

# THE VASA STAR



## *Vasastjärnan*

MARCH-APRIL 2009



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



# The Grand Master's Message



Rolf Bergman

Dear Vasa Brothers and Sisters:

*I am happy to give this space to Lynda Smith, Grand Lodge Youth Director, USA and Canada. Please read her message carefully and consider attending the Grand Lodge sponsored Youth Seminar she is coordinating. Rolf*

Winter is fading away, and dreams of Lucia and "Jul" are fading with it. Meanwhile, springtime is around the corner, soon to be followed by "Midsommar". All of these happy annual occasions celebrated by Swedes and the other Nordic countries would not be the same, without the participation of children. They add something special to the wonder and joy of the seasons!

Our Vasa Order is dedicated to celebrating the rich cultural heritage of customs, traditions and ideals of our ancestors. We do this through our lodge activities, be they local, district or Grand. Although children are often included in our lodge celebrations, they cannot become official members until their 14th birthday. So, how do the young ones learn about their culture and about Vasa? The best way possible is through membership in a **Vasa Children's Club!** There are many such Clubs scattered all across our continent. Some densely populated areas have several clubs; some states have none at all. These Clubs are wonderful training grounds for our youth, and a great source of new members that include their parents, grandparents and friends.

At the present time, we have 25 active Children's clubs. Through the years, 210 Clubs have received official charters so most are now inactive. However, the first club, Elsa Rix #1, founded in DL New York #4, is still going strong with over 40 members. They meet on a regular basis and concentrate their efforts on music and folk dancing. They perform for public events in their geographic area as well as for Vasa lodge affairs. Their leaders work hard to keep the young members busy and interested in learning about their Swedish culture. The newest club is Sveaskolan #210, founded during the past year in Indianapolis. They have been fortunate to have a teacher from Sweden who is giving language lessons to the children. They also learn music which they share with their local lodge at Lucia and other special events. Some of our Clubs concentrate only on folk dancing. Others are busy learning a mix of music, dance, crafts, language and other interesting things about Sweden. No two Clubs are the same, yet they are all doing their part in passing on knowledge and creating interest in the Swedish culture.

It only takes seven children to start a Children's Club; we have Clubs ranging from seven members up to over 40. The most active of these groups meet weekly or bi-weekly, dur-

ing the school year. Some of the less active ones only get together monthly. Sometimes great distances must be traveled by members and their teachers, so meeting often, or during bad weather, is not possible. Some Clubs hold their own fund raisers. Others receive funding from their district or local lodge.

In a perfect world, every local lodge would have a Children's Club affiliated with it! Just think of how much knowledge and talent exists in our lodges and how great it would be to be able to share that knowledge by passing it on to future generations. Lodges need to think 'outside the box' when they consider starting a Club for Children. It could include children from around their locale who are Swedish, or are merely interested in Nordic culture, and need not be limited to just children and grandchildren of members. Every leader of a Children's Club must be a Vasa member, but the children members do not. What a wonderful opportunity to introduce them AND their families to our Order. What a great way to find new families to invite to join our lodge!

The Grand Lodge has a CD available ("*How to Start a Children's Club*") containing information and ideas to help one start a **new** Children's Club or assist an existing Club interested in finding new members and implementing new activities. This CD is **FREE** and can be either mailed or emailed to any Vasa member. In addition, the Grand Lodge also publishes a *Songbook* that contains many traditional songs for children to learn and perform. It can be purchased through the VGS, Helen Mingram (see inside cover or [vasaorder.com](http://vasaorder.com) website or for contact information).

In the interest of helping our Clubs with ideas and materials to carry out their programs, the Grand Lodge is sponsoring a workshop this summer. One leader from each Children's Club has been invited to attend, as well as all District Youth Supervisors. Lodging, meals and activities will be designed to create a forum for sharing the collective knowledge of all the participants. Leaders attending will be asked to share their success stories. Written information about specific lessons and activities will be compiled into a collection of resources; it will become available to all Clubs.

Children are our future! Please consider what YOU can do to enrich the lives of our Vasa Children. Start a Club; volunteer to help a club; get involved! We need everyone's help!

Lynda Ann Smith  
Grand Lodge Youth Director

Published by:  
**Vasa Order of America**  
vasaorder.com

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**Advertising Prices:**

Full Page Black and White	\$500.00
Half Page Black and White	\$275.00
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One Column Inch	\$ 30.00
Half Page Color	\$500.00
Full Page Color	\$800.00

Available only for inside front cover, inside back cover or back cover.

10% discount for Vasa Lodges and Members

THE VASA STAR (ISSN 0746-0627) is published bi-monthly by the Vasa Order of America. Periodicals postage paid at Richmond, CA, and additional entries.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Vasa Star, P.O. Box 69997, Oro Valley, AZ 85737-0025.

**Deadlines for The Vasa Star:**

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st  
March/April is Feb. 1st  
May/June is April 1st  
July/Aug. is June 1st  
Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st  
Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

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

**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**Please consider supporting the DL PA #9 in its Grand Lodge fund drive through the raffle tickets in the center of this issue.**

*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.

Please send pictures of **good quality** in order for them to reproduce well in The Vasa Star. Electronically submitted photos should be scanned in JPEG format at a resolution of 300 dpi.

**For submitted Lodge articles, please add city and state. Thanks!**

**AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR**

**Todd Anderson**

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The Vasa website at [www.vasaorder.com](http://www.vasaorder.com) contains a “materials button” which has the listing of audio visual materials available.

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

**CORRECTION**

**Andrew Pettersson-dagen** som arrangeras av *Logen Småland Nr 618* är flyttad från den 4 juli till den 17:e och 18:e juni 2009. Den 17 juni är det premiär för Musikalen *Andrew Peterson The Genuine Pioneer Story*. See [www.andrew-peterson.se](http://www.andrew-peterson.se)

**Andrew Pettersson-Day** that is arranged by the *Lodge Småland Nr 618* has moved from the 4th of July to the 17th and 18th of June 2009. The premier of the musical *The Andrew Peterson the Genuine Pioneer Story* will be on the 17th of June. See [www.andrewpeterson.se](http://www.andrewpeterson.se)

Submitted by: Jan Hermelin

**Cover:**

*Snart är det vår!  
Soon spring is here!*

Picture by: Inge Hallberg, *Logen Bråviken Nr 751*

# Letter from the Editor



As many of you already know, Sweden has some big news to share, happy news! Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria and her special friend for many years, Daniel Westling, were given consent to marry by his Majesty the King of Sweden, and the Swedish Government. I remember when Queen Silvia and his Majesty's engagement and wedding were announced; everyone was "glued" in front of the TV to get a glimpse of the ever so popular Queen Silvia. Look under *Happenings* for further information!

Easter is upon us, and there is a piece written about the Swedish traditional Easter celebration under *Culture*. In this section you can also find an interesting story about a place called *Stensjö by* (Stensjö village) in the province of Småland that might be an interesting side trip for people planning their vacation in Sweden this year. This is a place where you can travel back in time! In a similar vein, one of our members attended the *Emigration Conference in Dalsland* last summer and took a step back in time. Look under *Happenings*.

I proof read the *Vasa Star* many times before going to print including the obituaries of our dear departed *Vasa* Members. The generation born during the early 1900's has experienced so much change during their lifetime, and not many will know their stories of struggle and hardship. One obituary that I read caught my interest since she was born 'at sea' north of Scotland! I wish there was a way to share their stories for future generations so we won't forget them!

I need to inform everyone, even though it is early, that the Lucia articles for 2009 should be limited to information about the year's chosen Lucia and Lucia program. This is a change needed to accommodate our limited publication space.

On the cover of this issue we have something many of us are looking forward to: flowers underneath a bright blue sky!

Marie

*"Ladies and gentlemen, look outside; open the window for a minute!*

*The clarity of winter seems to melt away and disappear, for every minute that passes by."*

- Carl Michael Bellman "Epistel Nr 42"

## Brev från Redaktören

Många av er vet antagligen att Sverige har en stor nyhet att förmedla, glada nyheter! *Kronprinsessan Victoria* och hennes speciella vän sen många år, Daniel Westling, har givits samtycke till att ingå äktenskap av HM Konungen och av regeringen. Jag kommer ihåg när Drottning Silvias och HM Konungens förlovning och bröllop annonserades, en sats som "fastklitrad" framför TN:n för att kunna få en titt på, den alltid så populära, Drottning Silvia. Titta under *Happenings* för ytterligare information!

Påskan närmar sig och det finns en artikel om det svenska traditionella påskfirandet under *Culture*. I denna del kan du också hitta en intressant historia om en ort som heter *Stensjö by* i Småland, som kanske kan vara intressant för dem som planerar sin semester i Sverige i år. *Stensjö by* är en plats där du kan resa bakåt i tiden! En av våra medlemmar gjorde något liknande genom han deltog i *Emigrations konferensen i Dalsland* förra sommaren och på ett sätt, tog ett kliv bakåt i tiden. Titta under *Happenings*!

Jag läser *Vasastjärnan* fram och tillbaka många gånger innan den går till tryck. I detta läsandet ingår även dödsannonserna över våra kära Vasamedlemmar som avlidit. Denna generation som föddes i början av 1900-talet har erfart så många förändringar under sin livstid och många av deras historier får ingen lära känna, om hur de kämpade och slet. Det fanns en dödsannons rörande en avlidit medlem som jag uppmärksammade eftersom hon var född 'till havs' norr om Skottland! Jag önskar att de alla kunde skriva ner sina historier för vår framtida generation, så vi inte glömmer!

Jag måste nämna, även om det är i tidigaste laget, att årets lucia artiklar kommer att begränsas till att endast innehålla information över detta års valda lucia och luciaprogram. En liten förändring, som också har att göra med vårt begränsade utrymme.

På omslaget av denna upplaga tror jag att vi har något som många ser fram emot; blommor under en klarblå himmel!

Marie

*"Men mitt herrskap titta ut, öppna fönstret en minut!*

*Vinterns skärpa tycks bortrinna och försvinna var minut."*

- Carl Michael Bellman "Epistel Nr 42"

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# ARCHIVES NEWS

## Coffee Culture Among Swedes

Traditions associated with food and drink last longer with greater continuity than most other ethnic expressions of heritage. Swedes and Swedish-Americans see herring in its various recipes, hard tack, caviar, “bondost,” “lingon,” “potatiskorv,” among other foods (“palt,” anyone?), as distinctive touchstones in the Swedish cultural landscape. But what could be more essential than our beloved cup of coffee? The act of gathering around the coffee table, for us Swedes, punctuates all else that one experiences in the world.

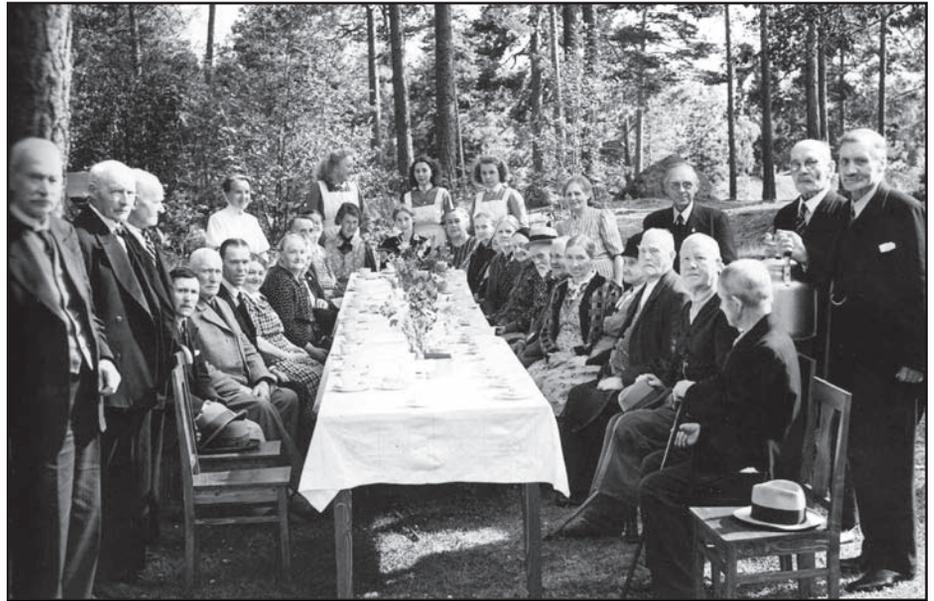
In good faith, the *Vasa Archives* preserves examples of Swedish coffee culture for visitors to appreciate. Tools needed to make coffee, artistic depictions of coffee moments, as much as the tales of sharing the warm drink are all in evidence.

A coffee grinder made in Sweden and given to a newlywed couple in 1889 is on display among our antique tools and household implements. This grinder, made entirely of wood, is in two pieces, one a wheel with handles on either side like a rolling pin, and the other a trough through which the wheel roles to crush roasted coffee beans.

Hanging in our office area is a large needle-point piece on a linen background, depicting two women in long dresses drinking coffee at a trestle table in a summer garden circa 1900. One woman is blowing on the coffee that she’s poured into her saucer to cool it, while the other woman is dipping a small cookie in her cup. It is a blissful-looking scene surrounded by summer flowers in full bloom. Underneath is stitched *Kaffetåren den bästa är Af alla jordiska drycker* (A drop of coffee the best is Of all earthly drinks).

Also, included in our ongoing exhibit, “A trip through the Swedish Countryside” by Jake Gruel, is a photographic depiction of a table handsomely set for afternoon coffee circa 2000. Swedes hosting their American visitors covered the table with a fine white cloth, prepared “smörgåstårta,” several kinds of cookies, and served coffee in delicate porcelain cups.

Swedish and American hospitality flows both ways when it comes to coffee. Those of you who have researched min-



*Swedish seniors in Spånga parish, just north of Stockholm, enjoying American coffee 1942.*

utes from Vasa meetings in the 1940s know that the *Vasa Order of America* sent packages of coffee to senior citizens in Sweden during the war years when coffee was rationed and difficult to find. It was apparently a very large operation that members in America got behind to give comfort to folks living in service homes across Sweden. Personnel in these facilities from practically every region wrote beautiful letters of gratitude, and some sent photos, back to the Vasa organization. This correspondence was collected and bound by members of District Lodge 19 in Sweden and presented to the Grand Lodge on the occasion of Vasa’s fifty-year jubilee in 1946. These two bound volumes now reside in the *Vasa Archives*, attesting to the heartfelt feeling of goodwill that sharing coffee may bring among Swedes.

### Sammanfattning på Svenska

Kaffekultur är mycket viktig bland svenskar och det faktum representeras väl på *Vasa Arkivet*. Vi har till exempel en gammaldags kaffekvarn gjord av trä från 1889, en fin handbroderad väggbonad som föreställer två kvinnor som dricker kaffe i trädgården cirka 1900 och några bilder i den pågående foto utställningen som skildrar kaffestunder under resan i Sverige på 2000-talet. Särskilt spännande gällande Vasaorden, är två böcker innehållande tack brev till Vasa Orden av Amerika från svenska ålderdomshem för kaffeförsändelser under krigsåren som är samlade och bundna av Distriktslogen Nr 19 Sverige och som överlämnades till Storlogen vid 50-årsjubileet 1946.

**Submitted By: Lars Jenner,  
Archivist/Manager, VOA National  
Archives, 109 S Bishop Hill St., Bishop  
Hill, IL 61419**



# Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

## LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 17

Thank you for the wonderful comments about these lessons. We really enjoy preparing them and try to make them fun for you all...or y'all as they say here in Tennessee. We will continue the lessons about the twins preparing a meal for their parents, Erik and Ingrid, as they are celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary. We will find out in our next lesson what the meal will be.

### NYA ORD/NEW WORDS

innan	before
affär, -en, -er	store
att fråga, frågar, frågade, frågat	to ask
att kunna, kan, kunde, kunnat	to be able to, could
att få, får, fick, fått	to get
pengar	money
nej	no
att bjuda, bjuder, bjöd, bjudit	to treat, offer, invite
att betala, betalar, betalade, betalat	to pay
varken (eller)	neither (nor)
hemma	at home
bank, -en, -er	bank
att behöva, behöver, behövde, behövt	to need (something)
tyvärr	unfortunately
stängd	closed
att undra, undrar, undrade, undrat	to wonder
att lösa, löser, löste, löst	to solve
problem, -et, ---	problem
först	at first
att fråga, frågar, frågade, frågat	to ask
att vänta, väntar, väntade, väntat	to wait
tills	until
öppnades	(to be) opened
att tycka, tycker, tyckte, tyckt	to think
bra idé	good idea
att låna, lånar, lånade, lånat	to borrow
hur mycket	how much
att lova, lovar, lovade, lovat	to promise
att köra, kör, körde, kört	to drive (a vehicle)
att handla, handlar, handlade, handlat	to shop
att betala, betalar, betalade, betalat	to pay
kostade	cost (price of something)
hemifrån	(from) home
att skriva, skriver, skrev, skrivit	to write
lista, -n, listor	list
eftersom	since
överraskning, -en, -ar	surprise
hjälp	help
stod nära	stood near

att höra, hör, hörde, hört	to hear
att prata, pratar, pratade, pratat	to speak
att nämna, nämner, nämnde, nämnt	to mention
ifall	(just) in case
snart	soon

### SVENSKA/SWEDISH

Innan tvillingarna skulle gå till affären frågade de Erik om de kunde få pengar till maten. Nej sa Erik, om ni ska bjuda på maten får ni betala för den.

Varken Lars Olof eller Karin Helena hade några pengar hemma. Nu behöver de gå till banken och ta ut de pengar de behöver. Tyvärr var banken stängd.

Erik undrade hur de skulle lösa detta problem.

Först frågade tvillingarna om de kunde vänta tills banken öppnades. Erik tyckte inte att det var en bra idé. Då frågade Lars Olof om de fick låna pengarna.

De visste inte hur mycket pengar de behövde. Erik lovade att köra dem till affären. Barnen kunde handla vad de behövde och Erik skulle betala vad det kostade.

Innan de for hemifrån skrev Lars Olof och Karin Helena en lista. Eftersom det skulle bli en överraskning ville de inte ha någon hjälp. Ingrid stod nära och hörde vad de pratade om. Hon nämnde till Erik vad hon hört ifall barnen behöver hjälp när de är i affären.

Snart var de på väg.

### ENGELSKA/ENGLISH

Before the twins were going to the store, they asked Erik if they could get money for the food. No said Erik; if you are going to treat the dinner you have to pay for it.

Neither Lars Olof nor Karin Helena had any money at home. Now they have to go to the bank and take out the money they need. Unfortunately the bank is closed.

Erik wondered how they would solve this problem.

First the twins asked if they could wait until the bank opened. Erik did not think that was a good idea. Then Lars Olof asked if they could borrow the money.

They did not know how much money they needed. Erik promised to drive them to the store. The children could buy what they needed and Erik would pay what it cost.

Before they left home, Lars Olof and Karin Helena wrote a list. Since it was going to be a surprise they did not want any help. Ingrid stood nearby and heard what they talked about. She mentioned to Erik what she had heard in case the children need help when they are in the store.

They were soon on their way.

# GRAND LODGE NEWS

## Raffle Winners

### 1st Place Margaret Schueman



As a great fan of raffles, I have always supported such efforts to raise funds: both in creating successful raffles, for *Drott Lodge #168* and for the *American Scandinavian Association of DC*, and in buying chances in Scandinavian raffles. Seldom have I won, so winning this raffle prize of \$500.00 was totally unexpected. The prize helped pay for our trip to Augusta, Maine to visit our son, his wife and our 27 months old identical twin granddaughters, Alina and Chloe! We loved our time with them and I loved singing to them, the Swedish song "*Rida, rida ranka, hästen heter Blanka. Vart ska han åka? Till en liten flicka. Vad Kan hon heta? Anna Magreta!*" It is good to use every opportunity to pass on our Swedish culture. My many thanks to the Grand Lodge for organizing this timely raffle!

### 3rd Place Nellie Gunhild Almquist



I was happy to be a third place winner but have not done anything special with my winnings. On January 23rd of this year, 2009 I celebrated my 90th birthday with my immediate family. Within the last two months I've had cataract procedures and implants on both eyes. Two weeks ago I had a pacemaker implanted and I'm doing fine.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Why do Grand Lodge officers have such expensive rooms at the Grand Lodge convention? What about the perks they get? Why do some receive salaries?*

As part of the contract with the hotel, the Convention Host Committee is given one or two complimentary suites based on the large size of the convention. A complimentary suite is provided to the Grand Master and sometimes the Vice Grand Master by the hotel. This is also true when District conventions are held and the District Master usually has this complimentary suite. Grand Lodge Officers, GL Executive Board Members, and Delegates are provided with a basic, standard hotel room. If any of these GL Board members wish to upgrade their room, they do so at their own expense by paying the difference in cost.

Grand Lodge officers receive no perks. Since the Grand Lodge officers and Executive Board members are required to meet once a year, basic meeting expenses are covered (travel, hotel, per diem). Every care is taken to keep costs to a minimum. Often, the Board meets in conjunction with a District Convention and we are able to get the special room rate accorded to the convention attendees, as part of the package.

Regional Board members are required to visit the various Districts within their region. The budget approved at the GL convention provides \$2,000 travel reimbursement (which covers airfare/mileage and hotel) for the four-year term for all board members. For most Board members this travel reimbursement does not cover the cost of going to the required meetings so most GL Board members end up paying for their remaining travel out of their own pockets rather than not attending the district meetings. The Grand

Master and Vice Grand Master receive a higher travel allowance, \$14,000 and \$5,000, respectively, since they are expected to travel to all parts of the USA, as well as Canada and Sweden. In most cases the spouses of the GL Board and Officers accompany them to the various local and district lodge functions. Their costs are not reimbursed; the spouses pay their own expenses.

As with every fraternal organization (Masonic, IOOF, Eagles), certain officers receive a small remuneration/salary because of the essential work that they do. In Vasa Order of America, the officers receiving this remuneration are the Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Vice Grand Secretary, Vasa Star Editor, and the Vasa Star Circulation Manager. The total annual remuneration for the Grand Secretary, Vice Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer is \$10,320 per year (total); that for the Vasa Star Editor and Circulation Manager is \$7,400 per year (total). These amounts are in the current Grand Lodge budget. This remuneration also helps to offset the cost of doing the Grand Lodge's business in their homes (electricity, space, storage, etc.) since office space is not rented.

If you have any questions about these issues, you may contact any of the GL Officers or your District's GL Delegates. For questions about the GL budget, your District's GL Delegates have a copy of the 2006 approved budget. Later this year we will publish the budget approved in 2006 and summarize our spending in relation to the budget.

If you have a question for future Frequently Asked Questions columns, please send your question to the **Grand Secretary Joanie Graham** (see pg 3.)

# Motions to the Grand Lodge Meeting

**Deadline for submission - March 1, 2010**

## SAMPLE FORMAT #1 – Motions Not Affecting Constitution

The Grand Lodge Vasa Order of America will meet for its 37th Convention on July 2-8, 2010, in Washington, D.C. and it is not too early to start thinking about motions you want to present.

Any individual member, local lodge, or district lodge may submit motions to this Grand Lodge meeting.

Please use this format when writing your motions. This will ensure a consistent appearance for the many motions that will be considered. Please do not use the words “Whereas” or “Be It Resolved” or the motion will be returned to you for proper format. If you submit more than one motion, please put one motion per form to avoid confusion.

All motions must be typed or printed clearly, so that no errors in interpretation or intent will be made. All signatures are required, along with the appropriate lodge seal.

When making a motion that involves finances, please show the probable cost along with the motion.

Remember that Constitutions and Bylaws use the word “shall”, not the words “can”, “should”, or “could”.

Recommendation included in any GL Officer’s or Archives Board Member’s report involving a constitutional change must follow these rules.

Please refer to page 49 of your Constitution for Grand Lodge – Article XVII-Amendments concerning motions to change the Constitution and Bylaws.

You may submit your motions as early as you want. **ALL MOTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE GS BEFORE MARCH 1, 2010.**

Motions will be numbered in the order in which they are received.

Mail to:  
Convention Motions  
Joan Graham, Grand Secretary  
5838 San Jose Ave.  
Richmond, CA 94804

\_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Vasa Order of America, at its regular meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, voted to submit the following motion:

**VOTED: That** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MOTIVATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Lodge or District Seal) Signature of Chairman (or District Master)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secretary (or District Secretary)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## SAMPLE FORMAT #2 – Constitutional Changes

\_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, No. \_\_\_\_\_, Vasa Order of America, at it regular meeting on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, voted to submit the following motion:

**To change the Constitution for \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge:**  
**Present Section \_\_\_\_\_, Par. \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_**  
**now reads:** .....  
[state section as it now reads]

**MOTION is presented to CHANGE Section \_\_\_\_\_, Par, \_\_\_\_\_ to read:**  
.....  
[State section exactly as it will be written should the requested change pass]

**MOTIVATION:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Lodge or District Seal) Signature of Chairman (or District Master)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Secretary (or District Secretary)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## SAMPLE FORMAT #3 – Motions made by Individual Members

*NOTE: Motions submitted by individuals must include the format described below together with Sample Format 1 – motions not affecting the Constitution, or Sample Format 2 – Constitutional Changes, above.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a member in good standing of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, No. \_\_\_\_\_, submit the following motion:  
[Format as indicated in bold print above]

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Typed Name)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address, City, State, Zip)  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a member in good standing in \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, No. \_\_\_\_\_ as of this date.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Lodge or District Seal) (Signature of Secretary)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of signature)

# LODGE NEWS

## North Star Lodge #106

Los Angeles, CA

Jane Sandler had the great pleasure of awarding three North Star Lodge #106 scholarships. Diane Sami, student at Cal State San Marcos, Alexandra Succa, Moorpark College and Richelle Daniels, Cal State Fullerton. All three and all deserving happily accepted the awards. Each had been a Midsummer Queen! Another feather in the caps.

An added treat for us was the presentation of Agneta Nilsson, our member, who is the founder of SWEA (Swedish Women's Education Association). Agneta spoke to us of the history of this organization and the topic was extremely interesting.

SWEA started out as a small group of Swedish-speaking women 30 years ago, and over the years it has grown to over 8,000 members and now as a world-wide organization.

We were pleased that Agneta could relate her story of SWEA's beginning and its amazing progress over the years. It has become also a major fundraiser for various projects in Sweden. The recent SWEA Christmas fairs, both in Orange County and Los Angeles, drew thousands of people.

Thanks Agneta for taking time off

## Fylgia Lodge #119

San Francisco, CA



*Officers and Installing Officers - left to right: Victoria L. Peterson - Past Chairman; Torborg Lundell - Secretary; Joanie Graham - Grand Lodge Secretary and Installing Officer; Dr. Ted Olsson - Chairman; Richard Wooster - Vice Chairman; Robert Olson - Financial Secretary; Yasuko Wooster - Cultural Leader; Carol Martin - Cultural Leader; Dennis Erickson - Auditor; Jean Stohl Nelson, Vasa Star Representative, Trustee, Historian, and Marie Ann Hill - Deputy and Installing Officer.*

Fylgia Hills Lodge #119, San Francisco, CA, had a table at SWEA's 25th Annual Swedish Christmas Fair on



*North Star Lodge #106, Los Angeles, CA, scholarship winners presented by Mary Ethel Pierson and Jane Sandler. From left, Diane Earl, Alexandria Succa, Richelle Daniel, at North Star Lodge #106's 102nd Anniversary.*

from your busy travel schedule and to Len Gohrn for making the arrangements for this very interesting program.

Arriving a tad late (traffic woes) was GL Deputy Wayne Pierson, he congratulated North Star on its 102nd birthday. Again Nordic Fox catered our very tasty luncheon and it was a "Happy Birthday" song to North Star as the cake was cut! Long may North Star thrive, we're glad CH Erik was prodded into leading us throughout the new year of 2009.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton

interested in Vasa and perhaps with joining. Fylgia, under the leadership of the Chairlady, Victoria L. Peterson, held their annual "Julbord" at the Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., San Francisco, at 6:30 p.m. on December 9, 2008. The members all brought food for the table to make it an authentic Swedish feast along with Glögg and Akvavit. Carol Martin, our Cultural Leader, decorated the hall with red tablecloths and Swedish Christmas motif to make it most festive. Santa Claus (Carol) appeared and gave each in attendance a gift from Sweden. It was a most enjoyable evening.

On January 13th Fylgia Lodge held a business meeting and yearly reports and future events. The new officers, led by Dr. Ted Olsson, Chairman, were installed by our Deputy, Marie Ann Hill, of Tegner Lodge #149, and Joanie Graham of Framat Lodge #405, the Grand Lodge Secretary. The installation was efficiently performed and we are looking forward to an excellent year. Jean Stohl Nelson celebrated her 84th birthday on the day and furnished champagne, sandwiches and cake. All our friends and members are welcome to our cultural events. Our website is: [www.scandinavians.com/vasa/fylgia](http://www.scandinavians.com/vasa/fylgia).

Submitted by: Jean Nelson

## Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

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

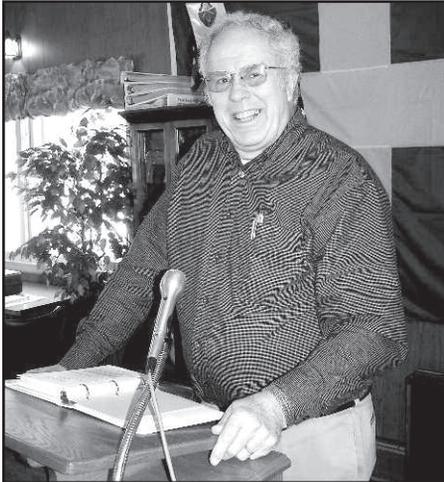
Our winter season has brought us much snow, with a snowfall nearly every day. The outside temperatures have been falling. Our Thule lodge however is looking forward to the spring and summer months when we will see much activity around the lodge. The annual schedule has been set by planning events, dinners, and meetings. Our lodge meetings continue on the winter schedule of the third Saturday afternoon of each month. Chairman Eugene Johnson was re-elected to serve a second term as lodge chairman, and will take the lodge through its 102nd year.

In February, the installation of officers took place. In addition to Chairman Johnson, Ralph Veights will serve as the Vice Chairman. Lucile Marsh will serve as the recording secretary, and Alberta Nelson will serve as our treasurer. Donna

*Continued on page 10*

## Thule Lodge #127

Continued from page 9



*Thule Lodge #127 Chairman for 2009 Eugene Johnson in his second term.*

Sandberg will continue as our financial secretary, and reporting on those members who are ill or in the hospital. Appreciation is extended to Donna for her continued efforts in keeping the other members informed on our ill members. Fanchon Fuller will continue as the cultural leader and does a wonderful job with presenting a monthly report on a Swedish activity or event. John Sipos will serve as the historian. Diane Shaw will serve as the chaplain, and Donna Johnson and Bernice Veights will be our masters of ceremony. Donald Carlson will serve as our inner guardsman, and Nels John Nelson as our outer guardsman. Trustee for 2009 will be Robert Fuller. Robert is our immediate past chairman, and led our lodge through its 100th anniversary celebration. Auditor will be Wayne Nelson. Both Robert and Wayne will serve three year terms.

Other trustees are our past district chairman Ed Sandberg, and Ralph Derby. Other lodge auditors are Betty Lawson and John Marsh.

At the February meeting, John Sipos presented to the lodge a record book with photographs of the events of the lodge from the previous year. Much of the computer art work was completed by Susan W. Sipos. The historical record books have been prepared by John and Susan for many years, and all books are available for viewing at the lodge.

If you are in our area, we welcome you to visit our Thule Lodge. Happy spring and summer to all. "God dag" to everyone!

**Submitted by: John Sipos,**  
lodge historian

## Linné Lodge #153

South Bend, IN



*Lou Anderson, Julia Turm, Marv Anderson.*

At our January 4, 2009 Meeting of the Linne' Lodge #153, we had the installation of officers by Acting District Deputy from Svea Lodge #253 in Indianapolis, Marv Anderson and his wife, Lou. They brought a high school exchange student, Julia Turm, from the town of Leksand in Dalarna, Sweden, who is staying with Lou's niece and nephew, Jeff and Tracy Denny and their daughter Cami in Constantine, Michigan. We enjoyed a Scandinavia Pot Luck and fellowship.

**Submitted by: Lorraine Cooper**

## Brahe Lodge #245

Rockford, IL

Our 2009 officers of our Brahe Lodge #245 were sworn in by officials from our *Grand Lodge* and *District Lodge #8* on Sunday afternoon, January 25, 2009, during our monthly meeting attended by twenty members in wintertime at the *Cherry Valley District Library* in Cherry Valley, Illinois.

We are still waiting for our local natural gas company to run a line to our newly constructed Brahe #245 lodge!

**Submitted by: Dennis G. Eksten**



*Standing from left to right Marlyn Ryall, Trustee; Sven Berggren, Auditor; Betty Rottman, Cultural Leader; Jim Anderson, Financial Secretary & Treasurer; David Tollin, Vice Chairman; Scott Johnson, Chairman; Joyce Anderson, Recording Secretary; Susana Turning, Chaplain; Jake Gruel, Executive Board Grand Lodge Mid-Western, and his wife Margaret Gruel, District Secretary.*

## Svea Lodge #253

Indianapolis, IN

The past few months have been busy as usual for members of lodge #253. In November we were treated to a presentation on Norway, given by members John Gundersen and Jean Tygum.

During January's meeting we were happy to install as new members, David Duff who has been taking part in our Swedish language group, and David and Barbro (Hultberg) Jarrell. Barbro is originally from Sweden. Our cultural program consisted of many members describing their poster boards on Swedish sports that were comprised for our booth in *The Indianapolis International festival*.

**Submitted by: Michelle Escalante**

## Solidaritet Lodge #396

Mount Vernon, WA

### The Dream of LeRoy Anderson

During Memorial Day weekend of 2008, on Saturday May 24, an unusual ceremony took place in *Mount Vernon*, the seat of Skagit County, WA, and location of our Vasa lodge. The ceremony was to dedicate a memorial in remembrance of a group of trees?! Read on!

In Skagit County there's a highway leading West from Mount Vernon, Route 536, which also bears the intriguing name "Memorial Highway." In 1931 that name was officially given to the state highway in order to honor the Skagit County veterans who served in WWI. Soon after that, 180 elm trees were donated by the Wells nursery and planted along the sides of the highway. Since then, all but 2 trees have died or were cut down to make room for urban growth, and hardly anyone knows about the many original trees and what they stood for.

Long-time Vasa member LeRoy Anderson, who recently passed away, was never able to forget the trees. Born and raised in Skagit County, he grew up with the trees and later, as the owner of a funeral home, he helped many families bury their loved ones, including veterans of war. His own uncle Ole Leaf served in WWI and returned from it severely wounded.

LeRoy felt for many years that the meaning of the *Memorial Highway* name would be lost if nothing was done to save it. As he got older, he kept mentioning that fear to his daughter Connie and other relatives. As fate would have it, some 10 years

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## Solidaritet Lodge #396

*Continued from page 10*

ago he was asked by the Jerry and Carol (Shrauger) Farnsworth family if he might be interested in a large, red granite monument that was on their family plot but that they had no use for any longer. LeRoy knew right away what he could use it for: a monument honoring the WWI veterans and the forgotten elm trees. He sent the slab to a monument company to have it sanded, re-polished, and inscribed with the title - "They Gave Their Lives that We May Live Free," plus a drawing of a military helmet and an elm tree, and a brief history of the 1931 dedication of the *Memorial Highway*. On the back side of the monument the American flag was engraved.

The monument was ready, but now an appropriate location had to be found. When LeRoy retired, Connie took over the memorial project. She felt the monument should be somewhere near the *Memorial*

*Highway*, and she managed to get the cooperation of the *Washington State University NW Research and Extension Center*, which maintains a display garden right along the Highway. With the aid of the *Skagit County Master Gardener Foundation and the Research Center staff*, a circular arbor was installed in the rose garden, with the monument in its center. At the public dedication ceremony on May 24, many veterans were present, and also Mayor Bud Norris of Mount Vernon. Mr. Dick Nord read the names of the many county citizens who gave their lives in WWI. At the end of the reading a small flock of pigeons was released to symbolize the freedom for which the service men and women fought.

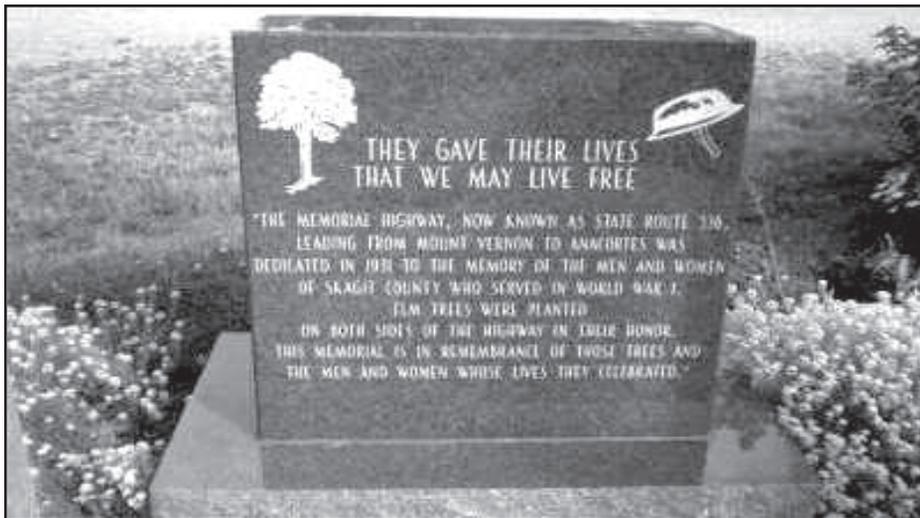
LeRoy Anderson passed away peacefully on 2 December '08, content in the knowledge that his dream of saving the memory of the *Memorial Elm Trees* and what they stood for, had been fulfilled.

**Submitted by: Willy Evans**

**Picture by: Connie leSourd, daughter**



*Arbor and rose garden.*



*Memorial*

## Lindbergh Lodge #494

**Palo Alto, CA**

January gathering featured a Pea Soup dinner again prepared by our own splendid cooks. It was also time for us to install the new officers for the year. January seems to be the important month for installing officials. We followed the traditional ceremonies including the installation job description and oaths of office. We were joined in this ceremony by our sister Svea Lodge # 348 from San Jose. After the ceremonies concluded, the evening was spent dancing by both young and old. It was a fine way to start the New Year.

**Submitted by: Muriel Nelson Beroza**



*"Worker Bees" Chairman Charles Wallin, assisted by granddaughter Alexa Wallin, recognizes Lindbergh's faithful "Worker Bees" by giving them each a small gift. From Left: Bea Andrews, Birgitta Kellgren, Kerstin Jansson, Laila Thurffjell, Anna Johnson and Gun McCuen.*



*Hans Nilsson entertaining with his accordion.*

**Pictures by: Tore Kellgren**

## Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

Cape Cod, MA

By the time you read this daffodils and narcissus will be springing up all over and Cape Cod will have finally thawed out; it endured one of the coldest winters on record. In spite of below freezing weather, we had a terrific turnout of members and friends for our December meeting which, fortunately, fell on the 13th, and of course you all know what that means to Swedes – Lucia!

On arrival each member was given a personalized miniature “Julbock” made of pine, and painted by Rune Borgman. Chairman Judith Peterson then opened the brief meeting, following which we were invited to partake of a magnificent “smörgåsbord,” the likes of which I have seen only in centerfolds in Swedish cook-books. On occasions heavily laden tables are referred to as “groaning boards”; this time the tables were “wailing” – and with good reason! The arrangement consisted of two eight-foot tables butted together and so filled with enticing dishes one couldn’t have inserted a straight pin between them!

We were fortunate to have District Master Dawn Briggs and District Cultural Leader Shirley French preside over the installation of officers during our January meeting. Their presence was very much appreciated.

Judith Peterson will again serve as Chairman; Vice Chairman: George Macris, Recording Secretary: Xenia Christensen, Assistant Treasurer: Lorraine Young, Financial Secretary: Enid Macris, and Cultural Leader: Marilyn Sohöel.

Following the installation ceremony all were invited for coffee and assorted desserts. . . . and there went all our New Year’s Resolutions!!

**Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman**



## Carl Widén Lodge #743

Austin, TX



*The Carl Widén Lodge #743 met at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church on December 15 for a Christmas “Smörgåsbord” on an especially cold night in Austin, Texas. Leland Lundgren led the program. The Lodge usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month but our December meeting is always held earlier.*

**Submitted by: John Lindell**

**Photo by: Erik Lindquist**

## Jubileum Lodge #755

Austin, TX



*2009 Officers of Vasa Jubileum Lodge #755. Left to right, Ray Wahlton (Past Chair), Robert Merrill (Historian), Lois Fride (Recording Secretary), Marshall Berg (Vice Chair), Ulla Swanson (Financial Secretary), Hans Fride (Cultural Leader), Ralph Stromquist (Chair), and Gunnard Swanson (Membership Secretary). At the right are Marge and Jake Gruel of the Lake Michigan District Lodge.*

We met on the 11th January at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Jake and Marge Gruel of the Lake Michigan District presided over the installation of our 2009 officers.

The January program featured Lodge member Gunnard Swanson, speaking on the topic of “Swedish Hymns in America: From the Homeland to the Heart.” Many hymns beloved by Swedish-Americans had their origins in the Pietist experience. *Pietism* was a largely informal movement of individuals who had personally experienced the grace of God through faith in Christ, in a way that they felt was not clearly expressed in the state churches. *Freedom of worship* was a strong motive for many early emigrants to America, and the congregations they founded live on as the *Evangelical Covenant*

*Church* and the *Evangelical Free Church*.

The personal faith of the Pietists, specifically the assurance of God’s care and a future home in heaven despite the trials of earthly life, found some of its clearest expression through music. Mr. Swanson focused specifically on Swedish-American hymnists Nils Frykman (“I Have a Future All Sublime”), Johannes Hultman (“Thanks to God for My Redeemer”), Andrew Skoog (“We Wait for a Great and Glorious Day”), and Lina Sandell (“Children of the Heavenly Father”). Mr. Swanson enthusiastically explained the musical elements of hymnody – contrast, balance, and suspension, and then led us in singing numerous examples, in both Swedish and English.

**Submitted by: Robert T. Merrill**

# SWEDISH NEWS

## Logen Skåne Nr 570

Årets sista möte gick i julens tecken trots den tidiga datumen, en stämmingsfull ljusständningsceremoni till julmusik inledde logemötet. Andra nomineringen av tjänstemän för nästa termin gjordes men det är svårt med rekryteringen när man är en liten loge. KL br. Olle Olsson hade tagit kontakt med Stormästare Rolf Bergman som efter lite synpunkter och frågor från KL br. Olle, sände över en intressant berättelse om sin uppväxt och karriär fram till Vasa Ordens Grand Master, KL delgav logen hela berättelsen. Efter logemötet bjöds det på glögg och pepparkakor i väntan på det hägrande julbordet.

Värdgrupp 4 avtackades för sin insats med med en varm applåd. Jag tror att vi har Vasa Ordens äldsta medlem i Sverige, som kommer troget till varje logemöte, hon heter Birgit Ekelund och är 90 år fyllda.

### Logen Skåne Nr 570 English

Our last meeting for the year 2008 was held on December 7 in conjunction with our Christmas celebration even though this was held in the early part of December. Christmas music was played during the lighting of the candles which was the introduction to our meeting. New officers were nominated for the next term which is a bit difficult with such a small lodge. Br Olle Olsson had contacted Grand Master Rolf Bergman and asked some questions regarding his life. GM Rolf Bergman sent a very interesting story about his childhood and upbringing until becoming the Grand Master for the Vasa Order of America.



KL Olle Olsson och Birgit Ekelund.

After the meeting we had "glögg" and gingerbread cookies while waiting for the "smörgåsbord." The committee in charge for this wonderful event was thanked.

We might possibly have the oldest

member of The Vasa Order of America here in Sweden. She faithfully attends every meeting and her name is Birgit Ekelund and is 90 years old!

Insänt av: KL Olle Olsson

## Logen Stockholm Nr 589



Solveig Ljungdahl, Bo Lejserud och Sonja Hall.

Den 5 januari 1934 bildades logen Stockholm, i restaurang Rosenbad. På Nurnbergs huset var stämningen hög 5 januari i år, för de Vasamedlemmar och gäster som hade hörsammat inbjudan till 75-årsdagen. Under högtidsmötet visade logen upp en snygg fanparad, bestående av två systrar och två bröder. Till varje fana lästes en prolog av KP br. Mikko Nummi.

Vi hade besök av SLD sy. Ewa Pilhammar Andersson och DM br. Gunnar Gustafsson, samt representanter från sex lokalloger alla hemmahörande i DL Nr 19, mycket trevligt. Tack alla rara ni!

Under efterkapitlet, steg stämningen ännu mer. Vi underhölls under supén till toner av *Alfies Orkester* med sång- och musikkavalkad, från åren 1934-2008, sammansatt av logens KL br. Bengt Granath. Samma orkester svarade för kvällens dansmusik och blev populär då de blandade musiken väl, just för oss, till en bra bit efter midnatt.

Insänt av: Arne Svensson

## Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633



Ordförade i Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633, Hans Lundvall och Gerd Lundgren.

Sjukhusdiakon och medlem i Logen Eskilstuna av Vasa Orden av Amerika, Gerd Lundgren, belönades vid Logens

senaste logemöte i helgen med *Logens Förtjänstmedalj* och blommor som överlämnades av ordförade Hans Lundvall. Gerd Lundgren ger stor omsorg och omtanke till sina logemedlemmar. Hon har varit medlem i logen i 13 år och tjänstgör som s.k. Kaplan.

"Omtanke om sina med mänsiskor är Vasa Ordens signum. Vänskap och kultur vårdas med omtanke," säger Gerd Lundgren, som också i sitt arbete naturligtvis får användning av den devisen.

Logen Eskilstuna är en institution i Eskilstuna och har funnits till i över 50 år. År 2010 blir den 55 år. Logen har i dagarna mottagit 12 nya medlemmar.

Insänt av: Lisbeth H. Qvafordt,

Logen Norrköping Nr 751

Foto: Inge Hallberg, Logen

Norrköping Nr 751

## Logen Höganäs Nr 634



Den nya styrelsen Stående fr v. CM Br Ulf Carlson, YV Br Jan Berg, KL Sy Ingrid Berg, LH Sy Birgit Olsson, KP Sy Lena Nilsson, FS Br Bertil Cannerhagen, IV Br Kenneth Nilsson, CMA Sy Barbro Carlson. Sittande fr v. PS Sy Magdalini Kalivas Jönsson, FDO Br Leif Larsson, O Sy Evy Lindstrand, VO Br Karl-Axel Bengtsson, K Sy Jytte Lidenmark.

Ett 60-tal medlemmar samlades till årets sista möte i Vikens Hemgård den 13 dec, 2008

Efter protokoll och skrivelser intog FDO Sy Berit Bogren ordförandeplatsen och förrättade slutnominering och val av 2009 års tjänstemän. Samtliga nominerade valdes och alla poster är därmed tillsatta.

BKL Sy Ingrid Berg läste upp julkänningar från våra vänloger och berättade sedan om ASI i Minneapolis. Tillförordnad LH Sy Bodil Larsson höll en intressant betraktelse om Lucia-traditionen och logens julfest år 1979.

Lördagen den 31 jan. 2009 samlades 65 högtidsklädda Vasasyskon till årets första möte.

Sedvanliga årsmötesförhandlingar hölls, varefter logens nyvalda tjänstemän installerades av DD Sy Bodil Walles med

installationsstab från L Malmöhus Nr 643 i Malmö. Sy Evy Lindstrand blev därvid den tredje kvinnliga ordföranden i logens historia. Avgående tjänstemän avtackades med vackra blombuketter och Sy Christina Magneklint tilldelades FDO värdighet.

Vid den efterföljande banketten utbringades traditionsenligt kvällens första skål till Hans Majestät Konung Carl XVI Gustav, varefter Kungssången sjöngs. Efter en god måltid tog dansen vid till tonerna av Niklas Larssons fina musik och golvet fylldes snabbt av dansglada Vasasyskon.

Avgående ordförande Br Leif Larsson förgyllde kvällen med vacker sång till Niklas ackompanjemang.

På allas begäran avslutade han kvällen med att sjunga "We'll meet again" vilket följdes av stående ovationer.

**Insänt av: Berit och Hans Bogren**

## Logen Enköping Nr 646

Söndagen den 11 januari hade ca 40 barn och vuxna samlats hos Logen Enköping Nr 646 för att fira årets Julgransplundring. Med hjälp av KL Pernilla Hallström och våra musikanter Taimi Johansson och Ivar Karlsson fick barnen dansa kring granen och sjunga våra Svenska fina jullekssånger.

Dagen började med att barnen fick fiska upp en leksak i fiskdammen (alla fick napp). Sedan började dansen och när alla blev trötta bjöds det på förtäring. Efter långdans, saft och bullar, var det lotteridragning på barnens lotteri. Många glada och förväntansfulla barn fick komma fram och välja en vinst. Efter en sista dansrunda knackade det på dörren och in steg jultomten till barnens förtjus-

ning. När väl tomten fått sätta sig ner och frågat om alla barnen varit snälla ville de även passa på att ställa frågor till tomten. Bl a frågade de var alla hans renar hade för namn? Tomten rabblade upp namn efter namn men inte Rudolf, så alla barnen undrade varför inte han var med. Då svarade tomten att Rudolf hade fått problem med sin nos, så han var i tomteverkstan för att lagas. Ett barn talade om för tomten att hon redan träffat en tomte före jul. Tomten sa att: "Det var ju mig du träffade då!" Hon tittade med stora ögon och svarade, att det stämde nog! Tomten delade sen ut godispåsar till alla barnen. Trötta men nöjda avslutades dagen.

Lördagen den 7 februari 2009 var det dags för Logen Enköping Nr 646 att

genomföra sitt årsmöte. Ca trettiofem deltagare hade hörsammat inbjudan. Deltog gjorde även ordenssyskon från Logen Stockholm Nr 589, Logen Engelbrekt Nr 619 och Logen Hjälmaren Nr 625.

I verksamhetsberättelsen kunde konstateras att Logen Enköping Nr 646 hade god kontakt med vänlogerna i USA samt lokallogerna inom Sverige. Logens ordförande Karl-Erik Axelsson, sekreterare Elisabeth Agge och biträdande ceremonimästare Anne-Sofie Hjort, hade besökt Logen Linde Nr 492 i Milwaukee under året. Elisabeth Agge hade representerat Linde Logen Nr 492 ungdomsklubb under Distriktslogen Michigan Nr 8 Distriktsmöte i Frankenmuth. Under året hade också logens sekreterare Elisabeth Agge tillsammans med Anne-Sofie Hjort hållt ett föredrag om Vasa Orden av Amerika för medlemmar inom SPF i Fjärdhundra.

Ny styrelse för Logen Enköping Nr 646 år 2009 är: ordförande Karl-Erik Axelsson, Vice ordförande Torbjörn From, sekreterare Elisabeth Agge, bitr. sekreterare Lilian Andersson, CM Leif Lindén, Kassör Alan Tammerfors, Finanssekreterare Bo Axelsson, Kulturledare Pernilla Hallström,

Under mötet tilldelades ceremonimästare Leif Lindén, Distriktets förtjänsttecken. Logens DD Liberth Karlsson överlämnade förtjänsttecknet och framhöll hur väl br Leif Lindén skött sitt åtagande.

Kvällen fortsatte med middag och alla bjöd till med egna små sånger som vi sjöng tillsammans. Några ordenssyskon passade på att berätta några roliga historier. Sen var det dags för *Torpartrion*

(Taimi Johansson, Ivar Karlsson, Rolf Solblad tillsammans med Jan-Erik Södergran) att framträda. Denna kväll framträdde de med ett intressant program om *Olle i Skratthult*, som under emigrationen blev mycket populär i Amerika med sina visor. Janne tillsammans med *Torpartrion* levandegjorde *Olle i Skratthult* på ett intressant och humoristiskt sätt genom att berätta och sjunga hans visor, bl a den välkända sången *Nikkolina*. *Torpartrion* med Janne avslutade sedan sitt program med en liten överraskning. Taimi Johansson hade passat på att skriva en ny liten visa med anknytning till Enköping. Den handlade om Enköpings nya attraktion för pensionärer, den omtalade aktivitetsparken för äldre på Ljunggården. Under tiden Taimi Johansson sjöng, passade Janne

*Continued on page 15*

## Logen Enköping Nr 646

Continued from page 14

och Ivar Karlsson på att framföra, genom scenerier, vikten av träning för att hålla sig i form. Till varma applåder framförde logens ordförande Karl-Erik Axelsson åhörarnas tack för detta trevliga program och överlämnade rosor till Taimi Johansson.

Kvällen avslutades sedan med att DD i Logen Enköping Liberth Karlsson, tackade de kommitterade Anne-Sofie Hjort, Elisabeth Agge, Lilian Andersson och Inger From för den utsökta maten och den underhållande kvällen innan CM Leif Lindén utförde lotteridragningen och kvällen avslutades.

Insänt av: Elisabeth Agge, Sekr LL 646



Janne i Torpartrion delar ut allsångsblad.



Barnen gör en liten raket.

## Logen Kongahälla Nr 702



Logens tjänstemän 2009. Stående fr. v.: CM Br Sten-Åke Jonasson, PS Br Sonny Johansson, BPS Br Gösta Ivarsson, KP Br Sven Eriksson, IV Br Lars-Åke Larsson, KL Sy Birgitta Larsson, LH Br Karl Olof Nilsson, YV Br Gerhard Arvidsson, MM Br Maths Fredriksson och BCM Br Jörgen Norup. Sittande fr. v.: SB Sy Märta Larsson, BFS Sy Irene Olsson, VO Br Morgan Andersson, O Br Sune Börjesson, K Br Lennart Hansson, FS Sy Birgitta Olsson och SB Sy Lilian Arvidsson.

Logen Kongahälla Nr 702, i lilla Kungälv, har nu varit i gång hela 35 år, vilket firades med en jubileumsloge på *Restaurang Fars Hatt*, lördagen den 18 oktober 2008, med hela 115 deltagande Vasasyskon.

Lördagen den 17 januari 2009, blev

inledningen till ett nytt och förhoppningsvis, händelserikt år i Logen Kongahälla. Starten var verkligen mycket lyckad med nära 90 Vasasyskon som samlades för årsmöte och installation av tjänstemän.

Ordförande Sy Birgitta Haraldsson häl-

sade alla välkomna och ett speciellt välkomnande riktades till vår Distriktsdeputerade Sy Berit Boqvist, Distriktskulturledare och Vice Ordförande Sy Christina Dahlberg-Andersson, Ceremonimästare Br Gunnar Ödman, Kaplan Sy Ulla Ödman samt Br Bernt Andersson samtliga från *Logen Knallen Nr 745* i Borås. Denna dag hade vi även glädjen av, att ha bland oss, vår Storlogedeputerade Sy Ewa Pilhammar och vår Distriktsmästare Br Gunnar Gustafsson, vilka båda är medlemmar i vår Loge.

De sedvanliga årsrapporterna godkändes och den avgående styrelsen och kassören beviljades ansvarsfrihet för det gångna året. Det är glädjande att höra ifrån verksamhetsrapporterna hur de omfattande kulturella aktiviteterna i Logen engagerar många av våra Logesyskon.

Installationen av tjänstemännen genomfördes fint av Distriktsdeputerade Sy Berit Boqvist tillsammans med tre av sina Logesyskon från *Logen Knallen Nr 745*. Vid detta årsmötet blev det en del nya tjänstemän som installerades och dessa blev: Ordförande Br Sune Börjesson, Vice Ordförande Br Morgan Andersson, Biträdande Protokollsekreterare Br Gösta Ivarsson, Biträdande Finanssekreterare Sy Irene Olsson, Inre Vakt Br Lars-Åke Larsson samt Musikmästare Br Maths Fredriksson.

Vår nya Ordförande Br Sune Börjesson, tackade för förtroendet och hälsade även de nytilkomna tjänstemän välkomna in i Logens arbete, samt önskan om ett gott samarbete.

Före Detta Ordförande Sy Birgitta Haraldsson, fick mottaga Logens förtjänstecken, Sy Birgitta har under många år innehaft ett flertal uppdrag inom Logen, såsom Kassör, Biträdande Protokollsekreterare, Protokollsekreterare, Vice Ordförande samt Ordförande. Avgående Före Detta Ordförande Sy Lilian Julin, avtackades och fick mottaga en FFDO-regalia. Övriga avgående tjänstemän avtackades med blommor.

Vid efterkapitlet serverades en mycket god supé, varefter Ordförande Br Sune Börjesson i sitt tal, bl.a. uttryckte en förhoppning om ett nytt givande år med många aktiviteter i Logen Kongahälla Nr 702.

För underhållningen denna kväll svarade Lars-Erik Frenberg med fin sång till gitarr och många roliga historier. En mycket fin avslutning på en trevlig Vasaafton.

Insänt av: Rolf Claesson och Karl Olof Nilsson, Mediakommittén, LL 702

## Logen Sundsvall Nr 705



Kulturskolans Rektor Carina Hauge Rouass och Logens ordf. Margareta Tellberg som överlämnar en check på 5000 Kr.

Logen Sundsvall inledde 2008 års sista möte med att välja ny styrelse. Till ny Kulturledare valdes bl a Lennart Bjärnkvist. Efter mötet fick vi besök av sju gäster och alla bjöds till ett välfyllt julbord med läckerheter som tillagats av våra logemedlemmar. En glad och trivsamt stämning omgärdades av trevlig musik och allsång ledd av kvällens spelmän Allan Norberg, Gösta Malmrot och Hans Malmrot. Den glada skaran skildes åt i den sena kvällstimmen.

Logen Sundsvalls årsmöte inleddes med att Kulturskolans Rektor Carina Hauge Rouass, informerade om skolan. Därefter bjöd eleverna; Joakim Wikberg saxofon, Anton Nordén trombon och Tobias Bengtsson piano, på en trevlig och mycket uppskattad musikstund. Efter applåder och extranummer, överlämnade Logens ordf. Margareta Tellberg en gåva på 5.000,- till Rektorn, ämnade till skolans elever.

Under det efterföljande mötet installerades årets tidigare valda tjänstemän av distriktets representant Kjell Hamrin med stab från Logen i Härnösand. Kontakterna med andra Loger både i Sverige och USA har ökat, inte minst tack vare att Sundsvallslogen är representerad i Storlogen. Kvällen avslutades med en förträffligt god måltid och allsång. Den trivsamma sammankomsten avslutades vid midnatt.

Insänt av: Jan Helsing

## Logen Bråviken Nr 751

Logen Bråviken fick en fin början på det nya året 2009. En fullsatt logelokal och många gäster till efterkapitlet förhöjde stämningen i Bråviken vackra logelokaler. Mötet började med att



Ordförande i Logen Bråviken Bo Svensson tillsammans med nya Hedersledamoten Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt.

logens Ordförande Bo Svensson, utnämnde Lisbeth H Qvarfordt till logen Bråvikens Hedersmedlem. Starka applåder inramade ceremonin när Ordf Bo Svensson iklädde Sy Lisbeth med hedersregalian tillverkad av logens FDM Viveka Skott, som också försett den med hedersmedlemmens namn insytt. Gunnar Nord och Inge Hallberg är tidigare invalda hedersmedlemmar.

Logen fick också dagen till ära installera två nya medlemmar, vilket nu gör att logen har kring 60 medlemmar. För installationen av tjänstemännen stod Logens DD Aldor Jansson, tillsammans med Br Arne Svensson, Sy Gull Svedberg, Stockholm och Stefan Hagfeldt.

Övriga omvalda var bl. a Ordf. Bo Svensson, Kassör Kurt Thelin och PS Karl Jerlock.

Logen Bråviken står som värd vid DL

## Logen Vadstena Nr 762

Fyra Lidköpingsmedlemmar ur Vasa Orden av Amerika Logen Lidköping Nr 636, har varit på resa till den nystartade logen Vadstena. Uppdraget var att vid Vadstenalogen årsmöte installera tjänstemännen för det nya året, ett uppdrag som naturligtvis genomfördes med briljans av de rutinerade Lidköpingsmedlemmarna som fick mottaga blommor av Vadstenalogen Nr 762 Ordf Stig Carlsson.

Insänt av: Inge Hallberg  
Foto: Inge Hallberg



Connie Grön, Einar Savolainen Grön som också är Vadstenalogen Distriktsdeputerad samt Bele och Elsa Axelsson.

19's Distriktsmöte som hålles på Söderköpings Brunn i maj månad.

Insänt av: Anette Ek, Logen Bråviken Foto: Owe Hilding

## Motivering till Hedersledamot av vår Loge Nr 751 Bråviken

Jag vill föreslå att Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt blir HM i vår loge. Få, om ens någon, har haft ett så djupt engagemang för Vasa Orden och vår loge som Sy Lisbeth. Som Chartermedlem har Sy Lisbeth varit med från starten och efter tre år som VO, tre år som O och då med ansvaret år 2002 för logens första jubileum, 10 år. Därefter började karriären i Distriktet, först som VDM och därefter DM. Nästa steg var att bli utnämnd till SLPD. Det innebar många kontakter med USA, otaliga artiklar i Vasa Ordens tidningar mm. Värdskap för besökare från en av våra vänloger, Nr 757 Forsgard Olsen i Waco, Texas. Arrangör av USA-resan år 2003 med deltagare från flera loger.

Där Sy Lisbeth gjort det största och mest intensiva arbetet, är nog instiftandet av den nya Logen Nr 762 Vadstena i oktober år 2007. Ingen kan nog föreställa sig hur mycket arbete som ligger bakom den bedriften, alla kontakter med kommuner, kultur- och näringslivsorganisationer och sponsorer. Därtill otaliga resor mm.

Nu när de flesta uppdrag är slutförda, är det en ära för oss i Logen Nr 751 Bråviken, att få ha dig som Hedersmedlem i vår Loge Nr 751 Bråviken.

Insänt av: Viveka Skott, FDO

# YOUTH NEWS

## Nordikids and Nordikfolk Lodge Celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Nordikids with their director Mrs. Lynnea Sinwelski holding the pink ribbon poster.

In October, *Nordikids Musiklubb #208* and *Nordikfolk Lodge #761* celebrated breast cancer awareness month with a pink ribbon poster. Members signed tributes to breast cancer survivors and to those who unfortunately lost their battle to this disease. Breast cancer has affected many of our families, and our purpose for this is to stress the importance of early detection through mammograms. Some of our members and youth have supported those undergoing cancer treatments with hair donations to the *Locks of Love Foundation*. This organization makes wigs for children with cancer and other hair loss disorders.

Submitted by: Ingrid Lesko

## Trollebo Swedish Family Camp 2008

Another huge success! Sponsored by the *Vasa Recreation Center* and *Golden Gate Resort Center*, 59 campers ascended *The Silver Lake Campground* to enjoy another “when the family gets together, the family plays together” weekend.

Activities included Swedish crafts, games, dances and language lessons. In addition a weaver/spinner spent a few hours demonstrating her skills and allowing interested campers to have a hands-on experience.

The water-balloon volleyball game was won 3-0 by the yellow team over the blue team. The girl’s team won three games over the boys’ team in games of “Kubb.”

Many campers took advantage of the high Sierra lakes fishing and boating, with one family catching six trout during the 2-1/2 days.

In addition to the traditional camp activities, many adults were observed competing in games of dominoes. Other activities included songs around the campfire, hiking, swimming and teen dancing.

Director Edythe Anderson remarked, “What a pleasure it was to see all age groups interacting with one another as one big family.” She extends her thanks again to the instructors who volunteered by dedicating their time in making the camp the success it is.

Submitted by: Baxter Swaffar, Publicity Director



Campers at The Silver Lake Campground.

# FAMILY

## Happy Birthday Armista Mendelssohn



Armista with her granddaughter Denise.

Armista was born on November 11, 1918, the day the Armistice was signed ending the first World War. Her mother, a Swedish immigrant, with great imagination, named her first born daughter Armista. Her birthday for 90 years has been on this national holiday.

Although born in Utah, she grew up in Los Angeles. Armista met and married Lloyd Mendelssohn and they had three sons. They all joined the Mayflower Lodge in Inglewood, CA. Both Lloyd and Armista were active in their lodge and served as Chairmen. They served as officers in the District Lodge and Lloyd was District Master in 1978 and Armista in 1982.

Armista, called “Mistie” by her friends, was also a member of Mayflower Women’s Club and supported it for many years with crafts she made and donated to the projects, enabling many Vasa young people to win scholarships.

Her 90th birthday was spent at home with many relatives and friends, hosted by Don and granddaughter Denise. A luncheon was served, followed by cake and coffee and many good wishes.

Submitted by: Karin Holmes  
Photo by: Kjell-Åke Hellberg

# Welcome To Our New Members

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

**Tore Kellgren, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman**  
**5971 W. Walbrook Dr.**  
**San Jose, CA 95129**  
**E-mail: [tore@kellgren.org](mailto:tore@kellgren.org)**

## GL CENTRAL REGION

*Carl XVI Gustaf #716*  
Carolyn Jeffords

## DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

*John Ericsson #25*  
Amy Racki  
*Spiran #98*  
Susan Lovasco  
Jeffery Rask  
Matthew Rask  
*Quinsigamond #517*  
Glenn Schedin  
*Vinland Of Cape Cod #703*

## DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3

*Svea #362*  
Stephanie Costa  
Mary Olson

## DL N.Y. NO. 4

*Tegner #109*  
Lena Andersson  
Allan Corthoys  
Caroline Simpson  
Donald Widjeskog

## DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

*Vagen #588*  
Maryann Christiansen

## DL MINNESOTA NO. 7

*John Morton #488*  
Roland Anderson  
Susan Kretch

## DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

*Viljan #349*  
Leonard Anderson  
*Norden #684*  
Joy-Marie Brusenback  
Beverly Fahmey  
Sondra Faulkner  
Sarah Wiens  
*Lindgren #754*  
Ruth Windell  
*Jubelum #755*  
Dylan Bender

## DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

*Drott #168*  
Pam Holmes  
Jessica Johnson

Farris Nobel  
Karen Riedl  
Margit Sexton  
Kelsey Nelson  
*Svea #296*  
Andrea Hornaman  
Lori Nemenz

## DL SUPERIOR NO. 10

*Monitor #163*  
Robert Waters

## DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

*Svea #348*  
Berit Morgan  
Goran Ost  
Annelie Lund  
Lilly Tamayo  
Carin Westblom  
*Sveaborg #449*  
James Doyle  
Celeste Graham  
*Lindbergh #494*  
Hans Assarsson  
Arloa Kelsen  
Phillip Richardson  
LoAnn Stone  
Linnea Ernes  
John Ernes  
Dora Thordason  
Carol Young  
*Linnea #504*

Sandra McConnell  
Maiken Scheftner  
Anders Uhrberg  
*Gold Nugget #662*  
Steven Flaughner  
*Norden #684*  
Joy-Marie Brusenback  
Beverly Fahmey  
Sondra Faulkner  
Sarah Wiens  
*Valhalla Scandinavians #746*  
Beth Hollenbeck  
Joann Martin  
Maria Nielsen  
Helene Payne  
Anita Peterson

## DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

*Astor #215*  
Kristi McCauley

Miriam McCauley  
Andrea Phillips  
*Tegner #224*  
Jeanett Comstock  
Linnea Faber

## DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

*Skandia #247*  
Roberta Howard  
*Desert Viking #682*  
Arne Luunggren  
Leit Moller  
Monica Moller  
Lenny Pepper  
Harvey Peterson  
Eivor Wester  
Olof Wester  
*Valhalla #715*  
Myrna Rundquist  
Solveig Rundquist  
Stephen Rundquist  
Kay Tart  
Mayann Williamson  
*Glenn T Seaborg #719*  
Eunice Burcham  
*Nordic Heritage #741*  
Anders Lindborg

## DL CENTRAL CANADA NO. 16

*Strindberg #259*  
Dave Hammerback  
Lesley Hammerback

## DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17

*Omaha #330*  
Barbara Cathro  
Marita Deeds  
Arline Irely  
*Norrskenet #331*  
Janet Stading  
Willis Stading

## DL ALBERTA NO. 18

*Skandia #549*  
Sigurd Delblanc

## DL NORRA SVERIGE (SWEDEN) NO. 19

*Mellerud #644*  
Sture Eklund  
Monika Gustafsson  
Håkan Hultman

Britt Jomas  
Karl-Ivar Karlsson  
Anders Perme  
Bertil Landegren  
*Filbyter #714*  
Arne Carlsson  
Ingrid Carlsson  
Birgitta Green  
Inge Green  
Karin Karlsson  
Solveig Larsen  
Tomas Tena Rodriguez  
Marie Tena Torjul  
*Bråviken #751*  
Elizabeth Annerstedt  
*Sundsvall #762*  
Åke Gustavsson  
Hans-Erik Haag  
Birgitta Porsbring

## DL SÖDRA SVERIGE (SWEDEN) NO. 20

*Skåne #570*  
Anette Andersson  
Bengt Knoos  
Solveig Svensson  
*Kärnan #608*  
Eva Eklund  
Ulf-Peder Eklund  
Gunhild Ekolin  
Lars Ekolin  
Pia Stenqvist  
Urban Stenqvist  
*Uivandrarna #680*  
Barbro Fagerström  
Sten Fagerström  
*Nybyggarna #698*  
Christina Nilsson  
Peter Nilsson

## DL ARIZONA NO. 21

*Solstad #709*  
Lee Klose  
Herbert Swanson  
*Scandia #728*  
Kenneth Fahlman  
*Nordic Red Rock #760*  
Charles Adams  
Laura Adams

# IN MEMORY OF

## Sigvard "Sigge" Bergh

June 21, 1925 - February 6, 2009

Long time Tegnér Lodge #109 lodge member, Sigvard "Sigge" Bergh of Niskayuna, NY, died peacefully on Friday, February 6, 2009, at his home after a long illness. Sigge was born on June 21, 1925, in Skurup, Sweden. The son of the late Jons and Amanda Bergh, he was the 11th of 12 children. He came to America in June of 1949 where he began working in New York City as a baker in the Swedish bakery Nyborg & Nielson. He met his wife, Marianne Wieblack, in February of 1950, and they were married in June of 1951; they were married 57 years. Upon relocating to the Capital region of NY from New York City, Sigge started working as a baker at the Continental bakery in Guilderland, NY. Even after he retired Sigge contin-

ued working part-time as a baker well into his seventies at many different bakeries and diners, and was well known for making his traditional gingerbread houses for Christmas. He served as Chaplain for VASA order of America, local lodge Tegnér Lodge #109, in Schenectady, NY for many years and serving as Vice Chaplain over the last few.

"Opa" will always be remembered lovingly as a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and friend. Survivors include his wife, Marianne Wieblack Bergh; 2 sons, Eric (Sue) Bergh of Concord, NH, and Carl (Diane) Bergh of Niskayuna, NY; 2 daughters, Heidi (Bryan) Kietzmann of Amsterdam, NY and Ingrid (Peter) Kelly of Toronto, Canada; 5 grandchildren, Michael Bergh, Katie and Cody

Kietzmann and Alana and Morgan Kelly; and 1 great-grandchild, Brandon Heacox.

Members of Tegnér Lodge #109 performed a traditional Swedish ceremony to honor their lost brother on February 9, 2009 at the Griswold Funeral Home in Schenectady, NY. Led by Chairman Alan Andersen the brief ceremony included draping a black "flag" over Tegnér 109's charter, the placement of yellow and blue flowers upon the casket and a closing prayer from current Chaplin Tobie Anderson.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to Community Hospice of Schenectady, 1411 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12307 or the GBFC Fire District No. 1, 1079 Balltown Rd., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

**Submitted by: Wallin-Eddy**

## CULTURE

### Stensjö Village

Stensjö by is a village situated ten kilometres north of Oskarshamn, a town on the east coast in Småland, south Sweden.

Originally Stensjö was the name of a farm. In fact it was first named Sten ö (stone island), as it was a stony place surrounded by three small lakes and a tiny creek.

Stensjö farm is very old. From documents we certainly know that one of St Birgitta's brothers owned the farm in the 14th century. Since then various families have been owners, until the State bought the farm in the middle of the 17th century. In the 18th century Stensjö farm became privately owned, and then it was divided and parts of it were sold. That's how Stensjö became a village. The following century brought good times for the village. The harvests were good, and big barns were built. The farmers were just as anxious about their buildings and barns as their homes. A well-kept barn showed that the farmer was a wealthy man. It is interesting that the durability and quality of the houses of that time was much better than that of new built houses of today.



*Stensjö*

In the middle of the 19th century the village reached its maximum size. About 170 people lived and worked there. By draining ditches and lowering the lakes the village got bigger fields which were necessary since the land on the farms were very small, and the growth sparse.

In the 20th century profitability however started to decrease, and many people left the village. In 1945 the agriculture was discontinued. No renovation or restoration was done, so the houses began

to fall into despair, and the land became overgrown with weeds.

The turning point came in 1960. Through a donation given by Josef Anér, who was born in the neighbourhood, *The Royal Academy of Letters History and Antiquities* was given the opportunity to purchase the entire village. During the following years a grand undertaking was done to restore the buildings as well as

*Continued on page 20*

## Stensjö Village

Continued from page 19

the old landscape. Many of the small fields were made larger and improved. The cluster of red houses looks old-fashioned as the village remained undivided at the time of the land-parcelling in the 19th century. Cattle and sheep can be seen grazing in the large pastures, surrounded by some 300 km wooden fences going in all directions.

Farming is now done with modern implements but adapted to the old methods. For example artificial fertilizers and chemical weed killers have never been used which is why the soil in Stensjö has special ecological characteristics.

Stensjö village is very unique, and well worth a visit. There are not many villages like Stensjö left, as most of them are gone being victims to rationalization. Visiting Stensjö village is like going back to an old time village that looks like many places looked a hundred years ago, a place where time stands still.

Walking on the gravelled paths makes you think: Maybe today's society have lost something very valuable?

Insänt av: Gun Lith, GLCD

### Stensjö by

Stensjö by ligger tio kilometer norr om Oskarshamn, en stad på ostkusten i Småland, södra Sverige.

Ursprungligen var Stensjö namnet på en gård. Först hette den faktiskt Sten – ö, eftersom det var en stenig plats omgivet av vatten från tre små sjöar och en liten å.

Stensjö gård är mycket gammal. Av handlingar vet man säkert att en av den Heliga Birgittas bröder ägde gården redan på 1300-talet. Därefter har olika släkter varit ägare, ända tills Kronan köpte gården i mitten av 1600-talet. På 1700-talet kom Stensjö gård i privat ägo. Strax därefter delades den och på så sätt uppstod den nuvarande byn.

Det följande århundradet var en bra tid för byn. Skördarna var goda och byggnaderna förbättrades och nya byggdes. Bönderna var lika måna om sina ladugårdar och uthus som om bostadshusen. En välkött lada visade att ägaren var välbärgad. Intressant är att hållbarheten och kvalitén på den tidens byggnader var mycket bättre än på dagens nybyggda hus.

I mitten av 1800-talet var byn som störst. Då bodde omkring 170 personer där. Genom utdikning och sjösänkningar, hade man fått mer åkerareal vilket var

nödvändigt eftersom åkerlapparna var små och växtligheten dålig. På 1900-talet började dock lönsamheten minska och många människor flyttade från byn. År 1945 lades jordbruket ner. Inga renoveringar eller förbättringar gjordes, varför husen började förfalla och landskapet växte igen.

Vändpunkten kom 1960. Tack vare en donation från Josef Anér, som växt upp i närheten, fick *Kungliga Vitterhetsakademien* möjlighet att köpa hela byn. Under de följande åren utträttades ett enormt arbete. Byggnaderna liksom kulturlandskapet restaurerades. Många av de små åkrarna utökades och förbättrades. Gyttret av röda hus ser ålderdomligt ut, eftersom byn förblev odelad vid tiden för det laga skiftet på 1800-talet. Kor och får kan nu ses beta i de stora hagmarkerna, som inhägnas av ca 300 km trädgårdesgårdar, som löper i alla riktningar.

Jordbruket sköts nu med moderna redskap men på gammaldags brukningssätt. Till exempel har aldrig konstgödsel eller kemiska bekämpningsmedel använts. Jorden i Stensjö har därför speciella ekologiska egenskaper.

Stensjö by är verkligen unik och väl värd ett besök. Det finns inte många byar som Stensjö kvar. De flesta har försvunnit som offer för rationaliseringar. Att besöka Stensjö by är som att komma till en gammaldags by och som ser ut som många byar såg ut för hundra år sedan, en plats där tiden har stått stilla.

Att vandra på de ringlande grusvägarerna får en att tänka: Kanske dagens människor har förlorat någonting mycket värdefullt?

Submitted by: Gun Lith, SLKL

Källor: Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitetsakademien och K.A Gustawsson: Stensjö by

# HAPPENINGS

## Kronprinsessan Victoria och Daniel Westling förlovade

Idag den 24 februari 2009 har förlovning eklaterats på Kungliga Slottet mellan Kronprinsessan Victoria och Daniel Westling.

Efter att H.M. Konungen givit sitt samtycke till att Kronprinsessan ingår äktenskap med Daniel Westling har HM Konungen i enlighet med grundlagens bestämmelser inhämtat regeringens samtycke. Vid extra sammanträde idag har regeringen lämnat sitt samtycke. Beslutet överlämnades till Kungen i samband med dagens informationskonferens.

Bröllop planeras till försommaren 2010. I samband med giftermålet förlänas Daniel Westling titeln Prins Daniel, Hertig av Västergötland. Frågan om bostad för Kronprinsessan och hennes blivande make är under övervägande. Några olika alternativ prövas.

Källa: <http://www.royalcourt.se/>

Web TV: [www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/webbtv/artikel\\_2514075.svd](http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/webbtv/artikel_2514075.svd)

## Engagement between Crown Princess Victoria and Daniel Westling

Today, Tuesday 24 February 2009, the engagement between Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria and Mr. Daniel Westling was announced at the Royal Palace in Stockholm.

After His Majesty The King of Sweden had given his consent to the marriage between the Crown Princess and Mr. Westling, His Majesty, in accordance with the procedures set out in the Swedish Constitution, requested the agreement by the Swedish Government, which was subsequently communicated to His Majesty in connection with an information council held at the Royal Palace today.

The wedding is planned to take place in the early summer of 2010. In connection with the wedding Mr. Westling will be invested with the title Prince Daniel, Duke of Västergötland. The question of residence for the Crown Princess and her future consort is subject to further consideration. Some different alternatives are being examined.

Source: <http://www.royalcourt.se/>

Web TV: [www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/webbtv/artikel\\_2514075.svd](http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/webbtv/artikel_2514075.svd)

# Around Swedish America in 365 Days

(Vancouver January 11, 2009) In celebration of its 80th anniversary, the *Swedish Press* magazine has taken off on a virtual trip through Swedish America. The journey started on New Year's Day on the West Coast of Canada, in the little town of Lund, that was founded in 1889 by Karl and Fredrik Thulin from the university town of Lund in southern Sweden. For the rest of January you can follow this interesting trip primarily through Alaska and find out, among other things, how Charlie Anderson, the Three Lucky Swedes and John Nordström of the Nordstrom stores, made their fortunes.

The 365 current and historic points of Swedish interest will pop up on a Google map at the [www.NordicWay.com](http://www.NordicWay.com) web site. Each day a new dispatch will be posted from places like Ann-Margret's handprints outside the Mann Chinese theatre in West Hollywood to L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland where the Vikings established their first base camp. When completed the "travel blog" will form the most complete and fun documentation of the most important Swedish points of interest in the U.S.A. and Canada. Best of all, "Around Swedish America in 365 Days" is free and will remain at NordicWay.com long after the

trip is completed. The popular site also contains a lot of other information about the Nordic countries, a calendar with Swedish American events and lots of material from *Swedish Press* and its sister publication *Scandinavian Press*.

This trip of a lifetime was the dream of editor (and Honorary Consul of Sweden in Vancouver) Anders Neumuller. He had planned to complete it in 80 days, but realized that he would not have time this year when *Swedish Press* celebrates its anniversary. Through the years there have been more than 2 000 Swedish papers in North America, only two of them have survived to this day. *Swedish Press* is the only monthly in English (with certain sections in Swedish) with both an electronic and a paper edition. "Svenska Pressen" started as a weekly in Vancouver in 1929 and now has subscribers in every US state and Canadian province, not to speak of subscribers in Sweden and around the world.

**Submitted by: Anders Neumuller**

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## Emigration Conference in Dalsland

*Thanks for the Memories .....*

My dad, Dr. Pierr Johnson, and I had the opportunity to participate in *Emigration Conference* in Mellerud last August. After reading about the event in *Vasa Star* last winter and meeting the event coordinators Eiwor Backelund and Anneli Andersson last spring, I was convinced this was an event that could not be missed for my dad and myself – a once in a lifetime experience. Part of our Swedish ancestry is from Dalsland and I have always wanted to visit this beautiful region with him. I offer the following brief summary of our experience.

### Day 1: In the Footsteps of the Emigrants

My dad and I were fortunate to have signed up for the pre-conference mini-tour of Dalsland entitled "In the Footsteps of the Emigrants." On Thursday, August 14th, we and another American, Carl England, had the pleasure of spending the day with Kerstin

Paalberg and Tina Larsson, our Swedish tour guides for the day. In a rented van we first drove south from Mellerud to "Fottestugan," a "backstuga" in rural Dalsland that has been preserved by the *Bolstad Hembygdsförening*. Small, simple, sod-roofed dwellings such as this were common across rural Dalsland in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Next we drove to "Ronnostugan" in Frändefors and had a wonderful coffee break, prepared by members of the local "hembygdsförening." They prepared homemade waffles over a wood burning fire in the old farmhouse, and we also had homemade lefse bread, cheese, and coffee. Our hosts were gracious and hospitable, and we were given a tour of the historic farm house and outbuildings before our departure.

We drove along narrow, country roads and saw the beautiful agricultural landscape of southeastern Dalsland – wheat, rye, and oat fields; hay fields and pastures with cows and sheep; rape and field beans.

Our next destination was *Sundals-Ryr church*. Within the beautiful white walls of this 1000 year-old building we were treated to a special presentation by the "Green Beans," a group of women singers from the congregation. They sang several songs, including a wonderful rendition of "Hälsa Dem Därhemma," a popular Swedish and Swedish-American song, and as explained by our presenters, a song written about an emigrant's longing for his homeland while out at sea. We also heard the story of "Bus Andy" Anderson, who was from this parish. He immigrated to northern Minnesota where he met another Swede (from Dalarna) by the name of Carl Wickman and together they founded what was to become Greyhound Bus Lines.

Our final destination of the day was the old *Sikhall Magasin* on the shore of Lake Vänern. In the 19th and early 20th Centuries, this rustic building was used for the storage of oats, much of which was shipped via boat to England. Our tour guides had a catered evening meal for us, including an assortment of moose, fish, cheese, and bread. This ended a pleasant, informative day – and we all felt that we had, indeed, spent a day in the footsteps of our forefathers.

### Day 2: Conference Bus Trip Around Cultural Dalsland

On Friday, August 15th, we met up with a group of around two dozen Swedes and Americans for our bus tour to various cultural sites in Dalsland. Our first stop was in *Dals Rostock*, just west of Mellerud. We had an interesting tour of the famous herb garden with noted horticulturalist Kerstin Ljungqvist as our guide, and then we had a demonstration of the keyed fiddle (*nyckelharpa*) played by Alban Faust. What a treat! Both were very interesting and talented professionals. Prior to our departure we all were treated to "klening bread" with cheese and Swedish coffee.

The bus then drove us to our next destination, *Lästvik Säteri* and gallery. This is a well-preserved manor and farm with beautiful views across central Dalsland's forests, lakes, and meadows. In an upstairs room in the manor house the owner gave a presentation on the history of the estate, followed by a presentation by Elisabeth Thorsell on genealogical research at the LDS facility in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Next, we drove to southern Dalsland and had a wonderful lunch in Färgelanda.

*Continued on page 22*

## Emigration Conference

Continued from page 21

During lunch we had a presentation by Ted Rosvall on the use of computers and the internet for genealogical research. After lunch our bus trip took us in a northeast direction over Dalsland's unique *Kroppefjäll* landscape and back to Mellerud. Our final presentation of the day was by Lilly Setterdahl. Her talk was on the Swedish immigrant community in the coal mining region of Grassflat, in western Pennsylvania; many of these immigrants were from Dalsland. At the end of the day we all had time to visit Melleruds Museum and Genealogy Center, with its many interesting exhibits and artifacts of life in Dalsland over the generations.

Our busy day ended with a crayfish dinner at *Skötteruds Gård*, located a bit north of Mellerud. We all enjoyed friendly conversations about our shared cultures over wonderful food and drink, and with live accordion music playing traditional Swedish folk tunes.

### Day 3: The Emigration Conference and Banquet

On Saturday, August 16th, the conference was held in Mellerud. Several presentations were given on various aspects of Swedish emigration and immigration to the New World, including the *Sweden America Lines*, emigration from a woman's perspective, and a character re-enactment of "Olle i Skratthult," to name a few. There also were presentations on genealogy and the use of various software programs as tools in genealogical research, for Swedes looking for American relatives, and vice-versa.



Beautiful agricultural landscapes.

Throughout the day there were many exhibitors in the hall with information on emigration and genealogy. Several crafts were on display and were for sale by local craftsmen, and there were some individuals dressed in regional folk-attire from 19th Century Dalsland. Last but not least, *Logen Mellerud Nr 644* had a display that included photographs of all the "Swedish-Americans of the Year" as honored by the Vasa Order of America.

On Saturday evening several of us drove north from Mellerud to Ånimskog for our banquet at *Dalslands Gästgiveri*. I know I speak for all in attendance when I state that we had a very special time – one that will never be forgotten! On this

peaceful summer evening, we first milled around on the lawn overlooking beautiful Ånimmen Lake – the view reminded me of an Otto Hesselbom landscape painting. After we had a champagne toast we were called into the elegant manor house for dinner. Our hostess for the evening, Eiwor Backelund, prepared a brochure for the event with songs in celebration of our shared Swedish and American cultures. We had another wonderful meal of traditional Swedish foods, including herring, salmon, various meats and cheeses, and followed by dessert and coffee. Throughout dinner we were entertained by Owe Clapson, alias Olle i Skratthult and his band. Everything about the evening was so special and we were treated to such hospitality by our guests! The music, too, was wonderful, entertaining and appropriate to the theme. Again, it was quite moving to listen to *Hälsa De Därhemma* sung by our Swedish friends.

A smaller group participated in a church service on Sunday morning at beautiful Skållerud church, located just a bit northwest of Mellerud. All of us in attendance can trace part of our ancestry back to this church, and so to say the least it was very special for us to be there.

Words cannot describe how wonderful the Emigration Conference was; it more than lived up to my initial expectations. I can state with confidence on behalf of all of my fellow Americans, we will never



Melleruds Museum and Genealogy Center.

Continued on page 23

## Emigration Conference

Continued from page 22

forget the beautiful sites and sounds of our ancestral homeland. We thank everyone for all they did to make this event such a memorable experience.

We will always remember Dalsland, truly a "Sweden in miniature," with its quaint cottages, farmhouses and barns painted in Swedish red; picturesque villages and churches; and narrow, winding roads with views of sparkling lakes nestled in coniferous forests.

This special event brought us together in our ancestral homeland, with its traditional foods, music, and landscapes. This is what family histories and genealogy are all about – celebrations of our shared lineages; honor and recognition of our immigrant forefathers and their lives in the Old and New Worlds; and last but not least, making new connections and friendships in our world today.

*Tusen, tusen tack ...* Thanks again to all of you!

**Kenneth Johnson, Viljan #349,  
Batavia, IL**



*Backstuga*

## The Louise Delbor Swedish Whisk from Sandviken, Sweden to Indianapolis, IN

Lois Klubens, member of *Svea* #253, Indianapolis, Indiana, recently discovered and met an innovative Swedish relative, Louise Möberg Delbor, who lives in Sandviken, Sweden. In fact, Lois and Louise are both named after Lovisa Möberg, their great-grandmother.

Louise Delbor invented a fabulous whisk, the *Delbor Swedish Whisk*. The whisk technology is special: it has a flexible coil, which permits one to whisk the bottom of a bowl while holding the handle upright. The whisks are effective, practical, attractive, and efficient – just wonderful.

In the meantime, *Svea* #253 member

Edward Hultgren also has cousins, Ulf and Debra Lundahl, in Sandviken, Sweden. The Lundahl's and their children live a few doors down the road from Louise Delbor – their homes are separated by a church! What a coincidence!

When Ulf and Debra planned their recent visit to Indiana, they made a point of meeting their neighbor Louise Delbor to share the story that their respective relatives belonged to the same Vasa lodge in Indiana. As a gracious and generous gesture, Louise Delbor sent 10 of her whisks with Ulf and Debra. Lois received a whisk, Ed received a

whisk, and the other 8 whisks were door prizes at the September meeting of *Svea* # 253. The lucky winners were thrilled.

*"Tack Så Mycket!"* to Louise Delbor – innovator, inventor, and new friend.

Another coincidence has been uncovered. *Svea* #253 lodge member, Iva Lynn, reports that her cousin also lives in Sandviken. Ed's cousin Ulf and Iva's cousin both work for the same company, Sandvik that manufactures machinery, tools, and medical equipment and supplies in several countries.

**Submitted by: Joella Hultgren,  
Svea #253, Indianapolis, IN**



*From left, Lois Klubens and the 8 winners of the Whisk Drawing: Jean Tygum, Jenne Swain, Patricia Hoffman, Chuck Lindgren, Charlotte Swenson, Norma Jacobson, Wesley Hanson, and Susan Swanson.*

# Svenska Folksport Förbundet Vasa Logen Bråviken Nr 751

## Utvandrarans väg 2009

Utmed vägen Eriksmåla till Karlshamn en sträcka på ca 10 mil, där den största utvandringen från södra Sverige ägde rum och den väg som är så starkt förknippad med Vilhelm Moberg's epos "Utvandrarna" med efterföljare!

Ett antal eldsjälur, skapar första "Emigrant Festival" den 15-20 juni, och Vasa Logen 680 Karlshamn skall den 21 juni fira 50 års Jubileum över statyn "Utvandrarna" Karl-Oskar och Kristina som restes för 50 år sedan i Karlshamn, vid utloppet mot "WEST!"

Åke Sjöblom som är Vice President i Svenska Folksport Förbundet vill hjälpa till med att ge dessa eldsjälur ett bidrag genom att ordna en internationell vandring under denna vecka.

Titta på at [www.utvandraransvag.com](http://www.utvandraransvag.com) för ytterligare information eller kontakta Åke Sjöblom at [vallmovagen7@spray.se](mailto:vallmovagen7@spray.se)

**Submitted by: Åke Sjöblom**  
Vallmovägen 7, 612 46 Finspång,  
Sweden

## The Emmigrant Road 2009

Driving along the road from Eriksmåla to Karlshamn a stretch of about 100km, is where the largest emigration from southern Sweden took place, and is also strongly connected with Vilhelm Moberg's book "The Emigrants."

Several enthusiasts are forming the first "Emigrant Festival" between the 15th - 20th of June, and Karlshamn Lodge #680 will celebrate their 50th anniversary of the statue "The Emigrants," Karl-Oskar and Kristina, on the 21st of June in Karlshamn, a passage "out west."

Åke Sjöblom who is the Vice President of Svenska Folksport Förbundet would like to help these enthusiasts through a donation by organizing an "international walk," during this week.

Please look at [www.utvandramasvag.com](http://www.utvandramasvag.com) for more information or contact Åke Sjöblom at [vallmovagen7@spray.se](mailto:vallmovagen7@spray.se).

**Submitted by: Åke Sjöblom,**  
Vallmovägen 7, 612 46 Finspång,  
Sweden



VASAORDEN AV AMERIKA  
DISTRIKTSLOGE NR 19  
NORRA SVERIGE



inbjuder genom  
värdlogen nr 751 BRÅVIKEN  
till distriktsmöte  
den 21-23 maj 2009  
I SÖDERKÖPING



Söderköpings Brunn

För mer info kontakta gärna  
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eller värdlogen nr 751  
PS Karl Jerlock, Smultronvägen 4,  
590 62 Lindhem, Sweden  
[11751@vasaorden.com](mailto:11751@vasaorden.com)

## 2009 Program for Bishop Hill Lodge #683

- March 27 - 6:00 P.M.** – Swedish Pancakes/Pea Soup Supper. Program: **Civil War**, Mike Wendell.
- April 27 – TBA** – Valborg Celebration at Vasa Archives.
- May 22 – 7:00 P.M.** – Memorial Service - Cultural Report. Program: **Pottery**, Jeffrey Goard.
- May 29-31st** – District Lodge Lake Michigan #8 Annual Meeting and Convention
- June 27 – 4:00 P.M.** – Midsommar Celebration at Park and the Colony School
- July 24 – 6:00 P.M.** – Picnic and Potluck at Galva Park District – Cultural Report
- August** – No meeting
- Sept. 25 – 6:00 P.M.** – Wiener Roast & Potluck at Vasa Archives. Program: **VASA**, Lars Jenner.
- Oct. 23 – 7:00 P.M.** – Cultural Report - Program: **Voices of the Past**, Cheryl Dowell
- Nov. 20 – 7:00 P.M.** – Election of Officers - Cultural Report. Program: **Variety Show Night**, Rollie Krause and Roger Anderson.
- Dec. 5 – 6:00 P.M.** – Christmas Party Smorgasbord/Lucia Program – EACH FAMILY WILL BRING DISH TO PASS, OWN TABLE SERVICE - \$2 MAN/LADY GIFT FOR GIFT EXCHANGE



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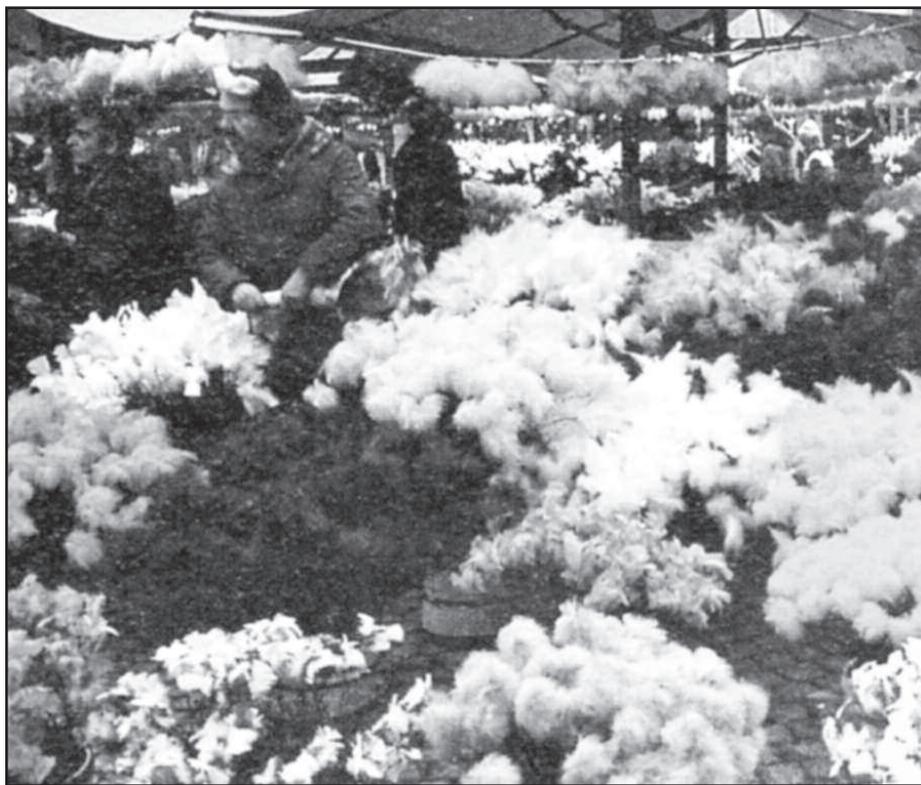
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# Easter

## *A festival in yellow*



TO THAT section of the Swedish population which is uninterested in the Church and its message, Easter has above all come to represent four days off, which in central and southern Sweden at least can come at just the right time for, say, tidying up the garden, overhauling the boat or paying the year's first visit to the country cottage. But Easter is, of course, a movable feast, and if it comes in March, then, in the northern parts of the country, it presents an opportunity for winter sports rather than outdoor work, and even if it comes later, many people take the opportunity of getting in a week's skiing in the Alps or the Swedish mountains. This mobility of Easter makes life difficult, not least, for all the flower growers who, one week beforehand, have to deliver the many yellow daffodils which have become the commonest Easter ornament in people's homes, frequently combined with birch twigs.

Yellow is, of course, the colour for Easter, reflecting the part which eggs and chicks have come to play in this festival.

At Eastertime, Christians of every denomination the world over consume millions and millions of eggs. At no other festival is there such universal agreement on what should be eaten. The original reason for this was that six weeks of Lent prevented the faithful from eating the eggs which domesticated poultry and wild birds were beginning to lay in copious quantities at that very time of the year. By the time Easter came round, eggs were so plentiful that the menu was fairly obvious. As an additional festive touch for the Easter meal time, it has been the custom everywhere in Europe to paint eggs, an art which in Sweden is mainly practiced in the southern parts of the country (in the north there could be a shortage of eggs if Easter came early, in which case people would have Whitsum eggs instead!) Upholders of tradition still dye their eggs with onion peels, ears of corn and birch leaves which are tied to them while they are boiled, leaving patterns on the shell.

In other ways, too, food at Easter has a religious background. The vast quantities

of salmon consumed, in various guises, on Good Friday reminds us that, long after the Reformation, the Swedes were still keeping this as a fast and, accordingly, (meatless) fish day. Mind you, in those days there was no question of delicacies like fresh or smoked salmon. Instead, to tame the flesh, people would eat salted back of salmon or dried cod, perhaps without even water to drink.

Whereas the fish diet of Good Friday has an ancient history, the "paschal lamb" – roast leg of lamb for dinner on one of the days of Easter – is a novel custom. The idea comes, of course, from the Bible story of the Passover first celebrated by the Israelites in Egypt, and in the Mediterranean countries the paschal lamb is in many places a regular custom. Lambing time in those countries comes at about the New Year, but in Sweden it comes so much later that the lambs cannot possibly be served at Eastertime. Instead the latter-day custom in Sweden has been made possible by modern refrigeration technology.

One ancient, grisly aspect of Easter celebrations in Sweden has not been turned into a children's amusement. Little girls, wearing head scarves and long skirts, go from door to door with a coffee pot which they expect to get filled with small change or sweets. Known as Easter crones or Easter witches, they recall the old superstition in Sweden that Easter was the time when the witches flew to the devil on the "Blue Mountain," a belief which, even in the 18th century, could still mean capital punishment for those who were denounced.

Other relics of past belief in witchcraft are also unwittingly perpetuated by the Swedes. In the west of Sweden especially, firecrackers are let off on Easter night, and here and there the darkness is lit up by great bonfires. Firecrackers and fires are an ancient proven method of keeping witches at bay. Nowadays damaged fingers and grass fires are the only harmful sides of those relics of ancient superstition.

*Source: The Swedish Institute*

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

**CALIFORNIA**

**THYRA L. ANDERSON** passed away in Los Angeles, CA, January 7, 2008, at the age of 102. She was born in Småland, Sweden, on December 28, 1906. She joined North Star Lodge #106 on May 17, 1949, and received her 50-year pin in 1999. She is survived by 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**HAROLD E. "BUD" BIRCH** of Ventura, CA, passed away November 1, 2008. He was a member of Oak Leaf Lodge #685 and Northern Light Lodge #620, where he served as Chairman and held other offices. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Betty, a brother, 3 daughters, 2 step-daughters, 1 step-son, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**MONICA EISERLING** passed away in Tucson, AZ, May 17, 2008. She was born in Sweden on June 9, 1937, and joined North Star Lodge #106 in January 1983. She is survived by her daughter Ingrid and son Erik.

**INGRID WISTROM HERINK**, a 20-year member of Sierra Kronan Lodge #737 in Roseville, CA, passed away in Michigan near her daughter, on November 8, 2008. She was a grammar school teacher until 1983. Ingrid was born October 30, 1921, 'at sea' north of Scotland on the Danish Liner "Frederick the 8th" bound for America. She is survived by 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

**HAZEL HULTBERG** passed away in Poway, CA, May 14, 2008. She was born in Los Angeles, CA, on October 19, 1925, and joined North Star Lodge #106 on June 17, 1941. She is survived by 8 children and grandchildren.

**WALTER REINHOLD JOHNSON** passed away in Novato, CA, June 21, 2008, at age 91. He was born in Kingsburg, CA, on October 30, 1916, and joined North Star Lodge #106 on November 8, 1932. Walter had the title "Mr. North Star" taking care of the finances of the lodge for many, many years. He leaves his wife Lois, daughters Barbara and Gail, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**ELSIE LIVENGOOD** of Ventura, CA, passed away November 11, 2008. She was a dual member of Northern Light Lodge #620 and Norden Lodge #684. She received her 40-year pin in the late 1990s, was Cultural Chairman and a Past Chairman by Degree. She leaves behind her loving husband of 61 years, John, a brother, daughter, son and grandson.

**JAMES A. MOORE** passed away in Los Angeles, CA, March 8, 2008. He was born in Washington State on February 23, 1919, and joined North Star Lodge #106 on March 8, 2002. He is survived by his wife Virginia and 1 son.

**JOHN OLSON**, member of Balder Lodge #343, Ferndale, CA, passed away December 9, 2008. He was born in San Rafael, CA, on August 2, 1927, and was a resident of Humboldt County for much of his life. He was lodge chairman when he passed away. He is survived by his wife Mabel, 2 sons, 2 daughters, and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

**JEANNINE PETERSSON** passed away in Los Angeles, CA, August 15, 2008. She was born in Montreal, Canada, on April 3, 1925, and joined North Star Lodge #106 on April 4, 2000.

**KNUT OLAV PETERSSON** passed away in Los Angeles, CA, February 3, 2008. He was born in Sundsvall, Sweden, on April 18, 1920, and joined North Star Lodge #106 on April 4, 2000.

**DR. ÅKE SANDLER** passed away in Los Angeles, CA, January 2, 2008, at the age of 94. He was born in

Sweden July 7, 1913, and joined North Star Lodge #106 on February 1, 1999. He is survived by his wife Jane, 1 son and 1 granddaughter.

**FLORIDA**

**LLOYD EDWARD LARSON** of Orange City, FL, passed away January 1, 2009. He was born in Ryder, ND, on July 21, 1920. Mr. Larson is survived by his wife Doris, 2 daughters and 2 grandsons. Lloyd was an active and loyal member of Local Lodge Jubilee #692, DeLand, FL, for 22 years and served as Chairman in 1994 and as Auditor for the past 3 years. His presence and support will be greatly missed.

**ILLINOIS**

**EUGENE D. BLAIS** passed away December 27, 2008, in Rockford, IL, at the age of 70. Gene was born July 14, 1938, and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on March 21, 1971. He is survived by his wife Caroline, and son Gene (Pebbles) Blais.

**PATRICIA A. GELASUS** passed away December 28, 2008, in Rockford, IL, at the age of 73. Pat was born on May 10, 1935, and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on October 13, 2002. She is survived by her niece Julia (Thomas) Stotler.

**LOLA M. JOHNSON** passed away October 23, 2008, in Rockford, IL, at the age of 91. Lola was born October 5, 1917, and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on December 2, 1973. She is survived by son Randy (Jeri Sue) and daughter Sharon (Don) Cisco, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and a brother.

**LILLIE V. KRAMER** passed away December 28, 2008, in Rockford, IL, at the age of 88. Lil was born June 4, 1920, and joined Brahe Lodge #245 on May 11, 1972. She is survived by 3 sons, Kit, Bruce (Barb), and Scott (Vickie), and 2 daughters, Sharon Lester and Nancy (George) Lagoyda.

**MICHIGAN**

**JEANETTE M. BURAK**, 87, of Escanaba, MI, passed away August 2, 2008. She was born in Escanaba, MI, November 29, 1920, and joined Framåt Lodge #463 on March 14, 1999. She is survived by 1 daughter, 3 sons, and grandchildren.

**NEBRASKA**

**MARIE V. ERICKSEN** passed away January 16, 2009, at the age of 91. She was born June 20, 1918. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eric. She is survived by her daughter, Elsie and sons E. Neil, R. Alan, and R. Lynn, 8 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, a brother, nieces and nephews. Marie joined Omaha Lodge #330 on November 14, 1993, and was a member for 15 years.

**HAROLD E. OLSON** passed away January 7, 2009. He was born November 12, 1934. He was preceded in death by his wife Alice. Harold is survived by his sister Beulah Heiberg, 2 sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and numerous friends. Harold joined Omaha Lodge #330 on March 8, 1980, and received his 25-year pin in 2005. He was serving as Chairman at the time of his death.

**DOLA PLOUGH** passed away May 14, 2008, at the age of 90. She was born October 1, 1917. She was preceded in death by her husband Harold, son and daughter-in-law Hap and Linda Plough. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Ron Berry, 2 grandsons, 1 granddaughter, 3 great-grandsons, 2 brothers, and many nieces, nephews and friends. Dola joined Omaha Lodge #330 on April 13, 1985, and had been a member for 23 years.

**OHIO**

**JANICE CLINARD** passed away on December 1, 2008. She was the beloved wife of O.J. for 41 years, mother of Steve (Leia), Nina (Hank) Gingerich, and Alan, grandmother of 4, and sister of Ruthann Hebble. Janice was born January 26, 1942, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on September 11, 2007.

**LILLIAN DAHLEN** passed away December 27, 2008. She was born in Minneapolis, MN, on July 10, 1909, and joined Stenbock Lodge #138 on June 11, 1970. She is survived by cousins in Minnesota and Sweden.

**ANNIE M. JAENSON (OLAFSSON)**, passed away at age 97 in Willoughby, OH, on December 10, 2008. She was born in Skåne, Sweden, April 24, 1911. Survivors are her son Steve C. (Carol); daughter Linda (husband Mick Fagert) Jaenson; grandchildren Kristina (James) Risk, Erik Jaenson, Jamal and Bijan Derakhshan. She was preceded in death by her husband Karl Steve, 2 brothers and 5 sisters. She was a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130.

**LILLIAN M. JOHNSON** of Cuyahoga Falls, OH, died November 16, 2008, at the age of 81. Mrs. Johnson was preceded in death by husband, David T., and is survived by children David (Sandra), Nancy Buettell (David), and Barbara Stewart (Donald), 5 grandchildren, brother Roy Mogren, and step-sister Seville Lundgren. Lillian was born June 13, 1927, in Cleveland, OH, and became a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on February 9, 1992.

**OREGON**

**MARIE JACOBSON** passed away December 2, 2008, in Portland, OR, at the age of 101. Marie was born in Higbee, MO, January 7, 1907, and moved to Portland in 1941. She married Nobel Lodge #184 charter member, Fritz Jacobson, in 1947, and joined Nobel in February 1948. Marie engaged enthusiastically in Nobel Lodge and served in many offices, including, among others, Cultural Leader, Chairman (6 terms), and Past Chairman. Marie loved performing lodge ritual with accuracy and by memory, and officers and members marched in straight lines and turned right angles in lodge room ceremony. During Nobel's long campaign to raise money to buy and maintain its own building, Marie contributed cheerfully many hours of long work from flipping pancakes to gathering and organizing the volunteers to publicizing the events. Nobel Lodge was proud to have Marie as its second District Master of Pacific Northwest District #13 during the 1970-72 term, and she faithfully served for many conventions thereafter with the other Past District Masters in the flag ceremony of the convention opening. Outside of Nobel Lodge, Marie contributed to several local philanthropic organizations. She started a fund to support the music program at the elementary school across the street from her apartment, and remembrances to Marie can be made to the Grout Elementary School music program (Portland, OR). Many members and officers throughout District #13 liked and respected Marie. She was serious during the meetings and much fun afterward. Marie had not been able to attend meetings for several years, and the members of Nobel missed her dignity, enthusiasm for lodge work, and her generosity. Marie is survived by her daughter Sue Thomas, and her granddaughter and care-giver, Susan Rychlik. The members of Nobel Lodge send their sincere condolences to the family of Marie Jacobson.

**TEXAS**

**MARGARET E. SWENSON** passed away January 9, 2009. She was born July 11, 1919, in New Sweden, TX. She was a member of Carl Widen Lodge #743, Austin, TX, and is survived by son Curt, daughter Marsha Lyons-Gray, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**WASHINGTON**

**EDNA IRENE BROOKS** passed away February 7, 2009, at the age of 85. She was born in Brainard, MN, and is survived by a son, Robert, and 2 sisters, her twin sister Etta Sheets and Doris Ristvet. She joined Svea Lodge #469 on April 28, 1989.

**AGNES LOUISE MILLER** passed away January 7, 2009, at the age of 92. She was born to Swedish immigrant parents in Aberdeen, WA. Louise graduated from Washington State University, School of Pharmacy, in 1939, and worked at her profession until retirement. She and her husband Harold were active at First Lutheran Church in Tacoma, WA. In retirement, she directed two singing groups, the Funtimes and the Melodears, and has received many awards for her service to the community. She had been an active member of Norden Lodge #233 for 15 years. Husband Harold, son Ronald and sister Nancy predeceased her. She is survived by her daughter Karla Angle and son-in-law Ed, 3 grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and good friends. Louise will be missed and will be remembered for her amazing spirit and generosity.

**CANADA**

**ALICE BISSETT (NEE JOHNSON)**, passed away December 7, 2008, in Winnipeg. Alice was born July 10, 1921, in Lillesve, Manitoba, Canada. She was initiated into Lodge Strindberg #259, Winnipeg, Canada, on November 18, 1963.

**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.



**Lynda Ann Smith**

# GLYD - USA, Canada

## Lynda Ann Smith

Born in Chicago in 1946, I now reside in Northwest Indiana, a bedroom community of Chicago. As a little girl, I lived in the city until I was 10 years old when we made the move to the suburbs. My Swedish heritage comes from my mother's side of the family. From very early on, I always experienced the wonderful cooking of my mormor and her sisters on the holidays. My mother made sure that Swedish music always played in our home. My grandparents had belonged to a Swedish lodge at one time before they retired to California and I remember going to dances and learning the schottische and hambo from my uncles. These are wonderful memories! My morfar even bought me an accordion when I was eight years old so that I could learn to play the old dance tunes. Interestingly, the town where I went to high school was populated by mostly Dutch families, and seeing my blond hair, people I met always assumed that I was Dutch too. I was always quick to correct their misconceptions and let them know that I was Swedish!

After college, I became a Biology/Science teacher in a very large high school district where I grew to love working with the young people there. I always took pride in teaching about the very logical taxonomic system of classification of living things that was developed by Carl Linnaeus. I married a non-Swede and we had three children. We would take them to events in an IOV lodge my parents had found. Through the IOV I became acquainted with some very active Swedes who were also involved in Vasa lodges and this led me to involve my three children in Solstrålen #17. I was thrilled to find how much they were learning and how many friends they made. It opened up a whole new avenue of activities and a way for our entire family to learn about and share many exciting aspects of Swedish culture; my Irish/German husband even learned to sing the songs with our children! As a result of this involvement, I was invited to join Siljan Mora Tuna Lodge #134 by Sten and Nancy Hult in 1987.

In 1988, we took a trip of a lifetime and spent six weeks touring Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Ireland with our children and my parents. On arriving home I was quite surprised to be asked to take over as musical director for the children's Club because their director had resigned. I did accept and was successful through the help and support of the club leader (Britt Nilsson) and the pianist (Carol Ericson Combis).

By the late 90's we had moved to Indiana and my children had all grown up. Our eldest daughter Lynnea graduated from Valparaiso University with a degree in Music Education and was the perfect choice to pick as the director of a new group here in Indiana which we formed in 2001 – we called it **Nordikids #208** – and I took over as the Club supervisor. In 2006, I assisted the parents of all of our children members, and their extended families, to form a new local VOA lodge; we named it **Nordik Folk Lodge #761**.

I became the DYS (District Youth Supervisor) for District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8 in 2004. Additionally, I am the GLYD for the USA and Canada since my appointment by GM Rolf Bergman in 2006. Thus I now hold the same kind of job at all three levels of Vasa.

My greatest hope is to create a network of all Vasa members who share my passion for youth whereby we can pool our collective knowledge of Swedish culture (from history to modern events) and use this as the basis for educating and creating enthusiasm in our young members...knowing that they will one day become leaders of the Vasa Order!

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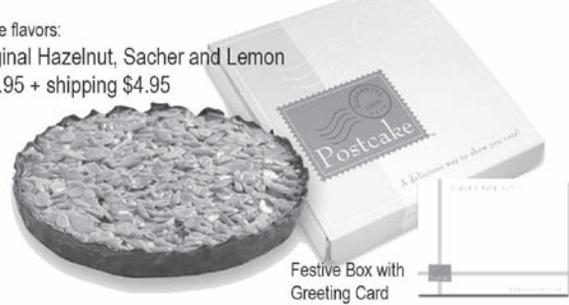
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## Announcing the Grand Lodge Children's Club Seminar/Workshop



The Grand Lodge is sponsoring a Workshop for all Children's Club Leaders and all District Lodge Youth Supervisor during the weekend of July 17-19, 2009 in Alsip, IL.

The goal is to bring all of our Clubs to the 'same page' and to allow their leaders to learn from one another and bond as a group. This seminar address important issues facing our Children's Clubs. We hope the result will be that all Club Leaders and Youth Supervisors are energized and excited to return to their respective Clubs with renewed enthusiasm for engaging the children of those Clubs to share our rich Swedish/Nordic culture.

In addition to the Workshop plans include a tour of Chicago and a visit to the Swedish American Museum in the Andersonville neighborhood.

All active Children's Club leaders and District Lodge Supervisors have been formally invited to attend.

If you worked with a club in the past, are interested in learning how to start one in your lodge or region, or are just interested in ways to share your Swedish heritage with children and youth, please consider attending the workshop and please contact me so that I may help with the process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynda Ann Smith  
Grand Lodge Youth Director  
Email: [lansmith@hotmail.com](mailto:lansmith@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 219-923-8777