stanna upp en stund och tacka för de välsignelser vi fått och fört vidare till andra i vårt liv genom ett gemensamt utbyte av Guds kärlek.

Är ni inte glada nu när all politisk annonsering är historia och som resulterade i, ett historiskt sett, viktigt val av en afrikansk-amerikansk president för USA.

Marty har tittat igenom gamla upplagor av The Vasa Star för att kunna samla publicerad information om vår lokala loge, Nobel-Monitor #130, samt DL Pennsylvania # 9, i och med att båda firade sina 100-års jubiléer under 2008. Jag tittade igenom 1988 års december upplaga, det är alltså 20 år sen. GM Carl G. Lindquist skrev i sitt GM message om sina mål "för att stärka Vasas position som en ledande organisation genom att erbjuda gemenskap innehållande vårt kulturarv för att kunna värva nya lämpliga medlemmar."

Detta är ett mål som återkommer under varje Stormästares ledning. Jag lade också märke till Svensklektionerna som var skrivna av Lillemor and Richard Horngren (Lesson 33), så vissa saker är precis lika som nu. Det var också intressant att läsa Julhälsningarna från de olika logerna, tyvärr är många av dessa loger upplösta.

Det enda distriktsmötet jag närvarade vid under de sista två månaderna var DL Pennsylvania # 9's 100-års jubileum som hölls i the Marriott vid Metro Center, Washington, DC, samma hotell som vi kommer att använda oss av vid Storlogemötet i juli, 2010. Jag vill tacka Drott Lodge #168s medlemmar för ett mycket fint arbete med att organisera distriktsmötet och för utflykten som anordnats innan mötet. Se artikeln som handlar om detta för mer detaljer.

Jag vill tacka Er för alla donationer till Storlogens Utbildningsfond som vi bad om att få efter det att "utbildningsfrimärkena" skickats ut. GS Joanie berättade för mig att våra inkomna bidrag detta år är högre än tidigare års, fantastiskt goda nyheter! Om ni inte skickat in era bidrag ännu, så var snäll och ta er litet tid och gör det.

Tryckningen och distributionen av The Vasa Star i Sverige till svenska hushåll har fungerat utan större problem, av vad jag vet. Ett varmt tack till alla er som hjälpt till med detta! Jag vill gärna höra vad det betyder för er i Sverige som nu får tidningen hem i brevlådan. Tack vare detta har vi nu större läsarsiffror i Sverige så vi kommer antagligen att erbjuda fler sidor på svenska och förhoppningsvis med engelsk översättning.

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AN IMPORTANT REMINDER: *Obituaries* received after July 1st, 2008, the cost structure will be changed. The cost for up to one column inch will be \$8.00; longer obituaries will be charged at the flat rate of \$25.00.

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

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“Jultomtar” in Bishop Hill, home of The Vasa Archives during “Lucia Nights,” Jesper Jenner, Bishop Hill, Sally Christianson and Josh Christianson, Wataga.

Jultomtar i Bishop Hill, hem till The Vasa Archives, under Lucia Firandena, Jesper Jenner, Bishop Hill, Sally Christianson and Josh Christianson, Wataga.

Picture by: Mike Wendell of Bishop Hill, Bishop Hill Lodge #683
Submitted by: Lars Jenner, Archivist/Manager, VOA National Archives, Bishop Hill

Letter from the Editor



Since I last wrote we have a new President Elect, and as we all know, this was an election that will be well noted in our history books. Media all over the world have followed this event more than usual, and US participation hit an all-time high record.

One of our stories in this issue is not about a Vasa event, but it does show the spirit and involvement of the oldest member of the newest lodge here in the USA....and how Swedes are always thinking about the future - even at the ripe old age of 92. Look under *Happenings!*

Featured in this issue is also *Barbro Osher, Swedish-American of the Year 2008*, quite a remarkable woman. The text is mostly in Swedish, thus this is a great opportunity to practice your Swedish!

Since Christmas is "knocking at the door," and Lucia will shortly pay us a visit, I have in the *Culture* section an article about *Lucia* celebrations now and then, plus its origin. Our own Vasa Lucia's will be featured in the next issue. I did receive one submission regarding a Lucia, and she happens to have roots from the province of Jämtland, in Sweden, just as I do. There are also some yummy Christmas recipes for you to try in this section. Remember that you need to have your Lucia pictures and stories in to me no later than 24 December to have it published in the Jan/Feb Vasa Star.

In September, *DL Pennsylvania #9* had their *DL Convention* as well as their *100th Anniversary* celebration. I had the honor of participating in this great event, and I also had a chance to meet many of my contacts in person. I now have a face to go with a name. *Drott Lodge #168* had arranged, for us early arrivals, an outing to visit *The Kennedy Center*, where the country of Sweden was represented through its donation of numerous chandeliers lighting up the area where the bronze bust of President Kennedy is prominently displayed. We also had a chance to visit *House of Sweden*, a real treat! Read about this in the *District Lodge News* section!

My next letter to you will be in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue; 2009 already!!!!!!!

Merry Christmas to all....
and to all a Good Night!

Marie

"I am certain that after the dust of centuries has passed over our cities, we, too, will be remembered not for our victories or defeats in battle or in politics, but for our contribution to the human spirit."

- John F. Kennedy

Brev från Redaktören

Sedan jag skrev sist har vi valt en ny president, och som vi alla vet, var detta ett val som kommer att noteras väl i våra historie-böcker. Media över hela världen har följt denna tilldragelse mer än vanligt och antalet valdeltagare här i USA har varit rekord stort.

En av våra artiklar i denna upplaga har absolut ingen anknytning till något Vasa evenemang, men det visar hur en av våra äldsta medlemmer i en av våra yngsta loger här i USA, men själ och hjärta, har engagerat sig och visat hur vi svenskar alltid tänker på framtiden, trots den gyllene åldern, 92 år. Titta under *Happenings!*

Aktuell i denna upplaga är också *Barbro Osher, Åreta Svensk-Amerikan 2008*, en anmärkningsvärd kvinna. Texten är mestadels på svenska, men ett utmärkt tillfälle att träna svenska!

Eftersom julen "står framför dörren" och Lucia snart kommer på besök, har jag i *Culture* sektionen en artikel som handlar om *Lucia* firanden nu och förr, plus varifrån det härstammar.

Våra egna Vasa Lucior kommer att finnas med i nästa upplaga. Jag har fått ett bidrag angående en Lucia och hon råkar ha sina rötter i Jämtland, precis som jag har. Det finns även några smaskiga julrecept för dig att prova på. Kom ihåg att ni måste skicka era Lucia bilder och texter till mig senast den 24 December för att kunna publicera det i Jan-Feb upplagan av *The Vasa Star*.

I September hade *DL Pennsylvania #9* sitt distriktsmöte och firade samtidigt sitt *100-års Jubileum*. Jag hade äran att närvara vid detta evenemang och hade även tillfälle att möta många av mina kontakter personligen. Jag har nu ett ansikte som går till ett namn. *Drott Lodge #168* hade arrangerat, för oss som kom litet tidigare, ett besök till *The Kennedy Center*, där Sverige var representerat genom en gåva bestående av många hängande glas armaturer som lyste upp området kring President Kennedys uppenbara brons byst. Vi hade också tillfälle att besöka *House of Sweden*, jätte kul! Läs om detta i *District Lodge News* sektionen!

Mitt nästa brev till Er kommer i Jan/Feb 2009 upplagan, 2009 redan!!!!!!!

God Jul till Er alla.....
och till alla en God Natt!

Marie

"Jag är säker på att när dammet efter alla århundraden svept över våra städer, att vi också kommer att bli ihågkomna, inte för våra segrar eller nederlag i strid eller i politik, utan för våra bidrag till den mänskliga andan."

- John F. Kennedy

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ARCHIVES NEWS

Genealogical Resources

The *Vasa National Archives* has as part of its mission to aid VOA members and others in their genealogical research. Anyone doing family research knows that information necessarily comes from a host of different sources. I thought it would be worthwhile to devote a column to highlighting some of the resources the Vasa Archives has at its disposal to get people started in genealogical research or add to work already done.

Two sources unique to the Vasa Order are the membership and family register databases. The membership database contains files, in theory, on all people who have ever been a member in the Vasa Order. At present there are ca 93,000 entries, and that number is growing as we work through our backlog and add newly initiated members. These files hold basic information about each member, such as current address (at time of initiation), birth place and date, occupation, and lodge information. In time we add also death information, place and date, and in the notes field, ways that the member contributed to the Order, offices held and honors.

The family register is a genealogical database of mainly, but not exclusively, Vasa members and their ancestry going back 2-3 generations. Currently holding ca 52,000 entries, the aim of this data project is to trace ancestral links of our members. In the case of our Swedish-American members, the path typically connects a line from pre-immigration families through the immigrant generation to the present, when information was submitted to the Archives.

Genealogists will often find a great deal of information on ancestors around the time of emigration, because records of emigrant departure and passage across the Atlantic are fairly abundant and easy to access. But information on what happened after the immigrant reached American soil can be much harder to come by. With the family register at our National Archives we hope to fill in as much as possible the history of those families.

New members are given a genealogy form to fill out and send to the Vasa Archives for our database. If you have not yet filled out such a form, please do so. The more data we can enter, the better our research capabilities will be. Genealogy forms are available through your local lodge secretary, the Grand Lodge, or the

Vasa Archives. Feel free to contact us at the Archives if you need forms. Whatever your ancestry we would like to register your information.

Meeting minutes and member books from local lodges either on microfilm or in the original can also be tremendously useful genealogical sources. Here one may find initiation ceremonies, address information, members' work on committees, offices held, death notices, among other information.

The Archives also keeps a number of basic manuals on Swedish immigration research on hand as well as very useful CD-ROMs of emigrant records, including *Emigranten Populär* (Emigrantregistret in Karlstad and Göteborgs-Emigranten in Göteborg), a collection of different databases and passenger lists, and *Emibas* (Svenska Emigrantinstitutet in Växjö and Sveriges Släktforskarförbund), which shows basic birth information, occupation, and date emigrants left their home parish as well as emigration group traveling together. We also have the *1890 and 1900 Swedish Census*, a most valuable resource to see who was living in the same household at the time the census was taken.

These and other resources available at the Vasa Archives can help locate "missing puzzle pieces" in your genealogical research. We are also happy to refer you to other institutions and resources in order to take those next steps in your ongoing family research. Feel free to contact us with your inquiries!

Sammanfattning på svenska

Vasa Arkivet har till sitt förfogande resurser som är mycket hjälpsamma när det gäller släktforskning. Alla som släktforskar vet att sökandet leder oss till många olika ställen, därför tänkte jag det vore givande att skriva lite om några källor som är tillgängliga vid Arkivet.

Två källor unika till Vasa Ordern är *släktregistret och medlemskapsförteckningar* som ingår i vårt dataprogram. Dessa databaser utökas ständigt och erbjuder information om nuvarande och dåvarande medlemmar dessutom visar de ofta släktkedjan mellan familjer i Sverige och de i Amerika. Vi försöker att göra informationen så komplett som möjligt, därför är det mycket viktigt att skicka oss din genealogiska information, om du inte redan har gjort det.

Protokoll från logerna som vi har antingen på mikrofilm eller på originalet kan också vara mycket intressanta för släktforskare. Vi har till och med några böcker om släktforskningen som process och några mycket hjälpsamma CD-ROM skivor, till exempel, *Emigranten Populär*, *Emibas*, *Sveriges Befolkning 1890 och 1900* och *Sveriges Dödbok 1947-2003*.

Med dessa och andra medel på Vasa Arkivet har ni möjlighet att finna "pusselbitar" som saknas i din släktforskning. Vi kan också hjälpa till med hänvisningar till andra institutioner och källor. Kontakta oss gärna!

Submitted by: Lars Jenner,
Archivist/Manager

Archives Treasury Report

Summary of Notes, Bonds and Certificates of Deposit as of April 30, 2008

| Due Date | Description | Purchase Date | Yield % | Maturity Value | National Archives | Total Cost | Market Value |
|----------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------|----------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 2008 | | | | | | | |
| 8/15 | Ford Motor Credit Corp. | 11/01 | 6.75% | 30,000.00 | 30,770.70 | 30,770.70 | 29,722.80 |
| 2015 | | | | | | | |
| 7/15 | Federal National Mortgage Assn. | 9/06 | 4.0 | 30,000.00 | 27,755.00 | 27,755.00 | 30,018.00 |
| 2020 | | | | | | | |
| 2/12 | Federal National Mortgage Assn. | 7/06 | 6.0 | 20,000.00 | 19,920.12 | 19,920.12 | 19,876.00 |
| 2024 | | | | | | | |
| 1/30 | Federal National Mortgage Assn. | 9/05 | 4.25 | 20,000.00 | 19,089.28 | 19,089.28 | 19,461.00 |
| 2025 | | | | | | | |
| 7/11 | Federal National Mortgage Assn. | 8/05 | 6.0 | 71,000.00 | 72,728.08 | 72,728.08 | 71,383.40 |
| 2029 | | | | | | | |
| | Units Investment Trusts: | | | | | | |
| | 2603 Claymore Sec. Defined #364 | --- | --- | --- | 25,014.10 | 25,014.10 | 25,014.10 |
| | 3203 Claymore Sec. Defined #383 | --- | --- | --- | 30,011.95 | 30,011.95 | 32,964.94 |
| | 3327 Claymore Sec. Defined #367 | --- | --- | --- | 33,007.83 | 33,007.83 | 33,044.42 |
| | 3059 Claymore Sec. Defined #371 | --- | --- | --- | 30,021.74 | 30,021.74 | 31,315.87 |
| | 1245 Claymore Sec. Defined #347 | --- | --- | --- | 13,302.10 | 13,302.10 | 13,123.04 |
| | TOTAL | | | | 301,620.90 | 301,620.90 | 305,923.57 |

Continued on page 15

Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 15

This lesson we will continue using the words presented in lesson 13. In lesson 14 we worked on the first batch making sentences. We tried to make them simple and are hoping they were not too difficult. It can become discouraging if they are. As soon as you have learned a new word you may want to repeat it every time you are made aware of it as you go about your daily schedules. You know that is how we all learned to speak as babies. Our parents or siblings kept repeating over and over again whatever words they wanted us to learn. This is the true and tested form of learning any skill including a new language. Good Luck – Lycka till!!!

NYA ORD

| NYA ORD | NEW WORDS |
|--|--------------------------|
| att använda, använder, använde, använt | to use |
| skuggan, -n, skuggor | shade |
| jag har | I have |
| balkong, -en, er | balcony |
| min, mitt, mina | mine |
| bil, -en, -ar | car |
| få rum | have room (enough space) |
| garage, -et, --- | garage |
| vi ska | we will (shall) |
| vår, vårt, våra | our |
| i dag | today |
| goda | good |
| vän, -nen, -ner | friend |
| att besöka, besöker, besökte, besökt | to visit |
| att komma, kommer, kom, kommit | to come |
| att hänga, hänger, hängde, hängt | to hang |
| stor, stort, stora | big, large |
| att leka, leker, lekte, lekt | to play |
| kanske | maybe, perhaps |
| att sitta, sitter, satt, suttit | to sit |
| många | many |
| hink, -en, -ar | pail |
| spade, -n, spadar | shovel |
| alla | all, everyone |
| törstig | thirsty |
| is | ice |
| vuxen, vuxna | grown-up(s) |
| yngre | younger |
| värdinna, -n, värdinnor | hostess |
| att placera, placerar, placerade, placerat | to put, to place |
| servetterna | the napkins |
| familj, -en, -er | family |
| papperstallrikar | paper plates |
| matbestick, -et, --- | flatware |
| inte | not |
| plast | plastic |
| svårt | difficult |
| att äta, äter, åt, ätit | to eat |
| plastbestick | plastic flatware |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| korg, -en, ar | basket |
| många | many |
| gäst, -en, -er | guest |
| ta fram | bring out |
| värd, -en, -ar | host |
| nytt | new |
| att behöva, behöver, behövde, behövt | to need |
| femton | fifteen |
| köksstol, -en, -ar | kitchen chair |
| mat | food |
| efter | after |
| att diskutera, diskuterar, diskuterade, diskuterat | to discuss |
| trevlig | nice, enjoyable |
| bland | among |
| välkomna tillbaka | all welcome back |

SVENSKA OCH ENGELSKA

SWEDISH AND ENGLISH

| | |
|---|--|
| Solstol | literally "sunchair" |
| En solstol kan användas i skuggan | A lawnchair can be used in the shade |
| Jag har en balkong | I have a balcony |
| Mina bilar får inte rum i mitt garage | My cars have no room in my garage |
| Vi ska använda vår utegrill i dag | We will use our barbeque grill today |
| Goda vänner kommer på besök | Good friends are coming for a visit |
| Vi har hängt upp en stor gunga | We have hung a big swing |
| Barnen kan leka på en gungbräda | The children can play on a seesaw |
| Eller kanske sitta i gungstolen | Or perhaps sit in the rocking chair |
| Sandlådan har många hinkar och spadar | The sandbox has many pails and shovels |
| Nu är alla törstiga | Now everyone is thirsty |
| Tillbringaren har lemonad och is | The pitcher has lemonade and ice |
| De vuxna får ett glas | The grown-ups get a glass |
| Den yngre generationen får en kopp | The younger generation gets a cup |
| Värdinnan placerar en duk på bordet | The hostess puts a tablecloth on the table |
| Duken är röd | The tablecloth is red |
| Servetterna är blå och vita | The napkins are blue and white |
| Familjen ska använda papperstallrikar | The family will use paper plates |
| Matbesticket ska inte vara plast | The flatware shall not be plastic |
| Det är svårt att äta med plastbestick | It is hard to eat with plastic flatware |
| Knivar, gafflar och skedar ligger i en korg | Knives, forks and spoons are in a basket |
| Korgen står på bordet | The basket stands on the table |
| Det är många gäster | There are many guests |
| Värden fick ta fram ett nytt bord | The host had to bring out a new table |
| De behövde femton stolar | They needed fifteen chairs |
| Några satt i köksstolar | Some sat on kitchen chairs |
| Familjen satt i solstolar | The family sat in lawn chairs |
| Efter maten lekte barnen | After the food the children played |
| De vuxna diskuterade böcker | The grown-ups discussed books |
| Det var en mycket trevlig dag bland vänner | It was a very nice day among friends |
| Alla är välkomna tillbaka | Everyone is welcome back |

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Highlights of the May 2008 GL Executive Board Meeting

The Grand Lodge Executive Board held its second annual meeting in Frankenmuth, Michigan on May 13-15, 2008. Special thanks go to VGM Bill Lundquist, wife Sheila, and GS Joan Graham for making all the meeting arrangements. All the board members stayed on to attend District Lake Michigan #8's 100th Annual Convention the following weekend.

Highlights from the meeting are as follows:

1. The Executive Board (GLEB) continues to research the issue of the IRS 990-N E-filing by local lodges, many whom have received notification to do so. It is the GLEB current understanding that lodges fall under the Grand Lodge filing and thus do not need to file the form. The Annual Reports, submitted by every local lodge, includes information pertinent to the IRS. Please see that the Yearly Reports are submitted by the deadline of March 1st, so as to not endanger our non-profit status. Several lodges have yet to turn in their reports and dues/assessments for 2007/08. Further, the Annual Report Form will be revised for 2009 to include more information pertinent to the 990-N form.
2. GM Rolf Bergman reported on how the GL was doing on income/expense vs. budget. Due to our declining membership, income is not keeping up with some budgeted items. The major problem is the increased cost of the distribution of the *Vasa Star*, most notably to Sweden and Canada. Taking urgent action to curb the cost, the Board decided to **not** print the July/August issue this year and in 2009, but to publish it on the Vasa web site (www.vasaorder.com). Hopefully members with computers will be kind enough to print a copy for members with no computer access.
3. As a response to the high cost of bulk postage of the *Vasa Star* to Sweden we have worked out a cost-effective way for the *Vasa Star* to be printed in Sweden and mailed directly to member's homes. This greatly improves the quantity and timing of the distribution in Sweden.
4. Questions received from Vasa members have prompted the GL to initiate an ongoing FAQ column in the *Vasa Star*. Topics of financial interest will be addressed.
5. A New-Delegate Orientation will be developed for the *2010 Grand Lodge Convention* to help new GL delegates understand the workings of the Grand Lodge and their role as active participants in the meeting. This gathering will be held the morning before the Opening Ceremonies, possibly over breakfast.
6. Several districts have fewer than the required number of local lodges, so the Board is exploring the possibility of consolidating several to form new combined districts. Also discussed was how to involve lodges that are far removed from other lodges in their district, but closer to neighboring districts.
7. Support was given to a *Member Exchange Program* between Sweden and USA/Canada promoted by DM Karen Snowberg of DL New York #4. Information will be published in the *Vasa Star*.
8. Reports from Appointed Grand Lodge Officers shared the common frustration, also held by district and GL secretaries, of the lack of cooperation by Local or District Lodge officers in sending in reports that are required by the Constitution. Cultural Leaders, Historians, Activities Clubs, as well as Local Lodge Secretaries – please get those reports in by their due dates. We're all volunteers in this organization and part of a larger organization made up of fellow members who are trying to complete their responsibilities. Let's help each other.
9. District Lodge Lake Michigan #8 has designed a *Distinguished Service Ring* for presentation to a very deserving member in their district. Approval for the use of the Vasa emblem was given. This ring will be available for special order by other districts wishing to honor a member in this way. District #8 felt that a ring could be worn anywhere, where a Vasa jewel could only be worn to Vasa events.
10. A new Vasa decal/sticker will be designed and made available to all members. This sticker can be displayed on a car window to help advertise the Vasa Order of America. The three flags (USA, Canada, and Sweden) and contact information (www.vasaorder.com) will be included. In addition, a media/publicity packet will be developed to help lodges promote Vasa, and a Vasa business card template will be made available on the to-be-developed members-only web site for all officers and members.
11. The 2007 Education stamp mailing to benefit the *Sjölunden Language Village* capital campaign was successful. Vasa members donated almost \$13,000 to help build the new village. Many thanks to all who contributed to the campaign.
12. The 2008 Education Stamp design was accepted. Jake Gruel, GLEB member, had taken a photograph of his "Dalahäst" covered with snow last winter and it was selected as the design for this year's scholarship fund/Christmas stamp fundraising campaign. All income will go directly to the Education Fund.
13. The board approved the printing and mailing of the revised *Youth Club Handbook* to all Children's Club Leaders, Supervisors, Local Lodges, and District Lodges. It is hoped that having this in the hands of the lodges will inspire them to pursue the formation of new Children's Clubs.
14. GL Youth Director Lynda Smith presented the details of her plans for the Youth Club Seminar which will be held July 18 and 19, 2009 in Chicago. This seminar is a result of a recommendation made by the past GL Cultural Director USA/Canada Ann-Charlotte Harvey and approved at the GL meeting in San Diego. This seminar will be for Children/Youth Club Leaders and Supervisors and those interested in forming clubs in their lodges.
15. Continued development of the Vasa web site is coming along. The homepage will be redesigned. A members-only web page is in the planning stage and will be password protected. All members will have access to the password. The template for district and local lodges to set up their own web pages, at vasaorder.net, will be redesigned.

If you have an interest in any topic discussed, please contact the Grand Secretary for more information (vasajlg@aol.com).

Barbro Osher

Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2008

Vasa Orden av Amerika har valt Barbro Osher till Årets Svenskamerikan 2008.

Motivering till utmärkelsen

“Barbro Osher har på ett synnerligen förtjänstfullt sätt verkat för goda relationer mellan Sverige och USA, dels genom sina konsulära uppgifter, dels genom donationer till stöd för utbildning, kultur och medicin.

Barbro Oshers arbetssätt är visionärt och handlingskraftigt. Det har banat väg för många intressanta projekt och forskningsmöjligheter.”

Den svenska delen av Vasa Orden av Amerika är stolt över att förära Barbro Osher denna utmärkelse.

Barbro Osher -

Swedish American of the Year 2008

Vasa Order of America has chosen Barbro Osher as the Swedish American of the Year 2008.

Motivation for the award

“Barbro Osher has in a most remarkable way worked for good relations between Sweden and the USA, partly through her consular mission, as well as through donations supporting education, culture and medicine.



*Barbro Osher with the golden plaque.
Barbro Osher med den gyllene plaketten.*



Barbro Osher's method of work is visionary and purposeful. It has paved the way for many interesting projects and research opportunities.”

The Swedish part of the Vasa Order of America is pleased to honour Barbro Osher this award.

Barbro Osher -

Året Svenskamerikan 2008 hyllad

Firandet av Årets Svenskamerikan 2008 *Barbro Osher* blev en succé. Det mediala intresset har varit stort och Barbro Osher har uppmärksammats i flera tidningar och i radio- och TV-intervjuer. Utrikesdepartementet berömmar valet av Barbro Osher. Hennes arbete som generalkonsul i San Francisco betyder oerhört mycket för kontakterna mellan USA och Sverige. UD ordnade en lunch till Barbro Oshers ära och Amerikanska Ambassaden tog traditionsenligt emot Årets Svenskamerikan på en mottagning i Stockholm.

Huvudarrangemanget hölls i Växjö. Växjö kommun välkomnade *Barbro Osher* med *make Bernard Osher* genom sina högsta företrädare *Nils Posse* och *Bo Frank*. Till Kronobergs län välkomnades paret Osher av Landshövding *Kristina Alsér*.

Den största begivenheten ur Vasa Ordens synvinkel var banketten den 8/8 2008 i Växjö. Den hölls i Konserthusets Restaurang. Distriktsmästaren för Distriktslogen Södra Sverige Nr 20 *Catherine Bringselius Nilsson* var kvällens värdinna och hälsade alla välkomna å de båda svenska distriktens vägnar. Sveriges kulturråd i USA *Mats Widbom*, Ambassadör *Ulf Hjertonsson* vid Sveriges generalkonsulat i New York och kulturattachén vid Amerikanska Ambassaden *Richard LaRoche* var långväga gäster, som Distriktsmästaren hade äran att hälsa välkomna. Landshövdingeparet *Kristina* och *Jan Alsér* hedrade banketten med sin närvaro liksom Stormästarens representant i DL 20 *Knut Rosenkvist*. Distriktsmästaren för Distriktslogen Norra Sverige Nr 19 *Gunnar Gustafsson* delade värdskapet med Distriktsmästare *Catherine Bringselius Nilsson*. Stormästarens representant i DL Norra Sverige Nr 19 *Ewa Pilhammar Andersson* var också bland kvällens gäster liksom medlemmen i Storlogens Exekutiva Råd *Tore Tellberg*. Vasamedlemmar från DL 19, DL 20 och USA deltog i banketten, som också var väl

besökt av många vänner och släktingar till middagens hedersgäst Barbro Osher.

En stråkkvartett slog en tonen för kvällen med charm och finesse. Tal hölls och gåvor överlämnades. De båda svenska distriktens gemensamma gåva till Årets Svenskamerikan, ett par kristalljusstakar från Orrefors, överlämnades av de båda distriktsmästarna, som även överlämnade till Årets Svenskamerikan sina distrikts respektive standar. Barbro Osher tackade *Vasa Orden av Amerika* för utnämningen till Årets Svenskamerikan och för de gåvor som hon mottagit. Hon var överväldigad av all hyllning och uppmärksamhet.

Kvällen avslutades med stämmingsfull diktläsning av vasamedlemmen och dramaprofessorn *Anne-Charlotte Harvey* från San Diego.

Dagen efter banketten blev Årets Svenskamerikan traditionsenligt guidad av professor *Ulf Beijbom* på Utvandrarnas Hus. Vid Vänföreningens årsmötesmiddag samma kväll var Barbro och Bernard Osher hedersgäster.

Söndagen den 10 augusti firades *Minnesotadagen*. Dagen började med svensk-amerikansk högmässa i Domkyrkan. Biskop *Sven Thidevall* och domprost *Jan-Olof Johansson* var bland de medverkande.

Det publika evenemanget i Museiparken, fick på grund av ostadig väderlek, flytta in i Utvandrarnas Hus. Barbro Osher fick ta emot ett diplom som bevis på utmärkelsen och avtäckta tavlan med namnen på Årets Svenskamerikaner, kompletterad med hennes namn.

En stor publik hade kommit för att se och lyssna till Årets Svenskamerikan.

Hennes tal handlade finstämt om längtan. Barbro Osher avslutade det så här (citat):

“Jag tänker också ofta på alla dem som flyttat, frivilligt eller ofrivilligt till vårt land. Vi har lätt att förstå svenskars hemlängtan - men förstår vi något av våra nya landsmäns och landsmanninors? Och kan vi idag i grunden förstå hur man egentligen hade det när man tagit farväl för evigt av marker och fränder. När längtan blir för stark efter människor, natur och historia tar jag planet hem. Det kunde inte Karl Oskar och Kristina!”

Carl von Linné var temat för den utflykt, som ordnades för Barbro och Bernard Osher.

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Barbro Osher

Continued from page 8

De kände väl till Linnés Hammarby utanför Uppsala och uppskattade den eminenta guidning som bjöds av Carl von Linné själv, alias *Anton Härder*. Barbro och Bernard imponerades av det tålmodiga och gedigna arbete som krävs för att åter skapa och bevara det odlingslandskap, som var typiskt för Linnés tid. Råshult (några mil söder om Växjö) är ett levande museum över 1700-talets sätt att bruka jorden. Utflykten avslutades i Möckelsnäs med besök på det nybyggda orangeriet, enligt 1700-talsritningar, och med en representativ mångfald av växter från den tiden.

Firandet av Årets Svenskamerikan avslutades högtidligt med en audiens på Kungliga Slottet i Stockholm. *Kronprinsessan Viktoria* överlämnade den gyllene plaketten till Barbro Osher.

Submitted by: Catherine Bringselius Nilsson/Göran Nilsson

Varmt tack till våra sponsorer

Amerikanska Ambassaden, Stockholm

Elite Park Hotel, Växjö

Emigrantinstitutet Växjö

Emigrantinstitutets Vänförening

Glasriket – Orrefors Kosta Boda

Karlson's Gold

Linnés Råshult

Länsstyrelsen i Kronobergs Län

Orangeri och kunskapscentrum Carl von

Linné

Riksföreningen Sverigekontakt

SAS Scandinavian AB Sverige

Utrikesdepartementet

Vasa Orden av Amerika - Storlogen

Växjö Kommun



Barbro Osher mottar plaketten på utmärkelsen Årets Svenskamerikan på Slottet. Från vänster: Göran Nilsson, Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, Kronprinsessan Viktoria, Barbro Osher.

Thank You

Grand Lodge Education Fund
Annual Christmas Stamp Campaign

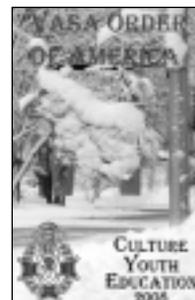
Tack Så Mycket!
Thank You! Thank You!

We have received many contributions to the *Annual Christmas Stamp Campaign*. **Thank you to each one of you** who has sent a donation large and small. Every gift is important and very much appreciated. If you haven't sent in your contribution yet, please do so when you are able.

"I will always be grateful to Vasa for the act of kindness in awarding me a scholarship. At the time, I had no idea how I would pay for school."

A Vasa Scholarship Recipient 1978

Submitted by: Joan Graham, Grand Secretary



DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL Minnesota #7

Minnesota District #7 held its 100th Anniversary this past April in Minneapolis, MN. We were very honored to have Grand Lodge representatives Grand Master Rolf Bergman and his wife Marty, Vice Grand Master William Lundquist and wife Sheila, Midwest Region Representative and Financial Secretary for the National Archives Jake Gruel and wife Marjorie and District Master Michigan #8 James Nysted and wife Mary Jean.

The weather for our convention was not very cooperative. Grand Lodge Membership Chair Tore Tellgren's flight

from California was cancelled. Our Vice District Master Mae Moore was unable to attend because of the snow. District Master Helen Anderson was unable to attend related to her job in Jackson Hole, WY. Our Past District Master Bertil Erickson took charge and the convention went along very smoothly.

Our Historian, Carolyn Spargo, presented a history folder for the past 100 years to the delegates and anyone else that would be interested in having one.

After the session closed we had a Memorial Service for those members that passed away during the past 2 years. The memorial address was read by Past District Master Kenneth Larson.

Our banquet was very elegant and festive, and of course, the food was great. There was a table displayed with memorabilia from the different lodges. I am sure a lot of reminiscing went on that evening. A toast was made with souvenir wine glasses designed by Kristine Frost and for members to take home.

The Vasa Junior Folk Dancers, Linnea #14, and Vasa Kornet #16, presented the program for the evening. The Vasa Junior Folk Dancers have been active for over 80 years and in that time span they have been lucky to have live music for all those years.

**Submitted by: Janice Lehman,
District Secretary**

DL Pennsylvania #9

The celebration of the 100th Anniversary of District Lodge PA #9 of the Vasa Order of America took place on Sept. 27th and 28th, 2008, in Washington, DC. Drott Lodge #168 hosted the convention.

On Friday the 26th, Drott Lodge had arranged for us to visit The *Kennedy Center* located near the Potomac River, a unique living monument. This *National Cultural Center* was designated as the nation's memorial to *President Kennedy* following his assassination in 1963. The bronze bust of *President Kennedy* is prominently displayed. We found out that the spectacular lighting above, which consists of numerous glass chandeliers was donated by the country of Sweden. Designed and made by *Orrefors*, each strand weighs about 1000 lbs.

We also stopped by the *House of Sweden* where we had a chance to "go behind the scenes" and once again was met by our great, very Swedish tour guide, Anna Järborg. Before touring *House of Sweden* we received information about how it came about. The use of glass and wood throughout the building conveys a uniquely northern sensibility and communicates the message that Swedish government and politics are characterized by transparency and openness. The screen-printed glass comes from Sweden and resembles early morning mist in the Swedish countryside. The wood, however, is fake, echoing the old Swedish tradition of imitating wood and marble in what used to be a rather poor country. Faux wood was used as a way to minimize any problems that would occur to real wood in the high humidity of Washington, DC.

House of Sweden has a fantastic location along the Potomac River. Further up we saw an example of what an apartment that the embassy rents out, looks like, very Swedish and of course decorated with *IKEA* furniture. We toured the roof overlooking the Potomac River and the surrounding areas. Performances and concerts are performed on the roof of the building.

Back at the hotel we gathered in the evening for an informal cocktail hour to meet some of the other lodge members and played the "guess who - or what am I game."

District Master, Linda Josefsson Smith, called the convention to order on Saturday morning and visiting Grand Lodge officers William Lundquist, Tore Kellgren with wives Birgitta Kellgren and Sheila Lundquist performed the flag ceremony

and presented the flags of the USA, Sweden, Canada and the VOA.

All visiting GL and DL officers were introduced and the DM report was given.

During the Saturday afternoon session, GL Cultural Director for USA and Canada, Ingrid Hanright, gave a presentation titled "Sweden Now and Then."

GL Deputy, Ken Alexy was elected as the Grand Lodge Delegate to the 2010 GL Convention with Bruce Elfvin as alternate.

Tore Kellgren, GL Membership chair presented DL PA #9 with three 1st place GL membership awards for 2007: the 1st place prize for the District gaining the most new members; the 1st place prize for a Local Lodge initiating the most new members - LL Drott #168; and the Individual 1st place prize for sponsoring the most new members - Betty Johnson, of LL Drott #168.

VGM Bill Lundquist talked about the scholarship program and how to develop youth programs. There is now a handbook on how to start a children's club and how to teach culture, language and customs.

We enjoyed a banquet that was held in the evening where GM Rolf Bergman opened by making a toast for the 100th anniversary of PA District #9. *Cultural Counselor Mats Widbom* from the *Embassy of Sweden* attended with his wife Annette and was the speaker of the evening. VDM Bruce Elfvin presented the *District monetary membership awards* to local lodges. The *Nordic Dancers* entertained with a variety of complex Scandinavian folkdances.

On Sunday morning the *Memorial Service* organized by Oscars Borg Lodge #172, was held, they displayed pictures and short biographies of each of the deceased members.

Newly elected DM Bruce Elfvin, of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130, invited everyone to Cleveland for the 2010 District convention.

The new officers fro DL PA # 9 are:

District Master - Bruce Elfvin, Nobel-Monitor #130

Vice District Master - David Williams, Harmony #465

District Secretary - Sharen Swanson Tizzano, Nobel-Monitor #130

Vice District Secretary - Carol Whitley, Drott #168

District Treasurer - Richard Erickson, Nobel-Monitor #130

District Chaplain - Lori Ackerman, Oscars Borg # 172

District Executive Board - John Ekeroth, Fokus #681

District Executive Board - Margaret Schueman, Drott #168

District Trustee, 2008-2012 - Linda Mullenbach, Drott #168

District Historian - Sandra Miller, Svea #296

District Cultural Leader - Linda Alexy, Oscars Borg #172

District Master of Ceremonies - Darlene Nelson, Nobel-Monitor #130

Ass't Master of Ceremonies - Dorothy Overberg, Svea #169

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



Newly installed officers.

LODGE NEWS

Norden Lodge #1 West Hartford, CT

This spring Norden celebrated the 125th year anniversary of the founding of their lodge with a brunch. The lodge was founded on March 1, 1883. At the brunch Marion Anderson was recognized for 60 years of Vasa membership and Edith Johnson was recognized for 65 years as a Vasa member. Also recognized was Ethel Saaf for her 38 years of service to Norden #1 as Financial and Vice Financial Secretary. Well done ladies and congratulations to Norden #1!

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren, DM



Pictured above are Marion Anderson and Edith Johnson along with Dale Youngstrom, Vice Chair Norden, and Paul Ljunggren, DM.

Diana Birger Jarl Lodge #3 New Haven, CT

Earlier this year Diana Birger Jarl #3 members enjoyed an evening potluck dinner at one Connecticut State's 19 vineyards. The Gouveia Vineyard is located high on 140 sun-kissed acres, and is built of stone and old timbers. The vineyard commands a 360 degree view of the Wallingford, CT countryside with woodlands, open fields, and pristine hundred-year old farms. It is also a spectacular location to observe an evening sunset. "Bon Appetite" or should we say "Skål!"

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren, DM



North Star Lodge #106 Los Angeles, CA

It was welcome back time at North Star after a July break. It was good to welcome home Erik and Birgit Lindberg from their Sweden trip to visit family and spend happy hours at a lakeside "stuga." Also a big welcome to Eleonora Nygren who had great adventures in Sweden, including a swim in the Baltic Sea at 16C!

A very warm summer and there was good news and not so good news. We lost several members since springtime: Monica Eiserling who had moved to Arizona. We remember Monica when she brought her spinning wheel out to Vasa Park for the *Autumn Fest Marknad* – she would spin and instruct. She is survived by her talented glassmaker son. Hazel Johnson Hultberg, who 'grew up' in North Star. She had been as a child in the *SWEA Barnklubben*, she learned Swedish folk dance and was a member of *North Star's Drill Team*. She met Dave Hultberg at Angelica Lutheran Church, they married and produced eight children. She also leaves grandchildren and her sister Eleanor.

Then it was Knut Pattersson who leaves his wife Jeanine. Knut was often at our meetings. James Moore who resided in Malibu with his wife Virginia ... all will be missed by us.

Then at this meeting it was necessary to drape the charter again. Our very active member, Walter Johnson, died recently. Walt leaves his wife Lois, daughters Barbara and Gail, and grandchildren, also a great-grandchild. Walter had joined as a youth in 1932. After almost a lifetime in Los Angeles, they had moved to northern California.

Walt had held many offices in the lodge, especially known for his financial expertise: serving as treasurer for several years. He not only wore the title of "Mr. North Star," but with Lois, as "Mr. and Mrs. Vasa Park" for all their efforts, dedication and constant "labors of love" for *Vasa Park*.

Donations to the *Vasa Archives* in memory of those mentioned above.

The good news! Jennifer Larson represented North Star and was selected SWEA for our southern California Swedish Midsummer, and Richelle

Daniel, our young member who represented Nordic Lodge was selected as Midsummer Queen. I will mention Columbia too – Amber Dobos, whose grandfather was John Bergstrom of Viking Lodge and a great friend of North Star!

Jennifer is the daughter of Valerie and Allen Larson and granddaughter of Peggy Pages, Midsummer Queen 1945. Richelle's grandparents were Dorothy and Erol Silver (PDM). Her parents are Richard and Marilyn Daniel. The other princesses were beautiful too on the very warm traditional Midsummer Day.

Sunday, September 21, the Vasa Day Autumn Fest was held at Vasa Park.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton

Thule Lodge #127 Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

Hello from Thule Lodge #127 in the Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY area!

Our fall season has had mild temperatures, with the fall season gently entering our area. Thule Lodge has been very active with events, and is nearing its 101st year in the area. Eugene Johnson serves as the lodge chairman, and greets all with a friendly welcome. As the winter time is approaching, the lodge has changed to its winter schedule of meetings. Beginning in October, the lodge meetings will be on the third Saturday of each month in the early afternoon. After each meeting, refreshments are always served.

Long time lodge member Nels John Nelson was this year's recipient of the *Scandinavian award*. The special recognition is to honor a person who has done much for the good of preserving the Scandinavian heritage.

Each year during the month of September, the past chairmen conduct the meeting of the lodge. Past chairman Dorothy Peterson opened this special meeting with a welcome to all, and John Sipos led the group in the pledge of allegiance. The current chairman Eugene Johnson was a part of the audience at this meeting. Past chairman Trudy Kraft gave the chaplain's message, and past chairman and past district master Edwin Sandberg reported that all officers were

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Thule Lodge #127

Continued from page 11

at their stations for the meeting. Secretary Lucile Marsh gave the roll call of officers, and treasurer Alberta Nelson gave the financial report. Past chairman Donna Sandberg gave a report of a recent dinner held at the lodge. Past chairman John Marsh conducted the monthly drawing. Past chairman Donna Johnson reported on the children's dance team. Past chairman and past cultural leader Allie Nelson

Withers gave an overview of the Scandinavian studies program held each month in Jamestown. This special meeting continued in the tradition of the lodge.

Thule Lodge sends greetings for a happy new year to all in 2009. If you are in our area, we welcome you. "God dag" to all!

Submitted by: John Sipos



Shown are past chairmen of the Thule Lodge #127. Seated are: Donna Johnson, Allie Nelson Withers, Donna J. Sandberg, Dorothy Peterson and Trudy Kraft. Standing are: John A. Johnson, Lucile Marsh, John Marsh, current lodge chairman Eugene Johnson, Edwin Sandberg, Nels John Nelson, and Alberta Nelson.

Runeberg Lodge #137

Minneapolis, MN



Emma Thofson, member of Runeberg Lodge #137 and member of the Vasa Jr. Folk Dancers (Linnea 14), in Minneapolis, was the recipient of the Vasa Sjölundén Scholarship. Emma, along with her sister Sara, have been members of the Jr. Department for over 10 years. Grand Lodge Deputy, George Carlson, presented this award at Swedish Day. Emma is a sophomore at Medford Public School.

Submitted by: Janice Lehman, DS

Tegnér Lodge #224

Missoula, MT

In June we had our Midsummer meeting which was held at Benson's farm. After indulging in the famous Scandinavian foods that are always present at these gatherings, we had our scholarship finalists read their essays. One of our finalists, Steven McLaughlin, was unable to attend so his mother Cathleen read the essay. Lindsey Galipeau, the other finalist, read her essay to the members. Each received \$500 to be used at the school they will attend. Steven will attend the University of Washington and Lindsey will attend the University of Montana in the fall.

Later we gave out pins to members for years of membership. The following pins were given out: Bruce Swanson and Jim Galipeau for 25 years; Dick Lindborg for 40 years; Agnes Nelson, Rick Swanson and Ina Swanson for 60 years. After the meeting members enjoyed a pleasant evening of fellowship.

Submitted by: Rick Swanson



Left to right: Bruce Swanson, Jim Galipeau, 20-year members; and Dick Lindborg, 40-year member.

Brahe Lodge #245

Rockford, IL

Our Vasa Brahe Lodge #245 met for food and fellowship at our Vasa Park in Rockford, IL, on Thursday evening, August 28, 2008.

"Majs" (corn-on-the-cob) was the main summer treat on the menu along with brats, hot dogs, watermelon, potato chips, brownies and cake for desert, coffee, and lemonade. We ate our food and chatted with old friends in our little old "stuga." The ladies of Vasa did a great job preparing and serving the food!

On a cool, cloudy fall afternoon on September 28, 2008, 25 members waited in line for eating "sill och potatis" in our old "stuga."

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Vasa Star November-December 2008

Brahe Lodge #245

Continued from page 12

The construction of our new clubhouse has continued primarily inside the building. Progress has been slow due mainly to seemingly endless governmental red tape, including permits and inspections. Chairman Scott Johnson and the building committee are to be commended for all their hard work!

Our newly constructed lodge in our Vasa Park is finished on the outside and is nearing completion inside. Chairman Scott Johnson and the building committee are to be commended for all their hard work! Completion of our new lodge is estimated in six weeks! Hurrah!

Submitted by: D. G. Eksten



Our new clubhouse is near completion.

Lindbergh Lodge #494

Palo Alto, CA

August festivities included lovely salads as the refreshments. Dr. Thomas Rossing, professor of music at *Stanford University* presented a wonderful talk about the music of Norway. They specialized in *Hardanger fiddle*, dragspel and folk guitar. *Edvard Grieg* was their most famous composer and his music is still revered and enjoyed by everyone. He can evince the haunting feeling of awe at the Norwegian landscape. It puts one in the mood for stories about trolls and tomtes.

Grieg lived on an island near Bergen and his home is now a national shrine. *Ole Bull* famous Norwegian violinist actually visited San Francisco and was entertained by the *Scandinavian Society* in the 1800s. Another musician of note was *Kirsten Flagstaff* for her Opera performances. More recently one of Norway's beloved singers is *Sissel Kirkebo* who sang for the Norwegian Olympics and lately with opening of the Olympics in China. It was a very impressive evening for all Scandinavian music lovers.

September regular meeting was a *Back to School Night* with apples decorating all the tables. The program featured several members who were teachers, of Swedish and in American schools. There were lots of stories about their adventures, both with children and with adults.

We all looked forward to a picnic later that month at the *Thomas Kruse Winery* in Gilroy as a fine introduction to the winter season and festivities to come.

Submitted by: Muriel Nelson Beroza

Quinsigamond Lodge #517

Worcester, MA

Sunday, July 20, 2008, was a day of celebration of Quinsigamond Lodge #517 as members, friends and families gathered at *The Manor in West Boylston* to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the lodge. All who attended were greeted by Gordon F. Hohne, Chairman of Quinsigamond Lodge. After a social hour of reminiscing about the "old days" with family and friends, everyone enjoyed a wonderful luncheon buffet.

The lodge was honored to have the following dignitaries present at the celebration: Grand Lodge Executive Board Member Pamela Genelli, District Master Dawn Briggs, District Deputy Carl Johansson, Vice District Master Larry Stidsen, District Treasurer Glenn Schedin, District Trustee Michael Bagnulo and District Auditor Don Peterson.

Grand Lodge Executive Board Member Pamela Genelli presented a special greeting to Quinsigamond Lodge from Grand Master Rolf S. Bergman congratulating the lodge on its 80th Anniversary. Special greetings were also received from District Secretary Merial Doyle, District Cultural Leader Shirley French, District Lodge Rhode Island #3, and PDM Merlene Mayette, District #3.

Membership jewels and pins were awarded to several members who were present. Doris Lindstrom received her 65-year jewel in recognition of her 67 years of membership and Gordon Forsberg received his 60-year jewel for 62 years. Several members who were in attendance received their membership pins: 40-year

Continued on page 14



GLEBM Pamela Genelli presents Quinsigamond Lodge Chairman, Gordon F. Hohne a congratulatory award from Grand Master Rolf Bergman.

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <h3>The Scandinavian Clock Maker</h3> <p>Traditional Swedish design handcrafted in Eugene, OR, by Walt Schullstrom</p> <p>Custom painted to order in any folk art style.</p> <p>For details 541-461-0329 Suwalschul@aol.com</p> |
|---|--|

Quinsigamond Lodge #517

Continued from page 13

pins were given to Muriel Schedin (46 years), William Palmer (43 years), Eleanor Palmer (43 years) and Wendy Hohne (43 years); a 25-year pin was presented to Pamela Genelli (35 years). Members not present at the event will receive their pins at a local lodge meeting. Gifts were given to the oldest

member present, Evelyn Anderson and to the youngest member present, Nicholas Genelli.

The afternoon concluded with a drawing for the centerpieces. It was a wonderful afternoon and truly a milestone worth celebrating.

Submitted by: Pamela Genelli



Pamela, Nicholas and Matt Genelli cut the 80th Anniversary cake for its members.

Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

Cape Cod, MA

What a delight it was to see that one of Vinland Lodge's members made the front page of the *Cape Cod Times*! The article featured a lengthy write-up about Alma Bracket, a long-time member of the Lodge. This dynamic Swedish-born lady, whose ninety-six years old, has the energy and drive most people 40 years younger don't have. In addition to her good looks, she is blessed with a very sharp mind and a keen eye for evaluating donations to her church's Thrift Shop. Alma has volunteered there for many years and is one of the valuable treasures in the Shop. Right on, Alma!

Coffee and dessert followed our October meeting after which members piled into cars and formed a caravan over to the bay side of Cape Cod. Our destination: Annie's Crannies – a spacious and beautiful cranberry bog. The owner of the bog and the farmhouse on the property is a young woman whose grandparents originally owned and developed the bog.

Annie, a charming and knowledgeable woman, made us most welcome, and gave a very interesting talk on the development and maintenance of cranberry bogs. Since Annie is also a beekeeper, we were treated to an interesting presentation on keeping bees. As far as I know, none of the members are pursuing that field!

Our Program Chairman, Elsa Erickson, arranged the bog tour. Elsa never fails to come up with interesting programs, and we are fortunate to have this former teacher as a member.

By the time you read this we will be in the midst of Christmas Season.

We wish all of you a Peaceful and Joyous Christmas, keeping in mind what Christmas is really about.

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman

Tre Kronor Lodge #713

Salem, OR



Tre Kronor Lodge #713 of Salem, Oregon, had a Swedish Pancake booth at the Polk County Fair this summer. The photo shows Audrey Cameron, Chairperson, Glen Ostrom, and Stephanie Cameron-Barth tending the griddle on August 10, 2008.

Submitted by: Barry Ostrom

Jubileum Lodge #755

Madison, WI

We from Jubileum Lodge #755 began our 2008-2009 year with a *Fish Boil* at the home of Ralph and Martha Stromquist, in Oregon, WI, on Sunday, September 15. The couple who prepared the *Fish Boil* told us, "We don't usually do this. You can borrow the pots, baskets, and poles and do it yourself next year!" So we paid closer-than-usual attention.

After the traditional and spectacular "boil over" (achieved by tossing diesel fuel on the fire to get rid of the scum), 33 lodge members and their guests dined on boiled cod, red potatoes, carrots, and onions, followed by (store-bought, but still excellent) apple pie. We spent a very enjoyable afternoon catching up on the events of the summer and viewing Ralph Stromquist's artistic photography, and his small collection of vintage automobiles.

Two special guests were Leif and Gunilla Stolt of Stockholm, on a two-week tour of the American Midwest. Gunilla lived with the Nordlings when she was an exchange student at *Madison Memorial High School* (we won't say when!), and Gunilla's mother is a cousin of Trudy Nordling.

Submitted by: Robert Merrill

Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

At the June midsummer picnic the May pole was decorated by some of the ladies. After lunch we danced around the May Pole.

We had no meetings in July and August. We gathered in September to listen to Sandra Schenholm as she informed us about the "Dala Hästen."

October 26th was the date that had been set aside to celebrate the anniversary of the fifth year of our lodge. We planned a catered lunch and a time to give thanks for our heritage and to those who have worked so hard to keep us together.

Nadine Murphy's subject in November was Nordic Languages, an interesting subject. We are so fortunate to have people that are willing to speak on these different topics.

Our lodge extends its sympathy to David Anderson. His wife Judy passed away in June. Judy was our past lodge secretary. Also from our lodge we lost Ray Myrvold, who was a charter member.

Submitted by: Carol Ingstad Bryant



Janell Brainard in her Swedish costume as she welcomed us to our May meeting.

Vasa Star November-December 2008

ARCHIVES NEWS

Continued from page 5

Treasury Report

| | National Archives |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fund Balance 5/1/07 | \$1,101,930 |
| Receipts: | |
| Dues & Assessments | 48,371 |
| Investment Income | 38,359 |
| Donations Received | 11,397 |
| Other Receipts | 27,639 |
| | ----- |
| Total Receipts | 125,766 |
| Total Assets Available | \$1,227,696 |
| Disbursements: | |
| Services: | |
| Archivist | 35,494 |
| Archives Financial Secretary | 1,200 |
| Expenses for: | |
| Archives President | 2,942 |
| Archives Financial Secretary | 1,162 |
| Accounting & Tax Preparation | 1,150 |
| Cost - Bishop Hill Property | 28,949 |
| Computer Related Expenses | 2,814 |
| Legal Fee | 192 |
| | ----- |
| Total Disbursements | \$73,903 |
| Fund Balance 4/30/08 | \$1,153,793 |

Summary of Notes, Bonds and Certificates of Deposit as of April 30, 2008

| National Archives | |
|--|-----------|
| Wells Fargo Bank, Minneapolis: | |
| NOW checking account | 138,162 |
| Cash and Investments, | |
| Money Market Fund | 2,072 |
| State Bank of Toulee, Illinois | |
| Checking Account | 467 |
| State Bank of Toulee, Illinois | |
| Savings Account | 84,968 |
| Waukesha State Bank, Wisconsin | 19,288 |
| Citizens National Bank, Galva, Illinois | 1,339 |
| Petty Cash Funds | 302 |
| Due Date Notes and Bonds and at cost, per schedule | |
| A attached | 301,621 |
| Stocks at cost, per Schedule | |
| B attached (market value \$410,462) | 353,811 |
| Archives Plant Fund Assets, at cost: | |
| Land | 4,160 |
| Buildings (2+) | 207,983 |
| Furniture and Equipment | 39,620 |
| Total | 1,153,793 |

Submitted by: Jake Gruel

Send a little
Holiday Cheer
to just about anywhere!



POSTCAKE ORIGINAL

\$16.95 + s/h. Serves 6-8 people

Award-winning honey-glazed hazelnut cake with a chocolate truffle crust and topped with slivered almonds. Delicious and rich. Includes an elegant gift box and greeting card. Also, try my tasty **Sacher** and **Lemon** cakes.

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Bo Sundstrom

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Made in the Swedish tradition of dedication to quality



Holiday Greetings Unite Members and Lodges

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
To All Our Vasa Friends
from

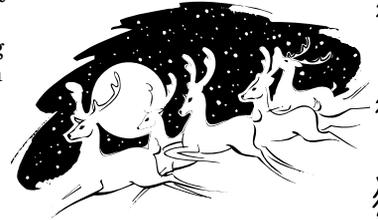
**District Lodge
Pennsylvania #9**

Bruce Elfvin
District Master
David Williams
Vice District Master
Sharen Swanson Tizzano
District Secretary
Richard Erickson
District Treasurer
John Ekeroth
Margaret Schueman
Members of District Executive Board
Linda Alexy
District Cultural Leader
Sandy Miller
District Historian

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA GRAND LODGE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Grand Master - Rolf S. Bergman
Vice Grand Master - William Lundquist
Grand Secretary - Joan Graham
Grand Treasurer - C. Richard Overberg
Vice Grand Secretary - Helen Mingram
MEB-Eastern Region - Pamela Genelli
MEB-Midwest Region - Jake Gruel
MEB-Western Region - Tore Kellgren
MEB-Sweden - Tore Tellberg
MEB-Canada Ken Banks
MEB-At-Large - Bertil Ericsson



God Jul och Gott Nytt År
from

Three Crown Lodge #38

Stamford, Connecticut

Margit Anderson
Anita Benard
Alice Bennett
Karl S. Fritz
Barbara K. Gardecki
Hjalmar & Helene Henrikson
Phyllis Johnson
Clara Larson
Ernest V. Larson
Shirley Leopold
George and Ingrid Lukach
Richard J. Olson
Elizabeth Thomas
Ethel Thomas
Helen Walding

**Nobel-Monitor
Lodge #130**

Cleveland, Ohio

Christmas Greetings and Warm Wishes
for Good Health and Much Happiness
in the New Year to all our Vasa Friends

Carolyn Anderson
Emil & Betty Arvidson
Eric & Maria Arvidson
David M. Benson
Rolf & Marty Bergman
Sarah Lundberg Blaser
Burton & Gunvor Carlson
Dorothy Carlson
Bruce Elfvin
Dick Erickson
John Esborn
Lennart & Marianne Gotrich
Ralph & Marianne Johnson
Al & Val McAllister
Darlene Nelson
Marie-Louise Nyborg
Gail K. Smith
Bill Sweigard
Sharen Swanson Tizzano

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
from

**Siljan Mora Tuna
Lodge #134**

Chicago Area

Greetings and God Jul
from the officers and members of
Bessemer Lodge #203

Britt Nilsson, Chairman
Bibi Swanson, Vice Chairman
Carol Steuber, Vice Chairman
Christine Kilstrom, Secretary
Barbara Olson, Financial Secretary
Myrtle Orlando, Hosp. Fund Sec.
Susan Nilsson, Cultural Leader
Patricia Pelzman, Chaplain & M. C
Svea Agner, Guard & Auditor
Linda Tylk, Treasurer
James Pelzman, Trustee
Bruno Nilsson, Auditor

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
från

Nobel Liljan Lodge #64

Brooklyn, NY

718-238-1395

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasavänner
i USA, Kanada och Sverige

**Richard & Dorothy
Overberg, GLT**

Holiday Greetings Unite Members and Lodges

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
från
Officers and Members
Svea Lodge #296
Erie, Pennsylvania

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
till alla VASA Syskom
från
Mayflower Lodge #445
Inglewood, California

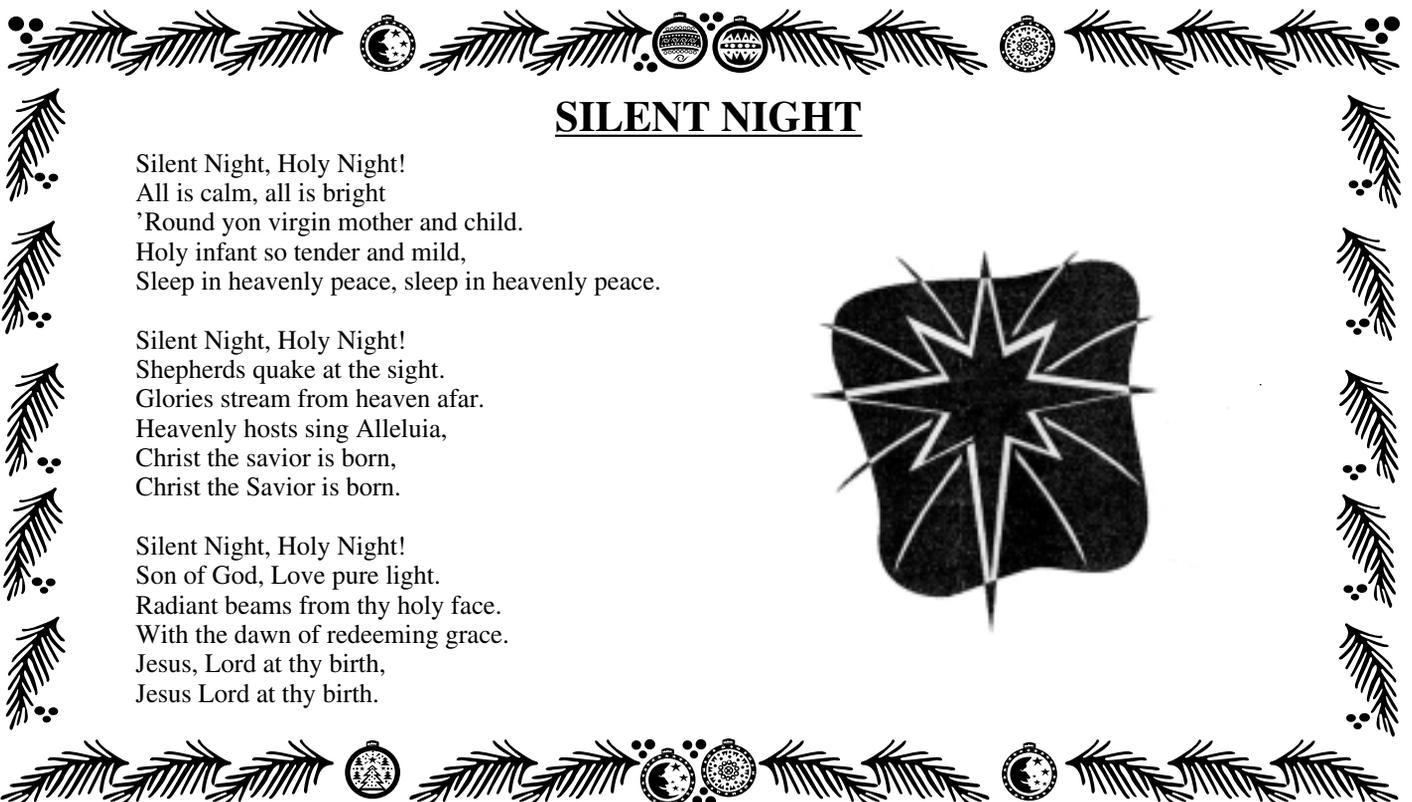
God Jul och Gott
Nytt År
To members and friends
in Sweden, Canada and USA
från
Linde Lodge #492
**Skansen Children's
Club #113**
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

God Jul och Gott
Nytt År
från
**Bishop Hill
Lodge #683**
Bishop Hill, Illinois

Warm Christmas Wishes
for a year filled with happiness to all
Vasa Members in the United States,
Canada and Sweden
from
Skandia Lodge #549
Edmonton, Alberta Canada

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all of you
from all of us at
Carl XVI Gustaf Lodge #716
Dallas, Texas

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Carl Widen Lodge #743
Austin, Texas

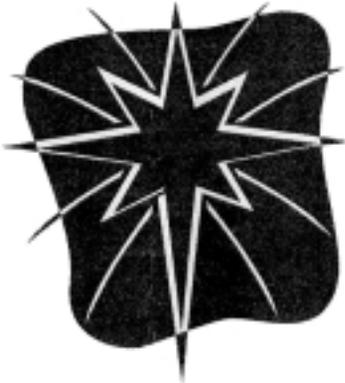


SILENT NIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Son of God, Love pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face.
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus Lord at thy birth.



Jul – och Nyårshälsningar från Distriktslogen Södra Sverige Nr 20

Distriktslogen Södra Sverige Nr 20

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas
alla Vasasyskon

Executive Board Members:

Catherine Bringselius Nilsson
Åke Mellnert Per-Olof Brink
Olle Wickström Bengt Hammargren
Ingrid Cannerhagen Ulf Alderlöf
Börje Gunnarsson Margareta Berg
Morgan Pålsson

Logen Ronneby Nr 630

önskar sina Vasasyskon
och Vänloger

En God Vasa Jul och
Ett Gott Nytt Vasa År

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasavänner
i USA, Kanada och Sverige

Gunnar och Siw Mossberg
PGLMEB

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Logen Höganäs Nr 634

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasavänner

**Bertil och
Ann-Margreth Ericsson**
GLMEB

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Logen Skåne Nr 570

Malmö

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Logen Nybyggarna Nr 698

Ängelholm

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
i USA, Kanada och Sverige

**Knut Rosenkvist
Maj-Lis Friedman**
Grand Lodge Deputy - DL Nr 20

Logen Calmare Nyckel Nr 628

önskar alla Vasasyskon
en God Jul och ett Gott Nytt År

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

**Göran och Catherine
Bringselius Nilsson**
DD LL Nr 680 och DM DL Nr 20

Distriktslogen Norra Sverige Nr 19

Unite Members and Lodges
Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year
to All Our Vasa Friends in the
US, Canada and Sweden
**Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt
och Inge Hallberg**
FDM. LL751 Norrköping



SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Sverige-Amerikamöte 28 juni 2008

Ett 60-tal Vasasyskon samlades till ett traditionellt sommarmöte på *Vikens Hemgård*. Ordförande Br Leif Larsson hade glädjen att hälsa Sy Ann-Marie Kinnison från Tucson Lodge Nr 691, Arizona, USA, välkommen till Sverige och vårt möte. Ett flertal gäster från andra loger hälsades också välkomna.

Br Ola Sandberg gav en utförlig redogörelse om Vasagolfen och BKL Sy Ingrid Berg rapporterade om den lyckade utfärden till Åhus.

En stilfull fanparad utfördes av Sy Bodil Larsson, Br Hans Bogren, Sy Gertrud och Br Kjell Green, prologen till fanorna lästes av Sy Ewy Blomgren.

Vid den efterföljande middagen serverades traditionsenligt kokt lax med tillbehör samt jordgubbar, glass och vispgräde. Kvällen fortsatte med dans till tonerna av Niklas Larssons fina musik och sedvanlig lottdragning. Vid årets dragning av Drömreselotteriet tillföll högsta vinsten 5.000:- Sy Mona och Br Bengt Bengtsson.

Kulturmöte lördagen den 13 sept. 2008

VO Sy Evy Lindstrand ledde med bravur kvällens förhandlingar. KL Br Hans Bogren berättade om när höganäsarna "gick till Jeppssons shop" i Worchester och LH Sy Birgit Olsson gav oss en roligt och intressant återblick till Vasaåret 1979.

Efter en god måltid med sjömansbiff, kaffe och kaka startades kvällens program med att vi fick lyssna till när Osten Warnerbring sjöng om Kiviks marknad och om kvällens ämne, *Fritjof Nilsson Piraten*, varefter Owe Bernenfelt höll ett intressant kåseri om sin tid som journalist och sitt samarbete med Fritjof Nilsson Piraten. Vi fick också höra många och roliga episoder ur denna författares liv.

Efter en stunds dans till husbandet vidtog den sedvanliga lottdragningen och lyckliga vinnare fick vin, choklad och blommor ur det rikliga vinstbordet.

Brödernas Afton

Inte mindre än 110 Vasasyskon, varav 58 gästande Ordenssyskon, samlades till *Brödernas Afton* den 11 oktober. Större delen av antalet gäster kom från LL

Vasa Star November-December 2008



Gertrud Green med Vasafanan vid den vackra fanparaden

Westervik Nr 679 och LL Blå Jungfrun Nr 749.

O Br Leif Larsson höll en stämningsfull parentation över bortgångna Sy Britta Ståhlberg. Kl Br Hans Bogren läste ett intressant brev från en man som på 1870-talet emigrerade till New York och LH Sy Birgit Olsson gjorde en rolig tillbak-

ablick på forna tiders Brödernas Aftnar. Vid efterkapitlet framförde bröderna ett bejublat program med sång, sketcher och historier, vilket framkallade många glada skratt och varma applåder.

Kvällen fortsatte med dans till 4-mannaorkestern Accord-centralen och avslutades med att Br Leif sjöng tillsammans med orkestern "We'll meet again."

På söndagsförmiddagen bjöd Höganäsloggen sina gästade Vasasyskon från Västervik och Oskarshamn på en rundtur i *Kullabygden* med förnämlig guidning av Sy Magdalini Kalivas Jönsson.

Ett besök hos en av bygdens keramik-er, Peter Nilsson, blev mycket uppskattat och turen avslutades med kaffe på *Albertsgården* i Farhult innan de gästade Vasasyskonen återvände hemåt med sin buss.

En fantastisk helg i sann Vasa-anda, som visar hur fint ett utbyte mellan logerna kan vara.

Submitted by: Berit och Hans Bogren
Picture by: Christer Hultberg

Logen Enköping Nr 646



Kräftkalas hos Ingrid och Alan Tamerfors.

Logen Enköping Nr 646 börjar sitt höstprogram med att samlas hos sy Ingrid och br Alan Tamerfors för att njuta av augustis kräftor.

Tillsammans började vi kvällen med lite allmänbildande frågesport där segraren blev Torbjörn From. Vi bjöds sedan till kräftbordet där två stora fat ljuvligt röda kräftorna låg upplagda för att intagas.

Våra kräftehattar kom på och sångerna började klinga ihop med surplandet av kräftorna och drycken.

Vår hedersmedlem Thore Gryse framförde deltagarnas tack för den trevliga tillställningen och kvällen fortsatte sedan med gemensam samvaro tillsammans med kaffe och dopp.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge

Logen Härnösand Nr 673

Lördag den 5:e juli var Vasa Ordens medlemmar med vänner traditionsenligt inbjudna till familjen Wigert i Brunne för att där tillsammans fira en gemensam *Sverige-Amerika-dag* i anslutning till att Amerika firar sin *Independence day* den 4e juli. Kalle Wigert hälsade alla välkomna och inledde dagen med parad för båda våra flaggor och en gemensam. "Du gamla du fria sjöngs."

Kjell Hamrin, som var dagens toast-master, fortsatte med att presentera *Brunne spelmän* som underhöll med både sång och spel. Dagens sommarbetraktelse höll Katarina Brunnström och där fick vi följa med henne på en cykeltur längs *Göta kanal* allt inramat av sång med ackompanjemang av av Per-Åke Söderkvist. Knut Nordqvist kom från Timrå och kunde trots ett antal år på nacken recitera dikter med verklig inlevelse. Katarinas berättelse påminde honom om dikten som också handlar om Göta kanal vilken vi då också fick höra. Dagens aktörer inbjöds på en härlig sommarbuffe där varken gravlax eller jordgubbar saknades. Picknicken smakade bra även den och att möta olika vänner samt få sig ett gott skratt tillsammans, gjorde alla gott.

Sundsvalls Logen deltog som vanligt och i år med fler deltagare än förra året, ett bevis på att man även där uppskattar att få träffas i Wigerts trevliga miljö. Kalle blir både glad och stolt över att se ett ökande intresse och han lovar att bjuda oss åtminstone ett par år till. Lilla två-åriga barnbarnet deltog nu för tredje gången.

Under ledning av Ulla-Britt Nordin med ackompanjemang av Bosse Selin och Sven Forsström deltog alla glatt i dagens allsång som bestod av diverse fina sommarsånger.

Familjen Wigert bjöd sedan på ett dignande kaffebord där alla försåg sig av allt det goda som bjöds. Ordf. Kalle Bäcklund framföra ett från alla hjärtligt tack för fantastisk dag.

Höstens första möte hölls den 19:e september. Kvällens ordförande Bengt Nyberg hälsade alla hjärtligt välkomna. I dagens dagordning ingick balloting för en ansökan om medlemskap i logen. Från Amerika hade brev kommit från John Dalmas *North Star Lodge #145*, Lennart Gohrn, *North Star Lodge #106* och Monica Shipley, *Norden Lodge #684*. Det är alltid lika roligt att höra om vad man sysslar med i Logerna i USA.

Barbro Sundgren är den som håller kontakten och berättar om vad vi gör här i "the old country."

Efter genomgången dagordning inbjöds vi till efterkapitel där kvällens värdpar dukat upp till en välsmakande måltid. I vanlig ordning såg Kjell Hamrin till att det blev ett muntert sjungande till både mat och dryck. Senare gav han oss en lektion i trafik genom exempel på vad som händer och vad vi kan göra för att förbättra den pågående hemska statistiken. Han hade införskaffat skrifter över sådant som gäller i trafiken, något som alla kan få gratis från Vägverket i Borlänge och från NTF. Kjell med benäget bistånd av hustrun Pia ska ha dagens eloge för en mycket trevlig men allvarlig lektion som väcker till eftertanke.

Bland vinster i kvällens lotteri fanns exempelvis en reflexväst. En som vanligt glad och trevlig samvaro gav denna dag något extra viktigt som gäller alla.

Submitted by: B. Sundgren
Picture: Ulla-Britt Nordin



Margit Nilsson Hjälper Kjell med sången.

DISTRIKTSLOGE NR 19 NORRA SVERIGE

inbjuder till distriktsmöte
den 21-23 maj 2009
I SÖDERKÖPING



Värdlogen Nr 751 BRÄVIKEN hälsar välkommen!



Inbjudan kommer i nästa nr

Vasavänner från Sverige besöker Vasavänner i USA

Under sista veckan i augusti 2008 passade medlemmarna från Logen Enköping Nr 646 Karl-Erik Axlesson, Anne-Sofie Hjort, Elisabeth Agge tillsammans med logemedlemmarna från Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563 Lars-Åke och Hillivi Sjöberg att besöka Logen Linde Nr 492. Vi bodde hos Jake Gruel och Marge Gruel i Linde Lodge som vi känt länge.

På lördagen var vi tillsammans med medlemmar från Linde logen till en kräftskiva hos Vasavännerna Rolf och Lisa Ekstrand. Vi bjöds på kräftor med tilltugg och hade det mycket trevlig tillsammans vilket gör det trivsamt inom *Vasa Orden av Amerika*.

Under de följande dagarna fick vi genom Gruels dotter Jan med make Vern Kamholtz, möjligheten att besöka en *Classic car utställning* vid namn *Masterpeice 2008*. Där fanns många fina veteranbilar av mycket hög klass. Senare var vi inbjudna av Marion Bruce på lunch där vi pratade "Vasaminnen" samt om hennes avlidne man och Vasavän Ken Bruce som gjort betydligt mycket för Vasa inom Linde logen. Han hade bl a snickrat ihop stora Dalarhästar och målat dem själv, de såg ut som om de var tillverkade i Sverige!

Vi träffade vidare Vasavännen Karen Malm som tillsammans med sina barn är Vasamedlemmar i Linde logen. Vidare besökte vi Wisconsin Club där Familjen Malm bjöd på middag. Vi hade mycket trevligt tillsammans och Karen passade även på att visa oss runt i detta exklusiva klubb-hus mitt i Milwaukee.

Harley Davidssons 105 års-jubileum firades den 29 augusti mitt i Milwaukee, 7500 motorcyklar deltog i paraden och det var ca 300 000 motorcyklar som hade samlats.

Under veckan umgicks vi med många Vasavänner och deras familjer, och vi svenskar kan inte med ord beskriva för andra hur det är att få sådana trevliga och kära vänner genom Vasa och Linde logen. En stor del har varit genom den gästfrihet som familjerna Gruels och Ekstrand visat oss under våra besök.

**Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge, LL
Enköping Nr 646**



Axelsson, Agge, Hjort och Sjöberg framför en Inter-State 45 Touring från 1913.



Våra Vasavänner och andra vänner i Milwaukee.

Emigrationskonferensen "Hands Across the Sea" i Mellerud

Solen sken efter veckor av regn, när människor strömmade till *Emigrationskonferensen* på *Kulturbruket i Mellerud*. Konferensen som varade i två dagar, designades på ett sätt som skiljer sig från traditionella konferenser och som blev mycket lyckat. Fredagens konferens bestod av en rundtur med buss, där föreläsningarna hölls på olika platser i Dalsland. Lördagen inbjöd till öppet hus för alla intresserade, både från närområdet och längre bort ifrån. Det erbjöds underhållning, hantverk, släktforskningsinformation, bokförsäljning, föreläsningar, kaffe och lotterier.

Fredagens bussresa började vid *Örtagården i Dals Rostock*, där man fick lära om örter och höra musik på nyckel-

harpa. Därefter besöktes *Lästviks Säteri* där deltagarna lärde sig mer om *Salt Lake City och Swenson Center* av Elisabeth Thorsell och samtidigt beundrade unika väggmålningar i stora salen. Färden gick vidare till *Gästis i Färgelanda* för lunch och som efterrätt höll *Släktforskarförbundets* ordförande Ted Rosvall föreläsning om svenska släktforskningskällor. Därefter reste man tillbaka till *Melleruds Museum* där Lilly Setterdahl berättade om och visade svenskar i Amerika, en rundvandring i museet och ett besök på avdelningen för släktforskning. Kvällen avslutades med middag på *Skötteruds gård* tillsammans med Vasaordens medlemmar.

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Emigrationskonferensen "Hands Across the Sea" i Mellerud

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Under lördagen kom cirka 250 besökare till *Kulturbruket*. Invgningen bestod av ett uppskattat teaterstycke, *Amerikabrevet*, skapat och framfört av ordföranden för *Vasa Orden av Amerika Logen Nr 644 Mellerud* och ordföranden för *Släktforskare på Dahl*. Ett annat omtyckt inslag var Owe Clapson, som uppträdde som *Fridolf Rhudin och Olle i Skratthult*. På kvällen bjöds det på en svensk buffé på *Dalslands gästgiveri i Ånimskog*, med fantastisk utsikt över sjön Ånimmen. Även här deltog Olle i Skratthult och hans musikanter. På söndag fanns möjlighet att delta i högmässan i *Skålleruds kyrka* för den som önskade det, och det gjorde våra amerikanska deltagare, varav vissa hade anknytning till Skållerud.

Arrangörerna vill gärna tacka både besökare och funktionärer. De är mycket nöjda med att så många besökte konferensen och med att så många medlemmar hjälpte till. För *Vasa Orden av Amerika Logen Mellerud Nr 644* har samarbetet med släktforskarna givit ett mervärde. Nu finns en lista på människor som gärna vill bli medlemmar i logen. Arrangörerna planerar nu för eventuellt en ny konferens med liknande design om två år, alltså 2010.

The Emigration Conference Hands Across the Sea in Mellerud

The sun started shining after weeks of rain, when people flocked in large numbers at the *Emigration Conference at Kulturbruket in Mellerud*. The conference that lasted for two days was designed in a way that differs from traditional conferences, which proved to be very successful. On Friday the conference included a bus tour, where the seminars were held in different locations across Dalsland. Saturday invited to an open house where anyone who was interested could join, both those who lived nearby and further away. There was entertainment, handicraft, and information about genealogy, book stores, seminars, coffee and lotteries.

The bus tour on Friday started at the *Herb Garden in Dals Rostock*, where you could learn about herbs and listen to *key fiddle music*. The participants then visited *Lästvik Manor* where they learned from Elisabeth Thorsell about *Salt Lake City and Swenson Center*, while looking at the unique wall paintings in the large meeting room. The tour went on to *Gästis restaur-*

rant in Färgelanda for lunch and a seminar by Ted Rosvall on the Swedish genealogy sources. Then back to *Melleruds Museum* and a seminar by Lilly Setterdahl on Swedish emigrants in America, a tour in the museum and a visit to the department for genealogy. The day ended with dinner at *Skötterud Farm*, where more members from *The Vasa Order of America Mellerud Lodge #644*, joined the group.

On Saturday about 250 visitors came to *Kulturbruket på Dal*. The opening contained a much appreciated theatre piece, *The Letter from America*, created and performed by the chair of *Vasa Order of America Mellerud Lodge #644* and the chair of the *Genealogy organization Släktforskare på Dahl*. Another appreciated performance was Owe Clapson, who acted as *Fridolf Rhudin and Olle i Skratthult*. In the evening the conference guests were invited to a Swedish buffet at

Dalslands gästgiveri in Ånimskog, with a magnificent view over Lake Ånimmen. Olle i Skratthult and his musicians also entertained during the dinner. On Sunday those who wished were invited to a service at *the church in Skållerud*. All the American guests joined the bountiful service. Some of them had connections to the parish.

The organizers would like to thank both the visitors and the functionaries. They are very happy that so many visited the conference and that so many of their members came to help. The collaboration with the genealogists has given the *Vasa Order of America Lodge 644 Mellerud* an added value. They now have a list of people who are interested in joining the lodge. The organizers are planning a possible conference within two years in 2010.

Submitted by: Anneli Andersson
Article written by: Eiwor Backelund,
Logen Mellerud Nr 644



Samling på Dalslands gästgiveri njuter av den vackra vyn.



Alla deltagare samlade framför Lästvik, Steneby i Dalsland.

YOUTH NEWS



Emma Thofson

Vasa Jr. Folk Dancers Linnea #14 Minnesota #7

Emma Thofson was selected as our 2008 Lucia and has been a member of the Jr. Folk Dancers for 10 years. She, along with her parents, David and Suzanne, are members of Runeberg Lodge #137, in Minneapolis, MN. Emma is a sophomore at Medford High School and enjoys doing artwork for set designs for the theater department. She started learning Swedish from her grandmother as a toddler. In 2006, along with her family, she visited Håsjö, Västanaede, Jämtland, Sweden, the area of her maternal great-grandmother. This past summer she received the Vasa Sjölundan Camp Scholarships.

Submitted by: Janice Lehman, DS

and the family, including 17-month older sister Karen, moved a few times before they settled in Montebello in 1947.

During Kathleen's childhood, the family made several trips to St. Anthony, IA, where her mother, Irma, was born and raised. Kathleen and Karin have many relatives there, and enjoyed spending time on Aunt Ruth's farm. The family also enjoyed an extended visit from Karin and Kathleen's Swedish grandparents, Anders and Anna Wendell, when Kathleen was 4 years old. Her father was born in Helsingborg, Sweden, and the girls still have relatives there.

Kathleen was a Vasa 1961 Grand Lodge Scholarship winner, and her college years were spent at Mt. San Antonio Junior College.

In the summer of 1961 Kathleen was elected Svea for the annual Midsummer weekend. In December she represented Oscar II Lodge as the traditional Lucia. Vasa, and the Swedish community and heritage as a whole, were very important to the family.

At the beginning of Kathleen's teen years she joined the Montebello Eaglets 4-H Club and was a member until she was 21 years old. Her projects included clothing and sheep.

She had an ewe who gave birth to twin lambs during one of their meetings. She was always very active in the club and it was a wonderful learning experience. She learned to ride a horse and became an expert horsewoman, along with two of her 4-H buddies, Pat and Linda. They always attended the 4-H fair in Pomona each fall and were winners of several ribbons through the years. After they left the 4-H Club the girls traveled the rodeo circuit in California and bordering states.

Kathleen's teen years were busy with another fun project – the Vasa Junior Folk Dance Club, which her father organized for his young daughters and other Swedish boys and girls of that age. He was the director of the club. It was a family activity and the girls enjoyed dancing at various events, including during the opening week at Disneyland in 1955.

Kathleen majored in Business in high school and college and was a whiz at typing and shorthand (it was before computers).

When Kathleen was 21, there was to be a big Vasa tour for six weeks to Sweden, with performances by American teenagers of Swedish descent. When her father was chosen the tour leader, she and her mother hastened to buy their plane tickets and go along for the ride. It was

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IN MEMORY OF

Karl Pedersen

Karl Pedersen, a long-time member of Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod, passed away on September 2nd, 2008, after a long illness. He was seventy-seven.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-five years, Dolores Lorentson Pedersen, a daughter, Elaine Soares and her husband Patrick, of Richmond, Surrey, England, a son, Karl Pedersen and his wife, Lynne, of Ogdensburg, N.J., and four much loved grandchildren, Hannah and Thomas of England, and Erik and Kelsey of New Jersey. He also leaves a sister, Sonja Hayes of Corpus Christi, Texas, and many loving nieces and nephews.

Karl was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of the late Ludvig and Gina Pedersen of Norway. Karl served in the Navy during the Korean War, spending over three years aboard the USS Worcester

A graduate of Bentley College, he retired from the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company Audit Department in 1991.

Karl was a member of the Baalis Sanford Masonic Lodge of Brockton and had been serving as Treasurer of Vinland Lodge. He was also an active volunteer at Cape Cod Hospital until his illness. Before moving to Bourne a few years ago, Karl and Dolores had been Sandwich residents for 23 years.

To know Karl was to have affection and respect for him. He was a physically and intellectually beautiful man with a character to match.

Unassuming and quiet though he was, Karl was an outstanding individual.

He will be missed by all of us.

Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman,
Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

Kathleen Wendell

Sept. 5, 1943 - July 18, 2007



Ellen Kathleen Wendell was born on September 5, 1943, in Los Angeles, CA, the second daughter of Andrew and Irma Wendell. She was a World War II baby,

Kathleen Wendell

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1964. A Flying Tiger Line propeller plane was chartered.

After picking up people in San Francisco, it took 35 hours to arrive in Sweden. The group returned in August and the following day Kathleen left for Hawaii where she lived for the next two years. She returned to California in 1966 to be a part of her sister Karin's wedding. Kathleen then moved to Hollywood where she lived and worked for the next 34 years.

In the 1970s, two very important events happened in Kathleen's life. She became an aunt to Jeffrey in 1971 and David in 1975. The whole family was elated. Kathleen enjoyed and loved her nephews immensely. Also fulfilling were her friendships. Kathleen had many friends and from many different areas, and interests, which were maintained through many years, she valued her friendships, and was supportive and loyal.

Kathleen's dream for retirement was to move to the desert, Tucson or Palm Desert, and work 2 or 3 days a week in some kind of job with animals. She wanted to live a simpler life, filled with family, friends, cats, laughter and good times.

She was a bright star among us and we are better people because she walked on this earth and touched our lives. We loved her so.

Kathleen's mother, Irma, was DM for Pacific Southwest #15 in 1975. Her father Andy was Grand Master, VOA, in 1978-1982. Kathleen was a member of the Mayflower Lodge, she also won a Grand Lodge Scholarship.

Submitted by: Elinor Thornton
Written by: Mother Irma Wendell

Walter Reinhold Johnson

Oct. 30, 1916 - June 21, 2008

Walter Johnson, a member of North Star Lodge #106, Los Angeles, CA, was an active member and contributed to the growth of our lodge especially with his financial expertise. Having served in several offices, his major role was as Treasurer.

Walt was born in Kingsburg, the Swedish-American farming community in the Central San Joaquin Valley. He was born to Swedish immigrants, Carl and Nellie Johnson. He spent his school years in Southwest Los Angeles, attend-

ing Manual Arts High School and UCLA.

Walt worked in aircraft and later became a building contractor, following the footsteps of his father. He married Lois Nelson, they had two daughters, Barbara and Gail, grandchildren Hilary and Joshua, and now a great-grandchild.

In addition to his North Star involvements (he had been leader of North Star's Drill Team), Walt became involved with Vasa Park since its inception and was instrumental with the development of the Park. Originally, ten acres were developed near the road and many years later, Walt supervised the development of an additional ten acres. Through his efforts and many labors of love, we have a beautiful Park. He will always be remembered for his strong dedication to Vasa Park. It seems rather fitting that he should leave this world on the Midsummer weekend.

During the many years of involvement, people gave 100% of their time voluntarily. We appreciate all that Walt has done not only for North Star, but for Vasa Park as well. Walt and Lois deserved the title of Mr. and Mrs. Vasa Park.

Walt was interested in horticulture. We enjoyed the many orchids he provided for our lodge occasions. He enjoyed



Walter Reinhold Johnson, member since 1932.

sports, was an avid skier, hiker and fisherman and he loved his adventurous trips with his entire family.

Walt also belonged to Vasa Sports Club and held offices there. Friends have many fond memories of him. In addition to leaving his family, he also leaves an elder brother, Harold, also in northern California. So long Mr. North Star – so long Mr. Vasa Park.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton

BOOK REVIEW

Dams, Jeanne M. *Crimson Snow.*

Palo Alto & McKinleyville, Calif.:

Perseverance Press/John Daniel & Co., 2005. 246 pp.

Those familiar with Jeanne M. Dams' historical mysteries have doubtless made the acquaintance of Hilda Johansson, the spunky Swedish-American maid turned detective who has gained fame solving crimes in early 1900s South Bend, Indiana. (For reviews of the first four series titles as well as other fictional works with a Swedish-American theme, see pp. 31-32 of the Nov./Dec. 2003 issue of *Vasa Star*.) Hilda's sleuthing skills are once again put to the test in *Crimson Snow* when she is drawn into a case involving the murder of a local school-teacher. This case has a personal side to it since Hilda's 13-year-old brother Erik, who debuted in *Silence Is Golden*, was one of the teacher's students.

Up to now Hilda has always managed to solve the cases that come her way. This time, however, the killer is proving exceptionally tough to track down. With

school suspended for the time being, Erik lends his aid in the case. As the second Johansson to take up crime solving, he is a character well worth watching.

As if Hilda didn't already have enough complications in her life, her Irish-American sweetheart is pressing her for marriage, a move opposed by both families. Following her heart may well take just as much courage as tackling mysteries.

Ms. Dams' *Crimson Snow* offers a little of everything – suspense, romance, and a historic look at the small-town mid-Western life of a century ago. Those who pick up this book are sure to be in for a thoroughly engrossing read.

On a side note: The mystery in this story is based on a real-life murder case.

Submitted by: Cindy Coan
cjcoan@dakotacom.net

Konstverk invigt till minne av utvandringen från Blekinge

I södra Sverige ligger Eringsboda, ett litet samhälle i Blekinge, Sveriges minsta landskap. Det kallas ibland för "Sveriges trädgård" på grund av sin vackra, leende natur.

Som bekant utvandrade många svenskar till Amerika mellan åren 1850 och 1920, även många från Eringsboda.

Ann-Christine Wernersson – Wiberg, som är lärare, har bedrivit en omfattande forskning om emigrationen till Amerika. Då hon skulle fylla 50, önskade hon sig inte några presenter för egen del. Hon hade en bättre idé. Hon ville ha pengar, en grundplåt, till ett monument som skulle påminna om de många Eringsboda-bor, som lämnat Sverige för ett förhoppningsvis bättre liv "over there."

Den 3 maj 2008 fick hon se sin önskan uppfyllt. Vid en högtidlig ceremoni vid hembygdsmuseet i Eringsboda avtäcktes en minnessten i närvaro av ett stort antal människor.

Ann-Christine Wernersson – Wiberg talade och även ordföranden i samhällsföreningen Anders Kjersgaard. Han sade bl.a.: "Eftersom det är fyra generationer sedan utvandringen från Eringsboda startade, skulle det i dag kunna finnas 50.000 personer i Amerika med rötterna i Eringsboda. Vilken återvändardag det skulle kunna bli!"

Bland de närvarande vid ceremonin fanns också konstnären och stenhuggaren Niels Elley, som fick mycket uppskattning för sitt konstverk.

Ann-Christine Wernersson-Wibergs födelsedagspresent har blivit en gåva till hela bygden, ett konstverk som i många år kan ses och beundras av besökare från både Sverige och utlandet.

**Källa: Blekinge Läns Tidning,
Submitted by: Gun Lith, SLKL**



Artwork unveiled in memory of the emigration from the county of Blekinge

In southern Sweden is Eringsboda, a small village in Blekinge, the smallest of Sweden's counties, famous for its beautiful scenery, sometimes called "The Garden of Sweden."

As we know, lots of Swedes immigrated to America from about 1850 until 1920, and so did many people from Eringsboda. Ann-Christine Wernersson – Wiberg is a teacher having done extensive research of the emigration to the US.

When she was turning 50, she didn't want to have any birthday presents. Instead of gifts she had a better idea. She wished for money to lay the base for a monument made in memory of all those who left Eringsboda for, hopefully, better lives 'over there.'

On May 3rd her wish was fulfilled. Many people had come to the park to

watch the unveiling ceremony at the old homestead museum of Eringsboda. Ann-Christine Wernersson – Wiberg made a speech and so did Mr. Anders Kjersgaard, the chairman of the society. He said: "As it's about four generations since the emigration from Eringsboda started, it's possible that about 50,000 people in America could have their roots here in Eringsboda. What a grand homecoming day it could be if they all returned at the same time!"

Present at the ceremony was, of course, Mr. Niels Elley, the artist and stone mason, whose work was very much appreciated.

Ann-Christine Wernersson – Wiberg's birthday present turned out to be a gift for the entire area, a piece of artwork that can be seen and be admired by visitors from Sweden as well as other countries for many years to come.

**Source: Blekinge Newspaper
Submitted by: Gun Lith, GLCD
Picture by: Gunnar Mossberg**



Minnesstenen i Eringsboda.

Lucia

Sweden is an egalitarian place these days, so any child can be chosen as Lucia for the annual procession at the local day-care centre, not just pretty ones with long blonde hair. The boys usually prefer to be brownies (*tomtar*) or “star boys” (*stjärngossar*) in the procession, while quite a few girls agree to be Lucia’s handmaidens (*tärnor*).

White gowns stars and candles

The real candles once used are now battery-powered, but there is still a special atmosphere when the lights are dimmed and the sound of the children singing grows as they enter from an adjacent room.

Tradition has it that Lucia is to wear “light in her hair,” which in practice means a crown of electric candles in a wreath on her head. Each of her handmaidens carries a candle, too. Parents gather in the dark with their new digital cameras at the ready.

The star boys, who like the handmaidens are dressed in white gowns, carry stars on sticks and have tall paper cones on their heads. The brownies bring up the rear, carrying small lanterns.

Competing to be Lucia

Competition for the role of Lucia can be tough. Each year, a national Lucia is proclaimed in one or other of the TV channels, while every town and village worth the name chooses its own Lucia. Candidates are presented in the local newspaper a couple of weeks in advance.

Staunchly opposed to privilege, Sweden has always sought to avoid ranking people, which is why beauty contests and “homecoming queen” events are rare. The Lucia celebration, however, has been an exception. Every year, local newspaper subscribers are invited to vote for one or other of the candidates.

You can no longer count on the blonde winning, although many a Miss Sweden has started out as the local Lucia. On Lucia Day, the winner is announced and is then driven around town, preferably in a horse-drawn vehicle of some kind, to spread light and song in food stores, factories, old-age homes and medical centers.

Lucia — the bearer of light

Alongside Midsummer, the Lucia celebrations represent one of the foremost cultural traditions in Sweden, with their clear reference to life in the peasant communities of old: darkness and light, cold and warmth.

Lucia is an ancient mythical figure with an abiding role as a bearer of light in the dark Swedish winters.

The many Lucia songs all have the same theme:

*The night treads heavily
around yards and dwellings.
In places unreached by sun,
the shadows brood
Into our dark house she comes,
bearing lighted candles,
Saint Lucia, Saint Lucia.*

All Swedes know the standard Lucia song by heart, and everyone can sing it, in or out of tune. On the morning of Lucia Day, the radio plays some rather more expert renderings, by school choirs or the like.

The Lucia celebrations also include ginger snaps and sweet, saffron-flavored buns (*lussekatter*) shaped like curled-up cats and with raisin eyes. You eat them with *glögg* or coffee.

The Feast of St. Lucia, celebrated on December 13, starts the Christmas season. St. Lucia is a symbol of light, marking the return of lighter days.

In the old almanac, Lucia Night was the longest of the year. It was a dangerous night when supernatural beings were abroad and all animals could speak. By morning, the livestock needed extra feed. People, too, needed extra nourishment

and were urged to eat seven or nine hearty breakfasts. This kind of feasting presaged the Christmas fast, which began on Lucia Day.

The last person to rise that morning was nicknamed ‘Lusse the Louse’ and often given a playful beating round the legs with birch twigs. The slaughtering and threshing were supposed to be over by Lucia and the sheds to be filled with food in preparation for Christmas. In agrarian Sweden, young people used to dress up as Lucia figures (*lussegubbar*) that night and wander from house to house singing songs and scrounging for food and schnapps.

The first recorded appearance of a white-clad Lucia in Sweden was in a country house in 1764. The custom did not become universally popular in Swedish society until the 20th century, when schools and local associations in particular began promoting it. The old *lussegubbar* custom virtually disappeared with urban migration, and white-clad Lucia’s with their singing processions were considered a more acceptable, controlled form of celebration than the youthful carousals of the past. Stockholm proclaimed its first Lucia in 1927. The custom whereby Lucia serves coffee and buns (*lussekatter*) date back to the 1880s, although the buns were around long before that.

Source: www.sweden.se

Legend of Santa Lucia

According to legend, Lucia was a medieval saint who carried food and drink to hungry folk in the province of Västmanland during a period of famine. She was seen across Lake Vänern, with her white gown and crown of lights, so today's costume uses the same gown and crown.

The Lucia legend is said to have originated in Syracuse on the island of Sicily. A young girl, about to be a bride, gave her entire dowry to the poor of her village and admitted she had become a Christian. She was accused of witchcraft and burned at the stake on December 13, 304 A.D. Much later in history, the early church declared her a Saint, Santa Lucia.

Italian artists sometimes picture her as a blind girl holding a lamp. There are many legends but in each one, Lucia stands for the symbol of light and hope to all mankind.

Santa Lucia's coming begins the feasting, merriment, singing and the spirit of friendliness and goodwill that lasts all through the holidays.

RECIPES

Santa Lucia Bread with Frosting

Ingredients:

One package yeast
1/4 cup lukewarm water
One cup scalded milk, cooled to lukewarm
3-3/4 cup sifted flour
1/4 cup melted margarine
1/2 cup sugar
One egg, well beaten
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. almond extract
1/8 tsp. crushed cardamom seeds

Frosting:

One egg yolk, slightly beaten
1-1/2 tsp. water
1-1/2 tsp confectioners sugar

Dissolve yeast in the water. Stir in 1/4 of milk. Add 1/2 cup flour, beat well, cover and let rise until light and puffy. Add rest of milk and two cups of flour, mix well, let rise again. Add margarine, sugar, beaten egg, salt, almond extract, cardamom seeds, and one cup of flour, knead on breadboard with remaining 1/4 cup of flour. Cover, let rise again. Either divide into three long ropes, braid and let rise again, or shape into small balls, place on greased baking sheets and let rise. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Let cool. Mix egg yolk, water and confectioners sugar, frost lightly.

Sweet Swedish Hardtack

Ingredients:

Two cups buttermilk
1/2 cup shortening, butter-flavored preferred
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. baking soda
Pinch of salt
About three cups flour

Cream sugar and shortening. Add buttermilk, baking soda and salt. Form into small balls and work flour into each ball as you roll them out with a rolling pin, enough flour so the dough does not stick to the rolling pin or table. Roll dough about 1/8 of an inch thin, bake on greased baking sheets at about 325 degrees for five minutes, checking frequently so they don't burn.

Submitted by: Pat Olson
Gota Lejon Lodge #251
From the Duluth News Tribune

Janssons Delight

I did not know where the name "Jansson's Temptation" comes from. In older Swedish cookbooks it is simply Anchovy Casserole, Anchovies au Gratin, or Ansjovisgratin. The saltiness works well in this dish. If you don't have a taste for anchovies, smoked salmon works, but you lose some of the saltiness. I usually crumble salmon, mix it with the bread crumbs and butter to top off the casserole.

Ingredients:

2 large onions, cut into 1/4 inch wide strips
14 fillets Swedish anchovies, or regular anchovies
6 potatoes, peeled and cut into strips
1-1/2 cup heavy cream
2 tblsp. dry bread crumbs
1 tblsp. melted butter

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Butter a 9x13 inch baking dish. Saute sliced onions in 1 tablespoon butter. Peel potatoes and cut into lengthwise strips. Cover the bottom of the dish with a layer of potatoes, then evenly top with onions, and then with anchovy fillets. Place another layer of potatoes on top of the anchovies (pour in a little juice from the anchovy can).
2. Place onto a baking sheet to catch any cream which bubbles over.
3. Bake in a moderate hot oven (400 degrees). Add 3/4 cup cream after 10 minutes, and the remainder after another 10 minutes. Then, after 20 minutes (after 40 minutes cooking time), mix bread crumbs together with the melted butter, then sprinkle over top of the potatoes, reduce heat to 300 degrees F, and bake

until done. Casserole is ready when potatoes are soft, the cream has reduced and the dish has turned a deep golden brown. About 45 minutes total cooking time. Serve immediately from baking dish.

Preparation Time: 30 minutes

Cooking Time: 45 minutes

Ready in 1 hour and 15 minutes

Recipe Yield: One 9x13 inch pan

Submitted by: Barry Ostrom
Tre Kronor Lodge #713

Cinnamon and Rice Pudding

Anthony Bourdain, chef, author, and now host of the *Travel Channel's Show*, "No Reservations," commented on the show's various culinary destinations and admitted being drawn to what he called "...a *dark or kooky side" and said he learned his lesson from taking the crew to Sweden, where "everybody's happy and everything works. Hate that."

Here's another, much cheerier, item from "EatSmart" by *Jean Carper*. She quotes a Swedish study, which says, "Adding cinnamon to rice pudding slows digestion and steadies blood sugar." It goes on to say that "...rapidly digested foods are more likely to spike blood sugar and insulin, factors that promote diabetes and overeating." Healthy people who added 2.5 tps of cinnamon to a 10.5 oz bowl of rice pudding had blood glucose levels approximately half as high (90 min. after eating) as those who ate plain rice pudding.

Source: Nobel Monitor #130
October News Letter,
Cleveland, Ohio



Welcome To Our New Members

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

Tore Kellgren, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman

5971 W. Walbrook Dr.

San Jose, CA 95129

E-mail: tore@kellgren.org

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

Nordic #611

Eunice Koontz
Edward Voosen
Ruth Voosen
Birka #732
Andrea Holmgren
Ron Holmgren

DL NEW YORK NO. 4

Nobel-Liljan #64

Mary Tursi

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Dalahast #742

Barbro Barnes
Sonja Ongsiako

DL MINNESOTA NO. 7

Stenback #138

Natalie Barry
Gota Lejon #251
Shaun Bendel

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Viljan #349

Muriel Anderson
Linde #492
Anne-Sofie Hjort
Kay Nickolett
Svea #253
Anne Sharp
Jean Keith
John Bevelhimer

DL SUPERIOR NO. 10

Superior #423

Deborah Bengry
Mary Kratzke
Mary Vertanen
Framat #463
Connie Schmidt

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Siena Kronan #737

Anne-Marie Pearson
John Pearson

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Norden #233

Dorothy Blackmun
Larry Gerding
Judy Hamilton
Margaret Mahon
Dale Palmberg
Heidi Stone
Amy Weisbeck
Solidaritet #396

Dee Shimmel

Frihet #401

Brenda Bard
Ione Bard
Mark Boehm
George Boxrz
Nicolaidis Evangelos
Erik Frandsen
Lisa Larsen
Janelle MacDicken
Lois Morgensen
Ryan Swan
Sabrina Swan
Harmoni #472

Deidre Meaney
Olympia #550

William May
Greg Nordlund
Tre Kronor #713
Carin Hemshorn
Clay Morod
Geraldine Morod
Alex Wolfe
Laura Wolfe

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Skandia #247

Scott Shelly
Golden Valley #616
Britta Eriksson
Goran Eriksson
Jonas Fornander
Tyler Holstein
Gertie Lingstrom
Sven-Olof Lingstrom
Jessica Osman
Lena Osman

Stephen Osman
William Osman
Kristina Thorsen
Justin Winokur
Glenn T. Seaborg #719
Thomas Jahn
Jennifer Larson
Ashley Vikander
Jon Vikander

DL NORRA SVERIGE NO. 19

Lidkoping #636

Camillia Carlsson
Thomas Carlsson
Gudrun Larsson
Ove Larsson
Kongahalla #702
Birgitta Akerstrom
Kjell Jansson
Doris Johansson
Bo Johansson
Holger Nilsson
Inger Nilsson

DL SODRA SVERIGE NO. 20

Calmare Nyckel #628

Agne Haggqvist
Britt-Marie Haggqvist
Leigh Thompson
Ronneby #630
Ingemar Sergard
Nybyggarna #698
Bertil Balsson
Lena Balsson
Gotran Johannesson
Inger Johannesson
Goran Nilsson
Inger Nilsson
Bertil Palsson
Lena Palsson

ARIZONA NO. 21

Scandia #728

Frederick Lindquist
Nordic Rocks #760
Asa Carlomagno
Sal Carlomagno

HAPPENINGS

Politically Involved, No Matter What Age

Our entire country has been experiencing an increasing interest in the political process during this year's Presidential election. People in Northwest Indiana are no different. The photo pictured shows the scope of support being given to Barack Obama's campaign.

Munster, Indiana resident, Ruth (Swanson) Mertes is ninety-two years "young" and the oldest member of Nordik Folk #761, expressed a desire to be a part of this historic effort and spent a Sunday, October 26, at the Schererville Obama campaign office doing clerical duties such as sorting material and shredding documents.

In the photo next to her is twelve years old Aidan, the youngest campaign worker in the office, he enthusiastically volunteered to make phone calls to local residents, urging them to vote in the coming election. These two individuals are eighty years apart in age – yet they both share the same hopes and dreams for the future of our America! Watching them both go about their "jobs" was a real treat for the rest of the many volunteers there on Sunday afternoon. They both serve as an inspiration to all of us. Getting involved in the political process is something that every citizen can do!

**Submitted by: DM Linda Josefsson
Smith of District Lodge PA #9**



The image of Barack Obama is taken in the front of the campaign office where Ruth and Aidan stood beside the life-sized cardboard cut out of the Democratic presidential nominee.

My New Vasa Connection

I moved, two years ago, to Minnesota's famous Wilhelm Moberg's area of Kichi Saga. I still retain my 53 years membership in Lodge Baltic-Framat #360, New Jersey District #6. I was also leader for 47 years of the former Children's Club, Gullvivan #117.

There isn't a Vasa lodge nearby, but this area has a "Kichi Saga Swedish Club." This club sponsors a children's dance club, led by my daughter-in-law, Chris and with my son Karl playing the accordion. They are both members of Kronan Lodge #433 in St. Paul. For the first time after many years, the Kichi Saga Club sponsored a children's Swedish language class. I organized this class for 15 local children, ages 5 to 11 years. They all were descendants of the original Swedish immigrants who settled this very Swedish area. For five mornings at the end of July, I taught them simple Swedish language and songs. I also had some friends help with with some Swedish crafts. The main item that each child made, to take home, was a beautifully decorated miniature wooden "Majstång." It is amazing that this small area of "Kichi Saga," consisting of five small towns that the 15 children's heritage goes back: Småland, Blekinge, Östergötland, Närke, Uppland, Värmland and Dalarna. Of course, Småland had the most, with nine children, just as Wilhelm Moberg's fictitious characters "Karl Oskar & Kristina" and others came from there. On the last day of class of this one week, the enthusiastic children asked, "are we doing this again next year?"

Since the majority of these children were unknown to me prior to this class, I encountered a couple of interesting facts. First there was Erin Sandell, whose grandmother (farmor) Irene Sandell, is a member of Framåt Lodge #166 in Sandstone, MN. I had met her over a year ago when we visited that lodge. The Vasa meeting was held at her home as they were celebrating a member's 90th birthday with a party. On the last day of my Swedish class, Erin arrived wearing a beautiful Dalarna dräkt, which belonged to her farmor. This brief class really sparked the interest of these children to their Swedish heritage.

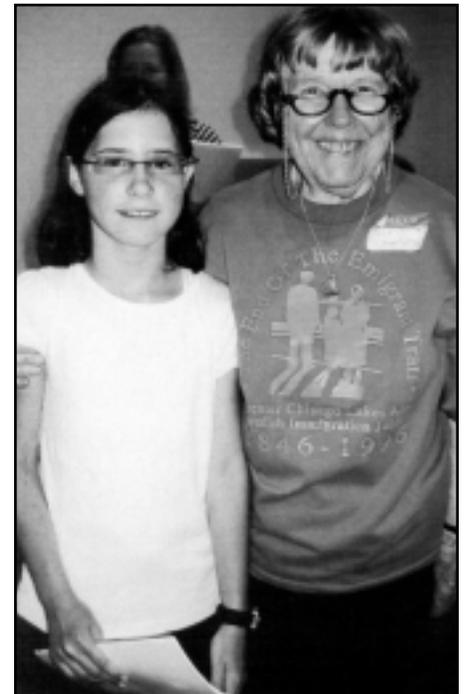
The other interesting fact is that another girl named Faith Freeman is a close relative of the man, who in 1948,

let Wilhelm Moberg borrow his son's bicycle. This son was still in the Armed Forces at that time. Moberg used this bicycle to ride around this "Kichi Saga" area interviewing everybody who had a story or fact to tell. Moberg then incorporated all of this into the fictitious characters in his four novels. These books are so widely read in Sweden that many Swedish tourists visit all the famous landmarks here every year.

I still enjoy passing on my knowledge of Swedish culture to children. I am the daughter of a Swedish born father from Skåne and my mormor came from Södermanland.

Since moving here, we have also visited a Kronan Lodge's meeting. We are an hour's drive south from that lodge in St. Paul. Then we have about an hour and a half drive north to a Lodge Framåt meeting. So at our age, it is not an easy drive to attend these lodges on a monthly visit.

Submitted by: Charlotte Ruser



Erin Sandell with teacher Charlotte Ruser - July 2008.



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

ARIZONA

UNO KASPERSON, member of Mayflower Lodge #445, Inglewood, CA, passed away on June 6, 2008, at the age of 93. He was born in Nebraska on December 28, 1914 and joined Mayflower Lodge #445 on June 5, 1945. He received his 25-year pin, Life Member, 40-year pin, and 50-year pin.

ELEANORE TOOMEY, member of Tucson Lodge #691 since April 1997, passed away in Tullahoma, TN, on June 1, 2008. She was born in Gladstone, MI, on April 3, 1920, and has been buried next to her husband in Tucson, AZ. She held many offices.

CALIFORNIA

KENNETH KENYON passed away on July 5, 2008, in Thousand Oaks, CA. He was born on October 30, 1930, in Philadelphia, PA. He became a Charter Member of Oak Leaf Lodge #685 on September 29, 1968. He served as Chairman and held many other offices. Kenneth is survived by his wife of 49 years, MaryAnn, sons Kenneth Jr. and Norman, grandchildren, and two brothers.

FLORIDA

PHILIP DAVID BROWN of Holly Hill, FL, passed away August 30, 2008. He was born February 8, 1921, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and is survived by two daughters and one son. Philip had been a dearly loved member of Vasa Jubilee Lodge #692 for 5 years and will be greatly missed.

CHARLES WARREN JAKOBSEN of DeLand, FL, passed away June 2, 2008. He was born September 27, 1923, in Brooklyn, NY, and is survived by three daughters. Charles was a faithful member for 10 years and a Past Vice Chairman of Vasa Jubilee Lodge #692 in DeLand, FL. He will be greatly missed.

NEBRASKA

EDWARD E. IRELAND was born January 1, 1927, and passed away April 13, 2008, at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife Jackie, daughters Debbie and Heidi, son Kevin, and family friend Bernie Lainson. Ed joined Omaha Lodge #330 on October 14, 1978.

MARJEAN F. SACK was born October 2, 1947, and passed away March 11, 2008, at the age of 60. She is survived by her husband Norm, mother, Norma Hansen, sisters and brothers. Marjean joined Omaha Lodge #330 on February 9, 1997.

OHIO

ELIZABETH D. PELLER (nee Kretz), was born in Malmo, Sweden, and passed away on August 21, 2008, one day shy of her 91st birthday. She was the beloved wife of the late Harry, mother of Dagny Gamm (Gregory) and Neal Peller (Kim), and grandmother. Elizabeth was a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 since June 11, 2000.

OREGON

ROGER A. BERG passed away on August 21, 2008, in Astoria, OR, at the age of 86. Roger was born in Willmar, MN, on May 13, 1923, and was initiated into Astor Lodge #215 in Astoria on January 5, 1989. He is survived by his wife Lorraine, three sons, five grandchildren, two sisters and one brother.

WASHINGTON

EDWIN T. BULIN, 83, of Kelso, WA, passed away September 6, 2008, in Portland, OR. He was born July 14, 1925, in Kelso, WA. He is survived by his wife Hildur, one son and one daughter, grandchildren and two great-grandsons. He became a member of Svea Lodge #469 on October 14, 1966. He was also a member of the District Pacific Northwest #13.

WALLACE HELLMAN of Port Angeles, WA, passed away July 7, 2008, at the age of 87. Wallace was a sergeant in the Army Air Corps from 1942-45 during WWII. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, son Terry, and daughter-in-law, Jodi. He was a member of Norrskenet Lodge #189, Hoquiam, WA.

WISCONSIN

GEORGE CHILDERS of West Allis, WI, died August 16, 2008, at the age of 88. He will be dearly missed by his wife Arleen, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. George loved the great outdoors and took up woodcarving when he retired. He was a member of Linde Lodge #492 for 21 years and will be greatly missed.

JANICE TOUVE of Franklin died September 29, 2008, at the age of 77 years. She will be dearly missed by husband Les, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as many relatives and friends. Janice enjoyed all things Scandinavian, and was a member of Linde Lodge #492 for 35 years and will be greatly missed by all of the members.

RALPH SCHEELE of West Allis died June 9, 2008, at the age of 73 years. He left a wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren behind as well as many relatives and friends. Ralph was a member of Linde Lodge #492 for 2 years and will be missed by all of the members.

CANADA

DOROTHY EVELYN JOHNSON (nee Green) was born April 5, 1915, in Wawanesa, Manitoba. Dorothy passed away in Winnipeg on October 7, 2008, at the age of 93. She was initiated into Lodge Strindberg #259, Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1988. She was very active in the Swedish community until her health started failing.

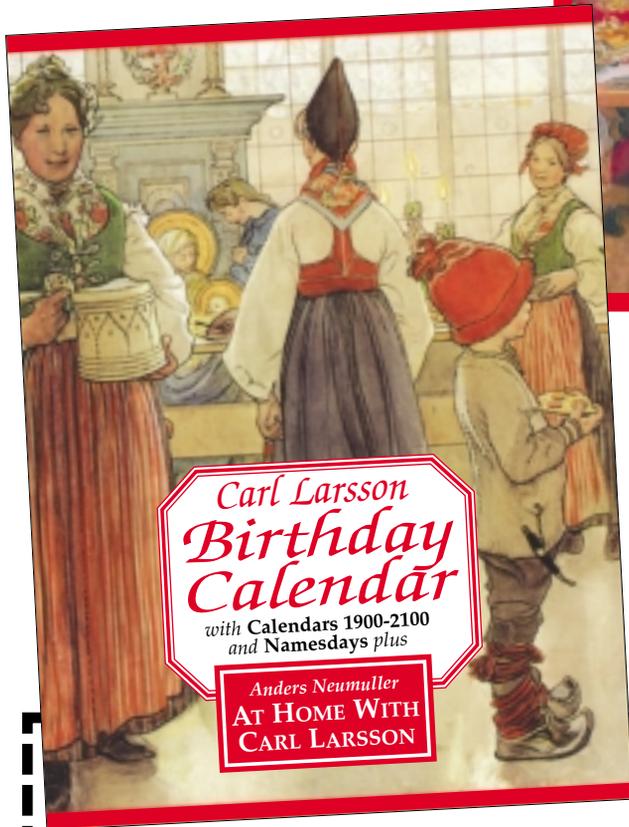
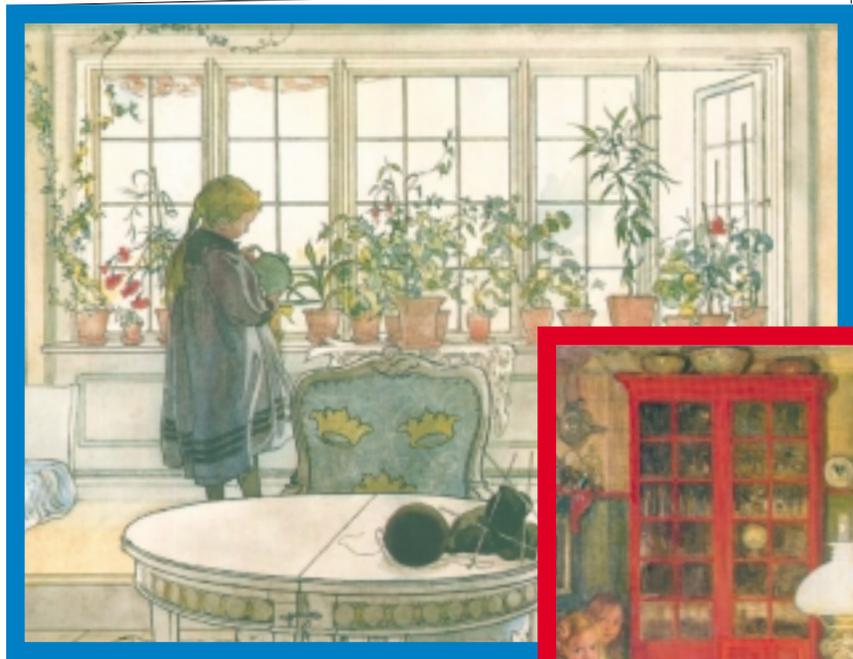
MEMORIAL NOTICES

should be mailed with check or money order to: Marie Carlson, 9560 Curberry Drive, Mentor, OH 44060. The fee is **\$8.00 for 1 column inch**. **Longer obituaries will be charged a flat rate of \$25.00**. All notices **MUST** be typed and **WRITTEN** in a format similar to those in this column. **NO** newspaper clippings.

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