



# THE VASA STAR

## Vasastjärnan

Publication of THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2010

[www.vasaorder.com](http://www.vasaorder.com)

*See Phil Becker's Research Highlighted in Archives News  
Linde Lodge Honored*



# The Grand Master's Message



Rolf Bergman

## Vasa brothers and sisters!

*God fortsättning på det nya året!* I hope you have had some time after Lucia and the Christmas holidays to relax and catch your breath. Unfortunately Editor Marie did not have much time to catch her breath. Since the Lucia story/picture deadline is Dec 24th, she has to wait much longer than normal to begin editing the items. Hopefully your lodge turned in its Lucia story. I know many of you did because Marie tells me she is buried in the amount of material that came in. Due to the late arrival of much of the Lucia material and the amount received this issue of *The Vasa Star* will be a couple of weeks later than that normally scheduled, but hopefully it will arrive in early February at your home.

The raffle tickets to support DL Pennsylvania #9 in its hosting of the GL Convention next July will be placed in the center of the next issue of the *Vasa Star*. I hope that all of you will purchase a few of the tickets.

Mention of the GL Convention reminds me that there are only a few months left until the big event. I hope many of you will consider joining us in Washington for a few days. The schedule of events, registration form for the convention and hotel reservation information is found in this magazine. Officers and delegates, I remind you that you must register for the convention and reserve your room at the hotel.

The Grand Lodge Convention is the only organization that can change the Rituals or Constitution of the Vasa Order, whether at the Grand Lodge, District or Local level. Forms for submitting a motion to change any of these are found in this issue under Grand Lodge News. Please consider this either as an individual member or lodge. There is not much time left as the motions must be in to the Grand Secretary by the end of February, 2010, to be considered. The Grand Lodge Executive Board spent much of its previous meeting discussing and preparing motions to consider at the Convention. The Grand Secretary and I will be working hard to get everything in order for the Convention work.

Finally, it is with great disappointment and sadness that I must report that the Education Fund investments of the Vasa Order, that I promoted, have likely been lost as a result of mismanagement by our Investment firm, Money Market

Plus, Ltd. Please read my letter to every member found under the Grand Lodge News. I hope in this time of hardship that we will find a way together to use this loss as a spur to find ways to strengthen our Order.

## Vasa Syskon!

*God fortsättning på det nya året!* Jag hoppas ni haft litet tid att koppla av efter alla Lucia - och julaktiviteter. Tyvärr har inte redaktören Marie haft så mycket tid till avkoppling eftersom Luciaberättelser med bilder inte hade presstopp förrän den 24:e dec, därför kunde hon inte börja redigera som vanligt. Förhoppningsvis har ni skickat in era bidrag. Jag vet att många av er har gjort det, för redaktören säger att hon "drunknar" snart i allt material som kommit in. På grund av den förlängda tiden till att skicka in respektive bidrag plus, att det var så mycket material till denna upplaga, kommer *The Vasa Star* några veckor senare än vanligt, men förhoppningsvis innan mitten av februari.

Storlogesmötet är den enda förening som kan ändra på Ritualer eller Grundlagar för Vasa Orden, vare sig det gäller Storlogen, Distrikts- eller lokala loger. Blanketter för att skicka in förslag för att ändra någon av dessa finns i denna upplaga under 'Grand Lodge News.' Vi ber er att tänka på det här. Förslagen kan komma från en enskild medlem eller från en loge. Det finns inte mycket tid kvar eftersom förslagen måste vara Storlogens Sekreterare tillhanda innan den sista februari. Storlogens Exekutiva Råd använde en stor del av tiden, i sitt föregående möte, till att diskutera och ge förslag till ett flertal motioner. Storlogesekreteraren och jag arbetar hårt med att få allt i ordning till mötet.

Slutligen är det med stor besvikelse och vemod, som jag måste meddela att Utbildningsfondens investeringar inom Vasa Orden, som jag främjade, har antagligen gått förlorad på grund av misskötsel genom vårt investeringsbolag, Money Market Plus, Ltd. Ni kan läsa mitt brev till varje medlem som finns under 'Grand Lodge News,' i denna upplaga. Jag hoppas att vi genom denna svårighet kommer att finna en väg som vi tillsammans kan använda som en sporre till att ytterligare förstärka vår Orden.

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**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER**

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!**

The Vasa National Archives has a new email address: [vasaarchives@winco.net](mailto:vasaarchives@winco.net)

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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.

**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 is October 15**

**Deadline for Lucia articles is December 24**

**Picture and article, 200 words or less.**

**Price for Xmas Greetings – \$30.00 column inch**

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from

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**&**

**South Side Chicago Lodges**

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<http://www.vasaorder.net/news.cfm?lodge=D8>

**Deadline to apply is February 1, 2010**

You can get the forms from the website and print them out. If people don't have a computer they can go to their nearest library to print one out.

Lynda

**Cover:**

*The picture is taken near Tibro, in Västergötland, Sweden.*

*Bilden är tagen nära Tibro, Västergötland.*

*Picture by: Bo Carlsson, Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130, Cleveland, Ohio.*

# Letter from the Editor



A huge Thank You to all of you who contributed to our Lucia edition! It was an overwhelming response. So much material poured in about all sorts of things that make this an interesting issue. I had to postpone all “regular” Lodge News until our next issue due to the Lucia response. In the Mar/Apr issue I will combine the postponed stories with new ones.

As I have mentioned previously I read every contribution several times and find many interesting facts in them. Some stories always stand out. For example reading about our talented Lucia’s you’ll find that we might have a future “American idol” amongst us, who knows! Another Lucia would not have been featured in this issue if it wasn’t for her great-grandfather’s survival of the *Titanic* disaster. We also have one Lucia that has embraced our Lucia tradition with open arms despite being brought up in a multicultural environment. Other stories might offer inspiration, giving you new ideas that you can introduce to your lodge. A good example is *Gold Nugget Lodge #662*; during their Lucia celebration they collected food and toys to donate to the less fortunate in their community.

Back to being multicultural, long ago it was not appropriate to show you came from the “old country;” today it is quite the opposite. This connects with what is mentioned in the Swedish Language Lessons: “*there is a saying that when you meet someone with an accent you will find that that person knows at least one more language.*”

Another “environmentally friendly” and inspiring story is the *Groundbreaking Ceremony* found in the *Happenings* section. Finally, as sad as an obituary might seem, some of them are very interesting when a short story is included as a celebration of that persons accomplishments in life. This should inspire and remind us how precious life is and how important it is to try to record a piece of human history. Each and every one of us has a story to tell.

Don’t forget *Kids Corner* nor forget to look at our back cover for a *Sweet Reward!*

Marie

“*First things first, but not necessarily in that order!*”

- Dr. Who

## Brev från Redaktören

Ett stort tack till Er alla som bidrog till vår Lucia upplaga! Det var ett överväldigande gensvar. Det strömmade in så mycket material om allt möjligt och som gör denna upplaga intressant. Jag måste senarelägga alla “vanliga” logenyheter på grund av Lucia bidragen. I Mar/Apr 2010 upplagan, kommer jag att kombinera dessa logenyheter med de nya.

Som jag har nämnt tidigare, läser jag varje bidrag flera gånger och jag hittar många intressanta fakta i dem. När jag läser dessa berättelser, finns det alltid några som framträder litet mer. Till exempel när man läser om våra begåvade Lucior kan man se att vi eventuellt kan ha en framtida “American Idol” ibland oss, vem vet! En annan Lucia skulle inte ha blivit presenterad i denna, upplaga om det inte var för att hennes farfars far överlevt *Titanic* katastrofen. Vi har också en Lucia som tagit emot Luciafirandet med öppna armar trots att hon vuxit upp i en mångkulturell miljö. Andra berättelser kanske erbjuder och inspirerar till nya idéer som du kan introducera i din loge. Ett bra exempel är den *Gold Nugget Lodge #662*; under deras Lucia firande samlade man in mat och leksaker som donerades till dem som har det sämre ställt i sin kommun.

För att återgå till att vara mångkulturell, för länge sedan var det inte lämpligt att visa att du kom från “det gamla landet;” i dag är det tvärtom. Något som du kan se nämnt i den svenska språkkursen, “*det finns ett ordspråk som säger att när du möter någon som bryter finner du att den personen kan åtminstone ett språk till.*”

En annan “miljövänlig” och inspirerande berättelse är *Groundbreaking Ceremony* som finns i *Happenings* delen. Slutligen, trots att en dödsannons är ledsam att se, är några av dem mycket intressanta där en kort berättelse finns med, som en hyllning till denna individs prestationer i livet. Detta bör inspirera och påminna oss om hur dyrbart livet är och hur viktigt det är att försöka skriva ner en bit människohistoria. Var och en av oss har en saga att berätta.

Glöm inte *Kids Corner*; titta på vår baksida för en *Söt belöning!*

Marie

“*Vi börjar här, men det behöver nödvändigtvis inte bli i den ordningen!*”

- Dr. Who



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# ARCHIVES NEWS

## Especially Fine Dust

I wish to report on the fine work of a Vasa member, Phil Becker, who is busy writing a history of the Order, or at least his part of it, and had visited the Vasa Archives this past fall to support his research. His work, though focused on District Lodge #2, has relevance to all of Vasa for its historical interconnections. So here's a heads-up about something new and exciting for your bedside stand.

Most of the research done at the Vasa Archives is done remotely—people send research inquiries to us typically via email and we respond with photocopied or digitally scanned materials from our holdings. Locating documents to shed light on researchers' questions makes up a good deal of our day-to-day operations.

This is as it should be, but we are also well-equipped to receive researchers in person. For the hearty individual who is willing to roll up his/her sleeves and interface with 100+ year-old papers, we have a spacious workroom and plenty of notepads and pencils to get the job done. Bravery and a clear mind are required, but the sore arms from lifting giant ledgers, dirty clothing from the especially fine archival dust, and the aching wrist from note-taking are worth the glories of one's discoveries.

A score of people who fit this description pass over our threshold each year, but one or two usually stand taller and take the cake, so to speak. The premier archives warrior of 2008 was Karen Snowberg of District Lodge New York #4, whom I wrote about in these pages in the summer of that year. For 2009, we readily point to Phil Becker of District Lodge Massachusetts #2 for his blue-ribbon effort and commitment.

Like DM Snowberg, Phil Becker holds a district lodge office, District Historian, and also like Karen, he exceeded a week's time researching daily at the Archives. Phil arrived early each morning and didn't leave before evening when he closed his last folder or book, demonstrating an impressive work ethic for a volunteer position. Side note: since joining the VOA myself in 2007 I have met quite a few people who live Vasa with intense dedication. We must stand in awe and thank them, because at a core level their chutzpah drives this ship.

I was personally moved by Phil's drive perceiving that, though history has been a life-long passion, his project now serves to keep him busy after the passing of his wife for thirty-two years, Betty, who departed this life just six months prior to the research trip. He was here at the Archives to work on one of three books he has planned which in one way or another involve his interests in Swedish-

American history, Lutheran theology, street-cars of New England, vernacular architecture and urban revitalization. His working life was spent in urban planning and architecture, and now as a retired person he has plunged into his many interests, often historical in nature, with great vigor. Side note, part two: many friends north of seventy years have shown me that for a full life one must keep grasping toward the horizon of new discoveries. Phil lives this philosophy quite admirably. Side note, part three: the Vasa Order seems to be filled with these kinds of characters.

As Phil told me there hasn't been a comprehensive history about Vasa in Massachusetts since ca 1916 when a book with removable leaves was passed around the district to each lodge, which then wrote its own history, replaced the leaves, and sent it on its way. It traveled around the district for several years this way, until finally completed but was never published. By the way, said Phil, you haven't happened to come across this one-of-a-kind history in the Archives have you? He had heard tales and seen references to it, but had no idea where it was, possibly lost forever. I sure would love to get my hands on that book, he said. Sadly, no, I hadn't found this book and there wasn't any record of such a thing, but you'd guess that it may have been sent to the Archives at some point in the past. I'll keep my eye out, I said.

In the meantime, Phil had plenty to look at in the Archives for his new history, including a good twenty banker's boxes filled with items from his district. He also made use of the published sources we have on our shelves covering immigration history. More than any other source he seemed to enjoy the access to our nearly complete (and bound) run of the Vasa Star, starting in 1914. Before that, the publication resembled less a magazine/journal and more a small newspaper. We have just a few loose copies of the early issues. Trying to grasp the complexities of the word *svenskhet* (or *swedishness*) guided his choices of material to look at and take notes on.

Phil left Bishop Hill after a couple weeks' time with a large folder of photocopies and many note pages written in his distinctive angular script. The autumn leaves had fallen and we were getting ready for winter. The history he is writing narrates a span in the life of



*District Historian from DL 2, Phil Becker, outside the Vasa Archives this past fall.*

Vasa when District Lodge Massachusetts #2 was the largest of any district, 72 lodges and over 15,000 members around 1930, and of course one of the earliest to form and build *svenskhet* in the United States. I believe he said he would finish his book sometime in 2010. He also plans a return trip to the Vasa Archives in late spring.

And wouldn't you know it, our volunteer, Marie Norlen, and I were working through and recording a scraggly pile of unprocessed material, arrived sometime prior to 2007, a month later and what did we find: yes, a large leather-bound book from Massachusetts with removable leaves and the title *Historia över Lokal Logerna, Mass. Dist. #2, V. O. av Amerika, 1916*. That's got to be the one-of-a-kind history that Phil was looking for, wouldn't you think? Well, he can check it out when he comes again this spring. Without his talking about it, I would not have known its significance. The book actually got my heart racing a minute when it showed its dusty face.

### *Svensk sammanfattning*

*Vasa historikern, Phil Becker, från Distriktslogen Massachusetts #2, besökte arkivet i höstas för att samla information till en ny historia över DL 2 som säkert blir intressant för alla ordernsmedlemmar. Han tror att boken kommer att skrivas färdigt någon gång under 2010. Han ägnar en stor del av sin tid med att forska i hur man behöll "svenskheten" i Amerika och vilken roll Vasa Ordern spelade och fortfarande spelar i dagens Amerikanska samhälle.*

**Submitted by: Lars Jenner,  
Vasa Archivist**

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

There is a Swedish proverb "Många bäckar små, blir en stor å"  
"Many rivulets create a large stream"

I would like to thank our Archives Representative in Skandia #549, brother Ray Nyroos, for suggesting that his lodge and its members donate proceeds from bottle and can returns to our Archives.

We would be very grateful if you and your lodge would also donate similar proceeds, regardless of size.

P.O. Box 101, Bishop Hill, IL 61419

# Swedish Language Lessons

By Lillemor and Richard Horngren

## LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 21

In starting a new year and a new decade we are wishing you all good health and success in the coming years. Our hope is also that you will continue to learn new things and especially to keep up your Swedish studies. It is easy to be discouraged but if you set a goal to learn at least one new word a day you will soon have a nice vocabulary that you can use in making sentences. If you at the same time realize that you will probably not sound like a native Swede, it will be easier to try out speaking the language of your forebears. There is a saying that when you meet someone with an accent you will find that that person knows at least one more language.

In some of our Christmas greetings from Sweden we heard that our friends over there use the lessons to practice their English. To hear that is great news for sure. It is something we had never thought of when we first started the language lessons.

In order for you to practice one new word a day we have listed things found around the house.

We will list the nouns as singular, common or neuter and plural. The common nouns end with an n and the neuter a t. Example: väggen (the wall) is common and golvet (the floor) is neuter. If the plural is the same as the singular we have marked it with ---.

### ETT NYTT ORD VARJE DAG – ONE NEW WORD EVERY DAY

vägg, -en, -ar  
golv, -et, --  
dörr, -en, -ar  
fönster, fönstret, ---  
matta, -n, mattor  
gardin, -en, -er  
hylla, -an, hyllor  
bok, -en, böcker  
tidning, -en, -ar  
soffa, -n, soffor  
bord, -et, ---  
stol, -en, -ar  
kök, -et, ---  
spis, -en, -ar  
kylskåp, -et, ---  
skåp, -en, ---  
diskmaskin, -en, -er  
ugn, -en, -ar  
tallrik, -en, -ar  
glas, -et, ---  
kopp, -en, -ar  
sked, -en, -ar  
gaffel, -n, gafflar  
kniv, -en, -ar  
badkar, -et, ---  
dusch, -en, -ar  
handduk, -en, -ar  
tvål, -en, -ar

wall  
floor  
door  
window  
rug  
curtain  
shelf  
book  
(news)paper  
sofa  
table  
chair  
kitchen  
stove  
refrigerator  
cabinet  
dishwasher  
oven  
plate  
glass  
cup  
spoon  
fork  
knife  
bathtub  
shower  
towel  
soap

tvättlapp, -en, -ar  
toalett, -en, -er

washcloth  
toilet

We think this will give you a very good start in learning new words of things that you come across every day. We will continue covering items around the house in our next lesson and then we will compose some sentences using the newly learned words in the lesson after that. Lycka till!

Lillemor and Richard

### Valentine's Day

People in most western countries celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th. It is a special time to send greeting cards called valentines to their sweethearts, friends, parents and other family members.

Esther A. Howland of Worcester, MA, became one of the first American manufacturers of valentines in 1847. She saw several British valentines and decided to make her own. She used ribbons, lace, flowers and painted leaves on her cards. She hired a staff of young women to help her make these cards and took orders from stores. Today valentines are sold in many stores all over the world and may have messages of love or be very humorous. People also send flowers, candy and gifts to the people they want to remember on Valentine's Day.

Children in America decorate their classrooms with paper hearts and cupids, and may hold classroom parties to celebrate Valentine's Day with their classmates and teachers. Older students may have dances at their schools on Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day in Europe is celebrated in many ways. Children in England sing special songs and receive gifts of fruit, candy and money. People may bake special buns with caraway seeds, plums or raisins in them. In Denmark, people send pressed white flowers called snowdrops to their friends.

However you decide to celebrate Valentine's Day, take some time to tell your friends and family that you love them.

### To My Swedish Valentine

*I met my love in nineteen-fifty  
He was tall and blond and really nifty  
Unfortunately, we couldn't speak  
'Cause what he said to me was ... "Greek"  
Two years went by and away he went  
To fight a war in the Orient (Korea)  
Back he came in fifty-four,  
Walked right through my office door and said:  
"Would" you like to come out tonight and  
"wentilate" a few "subyects?"  
My heart stood still; it always will.  
We said "I do" in fifty-five  
And to this day our love still thrives.*

HAPPY "VALENTINE'S" DAY RUNE

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



# GRAND LODGE NEWS

## Letter from the Grand Master to all Vasa Members re: Investments of Education and VOA National Archives Funds

As you are well aware, the economy has taken a dramatic downturn and caused heavy investment losses for many individuals and organizations. The Vasa Order experienced similar investment losses during our fiscal year 2007/2008, as I explained in the Sep/Oct 2009 issue of *The Vasa Star*. In an effort to increase the income of our investments, the Grand Lodge Executive Board, on a vote of 9 to 2, agreed with my recommendation that we invest the Education and various Scholarship Funds with Money Market Alternatives, Ltd., as the income from the funds with our previous investor was not what we expected.

In early November, 2009, I learned that this company, Money Market Alternatives, Ltd, was being investigated by the FBI for embezzlement, or possibly operating a "Ponzi" scheme to defraud investors. Further I learned that there are two legal complaints against Mr. Enrique F. Villalba and his companies, one filed in Ohio, the other in Washington. As I write this the FBI status has not changed; Money Market Alternatives, Ltd. is still under investigation, with no formal charges.

On learning of the situation, the Grand Lodge Executive Board and the Archives Board agreed to engage an attorney to represent our interests. At our request, Bruce Elfvin, of Elfvin and Besser, a Cleveland law firm, has agreed to represent the Grand Lodge and the VOA National Archives and file the necessary documents to give opportunity for reclaiming our assets, at least what is left of our assets. Mr. Elfvin is an active Vasa member, being current District Master of DL Pennsylvania No. 9. At this point we do not know how long this process will take but it likely will be well through 2010 before we know the results.

So, it is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. As Grand Master, I am responsible for the choice of Money Market Alternatives, Ltd., as the company responsible for investing our funds. I ask that you forgive me for the choice of investment brokers that I supported and helped persuade the Grand Lodge

Executive Board to use. My previous experience with Money Market Alternatives, and the views of other investors, led me to trust Mr. Villalba, the owner of Money Market Alternatives, Ltd. I thought highly of his integrity and method of investment. In fact I thought so highly of his investment method that I invested my IRA with him; that too is now at risk. Looking back, that trust appears to be greatly misplaced.

If the Education and Scholarship funds invested are indeed lost the GL scholarship program will be greatly diminished. As Vice Grand Master I had the opportunity to chair the Scholarship program and am aware of how important this program is to our Order. It saddens me greatly to think we could not offer most of the awards to our bright and active students.

In addition to the Grand Lodge Education funds, the VOA National Archives, through the action of their board, of which I am a member, also invested a sizeable portion of their endowment with Money Market Alternatives, Ltd. Thus this valuable institution and Vasa legacy is now also in a financial crisis. At this moment both the Grand Lodge Executive Board and the VOA National Archives Board are struggling to determine what we can do in view of the financial disaster that has

occurred; the full extent of which is yet undetermined. As I mentioned above we do not have many answers at the present time; mostly questions, as I am sure you will have as well. Likely motions on what our response should be will be raised at the Grand Lodge Convention in July.

My fear is that your justified disappointment will lead you to withhold your generous donations to either our scholarship or Archives programs. I can understand that reaction, but I also know we need your help now more than ever before. Rest assured that your recent contributions to the Christmas Stamp Campaign are safe and secure in the Grand Lodge's Wells Fargo account. So also are the donations received as a result of the recent VOA National Archives fund raiser. Your continued support is appreciated.

I assure you that only the Education and VOA National Archives funds are affected. All other Grand Lodge funds are secure.

In Truth and Unity,



Rolf S. Bergman  
Grand Master

### Tack Så Mycket! Thank You! Thank You! Grand Lodge Education Fund Annual Christmas Stamp Campaign

We have received many contributions to the *Annual Christmas Stamp Campaign*. **Thank you to each one of you** for your donations both large and small. Your support in these difficult economic times is especially appreciated because it shows that you both value and respect the students who will benefit from your generosity. Through your financial support you are giving encouragement to our younger Vasa members as they strive to reach their educational goals.



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# 2010 Grand Lodge Convention

With Christmas and New Year's holidays behind us the convention committee will begin meeting, by teleconference, once a month. We are excited to report that we have been able to arrange for Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 (the original Children's Club) to perform at the Grand Banquet. This works very well with our other evening entertainment, Jeannie Andersen's 'Smörgåsbandet,' as they often perform together in New York area festivities.

The main tour, on Tuesday, July 6, will take us to George Washington's estate, called Mt. Vernon. We will depart from the hotel by bus at 8:15 AM; the expected trip to Mt. Vernon will take about 45 minutes. We want to get an early start as it is likely to be hot in Washington, DC, in July. We will then have about four hours to visit the mansion (30-min. group tour), and some of the following: visiting Washington's tomb, seeing the innovative Pioneer Farmer site with its 16-sided barn, the inspirational Slave Memorial, important outbuildings, lush gardens, museums with exhibitions on Washington and Mount Vernon archaeology, and exploring the Ford Orientation Center and the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center, which includes 25 galleries and theaters. Oh yes, you can also take time to eat lunch, on your own, if you so desire. At about 1:45 we will board the busses for the ride back to the hotel.

Since we return about 2:00 PM you have a few hours on Tuesday afternoon to do some other things on your own. However, Tuesday evening the Grand Lodge will give cultural and membership presentations and hopefully will talk about the website, which could be newly renovated.

Please look at the full activities schedule in the following pages of the Vasa Star. Also find a registration form and a page advertising items that DL Pennsylvania No. 9 has for sale as an effort to help fund the convention. Note that this information is also available on the Grand Lodge website, where you also have the option of purchasing items and registering for the convention using a credit card. Note in particular that the pictures of the sale items are in color on the website. This may help you decide to purchase some of them. More details next issue.

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## TIDBITS

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### Why Do We Catch More Colds in the Winter?

The most obvious answer, because it is cold outside, is erroneous. In the winter, people tend to stay indoors more, in proximity to each other and to each other's germs. Colds are caused by rhinovirus and enter your body through the nose (Greek 'rhino' meaning nose). Usually cold viruses are destroyed upon entering the body but occasionally, a virus will lodge in the mucus membrane and within a few days, you'll have a full blown cold. The average person will get at least one and possibly as many as six colds a year.

### ABBA To Be Inducted Into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

This came as a nice surprise to the group. On March 15th, they will be part of the ceremony at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Manhattan during the Rock Halls 25th annual induction ceremony together with several other inductees. Amongst other European groups you can find the Hollies and Genesis, both British exports.

Submitted by: Marie Carlson, VS

### "Country" Facts

- ◆ Finland drinks the most coffee
- ◆ Australia consumes the most ice cream
- ◆ Ireland eats the most amount of bread, the US is fourth
- ◆ Paris, France is the best honeymoon destination
- ◆ United States has the most billionaires and Japan is second
- ◆ Finland is the cleanest country
- ◆ China has the greatest population at 1,300,000,000 and the U.S. is third with over 300,000,000
- ◆ Switzerland consumes the most chocolate, the U.S. is tenth
- ◆ Luxembourg is the biggest alcohol consumption country and Ireland is second
- ◆ United States has the most airports and Brazil is second

### Trettondedag jul reignites holiday debate

In Sweden, Trettondedag jul, or Epiphany, is a state holiday. Observed on January 6, this feast day commemorates the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to the Christ child, thereby revealing Christ to the world. Increasingly, many people in Sweden question why throngs of secular Swedes should stay home from work to observe a Christian holiday.

What days should be observed as public holidays in Sweden has been a controversial topic, especially since 2005, when Sweden replaced the holiday Annandag Pingst (Whitsunday) with National Day. Annandag Pingst, or Pentecost, celebrated the Holy Spirit's descent to the Apostles and other followers of Jesus.

Two years after Annandag Pingst was replaced, an employers organization proposed that all public holidays in Sweden should be religion-neutral, with each employer defining for itself which days would be considered paid public holidays.

For now, Trettondedag jul remains a public holiday, if for no other reason that to provide a "break" from the obligations of Christmas.

Submitted by: Carol Blackwell,  
Phoenix Lodge #677

*Birthdays are good for you.  
The more you have  
the longer you live!*

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# ACTIVITY SCHEDULE for the 37<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge Convention July 2 - 8, 2010 – Washington, DC

## *Friday, July 2*

10:00 AM – 6:00 PM Registration Desk open.  
8:00 – 10:00 PM **Welcome ‘Dessert’ Reception** hosted by DL Pennsylvania No. 9; free to all who registered. Entertainment provided by DL New Jersey No. 6 Vasastjärnan Youth Club.

## *Saturday, July 3*

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Registration Desk open.  
8:30 – 10:00 AM **New delegate breakfast:** sponsored by the Grand Lodge  
1:00 - 2:15 PM **Opening Ceremony** with special greetings, presentation of flags by Vasastjärnan Youth Club and introductions of Grand Lodge Officers.  
2:15 – 2:45 PM Coffee break  
2:45 – 4:30 PM **Opening Session** for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates; Vasa members invited to join.  
5:30 – 10:30 PM **Reception at the House of Sweden.** Two busses leave for the House of Sweden at 5:30 PM and return for additional trip at 6:00 PM. Tours of the Embassy and upper floors of HOS starting at 6:00 PM (staggered small tour groups). Light buffet open at 7:00 PM including a glass of wine. Music provided by ‘Svenska Spelman’ group from Jamestown, NY. Busses return to Marriott at 9:45 and 10:15 P.M. Cost: \$85/person.

## *Sunday, July 4*

**Free day** for everyone to enjoy Independence Day in downtown Washington. Because of the difficulty of travel in Washington on July 4th, no scheduled tours are planned.

## *Monday, July 5*

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Session for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.  
Free day and evening for guests to tour Washington on their own.

## *Tuesday, July 6*

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM **Mt. Vernon Tour.** No Grand Lodge Session. Busses leave hotel for Mt. Vernon, home of President George Washington, at 8:15 AM. Tour Mt. Vernon for four hours; mansion, new visitor’s center, shops and food court. Busses leave Mt Washington at 1:45 PM for return to Marriott. Cost: \$40/person. See [www.Mountvernon.org](http://www.Mountvernon.org).  
7:00 – 10:00 PM **Cultural, membership and web seminars – responsibility of GL Ex Bd**

## *Wednesday, July 7*

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Session for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates.  
10:30 AM – 3:30 PM **Non-delegate Tour of Hillwood Estate;** lunch included. Cost: \$55/person. See [www.hillwoodmuseum.org](http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org).

## *Thursday, July 8*

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Session for Grand Lodge Officers and Delegates; election and installation of new officers  
6:00 – 7:00 PM **Cocktail hour** (cash bar) and photo opportunities.  
7:00 – Midnight **Grand Banquet** with Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 performing. Dance music by Smörgåsbandet. Cost: \$115/person

# REGISTRATION FORM

## 37<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge Convention • July 2 - July 8, 2010

Registration Deadline: *May 14, 2010*

[www.vasaorder.com](http://www.vasaorder.com)

**NOTE:** Grand Lodge Officers, Honorary Life Members of the Grand Lodge and Delegates receive complimentary tickets for the Saturday and Thursday nights banquets, and the Tuesday tour. Spouses and other participants are responsible for payment of all events in which they partake except for the Friday Welcome Reception.

Total Cost of Registration may be paid either by check (see details below) or by credit card using the capability on the Grand Lodge website shown above.

Date, Week Day	Event <i>(Please see Activity Schedule in this Vasa Star issue for event details)</i>	No. of People Attending	Price Per Person (Prices in U.S. \$)	Total Cost
July 2, Friday	Welcome Reception		No Cost	
July 3, Saturday	Reception at House of Sweden		\$ 85	
July 4, Sunday	Free day to enjoy Independence Day in Washington		Your cost	
July 6, Tuesday	Tour: Mt. Vernon		\$ 40	
July 7, Wednesday	Non-delegate Tour: Hillwood		\$ 55	
July 8, Thursday	Grand Banquet		\$ 115	
<b>PLEASE WRITE CHECK TO: Grand Lodge 2010 Convention</b> <b>MAIL TO: Sharen Tizzano, 2250 Par Lane #1217, Willoughby Hills, OH 44094</b>			<b>Total Included: \$</b>	

*Note: Advance Registration is required for, or a portion of, the Convention, including the Welcome Reception!*

### Personal Information: Please Print Clearly

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Local Lodge & No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ District Lodge & No. \_\_\_\_\_

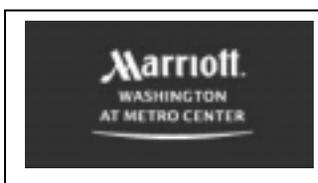
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: Country Code/Area Code/Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

(How many?) Delegate \_\_\_ GL Officer (Elected) \_\_\_ GL Officer (Appointed) \_\_\_ GL Honorary Life Member \_\_\_

### Please make your Hotel Reservations directly with the Hotel to ensure Convention rates



- 775 12th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005 USA
- Phone: 1-202-737-2200
- Fax: 1-202-347-5886
- Toll-free: 1-800-393-2510

You can make reservations by calling the Marriott at the number above or by using the internet. If you call to make the reservation the group name is *VASA 2010*.

You can also register at the hotel using the internet using the information found on the Grand Lodge webpage shown at the top.

- Room rate: \$159 (+ tax of 14.4 %) per night for all rooms.
- \$159 rate applies for one, two, three or four people per room.
- Rooms contain either One King or Two Double Beds
- All rooms are non-smoking
- \$159 room rate available between June 30 and July 12, 2010.
- Reservation deadline is 6:00 PM, Friday, June 11, 2010 to obtain rooms at above rate.

Expected arrival date \_\_\_\_\_ Expected departure date \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing room with \_\_\_\_\_

# 2010 Grand Lodge Convention Items for Sale

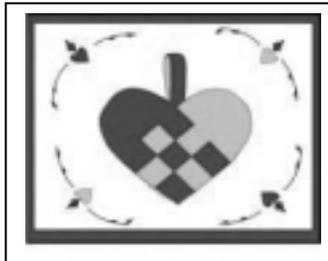
The following items are offered for sale by the 2010 GL Convention Committee to help host DL Pennsylvania No. 9 raise funds for the convention. Thank you for your support!



Dalahäst  
Lapel Pin



Sweatshirt  
50/50 blend



2050 Blue &  
Yellow Heart Basket



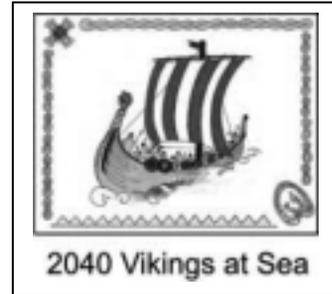
2048 Dala  
Horses & Flowers



2030 Linnea



2044 Flowers of the Provinces



2040 Vikings at Sea

## ORDER FORM

S H I P T O	Name _____
	Address _____
	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
	Phone No. _____ Country _____
	Email _____

**Note:** Sales tax is included in prices.

**Note:** If purchasing dalahäst lapel pins only, a shipping charge of \$5.00 applies for any amount purchased.

Quantity	Item Description	Price Each	Total
	Dalahäst lapel pin (size shown in relation to penny)	\$ 7.00	
	Nordic Flags Sweatshirt, YthM __ YthL __ S __ M __ L __ XL __ XXL __ XXXL __	\$ 20.00	
	2030 'Daphne' greeting cards, 4.25x5.5 in, blank inside, "Linnea"; 8-pack	\$ 6.00	
	2040 'Daphne' greeting cards, 4.25x5.5 in, blank, "Viking at Sea"; 8-pack	\$ 6.00	
	2044 'Daphne' greeting cards, 4.25x5.5 in, blank, "Flowers-the Provinces"; 8-pack	\$ 6.00	
	2048 'Daphne' greeting cards, 4.25x5.5 in, blank, "Dala Horses&Flowers"; 8-pack	\$ 6.00	
	2050 'Daphne' greeting card, 4.25x5.5 in, blank, "Blu & Yel Heart Basket"; 8-pack	\$ 6.00	
<b>Please write check to: 2010 Grand Lodge Convention</b> <b>Mail your order and check to: Dorothy Overberg, 5431 Patton, Erie, PA 16509</b> <b>Phone: (814) 864-2406 Email: croverberg@aim.com</b>		<b>Subtotal</b>	
		Shipping (see chart)	
		<b>TOTAL INCLUDED</b>	

**Shipping and Handling (USA)** Please call for orders above \$150.00 or for any order to Canada or to Sweden

Subtotal	Shipping	Subtotal	Shipping	Subtotal	Shipping
\$0.00-\$18.00	<b>\$5.00</b>	\$18.01-\$36.00	<b>\$8.00</b>	\$36.01-\$54.00	<b>\$10.00</b>
\$54.01-\$80.00	<b>\$12.00</b>	\$80.01-\$110.00	<b>\$15.00</b>	\$110.01-\$150.00	<b>\$18.00</b>

## Motions to the Grand Lodge Meeting

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

## Deadline for submission - March 1, 2010

### SAMPLE FORMAT #1 – Motions Not Affecting Constitution

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

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

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

(Lodge or District Seal)

### 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:**

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

(Lodge or District Seal)

### 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Secretary)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date of signature)

(Lodge or District Seal)

# Tävlingsresultat

## Membership 2008 – A Campaign for Vasa

Gratulationer till **DL Central Canada #16**, **LL Dalahäst #742**, **LL Solstad #709**, **LL Skogen #700**, **LL Golden Valley #616**, **LL Westervik #679** och till **Betty Johnson**, **LL Drott #168**. Alla har vunnit ett förstaplats pris i Storlogens Medlemskapstävling.

Första och andra plats i kategorin störst procentuell tillväxt\* av en **Distriktsloge** under året är:

<b>Ordning</b>	<b>% tillväxt</b>	<b>DL namn &amp; no.</b>	<b>Pris</b>
1:a Plats:	3.7%	DL Central Canada #16	\$250 och Stormästarens Trofé
2:a Plats:	3.0%	DL Minnesota #7	\$200

Topp fem i kategorin störst procentuell tillväxt\* av en **Lokalloge** under året är:

<b>Ordning</b>	<b>% tillväxt</b>	<b>LL namn &amp; no.</b>	<b>Pris</b>	<b>Medlemmar</b>
1:a Plats i Distriktet:	30.0%	LL Dalahäst #742, DL #6	\$100	36
1:a Plats i Distriktet:	29.0%	LL Solstad #709, DL #21	\$100	38
1:a Plats i Distriktet:	24.1%	LL Skogen #700, DL #12	\$100	34
4:e Plats:	17.1%	LL Norrskenet #331, DL #17	\$ 40	46
5:e Plats (delad):	16.0%	LL Tegner #109, DL #4	\$ 30	58
5:e Plats (delad):	16.0%	LL Balder #343, DL #12	\$ 30	28

Vinnarna i kategorin **Flest Medlemmar Intagna** i en Lokalloge är:

**LL Golden Valley #616** i DL Southern California #15 and **LL Westervik #679** i DL Södra Sverige #20 där logerna var tog in 19 nya medlemmar. De vinner \$100 var.

Vinnarna i kategorin **Fadder till Flest Nya Medlemmar** är:

**Första Plats: Betty Johnson**, **LL Drott #168** i DL Pennsylvania #9 med 9 medlemmar. Sy. Betty vinner \$100.

**Andra Plats (delad): Cherstin Peterson**, **LL Dalahäst #742** i DL New Jersey #6 och **Katarina Ivarson**, **LL Phoenix #677** i DL Arizona #21 med 7 medlemmar var. Sy. Cherstin och Sy. Katarina vinner \$50 var.

Vasa Orden förlorade åter ett stort antal medlemmar under 2008. Av alla distrikt som har rapporterat är det inget som har en ökning av antalet medlemmar, fastän två har vunnit i kategorin störst procentuell tillväxt med positiv ökning. (Detta kan verka lite konstigt, men enligt reglerna för beräkningen av procentuell tillväxt räknas inte medlemmar som avlidet. Inte heller räknas medlemmar som transfererar till eller från en loge.) Endast ett distrikt behöll samma medlemskap som året innan, och alla andra förlorade fler medlemmar än de tog in. **Vi tar inte in så många nya medlemmar** i Vasa som under tidigare år, men värre är: Vi behåller inte våra medlemmar. Av de medlemmar vi förlorade under 2008 avled 25% **medan 75% inte förnyade sitt medlemskap**.

För framtiden: "Membership 2009 – A Campaign for Vasa" kan vara en sporre för Lokal- och Distriktsloger att göra något nytt. **Nya Barnklubbar! Nya Aktivitetsklubbar! Nya Lokalloger!** Det finns priser för att starta nya klubbar och loger, även om inga sådana gavs ut i år. Kom ihåg att fylla i ditt namn som fadder när du tar in en ny medlem. Mer än 1/3 av alla nya medlemmar 2008 hade ingen fadder.

Storlogen tillhandahåller "Welcome to New Members Packet". Det finns också en ansökan om medlemskap på [www.Vasaorder.com](http://www.Vasaorder.com) (Motsvarande svenska dokument kan fås från respektive Distriktsloge.)

**Lokalloge- och Distriktssekreterare:** Kom ihåg att skicka in årsrapporten i tid, för att inte missa tävlingen om prispengar i "Membership 2009 – A Campaign for Vasa"! Vi måste vända denna utvecklingen och bygga upp Vasa igen! Allt vi behöver göra är att **var och en av oss tar in en ny medlem!**

Pris för en ny aktivitetsklubb kräver verifikation av aktivitet. Detta kan enklast ske genom att sända in en årlig aktivitetsrapport till Storlogens Aktivitetsdirektor: Judy Rust.

**Jag vill härmed gratulera alla vinnare: Bra gjort!**

In Sanning och Enighet,

Tore Kellgren – Grand Lodge Membership Chair – [Membership@vasaorder.com](mailto:Membership@vasaorder.com)

\* Distriks- och Lokallogetävlingens regler: Procentuell tillväxt beräknas så här: Totalt antal intagna minus antal förlorade av annan orsak, dividerat med totala medlemsantalet i början av året, multiplicerat med 100. Transfererade och avlidna medlemmar räknas inte. Ej heller räknas nyinstiftade eller sammanslagna loger. DS måste skicka in medlemsrapporten i tid så att den når GS senast 31:a mars om resultaten skall vara med i tävlingen.

# DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

## DL New York #4

The Biennial Convention of New York District Lodge #4, Vasa Order of America, was held Oct. 16th-18th at the Holiday Inn in Suffern, NY. Friday evening the various participants rolled into the hotel for preliminary meetings in preparation for the business to be carried out on Saturday. In addition there were various informal get-togethers of members and friends, some of which lasted well into the night.

The following morning, the session was opened with District Master Karen Snowberg presiding. There was a fine flag ceremony by *Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1* and the presentation of visiting dignitaries from neighboring District Lodges. The Grand Lodge was well represented by Grand Master Dr. Rolf Bergman with his wife Marty, Grand Treasurer Richard Overberg, and Grand Lodge Cultural Leader, Inger Hanright. After reports and such, the meeting broke for lunch. The afternoon session was all about the various motions to be entertained. They were dispatched in good order by Sister Karen and the session closed a bit early.

The evening centered round the festive dinner and dance. It was most enjoyable with entertainment by those marvelous young folks of *Barnklubben Elsa Rix* plus the wonderful dance music provided by *Smörgåsbandet*, featuring Jeanne Andersen, Wayne Söderlund, and Chad Widman.

The Sunday session opened with a meaningful Memorial Service to Vasa members who have passed on. This was followed by the election and installation of officers for the ensuing term. Of particular note was the elevation of Carl Gefken as the new District Master. Expectations for his term are high and sure to be met as he is the son of Betzy Gefken, who so diligently and efficiently served District Lodge #4 as District Secretary for 20 years, as well as serving as District Master and as Vice Grand Secretary. All present wished him and his team well. "*Jag hoppas att du lyckas!*"

By all accounts it was a very successful event, and it can easily be said that a good Vasa time was had by one and all.

Submitted by: Ken Olson



Grand Master Rolf Bergman 'gets down with the kids.'

## DL New Jersey #6



Former first spouse Lou Casella, kitchen helper for the evening, mingles with Past District Masters Helen Haumaucher and Jerry Meloskie.

She acknowledged Anita Berger who first started this grand tradition for us. Grand Lodge Cultural Leader Inger Hanright gave us a history of Aquavit, how it is made and the proper way to "Skål!" Our first course was Swedish pea soup, and then the first of our four tables was presented. We were able to choose from herring five different ways, "gravlax," baked salmon, sardines, shrimp, and hard-boiled eggs with caviar, pickled beets and other salads. Table two was a delectable array of cold meats, pâtés, a variety of cheeses and cucumber salad. Of course there was plenty of "lingon" for garnish. Table three offered the hot courses of smoked ham, meatballs, "fiskbullar," various cabbage dishes and Jansson's temptation. All through the evening bands of servers went from table to table with aquavit shots accompanied by Ken Christenson and his accordion. After singing "Helan Går" followed by a proper "Skål!" a shot was downed. If you had room for dessert, table four offered us Danish raspberry pudding, rice pudding, "kransekage," "krumkakor," with the most popular of Scandinavian drinks, good hot coffee. Music was provided by our regulars, Eric Johansson, Walter Eriksson Jr., and Ines and Frank Cuslak. The "shottis," polkas, waltzes, and a "hambo" or two got many up to dance throughout the evening allowing us to make room for the next course. The weather was picture perfect fall day, the food incredible but the friendship and camaraderie of those attending was the best part. Our district is truly blessed to share in this wonderful cultural event each year.

Submitted by: Beverly Blake

# LODGE NEWS LUCIAS

## North Star Lodge #106 Los Angeles, CA



Joselyn Pages as Lucia at North Star Lodge #106 Christmas party. Joselyn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Pages

Life at North Star rolls along nicely. There was recent participation at the September *Autumn Fest* at Vasa Park. The park was almost totally decorated in blue and yellow with an abundance of "Välkommen" signs and a big happy crowd.

Our thanks to Ann Heinstedt (Nordic Heritage) who encouraged *Vasa Park Assn.* to try new innovations, such as a meatball contest with competing lodges. We had a chance to taste and judge. The winner was Northern Lights who took home a trophy and money! Uno Kasperson, our dear member, made meatballs for Mayflower and came in second. All were so delicious; there should have been more trophies!

Meat ball toss game and "Lingonberry" pie eating contest. I missed hearing who was the messy, happy winner! The new games were a big hit!

Our famous Scandinavian "Marknad" also, music, dancing, bingo and other games, lots of fun the whole day.

In October, we had Jane Hendricks of Nordic Fox cater our "Kål Dolmar" luncheon and Jean Shore had traveled to Sweden, but arrived back home in time to enjoy the food of autumn.

In October, DM Mary Ethel Pierson, Evelyn Earls and E. Thornton were chauffeured by Uno Kasperson the 100 miles to Bakersfield Valley Viking for

their 36th Anniversary. CH Michael Nommensen and members warmly greeted us at the country club. It was a really nice day.

CL Eleonora Nyren informed us that it was the time of year to eat goose and blood soup in Sweden. Len Gohrn had updates of Sweden news for us.

On December 13, St. Lucia's Day, we celebrated and 14-year old Jocelyn Pages was Lucia!

Gott Nytt År!

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton

## Nobel Monitor Lodge #130 Mayfield Heights, OH



Kristi Johnson

Kristi Johnson as Lucia 2009. I have participated in the Lucia festivities for 13 years, twice as Lucia (2007, 2009) and joined Vasa in 2008. I am a sophomore in high school and am home schooled. My favorite school subjects are English literature and science. The sports I am the most active in are soccer, horseback riding, and sailing. Some of my other interests include baking and cooking from scratch with my mom, and reading as many books as I can.

I have been singing in the local adult mixed chorus, Vasa Voices of Cleveland, for the past four years. I continue to be extremely involved in Parkside Church's youth group, and am a leader in their weekly kids program for ages 3 through third grades, Kids of the Kingdom, as well. I enjoy spending my summers at Mission Meadows, a Swedish Covenant camp on Lake Chautauqua, NY, and have volunteered there for several years.

My parents are Marilyn and Ken Johnson, and I am the younger sister of David and Julie.

Submitted by: Marilyn Johnson

## Tegnér Lodge #149 Oakland, CA

Tegnér Lodge #149's Lucia for 2009 was Emily Oliveira, a student at Sierra College. She is 19 years old and lives with her mother and brothers in Colfax, CA. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Maja Lisa (May) Johnson Rendleman, who was a 50-year member of Tegnér Lodge. Emily carries on the family tradition of participation in the Lucia Fest. Her mother, Mary Ellen Johnson Oliveira, was Lucia twice. Emily hopes to travel to Sweden some day.

About 55 members and friends of Tegnér Lodge attended the lodge's "smörgåsbord" and Lucia Program on December 13. Almost every Tegnér member who was available that day helped with the preparation and program. Former Chairman Laura Nordendahl baked the delicious Lucia buns and the Nordendahl family loaned us the Lucia gown, made by the late Doris Nordendahl.

Lucia's attendants were Annika Zamora, Kristen Root, and Kelsey Root, who read a story about the tomtar. Star boys were Kristopher Root, Jason Hallsten, and Eric Hallsten. Tomtar were Keegan Lister and Joacim Zamora. The Tegnér Singers were Marie-Ann Hill, Elsy Mattsson, Kathryn Hughes, and guest singers Tore Kellgren and L. Hallsten.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis



Emily Oliveira

## Drott Lodge #168 Washington, DC

December 13 dawned with rain that continued steadily and included substantial downpours in the afternoon hours. Drott Lodge #168 members involved in setting up were worried that few people would come for the afternoon's activities, which were to include a business meeting, a mini-Bazaar, a Lucia Procession, a Holiday Party, and a visit from Santa.

But miraculously they came, bringing lots of children. It was still raining heavily at 3:45 p.m., and we considered holding the Lucia Procession in the Parish Hall rather than marching our costumed children over to the Sanctuary. But, as with the Noah story, the rains did cease, in our case a mere 10 minutes before we were to begin. Sarah Vandergrift, the 13-year old granddaughter of new Drott member Mavis Vandergrift, was our lovely Lucia. Her two younger sisters were among the many attendants in what turned out to be the largest Lucia Procession Drott has had in many years, with 24 participants accompanied by an adult choir of eight.

Thanks to Lucia Coordinator Karin Weeden, to musician Kristi Johnson who played the piano for the procession and the "nyckleharpa" for the dancing around the Christmas tree and to Mark Munson in his first appearance as Santa.

**Submitted by: Carol Whitley**  
**Picture by: Gerry Schueman**



*Lucia, Sarah Vandergrift*

## Astor Lodge #215 Astoria, OR



*Sankta Lucia Andrea Phillips surrounded by her "tärnor." Miriam McCauley, Miss Sweden 2010, is partially seen on the right.*

The highlight of our year is always our Sankta Lucia celebration and "Jul" Potluck. It was exciting to gather on December 13 and to realize we were celebrating on the same day as our friends and loved ones in Sweden.

Flickering candles created a warm glow in the newly-built Yacht Club. It felt good to return to our regular meeting place after two years of renovation made necessary when the 2007 windstorm blew off the Yacht Club roof. Tables were festive with greens, Swedish crystal votives, and traditional cardboard cutout "Tomte" rows. Along with the ham, the 65 members and friends who attended enjoyed authentic "lussekatter och knäck" made by our newest Swedish immigrant, Maria Johnson. Several members recalled they had not eaten "knäck" since their childhood in Sweden.

Our Lucia, Andrea Phillips, led the pro-

cession of "tärnor" and "stjärngossar." One of her "tärnor" was Miriam McCauley, introduced earlier in the evening as our new Miss Sweden. (Miriam will participate in the coronation of Miss Scandinavia at the Astoria Midsummer Festival in June 2010). Fourteen youngsters participated in the Lucia procession.

Following Lucia, carols were sung to the accordions of Jorgen Madsen and Sven Sundstrom. The crowd then called for ring dancing around the tree to begin. Sven Sundstrom led dancers in such favorites as "Små Grodorna," "Karusellen," and "Räven Raskar Över Isen." Such fun to see the little ones acting out the roles in the various dances! The evening ended as the children plundered goodies from the tree. "Gott Nytt År" to Vasa members everywhere.

**Submitted by: Maureen Sundstrom**  
**Photos by: Susan Walker**

## Tegnér Lodge #224 Missoula, MT

Greetings from Tegnér Lodge #224. At our October meeting, we had people come to give us a presentation of early settlers in the Missoula area. Each person took the part of different people to portray such as a mayor, sheriff, lady of the evening, the first school teacher and others. They dressed in clothes of the time and spoke the part as if they were the individual.

For December, we had our annual smorgasbord with singing and dancing around the Christmas tree. The story of Santa Lucia was read before Lucia made her appearance to pass out the buns to the members. Santa also made an appearance passing out fruit and presents to the children and grown ups.

"Gott Nytt År" from Tegner #224 to all Vasa brothers and sisters!

**Submitted by: Rick Swanson**



*Madeleine Hurlbert and Kayti Mahoney.*

**Skandia Lodge #247  
Pasadena, CA**

The 2009 holidays at Skandia Lodge #247 have been mostly happy, we miss our dear Miriam Berndes who fell and broke something that would have worked better in one piece, but she is recovering under the careful, caring, and watchful eye of her daughter, Helene, in Palm Springs.

As for those of us in sunny Pasadena, we enjoyed the fantastic "Julbord" at Skandia hosted by the *Swedish Club of Los Angeles* and then the following weekend Skandia's own Lucia pageant and dinner at our Lodge. Lucia was Rachel Demarjian this year. Her court represented the families of the Demarjians, Orcutts, Pedersons, and Cepieliks, with Kathleen Demarjian as Solstralen Leader. Following the Lucia program with Rachel telling the story of Lucia, there was dancing and singing around our Christmas tree and a visit from Santa. A traditional turkey and ham dinner was served and a good time was enjoyed by all.

**Submitted by: Jackie Ahlen, Chairman**



*Rachel Demarjian*

**Svea Lodge #253  
Indianapolis, IN**

Our annual Lucia fest was held on Sunday, 6 December 2009 at the Latvian Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. It began with a social time including a complete "Smörgåsbord," "Glögg," and punch, and was followed by the Lucia Processional with Lucia Paige Swanson, "Tärnor, Stjärngossar," and the Svea Singers.

Our Lucia, Paige Swanson, is 14 years old, and is an 8th grader at Noblesville Middle School, Noblesville, Indiana. She



*Lucia Paige Swanson*

plays the clarinet in the school band. For the past six years she has participated in the Lucia procession and singing. As a member of *Sveaskolan #210*, she has taken two years of Swedish language classes. Paige Swanson has a wide variety of interests including Egypt, ancient alphabets, sculpture, and reading Fantasy books. Congratulations to our Lucia Paige Swanson, and her parents Sarah and Eric Swanson.

Nearly 50 youngsters participated in the Lucia procession, a record number! We welcomed 200 members, family, and guests to the Lucia Fest. We continued with the "Julmiddag," catered by Andris and Jean Indriksons, "Jultomte," dancing led by *Dans Norden* Director John Seest, and singing. The Swedish Emporium was open and managed by Susie and Mark Swanson, and the Lucia raffle prizes brought happy smiles to the winners.

**Submitted by: Joella D. Hultgren**

**Svea Lodge #296  
Erie, PA**

Our Lucia Fest was held December 13th at Luther Memorial Church. Lucia was portrayed by Julie Burger. She is 18 years old, a senior at Mercyhurst Prep School. She plans to study Performing Arts. At present she volunteers her talent at Mercyhurst and at the Erie Playhouse. Her interest in sports finds her participating in track. Julie really enjoys singing and being with friends and family, as well as church groups. She states that she is honored and excited about being Lucia! After the lovely program, Swedish gifts were available for purchase, and "Kaffe Och Dopp," was

served in the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall.

**Submitted by: Linda Collin**



*Lucia Julie Burger*

**Omaha Lodge #330  
Omaha, NE**

Emelia Phillips was Sankta Lucia for Omaha Lodge #330 on Sunday, December 13, 2009. She is a sophomore at Central High School where she plays volleyball and is a member of the Latin Club. She is the daughter of Mike and Annika Phillips and the granddaughter of Gullvi Henriksson, member of the lodge. She was attended by her friend, Hannah Emsick, also a sophomore at Central and daughter of Brett and Julie Emsick.

Other attendants were Erin Clough, freshman at Burke High School, and Ben Clough, junior at Burke. Their parents are Douglas and Lori Clough, and Marlene Clough, member of the lodge, is their grandmother.

**Submitted by: June Söderlund**



*Emelia Phillips*

**Skogsblomman Lodge #378  
Preston, WA**



The Skogsblomman Lodge #378 celebrated its annual Lucia Pageant and "Julbord" on December 6th, 2009. Our "Sankta Lucia" was Kathleen Anastasia Thornsberry, who was twelve years old and turned thirteen the next day. Her brothers also participated. Kathleen is a seventh grade honors student at Kamiakin Junior High in Kirkland, Washington where she plays clarinet in the band and competes on the badminton and basketball teams. Kathleen also coaches rhythmic gymnastics and competes on a swim team in the summer. She enjoys reading and cooking. This was Kathleen's second time participating in the Lucia fest.

The festive occasion was hosted by Cindy Stedman, lodge Chair and other lodge members who decorated the quaint historic hall for the occasion. The program was directed by Melissa Shogren, with lovely musical accompaniment provided by Lucille Lundstrom (piano) and Stephen Thornsberry (guitar).

**Submitted by: Shawn Thornsberry**

**Solidaritet Lodge #396  
Mount Vernon, WA**

We celebrated Lucia on December 13, the actual date of the holiday in Sweden. A social hour was followed by a potluck "smörgåsbord" style dinner, and then by the singing of Christmas carols while we waited for the main event. Our lovely and dignified Lucia was Klare Smith, age 15, daughter of Keith and Kirsten Smith, and granddaughter of Jean Nelson and the late Larry Nelson who had been the District #13 Chairman. Klare is a freshman at Lynnwood High School and has been part of youth activities including Scandinavian dance at our lodge through the years. A few hardy Swedes and many brave Americans sang the traditional three songs to accompany Lucia and her train of attendants.

**Submitted by: Wike White**



*Klare Smith*

**Evening Star Lodge #426  
Los Alamitos, CA**



*Lucia Emma Duthie*

On December 19, 2009, at the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Garden Grove, Evening Star Lodge #426 celebrated its 87th Anniversary and the *Morning Star Children's Club #172* its 42nd Anniversary. Included in the program, were a wonderful party and a magnificent presentation of our Lucia Pageant by the Morning Star Children's Club with our beautiful Lucia Emma Duthie. The Children's Club sang many traditional Christmas songs and offered numerous beautiful Yuletide poems.

Many thanks go to Gunlog Spaberg, our Children's Club Supervisor and her assistant Stephanie Tomasevic. Vice District Master Robert Salk presented Lucia Emma, his granddaughter, with a beautiful traditional amulet. The winner of the Evening Star Lodge #426 scholarships was announced which was Chris Lunt.

Following the Lucia Pageant, a traditional Swedish dinner was prepared and served to over 120 people, our staff, followed by singing and dancing around the Christmas tree and the coming of "Tomten."

Emma Duthie is an 8th grader at Mary Putnam Henck Intermediate School in Lake Arrowhead, CA where she lives with her mother, father and brother. Emma carries a 4.0 grade point average and likes to volunteer to help around her community; currently she is helping her father deliver meals for Meals on Wheels. Emma is an avid ice hockey player and plays for the Anaheim Lady Ducks U14AAA team and hopes to make it to

*Continued on page 19*

## Evening Star Lodge #426

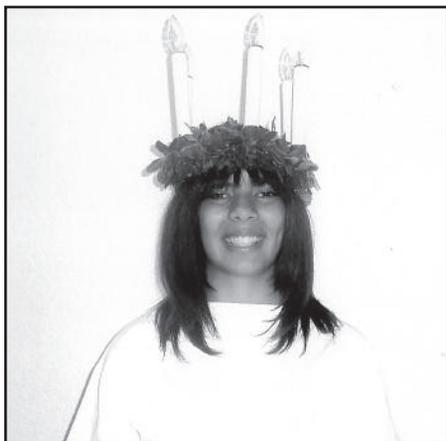
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the National Championships in Green Bay, Wisconsin in April 2010. She has been active in the Morning Star Lodge's children's group since she was two years old and is excited to play the role of Santa Lucia this year.

Submitted by: Thomas Jahn

Picture by: Thomas Jahn

## Sveaborg Lodge #449 Concord, CA



Challenga Gilbert

Challenga Gilbert will represent Sveaborg Lodge #449 as Lucia at its 2009 "Julfest." Challenga is an active member of Sveaborg's *Vasablad Children's Club #119* and will get her eight-year pin at the "Julfest." She is 14 years old and is in the ninth grade at Alameda High School.

Challenga has many interests and involvements, especially in the field of music. She is Sveaborg's "Diva" and has sung solos at lodge meetings for many years. She also sang at the Golden Gate District #12 Convention when it was held in Concord. Challenga sang the Swedish National Anthem and Swedish summer songs at one of the Sveadal "midsommar" festivals. She sang in the *Piedmont Children's Choir* which sang the National Anthem for the Oakland A's baseball team. She won second place in an Alameda Idol contest at the fourth of July festival, singing patriotic songs. She played trombone in her middle school band which participated in the *Electric Light Parade* at Disneyland. She has also played piano for four years and sings in her high school choir, as well as helping the teacher with piano accompaniment during choir practice. Challenga also plays soccer, usually as goal keeper. Challenga's mother is from

Stockholm and Challenga is bi-lingual. She spent all of the 2008 summer with her "mormor" and "morbror" in Sweden. Being Lucia is the culmination of a long-held dream for Challenga and

she is grateful to Sveaborg Lodge and the Vasablad Children's Club for the opportunity.

Submitted by: Bob Burman

Picture by: Bob Burman

## Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI

Lucia 2009 was celebrated on "Lucia-dagen" December 13. Our Lucia this year was Ashley LeBlanc. Ashley is a member of *Skansen Children Club* since 2004, and she recently joined Linde Lodge as well. Ashley has been involved in many Vasa events as she is the granddaughter of Jake and Marge Gruel, both active in District #8, and Jake also at the Grand Lodge level. Ashley spends time in Vasa by helping out at fundraisers such as Pea soup dinners, Scandinavian Festival, and also joins grandma and grandpa on some of their trips to the National Archives in Bishop Hill.

Linde & Skansen had a record crowd for the Lucia and Christmas program, the

attendance is growing along with the membership in Skansen. After the Lucia program, everyone enjoyed coffee, juice, open face sandwiches, bakery and other goodies. Skansen then had a performance of their folk dances, including the new one this year, The Shottis. After the performance the long-dance took place with almost 100 people and then the "ring-lekar" finished off the entertainment. In good style, and to not disappoint anyone, Santa came jingling in and every child (and child at heart) had a chance to meet one on one with him. He generously gave out apples and candy canes.

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand



Annual Lucia Program – Back row from left: Rex Wasserman, Annika Martenson, Ashley LeBlanc (Lucia), Elizabeth Greene, Niklas Martenson, Anna Lorbach. Front from left: Kristler Martenson, Sophie Andersson, Ellen Robison, Grace Katskes, Grace Greene, Luke Lorbach (Tomten) and Gorge Katskes and Lola Wasserman "pepparkaks-gubbar."

## Lindbergh Lodge #494

Palo Alto, CA

Our Lodge celebrated Lucia fest with a sold-out evening that included guests from Sweden and many children (over 80 people). Following a wonderful smorgasbord dinner with ham, salmon, and "Ris a la Malta" among the dishes, all attendees with Dec. birthdays came forward and the entire assembly sang them Happy Birthday followed by "Ja Må Han Leva" and four rousing hurrahs!!

The Chairman then brought member Carina Meyer forward to be recognized for her outstanding effort in recruiting new members especially so many young immigrant couples with children. She was

awarded a Vasa pin and a 2010 family membership.

The lights were dimmed and the Lucia procession entered, with the young ladies all singing in Swedish, followed by young boys as "stjärngossar" and Santa dancing all the way! The assembly joined in singing Santa Lucia and other carols, accompanied by music provided by Hans Nilson and Jack Haderle.

The festivities continued with dancing to "Små grodorna" around the Christmas tree, followed by a conga line that went outside around the building and back

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## Lindbergh Lodge #494

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inside! After dancing, Santa gave presents to the children and then many nice prizes were raffled off.

Concluding the evening the Chairman thanked all who had contributed to the dinner and the ladies who coordinated and

served all food. He also thanked Gunn McCuen and Bea Andrews for their effort in organizing and conducting the raffle.

**Submitted by: Chuck Wallin and  
Ann Marie Van Horn**

**Picture by: Tore Kellgren**



Lucia was Danika Larsen. She was accompanied by Ann-Marie Richardson and Susanne Omander.

## Satellite Lodge #661 Kalamazoo, MI

Satellite Lodge #661 had St. Lucia Fest on December 12, 2009 with a nice crowd and a lot of fun. Rachel Anna Forsberg, daughter of Tom and Sue Forsberg, granddaughter of Marsh and Jan Forsberg, was St. Lucia. Her maids were Katie Groesbeck, Ingrid and Kaijsa Johnson and Claire Kavanaugh. Erik and Steven Olson were the star boys and Jacob Kavanaugh was the "Jultomte." Ingrid read the Legend of St. Lucia. Christmas Carols were sung plus some Swedish songs: "Nu tändas tusen juleljus, Staffan var en stalledräng" but the most fun was singing "Tomtarnas Julnatt." After the pageant refreshments were served they all danced around the Christmas tree and the fun challenging Ox dance.

**Submitted by: Janis Forsberg**



Lucia was Rachel Anna Forsberg

## Gold Nugget Lodge #662 Paradise, CA



In the photo is our Santa Lucia children's procession participants Shari Sword served as our Lucia, Aleeya Sword, Melody Sword and Jasmine Puntigam were her attendants, and our star boy was Joshua Sword.

This December found us celebrating the first Santa Lucia Festival in our new location, the Paradise Senior Center. The event was held on Sunday, Dec. 13, on "Luciadagen." The lunch was our traditional Split Pea Soup and "Limpa" bread. We had entertainment of dancing and singing by the Sword Family and the Magalia Pines Church on the Ridge, as well as authentic Swedish folk music played by Laurel Paulson-Pierce on the "nyckelharpa."

We sang Christmas Carols, and we had a procession of Santa Lucia and her attendants, also a visit by Santa.

Many cookies were enjoyed by the folks who attended, and a raffle helped to defray expenses.

Donations of food and toys were collected to share with the less fortunate in our community.

Other highlights of our year were the Vasa District Convention in Fresno in April, our summer picnic and crayfish party in August, and our 48th anniversary luncheon in November.

**Submitted by: Laurel Paulson-Pierce,  
Cultural Chairperson**

## Phoenix Lodge #677 Phoenix, AZ



Lucia, Kirin Khalsa

After the Lucia celebration we all enjoyed our "Julbord." Afterward, many joined in with our lively music and danced around the beautifully decorated tree. We were then joined by the jolly himself and his helper, "Tomtemor!" Everyone had a wonderful time!

Our Lucia, Kirin, was born on September 19, 1998 and adopted into her current family. It is a somewhat diverse family as her mother is of Polish/German decent and her father is from India. Kirin is the youngest of her family. Her two older sisters are grown up. Kirin's name is very similar to Lucia because it means the "ray of light" in Punjabi.

Kirin has contacts with many in her biological family and stays close to some. Kirin has three biological brothers and one biological sister who live with various families. Kirin is in the 5th grade at Khalsa Montessori School. Her favorite subjects are math and language. She also loves swimming and soccer and playing outdoors. She loves drawing and creative

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## Phoenix Lodge #677

*Continued from page 20*

writing and is very good at both. Kirin is very, very fond of traveling and has traveled around the USA, to Germany and to India visiting family and friends since she was 2. She loves animals and has had many pets over the years. She thinks she might like to be a marine biologist when she grows up but is still not sure.

**Submitted by: Sara Nilsson, Chairman**

## Bishop Hill Lodge #683

**Bishop Hill, IL**

Bishop Hill Vasa Lodge #683 Lucia was Breann Cart. She is the granddaughter of lodge members Randy and Sue Anderson. Breann is a freshman at Galva High School and works at The Colony Bakery in Bishop Hill. She is also a Charter Member of the Junior Vasa "Pride of the Family." The Christmas "smörgåsbord" was December 5th at The Colony School, Bishop Hill.

**Submitted by: Jeff Anderson**



*From left to right: Natalie Christianson, Breann Cart, Sally Christianson and Grace Johnson.*



## Norden Lodge #684

**Fresno, CA**

Brittany Johnson is 12 years old and in 7th Grade at Alta Middle School. She is active in the Concert choir at school and loves to do art and crafts in her spare time. Brittany is the daughter of Sherri Johnson and granddaughter of Fran Johnson.

**Submitted by: Inger Lindhe**



*Brittany Johnson*

## Skogen Lodge #700

**Redding, CA**



*Skogen Lodge Lucia 2009.*

**Submitted by: Hazelle Mills**

**Pictures by: Troy Betts and Kristi Betts**

## Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

**Cape Cod, MA**



*Olivia Blomdahl, daughter of Ed and Cameron Blomdahl, was this year's Lucia, with Emma and Kyra Brimdyr, Grace Sohøel-Goldberg and Emi-Rae Cormier as Honor Attendants, followed by eight young maidens, Jacob Lombard as Star Boy, and Warren and Chip Blair as "Tomtar."*

What a delight it was to walk into our meeting hall and see it transformed into a wonderland of beauty! Each table was

covered by snowy white cloths, beautiful red candelabras, carved in wood by Clara

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## Vinland of Cape Cod Lodge #703

*Continued from page 21*

Ellner, and encircled by long-needle pine branches. It was a perfect setting for the Lucia pageant which began with Sophia Lombard's reading The Legend of Lucia, and how its celebration became popular in Sweden.

Later the "small fry" gathered around the Christmas tree and heard "The Night before Christmas" read by Dorothy Kean. Following that, Kajsa Brimdyr led the wee folk and a few "tall folk" in traditional Swedish dances.

A raffle, conducted by Lorraine Young and Sally Glinski, produced many wonderful items. The "smörgåsbord" then beckoned and yielded more wonderful treats.

We want to thank Marilyn Sohøel and her Committee, and all the other members, too numerous to mention, who contributed greatly to make the celebration a huge success.

Rune Borgman had made "Tomte pins" that the members received at the Lucia celebration.

**Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman**

## Tre Kronor Lodge #713 Salem, OR



*Victoria Wilson*

Victoria Wilson, daughter of Elaine and Lyn Wilson of Dallas, is the Tre Kronor Lodge #713 Lucia for 2009. Victoria performed with her Lucia Court on December 13, 2009, in the chapel of the Willamette Lutheran Retirement Community Center, Keizer, Oregon.

The concert, followed by a dessert, was open to the public. The Court included Stephanie Cameron-Barth, Angie Sletton, Samuel Paulson, Star boy, Elaine Wilson, Anastasia Barth, and the young man Ricky. Audrey Cameron directed and Ray Utterback played the piano.

The Lucia Court also performed at the Reed Opera House in Salem on December 6, 2009, where Victoria Wilson also served as the Lucia. Included in that Court were Stephanie Cameron-Barth, Anastasia Barth, Audrey Cameron, Director, Linnea Saris, Hans Saris, Marianna Saris, Elaine Wilson, Angie Sletton, Whisper Sires, and Aspen Sires. Ray Utterback played the keyboard.

**Submitted by: Barry Ostrom**

## Stenland Lodge #727 Sparkill, NY



*Lucia, Becky Rasmussen*

Lodge Stenland celebrated its Lucia and Jul Fest on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Pearl River, N.Y. The Lucia was Becky Rasmussen attended by many "Tärnor, Bagare, Tomtar och en Stjärngosse."

Becky has participated in this Lucia Festival from the age of 2. The audience was also treated to a piano solo by Katie Lauer, Piano and Bells by Walter Lauer and April Hanna, guitar trio Lea Miller, Julia Syvarth, April Hanna, and Stenland member George Langberg on the guitar.

After the Lucia the guests are treated to home baked cookies, cakes, coffee and traditional Swedish holiday "glögg." There is a drawing of numerous prizes and Santa arrives at the end of the cele-

bration spreading good health and happiness to all plus a very "God Jul och Gott Nytt År!"

The Executive Board of District #4 was present for this occasion. Many other Vasa members from New York and New Jersey lodges attended the festivities.

**Submitted by: Beatrice Rasmussen  
and Ingrid Allison**

## Scandia Lodge #728 Prescott Valley, AZ

On Sunday, December 13, 2009, Scandia Lodge held its annual Smorgasbord, Potluck and Lucia celebration. The afternoon began with a social hour featuring cold foods and "Glögg." This was followed by the opening of the hot table. Once everyone had satisfied their hunger, it was entertainment time. First, Judy Hopkins described the Lucia pageant as held in Sweden then, the Lucia and her attendants distributed cookies to the guests. Gene Fougner led



*Lucia is Christine Andrews attended by Abigail Milan and star boy Isaac Mattson.*

us in a combined bell ringing and songfest and finished with the group joining in a rousing line dance. The day concluded with dessert.

The Lucia this year was Christine Andrews, granddaughter of Joe and Karleen Andrews. She was attended by Abigail Milan, granddaughter of Andria Odean. The star boy was Isaac Mattson, son of Stuart Mattson and Gene Fougner. There was also a raffle! Many special thanks go out to the organizers of the festivities!

**Submitted by: Dennis Malarkey**

**Viking Lodge #730**  
**Flint, MI**



*Denise Carlson*

Denise Carlson, age 14, an 8th grader at Lake Fenton Middle School, portrayed St. Lucia at Viking Lodge #730's annual Lucia celebration and "smörgåsbord" held December 10, 2009, at the Grand Blanc, MI, Senior Center.

Denise, the daughter of Kim Carlson, Swartz Creek, MI, enjoys creative writing, fashion design, and competitive soccer. Her grandparents, Carl and Virginia Carlson, are Charter Members of Viking Lodge #730.

**Submitted by: Howard Weaver**

**Birka Lodge #732**  
**Hamilton, MA**

Anna Onufry, age 11, daughter of Asa and Mark Onufry, of Boxford, MA, became Santa Lucia during the annual Jul Pageant held at Birka Lodge #732 on November 28. She has been a member of the children's group performing the Lucia Pageant since she was 2-1/2.

Her brother, Erik, was a Star Boy for many years.

Anna is in the 6th grade, plays soccer and really enjoys science. She has two cats. She took ballet, tap and jazz for many years. She has been a downhill skier in Vermont since 4th grade, after cross-country skiing since she was a child.

The festival of Santa Lucia begins before dawn on December 13th, which under the old Julian calendar (used in Sweden before 1753) was Christmas Day and the longest night of the year. Throughout Sweden the eldest daughter in each household comes to her sleeping parents dressed in a long white gown tied

with a red sash and wearing a crown of lingonberry leaves in which are set seven lighted candles. She carries a tray of steaming hot coffee and Lussekatort. The procession includes her sisters and brothers, also dressed in white, holding lighted candles and singing of the light and joy of Christmas. The sisters of the Lucia wear a wreath of tinsel in their hair, and a piece tied around their waist, while the boys have tall pointed caps sprinkled with stars. Awakened by the lights and singing, the parents rise and eat.

**Submitted by: Lois Johnson**  
**Editor, "Banner"**



*Anna Onufry*

**Jubileum Lodge #755**  
**Madison, WI**



*Hannah Girard*

Hannah Girard, Jubileum Lodge #755 Lucia in 2009, is the granddaughter of

members Raymond and Patricia Wahlton. Hannah is an 8th grade honor student, choir member, and volleyball player at Oconomowoc Middle School, and an active member of her church's Sunday school. She enjoys snowboarding in winter and water skiing, kayaking, and canoeing in the summer.

**Submitted by: Robert Merrill,**  
**Historian**

**Nordik Folk**  
**Lodge #761 and**  
**Nordikids #208**  
**Children's Club**  
**Hammond, IN**



*Emily Pearson*

Miss Emily Pearson was chosen as the Lucia for Nordikids and Nordik Folk this year. She performed at several different places with her club throughout the holiday season. The highlight of the season was on December 13th, when she reigned over the Lucia fest co-sponsored by the club and lodge together.

Emily is 15 years old and is a sophomore at Morton High School in Hammond, Indiana. She has been in Nordikids for eight years and joined the adult lodge when she turned 14. She is involved in her school choir and is on the Robotics team. Emily's parents are Michael and Lisa Pearson. Her father, Michael Sr., was the first chairman of Nordik Folk lodge. Her great-grandfather on her father's side came to America from Sweden on the Titanic as a young boy. We are very grateful that he survived the disaster so that we have Emily and her family with us today!

**Submitted by: Lynda Smith**

# SWEDISH NEWS

## Logen Skåne Nr 570

Fredagen den 11 september hölls höstens första logemöte då vi installerade vår nye DD sy. Gunilla Broddesson från Logen Kärnan Nr 608 i Hälsingborg. Sy Gunilla delade ut Distriktets fötjänsttecken till Sy. Ann Christine Sjöström och br. John Andersson. KL. Olle Olsson höll ett anförande om staden Turlock och svenskar i Kalifornien. Efter detta höll Bengt Åke Bengtsson en underhållande berättelse om vår berömde skånske skådespelare och sångare Edvard Persson. Vår nye DD hade tagit med hela 22 logesyskon i buss från sin loge i Hälsingborg.

Logemötet Lördagen den 10 oktober hölls enligt stadgarna och KL. Olle Olsson påbörjade en berättelse om en av Sveriges första och då kändaste skådespelare Anna Q. Nilsson från Ystad, hon emigrerade till Amerika år 1906 och 1914 utsågs hon till världens vackraste filmstjärna, en lång historia. Kvällens Tema var Wienerafton och då var det förstas wienerschnitzel till middag och Appfelstrudel till efterrätt. Grupp 5 bjöd upp till polonäsans som lockade de flesta att röra på sig, mycket uppskattat. Sy. Solveig Svensson som bott i Österrike gjorde en livlig berättelse om Wien.



Lucia Johanna, Tärnor Angelica, Elin, Evelina, Freja, Ida och Kajsa.

Fredagen den 13 november ett vanligt logemöte med undantag att första nominering till nästa års tjänstemän föredrogs. Efterkapitlet stod FDO br. Kennie Sjöström för då han berättade om Mälms historia från ca. 1950 och fram till i början på år 2000.

Jag vill berätta om en unik företeelse vi har här i Skåne, nämligen Äppelfesten i Kivik, den lockar mycket publik den helgen då denna fantastiska Äppeltavla avtäckts och visas. Konstnären heter Emma Karp Lundström. Tavlan är 108

kvm och väger 3000 kilo (3 ton). Den innehåller 70000 st. spik där 35000 äpplen av 8 olika sorter sätts fast.

Logen hade logemöte på Luciadagen den 13 december, vi var 53 personer som efter mötet samlades och drack glögg. Efter ett gediget julbord väntade vi på Lucia. Lucian som var vald av tidningen Kvällspostens läsare, kom med 6 tärnor och sjöng underbart vackert. Efter kaffet gick vi hem för att så småningom fira julens ankomst.

Insänt av: Olle Olsson, Kulturredare

## Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Lördagen den 10 oktober hade vi logemöte och det var då "Brödernas afton." Vi var 74 Vasasyskon som hade samlats på Hemgården i Viken.

Parentation hölls över avlidna medlemmarna Sy. Birgit Åkerlund och Br. John Ståhlberg och för logens tidigare DD Br. Lars Helgeson från LL Malmöhus Nr 643.

O Sy. Evy Lindstrand öppnade mötet enligt sedvanlig ritual och ballotering genomfördes för kandidater som önskade återinträde i vår Orden.

KL Sy. Ingrid Berg berättade om Ellis Island och hur emigranterna fick genomgå många undersökningar där innan de fick komma in i Amerika.

BLH Br. Gunnar Lindstrand hade blickat tillbaka på möten med temat "Brödernas Afton." Ett exempel var Hawaii-afton då man skulle ha bastkjol och blommig skjorta på sig.

"Brödernas kluriga afton" började med att vi åt en god Calvadosgryta med äpple och lök. Efter måltiden kallades utvalda damer upp på scenen och kvällens tema var "Gäster med gester." Kvällen fortsatte med demokratisk dans.

På vårt Högtidsmöte på Hemgården i Viken var det 49 Vasasyskon som hade samlats. Sex av dessa kom från Logen Kärnan Nr 608 i Hälsingborg. Denna kväll hade vi också två kandidater som skulle återintagas. Efter en högtidlig intagning fick de sätta sig på de reserverade platserna.

Under kontakt Amerika berättade KL Sy Ingrid Berg att vi har fått en ny vänloge, LL Golden Valley Nr 616 i Los Angeles, Kalifornien.

BLH Br Gunnar Lindstrand berättade om tidigare högtidsmöten under november månad. Han berättade också om att 1970, då Br Bertil Ekdahl var ceremon-



Från vänster: Br. Bruno Henriksson, Br. Ola Sandberg, Br. Jan Hasslerlyd, Br. Kent Andréasson, Br. Olof Breitfeld, Br. Bengt Jönsson och Br. Stig Johansson.

imästare, ökat antalet medlemmar så mycket att han 1972 fick mottaga medlemskampanjnålen för 75 st nya medlemmar.

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## Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Continued from page 24

Sy Doris Rydberg fick mottaga utmärkelsen för 50 års medlemskap. Efter sedvanlig ljussläckningscermoni avslutades mötet. Efter middagen blev det dans till "husbandet" och innan den sedvanliga lottdragningen sjöng vi Br Ove Thornblads fantastiska Vasa-sång till ABBA:s musik "Thank you for the music."

Efter lottdragningen tackade Sy Ordförande Evy Lindstrand gruppen som var värdar för kvällen.

Insänt av: Ingrid Berg, KL

## Logen Malmöhus Nr 643

Poetiska ord, högtidliga tal, mycket folk, fyra nya medlemmar, en ny hedersmedlem syster Ingrid Sewerin, god mat, sång, musik och dans var några av ingredienserna när logen Malmöhus Nr 643 firade sitt 50-års jubileum. Syster Ingrid Sewerin liknade logens historia vid ett träd med starka, livskraftiga grenar och stabila rötter. Tack till alla som har hjälpt till med planering och genomförande av vår jubileumsfest.

Den 6 november 2009 hade LL Malmöhus logemöte med ett intressant efterkapitel där vi fick lära oss vad ett skelett kunde berätta. Den 29 november firade vi 1:a advent i Heliga Trefaldighetskyrkan och därefter fick vi glögg i trädgården och kaffe mm i Helgas Café. Sedan var vi några som fortsatte till Adventkyrkan och åt ett digert vegetariskt julbord. Det sistnämnda var dock inte i Logens regi

Så var Julen här igen och Julhälsning har skickats till våra Vänloger. Lördagen den 12 december hade Logen Malmöhus Nr 643 logemöte med julfest. Vid logemötet kunde de flesta tjänsterna för 2010 tillsättas, vilket vi tackar nomineringskommittén för. Efter logemötet bjöds vi på glögg av grupp 9, som även hade dukat upp med ett stort julbord. Sånghäften med många snapsvisor låg på borden, så vi fick tillfälle att prova våra stämmor, under ledning av Ingegärd och Bengt-Göran. Två musikanter, John och Claudia, ifrån Musikhögskolan i Malmö, var inbjudna att underhålla oss. Claudia sjöng många vackra julsånger och hennes partner John spelade piano.

Skrivet av: Elisabeth Västerstjärna

Insänt av: Bo västerstjärna

## Logen Enköping Nr 646

I september besökte Elisabeth Agge, Anne-Sofie Hjort med maken Håkan, Karl-Erik Axelsson Logen Enköping Nr 646 tillsammans med Lars-Åke och Hillivi Sjöberg från Logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563 Linde Logen i USA.

Vädret var fantastiskt och hela gänget bodde hos Jake och Marge Gruel i New Berlin. Vi var tillsammans med logesyskon Lisa och Rolf Ekstrand och hade grillfest. Vi var även inbjuden till Jake och Marge samt alla barn med familjer, för att alla skulle ha möjlighet att träffas.

Vi gjorde en utflykt till Indiana för att se en stor lantbruksindustri som hade ca 3000 kor som bl a mjölkas dygnet runt. Under besöket i USA tittade vi också på gamla amerikanska bilar från 50-60 talet.

Vad Vasa har betytt för oss kan vi inte i ord uttrycka tillräckligt. Men ett av det viktigaste som hänt oss som enskilda medlemmar inom Vasa är att vi genom Vasa Orden av Amerika har vänner för livet i Linde Loge. De har blivit våra vänner i Milwaukee och givit oss en amerikansk familj som vi alltid kommer att ha kontakt med. Vi har också fått många andra vänner genom åren i USA och Sverige tack var Vasa. Vi är mycket tacksamma för vad Vasa Orden av Amerika har givit oss och det är något man ska poängtera när man försöker värva nya medlemmar. Genom Vasa Orden av Amerika kan man skapa personliga kontakter med medlemmar i USA, Kanada och Sverige

Under logen Enköping Nr 646:s oktobermöte gick efterkaptlet under titeln "beredskapstider." Komitéradet för detta var Pernilla Hallström och Elisabeth Agge. Tyvärr blev sy Pernilla sjuk men som goda vasasystrar hoppade Anne-Sofie Hjort och Hillivi Sjöberg (LL Nr 563) in och hjälpte till.

När ordenssyskonen från Enköping Nr 646, Eskilstuna Nr 633, Mälardrottningen Nr 563 och Engelbrekt Nr 619 samt gäster anlände, fick de var sitt ransoneringskort som de skulle spara hela kvällen. Innan måltiden måste vi först visa fram vårt ransoneringskort och få det avprickat av en lotta. Samma regler gällde för kaffe och kaka, vi måste alltså återigen visa upp vårt ransoneringskort. Under kaffet delades sånghäften ut med populära sånger under beredskapsåren 1939-1945 ex. "Min Soldat" med Ulla Billqvist, "Swing it magistern swing it" med Alice Babs e c t. Efter detta var det en tipsrunda

där vi fick svara på frågor gällande tiden 1939-1945. De segrande laget "översterna" fick medaljer och blommor. Innan kvällen var slut tackade DD från Logen Enköping Nr 646 Liberth Karlsson för den trevliga kvällen och goda maten. Vi avslutade sen med lotteridragning på ransoneringskortet.

Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge, PS LL



Översterna från vä Karl-Erik Axelsson LL Nr 646, Elsa Arvidsson LL Nr 633, Liberth Karlsson LL Nr 619 och Hillevi Sjöberg LL Nr 563.

## Logen Härnösand Nr 673

Den 23 oktober kunde vi välkomna fyra nya medlemmar Mona och Jan Kindsjö, Barbro Dahlqvist och Eigil Nordlöw. Från Amerika hade brev kommit från 93 årige Hubert Nelson, Balder Lodge #343, som vill bli systerloge med oss. Efter avslutade mötesförhandlingar inbjöd kvällens värdar till matsalens dukade bord, där vi mottogs med välkomstvisa samt en trevlig presentation av kvällens värdar.

Lennart von Post berättade och visade bilder från en intressant Härnösandsbos liv vid namn Petter Norberg som föddes 1876 och som vid 18 års ålder mönstrade på en båt i Härnösand. Han kom så småningom 1898 till Dawson i Kanada, där han skulle leta efter guld i Klondyke, som så många andra gjorde, men mycket annat hände. Från 1906 till och med 1916 tillbringade han med indianstammen Lecrieux. Han gifte sig med en indian kvinna och de fick tre barn tillsammans. 1919 blev han kapten i Hudson Bay Company och 1923 seglade han med en båt, som verkligen inte var gjord att gå genom is, till Nordvästra passagen och vid King William öarna, räddades en mycket svårt utsatt expedition. Av dansken Knud Rasmussen blev den resan betecknad som "det stora undret."

Söder om Viktoria öarna finns två öar som fått Petters namn, Norberg Öarna. En bok kommer att utges i Sverige under

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## Logen Härnösand Nr 673

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nästa år med berättelsen om denne man, som bland Inuiterna fick namnet *Peter den Store*. Han återvände aldrig till Sverige och dog i Kanada. Detta är ett kort sammandrag från alla de äventyr som denne man genomförde. Fästän han är född här i Härnösand, är det knappt någon som känner till honom.

Dryga 40-talet samlades för årets julfest i logelokalen som nästan omgående mörklades varefter sköna toner hördes klinga och in skred ett vackert Luciatåg. *Kapellsbergs Musikskola* kan vara stolta över dessa ungdomar för både framträdande och uppförande.

Efteråt bjöds på traditionell glögg samt pepparkakor varefter Ulla-Britt Nordin såg till att få igång ringdansen. Efter en stunds dansande upphörde den plötsligt och den man hade i handen just



Lucia-sång i logelokalen.

då, blev kvällens sällskap till bordet. Jultallrik med allehanda julmat och olika drycker serverades.

Bo Selin spelade dragspel och sen kom tomtemor med en stor julklappsäck. Tomtefar hade råkat ut för influensan eller något sånt!!!! Kvällen avslutades

med dans. Kvällens värdar var tomtarna Lena Selin, Sonja Nygren, Ebba Persson, Karin Gilliusson, Barbro Parhammar och Karin Jonsson vilka avtackades av ordf. Karl Bäcklund.

Insänt av: **Barbro Sundgren, KL**  
Foto: **Ulla-Britt Nordin**

## Logen Kongahälla Nr 702

Höstens aktiviteter började med Vikingadagen, lördagen den 22 augusti. I ett vackert väder kunde de drygt 60-talet deltagarna samlas vid Inlandsgården i Kärna, för att bl.a. kora Årets Viking. Bland gästerna fanns Sy Britt och Br Lars Rosén från Logen Strömkarlen Nr 653. Biträdande Vikingahövdingen Br Jan-Eric Berntsson inledde med en trumpetfanfar varefter Vikingahövdingen Br Sune Börjesson hälsade alla deltagarna hjärtligt välkomna. Några verser ur "Vikingabalken" sjöngs och lästes innan det var dags att utse detta årets vikingar.

Till Årets Viking utsågs vår FDO Sy Birgitta Haraldsson, som innehaft flera tjänstemannauppdrag, även Årets Hedersvikingar, Sy Inger Avenback och Br Maths Fredriksson är mycket välmeriterade. Senare avnjöts god mat följt av allsång, dans samt naturligtvis kaffe.

Vid Logemötet, fredagen den 18 september, på Rest. Fars Hatt i Kungälv, samlades ett 80-tal Logesyskon. Vår O Br Sune Börjesson kunde även välkomna vår DD Sy Berit Boqvist från Logen Knallen Nr 745 och O Br Ola Hansson i Logen Göteborg Nr 452. Vid detta möte hade vi glädjen att ha balloterat för sju kandidater som sökte inträde i vår Loge. Vår avgående DD Sy Berit Boqvist installerade Br Ola Hansson från som ny DD för vår Loge. Vid det efterföljande efterkapitlet, med en god måltid, blev det trevlig underhållning. Programmet handlade om revyaktören Ernst Rolf. Inledningsvis spelade Br Bengt Hardling ett par låtar på sin klarinett. Efter detta berättade Br

Georg Christensson om Ernst Rolfs liv samt episoder från denna tid, blandat med sånger från hans repertoar.

Till Logemöte med reception, lördagen den 17 oktober samlades ett 60-tal Vasasyskon. Vår O Br Sune Börjesson kunde hälsa vår DD Br Ola Hansson från Logen Göteborg Nr 452 välkommen. Vi hade vid Logens reception också glädjen av att hälsa ytterligare sju nya Logesyskon välkomna, Sy Ann och Br Kenneth Sievers, Sy Inez Ljungberg, Sy Ingegärd Johnsson och Br Jan Pettersson samt Sy Lena och Br Arne Lindström.

Efter en god måltid blev det tal till recipienterna. På kvällen underhölls vi av Marianne Stensson, som sjöng och berättade roliga historier till musik av Sven Antonsson, på dragspel.

Vid novembermötet hade Logen bl a sitt sedvanliga val av tjänstemän för 2010.

Vår Lodge hade glädjen att tilldela Ordens 25-årsmerke till Br Sune Börjesson, Sy Gerd Henriksson, Br Jan-Eric och Sy Sylvia Berntsson samt Sy Karin och Br Elon Fredriksson där överlämnandet gjordes här av vår SLD Sy Ewa Pilhammar.

Efter en god supé bjöds det på mycket fin musik av vår kulturstipendiat för 2009, pianisten Pontus Hallsberg. Då vår kultur- och programkommitté inför hösten 2010, planerar en s.k. vinresa per buss till Frankrike, visade Br Jan Augustsson bilder från platser som resenärerna kommer att besöka. Novembermötet har som tradition dragning på konstklubbens lotteri. Hela tio vinster hade kommittén lyckats få ihop, där Br Karl Olof Nilsson och Sy Ann Lindell har gjort ett fint arbete.

Submitted by: **Rolf Claesson**



Nya tjänstemännen för 2010.

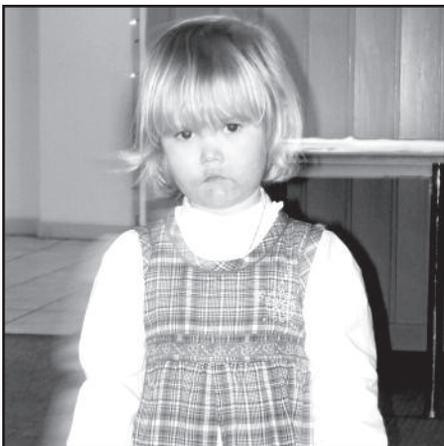
## Logen Sundsvall Nr 705

Logen Sundsvall har hållit sitt novembermöte. Efter en stilfull presentation med musik och dikt genomfördes sedvanliga mötesförhandlingar varvid bl.a. tjänstemän för 2010 nominerades, mötesdagarna och avgifterna för 2010 beslutades. En intressant rapport hölls från vänlogen i USA. Många hälsningar till Logen framfördes från både när och fjärran. Kvällen avslutades med en god måltid varefter Lennart Jansson och Lennart Bjärnkvist underhöll med musik och litterära inslag som också var underlag för en klurig frågesport där alla var aktiva. Aftonen avrundades med lottdragning.

Efter sitt ordinarie decembermöte hölls efterföljande julfest. Kvällen inleddes med ett kort möte som bland annat innehöll avslutande nominering och val av tjänstemän för det kommande året. Många hälsningar hade inkommit till Logen, däribland från vår vänloge Satellite i Michigan USA. Ett tiotal medlemmar från fadderlogen i Härnösand gästade mötet och framförde hälsningar från sin egen loge samt hälsade alla välkomna till Härnösandslogens julkлубb kommande helg.

Efter mötet serverades en välsmakande välfylld jultallrik med tillbehör som intogs under gemytligt sampråkande, trevlig musik av kvällens spelmän Allan Norberg och Gösta Malmrot samt medryckande allsång. Efter den goda maten passade spelmännen på att engagera alla i kvällens långdans och efter lite andhämtning smakade det gott med kaffe och pepparkakor. Aftonens lottdragning gladdade många vinnare. Kvällen avslutades med många tack och kramar.

Insänt av: Jan Helsing



“Julflicka”

## Logen Knallen Nr 745

Lördagen den 17 oktober firade Logen Knallen sitt 20-års jubileum. I en fullsatt logesal inleddes firandet med ett festligt och högtidligt logemöte. Den formella dagordningen avverkades, varefter framfördes hälsningar och telegram från andra loger. Under punkten Kontakt Amerika framfördes hälsningar från vår vänloge i USA Nr 3 Diana Birger Jarl. Vår Kulturledare Sy Birgitta Danielsson berättade bl a om en svensk som varit designer av den kända Coca Cola-flaskan. Under punkten Ordens val, framfördes gratulationer och lyckönskningar samt gåvor.

Efter en avslutning med stämmingsfull musik vandrade gäster och logesyskon upp till klubblokalerna för en välkomstdrink och mingel.

Arrangörskommittén hade utformat ett mycket imponerande och uppskattat program för jubileumskvällen. Detta “dirigerades” av toast-master Ingvar Carlén. Inte minst blev logesyskon och gäster överraskade av Logen Knallens nybildade kör, som gjorde bejublade framträdanden.

Under kvällens program, gav bl a Br Åke Swahn, en återblick av logens historia, detta med efterföljande diktläsning, tal, njutbar musik samt underhållning. Serveringen sköttes med bravur av elever från restaurangskolan.

Efter att Sy Eva Pilhammar-Andersson framfört ett varmt tack till alla medverkande bröts taffeln för enligt programmet “fria aktiviteter.”

Insänt av: Börje Olausson, Ordförande



Berit Boqvist logen Knallen. Nyinstallerad DD i Logen Uddevalla. Tidigare DD i Logen Kongahälla.

## Logen Vadstena Nr 762

Vid jullogens öppnande välkomnade Ordf. Stig Carlsson två nya medlemmar, Intendenten Per-Gunnar Andersson, på Verner von Heidenstams Övralid, med sambon Merika Wikman. De har många amerikanska gäster på Övralid varje sommar och kanske kan ordna några träffar med vasamedlemmar från USA och Vadstenalogen i framtiden.

Många gäster kom till årets sista logemöte i Vadstena, både från logen Filbyter Nr 714 i Linköping och logen Bråviken Nr 751. Det blev en välbesökt Logelokal, som till efterkapitlet bjöds in till ett härligt julfestbord från Restaurang Valvet.

DD Arne Samuelsson tackade kvällens värdar och önskade Logen lycka till, inför det nya året som kommer att starta upp med nya medlemmar. Broder Stig Carlsson avtackade medlemmar och gäster och överlämnade en blomma till Sy Lisbeth och Br. Inge som tack för deras stöd under året och önskade därefter alla En God jul och Ett Gott Nytt År!

Insänt av: Inge Hallberg



FD Ordf Solvieg Davidson avtackades av O Stig Carlsson. För dagen tjänstgjorde Bråvikens CM Jan Ek.



# 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)**

## **DL CONNECTICUT NO. 1**

*Kronan #2*  
Eric Johnson  
Robert Johnson  
Sarah Johnson  
Mary Sprague  
*Karl the XII #103*  
Nancy Bowman

## **DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2**

*Spiran #98*  
Thommy Ilmrud

## **DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6**

*Three Crowns #704*  
Thomas Lyons  
Staci Sierant  
Julie Widmaier  
Robert Widmaier  
*Viking #735*  
Rosemarie Blom  
Roy Blom  
Allison Conerly  
Marie Fluck  
Jette Morabito  
Arnold Nicholas  
*Dalahast #742*  
Louise Basch

## **DL MINNESOTA NO. 7**

*John Morton #488*  
Peter Mattson

## **DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8**

*Linde #492*  
Lars Lewander  
Nancy Lewander  
*Hagar #721*  
James Priest  
Phyllis Priest  
Karl Eriksson  
*Nordik Folk #761*  
Wanda Huszar  
Abigail Ogrentz

## **DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9**

*Nobel-Monitor #130*  
Sarah Van Gilder

## **DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12**

*Monitor #218*  
Arsenia Larson  
Chester Larson  
Kathryn Matthews  
Albert Mitchell  
Jennifer Neff  
Kristina Royer  
Todd Royer  
Rose Westrup  
*Svea #348*  
MacKenzie Bray  
Arne Hendrickson  
Danielle Hendrickson  
Marita Henriksson  
*Golden Gate #392*  
Timothy Beeson  
*Lindbergh #494*  
David Johnson  
Louise Johnson  
Martin Omander  
Susanne Omander  
Fredrik Pettersson  
Kazumi Yahata-Pettersson  
Jo-Anne Abbie-Thurftell  
*Sierra Kronan #737*  
Milton Houston  
Diana Martyn  
Gwen Myers  
Ragnor Seglund  
*Valhalla Scandinavian #746*  
Anna-Clara Calvert  
Pam Rhodes

## **DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

**NO. 13**  
*Norden #233*  
Rachelle Laughofer  
*Frihet #401*  
Jon Halgren  
Karla Hemmingway  
Jerry Lundeberg  
Pamela Madden  
*Harmoni #472*  
Carina DeJager  
Harvey Edmark

## **DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15**

*Mayflower #445*  
Alan Wendell  
Donica Wendell  
Janet Woessner  
*Golden Valley #616*  
*Dorothy Reiersen*  
Odd Reiersen  
Anette Richards  
Bradley Richards  
*Desert Valley #682*  
Stefan Hemming  
Kajsa Thursesson-Frary  
*Jubilee #692*  
Carol Baker  
Scott Vihlen  
*Glenn T. Seaborg #719*  
Pilar Demarest  
Autumn Dufield

## **DL ALBERTA NO. 18**

*Skandia #549*  
Katherine Badry  
Martin Badry  
Rickard Enstrom  
Lillian Fritsch  
Herbert Godden  
Shannon Lawrence  
Karl Lemcke  
Ulla Lima  
Ryan Long  
Erinn Guminy  
David Magnisson  
Maxwell McRae  
Mark McRae  
Karin Penner  
Linea Schreyer  
Sarah Watson

## **ARIZONA NO. 21**

*Tucson #691*  
Victoria Lafgren  
Gunvor Pepper  
*Solstad #709*  
Ruth Anderson  
Betsy Hintz  
Donna Nelson  
Glen Nelson  
Guida Williams  
*Scandia #728*  
Del Ackley  
John DeMent  
Lucille Jeppson  
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# YOUTH NEWS

## Vasa Rosebuds #130

Congratulations to Ingrid Myers, she was chosen as the 2009 Lucia for Vasa Youth Group #130 (Rosebuds) in Portland, Oregon. Ingrid loves being a part of the Vasa Youth Group and has been an active member for eight years. Learning and performing the dances at various lodge and community functions helps keep her connected to the Swedish community in Portland. Ingrid's parents are Richard Myers and Mary Krummel (member of Harmoni Lodge #472). Her sisters Emma (9) and Helen (5) are also Rosebuds members. Ingrid has anticipated wearing the crown of candles and red sash for many years and she and her "tämnor" did a lovely job performing Lucia for both the Harmoni and Nobel Lodge Christmas parties and at *Portland's Scan Fair*.

Ingrid is a 7th grader at Riverdale Grade School in Portland. She plays flute and piccolo in her school band, is a member of National Charity League, and plays on her school soccer team. She enjoys helping with the younger dancers during practices and performances, remembering how she once looked up to the 'big girls' in the group when she was little. This year Rosebuds has a large group of dancers under the age of five who acted as "Tomten" and Ingrid and the other older dancers had a lot of fun both herding and dancing with the little ones! Each summer Ingrid attends *Trollbacken Swedish Language Camp* and looks forward to one day traveling and perhaps living in Sweden.

Submitted by: Mary Krummel



Ingrid Myers

## Nordikids #208

Winter has been a busy season for Nordikids Musiklubb #208 in Munster Indiana. The children have been practicing their Lucia and "Jul" music since last

September and have performed at several different venues this season. The accompanying photo was taken at the *Museum of Science and Industry* in Chicago for their annual *Christmas around the World* exhibit.

In early December, the intrepid group traveled to Schaumburg, Illinois to the IKEA store there, where they sang a selection of Swedish songs for the shoppers and staff of the store. After being treated to lunch in the cafeteria, they continued to travel south and also performed at the IKEA store in Bolingbrook, Illinois, again bringing musical greetings in Swedish for all the shoppers to hear.

On December 13th, the club held their Lucia fest at Wicker Park Social Center in Highland, Indiana. There were 135 people in attendance and everyone enjoyed a delicious Swedish meal of meatballs, "korv," boiled potatoes, and "lingon," followed by a dessert of ice-cream and "pepparkakor." The meal was immediately followed by a wonderful performance by the Nordikids. This event was a fundraiser for the group and was co-sponsored by Nordik Folk lodge #761. Bake sales, raffles, and door prizes were also on the schedule for the day and by the end of the afternoon, over \$1,000 had been raised to help fund activities and scholarships to language camp for the members next year.

Submitted by: Lynda Smith  
Picture by: Shelly Westlund



Nordikids Musiklubb #208 at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

## Vasa Junior Folk Dancers Linnea #14 Minnesota #7

Karyn Ostrem was selected as our 2009 Lucia and has been a member of the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers for 4 years. Her interest in the dancers was sparked by watching other dancers from other cultures and deciding that she wanted to

embrace her own culture through dance.

Karyn lives in Eagan, MN, and is currently a sophomore at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis. She especially enjoys Spanish, writing and the arts. At Minnehaha she is involved in the Minnehaha Siners and the Nordic Ski Team. Outside of school, she is involved in dance at the Nancy Raddatz School of Dance and sings in the Mt. Olivet Church High School Choir. In her spare time, Karyn enjoys knitting, crocheting, reading and creating videos.

Karyn's parents are Tim and Dawn Ostrem, and she has 2 brothers. Karyn's grandmother is 100% Swedish. Her maternal great-grandparents came from Gränna, Sweden, which is a town north of Jönköping, Sweden, in the Småland Province. Her paternal great-grandparents came from Stockholm. Karyn and her family hope to visit Sweden and Norway next summer.

Submitted by: Janice Lehman  
Leader - Linnea #14



Karyn Ostrem

## Kichi-Saga Swedish Club



Charlotte Ruser organized the Swedish Heritage children's class for 16 children this summer sponsored by the Kichi-Saga Swedish Club in the Chicago Lake Lutheran Church, Center City, MN.

Submitted by: Charlotte Ruser

## Sewing Circles

The first sewing circle in Sweden started in 1844. Initiator was Emilie Peterson, a widow living on a large estate in the province of Småland. She had brought her idea from Germany where she was born. Emelie and her husband Philip were wealthy, and had always worked to help people who were not so fortunate. They had started a school for children living on their estate. After her husband's death Emelie extended her humane activities establishing a home for the poorest children of the neighborhood. Helped by the parish priest she organized meetings for women, a kind of "working society" where the women were doing needlework while the priest was reading from the Bible or lecturing.

At that time it was unusual that women joined societies why those who did were considered very brave. For many women a sewing circle became a breathing-space of their everyday life, a way for house wives to meet other women. This was also the beginning of a social and international commitment of many women.

During the following years several sewing circles were started all over Sweden. At first the meetings took place in private homes, but as more and more women joined the sewing circles the meetings had to be moved to larger premises.

Since the very beginning thousands of women have been members of sewing circles. After about 150 years there were church sewing circles in more than 95 % of all the parishes of Sweden. Other organizations too have organized sewing circles, e.g. the Free Churches, the Red Cross and sports clubs. In the 1950s and - 60s the number of circles was at its maximum and so was the number of members. In 2004 there were 3.000 church sewing clubs having 50.000 members all together.

The aim 150 years ago is today just as urgent; to help people in need in Sweden and in other countries by voluntary, unpaid work. Women still meet in their sewing circles working in the same way they have always done; embroidering, knitting or crocheting, and having coffee of course.

Everyone does just what she wants to do. Those who can't do needlework can

do something else, making coffee for example, 'Sweden's national drink.' During WWII, when coffee was rationed each woman brought a few teaspoons of coffee, put it into the coffeepot, and made 'the best coffee in the world.' In many circles you pay a small sum of money for "fika" (coffee, buns and cookies), money that goes into the *circle cash box*.

At first the women usually met in the day time, but when more and more housewives started to work outside the home, meetings in the evenings were more suitable.

Part of what is made at the sewing circle is sent to people in need, and part of it is sold at the annual auction, that is very popular. People of all ages come to buy lottery tickets, drink coffee and have Swedish cheese cake. They also purchase many things such as beautiful handmade tablecloths, home made cookies, and homemade cheeses.

The first known sewing auction in Sweden was in 1847 in Barkeryd in Småland. (Well known for many emigrants from Texas, isn't it). A sewing auction is for many one of the highlights of the year. A teacher asked an 8-year old what the great festivals of the year are, she answered: "Christmas, Easter, Whitsun and Auction!"

A sewing circle auction is a great way to collect money; it's unbelievable what large sums of money that's being collected every year. In 2003, for example, the church sewing circles alone collected 46 million Swedish crowns (about 6.5 million dollars). Last December the church

sewing circle in Södra Vi parish, outside Vimmerby, had its sale. The profit of the sale was 32.000 Swedish crowns (about 4 500 American dollars, which they sent to different receivers, e.g. the Swedish Christian Service, the Salvation Army, Doctors without Borders, the Children's Cancer Fund and their godchildren. Each circle decides how to use its collected money. The needs as well as the receivers can change from time to time. During the cold winters 1939-1945 much help was sent to Norway and Finland.

Money has always been a problem. Nowadays freights have become so expensive that many circles instead of sending their homemade objects, sell them at auction, and then send the money from the sale that way the receivers can buy what they need themselves.

Since many housewives today work outside the home they haven't much time for sewing circles, but many of the retired women does. What about the next generation? Will they have the time, and the interest to go on working in sewing circles? I hope so, as I believe that longing for fellowship and a desire to help other people will always be found.

Source:

- På vidsträckta fält: The Swedish Church sewing circles, by Cecilia Dahlbäck
- Ingen förspild kvinnokraft: A book about our sewing circles, Sjökvist - Askmark - Beijbom
- I have interviewed members from the Vimmerby and Södra Vi sewing circles.



Sewing circles in Vimmerby where Red Cross members has their "meeting" in their cozy little meeting quarters.

Sy föreningen i Vimmerbys Röda Korset har 'möte' i sin lilla lokal.

## Syföreningar

Den första kända syföreningen i Sverige bildades 1844. Initiativtagare var Emelie Peterson, som var änka och bodde på ett stort gods i Småland. Idén förde hon med sig från Tyskland, där hon var född. Emelie Peterson och hennes make Philip var förmögna och hade alltid arbetat för att hjälpa människor som ej var så lyckligt lottade. De hade t.ex. öppnat en skola för godsets barn, och efter makens död utvidgade Emelie verksamheten med att inrätta ett barnhem för de allra fattigaste barnen i trakten.

Med hjälp av prästen i församlingen anordnade hon möten för kvinnor, en slags arbetsförening, där kvinnorna handarbetade, medan prästen läste något ur Bibeln och talade.

På den tiden var det ej vanligt att kvinnor engagerade sig i föreningar, varför de som gjorde det ansågs modiga. För många kvinnor blev syföreningen ett andningshål i vardagen, ett sätt för hemmakvinnor att komma ut och träffa andra kvinnor. För många blev detta också början till ett socialt och internationellt engagemang.

Under de följande åren startades flera syföreningar runt om i Sverige. Från början samlades man i olika hem, men då allt fler kvinnor kom med, måste man flytta mötena till större lokaler.

Sedan starten har tusentals kvinnor varit med i syföreningar över hela landet. Man vet att ung. 150 år efter starten fanns det kyrkliga syföreningar i över 95 % av landets församlingar. Även andra organisationer har organiserat syföreningar, t.ex. frikyrkorna, Röda Korset och idrottsföreningarna. Under 1950 – och 60-talen var antalet syföreningar som högst och det var också då antalet

medlemmar var allra störst. År 2004 fanns det 3.000 kyrkliga syföreningar med tillsammans 50.000 medlemmar.

Det som var det främsta målet för 150 år sedan är lika aktuellt i dag; att genom frivilligt, oavlönat arbete, få möjlighet att hjälpa människor, som har det svårt här hemma eller i andra länder.

Fortfarande träffas kvinnor regelbundet i sina syföreningar och arbetar på ungefär samma sätt som de alltid gjort. De broderar, stickar eller virkar och dricker kaffe, förstås. Alla får arbeta med vad just de vill och kan. De som inte kan handarbeta, kan hjälpa till på annat sätt, t.ex. ta hand om kaffet, som nästan blivit Sveriges nationaldryck. Under krigsåren, då kaffet var ransonerat, tog var och en med sig ett par teskedar kaffe, och så lade man samman och kokade 'världens godaste kaffe'. I många föreningar tas en liten avgift för fiket (kaffe och bröd) och pengarna går till den gemensamma syföreningskassan.

De första åren samlades kvinnorna på dagtid, men när alltför många kvinnor efter 1945 började arbeta utanför hemmet, blev kvällstid bättre.

En del av det som tillverkas skickas till behövande, medan annat sparas för att säljas på den årliga auktionen, som samlar folk i alla åldrar. Man köper lotter, dricker kaffe och äter svensk ostkaka samt ropar in olika saker, t.ex. vackra handarbeten, hembakade kakor och hemgjorda ostar. Den första kända syföreningsauktionen hölls 1847 i Barkeryd. (Välkänt för många Texasimmigranter!)

En syföreningsauktion är för många en av årets höjdpunkter. En lärare, som frågat vilka årets stora högtider är, fick av en 8-årig elev svaret: "jul, påsk, pingst och missionsauktionen."



A cross stitched picture is also from Södra Vi. En sydd korsstygnstavla, också från Södra Vi.

En syföreningsauktion är också ett bra sätt att samla in pengar, och det är otroligt stora summor som tas in varje år. År 2003 samlade enbart de kyrkliga syföreningarna i Sverige in 46 miljoner kronor. I december förra året hade syföreningen i Södra Vis församling, norr om Vimmerby, sin försäljning. Behållningen blev då 32.000 kronor, som skickades till olika mottagare, bl.a. *Inre Missionen, Frälsningsarmén, Läkare Utan Gränser, Barncancerfonden, Världens Barn och fadderbarn*. Varje förening bestämmer själv hur den vill fördela sina pengar. Behoven liksom mottagarna kan växla under olika tider. Under krigsårens kalla vintrar 1939-1945 sändes t.ex. mycket hjälp till Norge och Finland.

Pengar har alltid varit ett problem. Nu har frakterna blivit så dyra, att en del föreningar i stället för att sända tillverkade varor till andra länder, säljer sina varor här hemma och skickar de pengar de fått in, så att mottagarna kan köpa vad de behöver.

Eftersom många kvinnor i dag är dubbelarbetande, har de inte mycket tid för syföreningar, men det har många pensionärer. Hur ska det då bli i nästa generation? Kommer de att ha tid och intresse att fortsätta arbetet i syföreningarna? Jag hoppas det, eftersom jag tror att längtan efter gemenskap och viljan att hjälpa andra alltid kommer att finnas.

**Insänt av: Gun Lith, SLKL.**

**Bilder av: Gunnar Lith.**

Faktauppgifterna har jag fått från :

- På vidsträckt fält: Svenska kyrkans syföreningar, red. Cecilia Dahlbäck.
- Ingen förspild kvinnokraft. En bok om våra syföreningar. Sjökvist – Askmark – Beijbom.
- Medlemmar av syföreningar i Vimmerby och Södra Vi, vilka jag intervjuat.



From the sewing circle auction in Södra Vis' church sewing circle in December, 2008. Some of the beautiful articles that are going to be auctioned are visible in this picture.

Från syföreningsauktionen i Södra Vis kyrkliga syförening i december 2008. En del av de vackra saker som skall auktioneras ut syns på bilden.

# HAPPENINGS

## Vasa Member's Generosity Supports Thriving Scandinavian Studies in Canada



Sr Linnea Lodge

Sr Linnea Lodge made an outstandingly generous contribution to the Scandinavian Studies program at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Sr Lodge has been a long time supporter of the program. Her recent pledge to donate \$400,000 will be matched by government funding to complete the local Scandinavian community's goal to raise \$2,000,000 to endow a professorship in Scandinavian Studies. The professorship will be named the *Henry Cabot and Linnea Lodge Scandinavian Professorship* in honour of Sr Lodge and her late husband Br Henry Lodge.

Sr Lodge has contributed a lifetime of service to Vasa and the Scandinavian community in Alberta. She has held many Local and District Lodge offices and has attended Grand Lodge conventions for more than half a century. She is also a regular contributor to The Vasa Star. Sr Lodge received her 70 year membership pin at Skandia's 80th anniversary in June 2009. She has also received an *Alberta Achievement Award (1980)* and the *Gold Medal of the Royal Order of the North Star from His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden (1989)*.

Sr Lodge's parents immigrated to Canada from Småland. They named her Linnea after the province's provincial flower, which itself was named for Swedish botanist Carl von Linné. To celebrate the 2007 Linnaeus Centennial Year, Sr Lodge wrote to all lodges named Linneaus, Linné, or Linnea to encourage support for GM Bergman's goal of promoting Linneaus celebrations within Vasa.

The *Henry Cabot and Linnea Lodge Scandinavian Professorship* will be the cornerstone of a thriving and expanding Scandinavian studies program. The program began in 1960 and offers three

degree choices: Bachelor of Arts degree in Scandinavian; Bachelor of Arts Combined Honours degree in Scandinavian; Bachelor of Commerce degree with a major in European Studies – Scandinavian. Course offerings have included 1st and 2nd university year courses in Swedish, Norwegian and Danish as well as a broad range of courses in Scandinavian literature, culture and immigration. Courses are taught on the University of Alberta's main campus in Edmonton, as well as on the Augustana campus in Camrose. More information on the Scandinavian Studies program is available on-line at: [www.arts.ualberta.ca.ca/~scand/](http://www.arts.ualberta.ca.ca/~scand/)

The Scandinavian Studies program is widely supported by the local Scandinavian community. The *Scandinavian Studies Association* was founded in 1989 and PGM Lennart Petersson was its 2nd president. The Association has enjoyed the support of the many Scandinavian groups in Alberta and has risen over \$1,200,000 for the endowment fund. Over the years, Skandia #549 has contributed more than \$80,000 to the endowment. Skandia also contributes \$1,000 annually for the *Lennart and Joan Petersson Vasa Centennial Scholarship* for 2nd year Swedish. District Lodge Alberta #18 sponsors an annual book prize in 1st year Swedish. The Vasa Pioneers #12 and local lodges Branting #417 and Red Deer #733 have also contributed to the endowment.

Submitted by: **Sandra Petersson**  
Picture by: **Michael Davies Venn**

## "Spex" wows Georgia audience

The story of King Henry VIII and his wives was performed as "spex" at Nordic Lodge #708, recently and won a standing ovation from the audience.

King Henry was played by Erik Kind (seated) and, standing (left to right) Göran Rygert, as King Henry's deceitful advisor Thomas Cromwell, a Scots nationalist; Magnus Edlund, as King Henry's half-witted nephew Lord Earnest Chnasebolley; and Sten Ekberg, as Jane Maxwell, who is actually Mary Stuart and an imposter posing as a maid to the queen.

The performance, on Oct. 25, at St. Paul

Lutheran Church, in Atlanta, was a shortened version of a play performed, in 1958, at *Chalmers University of Technology*, in Gothenburg, Sweden.

"Spex" is now a Swedish tradition, which began in the 1860s, and has continued, at Swedish universities, since. They are wholly amateur, student productions. "Spex" is a shortened version of the Swedish word "*spetakel*, which means spectacle. Its origin is the Latin word "*spectaculum*," which means play. However, the Swedish word "*spex*" may best be translated to mean a special kind of stage farce, which meets most or all of the following requirements:

The story for a "spex" is taken from history, but is somewhat re-written creatively to make fun of it.

Allusions and anachronisms in the story-line also make fun of aspects of the present.

The script is often in rhyme and its jokes are silly and abundant, and improvisation is more a rule than an exception.

Some or many female roles are played by male students, because it is often thought to be funnier that way. When "spex" began, there were no female students, and all parts were played by men.

Both classical and modern music are used, as integral parts of a "spex," although new words are written for the music.

"Spex" audiences are expected to shout their appreciation or discontent, and requests to perform a scene again are made and customarily granted.

In Sweden, from 40-80 students usually take several months of their spare time to prepare and stage a "spex." Preparation requires writers, music arrangers, costume makers, scene builders, artists, PR activity, makeup specialists, musicians, a stage crew, and reliable back-stage party arrangers (for after the performance).

Submitted by: **Norman Black,**  
Nordic Lodge #708



## Medlemsrekryterings- och Insamlingskampanj

*Vasa-Arkivets Vänner* är en sammanlutning av medlemmar som genom erläggande av sin årsavgift vill lämna sitt frivilliga bidrag till vår Ordens arkiv i *Bishop Hill, Vasa-Arkivet*. Via *Vasa-Arkivets Vänner* sker även insamling av medel till *Vasa-Arkivet* genom gåva till minne av avlidna Vasamedlem eller gåva vid uppvaktning av enskild person eller jubilerande Loge.

Det inom Distrikt Norra Sverige Nr19 (DL19) på frivillig väg insamlade beloppet har de senaste åren inte motsvarat de 1,5 US Dollar per år och medlem som betalas i USA och Kanada. Som DL19 nyvalde Representant för *Vasa-Arkivet*, har jag därför tagit initiativ till en Medlemsrekryterings - och insamlingskampanj för *Vasa-Arkivets Vänner* för att därigenom ge *Vasa-Arkivet* ökat ekonomiskt stöd. Kampanjen har just inletts men har fått en mycket glädjande start.

Logen Bråviken Nr 751 beslutade vid sitt Jullogemöte den 5 december 2009, på initiativ av sin Representant för *Vasa-Arkivets Vänner* Br Åke Sjöblom, att ge en Julgåva till *Vasa-Arkivet*. Gåvan överlämnas genom att Logen och samtliga dess medlemmar även ansluts som medlemmar i *Vasa-Arkivets Vänner* 2009-2010 med utnyttjande av det överskott som uppnått under året genom medlemmarnas insatser i olika sammanhang.

Logen Bråvikens initiativ är föredömligt, berömvärt och efterföljansvärt, och jag hoppas att det inspirerar övriga Loger och enskilda Logemedlemmar till att lämna sitt frivilliga bidrag till *Vasa-Arkivet* genom medlemskap i *Vasa-Arkivets Vänner*. Årsavgiften, som för Loge är 150 SEK och för enskild medlem 50 SEK, inbetalas till bankgiro 452-4807.

Kampanjen pågår fram till nästa Distriktsmöte i maj 2011. Uppföljning och rapportering av kampanjens resultat sker kvartalsvis. Rapport per den 31 maj kommer bl.a. att lämnas till Storlogemötet i Washington D.C. den 2-9 juli 2010.

**Submitted by: Aldor Jansson, DL 19**  
**Representant för Vasa-Arkivet**  
**[aldor.jansson@comhem.se](mailto:aldor.jansson@comhem.se)**

## Groundbreaking Ceremony

Members of Viking Lodge #730, Flint, MI, were among the guests of Michigan's Governor, the Mayor of the City of Flint, and the President of Kettering University on the occasion of the visit of His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden in September 2008.

The King came to Kettering to celebrate the completion of a successful feasibility study, and participate in a groundbreaking ceremony marking the establishment of the Flint Center of Energy Excellence.

The Center is a partnership between Swedish Biogas International, the City of Flint, and Kettering University to produce bio-fuels from wastewater. Kettering University and Sweden's Linköping University had agreed to identify research opportunities and other collaboration efforts as they relate to the Center.

Sweden has been converting wastewater to bio-fuels for more than 13 years.

We were delighted that Prince Braden, 16th in line to the throne, accompanied His Majesty, and kindly posed for Steve Maczka, grandson of Ruth Sutton, Viking Lodge #730.

**Submitted by: Howard E. Weaver,**  
**Viking Lodge #730**

**Photo by: Steven Maczka**



*His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf and Michigan Gov. Jenifer Granholm.*

## Swedes In Texas

As the New Year 2010 begins, thoughts of **who we are** and **who we were** prevail. Let us recall again the value and huge contribution of our Swedish ancestors so many years ago.

This article is a request for ALL to identify and to send us a return email if you know of someone in a Swedish/Texas descendent family who is alive in 2010 and is past the age of 92.

One of our Registered Users (Robin Evans of Waco, Texas) has asked the question, "How many of the people in the original *Swedes in Texas (SIT)* book published in 1918 are still living?"

I think that this is an excellent question and an opportunity for us to take a census of who has participated in so many years of our cultural development.

So, this question is OPEN to ALL, whether your immigrant ancestors were in the SIT book or not, and whether you live on one side of the Atlantic or the other.

Please respond with the name of the person and send us a fairly recent photo as soon as you can. We are featuring these individuals in an ALBUM on the [swedesintexas.com](http://www.swedesintexas.com) website. See this LINK for our first two entries: <http://www.swedesintexas.com/browsealbums.php>.

CLICK on Album #5 - Descendants - to view their current picture and their family picture in the SIT book.

In addition to a picture of the person, a BIO would really ADD some great detail to share with our other website readers.

Gott Nytt År! Happy New Year!

**David and Paula Borg**  
**845 CR 2470**  
**Salem, MO 65560**  
**573-674-2323**

## Bishop Hill Visit

The Swedes often celebrate a big event...such as a special birthday, an anniversary or other milestones, by taking off to some other place. After many changes from our original plans to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary on December 19, we decided to travel to Bishop Hill instead and do some shopping for our Christmas "smörgåsbord." Our daughter and friends hosted a surprise Open House and we were overwhelmed how many friends showed up despite the snowy and icy weather. It turned out to be the very best way to celebrate this day together with the many friends we had made there.

However, because this was our first visit to Bishop Hill since we left in 2006, we also wanted to visit the *Vasa Archives* and visit with Lars Jenner. It was interesting to see the many changes that have been made since we left. Having been at the Archives for over 15 years we noticed what had been done so far.

We were pleased to see that the lower level has been completely done with new walls and ceiling which had been needed

*Continued on page 34*

## Bishop Hill Visit

Continued from page 33

since we first arrived at the Archives in 1991. It took a lot of work by staff and volunteers and generous contributions for material.

More work is needed to keep all the historic records and artifacts safe for future generations wanting to do research and to keep the Archives a shining jewel of the Vasa Order of America and Bishop Hill. We are the envy of other Nordic organizations in the USA so it is important that we should keep the building up to museum and archival standards.

Please read Lars Jenner's column in the Vasa Star for more information how you, our members, can help.

**Submitted by: Richard and Lillemor Horngren Greenbrier, TN**



Richard Horngren and Lars Jenner.

## 17 Swedish Designers

On Friday, November 6, 2009 *The Cleveland Institute of Art*, in Cleveland, Ohio hosted a Private Preview of the opening night of the exhibit, *17 Swedish Designers*. Each of the designers introduced new trends and ideas in home design.

Opening remarks was held by *Mats Widbom*, Swedish Cultural Counselor from the Swedish Embassy in Washington, DC, and *Michael Miller*, Swedish Consul in Cleveland, Ohio.

After the event there was a panel discussion, *Cultural Values in Design: Global and Local Influences*.

The exhibit will travel to several states during 2010 until its final destination in Washington, DC.

The Private Preview was sponsored by: *Embassy of Sweden Washington, Swedish Consulate* and *Swedish American Chamber of Commerce in Ohio*.

**Submitted by: Marie Carlson, VS**

## 1st Annual Swedish Meatball Contest



Swede and Eva accepting the trophy.

By Ray and Carol Linaweaver

When I first heard about the "meatball contest" I was amused. Meatballs are meatballs aren't they? No, as I found out at the *1st Annual Swedish Meatball Contest* held on Sunday, September 20th, 2009 at the Scandinavian Autumn fest and "Marknad" Celebration at Vasa Park in Agoura, California.

It was a beautiful day and there was a great turnout at the Park. Eight Southern California Vasa Lodges were there to compete in the Battle of the Meatballs. The contestants brought out a bevy of supporters to propel their meatball entry to victory.

We loaded up our plates with a Swedish Meatball prepared by each Lodge, properly identified, together with some potatoes, "lingonberry" jam, and a voting form to cast a ballot for the best tasting meatball.

I have to admit there IS a difference in meatballs. Some are very good and some are better. So, I voted for the best meatball, and it turned out to be the winner, which, to my delight, was our Northern Light Local Lodge #620 (Ventura, CA). We won by two votes. It was a tough contest since all the meatballs were excellent. Eva Lindell and Kerry DeVries were our cooks using Eva's grandmother's secret Swedish recipe. Our tasters were Jim DeVries and Haken (Swede) Lindell who said we wouldn't have won without them.

I can hardly wait for next year's Second Annual Meatball Contest.

**Submitted by: Jackie Ipock, Publicity Chairman for Northern Light Lodge #620**

## SACC-Ohio Christmas Luncheon

On December 17, SACC-Ohio, held the annual Christmas luncheon with Swedish delicacies, even "glögg," at a Cleveland hotel in Cleveland, Ohio.

Guest speaker was John Carlson, VP of the Cleveland based *Federal Reserve Bank*. In the audience were also the Counsels from the Netherlands and Switzerland.

**Submitted by: Ingemar Svala, SACC member, Cleveland, Ohio**



From left to right: Lars Eriksson, SACC President for the Ohio chapter, John Carlson; VP of the Cleveland based Federal Reserve Bank Mike Miller, Swedish Counsel.

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

**ARIZONA**

**SVANHILD L. BERULDSEN**, member of Solstad Lodge #709 since 2001, passed away in Sun City West, AZ, on October 19, 2009. She was born in Ålesund, Norway, and moved to Oslo as a teenager. She got her education in Oslo in accounting. Svanhild worked for the Chairman of the Industrial Department and also for the Chairman of the State Department for Finance. She was very active in the Norwegian underground during the occupation, was arrested by Gustapo and spent time at Grine (concentration camp outside of Oslo). Even after being released she was still in danger and had to escape to Sweden. After the war was over she came back to Norway, and she and Jacob were finally able to get married in 1949. They came to America in 1951 so that Jacob was able to get his degree in engineering. Svanhild worked for the Norwegian delegation at the United Nations in New York. She is survived by her husband Jacob of 60 years and 3 sons, Arne J., Per J., and Knut J., and 5 grandchildren, Kyle and Alexis (Knut's), John Jacob (Arn's), and Megan and Finn (Per's) children.

**ANN JOYCE McCONACHIE**, member of Tucson Lodge #691, passed away on October 17, 2009. She was born in Minnesota on June 28, 1924, and joined our lodge on January 21, 1989.

**CALIFORNIA**

**EUNICE JEWETT BENTON**, born in Austin, TX, on September 25, 1914, passed away on October 13, 2009, at Mesa, AZ. A member of Linnea Lodge #504, Petaluma, CA, for 47 years, she served in many offices and was always proud of her Swedish heritage. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Leroy Jewett and Ross Benton. Surviving her are 2 sons, 1 daughter, many grandchildren, great- and great-great-grandchildren.

**JOHN LIVENGOOD** of Ventura, CA, passed away in early September, 2009. He was a long-time member of Northern Light Lodge #620. John was preceded in death by his beloved wife Elsie and is survived by a son and daughter and 2 grandsons.

**DONALD OLSON**, member of Linnea Lodge #504, Petaluma, CA, and native of Essex, IA (February 21, 1921), died on November 29, 2009, at Napa, CA. He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret, in 1977, and is survived by good friend Christie Lovejoy, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Don served in the U.S. Navy for 21 years, then with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the San Francisco Bay area. In retirement he built and skipped commercial fishing boats at Bodega Bay, CA.

**KRISTINA STIG**, born in Ragunda, Sweden, in January 1922, passed away in Santa Rosa, CA, on October 28, 2009, at age 87. She was preceded in death by her husband Arne Stig and is survived by 1

brother, 3 sisters, step-sons and 1 granddaughter in Sweden and extended family in Santa Rosa and her Vasa family at Linnea Lodge #504, Petaluma, CA.

**FLORIDA**

**MAYNARD ZYLSTRA** of DeLand, FL, born October 29, 1928, passed away on October 14, 2009. He was born in Chicago, IL, and became a member of Jubilee Lodge #692 on February 8, 2009. Survivors include 3 sons, 4 daughters, 20 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. Although he was not a member very long he enjoyed the fellowship with the lodge members. Maynard was a Chicago fireman for over 30 years. He will be greatly missed in our lodge.

**MICHIGAN**

**GORDON F. HOLMQUIST** passed away on October 11, 2009, in Escanaba, MI, at age 76. He was born on May 7, 1933, in Trenary, MI, and joined Framat Lodge #463 on March 10, 2002. He is survived by his wife Ethel.

**HILDUR V. OLSON** passed away on September 9, 2009, in Gladstone, MI, at age 88. She was born on June 8, 1921, in Bark River, MI, and joined Framat Lodge #463 on August 14, 1997. She is survived by a son and 2 daughters.

**DAVID S. RAY** passed away on December 23, 2009. He was born in Cuba, IL, on February 10, 1917. After graduation from the University of Illinois, David worked as commercial artist. He was a veteran of WWII and was a member of Satellite Lodge #661 for 20 years. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, 2 sons and their families.

**OHIO**

**MARGARET (GUDRUN) LUNDBLAD** (nee Augustin), passed away on October 21, 2009, in Euclid, OH, at age 88. She was the beloved wife of the late Paul, dearest mother of Paul A., Barbara J. Augustin, and John T. (wife Carmen); loving grandmother of 6. Margaret was born on April 18, 1921, in Angermanland - Sweden, and became a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on May 27, 1937. Margaret was a Life Member.

**NEW YORK**

**ANTON H. ANTONSON**, born on May 10, 1924, died on November 29, 2009. He joined Lodge Syskonkedjian #306 in June 1939. The lodge merged with Nobel-Liljan Lodge #64. He received his 70-year pin (jewel). He is survived by wife Jane, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

**WASHINGTON**

**RUTH AXELSON**, proud member of Svea Lodge #469 for 73 years, died on August 26, 2009, at age 96. She was born on February 19, 1913, and was a lifelong resident of Kelso, WA. Ruth served as District Master for District Lodge Pacific Northwest #13 from 1962 to 1964. During that time she was on the committee for the Youth Exchange with Sweden. Ruth served as Chairman of Svea Lodge five times and also fulfilled many other duties in the lodge. She as an active participant in lodge work throughout her life. She is survived by 2 sons, James Axelson and his wife Nadine, and Robert Axelson and his wife Lola, 8 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

**ALICE J. STATSBERG HOLLADAY**, born October 12, 1918, in Astoria, OR, joined Vasa North Star Lodge #145 in 1995 in Spokane, WA. She served as Cultural Leader/Special Events

Coordinator from 2001 to 2009. Her maternal great-grandmother was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and her parents and grandparents in Haiden, Norway. She was honored at Vasa Lodge's 101st anniversary as a 90-year old in April 2009. She taught school for over 40 years. Her husband, Ellis O. Holladay, preceded her in death.

**DORIS HOWARD** passed away in October, 2009, at the age of 88. She joined Frihet Lodge #401 in 1990 and served as Vice Chair. Doris is survived by sons Robert, Ralph, Randy and Dan Thompson, Gary Rose, Heidi Hendrickson, 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She will be greatly missed.

**FERN E. M. SWANSON NELSON HULTMAN** passed away on October 9, 2009, at the age of 93. Fern was born in Spokane, WA, on August 2, 1916, to Arthur Wilhelm Svantesson (Swanson) born 1886 in Werums, Kristianstad, Sweden, he married Hildur Olsson, born 1887 in Norrbottens län. Fern was preceded in death by husbands Werner Nelson and Anders Hultman. Her father, Arthur Swanson, was one of the Charter members who started North Star Lodge #145 in 1908. Fern was a 78-year member, she was honored at the lodge's 101st anniversary in April 2009.

**WISCONSIN**

**MARINA EBERT** passed away on April 1, 2009, at age 90. She is survived by her husband John. She joined Linde Lodge #492 in 1941. After 68 years as members she has earned the title of Honorable Member. During the 1950s, 60s and 70s, she held many offices, including the Chairman position. Although John and Marina moved to Florida, many of Linde members still remember them fondly. Marina will be missed.

**ROBERT THEKAN** passed away on September 25, 2009, age 79. He leaves special friend and comrade for over 50 years, Richard Priem, as well as family and friends. He was a long-time member of the Finnish-American Society of Milwaukee, and Linde Lodge #492 for 22 years. Robert will be missed by all his friends at Linde Lodge.

**CANADA**

**ERMA LUCILLE SUNDELL** was born in Rose Valley, Saskatchewan on July 30, 1913. She passed away on September 13, 2009, in Calgary, Alberta. Erma and husband Ben started their membership in Vasa in Strindberg Lodge #259 in 1942 and transferred to Branting Lodge #417 in Calgary, Alberta, in 1952. Erma's membership spanned 67 years and she was an Honorary Life Member of Branting Lodge #417 and Calgary Scandinavian Society. She was predeceased by Ben and son Allan. A daughter, son, grand and great-grandchildren will carry on her legacy. Our Sister Erma was a wonderful person and a very hard worker. She will be missed very much.

**MEMORIAL NOTICES**

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

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### Drott Lodge #168, PA District #9

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Check our website to see what is planned.  
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