

THE VASA STAR



Vasastjärnan

JULY-AUGUST 2009



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



Message from the Grand Master



Rolf Bergman

Vasa brothers and sisters!

If you are reading my message you already know that this issue is only produced on the Grand Lodge website. This is the second year in a row that the Grand Lodge Executive Board decided not to print and distribute the July/August issues of the Vasa Star. Hopefully the message that this issue would not be distributed was advertised better than last year, although I know that there are still misunderstandings about it. For those who do have internet access I encourage you to print this issue and make it available to those in your lodge who do not have access. As explained in last year's message the reason is budgetary. The September/October issue and those following will again be printed and distributed, including all six issues in 2010.

I have not written the message since the January/February 2009 issue. I thank Lynda Smith Grand Lodge Youth Director, USA & Canada, for the message on Children's Clubs in the March/April issue and VGM Bill Lundquist's message in the May/June issue. The Youth and Children's Club Seminar, sponsored by the Grand Lodge, is on the near horizon; it will happen the second weekend in July in the Chicago area. I hope to see many of you there who have either district or children's club responsibilities. Unfortunately, Marty and I will only be able to stay Friday evening; one of our best friend's daughter decided to get married on Saturday, so we have to hurry back to Cleveland on Saturday morning.

Spring was a very busy time for us visiting Vasa District meetings. Marty and I participated in district meetings in DL Rhode Island No. 3 in Providence RI, DL Golden Gate No. 12 in Fresno CA, DL New Jersey No. 6 in Cape May NJ, DL Södra Sverige No. 20 in Växjö Sweden, DL Norra Sverige No 19 in Söderköping Sweden and DL Alberta No. 18 in Edmonton, Alberta. Unfortunately we could not attend the DL Lake Michigan No. 8 meeting in Indianapolis due to a conflict. Instead we attended a scientific conference in Budapest, Hungary.

All of the above district lodges elected Grand Lodge delegates to attend the Grand Lodge convention to be held in the Marriott at Metro Center, Washington DC, July 2-8, 2010. We have provided preliminary information on the schedule of events in this issue and will make available registration forms and hotel contact information in the next issue and post the same on the Grand Lodge website.

The second annual drawing for the three monetary raffle prizes from the raffle tickets printed in the March/April issue occurred on July 5th. By now winners have been drawn and notified. We plan to have their names and pictures in the Jan/Feb, 2010, issue of the Vasa Star. If you send in a donation DL Pennsylvania No. 9's convention committee thanks you and asks you to do the same in 2010. Next year the drawing will be held in Washington, DC.

Vasa Syskon!

Om ni har läst mina tidigare meddelanden så vet ni redan att det här numret kan ni bara läsa på Storlogens websida. Det är andra året i rad som Storlogens exekutiva råd bestämde sig för att inte trycka ut och distribuera juli/augusti upplagan av The Vasa Star.

Förhoppningsvis blev ni bättre informerade över att denna upplaga inte skulle distribueras, jämfört med förra året, men jag vet att det fortfarande finns missförstånd angående detta.

Till alla er som har tillgång till internet, ber jag att trycka ut denna upplaga så att de finns tillgängliga till dem i er loge som inte har tillgång till internet. Orsaken till denna indragning, är som jag skrev förra året, att det är budgeten som styr och som gjorde att vi måste ta detta beslut. september/oktober upplagan kommer att tryckas och distribueras som vanligt och de som följer samt att alla sex upplagor kommer att tryckas under 2010.

Jag har inte skrivit mitt meddelande sedan januari/februari 2009 upplagan. Jag vill tacka Lynda Smith SLUD, USA och Kanada för hennes information om "Barnklubbarna" i mars/april numret och VSM, Bill Lundquists upplysningar i maj/juni upplagan. "Ungdoms - och Barnklubbs seminariet," som sponsras av Storlogen, börjar skönja sin gryning. Det kommer att ske under den andra helgen i juli i närheten av Chicago. Jag hoppas att jag kommer att få träffa många av er som har ansvar för distrikt- eller lokala loger. Tyvärr kan jag och Marty bara stanna under fredagkvällen. En av våra bästa vänners dotter bestämde sig för att gifta sig på lördagen, så vi måste skynda oss tillbaka till Cleveland tidigt på lördag morgon.

Tyvärr finns det inte mer plats att skriva på svenska, men ni kan säkert läsa de sista tre paragraferna på engelska.

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HEADQUARTERS:

c/o Joan Graham
Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Avenue
Richmond, CA 94804
Phone: 510-526-5512
E-mail: vasajlg@aol.com

Grand Master:

Rolf S. Bergman
3236 Berkeley Avenue
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
Phone: 216-371-5141
Fax: 216-274-9664
E-mail: rolf.bergman@sbcglobal.net

Editor:

Marie Carlson
9560 Curberry Drive
Mentor, OH 44060
Phone: 440-255-4665
E-mail: mariec@swedes-r-us.com

**Circulation Manager:
(Address Changes)**

Cathy Anderson
13194 N. Woosnam Way
Oro Valley, AZ 85755
Phone: 520-219-9433
E-mail:
circulationvasastar@gmail.com

Send bottom section of white copy of application for new members to her.

Membership Chairman:

Tore Kellgren
5971 W. Walbrook Drive
San Jose, CA 95129
Phone: 408-996-1970
E-mail: tore@kellgren.org

Orders for advertising should be sent to:

THE VASA STAR
Marie Carlson
9560 Curberry Drive
Mentor, OH 44060
Phone: 440-255-4665
E-mail: mariec@swedes-r-us.com

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

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

There will not be any Swedish Lessons in this issue of The Vasa Star since it will not be printed but appear on Vasa's Website. The reason is that so many have written that they miss those lessons due to them not having access to a computer and/or do not want to ask someone to have them printed out.

Submitted by: Lillemor and Richard Horngren

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

1383 Middlebrook Way • Rohnert Park, CA, 94928

Cell Phone: (707) 694-1345

E-mail: audiovisual.vasaorder@yahoo.com

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

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

CORRECTION

In Memoriam

In the Mar/Apr 2009 issue of The Vasa Star Lillian Dahlen, member of Stenbock Lodge #138 was listed under Ohio, it should be Minnesota.

Submitted by: Joanne Thoren, Secretary, Stenbock Lodge #138

Cover:

The Swedish Flag blowing in the wind.

Den Svenska flaggan vajar i vinden.

Picture by: Inge Hallberg, SFF, HMLL Logen Bråviken #751.

Letter from the Editor



Summer greetings from Sweden where the weather has not been the greatest during this last week; but despite the rain, there are still plenty of things to do.

We started this vacation visiting friends in the Stockholm Archipelago. This was my first time to see a very special part of this spectacular country that has so much to offer due to its length from north to south. You will find flat land in the south of Sweden, gradually becoming higher with

mountains as you head north, and the nature as well as animal life also changes.

Tegnér Lodge #149 had an interesting talk about the Kensington Rune stone, worth some investigating in this issue. Regarding this topic I have to mention that the most northern rune stone happens to be located here in Jämtland on the Frösö Island, by Lake Storsjön.

One of the lodge members who so faithfully has contributed articles during my years as the Editor, has decided to “*pass the pen*” to another writer. I will miss Marion Borgman’s well-written articles, often with a sense of subtle humor. Thanks for all your contributions Marion!

I am looking forward to this year’s “sour herring premier” (only here in Sweden) as well as the numerous Crayfish parties.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Marie

Brev från Redaktören

Sommarhälsningar från Sverige där vädret inte varit det bästa under den senaste veckan; men trots regnet, finns det massor av saker att göra.

Vi började vår resa med att besöka vänner i Stockholms Skärgård. Det var första gången jag hade möjlighet att se denna speciella del av detta fantastiska land som har så mycket att erbjuda på grund av dess längd från norr till söder. Landet är jämt och ”platt” i söder och blir gradvis högre med sina fjäll ju längre norrut du kommer, samt att djur och natur förändras.

Tegnér Logen #149 hade ett intressant föredrag om Kensington Runstenen, värt att läsa i denna upplaga. När det gäller detta ämne så måste jag nämna att den nordligaste runstenen råkar finnas här i Jämtland på Frösön invid Storsjöns strand.

En av mina pålitligaste medlemmar, som så troget skickat in artiklar under mina år som Redaktör, har bestämt sig för att “*överlämna pennan*” till en annan författare. Jag kommer att sakna Marion Borgmans bidrag, de var mycket välskrivna med en känsla av “underfundig” humor. Tack för alla dina bidrag Marion!

Jag ser fram emot detta års “surströmmings premiär” (här i Sverige) samt Kräftkalas.

Fortsätt att njuta av sommaren!

Marie



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ARCHIVES NEWS

Label Your Photographs

In early June this year the Vasa National Archives received a lovely visit from Göte and Maureen Bengtsson of Småland Lodge #618, DL 20, in Jönköping, Sverige. It so happens that Maureen's parents had been members in a Long Island lodge in the 1930s-40s called Skogsblomman #473, DL NY 4 in Hempstead, NY. While here she donated photographs with meticulously identified people from mid-century Skogsblomman and District #4.

The Bengtssons arrival in Bishop Hill was a wonderful Vasa confluence, because the Archive's President and PGM, Lennart Petersson, was also here, and another longtime member, Evelyn Earls and her son, Harold, North Star Lodge #106, DL 15, in California, stopped on their way to Niagara Falls. Evelyn, now in her early nineties, had joined Vasa as a child interested in Swedish folk dancing. Needless to say, history was singing that day, and we all had a nice time talking about our experiences in Vasa.

Maureen Bengtsson's donation of labeled photographs to the Archives got me to thinking again about the historical importance of pictorial documentation. Members frequently contact the Archives searching for photographs, and though we have much to offer, they are often marred by poor and non-existent information. "A picture is worth a thousand words" as the saying goes, but if you do not know what you are looking at, it is only worth a few: "What a shame!"

Let's work together and turn this situation around. Label your photographs now while you can still identify the place, people, and event in the photograph. Write this information lightly, but legibly in pencil on the back of the picture. If you do not know enough about some of your saved pictures, have a "picture labeling party" with several of your lodge's members who do know. I promise you: it will be a great story-telling moment when you gather people to look at old photos. You might turn on an audio recording device and capture a little oral history at the same time.

The Archives is a great place to store pictures or copies of pictures here, so please send them along to us, but the first step is most important: label your photographs.

**Submitted by: Lars Jenner,
Archivist**



Vasa Gathering



**Do you want
to find your
Swedish
roots?**

I can help you. I am a professional genealogist and member of Svenska Släktforskarförbundet, specializing in Swedish research. As an expert in Swedish graphology and history, and with great experience of several genealogical databases I can help find your ancestors in Sweden. At best I will be able to trace your ancestors: date of birth, place of birth parents, date of marriage, profession, date of death, and cause of death.

According to your wishes I will compose an individual genealogical table for example with four generations (300 USD), five generations (500 USD), and you will of course get full documentation of all sources presented and delivered both in graphical layouts and tables. Please contact me on e-mail: swedengen@telia.com and I will send you more information.

Jan Lindström
Member of Vasaorder of Amerika
Logen Calmare Nyckel Nr 628, Sweden

GRAND LODGE NEWS

2010 Grand Lodge Convention

We extend an invitation to all Vasa members to attend the next Grand Lodge Convention to be held in Washington DC, July 2-9, 2010. The convention is hosted by District Lodge Pennsylvania No. 9, the home district of the current Grand Master, Rolf Bergman. Grand Treasurer, C. Richard Overberg, is the convention chairman. Further, the local lodge in the Washington DC area, Drott Lodge No. 168, will celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2010.

Below find information on the hotel, the daily convention schedule and tours. Beginning with the next issue of the Vasa Star, and continuing through the May/June 2010 issue, we will provide registration forms for the Grand Lodge convention in the Vasa Star. Costs for attending the various events will be part of the registration forms. These forms will also be available as interactive PDF forms on the Vasa website beginning in September, 2009. You are welcome to attend one day or every day of the convention depending on your situation.

DL Pennsylvania No. 9 will have items for sale as a fundraiser to support the cost for hosting the convention. Order forms will be in the Vasa Star beginning with the Sep/Oct issue of the Vasa Star. Items for sale will be Nordic sweatshirts, Dalahäst lapel pins and Daphne Note Cards. Also please support the district by participating in the annual raffle, also found in the March/April issue of the Vasa Star.

Hotel

The Marriott at Metro Center will be the Convention Hotel. It is located in downtown Washington DC, on 12th St NW between G & H streets, with easy access to the Metro, tour busses as well as walking distances to government, historic and museum locations. The room rate at the hotel is \$159 per night, with a tax of 14.4 % added, for a total of \$181.90 per night. This rate applies to all rooms and for one, two, three or four persons per room. In the next issue of the Vasa Star we will provide information on how to call the hotel to get reservations.

Convention Schedule

The convention opens on Friday, July 2, 2010, with an evening reception at the Marriott. The registration desk will be open in the afternoon. We are excited to announce that the entertainment for the evening will be provided by the Vasastjärnan Youth Dance Group from DL New Jersey No. 6. The group has 16 youth dancers, led by Eric Johansson, PDM, DL New Jersey No. 6.

Saturday, July 3, the convention opens at 1:00 PM with DL Pennsylvania No. 9 introducing the Grand Lodge dignitaries and other invited VIPs in attendance. The flag ceremony will be performed by members of the Vasastjärnan Youth. At about 3:00 PM the Grand Lodge session opens with Grand Master Rolf Bergman in charge. The evening event is a reception at the House of Sweden, the home of the Swedish Embassy. Bus transportation between the hotel and the House of Sweden will be provided. If you had thought to visit the House of Sweden but had not yet had the opportunity, this might be a good occasion to do so.

July 4th is on a Sunday in 2010. It is a free day; no tours are planned. We understand from the locals that being in Washington DC on July 4th is quite an experience. There are so many people visiting the city that it is very difficult to get to places using motorized vehicles. And of course the day is topped off by fireworks near the Washington Monument. You can see these from locations near the hotel.

Monday through Thursday is devoted to work sessions for the delegates when they make decisions on the motions you have sent in for consideration. Monday evening is free for all. On Tuesday evening the Grand Lodge will present two seminars – topics not yet decided – related to cultural and membership issues. Late Wednesday afternoon will be the Vice Grand Master's reception.

The closing gala banquet will be on Thursday evening at the hotel. Details on speakers and entertainment are yet to be determined.

Tours

The only official tour sponsored by the district will be on Friday, July 9. It will be a tour to Mt. Vernon, home of George Washington. The major part of the trip between the hotel and Mt. Vernon will be via a boat ride which will drop us off at Mt. Vernon and pick us up after our three hour tour there.

The tour to Mt. Vernon, which we consider the official tour for the convention, was set after the closing banquet to allow people to make decisions on staying or going home. However, we are hoping that the majority will decide to stay and participate in the tour. Costs for the tour will be in the next issue of the Vasa Star.

Normally the hosting district provides day-trips or mini-tours for the guests at the Grand Lodge convention during the time that the delegates are meeting, i.e., Monday through Wednesday, during the day. However, due to the excellent location of the hotel which is within easy walking distance to the many museums at the Smithsonian and other government or historical buildings, coupled with the fact that the Metro entrance is just outside the Marriott and Washington DC tour-busses stop right outside the hotel giving excellent public transportation at low costs to anyplace in Washington that someone would choose to visit, the district convention committee decided not to sponsor tours for guest during the week. Rather we will provide help at the registration table to those not sure of what they wish to see or do. We believe this plan will satisfy more people and save them money compared to organized tours.

In summary we hope that you will plan to attend at least a portion of the Grand Lodge convention in July 2010. Please look for the registration information that will appear in the next few issues of the Vasa Star.

Submitted by:
Rolf Bergman, Grand Master
C. Richard Overberg, Grand Treasurer and
Convention Chair

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)

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL Rhode Island #3

Rhode Island District #3 held their 99th Convention at the Radisson Hotel in Warwick, RI. Among the honored guests to attend were Grand Master Rolf Bergman and his wife Marty and Vice Grand Master William Lundquist and his wife Sheila. Grand Lodge Deputy Eastern Region Pamela Genelli, Grand Lodge Deputies Ivar Anderson, DL New York #4 and Kris Zarli-Bloomquist, DL Rhode Island #3, also representing DL Connecticut #1, Massachusetts #2, and New York #4 were their District Masters and lodge officers.

District Master Laurie Doyle brought the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The morning passed very quickly with the reading of all the reports. In the afternoon was the nomination and election of officers. Lee-Ann Anderson-Hurtubise was elected District Master, Carol Olson was elected Vice District Master.

In the evening at the Convention Banquet Ray Johnson, PDM and Chairman of the PDM Club, presented the Past District Master's Pin to Laurie Doyle and a gavel, which he made, to new District Master Lee-Ann Anderson-Hurtubise with instructions to use it wisely when needed.

Submitted by: Raymond Johnson, PDM



DM Lee-Ann Anderson-Hurtubise, VDM Carol Olson and their board members from l-r: Vivian Valentine, Ken Johnson and Karen Kane.

DL New Jersey #6

NJ District #6 honored its District Master and First Lady, BJ and Cathy Peterson, on March 7th in *Viking Hall, Vasa Park, NJ*. There were over 140



Visiting "Bunnies"!

people who came out to celebrate the great year that BJ and Cathy had at the helm District #6.

As is the tradition in NJ, most of the evening was spent 'roasting' BJ and Cathy with numerous skits, gags, and memories from the previous year. Through the creative genius of Inger Hanright, with the help of the Executive Board, Viking Hall was transformed into a forest glade complete with a stone bridge and a canopy of trees. During the evening we were visited by "Bunnies" and Elmer Fudd. We were treated to a glimpse of the previously unseen video of our DM singing Karaoke and a presentation of his year on video. Dancing music was once again provided by Eric Johansson, Walter Eriksson Jr., Inez and Frank Czulak and was enjoyed by everyone. Because of BJ's love of all different kinds of music, there was also a performance by the "P's" with hits by Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, and others. The audience was brought to its feet by the final performance of the program that of the USA debut of the Southern Swedish Band called "Leonard Skynardsson" and their version of 'Sweet Home Vasa Park'!

Both BJ and Cathy have served Vasa in many capacities for many years. BJ has served the District as well as Vasa Park as a Trustee for over 17 years. Cathy has held many offices most notably the Children's Club Supervisor. Whether behind the scenes or out in front their dedication and service to Vasa is invaluable and greatly appreciated. The accolades given them at the testimonial were surely deserved.

Written by: Deborah Larsson,
VDM – VOA NJ #6

Submitted by: John Larsson



Leonard Skynardsson Band.

DL Norra Sverige #19

Logen Bråviken #751 stod som värd för Distriks #19 distriktsmöte och fick ett fint betyg för arrangemanget. Ca 160 Vasamedlemmar, var av många från USA, mötte upp i det anrika kurhotellet i Söderköping Brunn.

Mötet gick alldeles utmärkt och avslutades i beräknad tid tack vara Distriktsmästaren Gunnar Gustavson och som vid installationen av nya tjän-

stemännen fick överlämna klubban precis som sig bör till SLD Ewa Pilhammar Andersson.

Många gäster kom och njöt av den fina miljön. SM Rolf Bergman med fru Marty, VSM William Lundqvist med fru DM i DL #8, Sheila och naturligtvis FSM Lennart Petersson, född tvärs över gatan vid Söderköpings Brunn. Tore Kjellgren MSLER för region West, med fru

Birgitta samt MSLER för Sverige, Tore Tellberg med fru Margaretha, närvarade också under detta möte.

Det blev ett välregisserat Distriktsmöte tack vara den omsorg som Logen Bråviken lagt ned på detta arrangemang.

**Insänt av: Inge Hallberg SFF, HM
Logen Bråviken #751**



USA-träff på hotellets brygga, fr v VSM Wiliam Lundqvist med fru Scheila, DM i DL #8, samt till höger Maj-Lis Friedman, Höganäs.



Två nya tjänstemän i Distrikt #16. Logen Bråviken ordf Bo Svensson valdes till VDM och till höger Kurt Thelin blir distriktsskassör, två tunga poster i ER till Logen Bråviken.



Slutsamling i teaterladan.

LODGE NEWS

Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

Hello from Thule Lodge #127! Our summer weather is around the corner, and our club remembered *Walpurgis Night* in the end of April. If you recall, this is the time when farmers usually have a bonfire, just before letting out their animals for the summer. The fire is to scare away wild animals, and spirits, and also is a good time to clean up the farm of brush and branches. Walpurgis Night falls six months from Halloween.

The lodge held their annual *Memorial Service* at the end of May. This was to remember those Thule Lodge members who passed away in the last year. Edwin Sandberg, past district master, led the service. As each name was read, lodge secretary Lucile Marsh would ring a tone of remembrance, and lodge chaplain Diane Shaw, and past chairman Robert Fuller would place a carnation on the altar in one's memory. Long may we remember these people!

The lodge held its annual Swedish meatball dinner on a Sunday in May, and Don Sandy was playing accordion music for the patrons. The annual *Swedish smorgasbord* will be held in the middle of June at the lodge. On *Father's Day*, a herring breakfast will be held at the lodge. Friday night dinners began in May, and will continue to the fall. Lodge chairman Eugene Johnson invites all to



Lodge chaplain Diane Shaw and past chairman Robert Fuller placing carnations on the altar in memory of Thule Lodge members during the annual Memorial Service.

attend the dinners. Lodge meetings continue to be held on the fourth Thursday evening through the summer months.

The annual *Scandinavian Festival* will be held in July at the *Jamestown Community College*. As always, there will be music, crafts, dancing, singing, and food. Thule Lodge will serve its famous meatball dinner one evening during the festival. Susan Sipos will be demonstrating spinning on her spinning wheel.

Thule Lodge looks forward to the summer time of happiness and events. If you are in our area, we welcome you to visit our lodge. "God dag" to everyone!

Submitted by: John Sipos, Lodge Historian

Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA

Tegnér Lodge, Oakland, CA, members have had some very interesting meetings this spring. In March, Florence Spanier of Sveaborg Lodge told us about her stay at the Ice Hotel in Kiruna, Sweden. For decorations that month, Ingrid Andersson and some of the members decorated branches with colorful feathers.

Our special speaker in April was Steve Wilson of Svea Lodge. He spoke about the "Mimer's Källa" at Sveadal, the Bay Area Scandinavian's property south of San Francisco. There was a fresh water spring at Sveadal and A.B. Celander, who was the first person to lease a lot at Sveadal, built a drinking fountain at the spring and put up a plaque, calling it "Mimer's Källa." Mr. Wilson had slides to illustrate his story. Our guests that evening included Sharon Clothe and Don Morrison, grandchildren of the late Mr. Celander. Don's wife, Ellen, was also present.

In May, Ann Tennis gave a talk about the Kensington Rune Stone, basing her information on a recently published book by Scott F. Wolter and; Richard Nielsen. According to their detailed study and tests done by various geologists, scientists, etc., Mr. Olof Ohman, who discovered the rune stone when he was clearing trees from his land in Minnesota in 1898, was done a great injustice when the stone was labeled a hoax. Mr. Ohman was a

Swedish immigrant from Hälsingland. Wolter and Nielsen came to the conclusion that the stone was inscribed and buried by Norsemen. They proved that the runes on the stone have direct connections to runes used on ancient stones on the island of Gotland, east of Sweden. Their translation of the inscription on the Kensington Rune Stone is:

"Eight Götalanders and 22 Norwegians on (this?) reclaiming (or plundering) journey far to the west from Vinland. We had a camp by two ??? one day's journey from this stone. We were fishing one day. After we came home we found 10 men red from blood and death. Ave Maria. Save from evil.

"There are 10 men by the sea to look after our ships fourteen days journey from this island. Year 1362."

The members have enjoyed sing-alongs at their last few meetings. They are usually led by Ingrid Andersson, Marie Ann Hill, and Elsy Mattsson and usually include a couple of Swedish songs with both Swedish and English translations provided.

This spring we have been very happy to have three new members join our lodge: Jesse Lane, Kathryn Hughes, and Richard Orlando.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

Oscars Borg Lodge #172

Philadelphia, PA

For 2009, the officers of Oscars Borg Lodge #172, Philadelphia, PA, were installed in January by District Deputy Karen Weeden of Drott Lodge #168, Potomac, MD. We congratulate Rae Kazlouski on her election as our new Assistant Mistress of Ceremonies. All other officers were re-elected to their previous positions.

At our February meeting, Kirsten Seagers presented and discussed a video of her ice skating competitions. Kirsten, who is 18 years of age, trains at the Skating Club of Wilmington (Delaware). She participates in competitions sponsored by the U.S. Figure Skating Association. Kristen's presentation was very interesting and informative, giving us an insider's view of the exciting world of competitive ice skating.

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Oscars Borg Lodge #172

Continued from page 10

In March, our lodge celebrated its 99th Anniversary with a grand event conducted at our regular meeting place, the beautiful fellowship hall of Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Northeast Philadelphia. The celebration was organized by our Chairman, Ken Alexy, and his wife Linda, our Cultural Leader. The invocation and benediction were given by Bethesda's pastor, Rev. Dr. John Markel. Linda Smith, our Recording Secretary, and Past District Master of District Lodge Pennsylvania #9, prepared and presented membership certificates to eleven of our members in recognition of their various years of membership in Oscars Borg Lodge. These members were Anita Knudsen, Birgit Johansson, Ruth Schuler, Helen Widman, Ed Appelgren, Shelly Seagers, Doriney Seagers, Rev. Robert Larson, Dorothy Larson,

Maj-Britt Gabel, and Gail Cotton.

The folk dancing entertainment for our anniversary celebration was provided by the Vasastjarnan Junior Club of District Lodge New Jersey #6. Thirteen of the club's 20 members were able to attend. These members, in costume, performed several intricate dances. They were accompanied on the accordion by their director, Eric Johansson. The dancers were as follows: Linnea Ponczek, Willa Groething, Krista Persson, Kimberly Stanford, Candice Peterson, Bobby Cranmer, Cliff Demboski, Frank Demboski, Tage Persson, Jeremy Peterson, Axel Pierson, Mike Verdahl, and Kevin Persson. The music and dancing was marvelous!

Submitted by: Karen Seaman
Photo: Evelyn Ponczek



Vasastjarnan Jr. Club of District Lodge New Jersey #6 at Oscars Borg Lodge's 99th Anniversary Celebration.

Enighet Lodge #178

Denver, CO

In March our lodge participated in the International Day festivities at the University of Montana. Several members made meatballs, "lefsa," bread, cookies, and other homemade delicacies to be sold. People were standing in line to purchase our goodies, as a result of this success, it built up our scholarship fund.

One of our members Jenny Comstock went to China on a Cultural Exchange Program with several other members of the Dance and Ballet group from Missoula. They danced several times, visited many sites, and came home with memories that will last a life time. Jenny, along with three other members of the dance group entertained us with dances

and a slide show of their trip. Along with this entertainment, the lodge thought it would be a good time to have a Chinese Dinner; so many members brought different dishes for this occasion. Everyone seemed to enjoy this very different menu.

We also initiated two new members at the May meeting, Edith Smith and Nickie Smith along with giving two scholarships to Joshua McLaughlin and Signe Haverfield. Our District Master Alice Iverson was here in Missoula, so a few members were called to meet over coffee as she missed our meeting, but still had an enjoyable visit.

Submitted by: Rick Swanson

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA

Our lodge recently celebrated our 95th year with a banquet at the Maennerchor Club in Erie. There were awards for long-time members – prizes in a Chinese Auction – lovely musical entertainment by the Jamestown, NY, group "Svenska Spelmän." It was an evening that left us all feeling very Swedish as we returned home. It was a well-attended event with great fellowship.

We always look forward to an early breakfast once a month at Butch's Restaurant. Some members who cannot attend regular meetings can join us there.

Our regular meetings - now held at the new venue of Luther Memorial Church - are on the third Sunday afternoon of every month.

Many of us attend Scandinavian Cultural Days at Jamestown Community College on the first Saturday of every month.

Every Tuesday morning Swedish lessons are given by member Lisa Owen. Classes are held in members' homes.

In closing you can see that we can fill our calendars with many events. And as summer begins we can plan for Midsommar, Scandinavian Festival Days and picnics.

Submitted by: Linda Collin



Linda Collin



Dick and Dorothy Overberg

Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI

Our lodge had its last business meeting before summer on "Svenska Flaggans Dag" (June 6th, Sweden's National Day), and in honor of the occasion we asked everyone to bring their Swedish flag. A lot of blue and yellow was proudly displayed, but Rolf Ekstrand brought his favorite Swedish Flag. The one of Skåne. It is a red flag with a yellow cross; however, for the official group picture he joined in with the blue and yellow flag. During lunch afterwards, which had requested members to bring a dish that started with the same letter as their last name – big success, we congratulated Jake Gruel as he had been awarded the *Distinguished Service Award* at the Convention in Indianapolis. His award – a beautiful Vasa ring – which he actually had helped design last year.

Linde will have an Ice cream social on July 26, and the annual "Kräftskiva" on August 29. Anyone that is traveling in Wisconsin and the Milwaukee area are



Congratulations to Jake Gruel, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for District Lodge Lake Michigan #8.

invited to these events. Our doors are always open for Vasa members. Just call us!

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand, Secretary



Svenska Flaggans Dag – Standing from left: Jake Gruel, Sonia Stephenson, Brent Erickson, Marge Gruel, Kay Nickolett, Les Touve, Rolf Ekstrand, Marion Bruce, and sitting from left: Lillian Larson, Miriam Hendrickson, Alek Ekstrand in Anne-Marie Hummel's lap, and Marge Jochen.

Lindbergh Lodge #494

Palo Alto, California

Our April meeting was graced by the presence of lots of children....perhaps future members of the club. We had a delicious dinner, salmon. A special treat as salmon fishing is not allowed off the coast of California this year. After this sumptuous dinner our program centered around the history of two very Swedish ethnic symbols, the "Dalahäst" and the "Julbock". The program was presented by

two of our members Anne Marie Van Horn and Kerstin Assarsson, both ladies are well versed in Swedish customs. Anne Marie displayed many old and new dala horses and Anne Marie related the history of the dala horses. The custom started about 1700. With winter weather the men were not able to work outside and some of them spent time carving horses as toys and with Sweden's vast

forests, there was plenty of raw material around. The painting is unique usually a bright red with colorful swatches to complete the décor. It became such a favorite that an entire industry evolved.

Kirsten related tales about the straw decorations that are so popular for Christmas. They include horses, stars, roosters, and other designs cleverly fashioned out of a unique raw material.

In May a special meeting was planned and engineered by the men in honor of Mother's Day. They were the reservation clerks, the bartenders, the cooks, the servers, and the cleaner-uppers. It was a delightful evening for everyone. The men showed off their many skills in the departments usually handled by the women. We also had 62 guests for dinner including six children.

Congratulations to all who made this a very special Mother's Day!

Submitted by: Muriel Nelson Beroza

Joe Harbor Lodge #534

St. Joseph, MI

Joe Harbor Lodge #534, St. Joseph, MI, celebrated its 80th Anniversary at the Boulevard Hotel in St. Joseph on May 4. Our lodge was organized May 4, 1929. Our special guest was Vice Grand Master William Lundquist and District Master Sheila Lundquist.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nelson of Sarett Nature Center in Benton Harbor, MI, entertained with slides of their recent trip to Norway. Members enjoyed the evening and all are looking forward to our next anniversary.

Submitted by: Eleanor Anderson, Chairman

Oak Leaf Lodge #685

Thousand Oaks, CA

Torsten Olsson, Past Chairman, and one of the most esteemed members of Oak Leaf Lodge, built a storage building for the *Scandinavian Center at California Lutheran University*, Thousand Oaks CA. He was born in Dalarna, Sweden, where they make the famous "Dala Häst," one of Sweden's most popular souvenir items. Torsten gives speeches on a regular base over various Swedish traditions, and it was during one of these talks that he was surprised with a sign naming the building after him, "Torstens Hus."

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Oak Leaf Lodge #685

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Richard Londgren, Director of the Scandinavian Center, holds the sign up to show the group attending while Torsten stands beside him, the white "Dala Häst" in the background is one of his creations. Torsten Olsson, a master carpenter in his own right, has built many Swedish items for the center.

A hand carved and painted six-foot "Dala häst" was the spotlight during the *Scandinavian Festival* at California Lutheran University held on April 18 and 19, 2009, built by Torsten as well as several other "Dala Hästar," a Swedish Pancake Booth, a "Mora Klocka", and a large wooden Goose from the story of *The wonderful adventures of Nils Holgersson*, written by Selma Lagerlöf, a former Nobel Prize recipient in Literature. This story was originally written to teach Swedish children about Sweden's Geography.

Torsten and his wife Lorraine created, and have managed the Swedish Pancake Booth for Oak Leaf Lodge #685 for over twenty years, and it was one of Oak Leaf Lodge's biggest fundraisers.

Submitted by: Judi Palmquist

Edited by: Henning Andersen



Torsten and his six-foot "Dala Häst."

Skogen Lodge #700

Redding, CA

Skogen Lodge is a small but ambitious group. In February we had a *Pea Soup and Pancake Supper* with our special Chef, Ed Beier creating traditional and vegetarian choices – plus his special homemade breads.

In March we treated all, plus many prospective members to *Swedish Waffles*. Some members have the special heart-shaped irons to bake crisp waffles made

with a whipped cream batter! Yummm!

April brought us memories of an *All-Swedish Easter Ham* dinner. We are fortunate to have native-born Swedes who can inform us of traditions. Barbro Fretias made the most tasteful Swedish Strawberry Cakes (with whipped cream throughout and strawberries), and "Swede" Englund, who selected a moist delicious ham to fill our plates, among other accompaniments. The traditional Birch Branch was displayed with many colored feathers to remind us of the cold, flowerless springs in Sweden.

May serve us a Danish Treat – "Ableskivers." A friend of Vasa, Dick Sorensen, and a team of helpers made a huge bowl of the "goodies." Members brought many toppings and fruit. The surprise of the event brought to our attention the fact that one of our members, Andy Andersen and the cook, Dick Sorensen were classmates in grammar school in Solvang, CA, a distinct Danish community.

What wonderful memories we can develop in the Vasa organization, and throughout our local lodges. We find so many interested prospective members, and some join, by producing these events. Deeply interested hard working cultural leaders along with hard working members are necessary to "keep our cultural alive."

Submitted by: Hazelle Mills

Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

Cape Cod, MA

Following our April meeting, our members were treated to an interesting discussion on flowers typically found in Sweden, and some rather exotic ones not commonly seen. Sally Wadman made the presentation which was accompanied by beautiful transparencies. The program was enjoyed by all.

A super *Meatball Luncheon* was held in May; it was, as usual, a huge success. This was followed by our regular meeting during which Marilyn Søhøel gave an interesting presentation on the celebration of *Norway's Constitution* on May 17th. On that day parades, celebrations and singing take place throughout the country. There is a massive parade in Oslo in which over 100 schools take part, with numerous marching bands, all of which pass by the *Royal Palace* where they are greeted from the main balcony by the royal family.

Rune Borgman gave a short talk on the significance of the "*Majblomma*" pins which are sold in Sweden each Spring. It is a national fund-raiser, and the pins are sold by children from age's nine to twelve.

A tremendous amount of money is raised by this sale, all of which is used for children's summer camps, schools, families in need, and, in general, for the betterment of the younger generation. New colors for the "*Majblomma*" are shown in public places for people to vote on each year to determine the color to be used the following year. (Yes, it's true: Swedes DO have more fun!)

Prior to the closing of the meeting, Elsa Erickson led a *Memorial Service* to honor our late members, Walter Holmquist, Roger Peterson, and Karl Pedersen.

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure for me to be Vinland Lodge's correspondent to Vasa Star for the past eight years; it gave me a sense of writing to many friends throughout this country, Scandinavia, and Canada where I grew up, and dearly love. The time has come to "pass the pen" to another writer, and so I say "Adjö" and God bless!

Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman

Birka Lodge #732

Hamilton, MA

April 2009 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of Birka Lodge #732.

In 1983 a small group of organizers discovered that through hard work, combined with the cooperation of their fellow Vasa members and the encouragement and guidance of the officers of District Lodge #2 of Massachusetts, they could turn a Scandinavian Dance group based in Hamilton, MA, into a full-fledged Vasa lodge.

The dance group was founded by Håkan Olsson and his wife, Inga-Lill, who were both born in Sweden. the Birka Scandinavian Dancers were originally known as the "Var Glad" Dancers. They were a group of approximately 35 individuals of widely varying backgrounds, interests and ages. Over several years they gave more than 80 performances in the New England states as well as New York and New Jersey.

At the September 1983 convention of District Lodge #2 of Massachusetts, the Olssons, together with Ann Marie Breuer, Gunvor Breuer and Thelma Steen (shown in picture) presented a letter to the

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Birka Lodge #732

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Håkan & Inga-Lill, dancing on top of Pigeon Hill in Rockport, MA.

District Lodge Executive Board indicating that they had a sufficient number of people interested in forming a new Vasa lodge in the area and requesting permis-

sion to do so. After complying with all the requirements of the Grand and District Lodges the request was granted and on a warm spring day on April 29, 1984, in the pastoral setting of Hamilton, MA, a little Viking colony was instituted and christened Birka Lodge #732.

The dancers continued to grow and on September 30, 1989, they made their "Big Apple" debut at the Statue of Liberty. They all had varied backgrounds and occupations, but were joined together by a common love of the culture, customs, music, dance and traditions of Scandinavia.

All through the 90s the lodge thrived and was very active. In May, 1993, the Gentofte Folk Dance Group from Denmark demonstrated dances from Denmark and Sweden as well as a workshop.

When Director Ann-Marie Breuer stepped down as Director in the late nineties, Linda Christianson became the new Director. The dancers have now disbanded but their legacy lives on in Birka Lodge #732.

The lodge is now thriving with over 100 members, and the occasion of the 25th Anniversary on May 2nd was celebrated in style at the local Yacht club. We wonder what the next 25 years will bring.

Submitted by: Lois M. Johnson



1984 photo – Gunvor Breuer, Ann-Marie Breuer, Thelma Steen, Håkan Olsson and Inga-Lill Olsson.

Carl Widén Lodge #743

Austin, TX

The Lodge celebrated its 20th anniversary at the February, 2009 meeting with a potluck dinner and installation of officers. Eric Carlson, a founding member and first chairman, shared memories of the organization of the lodge and asked for other charter members to do the same. The evening was a fellowship of good food, and fond remembrances.

**Submitted by: Marlene Bartlett
Pictures by: Erik Lindquist**



Eric Carlson

Jubileum Lodge #755

Madison, WI

At our April meeting, held on Sunday the 12th, self-described *Malmö sisters* Audrey Larson and Trudy Nordling, (re-)introduced us to *Carl Larsson, the Swedish Painter*. Audrey and Trudy used selected paintings to tell the life story of Sweden's most famous artist. In scenes in and around his "Dalarna" home, *Lilla Hyttnäs*, Larsson expressed "...all my limitless love for my wife and children" and beautifully preserved, though romanticized images of Swedish peasant ways. One hundred years after Larsson's death in 1919, his home remains in the Larsson family, and is open to visitors. His paintings continue to fulfill the artist's life purpose, "...to be useful; to bring joy, not just to one, but too many."

May was a most busy month. We met on the evening of Thursday the 14th for our annual *Pea Soup, Pancakes, and Proverbs supper*. Over 20 Lodge members and guests enjoyed four different versions of Atop, pancakes and lingsonber-

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Jubileum Lodge #755

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Emelie Rubasch sings "Take Me Out To The Ball Game."

ries, Swedish sayings and proverbs, and one of the funniest Norwegian jokes I have ever heard!

On the 27th, sixteen Jubileum members endured a cold, damp night to cheer on the *Swedish National Baseball Team* in an exhibition game against the hometown *Madison Mallards*. Five Lodge members, Robert Merrill, Lowell Nordling, Gunilla Rubasch, Ulla Swanson, and Ulrika Swanson, had the honor of singing "Du Gamla, Du Fria" during the opening ceremony. During the "fifth-inning stretch," Emily Rubasch charmed the crowd with her rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." The Mallards management even served Swedish meatballs at the concession stands.

But the efforts to make the visiting Swedes feel at home proved fruitless. The Mallards, a Northwoods League team of collegiate players, scored eight runs in the first inning, and never looked back. The game was called due to "deteriorating field conditions" (and probably motivation of players, fans, and umpires, too) after six innings, with the score 14-5.

The night wasn't a complete disaster for the Swedes. By playing several American teams, they are strengthening themselves for the *Baseball World Cup* in September 2009. And their T-shirt and cap vendor was quite successful with the Jubileum Lodge members!

The busy May ended on 29-31 May, with three Jubileum members traveling to Indianapolis, Indiana for the *Lake Michigan District Lodge #8 convention*. Our thanks go out to Svea #253 for all their hard work and gracious hospitality.

Submitted by: Robert Merrill,
Historian

Nordic Red Rock Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ

At our recent meetings members are now learning Swedish from two very apt members. First came the fundamentals: the alphabet. Next time we expect to be singing "Vi ska ga hand I hand." Also members shared their memories of traditional Easter doings after having heard of "Påsk i Sverige." The next month we learned how Walpurgis Eve becomes a big local event with bonfires consuming junk collected during the past year. Spring is a happy time of students tossing their white hats as the school year soon ends. This meeting concluded with our

annual auction of unknown treasures. our auctioneer, Dennis Malarkey, with the help of Andy Anderson, presided with humor and kept the bidding lively. Along with him came other Prescott Scandia Lodge #728 dignitaries whom we always welcome. As an innovation for our lodge, Allan Larson is preparing a family history booklet, including each member's picture. Now one of us, Louis Petersen, who is an eminent photographer, has a show in Surprise, AZ. And we are pleased that some people from Ohio have responded to our District Master Vito Pantaleo's invitation to visit Arizona lodges (this gesture could extend to all Vasa lodges to network more).

Submitted by: Marjorie Nadine Murphy

SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Carlskrona Nr 601



Styrelsen

Lördagen 28 februari avhölls högtidsmöte med reception och installation av logens tjänstemän för år 2009. Receptionen genomfördes med en högtidlig ceremoni enl. ritual. Sy DD Gun Sellerberg med sin stab genomförde en stilfull installation av tjänstemännen, ytterligare 20 logesyskon från logen Calmare Nyckel Nr 628 var närvarande, från logen Ronneby Nr 630 Br. Arne och Sy. Kerstin Söderbom.

Från egen loge hade 42 syskon hörsammat kallelsen, flera utmärkelser utdelades denna kväll/se bifogade bilder. Som vanligt serverades en utmärkt supe med goda drycker. Stämningen var som alltid hög och kvällen avslutades med en stunds dans.

Logen Carlskrona Nr 601, höll logemöte den 5 april 25 logesyskon hade hörsammat kallelsen/trots ändrat datum.

Efter sedvanliga förhandlingar och logens avslutning enl. ritualen samlades vi i matsalen. Kvällens artist trubaduren Inge Wijk underhöll med visor från olika landskap i södra Sverige men mest från Blekinge. Vi var alla överrens om att kvällen varit en mycket fin Vasakväll.

Insämt av: Gun Sellerberg



Inge Wijk

Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Under kulturmötet den 18 mars 2009 var vi nästan 60 stycken Vasasyskon som samlades på *Vikens Hemgård*. O Sy Evy Lindstrand öppnade mötet enligt sedvanlig ritual och ballotering genomfördes för två blivande medlemmar. Motioner inför distriktsmötet behandlades och efter en del synpunkter från närvarande logesyskon godkändes styrelsens förslag.

KL Sy Ingrid Berg läste upp hälsningar från våra vänloger i USA och hon berättade också om *Vasaloppet* i den amerikanska staden Mora.

LH Sy Birgit Olsson hade kommit fram till 1980 i sin återblick på tidigare möten. Epoken med Stadshotellet som möteslokal var därmed över.

På efterkapitlet visade Erik Hammerin ett vackert bildspel om en resa i Skåne. Litet senare efter en stunds dans till husbandet, var det dags för lotteridragning med många fina vinster.

Insänt av: KL Ingrid Berg



Bilden visar Erik Hammerin när han blir tackad av VO Karl-Axel Bengtsson.

Logen Kongahälla Nr 702

Många av våra emigranter avreste till Amerika under 1800-talets andra hälft från *Tullhuset* vid nuvarande *Packhuskajen* i Göteborg, det har nu blivit samlingsplats för bevarandet av minnen från denna tid. Det före detta *Tullhuset* inrymmer numera bl.a. *Emigranternas Hus*, med stora trevliga lokaler som ligger på andra och tredje våningen. Där finns en permanent utställning som åskådliggör den svenska utvandringen till USA under 1800-talet och början av 1900-talet. Även tillfälliga utställningar

arrangeras med olika tema, såsom dagens invandring till Sverige från många olika nationer. Där finns många möteslokaler som uthyres, samtidigt finns tillfälle att bedriva släktforskning. Byggnaden inrymmer dessutom ett casino samt några affärsföretag i nedre våningsplanet.

Våra Aktivitetsklubbar i Kungälv *Vasakören Nr 10* och *Vasa Folkdansare Nr 1*, har under ett par år haft ett samarbete med *Emigranternas Hus*, där det har framförts ett emigrantspel, *Drömmen om Amerika*, med sång, musik och dans ute på kajen. Detta har gett oss möjlighet att sprida kännedom om *Vasa Orden av Amerika*, genom att få ha en permanent informationstavla där, som visar vår Ordens arbete i Sverige.

Söndagen den 19 april hade Logen

Kongahälla Nr 702 ett extra medlemsmöte här, med anledning av en genomgång av motionerna inför DL Nr 19 Distriktsmöte den 22-23 maj. Mötesförhandlingarna och den gemytliga efterföljande samvaron vid kaffeborden, för ca 30-talet logesyskon, var förlagda till de nya och mycket fint inredda lokalerna i den övre våningen.

Efter sammankomsten berättade Roger Bodin, som är ansvarig för *Emigranternas Hus*, på ett mycket underhållande sätt om emigrationen till USA. Utställningens många bilder och föremål bidrog till en givande upplevelse hur det hade varit på den tiden.

Det är fantastisk att ha en sådan fin institution som *Emigranternas Hus* här i Göteborg.

Submitted by: Rolf Claesson



Vasa Folkdansare vid Emigranternas Hus.



Tullhuset, som det såg ut på 1800-talet.

Logen Knallen Nr 745

Borås

Logen Knallen av Vasaorden av Amerika hade söndagen den 22 mars sin vårliga amerikainspirerade Vasafrukost. Ett sextiotial logemedlemmar samt några inbjudna gäster hade kommit för att njuta och glädjas. Två nyheter kunde noteras: Vasafrukosten hade i år blivit "Amerikansk Brunch" – en i och för sig mer adekvat benämning. Den andra nyheten låg i själva lokaliseringen. *Annelundsvillan* är vår nya mötesplats. Vi samlades till den traditionella tipspromenaden med kluriga frågor på amerikansk historia och amerikanska aktualiteter. Tipspromenaden kunde genomföras i den vackra *Annelundsparken*, som fortfarande väntade på både grönska och blomning men som ändå gav oss visst hopp. Våren låg liksom i luften.

Lagom aptitretade samlades vi sedan i matsalen för att "begå" brunchen. *Annelundsvillan* levde verkligen upp till våra förväntningar. Äggröra, bacon, korv, amerikanska pannkakor med lönsirap, men också grönsallad för att hålla kostcirkeln intakt, frestade oss på buffébordet.

Enligt traditionen, rekommenderades i inbjudan till detta evenemang, en viss inriktning i avvikande klädedräkt. En jury prisbelönar den mest originella kreati-onen. I år gällde huvudbonaden. Fantasi och kreativitet kom verkligen till uttryck i kandidaternas hattparad i matsalen. Juryn hade sannolikt stora problem, när det gällde att kora segraren. Dampriset gick till Syster Margaret Hansson för sin vackert blomstersmyckade skapelse. Herrpriset gick till Broder ordförande Börje för sin, rätt och slätt, stormhatt. I rättvisans namn bör väl framhållas, att konkurrensen inte var riktigt lika hård på herrsidan

En trevligt upplagd och genomförd lagfrågesport sysselsatte oss efter maten liksom lotteridragningen. Ett dignande vinstbord exponerades i ena änden av salen. Arrangörgruppen hade hos företag i staden lyckats införskaffa ett rikt varierat och värdefullt sortiment. Många gick hem med textilier, husgeråd, klädesplagg och mycket annat.

Som sista punkt på programmet fick vi njuta av ljuv musik. Vår egen logebroder och utmärkte klarinettist Lars Hjelm, spelade till pianoackompanjemang av Jan Reinholdsson ett urval från amerikansk

populärmusik till Peterson-Berger.

Br Lars beklagade inledningsvis, att denna form av musicerande i det lilla formatet, exempelvis klarinett och piano, tyvärr tenderar att bli mer och mer ovanligt. Vi fick emellertid förmånen att njuta av denna musikform.

Så återstod bara för Br ordförande Börje Olausson att tacka arrangörgruppen för en synnerligen väl genomförd "American Brunch".

Submitted by: Ingvar Carlén



Dampriset gick till Syster Margaret Hansson.

Vasamedlemmar möter en Elvis samlare i Sverige

Under maj månad fick Vasamedlemmarna Hillivi och Lars-Åke Sjöberg i Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563 samt Karl-Erik Axelsson i logen Enköping Nr 646 möjlighet att träffa en sann Elvis-samlare i Sverige. Genom att sy Elisabeth Agge hade lärt känna denna Elvis-samlare, vid namn Lennart Lundborg, fick vi se Lennarts samling och lyssna till hans kunskaper om Elvis.

Vi begav oss ut till hans hem som bar det ståtliga namnet *Ryda Kungsgård* som en gång var en slottsbyggnad men för många år sedan brann det ner och ersattes av andra hus. Vissa delar av ruinen av det gamla slottet finns ännu kvar. Huset arrenderas sedan början av 1900-talet av Lennarts släkt och idag är det han som sköter gården.

Vi blev inbjudna för att se Lennarts Elvis-samling. Det var många olika samlarobjekt, skivor, böcker, artiklar, föremål, autografer etc. Lennart berättade

att när han en gång arbetade som säkerhetsvakt för en Elvis utställning, fick han ta hand om Elvis bil och han fick också tillfälle att prova en av Elvis kostymer.

Lennart har varit på Elvis konserter i USA och han berättade vidare att hans stora intresse till att samla Elvis artiklar, startade någon gång under mitten på 70-talet, efter att han varit på en Elvis konserter i Las Vegas 1970.

Vi fick se många intressanta föremål, några av dessa finns endast några enstaka kvar uti i världen. Lennart berättade vidare om den kunskap han fått genom sina kontakter med andra samlare som haft anknytning till och känt Elvis under den tid han levde.

Tiden gick alldeles för fort, helt plötsligt var det kväll och vi var tvungna att bryta upp. Lennart berättade att han skulle resa till Paris där Elvis-samlare skulle träffas för att fira en av Elvis händelser som skett just där.

Insänt av: Elisabeth Agge



Karl-Erik Axelsson, Hillivi Sjöberg, Lennart Lundborg, Lars-Åke Sjöberg diskuterar Elvis.



Lennart visar rariteter om Elvis för Hillivi och Lars-Åke Sjöberg

Barbro Osher 2008 års Årets Svensk-Amerikan, Donerade 2 miljoner till att restaurera Synagogan i Norrköping

Mycket välbehövligt eftersom Synagogan varit stängd i många år på grund av att underhållet varit dåligt, men nu kommer den att återuppstå i en ny skepnad. Välbehövligt, för den vackra byggnaden på Bråddgatan i Norrköping som byggdes på 1800-talet och renoverades senast 1927.

Makarna Osher har också donerat pengar till svenska institutioner som Nationalmuseum, Moderna museet, Confidencen, Vadstena Akademien, Judiska Museet och Dalhallas Konsertanläggning.

Källa: Folkbladet.se

Insänt av: Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt, FDM DL19, FSLPD HM LL #751

Foto: Inge Hallberg, SFF



Synagogan i Norrköping

FAMILY NEWS

Birthday

Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt 65 år, 3 maj 2009

Utbildad Marknadsekonom och Vasa Orden av Amerikas arbetsmyra, utnämndes i Ordens egen tidning nyligen till Vasa Ordens Tjänarinna. Lisbeth är även genom sitt arbete, en välkänd profil i media.

Lisbeths första arbete var på Good Year i Norrköping där hon upplevde den amerikanska andan vilket gjorde arbetet generöst och stimulerande. 1973 anställdes Lisbeth av Ulf Svensson i

Kolmårdens Djurpark, där hon arbetade i 24 år på marknadsavdelningen. Under den senare delen arbetade hon inom PR som informationschef. Hennes stora "scoop" var nog kanske när hon fick Noshörningsungen Nelssonatt, att tas upp av media i hela världen.

Hon har varit Ordförande i Zonta International, Föreningen Norden och Naringen, ett nätverk för kvinnliga företagare, för att nämna några.

Hon är som pensionär (sedan 1998), livligt sysselsatt men nya uppgifter där Vasa Orden av Amerika ligger i främsta rummet.

Inom Vasa Orden har hon innehaft många poster, bl a Ordf i Logen Bråviken, Distriktsmästare i Distrikt #19 Norra Sverige och Grand Loge Publicity Director i Sverige. I sitt arbete med Vasa Orden har Lisbeth ordnat flera utbildningar där hon arrangerat mediakurser med kända profiler som utbildare, ordnat ordförandekurser och besökt i stort sett alla logerna i sitt Distrikt #19 Norra Sverige.

Lisbeth har också anordnat resor till USA, som bl a bestod av besök hos några av de många logerna som finns i USA. Hon ordnade också en stor rekryteringskampanj som gav fina resultat.

Lisbeth har i sitt arbete inom Vasa Orden erhållit de flesta utmärkelser man kan få och utnämndes nyligen till Hedersmedlem i sin loge Bråviken #751, Norrköping. Den logen var hon med och instiftade 1992.

Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt erhöll 2009 medaljen: "the Bridge of Friendship," som utdelades av Svenska Folksportförbundet med motiveringen för sin framgång at Bygga broar mellan USA och Sverige. "I sanning, en verklig Byggmästare," enl texten i diplommet.

Hennes senaste utmaning var bildandet av Logen i Vadstena år 2007, ett unikt arbete eftersom de var 15 år sedan det startats en i loge i Sverige. Vasa Orden har cirka 4000 medlemmar tillhörande 45 loger i Sverige, därav 25 i Distrikt #19 Norra Sverige.

Lisbeth Hallberg Qvarfordt är en eldsjäl inom Vasa Orden av Amerika och satsar allt för att få Vasa Orden att växa med sitt valspråk VASA ORDEN i TIDEN!

Lisbeth bor i Norrköping (tidigare Åby).

Insänt av: Owe Hilding, Logen Bråviken #751



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

GL DISTRICT –FLORIDA

LODGES

Jubilee #692

Karin Goranson
Teri Patterson
Maynard Zylstra
Shirley Zylstra

DL CONNECTICUT NO. 1

Karl The XII #103

Esther Gatzuras
Gregory Savage

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

Spiran #98

Merri Foote
Kronan #433
Karl Pearson
Nordic #611
James Koontz
Holly Nylander
Ethel Swedberg
Richard Swedberg
Birka #732
Diane Grady
Richard Sunman
Sheila Sunman
Ann Taylor

DL N.Y. NO. 4

Tegner #109

Hans Hillander
Ida Hillander

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Frithiof #63

Wendy Halliburton
Vagen #588
Earle Waller
Virginia Waller

Viking #635

Barbara Amidon
Sandra Huegel
Dalahast #742
Gayle Ferreira

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Austin #466

Michael Figueroa
Jose Zamora
Bishop Hill #683
Joshua Christianson
Martha Rittenhouse
Richard Rittenhouse
Hagar #721
Joan Asplund
Ulla Backman
Jubelium #755
Kristin Gorton

DL SUPERIOR NO. 10

Superior #149

Susan Ollila
Mary Theis

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Tegner #149

Kathryn Hughes
Richard Orlando
Svea #348
Katherine Montoya
Jonne Thurman
Nord #392
Kay Beeson
Robert Beeson
Matthew Hanham
Elicia Vanover
Sveaborg #449
James Doyle
Celeste Graham

Sierra Kronan #737

William Freeland
Linda Larson
Jack Larson

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

North Star #145

Elizabeth Cropper
Gail Cropper
Anita Reynolds
Paxton Reynolds
Marguerite Thorin
Nancy Todd
Tegner #224
Edith Smith
Nichole Smith
Skogsblomman #378
Mary Gerkman
Harmoni #472
Annsophie Wikegard
Olympia #550
Joan Gadde
Ronald Gadde
Jan Lauterbach

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Evening Star #426

Carolyn Kennis
Mayflower #445
Julia Bergeron
Martin Dyborn
Bonnie Fornander
Jonas Fornander
Marcus Hirn
Karin Johnston
Helene Kayem
Baltic #689
Gloria Friel
Melanie Friel

Michelle Friel

Laura Bealer
Valley Viking #701
Mary Rita Nommensen

DL NORRA SVERIGE (SWEDEN) NO. 19

Sundsvall #762

Ake Gustavsson

DL ARIZONA NO. 21

Tucson #621

Gayle Anderson
Marla Lowell
Jeanette Magnusson
Scott Sandberg
Steven Swan

HAPPENINGS

PLANNED VASA ACTIVITIES FOR 2009

Vasa Order of America – Nordic Lodge #708

Regular Meeting Day and Time: Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

St Luke Lutheran Church 3264 Northside Parkway NW, Atlanta 30327, phone: 404-237-4413

DATE

PROGRAM

AUGUST

22nd (Sat)
Time: TBA

VASA KRÄFTSKIVA (CRAYFISH PARTY) – We have been invited to return to the Linden's to celebrate. A flyer will be e-mailed in the future with the cost and time. Also bring your bathing suit for a refreshing swim in their pool. Their address is: 5664 Silver Ridge Drive, Stone Mountain GA 30087. Directions to the Linden's house may be had by calling Sam at 770-413-8149 or Cell phone: 770-317-3790. We will need volunteers to help clean up after the party.

SEPTEMBER

27th 6pm

NORDIC LODGE 708 35TH. ANNIVERSARY PARTY

This is a Pot Luck dinner. Entertainment will be provided by an ensemble from the Atlanta Balalaika Society.

OCTOBER

Date TBA (Sat)
TENTATIVE.
25th,
6 p.m.

THE SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Oglethorpe University. TENTATIVE.

ENTERTAINMENT EXTRAVAGANZA – A music concert and show provided by Swedes in Atlanta. This is also a potluck dessert evening.

NOVEMBER

22nd 6pm

NEWS FROM SWEDEN – We are working on getting a very special speaker from the world of Swedish journalism. More information will be forthcoming.

DECEMBER

11th (Fri)
7:30 p.m.

LUCIA PROGRAM: 7:30 p.m. located at Glenn Memorial UMC on the Emory campus. This is a Christmas concert featuring Atlanta's Lucia Choir as well as children and musicians. Admission is free however an offering will be taken.

13th (Sun)
5 p.m.

JULBORD – (CHRISTMAS DINNER) at the Berkeley Hills Country Club. Address: Berkeley Hills Country Club, 2300 Pond Rd., Duluth GA 30096. Social hour with Glögg at 5 p.m., Dinner starts at 6 p.m. Live music, dancing, raffle, and of course Jultomten.

25th. (Fri)
7:30 a.m.

JULOTTA (CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE) in Swedish (some English) at St Luke Lutheran Church @ 7:30 a.m. in North Atlanta. Address: 3264 Northside Parkway Atlanta, Georgia, 30327.

The first meeting of Nordic Lodge in 2010 will occur on January 24th.

Scandinavian Heritage Festival, 2009 Joining Oktoberfest NW

SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL, OCT. 9th through 11th.

Friday-Sunday 11:00am-7:00pm.
Pavilion Hall, Puyallup Fair & Event Center,
(Puyallup Fairgrounds), Puyallup, WA.

The Scandinavian Heritage Festival Participants, Exhibitors and Vendors are pleased to invite you for three full days of festivities with Scandinavian cultural exhibits, demonstrations, arts and crafts, music, food, folk dancing and Scandinavian gift items. Each day there will be ethnic entertainment, Dancing and Singing. A Festival raffle with Grand Prize of a Three or Four Day Cruise for

Two, R/T Seattle, on Celebrity Cruise Line, or \$500 cash donated by Desiree of Sweden Travel, 425-881-1544. Many other Raffle Prizes from Vendor Donations! Need not be present to win. Drawing held Sunday Oct. 11th at 4:30 pm.

Program: Normanna Male Chorus, Katrilli, Finnish Folk dancers, Nordic Spirit, Nordlys, Portland area Dancers, Richard Svensson, Beth Kolle, harp, vocal, Nordiska Folk dancers, Poulsbo Children Dancers, Ya Sure Ya Betcha Band (formally Sylvia and Fjordsong Band).

Admission: To all events, (incl. Oktoberfest NW), Friday 11-3 FREE, Friday 3-7 \$8, Saturday \$8, Sunday \$4 (half Price), children 12 and under free. Free Parking in Gold and Blue lots. Overnight RV parking for a fee in the RV parking lot. Entrance – Gold or Blue gate of fairgrounds at 9th and Meridian.

desireeomdal@hotmail.com, 425-881-1544, www.oktoberfestnw.com Click on Activities.

**Submitted by: Desiree Omdal,
Coordinator of Events**

Swedish Lessons



The Swedish Language Class in the Svea Lodge #348, Los Gatos, CA, is pictured during the Easter celebration. The coffee table is decorated with the traditional Swedish objects. Our gracious host, Sandra Rains, includes her lovable new puppy in the picture.

Submitted by: Gerd Salmonson

Swedish Warship Captures Pirates

GULF OF ADEN: Swedish warship captures pirates in Gulf of Aden, 26 May 09. A Swedish warship captured seven pirates after they tried to attack a cargo vessel in the Gulf of Aden on Tuesday, Swedish armed forces said. The Swedish ship fired warning shots using cannons, machine guns, and sniper fire to force the pirates to abort the attempted hijacking, the Swedish military said in a statement.

The Swedish corvettes (HMS MALMO) and (HMS STOCKHOLM), which are part of international efforts to fight piracy in the gulf, were ordered to help the cargo ship (ANTONIS) after it radioed it was under attack early on Tuesday.

A party from the (HMS MALMO) boarded a fishing vessel used in the attack and seized seven pirates and two guns as well as a GPS navigator, the military said. No injuries were reported. The pirates were to be taken to Djibouti on board the (HMS MALMO), where further instructions would be issued by the European Union's NAVFOR-Atlanta mission command (Reuters, AFP).

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren, DM,
Norden #1



**8th Annual
SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE
FESTIVAL**
Celebration of Scandinavian Culture

Representing Scandinavian Organizations
Denmark * Iceland * Finland * Norway * Sweden
**Daily Programs of Scandinavian Music and Dance,
Arts and Crafts, Food, Demonstrations**

Raffle Grand Prize

**Three or Four Day Cruise for Two, R/T Seattle,
on Celebrity Cruise Line or \$500 Cash.**
Donated by: Desiree of Sweden Travel, 425-881-1544

Many other Raffle Prizes From Vendor Donations

October 9th –11th, 2009
Friday – Sunday 11:00am – 7:00pm

Admission: Friday 11-3 **FREE**, Friday 3-7 \$8, Saturday \$8,
Sunday \$4. Children 12 and under Free
Free Parking in Gold or Blue lot. RV Parking Available

**Pavilion Hall - Western Washington Fairgrounds
Puyallup, Washington**

425-881-1544 or e-mail desireeomdal@hotmail.com
www.oktoberfestnw.com, click on Activities



**Experience Swedish
Language and Culture
In Minnesota!**

Swedish Elderhostel Week
Program No. 6800-102209
October 25-31, 2009

Concordia Language Villages
8569 Thorsonveien NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
1-800-450-2214
Email: clvevent@cord.edu
Web: www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages

Vänner.

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Copenhagen Stockholm Oslo Helsinki Gothenburg Stavanger*

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