



THE VASA STAR

Vasastjärnan

Publication of THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2010

www.vasaorder.com





The Grand Master's Message



Bill Lundquist

Dear brothers and sisters

I shared my vision for the Vasa Order of America many times during the eight years I had the pleasure of serving on the Grand Lodge as a board member throughout my travels in the US, Canada and Sweden. As Grand Master I will continue to do that as I meet with you as often as possible at your District Conventions and via my articles in the *Vasa Star*. Throughout the coming years I plan to help promote *Vasa Passion* in our members. Our members must find a spark to rekindle the fire that made each of us become members of the Order. We must address complacency with vigor and bring energy into our local lodges.

We can look forward to new and exciting opportunities to enhance our current endeavors. Soon you will be receiving Fund Raising requests both for the Vasa National Archives and the Education Fund via the Stamp Campaign. Please review the informative Vasa National Archive video, shown on the web site, vasaorder.com. Click the audio visual link to see and hear more about the Vasa National Archives and tour the historic village of Bishop Hill, IL. Successful Stamp Campaigns are essential for us to once again begin giving college scholarships to our students, the future leaders within our Order. I think you will be happy to post this year's stamp enhancing our theme, *Preservation of Unity* on your mailings. I urge you to give especially generously to both these projects.

It is my hope that we channel some of our energy into becoming more visible in our local communities. Emphasis on a major event would allow each of us at the local lodge level to *Promote Vasa Passion* and encourage participation. Lucia is just around the corner. Christmastime brings out strong connections to our past and the things we hold onto from our childhood. This is perhaps the best time of the year to advertise our Swedish culture. Remember, everyone loves to eat. Get as many of your members involved as possible!

Perhaps the most constant issue the Order faces is the decline in membership. If the major reason people belong to Vasa is to promote, preserve and celebrate our Swedish Heritage in all our Cultural, Educational and Social Endeavors and offer fellowship for our members we must adjust our mindset to be more positive and progressive. Members of our Order are adapting to change and opening their minds to new ideas. So it is time to stop saying, "*this is the way it has always been done*" and entertain new ways of doing things. Make a difference in your local lodge.

There are plenty of concerns in the world and our Order, but it is a tremendous time for us to show the resilience to lead, for us to invite new and current members to take the initiative and to develop a positive attitude to strengthen Vasa and our ties between our members in the US, Canada and Sweden. Our founders rose to challenges and so must we. Be passionate about your obligations and excited about the new programs ahead.

In Truth and Unity,

Bill Lundquist, Grand Master

Kära Vasa bröder och systrar!

Jag delade med mig av min vision för Vasa Orden av Amerika många gånger under de åtta år som jag hade nöjet av att vara styrelseledamot för Storlogen, när vi reste runt i USA, Kanada och Sverige. Som Stormästare kommer jag att fortsätta med det så ofta som möjligt på era Distrikts möten och genom mina artiklar i *Vasastjärnan*. Under de kommande åren planerar jag att främja *Vasa Passion* till våra medlemmar. Våra medlemmar måste återigen tända den gnista som gjorde att de ville bli medlemmar i vår Orden. Vi måste satsa på att tillföra ny energi in i våra lokallogar.

Vi kan se fram emot nya och spännande tillfällen som kan främja våra strävan. Snart kommer ni att få en förfrågan som gäller en insamling som är till för att främja Vasa Arkivet och Utbildningsfonden via försäljning av frimärken. Var vänlig och titta på Vasa Arkivets informativa film som visas på nätet, vasaorder.com. Klicka på audio visual länken för att se och höra mer om Vasa Arkivet samt ta en tur genom den historiska byn Bishop Hill, IL. En framgångsrik försäljning av frimärkena är nödvändig för att vi än en gång ska kunna ge högskolestipendier till våra studerande, våra framtidiga ledare inom vår Orden. Jag tror att ni kommer att vara nöjda med årets frimärke som framhäver vårt tema, *Preservation of Unity* (bevarande av samhörighet) på era brev. Jag ber er att vara generösa gällande dessa båda projekt.

Det är min önskan att vi kommer att ägna en hel del energi till att bli synligare i våra kommuner. Speciell uppmärksamhet bör ges vid störra aktiviteter som anordnas för att *Främja Vasa Passion* och uppmuntra deltagande. Snart har vi Lucia. Julen återblickar vårt förflyttna och väcker barndomsminnen. Det här är kanske den bästa tiden på året för att annonsera vår svenska kultur. Kom ihåg att alla tycker om att äta. Involvera så många medlemmar som möjligt!

Ett stående ämne som diskuteras inom vår Orden är nedgången av medlemskap. Om huvudintresset för att människor vill tillhöra Vasa ligger i att främja, bevara och fira vårt svenska arv i alla kulturella evenemang, utbildningar samt sociala tillställningar och erbjuda gemenskap för våra medlemmar, måste vi anpassa oss, vara mer positiva och progressiva. Medlemmarna i vår Orden anpassar sig vid förändringar och är öppna för nya idéer. Sen är det dags att sluta säga: "*att så här har vi alltid gjort*" och i stället komma med nya sätt att göra saker. Gör något av betydelse i din lokala loge.

Det finns många problem i världen och i vår Orden, men det är en fantastisk tid för oss att visa vår starka vilja att leda, för oss att bjuda in nya- och egena medlemmar, ta initiativ och uttrycka en positiv attityd för att stärka Vasa samt våra band mellan våra medlemmar i USA, Kanada och Sverige. Våra grundare klarade av många utmaningar och det måste vi också göra. Gå med själ och hjärta inför dina uppgifter och var entusiastisk över våra nya program som kommer.

I Sanning och Enighet,
Bill Lundquist, Stormästare

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HEADQUARTERS:

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

Grand Master:

Bill Lundquist
1456 Kennebec Rd.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
Phone: 810-695-3248
Cell Phone: 810-845-5065
E-mail: wmlund1@aol.com

Editor:

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

**Circulation Manager:
(All Address Changes)**

Gail Olson
654 Western Highway
Blauvelt, NY 10913
Phone: 845-598-2773
Email: gailolson@optonline.net
circulationvasastar@gmail.com
Send bottom section of white copy of application for new members to her.

Membership Chairman:

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Orders for advertising should be sent to:

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

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THE VASA STAR**SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2010****VASA DIRECTORY OFFICIAL ADDRESS LIST**

It is the listing for every lodge in the Vasa Order, with meeting locations and officers, and addresses and telephone numbers for all Grand, District, and Local lodges as well as all Children's Clubs and Activities Clubs.

SEPTEMBER 2010

In an effort to cut costs, the Vasa Directory will be provided to every district and local lodge via an email attachment. It has been re-formatted so that it can be printed on your home printer, on 8 1/2 x 11 paper. Please take it to your local office supply store to make copies for those in your lodge who don't have computer capability. It can be copied "double sided," and put into a binder or notebook. If no one in the lodge has the capability of printing the Vasa Directory, please contact the Grand Secretary Joanie Graham, and a paper copy will be sent to you.

DIRECTORY IS ON THE VASA WEBSITE

You can also check the Vasa website www.vasaorder.com to locate Grand, District, and Local Lodge information.

Deadlines for The Vasa Star:

Jan.-March deadline is Jan. 1; April-June deadline is April 1;

July-Sept. deadline is July 1; Oct.-Dec. deadline is Oct. 1

Deadline for Christmas ads is Oct. 1

Price for Christmas Greetings – \$30.00 column inch

Deadline for Lucia articles is January 1

Picture and article, 200 words or less.

CORRECTION

In the May/Jun 2010 issue on Page 24 under **Happenings REVIEWING SWEDISH CHILDHOOD**, Growing up in Sweden in the Shadow of World War II by Lilly Setterdahl: should have mentioned it can be found on Amazon.com.

In the Jul/Aug 2010 issue on Page 23 under New Members, DL Mass #2. The three members listed for Nordic #611 belong to Viking #756.

FILING OF THE ELECTRONIC IRS FORM 990-N

I have completed the filing of the IRS Form 990-N for every lodge in the United States. Some lodges have already filed their own forms – please continue to do that each year. For those that cannot file, I will do that for you.

In Truth and Unity, Joanie Graham, Grand Secretary

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Cover: Tomten

Submitted by: Steven Michelsen (see Tomte Poster ad on the Inside Back Cover)

Letter from the Editor



This issue of The Vasa Star is actually two issues combined into one, Sep-Oct and Nov-Dec. During the *Grand Lodge Convention* in Washington DC, it stood pretty clear that due to economically difficult times, the Order has to find ways to cut cost in several areas, one of them is The Vasa Star. If you had sent articles to me that do not appear in this issue, it might appear in the next Jan/Mar 2011 issue. There will be four issues of The Vasa Star next year; it will become a quarterly publication.

This is an issue where many write about their experience from the Grand Lodge Convention, all positive comments. Under *Culture*, there are Christmas related articles, giving you somewhat of a background to why we do certain things during Christmas, where the ideas stem from. I find it quite interesting.

I had thought I was going to write this editorial from beautiful St Lucia in the Caribbean where we moved at the end of August this year with our youngest son. As I am writing this I am sitting in Mentor, Ohio, where we arrived a little over a week ago. Hurricane Thomas hit St Lucia pretty hard back in October, and devastated part of the country which caused massive landslides in several areas destroying roads and water supply. The following week we had an incident at our house in St Lucia where we lost several belongings, among them our computers and backups, so any e-mail that was sent to me after the 1st of October this year, especially Lucia articles, **please resend** them to me. I lost all my contacts!

I appreciate all your kind comments during the year, regarding The Vasa Star! Thank You! Enjoy your Family and your Friends!

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas....."

Marie

- Irving Berlin

Brev från Redaktören

Den här upplagan består faktiskt av två upplagor som kombineras till en, Sep-Okt och Nov-Dec. Under *Storlogemötet* i Washington DC, stod det ganska klart att eftersom vi befinner oss i en ekonomisk svacka måste det göras besparingar inom flera områden, ett av dem är Vasastjärnan. Om ni har skickat in artiklar till mig, som inte finns med i denna upplaga, kommer de antagligen med i nästa, Jan/Mar 2011 upplaga. Det kommer att bli fyra upplagor av Vasastjärnan nästa år som kommer att ges ut en gång i kvartalet.

I denna upplaga har många skrivit och berättat om deras erfarenheter från Storlogemötet i somras, alla har positiva kommentarer. Under *Culture* finns det jul-relaterade artiklar som kan ge dig något av en bakgrund till varför vi gör vissa saker under jul, var idéerna kommer ifrån. Jag tycker de är väldigt intressanta.

Jag hade trott att jag skulle skriva den här ledaren från härliga Saint Lucia i Karibien, dit vi flyttade i slutet av Augusti detta år med vår yngste son. Men i skrivandets stund sitter jag här i Mentor, Ohio, dit vi kom för drygt en vecka sedan. Orkanen Thomas gick fram rätt hårt över Saint Lucia i Oktober, det förstörde stora delar av landet som orsakade massiva jordskred i flera områden vilket i sin tur förstörde vägar och vattentillförsel. Veckan därpå hade vi en incident i vårt hus i Saint Lucia där vi förlorade många av våra tillhörigheter bland dem våra datorer och våra "back-ups" så jag ber er att all e-post, som skickats till mig efter 1:a Oktober i år, speciellt Lucia artiklar, skicka dem till mig igen. Jag har förlorat alla min kontakter!

Jag uppskattar alla era fina kommentarer under året gällande Vasastjärnan! Njut av familjen och era vänner!

Marie

"Jag drömmar om en jul hemma....."

- Irving Berlin

VASA STAR UPDATE FROM THE GRAND MASTER AND MEMBERS OF THE GL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Prior to 2008 there were 6 issues of the Vasa Star delivered to your homes. In 2008 and 2009 there were 5 issues delivered and 1 "on line." Five issues were mailed to members in 2010 instead of six. (No "on line" issue) There will be four issues of the Vasa Star created this year. The Grand Lodge is now discussing the number of those issues delivered to members' homes versus the number offered "on-line." Please contact your regional board member to express your personal wishes and concerns as soon as possible so your input will be considered when the decision is made. This issue is under discussion as the board plans for the needs of members to communicate taking fiscal constraints into consideration.

Thank you
Bill, GM



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ARCHIVES NEWS

Generous Gift in Memory of Daughter



Sten Hult, Jake Gruel and Nancy Hult.

We had a sad passing in our Vasa family this summer. Susann Monica (Hult) Thyberg, daughter of Sten Hult, lost her long battle with cancer July 3rd, 2010. There was a memorial service for her at the Lutheran Church in Iron River, WI on July 31st. Since Sten and wife Nancy are Life Members of the Vasa Archives, fund raisers, and dedicated volunteers, it seemed fitting to share information with Vasa Star readers about Sue's life and the contributions of the Hults to the Vasa Order.

Susann Monica Hult was born in Karlskoga, Värmland, Sweden on March 16, 1959. She, along with her parents, arrived in New York from Göteborg via the ship "Gripsholm" in June 1962. Sue grew up in Chicago, Calumet City and Dolton, IL. In 1969-1970 she performed in programs with Solstralen #17 (a Vasa Order Children's Club). She was a member of Harald Viking Lodge #13 I.O.V. and joined its drill team. In 1983 she became a member of Siljan-Mora-Tuna Lodge #134 V.O.A. and received her 25-year Vasa membership pin in 2008.

Susann worked as a branch manager at Citi-Financial. She had over 25 years of service for the company. Sue loved to travel, especially to Sweden, visiting relatives and friends. She made at least ten trips. Sue could converse in Swedish very well. She was a movie buff and loved bird watching. Susann married Theodore Thyberg in June of 1987 and in September 1997 they moved to Iron River WI, where they built their house. They loved to be in the country. Ted works for Larson-Juhl, a well known picture frame factory in Ashland, WI.

Sten and Nancy became Vasa National Archives Life Members in the eighties and started fund raising at the request of then President, Bertil Winstrom. Computers/Printers and carpeting were some of the items purchased by approaching individuals and local lodges. The Hults even did an

Archives inventory one year, a big job indeed.

In later years, Sten, as an officer of District Lodge Lake Michigan #8, approached the Finance Committee for donations to the Archives. The District Lodge has funded many projects: a chairlift, new driveway, with porches and sidewalk repairs, a complete renovation of the gallery are among the large projects funded by DL #8.

Nancy was recently elected District Secretary. Sten is PDM and was elected at the Grand Lodge Convention to the Grand Lodge board, Mid-West Region representative. Sten also continues as a board member of the Vasa Order of America National Archives.

In August, Sten and Nancy gave \$10,000 to the Vasa National Archives in memory of daughter Sue. The Hults thus became one of two recent Visionary-level donors to the Archives, the other being District Lodge #8. Their gift is a moving celebration of Sue's life and their steadfast commitment to the work of the Vasa National Archives.

Svensk Sammanfattning

Vi fick sorgliga nyheter i sommar, Susann Monica (Hult) Thyberg, dotter till Sten Hult, hade förlorat sin kamp mot cancer den 3 juli 2010. Sten och hans fru Nancy har länge varit aktiva inom Vasa Orden, Distrikt #8, och Vasaarkivet. Susann, Sten och Nancy, var medlemmar i Siljan-Mora-Tuna Logen #134 och Susann fick sitt 25-års märke 2008. Hon hade tidigare varit medlem i barnklubben Solstrålen #17 och gjorde musik samt dansprogram med gruppen. Susann föddes i Karlskoga, Värmland 16 mars 1959, och åkte på skeppet Gripsholm över Atlanten med sina föräldrar och växte upp i Chicago, Calumet City, och Dolton, IL. Hon arbetade som föreståndare vid Citi-Financial och bodde med sin man Theodore Thyberg i Iron River, WI. Hon älskade att resa utomlands, särskilt till Sverige, för att hälsa på familj och vänner. Hon pratade bra svenska och deltog ofta i svenska kulturevenemang. I augusti gav Sten och Nancy Hult \$10,000 USD till minne av Susann till Vasaarkivet.

Deras gåva är en rörande gest till minne av Susanns liv samt att det stödjer arkivets arbete.

Submitted by: Lars Jenner, Archivist

Swedish Language Lessons

By Lillemor and Richard Horngren

We are grateful to The Vasa Star Editor, Marie Carlson, for giving us this opportunity to share these lessons with you for the last four years.

The idea to have Swedish language lessons in the Vasa Star originally came to Richard in 1985 when he was serving on the Grand Lodge board. He asked Alice Carlsson, the Grand Master at that time, and she accepted his offer on the condition that he would keep it up. The first few years the Vasa Star came out 11 times a year and we wrote close to 150 lessons until the period 2003-06. Since starting up again in 2007 we have submitted 24 lessons.

This has been one of the most rewarding experiences we have undertaken in all of the 50 plus years we have belonged to the Vasa Order. The contact with the members and their feedback is something we will treasure forever. Knowing that we in some small way have helped members and friends, perhaps to decipher some old writings from the "old country" or just practice their newfound skill during the popular pratstund sessions at many lodges. Even the Swedes have been using the lessons to practice their English...an unexpected bonus for them and us.

At times it has been a challenge to come up with new material and we have come to realize that some of the words that were OK many years ago are no longer used in Sweden. Then we read in the minutes from a District Lodge No. 8 board meeting, where a member of the Grand Lodge was quoted saying that the Grand Lodge would pursue offering Internet language lessons to the members. There is no way we can compete with that.

So we have decided that now is the right time to end our long run writing the Swedish lessons in the Vasa Star. Our hope is that you will continue with your studies. There is so much material out there. If we can help in some way please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Submitted by:
Lillemor and Richard Horngren**

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Highlights of the Grand Lodge Convention Washington, D.C. – July 2-8, 2010

It was an amazing week in Washington, D. C. when the Grand Lodge met in session at the 37th Quadrennial Convention. Vasa members from the Sweden, Canada and the United States gathered for business and social fellowship. While it is not possible to list every action and motion approved, here are some highlights of the meeting:

1. The Grand Lodge extends many thanks and appreciation to District Master Bruce Elfvén, to the Chairman of the Host Committee C. Richard Overberg and the Convention Committee, and all the members of DL Pennsylvania #9 for the wonderful week they arranged for our gathering. Job well done!
2. During the meeting there were several opportunities to discuss the loss of the Education Fund and Archives investments due to the embezzlement by Enrique Villalba. Many questions were asked, each member of the GL Executive Board gave explanations, and expressed regrets and apologies. The desire of the delegation was to not look back and seek punishment, but to move forward in the best interest and survival of the Vasa Order. (In September, Mr. Villalba was sentenced to 105 months, 8.75 years, in Federal prison, and must make restitution to those he swindled. It is hoped that there will be money left to pay back).
3. Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Awards were announced and will be presented by the recipient's home district: Charlotte Ruser of DL New Jersey #6, Linnea Lodge of DL Alberta #18 and Verna Larson of DL Alberta #18.
4. 94 Motions were voted on during the meeting. Most of the Officers Recommendations were referred to the incoming Grand Lodge Board for action since time grew short. Here are some of the decisions made:
 - a) The Grand Master will continue to send birthday greetings when notified by the Local Secretaries of birthdays of 70 years and above.
 - b) Qualifications were set in the Constitution for District Lodges for election of delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention – DM, VDM, DS, DFS, DT, DCL, or Member of the Executive Board. If there are not a sufficient number of nominees, then active members of the district will qualify.
 - c) A new member initiated into a lodge is to receive the Vasa Handbook, the cost covered by the initiation fee. In another motion, the Vasa Handbook is to include the Constitutions, Ritual, and Instruction Manual.
 - d) When a lodge with no district affiliation (under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge) disbands, those members wishing to continue their Vasa membership may remain members by paying dues directly to the Grand Lodge (Grand Secretary). Currently, when a lodge within a district disbands, the members may continue their membership by paying dues to the District (District Secretary.)
 - e) The Old Age and Benefit maximum allocation was increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000.
 - f) A District may vote to donate up to 5% of the district's Old Age and Benefit allotment to the Vasa National Archives.
 - g) Past Grand Lodge Officers will now be entitled to voice and vote at Grand Lodge meetings. No compensation will be provided for costs associated with attendance at the meetings.
 - h) All Grand Lodge investments shall be invested with Bank of America. In another motion, the investment of Vasa Funds must be approved by 2/3 vote by the Executive Board.
 - i) The Grand Lodge Executive Board was reduced in number from eleven members to ten, removing the At Large position. The EBM-Eastern Region will also represent the Southeastern Region and the Florida Lodges. The EBM-Midwestern Region will also represent the Central Region.
 - j) A Grand Lodge Historian for Sweden (appointed officer) was added.
 - k) The section in the Constitution for Grand Lodge relating to the Old Age and Benefit Fund was clarified, adding text to define the differences between the allocated funds and unallocated funds.
 - l) Further to the OA&B section, new text was added to provide procedure should there be no members in the Fund (no members in Vasa). The remaining Trust Fund will provide funding to the Archives and provide scholarships to eligible students from the US and Canada enrolled in Nordic Study Programs.
 - m) Wording in the Initiation of New Members was added.
 - n) The District Ritual was re-written. Printed copies will be provided to the districts.
5. There will be no increase in Grand Lodge Per Capita and Assessments.
6. The budget for 2010-2014 was adopted. The one budget item affecting the general membership was the cut of the Vasa Star budget by 50%. The incoming Grand Lodge Board will have major decisions to make concerning the publication of this valuable communication tool.
7. Newly elected Grand Lodge Officers are: Grand Master Bill Lundquist, Vice Grand Master Tore Kellgren, Grand Secretary Joan Graham, Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon, Vice Grand Secretary Gail Olson, EBM-Eastern Region Art Bjorkner, EBM-Midwestern Region Sten Hult, EBM-Western Region Ed Netzel, EBM-Canada Ken Banks, and EBM-Sweden Ulf Alderlöf.
8. Newly elected Archives Board Members are: Jake Gruel, Lennart Petersson, Gunnar Mossberg, and Tom Cleveland.

The complete minutes of the meeting will be printed in the Record of Proceedings and will be mailed to elected and appointed officers, delegates, and to every District and Local Lodge.

Respectfully Submitted: Joan Graham, Grand Secretary

GRAND SECRETARY'S REPORT

May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010

	# Mbrs	Per Capita	OA&B	Archives	Education	Year
DL Connecticut #1	279	\$3,627.00	\$69.75	\$418.50	\$279.00	(2010)
DL Massachusetts #2	714	\$9,282.00	\$178.50	\$1,071.00	\$714.00	(2010)
DL Rhode Island #3	336	\$4,368.00	\$84.00	\$504.00	\$336.00	(2010)
DL New York #4	657	\$8,541.00	\$164.25	\$985.50	\$657.00	(2010)
DL New Jersey #6	1003	\$13,039.00	\$250.75	\$1,504.50	\$1,003.00	(2010)
DL Minnesota #7	218	\$2,834.00	\$54.50	\$327.00	\$218.00	(2010)
DL Lake Michigan #8	1177	\$15,301.00	\$294.25	\$1,765.50	\$1,177.00	(2010)
DL Pennsylvania #9	605	\$7,865.00	\$151.25	\$907.50	\$605.00	(2010)
DL Superior #10	150	\$1,950.00	\$37.50	\$225.00	\$150.00	(2010)
DL Rocky Mountain #11	80	\$1,040.00	\$20.00	\$120.00	\$80.00	(2010)
DL Golden Gate #12	1019	\$13,247.00	\$254.75	\$1,528.50	\$1,019.00	(2010)
DL Pacific Northwest #13	1038	\$13,494.00	\$259.50	\$1,557.00	\$1,038.00	(2010)
DL Pacific Southwest #15	1212	\$15,756.00	\$303.00	\$1,818.00	\$1,212.00	(2010)
DL Iowa-Nebraska #17	133	\$1,729.00	\$33.25	\$199.50	\$133.00	(2010)
DL Alberta #18	592	\$7,696.00	\$148.00	\$888.00	\$592.00	(2010)
DL Norra Sverige #19	1697	\$22,061.00				(2010)
DL Sodra Sverige #20	1392	\$18,096.00				(2010)
DL Arizona #21	338	\$4,394.00	\$84.50	\$507.00	\$338.00	(2010)
LL Facklan #248	43	\$559.00	\$10.75	\$64.50	\$43.00	(2009)
LL Facklan #248	42	\$546.00	\$10.50	\$63.00	\$42.00	(2010)
LL Strindberg #259	53	\$689.00	\$13.25	\$79.50	\$53.00	(2010)
LL Miami #554	94	\$1,222.00	\$23.50	\$141.00	\$94.00	(2010)
LL Miami #554	93	\$1,209.00	\$23.25	\$139.50	\$93.00	(2009)
LL Miami #554	92	\$1,196.00	\$23.00	\$138.00	\$92.00	(2008)
LL Miami #554	93	\$1,209.00	\$23.25	\$139.50	\$93.00	(2007)
LL Jubilee #692	43	\$559.00	\$10.75	\$64.50	\$43.00	(2010)
LL Nordic #708	116	\$1,508.00	\$29.00	\$174.00	\$116.00	(2010)
LL Carl XVI Gustav 716	63	\$819.00	\$15.75	\$94.50	\$63.00	(2010)
LL Carl Larsson #739	82	\$1,066.00	\$20.50	\$123.00	\$82.00	(2010)
LL Carl Larsson #739	94	\$1,222.00	\$23.50	\$141.00	\$94.00	(2009)
LL Carl Widen #743	53	\$689.00	\$13.25	\$79.50	\$53.00	(2010)
LL Travelers #758 *						(2010)
LL Travelers #758	35	\$455.00	\$8.75	\$52.50	\$35.00	(2009)
Individual Member under GL	1	\$13.00	\$0.25	\$1.50	\$1.00	(2010)

* 2010 Assessments from LL Travelers #758 was received after April 30, 2010 fiscal year close.

Student Loan Repayments: Christopher Boyd \$1,500; Frederick Cullum \$750.00; Dana Elfvin \$1,000; Jennifer Johansen \$500; Christian Ljunggren \$1,500; Jillian Ljunggren \$1,008; Abigail Sten \$375; Natalie Sten \$300.

GENERAL FUND

Per Capita Assessments	\$177,281.00
Sale of: Printed Material	177.50
Rituals, Constitutions.	533.00
Jewelry & Emblems	5,996.85
Flags & Regalia	83.65
Postage	298.09
Misc. (wire transfer fees)	(154.00)
Total General Fund	\$184,216.09
Transfers from OA&B Fund	175,470.00

REIMBURSEMENT FUND INSURANCE

Assessments	10,548.00
Stamp Donations	17,607.89
Loan Repayments	6,724.00
Memorials	0.00
Scholarships	1,760.00
Miscellaneous	3,194.28
Total Education Fund	39,834.17

OLD AGE & BENEFIT FUND

Assessment	2,637.00
Return of Benefit	500.00
Total Old Age & Benefit Fund	3,137.00

ARCHIVES FUND

Assessments	15,822.00
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VASA STAR FUND

Advertisements	3,406.50
Obituaries	876.31
Subscriptions	90.00
Mail Fee/Postage	77.80
Miscellaneous	799.00
Total Vasa Star Fund	5,249.61

GRAND TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$425,090.37

Deposited – Wells Fargo Bank, Minneapolis, MN
Deposit numbers 1 through 39

*Joan L. Graham
Grand Secretary*

Året Svenskamerikan 2010 hyllad

Firandet av Årets Svenskamerikan 2010 John E. Norton blev en spänande odyssé. John har sina rötter i Gästrikland. Hans farfars farfar Olof Nordin tillhörde prästen Esbjörns utvandrargrupp, som utvandrade till Amerika 1849 för att motarbeta Erik Jansson och hans anhängare. John E. Norton (Nordin blev Norton i USA) har gjort betydande insatser för kontakterna mellan USA och Sverige. Kanalerna till Sverige har varit många. John har studerat i Sverige och behärskar det svenska språket. Han har tagit emot många svenska delegationer i Svensk-Amerika och ordnat resor till Sverige. Han är statsvetare och numera pensionerad överste. John har hela livet intresserat sig för emigrationsforskning och sin svenska bakgrund. Hans djupa intresse har givit värdefulla bidrag till svensk emigrantforskning.

Huvudarrangemanget för Årets Svenskamerikan hölls i Växjö. Paret Norton hann dock med några dagar i Värmland och Gästrikland innan Landshövding Kristina Alsér välkomnade Årets Svenskamerikan John E. Norton med hustru Janet till Kronobergs län. Borgmästare Nils Posse välkomnade dem till Växjö kommun. Programmet i Växjö inkluderade ett besök på Linnéuniversitetet med föreläsning om indianer. Glasriket besökte också med guidning i såväl hytta som utställningar i Kosta och i Åfors. Kosta Art Hotel visades och väckte beundran.

Vasa Ordens bankett till hyllning för Årets Svenskamerikan hölls i närvärt av vice ambassadör vid Amerikanska



Växjö Kommun välkomnar Årets Svenskamerikan. Från vänster Årets Svenskamerikan 2009 Anne-Charlotte Hanes Harvey, John E. Norton, Borgmästare Nils Posse, Janet Norton, Årets Svenskamerikan 2006 Agneta Nilsson och Årsets ordförande Årets Svenskamerikankommitté Catherine Bringselius Nilsson.

Ambassaden William Stewart. Telegram från Hans Majestät Konungen upplästes. De svenska distrikts gemensamma gåva, två ljusstakar i kristall från Orrefors med Vasa Ordens emblem i gravyr, överlämnades till Årets Svenskamerikan av Distriktsmästare Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, Södra Sverige, och Distriktsmästare Einar Savolainen Grön, Norra Sverige. John E. Norton tackade varmt för hyllningen och den uppmärksamhet som utmärkelsen inneburit för honom och hans livsverk, forskningen kring den svenska emigrationen till USA.

Kören Växjö Vocalis stod för banketts högklassiga underhållning, som

inleddes med den amerikanska nationalången i speciell körsättning under Hans Lindens ledning.

På Minnesotadagen i Utvandrarnas Hus, Emigrantinstitutets högborg, mottog John E. Norton insignierna på utmärkelsen, den gyllene plaketten och diplomet, samt avtäckte tavlan med tidigare Årets Svenskamerikaners namn, nu kompletterad med hans namn.

Hyllningen av Årets Svenskamerikan 2010 avslutades i Stockholm med lunch på UD och avskedsfest med goda vänner.

Submitted by: Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, Ordförande Årets Svenskamerikankommitté



Årets Svenskamerikan mottar sin utmärkelse på Minnesotadagen Växjö. Distriktsmästare DL 20 Catherine Bringselius Nilsson, Årets Svenskamerikan John E. Norton och Distriktsmästare DL 19 Einar Savolainen Grön.

Minnesotadagen

På Minnesotadagen i Växjö fick David Newkumet, bördig från Duluth, Minnesota, mottaga Logen Carl von Linné Nr 678:s hedersständar och diplom vid en ceremoni på Utvandrarnas hus. Distriktsmästare Catherine Bringselius Nilsson överlämnade utmärkelsen med motiveringen: "För att han har lyft Växjös musikliv till stor glädje för stadens invånare i otaliga sammanhang. I advent 2009 blev David rikskänd genom TV-sändningen av Växjö Domkyrkas Lucia-konsert. Denne man utstrålar stor energi och glädje."

Insänt av:

DM Catherine Bringselius Nilsson
Bild av: Göran Nilsson



DM Catherine Bringselius Nilsson och David Newkumet.

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL Connecticut #1

We had another successful Vasa Day "Midsommar" on June 27. There is a significant amount of effort that goes into putting on a Vasa Day and your attendance makes it all worthwhile. Needless to say thanks go out to all who helped. On June 26 we had a work day at the park. Thanks go out to all the ladies for the food preparation and all who worked to insure that the park was well maintained and in good order.

I would like to thank Rabbi Michael Kahn of Meriden who joined us as we rededicated our memorial brick walk to the memory of Raoul Wallenberg. One thing I want to add is that we are proposing to establish a lodge in Meriden at Vasa Park. The name of the lodge would be LL Raoul Wallenberg.

Sunday was a full day for the kids. There were pony rides, a clown, a treasure hunt, and a raffle. There was also singing, the decoration and parading of the Maypole, good food, of course raffle of prizes, a 50-50 raffle, and Wivan Sundman with her accordion.

We had quite a few new faces at the park for Vasa Day thanks to our advertising in the press and on the radio. Let's keep this up! Everyone is welcome.

Thanks to our vendors who showed up with their Scandinavian goods. This helps to make it special. Those items for sale included a bake sale provided by you, the members. Sale of those baked items goes to our scholarship fund. This is the fifth year we have been able to give out scholarships to students seeking a higher education. We are able to give out two awards per year and this year our first awardees were Tyler Gabriel. Tyler will attend Stevens Tech in New Jersey and will study electrical engineering. Tyler and his mother Debbie joined us for Vasa Day. Tyler's grandfather, Frederick Falk is a member of Norden and Past Chairman of Klippan

Lodge of Torrington, CT. Tyler received the Ivar A. Erickson Scholarship which is supported annually by Arthur and Todd Erickson of Beecher Bennett in Hamden, CT. There is one 2010 scholarship left which will be awarded later this year.

While you were at the park I hope you took the time to look around and take note of the continued improvements which are due to our Park Chairman Art

Ogonoski. There is no end to his list of projects and enthusiasm. Well done Art!

We are looking for volunteers to take over the 20 Week Club. This is an activity that helps support the park. After 5 years of running the 20 Week Club Roberta Gauld and Judy Fisher will be stepping down. They will remain available to provide guidance and encouragement, but have requested a little time off. We extend our best wishes to Roberta who was recently hospitalized and wish her a speedy recovery.

Submitted by: Paul Ljunggren, DM

DL Lake Michigan #8

Michigan City, IN

The 102nd Annual Convention of District Lodge Lake Michigan #8 was held May 14th - 16th in Michigan City, IN, along the beautiful shores and dunes of Lake Michigan. The event, hosted by Nordik Folk Lodge #761, emphasized "Nordic Folk Art" and also hosted a "Nordikids Camp" for children ages 4 - 13 which took place during the Saturday Convention meetings.

Friday morning saw about 14 golfers at the Michigan City Municipal Golf course teeing off in somewhat soggy conditions but with the sun shining.

The Cultural Room was in full swing by 5 p.m. and featured a full-sized Nordik Arts timeline showcasing Scandinavian authors, film makers, and artists. Local Lodges displayed their folk art under the coordination of our District Cultural Leader, Andrea Wilczynski

The real treat came Friday evening when Nordikids #208 took the stage under the direction of Mrs. Lynnea Sinwelski to perform their cultural program "Swedish Music In America.... through the years." Nordikids sang and

danced their way into our hearts to the accompaniment of pianist Valerie Cook. They ended their program to a very upbeat rendition of Abba's "Dancing Queen."

On Saturday morning, Nordik Folk Chairman, Steven Westlund, opened the 102nd Annual District Convention by welcoming delegates and officials, and introducing the Nordikids Teens who performed the Opening Flag Ceremony. It was a moving ceremony, with the waving flags of all the Nordik countries displayed on screen while the anthems played.

Among the business covered during Saturday's convention proceedings were the nomination and election of the District Officers. During the District business proceedings, a different kind of meeting was taking place down the hall. "Nordikids Camp," sponsored by Nordik Folk, was held for children ages 4 - 13. Nordik Folk members Phyllis Kalajian and Barbara Hannigan coordinated a day of activities with the help of the Nordik Teen Group. Seventeen children signed up to enjoy Scandinavian stories, crafts, songs, and a very special program by Viking Re-enactor David Nordin of Naperville, Illinois, who treated the children to a Viking program they will never forget! They sailed a Viking ship through stormy waters, traded with distant villagers, and battled with foam swords.

The festivities continued Saturday evening with a social hour in the banquet hall and a delicious sit-down dinner. Master of Ceremonies, Timothy Ogrontz, kept the evening moving as awards were presented.

The big honor of the evening went to Grand Lodge Deputy/Past District Master Sten Hult of Siljan-Mora-Tuna #124 who was awarded 2010's Distinguished

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Officers for 2010 - 2011

DL Lake Michigan #8

Continued from page 9

Service Award by upcoming District Chairman Tom Cleveland of Viljan #349.

The Sunday Memorial Service was led by Marvin Anderson of Svea #253 and Inez Törnblom of Viljan #349. Wesley Hanson of Svea #253 led the Vasa Choir in the anthem "Day by Day." Departed members of the district were memorialized in a lovely candle ceremony led by Inez Törnblom who also read The Lord's Prayer in Swedish and English.

After the Memorial service, the meeting commenced. Newly elected officials were installed. A lovely Sunday send-off of sandwiches and chips were offered by Nordik Folk members before everyone said their good-byes.

Submitted by: Linnea Ogrertz, Nordik Folk # 761, Convention Chairman

DL Golden Gate #12 California

It is with much pride and enthusiasm that we welcome home our representatives from the Grand Lodge meeting held this July in Washington DC. Representative and now Grand Treasurer, Keith Hanlon reported: "We extend our thanks and congratulations to District Lodge Pennsylvania # 9 for a superb job of hosting the 37th Grand Lodge Convention. The opening reception made everyone feel welcome and the performance by the Vasasjärnan #1 children's club set just the right tone.

"The evening visit to House of Sweden was a cultural highlight that provided both historic and contemporary perspectives to Swedish Culture. The House of Sweden is adjacent to the Swedish Embassy and provides a venue for diplomatic and cultural events. It is a stunning example of contemporary Swedish architecture. The Swedish Embassy is the only Embassy on the Potomac River and the rooftop views provided a panoramic view of our beautiful Capital.

"The tour of Mt. Vernon once again reminded us of our National Heritage and exceptional leadership of President George Washington. He was truly the father of our Nation and a moving force for our great U.S. Constitution.

"The Grand Banquet provided a cordial, gracious, enjoyable close to the Convention. Swedish Ambassador Jonas Hafström opened the Banquet with a

fine greeting, an explanation of Sweden's role in the European Union and message of encouragement to the Vasa Order.

"Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 Children's Club performed traditional Nordic dances. This Children's Club began in 1921! Everyone enjoyed their skill and youthful enthusiasm."

The highlight for our district, however, which demonstrates our fierce dedication to the preservation and growth of the VASA order as a whole, is that four members of our district were elected to positions within the Grand Lodge. They are: Tore Kellgren, Vice Grand Master; Joanie Lindquist Graham, Grand Secretary; Keith Hanlon, Grand Treasurer; and Edward Netzel, Member of the Executive Board Western Region.

Well-done all! We look forward to a prosperous year of growth, integrity, and ingenuity under your guidance and service, along with all of the other leaders in the Grand Lodge.

A unique opportunity is available to us in the San Francisco Bay Area, in that one of our members, David Seaborg, from Sveaborg Lodge #449 in Concord, is available to speak to our local Vasa Lodges on his Swedish heritage and his Swedish-American father, Nobel-Prize-winning chemist, Glenn Seaborg, discoverer of Plutonium, the element on the Periodic Table used in nuclear reactors and the atomic bomb, and used to end World War II. Glenn Seaborg also revised the Periodic Table with a big scientific breakthrough, and helped give us the Test Ban Treaty that stopped the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere and helped start the environmental movement, being the first international environmental treaty. Glenn Seaborg was proud of his Swedish heritage, and David will share his father's many links to and love of Sweden, and relate anecdotes relevant to these. David will also read a few poems from the poetry book he wrote. Contact Ann Marie Richardson at annmrichardson@hersmoothvoice.com and she can facilitate contact between David and your lodge.

For events and opportunities during the rest of the year, contact the lodge in your area for more information.

District 12 Scholarship Winners:

Nora McKinnon, Gold Nugget Lodge #662, Paradise, CA

Nora starts her second college year at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Nora's career goal is to teach English Literature or Art. Nora's

educational goal is a Masters degree in Education.

Cecelia McKinnon, Gold Nugget Lodge #662, Paradise, CA

Cecelia enters the University of New Mexico this fall, with likely concentration in the performing arts. One of her career goals is performance design. Cecelia attended the Sjölunden Swedish language camp and hopes to spend time studying in Sweden.

Erika Skovron, Nord Lodge #392, Stockton, CA

Erika Skovron is a member of Nord Lodge #392 Stockton, CA, a student in the College of Nursing at Seattle University (SU). Her goal is to achieve an excellent nursing education which in turn will open a wide variety of job opportunities for her in the nursing field. Recently she was accepted to be on the Dean's List for her high GPA.

Submitted by: Ann Marie Richardson

DL Pacific Northwest #13

The Pacific Northwest District #13 Lodge Spring Executive Board Meeting was held in Missoula, MT, on April 23 and 24, 2010. The District encompasses British Columbia, Montana, Oregon and Washington, the Executive Board tries to meet each spring at a distant Local Lodge. This has enabled the Executive Board and Local Lodges to meet face-to-face and to gain a better understanding of problems each has, and what resources each has to offer the other. Tegnér Lodge #224 invited our board members and guests to join them for their monthly meeting on April 23rd, for a delicious "authentic" Hawaiian Luau, Montana style.

The next morning the Executive Board Meeting convened and Officer and Committee reports were given and acted upon. Two 2010 Scholarships of \$750 each will be awarded for the next school year. District Officer's recommendations were discussed and acted upon or deferred. Discussion followed on Resolutions to be brought before the Grand Lodge and voting directions were given to our Grand Lodge Delegates. The meeting adjourned with District Master Alice Iverson and the Executive Board Members heartiest thanks to Tegnér Lodge #224 for their outstanding support of the meeting.

Submitted by Stephen Matthews, PNW District 13

LODGE NEWS

North Star Lodge #106 Los Angeles, CA



Members at the Scandinavian Autumn Fest.

Greetings from all of us go out to all our Vasa friends. North Star continues along under the excellent leadership of Chairman Erik Lindberg. We resumed our summertime meeting in August.

In September, our new secretary, Felicity Harper, was welcomed aboard. However, at the time she was vacationing in Sweden. We commended our past secretary, Helen Greenlees, for her many years as faithful secretary. "Tack så mycket," Helen.

In September, North Star participated in the *Scandinavian Autumn Fest* with "Marknad" celebration at the Vasa Park. North Star and the Golden Valley Lodge prepared the breakfast. In addition to the traditional breakfast there was omelet with meatballs! "Tack" to all of the willing volunteer workers.

Sadly and very recently we heard news that our active member Len Gohrn passed on. He had just returned from Sweden and Russia. Len was our chaplain and long time member. He always gave interesting updates on Sweden and contributed articles to the Vasa Star. Len was a wonderful, friendly member and asset to our lodge. He was a world traveler. He supported children in South America and other developing countries. In addition, he was an ardent supporter of

the "Make a Wish Foundation" and other notable causes. We will greatly miss him at North Star. Len leaves a daughter Gunilla Godebu and her family; step-daughter Eva Andersen; and his very dearest friend and companion Felicity Harper. This is a great loss to our lodge.

At our past two meetings, we were honored to have Vice District Master Susan Premo. We also have two new members, Nel and Bob Solt, who are dual members from Scandia. They are both district officers. We are so fortunate to have them. "VÄLKOMMEN!"

Our "Julfest" (Christmas Party) will be December 12, 2010. Cara Shore will be our Lucia. She is the granddaughter of Jean Ahlin Shore. Our Christmas "smörgåsbord" will be catered by Jane Hendricks of "Nordic Fox Catering." We will celebrate a traditional Swedish Christmas with music and song. "God Jul och ett Gott Nytt År!"

**Submitted by: Elinore Thornton
(Computerized version by daughter,
Jeanette Engstrom)**

Fylgia Lodge #119 San Francisco, CA

On May 11th, Steve Wilson, a member of Svea Lodge #348, San Jose, CA, gave a talk on "Mimeca kalla," a fascinating monument at Sveadal, with a stone wall built to contain the cool spring water, plus a pipe, a bronze plaque, an unusual vitreous enamel garden basin and canopy, and a miniature dolmen. This was woven together in 1939 by Sveadal's first settler, Alfred Celander, as a legacy to future generations.

June 8th was "Fylgia's Bakery Night" and the members brought their favorite baked goods from their Scandinavian kitchens, and they shared their recipes. Delicious indeed.

On June 19th the members celebrated Midsummer at Sveadal (the Swedish Recreational Center near Morgan Hill). Our Chairman, Dr. Ted Olsson and Astrid, his wife, arranged the day and there were two picnic tables set up under the trees for a delightful potluck lunch, contributed by all the members attending. The weather was beautiful and comradery prevailed.

Our website is www.scandinavius.com/vasa/fylgia.

Submitted by: Jean Nelson

Thule Lodge #127 Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY



Thule Lodge #127 members recognized for their July birthdays at the lodge meeting are: outer guardsman Nels John Nelson, past cultural leader Allie Nelson Withers, and lodge historian John Sipos.

Hello from Thule Lodge #127 in the Jamestown/Bemus Point area. Our lodge has seen a wonderful sunny and warm summer this year, and our activities to preserve the Swedish heritage continue. Meetings and refreshments, along with special dinners are held at the lodge at 4123 Pancake Hill Road.

Edwin Sandberg, who served as District Master, is our lodge chairman, and always welcomes everyone to the meetings. Members are always greeted at the door by our outer guardsman Nels John Nelson, who makes everyone feel welcome. Alberta Nelson is our treasurer, with Donna Sandberg as our financial secretary. Lucile Marsh is our secretary, and Diane Shaw is our chaplain, always reminding all that there is strength in unity.

Cultural leader Fanchon Fuller keeps all informed on the upcoming lodge events, and always includes an interesting message about life in Sweden. Fanchon usually has a display of Swedish items to show with her message. Past cultural leader Allie Nelson Withers leads all in the Swedish blessing prior to any refreshments.

Friday night dinners will continue at the lodge through September. Thule Lodge participated in the annual Scandinavian Festival, during July, this year being held at the Rodeo grounds in Gerry, NY. Their famous Swedish meat-

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Thule Lodge #127

Continued from page 11

ball dinner was served, and appreciation is extended to the many for their planning and assistance with the dinner.

Thule Lodge had a pancake breakfast in August, a Swiss steak dinner in September, and the famous Harvest dinner in October. The special dinners always inspire some new members when they see the happy times of the lodge.

At one of our meetings, three lodge members were recognized and honored for their recent birthdays in July. A large birthday cake was provided by lodge

member Susan W. Sipos and Chaplain Diane Shaw for this special occasion. Recognized were outer guardsman Nels John Nelson, past cultural leader Allie Nelson Withers, and lodge historian John Sipos. A fun time was enjoyed by all.

In October, the lodge meetings will change to the third Saturday afternoon, and continue through the winter months. If you are in our area, we would welcome you for a visit to our lodge. "God dag" to all.

Submitted by: John Sipos, Historian

Linne Lodge #153

South Bend, IN



On June 6, 2010, Linné Lodge #153 Chairman Judi Parmley installed 6 new members into the lodge. Congratulations and WELCOME to the following new members: From left to right: Ken Huggett, Gordan Westergren, Karen and Lowell Peterson, Carol Hawley, and Harry Ofverstedt.

Submitted by: Lorraine Cooper

Monitor Lodge #163

Ishpeming, MI



Monitor Lodge #163 recently had the Annual Chicken and Corn Feed. This was held at the Larson home on August 31st. The corn came from Jim Sodergren's garden. We had 61 attending members and some guests. This gathering resulted in three new members!

Submitted by: Ted Swanson

Monitor Lodge #218

Sacramento, CA

In November Tom Anderson gave a presentation on his past history with Sweden, also Violet De Bord and Albert Mitchell celebrated their one-year anniversary.

On April 9, Monitor celebrated its 98th anniversary, where they held a silent auction and raffle of items donated by members. Monitor is currently working on a website for their lodge, and hopefully it will be published soon for all of us to learn from and enjoy.

In the midst of Monitor's busy spring and summer their meeting place, the Odd Fellows Hall, was vandalized. Peculiarly, this was the second time in 12 years this exact act of vandalism has caused them to move their meeting location. Having occurred just a few days before their May meeting, you can imagine the extra effort this caused the dinner team.

Highlights of the year so far include member Louise Center receiving her 60-year pin. It was surely very exciting for all members present to see her clutch her pin to her heart in happiness at the momentous presentation. Also a truly remarkable honor, this time a 50-year pin each, was awarded to Lennart and Britt-Marie Andersson at the banquet Saturday night at the District 12 annual convention in South San Francisco.

Submitted by: Ann Marie Richardson

Tegnér Lodge #224

Missoula, MT

On the 24th of April, Missoula Tegnér Lodge #224 hosted the Pacific NW #13 Spring Executive Board Meeting at the local Quality Inn Motel. On Friday night the lodge arranged for an authentic Hawaiian Luau with original Hawaiian dances provided by Kelly Neumeyer. Members were given several recipes to create for the luau, and they all turned out just wonderful. Of course we had excellent cooks!

This year our lodge celebrated our 98th year at the Benson farm for Midsummer, as it has been a tradition for several years. The lodge awarded two scholarships this year to Jenni Comstock, the daughter of Bill and Alice Comstock, which was our in house scholarship, and to Kelcie Foshag the winner of the community scholarship.

Our members are busy planning fall activates, including our own personal

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Tegnér Lodge #224

Continued from page 12



Back row - left to right: PDM Gordon Swanson, Board Members PDM John Erickson, Steve Matthews, PDM Laurie Harris, Derrick Watson, Andy Toth, Helge Anderson, Doug Hanson, PDM Judy Rust, Jeri Matthews. Front row: District Master Alice Iverson and Grand Lodge Deputy Bernice Pearson.

heritage, and the Story of the Stones, which are stories of early citizens of our community that lived years ago. The people assume the identity of the person they are portraying, wearing clothes from that

era, and tell stories of that person's life.

Our lodge has had a great year with all the events, and there is more planned.

Submitted by: Rick Swanson

Pictures by: Steve Matthews

Brahe Lodge #245

Rockford, IL



August Kitchen staff.

Thirty Brahe Lodge #245 members attended our annual "midsommar smörgåsbord" in our Vasa Park in Rockford, IL, the evening of June 24, 2010! "Sill" and other delicious food were readily eaten by our members. Music filled the air as we ate and chatted with old friends. Later we held our monthly business meeting.

After the meeting some of us strolled through our beautiful park, reminiscing of decades of earlier "midsommar" celebrations we had held in our Rockford Vasa Park.

We celebrated our annual corn boil Thursday evening, August 26, 2010, in our beautiful Vasa Park!

in your hand while trying to aim for a target approximately 15 feet away. The crowd was tense and at the end of the regulation three rotations of the teams, the score was tied 2-2.

Into overtime they went, steely eyed with jaws set. Both teams looked much the same, except for the yellow and blue of the Swedes and the red and blue of the Norwegians. They resemble each other probably because so many Swedes are married to Norwegians and vice-versa. The crowd cheered wildly and the Swedes prevailed, with the score ending at 4-2. The traveling trophy once again will have a home with the Swedes for another year.

The competition amongst the two groups doesn't last long. Everyone laughs and looks forward to next year. The Sons of Norway has invited the Göta Lejon Lodge to their annual picnic at Split Rock State Park on Lake Superior and they will celebrate the Christmas season together with a festive holiday dinner. Take note world, this is the way to world peace!

Submitted by: Patricia Olson,
Recording Secretary

Svea Lodge #253

Indianapolis, IN

The meeting on June 6, 2010, featured a popular group of Viking Re-enactors organized by Jim and Mandy Schutte of Indianapolis, IN. This family event was held on the grounds of the Latvian Center, and members invited children, grandchildren, and friends to this outdoor activity. We participated in typical Viking living conditions, and watched demonstrations of wood carving, coin making, spoon making, weaving, knitting, cooking, individual craftsmen, hand-to-hand combat, and war games. The delicious "smörgåsbord" refreshments were provided by Lou and Marvin Anderson, Sophia and Daniel Anderson, Katherine Gagné, Joella and Edward Hultgren, Barbro and David Jarrell, Janet Jegen, and Jean and Jim Tygum. Eva Berglund contributed the Gevalia coffee.

A combined "Midsommar" and Father's Day celebration was held on a beautiful summer afternoon at the Latvian Center on June 20, 2010. The event began with music played by Ole Vesterqvist and a potluck picnic with dozens of delicious and tempting appetizers, salads, meat, vegetables, and

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Svea Lodge #253

Continued from page 13

desserts. Beverages included “lingonberry saft,” lemonade, coffee, tea, and iced cold water. “Tack Så Mycket” to Dennis Danielson, David Duff, Barbro and David Jarrell, and Joella and Edward Hultgren for setting up the dining room and kitchen; to Donna Bergstrom and Patricia Hoffmann for helping in the kitchen; and Michelle, Josh, and Eric Escalante for making the amazing “dalahäst” piñata and organizing the outdoor activities and games for children and adults. Many folks decorated the “Majstång,” and most everyone participated in the “Majstång” parade and traditional Midsommar dancing around the Majstång, led by Ingeborg Lundberg, Iva Lynn, and Eija Vesterqvist, and accompanied by Ole Vesterqvist on the accordion.

Submitted by: Joella Hultgren



Viking makes pewter spoons.

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA



Buying “felted” hats at Jamestown Festival.

One of our final events for the spring was a Swedish rosmaling painting demonstration and class practice. We met for lunch at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) for lunch.

Then Berit Benacci, who is well versed in this procedure, gave us the history and showed examples of her work.

There were about 25 ladies participating. Some brought friends and relatives too. Berit gave us prepared sheets, paint and brushes and we “set to work” – no one said “I can’t do it!” Then we tried small florals on cardboard with acrylics. Results were very good, and many planned to frame them!

I will tell you about a couple of our summer activities that were much enjoyed. Most of us have heard about IKEA stores, but never visited one – so we took a “field trip” to Pittsburgh. Carpooling worked well. Upon arriving we immediately planned to have lunch at the cafe. There were wonderful meatballs with potatoes and lingonberries. Some of us brought crayfish to enjoy at home with colorful bibs and caps to wear! One in our group, Lois Jordan, celebrated her 80th birthday that day!

One of our summer’s highlights is the annual Scandinavian Folk Festival held July 16-18 in Jamestown, NY. There is much to see, eat and buy. This year it was held at a new location – the Gerry Rodeo Grounds. There was ring dancing, a performance on a “nyckelharpa: from Sweden, five “gammeldans band” from Minneapolis, Smörgåsbandet from New York City, the Leif Ericson Viking Ship, a half-size replica of an actual Viking ship. The crew of the ship shared knowledge of the Viking Era. Lectures were given by Ben Olander from Gothenburg (subject Raoul Wallenberg) and a lecture on 19th century Swedish immigration to America.

Submitted by: Linda Collin



Linda Collin, Berit Benacci and friend.

**Seeking Your
Swedish Roots??**

E-mail: swedengen@telia.com

Svea Lodge #348

San Jose, CA

In March, Sveaborg member Flo Spanier gave a fascinating presentation on the Ice Hotel in Kiruna, Sweden. She has slept on their ice beds twice! According to Chairman Perr Cardistam, “...their frozen assets are no match for Global Warming, it would seem...” Vicki Thurman also gave a presentation on social networking.

Kikki and Jan Nordin are the proud grandparents of a new grandson, Matias Michael Nordin, born January 24. Parents are Michael and Bouree. Congratulations! Lilian and Rolf Rejbrand announced the birth of their second granddaughter, Aevah Maeve Rejbrand-O'Reilly, born to their daughter Mikaela and her husband Ross O'Reilly on March 31.

In other news earlier this year, Ulrika Kellgren Friesen was bestowed her 25-year pin by her father, Tore, and a special memorial celebration was held, honoring 15-year member Helen Riley. Helen left to Svea a 200-year-old Swedish diary, which was translated by Chairman Perr and made available to VASA members via an email sent out earlier this year.

May brought a slide presentation by Helen Nilsson about Swedish contemporary artist Lena Linderholm. Also the topic of much discussion, planning, and eager anticipation was the SAPL (Swedish-American Patriotic League) 116th Annual “Midsommar” celebration held at Sveadal in Morgan Hill in June. Svea’s own Sara Lipscomb was elected Maid of Honor for this event. Svea celebrated its 94th anniversary in August. New members so far this year are Larry Skarset and Janet Hukegaard.

Submitted by: Ann Marie Richardson



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

The month of May and early June has been the rainiest in many years here in Northwest Washington. Fortunately though, the weather cleared just before the weekend of our "Midsommar" and on Saturday June 13 we were able to have our "Majstång" celebration on the meadow of our lodge. Vasa members and several guests decorated the pole with birch branches, ivy, and a variety of flowers brought by members. When finished, the pole looked very colorful, especially due to the magnificent pink and deep-red peonies brought by one of the members from her garden. While the decorated pole was being raised the Skandia Kapell band from Seattle strolled out of the lodge playing their instruments. Meanwhile more members and guests were arriving and many of them joined in a "Långdans" around the pole. The Vasa dancers, plus some dancers from other groups danced a couple of Schottisches on the grass before everyone went into the lodge.

Mid-afternoon we had a potluck lunch break with a great variety of Swedish- and other food items. The lodge provided meatballs and scalloped potatoes, and participants brought side dishes and a great many desserts. The hall was set up by our cultural committee like a terrace café, with white patio tables and chairs around the ample dance space.

Before the music and dancing resumed, a short ceremony was held to honor this year's three scholarship recipients, two of whom were present. Our lodge awards \$250 scholarships to children of members to help them further their education, as well as occasionally to teenagers who have done something special to help our lodge. This year's recipients were David and James Anderson, both studying music, David at Eastern Washington University and James at the Cornish School of Arts, and Martha



An assortment of flowers for the Midsummer pole!

Flores, a new high school graduate. She is not member-related but she has been volunteering her time as a dishwasher at our lodge's monthly pancake breakfasts. She is planning to study social/human services at Skagit Valley College.

After the award ceremony more music and dancing followed, and absolutely no one left before the advertised closing time of 5:00 pm. The band actually played on till 5:30 when finally the musicians, and the few remaining dancers, gave up due to exhaustion! All in all it was a wonderful "Midsommar" celebration!

Submitted by: Willy Evans

Framåt Lodge #405 **Oakland, CA**

In reading through Framåt's newsletters this year, the same warm sentiments are expressed as I see in all the other newsletters I receive... each meeting is well-attended, the volunteers provide delicious meals and beautifully-decorated facilities, and special cultural programs are presented, garnering praise and thanks from members. Earlier this year, John and June Hopkirk presented their trip to Sweden, providing pictures and descriptions of the places their relatives still live. *"It was almost like being there!"* said Chairman Robert Homer.

Marie Ann Hill, from Tegnér Lodge came in June and spoke about her experiences while living and teaching for two years in China. A beautiful tribute to Mother's Day ensued, and Chairman Robert brought pink carnations for all the ladies.

On July 24, Framåt hosted the annual tri-lodge picnic at Roberts Park in Oakland. Members from Tegnér, Sveaborg and Framåt enjoyed the food, fellowship and the annual "Kubb" tournament.

Congratulations to Yvonne Segerberg on the birth of her great grandchild Torsten Potter Segerberg.

Submitted by: Ann Marie Richardson

Sveaborg Lodge #449 **Concord, CA**

At a recent meeting of Sveaborg Lodge in Concord, CA, members were entertained with Swedish folk dances by its youth group, *Vasablad*. Rosemary Fassl is the leader of the group. During the year they study Scandinavian culture, learn folk dances, songs, and culminate with the annual "Julfest" in December. One member is chosen to be Lucia.

Submitted by: Ann Marie Richardson

Picture by: Bob Burman



Vasablad

Lindbergh Lodge #494 **Los Altos, CA**

February saw two new members, Mark and Jessica DeMartini joining Lindbergh Lodge. Cultural Leader Dean Babcock gave an interesting talk about Bishop Hill, IL, where the archives of the Vasa Order of America are kept. Ted Olson of Fylgia Lodge has proposed that next year they also join us and Svea Lodge for the installation of officers which will be at Lindbergh in 2011. In March, Evelyn Filbeck and Loren Filbeck were sworn in as members of the lodge and Order. Cultural Leader, Dean Babcock presented the program on "How Meetings Were Conducted in the Old Days" using a DVD of a lodge meeting in Sweden. Lindberghers again enjoyed a rousing Sunday after Easter, bottling their own wine at Thomas Kruse Winery in Gilroy. An efficient assembly-line soon began the process of getting the wine into the bottles, corking them, affixing the foil seal, and drinking whatever spillage occurred. However, we were not as "drunk" as you think we were.

Other lodge events worth mentioning included the June Mother's Day dinner, prepared by the men of the lodge.

Submitted by: Ann Marie Richardson



Lindbergh Lodge #494 Palo Alto, CA

June is such an exciting time for all Swedes. We had our usual fine dinner at the June meeting. Potluck always brings out the splendid culinary talents of our members. There were over 60 people at this meeting and all of us enjoyed a wonderful dinner.

The program was about the two big events this year...both on the same day. Our Crown Princess Victoria was married and it is Midsummer. The former Swedish Ebenezer Lutheran Church gave the Swedish people of the Bay area the beautiful Wedding Crown that was on exhibit at the World's Fair in San Francisco in 1939/40. The church no longer has a Swedish connection and they were kind enough to let us have the Crown. It will be on exhibit at the Swedish Hall. The ceremony of the bride having a Crown on her wedding day probably harkens back to making her Queen for a Day. The Crown is usually owned by the church and available to members for wedding ceremonies. Many of our San Francisco brides have worn this Crown and we are so pleased to have it back in loving Swedish hands. It was a very usual custom in past centuries, but no longer seems to be in vogue.

We also heard about some of the old customs surrounding the Midsummer festivities in earlier times. Young ladies gathering seven flowers and sleeping on them would dream of their future husbands. Decorating the house and barn and everything else with greenery and flowers. A sprig of mistletoe placed the barn would protect the livestock from the trolls. Dew gathering in a cemetery on Midsummer Eve had special medicinal properties. The "Majstång" decorated with flowers and greenery, raised up for all to dance around is a custom that it still observed. We were all looking forward to the Sveadal Midsummer celebration which took place on June 19. The setting was perfect ... a recreational park with lots of beautiful redwood trees. There was Swedish music, dancing, singing around the Maypole. We had lots of boutiques with ethnic goods. A dinner in the evening ... eating and drinking. Last of all dancing under the stars at an outdoor dance floor. This is an all day celebration on this, the longest day of the year when the sun rises to its highest point in the heavens. After, long dark winters, it is a day to celebrate.

The meeting closed with our usual

birthday singing and the welcome addition of two new members Marie Johansson and Jean Dugan.

Our lodge met in September for the usual back to school festivities and a return from all those balmy lazy summer days to more serious activities. We had a lovely dinner with good food cooked by our member chefs. After pre-prandial, beverages, meeting and dinner our program began. Our Chairman Dave Jansson gave an interesting talk about the Swedish Finns who emigrated from Finland here years ago. Their first destination was the Finnish Lutheran Church in the Bronx. The film presented showed pictures of many of the early immigrants telling their stories about coming to the new world. Conversations were in both Swedish and English. Many other Scandinavians took advantage of good fellowship at the church. There was help available for them at the church with the many problems that new Americans faced. It was quite wonderful to hear their accents and expressions, most of those on the films were from early in the 19th century. The meeting ended with appropriate Birthday songs for those celebrating during current month. Members were alerted to an upcoming barbecue/wine tasting party to be held at our favorite Winery ... One of the welcomed perks for California Swedes. We also had a chance to hear from our members who were in Sweden this summer for the wedding... one gentleman member complained that he did not get to kiss the bride.

Submitted by: Muriel Nelson Bero

Norden Lodge #513 Meeting Creek, Alberta, Canada

Norden Lodge recently celebrated their 80th Anniversary and awarded its members long time membership awards.

**Submitted by: Carol Montgomery,
Cultural Leader**



President Jerry Lee and 50-year members Ruby Swedberg and Ken Johanson.



25+ year members: Back row: Myran Swedberg, Wade Montgomery, Helen Johanson, Regan Bergstrom, Lorne Swedberg, and Connie Swedberg Front Row: Barb Wiberg, Carol Montgomery, and Judy Bergstrom.

Phoenix Lodge #677 Phoenix, AZ

An overview of Nordic explorers, past and present, provided Vasa members an interesting hour the evening of the Phoenix lodge's May meeting. Highlights about contributors to the world's new information on people and environments from the Arctic to the Silk Road were covered by Sara Nilsson and LaVonne Lindall. They summarized information they had gleaned from presentations given by present day experts at the annual Nordic Spirit Symposium, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA, in February 2010. The lives and explorations of interesting adventurers were reviewed in the following talks: Sherrill Harbison - "Polar Exploration and the Heroic Imagination;" Roland Thorstensson and Anders Björling - "Skåne to Lapland, Travels through Sweden with Carl Linnaeus;" Daniel C. Waugh - "Deconstructing Sven Hedin, Great Explorer, Reckless Adventurer, or Self-Promoting Foreign Devil on the Silk Road;" Gisli Pálsson, "Traveling Passions, The Life and Work of Vilhjalmur Stefansson in the Canadian Arctic;" Tommy Dickey, "The Inspirational Life of Fridtjof Nansen, Polar Explorer, Anthropologist, Oceanographer, Diplomat and Humanitarian." In addition, related and more current subjects in a lighter vein were also reviewed: Kristin Folsland Olsen and Ingebjørg Tollesen - "Baffin Babes, 80 Days on Skis in the Arctic;" Larry Johnson - "Saving a Billion Lives, The Life and Achievements of Norman Borlaug, Agronomist;" Magnus Martensson, Conductor and Music Director of the Scandinavian Chamber

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Phoenix Lodge #677

Continued from page 16

Orchestra of New York - superb musician who combined his artistry with humor for the audience's enjoyment.

Thank you, Sara and LaVonne for providing us a program packed with valuable information in an entertaining, quick and easy "dose."

The evening was punctuated by the serving of homemade Madeleine cakes provided by Sara whose hard work earlier in the day made possible this lovely treat with our coffee and punch.

Submitted by: LaVonne Lindall,
Cultural Leader

Desert Viking Lodge #682 **Palm Desert, CA**

At the DL #15 Convention in February, two of our members were awarded scholarships, Linda Lunstrum Kosovic, Ellen Bergstone and Lauren Lunstrum and Raymond Johnson. In addition, one of our youth members, Matthew Kosovic, is the DL #15 Vi-King.

At the March meeting the theme was Easter. The members were invited to dress up as Easter witches, decorate and color Easter eggs. Refreshments "Sillsexa"/Easter Feast were provided by Susanne Pepper, Kerstin Hakansson and Viola Wyler. "Tack ska ni ha!" Thank you!

During the April meeting, we had a Hobo theme and several members dressed in Hobo costumes. Following the meeting, the members were served a dinner of Hobo Stew provided by Viola Wyler. The members shared their experiences with Hobos, and Viola talked about Hobo's in Sweden. Candy cigarettes were passed around like stogies. We were entertained by our members, Arne Ljunggren and Olof Wester, who are also Golden Valley members. We all got involved with the sing-along, singing "King of the Road" and "Happy Wanderer."

On May 10th we celebrated our 43rd Anniversary at the Rock Garden Café in Palm Springs. Several members were recognized with member awards. Our May 18th meeting was about Scandinavian Countries and we had a *Taste of Scandinavia*, along with a program about Denmark (Marilyn Vik), Finland (Viola Wyler), Iceland (Arne Ljunggren), Sweden (Susanne Pepper), and Norway (Linda Lunstrum Kosovic).

For our outreach, the members have participated in several events. On March

20 - Scandinavian Heritage Day with the Solskinn Lodge Palm Desert/Sons of Norway, on March 27 - *Coachella Valley Museum Heritage* and on April 15 - *International Day at College of the Desert*. All of these events were a great outreach for the Lodge and Vasa.

Submitted by: Linda Kosovic

Bishop Hill Lodge #683 **Bishop Hill, IL**

Bishop Hill Lodge #683 held its picnic and potluck at the Galva Park District. Despite the hot weather and rain on Friday evening, this group of members, family and guests enjoyed some good food. They also celebrated Mary Christianson's birthday.



Midsommar Queen 2010 - Sally Christianson.

Sally Christianson, Midsommar Queen 2010, daughter of Dave and Patty Christianson of Wataga, wore a Leksand dress that was a gift from Lillemor Horngren, founding member of *Pride of the Family* Vasa Youth & Children's club. Sally helped to introduce Swedish folk dancing to over 5,000 people. She is also interested in politics, plays piano, electric bass guitar and violin. She is employed as a housekeeper for Galesburg office of Hein Construction. Sally attends Bethel Baptist Church in Galesburg and celebrated her 13th birthday on August 23.

Submitted by: Jeff Anderson

Seeking Your Swedish Roots??

E-mail: swedengen@telia.com

Norden Lodge #684

Fresno, CA

In April, Norden celebrated Easter with a potluck, and in May they had a special cultural presentation of Swedish wedding traditions, just in time to enlighten everyone about the royal wedding that took place in June when Crown Princess Victoria was married to commoner Daniel Westling.

In May there was a special Swedish Festival in Kingsburg, California, and June was celebrated with a program entitled "Midsummer, Myth and Magic."

Submitted by: Ann Marie Richardson

On August 13th we had our annual Crayfish and Shrimp Potluck. This year instead of the crayfish we enjoyed the next best thing, "Salmon." We Scandinavians love our salmon. Following our delicious potluck and business meeting our Cultural Leader, Monica Shipley, gave a wonderful presentation about birch bark and how the Swedes harvest it from the trees and transform it into many lovely and useful items. She showed us examples of these wonderful wooden crafts; candle holders, baskets and wall decorations.

Members Mike and Corky Peterson and Roselind Gaviola just returned after spending a lovely time in Sweden. Their tour group was led by an experienced guide that specialized in genealogy. Those in attendance at our meeting were treated to a wonderful photo tour of their trip. Many of the photos were taken in the old Swedish churches. It's a beautiful sight to see the huge chandeliers still with real candles hanging from the ceiling. Mike stood next to a baptismal font that many, many years ago was used to baptize his great-grandfather. It's an amazing feeling walking in the footsteps of our forefathers. I remember traveling to Sweden a few years ago and walking through the home where my father grew up in Småland. They are fond memories.

Our 42nd Anniversary of Norden Lodge was celebrated on September 11th. There were 19 who attended the fun event including our District Deputy, Paul Jevert from Jenny Lind Lodge #388-Turlock. The event was held in the clubhouse of member Helen Fosdick. Good food, fellowship and memories.

At the October 1st meeting we had a cultural presentation called Runes/Viking alphabet by Ron Vaughan from the Stordalen Lodge, Sons of Norway-

Continued on page 20

Holiday Greetings Unite Members and Lodges



**District Lodge
Lake Michigan #8**

wishes all our Vasa friends
God Jul och Gott Nytt År

Tom Cleveland, DM

Ed Hultgren, VDM

Nancy Hult, DS

Joella Hultgren, ADS

Brent Erickson, DT

Steve Westlund, EBM

Susan Cleveland, EBM

Linda Tylk, DHFS

Andrea Wilczynski, DCL

Lynda Smith, DSCYS

Sheila Lundquist, PDM

Inez Törnblom, DC

Iva Lynn, DH



God Jul och Gott Nytt År

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA GRAND LODGE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Grand Master - William Lundquist

Vice Grand Master - Tore Kellgren

Grand Secretary - Joan Graham

Grand Treasurer - Keith Hanlon

Vice Grand Secretary - Gail Olson

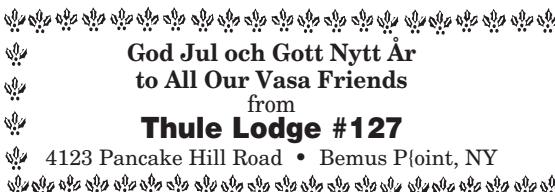
MEB-Eastern Region - Art Bjorkner

MEB-Midwest Region - Sten Hult

MEB-Western Region - Ed Netzel

MEB-Sweden - Ulf Alderlöf

MEB-Canada Ken Banks



**God Jul och Gott Nytt År
to All Our Vasa Friends
from
Thule Lodge #127**

4123 Pancake Hill Road • Bemus Point, NY

*Completing 103 Years in
Southwestern New York*
**Best wishes for a happy and
healthy new year in 2011**



**God Jul och Ett Gott Nytt År
from
Siljan Mora Tuna
Lodge #134**

Chicago Area



Wishing you a Holiday
season filled with warmth,
happiness and cherished moments
God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Oscars Borg Lodge #172
Philadelphia, PA



God Jul och Gott Nytt År
to our sister
Lodge Mälardrottningen #563
and to all our Vasa Friends
from
Nobel Lodge #184



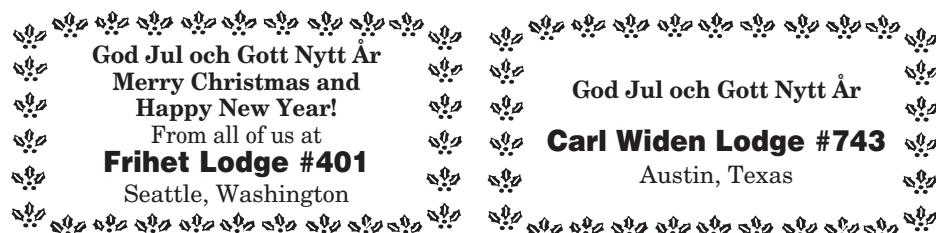
**God Jul och Gott Nytt År
från
Officers and Members
Svea Lodge #296**

Erie, Pennsylvania



**We Wish You All a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
from
Carl XVI Gustaf
Lodge #716**

Dallas, Texas



**God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!
From all of us at
Frihet Lodge #401**

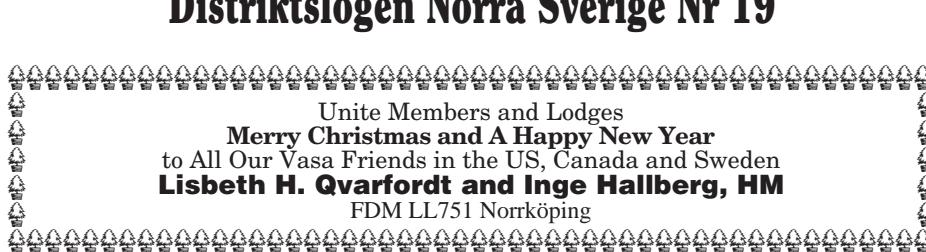
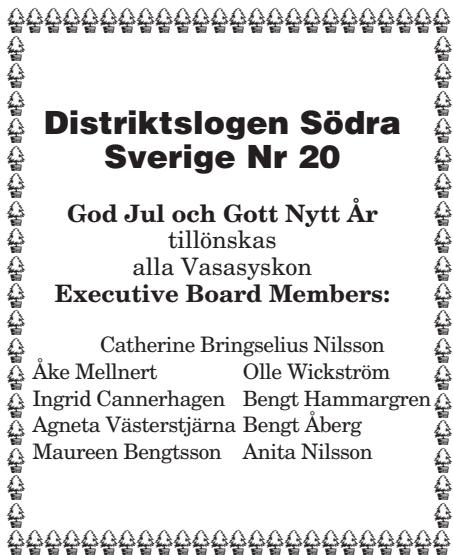
Seattle, Washington



**God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Carl Widen Lodge #743**

Austin, Texas

Jul – och Nyårshälsningar från Distriktslogen Södra Sverige Nr 20



Norden Lodge #684

Continued from page 17

Tulare, CA. Our Cultural Leader, Monica Shipley, had planned for us to make our own runic stones.

Once when touring in Jylland, Denmark, I had the opportunity to see some of these interesting runic stones up close and personal. They were made by King Gorm whose significance stems from the fact that the Danish royal line proceeds unbroken to the present Danish monarch, Queen Margrethe.

**Submitted by: Carole Ann Sell,
Historian**



Ron Vaughan and our Cultural Leader Monica Shipley did the presentation about Rune stones.

Skogen Lodge #700 Redding, CA

Once again, Skogen Lodge held its annual picnic and fun day at Whiskeytown Lake.

Submitted by: Ann Marie Richardson

Nordic Lodge #708 Atlanta, GA

In July, 2010, a group from Nordic Lodge spent the weekend in the mountains at the Nordin's place in Bryson City, NC, for a Weekend Retreat. Their property is located close to the boundary of the Smoky Mountain National Park.

On Saturday some of the activities that the guests participated in were tubing in Deep Creek, hiking the trails along Deep Creek and a sport called geo catching. This sport uses a GPS locator to find containers hidden in various locations. The coordinates for these hidden boxes may be found on the internet. Then using these coordinates and a GPS, the hidden box may be located. Inside the box there is some kind of prize or further instruc-



Left to right: Margareta Hammarström, Monica Eklund, Jan Eklund, Pam, Sten Ekberg, and Carolyn Bagheri.

tions. Some of the containers were hidden in the park.

Of course there was the usual "antiquing" at the shops in nearby Dillsboro and the Indian reservation in Cherokee.

On Saturday evening there was a great cookout on the lawn and afterwards sing-along with Sten Ekberg leading the singing with his guitar. Altogether 17 guests were there to enjoy the weekend.

Submitted by: Dale Nordin

Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719 Dallas, TX

Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge #719 was busy at the "Marknad"-fest in Vasa Park, Agoura Hills, CA, held on Sunday, Sept. 19. Seaborg Lodge prepared 300+ meatballs for the big *Meatball Contest* at Vasa Park. Although they didn't win, their *Absolut Meatballs* were a huge hit! Seaborg also ran the Beer "Stuga" (Swedish and American beers, soft drinks, lingon punch and water), which was very successful. The day was a perfect 80s fall day, with many Swedes from all over Southern California enjoying a relaxing day.

Submitted by: Phyllis Brandon



Seaborg members working at the booth were Mim Curtis, Elizabeth Busick, and Phyllis Brandon.

Scandia Lodge #728

Prescott, AZ

On June 27, 2010, Scandia Lodge #728 held its Midsummer celebration. There were 25 members in attendance who celebrated the occasion with barbecued brats and hot dogs; these were accompanied by great potluck sides brought by the participants. After enjoying their meal, they danced around the Maypole.

Submitted by: Dennis Malarkey



Busy in the kitchen.

Sierra Kronan Lodge #737 Roseville, CA

In January, there was a joint installation of officers and dinner with Monitor Lodge #218 of Sacramento. Their 24th Anniversary Luncheon was held at Marie Callendar's Restaurant in Citrus Heights on Sunday, February 21st. A short presentation by "Swede" Englund from Skogen Lodge in Redding proved very informative. He showed us an example of a wooden shoe fiddle or "Träskofiol"; an instrument originating in Skåne, Southern Sweden. It was very interesting to learn that this type of fiddle was generally made from well-worn left shoes.

Cultural co-chairs, Blanche Bradley and John Pearson continue to offer excellent programs and have lined up a number of presentations for 2010. In March, after a corned beef and cabbage dinner prepared in observance of St. Patrick's Day, Keith Hanlon from Svea Lodge #348 in San Jose talked about the "The Viking Invasion of Ireland." Points of interest included the time frame of the Viking raids, which lasted from about 795 AD to 1100 AD, the colonizing process, the founding of Dublin in 834, and the fact that the Viking's woolen underwear and oiled goatskin outerwear were superior to modern cold weather gear.

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Sierra Kronan Lodge #737

Continued from page 20

Cultural chairperson, Blanche Bradley, was initiated in 2007 and became very involved in the activities at Sierra Kronan and continues to be a great asset to the Lodge. In April, she presented a talk on Leif Eriksson entitled "Looking Back at History."

In May, Gwen Myers, a new member who joined in November of 2009, presented a genealogical adventure called "Looking for Morfar." Gwen is the co-leader of the Sun City Roseville Genealogy Club and is also Vice President of the Sacramento area Historical and Genealogy Council.

Submitted by: Ann Marie Richardson

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR

Todd Anderson

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

E-mail:
audiovisual.vasaorder@yahoo.com

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

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

Seeking Your Swedish Roots??

E-mail: swedengen@telia.com

Jubileum Lodge #755

Madison, WI

Our 2010 "Midsommar" celebration was held at Arbor Covenant Church on Saturday, June 19th. Summer is really just getting started in the American Midwest on "Midsommar," so we're never really sure what the season holds in store. They day itself wasn't as hot and humid as the last few, but the summer of 2010 has turned out to be warm and wet.

As usual, the dancers started out numerous and energetic and ended few and not so energetic. We were blessed with lots of visitors, especially the extended family of member Gunilla Rubasch, and Kjell-Eric Anderson warmed our hearts with Swedish accordion music throughout the afternoon.



The "smörgåsbord" featured some world-champion Swedish cheese. We in Wisconsin wondered about that, but had to agree it was "not bad." The summer fruit salads practically brought tears to my eyes. Thanks to all who provided us with food and drink.

I suppose that in times of famine, war, epidemic, and personal bereavement the gathering with family and friends, putting up the pole, dancing, singing, and sharing the food, lift the spirits.

We started our 2010-2011 year with a short September program on Sunday the 12th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Our Historian, Robert Merrill, reported from the Lake Michigan District Lodge #8 convention, and repeated the "Vasa 101" presentation from a year ago. It describes the history and organization of the Vasa Order.

We're easing into autumn (we take our summers seriously in Wisconsin) so attendance was low, but we did welcome a visitor and enrolled a new member. He looked us up because his mother back in Connecticut introduced him to her local lodge, he liked it, and sought us out. Thanks, Mom!

Submitted by: Robert T. Merrill



SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Skåne Nr 570

Amerikaaftron. Höstens första möte hölls fredagen den 10 september, vi var 27 medlemmar som samlats denna kväll, ritualenligt möte leddes av VO br. Per Dahlman. Under punkt *Kontakt Amerika* berättade KL br. Olle Olsson om svenskättlingen Leroy Anderson, Leroys farmor och farfar Hanna och Nils utvandrade till Amerika 1882. Leroy Anderson blev känd som kompositör av "poppig konsertmusik" och dirigent. Hans musik spelades av orkestrar världen över. Hans *Blue Tango* sålde över 2 miljoner exemplar och nådde 1:a plats på USA:s *Hit Parade* 1952. Han har även en stjärna på *Hollywood Walk of Fame*.

Efterkapitlet började med kräft och räkfrossa med tillhörande snaps och naturligtvis snapvisor. DD Gunilla med make Sven Broddesson berättade om deras 7-veckors resa i Amerika, de körde inte mindre än 1200 mil, de berättade även om Storlogemötet.

Årets utflykt för medlemmar i vår loge gick i år till norra delen av Skåne. Samlingspunkt var vid Munka Ljungby där en av många Heagårdar är belägna (Heagård betyder gården på heden). Denna Heagård är ett museum sen 36 år tillbaka, man får en känsla av Herrgård när man ser det pampiga bostadshuset i tegel med hög gråstensgrund och stora ekonomibyggnader i korsvirke, den är byggd år 1862. Hela husets inredning står intakt som det var för över 100 år sedan. Den parkliknande, välbevarade 1800-tals trädgården i tysk stil är härlig att promenera i.

I ekonomibyggnaderna finns en fungerande gammal bysmedja, ett polismuseum och ett brandkårsmuseum.

Färden fortsatte därefter till Bjärnum där vi besökte museet som är ett av Sveriges finaste med anor från 1800-talet. Där finns också byggnader från 1600-talet.

På eftermiddagen åt vi god buffé på Restaurang Tre Hammare. Eftersom undertecknad bor i Bjärnum bjöd vi hem deltagarna på kaffe och kakor och som då också avslutade denna utflykt. Jag rekommenderar varmt besök på dessa ställen.

Insänt av: Olle Olsson, KL

Logen Carlskrona Nr 601



Två bröder som underhåller.

Lördagen den 12 juni firade logen Carlskrona Nr 601, 15-års jubileum på Hässlegården hos Kärstin Holmberg-Jönsson. Ett 40-tal logesyskon trotsade väder och vind denna dag. Logen hade besök av Logen Skåne Nr 570 och logen Ronneby Nr 630.

Som vanligt samlades vi kl. 15,00 då Sy. Kärstin hälsade all välkomna. Jordgubbstårtorna smakade utmärkt och alla åt med god aptit.

Lekar och tävlingar med sång och musik avgjordes under tiden som grillen blev varm, kön blev snabbt lång och stämningen var hög under hela kvällen. Efteråt samlades vi på lövad loge där dansen började, innan goda rabarberpajer med vaniljsås och kaffe serverades, lotteri med fina vinster. Innan kvällen var slut bjöds vi på underhållning av två bröder som agerade varvsarbetare som samtalade under sin kafferast.

Ett stort tack till Er alla som gjorde sommarfesten till ännu en fin Vasaträff.

Insänt av: Göran Svensson

Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633

Logen firade som vanligt 4:e juli, i år vid Jädersgården. Vi var kanske inte lika många som vanligt, men hade en mycket trevlig eftermiddag med vasasyskon, gäster och även vasasyskon från USA.

Vi började med att hissa den amerikanska flaggan och sjöng USA:s nationalsång. Här fordras nog lite mer övning, men vi jobbar på detta.

Så blev det en tipspromenad och en femkamp. Alla gav sig in i leken med samma entusiasm.

Sedan var det dags att samlas inomhus

och duka upp den medhavda matsäcken. Snart hördes glatt samspråk runt borden. Som avslutning bjöds vi, också en tradition, på tårta dekorerad som USA:s flagga.

Tack till alla som ordnat denna trevliga utflykt!

Insänt av: Elsa Arvidsson.

Foto: Lars-Åke Sjöberg



4:e juli firande.

Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Vi var 10 stycken från Logen Höganäs som begav oss till USA för att vara med på den 37th Grand Lodge Convention 2-8 July 2010 Washington DC, som gäster.

Vi var alla förväntansfulla och vi fick verkligen vara med om en fin vecka. Vi var och tittade på *House of Sweden* och på *Mt. Vernon* där USA:s förste president, George Washington, bodde. Vi firade även 4 juli i Washington DC med raketer av stora mått.

Sista kvällen i Washington var det bankett. Där pratade vi med många vasavänner och många kontakter togs. Vi fick en ny vänloge, Kronan Lodge Nr 433, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Vår färd gick vidare per bil, och vi begav oss till Johnstown där Höganäs AB har en fabrik som vi besökte. Resan fortsatte och vi åt en middag hos *Amishfolket*, vilket var en upplevelse. Vi körde vidare efter en god nattsömn och hamnade på *Pine Tree Barn*, Wooster Ohio. Ett ställe som odlade granar, men hade en liten shop med servering. Helt underbart ställe! Nästa stopp var Niagara Falls. Det går bara inte och beskriva hur fint det är.

Vi körde runt Fingersjöarna och stannade där för att besöka *Swedish Hills Vineyard*. Där blev det vinprovning och vi kom fram till att det vita vinet var godast.

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Logen Höganäs Nr 634

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Alla vi från Logen Höganäs Nr 634. Högst upp från vänster: Hasse och Berit Bogren, Bengt Jönsson. Nedanför från vänster Ulla Jönsson och Ingrid Berg. Nederst från vänster: Jan Berg, Gunnar och Evy Lindstrand och Leif och Bodil Larsson.

Vi träffade vasavänner i Worcester från Nordic Lodge Nr 611 och kontakten där var med Larry Stidsen. Vi besökte också Tre Kronor Nr 91 i Boston. Vi blev mycket väl omhändertagna på båda ställena.

Färden fortsatte och vi hamnade i Boston. Där åt vi naturligtvis hummer. Nu började vi nära oss New York och där var vi våra sista 4 dagar på vår resa. *Ellis Island* var en av platserna vi besökte, *Rockefeller Center* ett annat. En kväll var vi och såg *Mama Mia*. Där

slutade vår resa och vi var hemma igen den 24 juli.

Vi har haft vårt första logemöte för hösten. Vi var 45 Vasasyskon och 6 gäster som träffades. O Sy Evy Lindstrand hälsade oss allt välkomna, då speciellt vår DD Br Alf Nilsson med fru, Sy Ingrid.

O Sy Evy Lindstrand lämnade en rapport från Storlogemötet i Washington DC.

KL Sy Ingrid Berg läste upp hälsningar från våra vänloger, Three Crowns Lodge Nr 91, Massachusetts och från Tucson Lodge Nr 691, Arizona och rapporterade från besöket i Worcester och Boston.

LH Br Gunnar Lindstrand berättade om tjänstemannakonferensen i Ljungby där han tyckte det var intressant att höra hur andra logehistorier arbetade. Han gav oss även en tillbakablick på gamla logemöten.

Efter högtidlig ljussläckning avslutades mötet och salen dukades om till efterkapitlet. Våra gäster hälsades välkomna av O Sy Evy Lindstrand. Vid kaffet fick vi lyssna till en intressant reseskildring genom Bohuslän i ord och bild av Karlo Pesjak från Hässleholm.

Dansen till "husbandet" satte igång och som avslutning den sedvanliga lotteridragningen.

Insänt av: Ingrid Berg, KL, Logen Höganäs Nr 634



Dr. Beijbom and Vilhelm Moberg (bust).

-/ I was particularly fascinated by Moberg's ability to make the past come alive. ---/ Moberg's postscript in 'The Last Letter to Sweden,' where with a certain exaggeration Moberg concluded that a larger historical work was still lacking on the more than one million Swedish America-immigrants, struck deeply in me and became a challenge. One can say that my interest in history made a kick-turn from the Great Power period to the peasants of the 1800s. Several years later this was to lead me onto an almost boundless research field and the unsettling acquaintance with Vilhelm Moberg. As a historian mocked by him, I was to become, in a way, one of the workers in his garden."

Today, Dr. Beijbom, on both sides of the Atlantic, is an authority in the vast field of Swedish Emigration history. The decisive factor seems to have been his Uncle Albert in America who, unaware, set the final course concerning his future direction across the academic obstacle course at the request of Uppsala history professor Sten Carlsson. It was Uncle Albert who in the summer of 1946, with a shining American eagle on his uniform hat, came home to visit and later, after his nephew had documented his knowledge of the USA in his student essay "The United States" Development into a Great Power," met Ulf in New York when he arrived with 10,000 cards containing information about Swedish immigrants in Chicago that eventually resulted in "Swedes in Chicago" in the Carolina University library dissertation register. Concerning his cousin Carl's understanding of the old world's idyll, synonymous with the city of Sollefteå in the old days, Dr. Beijbom has, nonetheless, kindly tried to avoid shattering the illusion. For Americans of Swedish ancestry, it would appear that it isn't always the current Swedish conditions that are interesting, but rather the old origins that capture our attention.

When, in early summer, Lodge Kristina #656 of Kristinehamn, Värmland

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Alla svenska med sin regalier.

Logen Kristina Nr 656 Kristinehamn

The House of Emigrants (The Swedish Emigration Center) in Växjö, Småland is a widely known Swedish stronghold of emigration research, and, after The Swedish American Center in Karlstad, Värmland, the second oldest institution in Sweden carrying on documentation of emigrant history to promote emigration research, in addition to strengthening the ties between Swedes from Sweden and

their kin in North America.

Since 1988 Dr. Ulf Beijbom has been a professor of Emigration History, and during his 36 years as head of the Swedish Emigrant Institute in Växjö, he has authored some 30 books. His interest was aroused at an early age in fiction authors, and as he now reflects "Vilhelm Moberg offered an epic reading experience that beat what I had found earlier. /--

Logen Kristina Nr 656

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made the members' journey of 2010, in addition to other activities and fellowship enrooted, the final destination was Växjö's House of Emigrants where Dr. Beijbom graciously welcomed the group, made a presentation and led a guided tour through the permanent exhibition ("The Dream about America") on the premises. Guests and members from Lodge Skövde #626 were also invited to take part in this two-day excursion under heavenly blue skies and in fulfillment of the fact that our Order is a Swedish-American Fraternal and Cultural Organization.

**Submitted by: Alf Brorson,
Assistant Cultural Leader**

Logen Tre Hjärtan Nr 665



Sverige Amerika Dagen firas.

Sverige Amerika Dagen den 4 Juli.

Det va 16 medlemmar från logen och 4 gäster, DD Olle Olsson med hustru Sy. Inga-Britt och Sy. Gertrud och. Br. Sven Åke Sjöstrand från logen Skåne Nr 570 som samlades hemma hos paret Sy. Gunnar och Elis Ljungek, som har en gård en bit utanför Halmstad. Vi mottogs med franprydd grind vid ingången till en vacker, med avsikt vildvuxen trädgård, med massor av blommor ur vår vilda fauna. Ordf. Br. Elve Lensvall höll ett kortare tal om vår orden och hälsade oss välkomna, efter detta spelades Sveriges och Amerikas nationalsånger under det att fanorna paraderades. Efter en välkomstdrink bjöds det på buffé med matjesill och potatis, kassler med potatisgratäng samt jordgubbar till dessert, det smakade utmärkt gott att intaga detta i denna härliga trädgård. Eftersom vi var på en gård som Br. Elis och Sy. Gunnar bedriver hästuppfödning på och har flera sorters djur kunde vi studera hästar, kor, ankor, höns, kycklingar m m. Det var en trevlig och avkopplande eftermiddag. Vi tackade Sy. Gunnar och Br. Elis.

Insänt av: Olle Olsson, DD

Logen Härnösand Nr 673

Sommar och sol, ja ett riktigt härligt sommarväder hade vi som vanligt den 4:e juli. Den dag då familjen Wigert enligt tradition återigen inbjudit till Sverige-Amerika-dag på sin farm i Brunne, Stigsjö.

Karl Wigert inleder dagen med att hälsa dryga hundratalet logesyskon och gäster välkomna. Amerikas och Kanadas flaggor hedras och *Du gamla du fria sjungs*.

Från Mälardrottningen kom Rolf och Greta Öhgren på besök. Rolf gav en liten återblick på hur Vasa Logen bildades i Amerika för att hjälpa våra emigrerade landsmän som kommit i trångmål kanske på grund av sjukdom. Många Loger bildades där efterhand och så lite även här i Sverige.

Dagens andakt hölls av prästen Anders Sundqvist. Han berättade bl.a om en icke så kyrklig svensk på besök i Amerika där han hörde en psalm som han tyckte var så vacker att den måste han ta med hem för att få översatt till svenska så den kunde sjungas även i Sverige. Lite snopen blev han nog när han fick höra att det var en svensk psalm nämligen O store Gud. Vi fick sen tillsammans med Anders förträffliga sång och gitarrspel sjunga den vackra psalmen.

Familjen Krantz hade sen stort pådrag med instrument trakterade av far och söner samt med sång av dotter Ellen. Vi förflyttades till andra sidan pölen med hennes härliga sångarglädje och texter på rätt språk. Sen kom Trio Mylta och sjöng och spelade cittra.

En paus i all underhållning för picnic gjordes och där bjöds de uppträdande på en festlig buffelunch av Wigerts.

Eftermiddagen inleddes av Knut Nordkvist som kom med bl.a dikten *Hängbjörken*. Han kan sina många år till trots, recitera nästan hur många dikter som helst på ett alldelvis utmärkt sätt.

Krantzs återkom och kunde nu riva av många fler låtar med en skönsljungande söt dotter Ellen och spelande och doande söner. Ett verklig skönt gäng som såg ut att trivas med både musiken och varandra. Härligt att se och höra.

Sen dök helt plötsligt Elvis Presley upp med några av sina stora hits. Han kallas visst för Kjell Eriksson ibland.

Nu kom Kalle Wigert och inbjöd alla till ett fantastiskt kaffebord med massor av läckra hembakta kakor. Sen tackade ordf. Kalle Bäcklund å allas vägnar, för en fantastiskt trevlig och innehållsrik dag.

Kalle Wigert lovar att välkomna oss

även nästa år. Han har ju inte fyllt mer än 80 ännu.

Insänt av: Barbro Sundgren, KL

Photo: Barbro Sundgren, KL

I strålande vackert väder med +25° inleddes hösten 2010 som vanligt med bouletävling den 14 augusti på Kanaludden.

Ett tjugotal deltagare gjorde sitt bästa för att få kloten så nära linnen som möjligt. Efter första omgången var det dags för medhavd picknick där Kjell sin vana trogen ställde upp med allsång som Bosse Selin spelade till på sitt dragspel.

Sedan följde ytterligare en spelomgång och vilket lag som vann, ja det var ju inte det väsentligaste utan att som vanligt ha en trevlig samvaro med logesyskon.

Vice ordförande Bengt Nyberg tackade värdarna Pia och Kjell Hamrin samt Aina Lindström för att som vanligt ha ställt upp med anordnatet av denna dag.

I tacket instämde alla deltagande för en trevlig eftermiddag där samtliga sken ikapp med solen och sa sig se fram emot nästa möte.

Insänt av: Bo Selin, Vice Kulturledare



Ulla och Sture Weserlund myser i solen.

Logen Kongahälla Nr 702

Den sedvanliga Vikingadagen, i Logen Kongahälla Nr 702, var i år lördagen den 21 augusti.

I ett vackert väder kunde de nära 60-talet deltagarna, många i tidstypisk vikingaklädsel, samlas vid Inlandsgården i Kärna, för att bl.a. utse Årets Viking och Årets Hedersvikingar. Biträdande Vikingahövdingen Br Jan-Eric Berntsson inledder som vanligt kvällens festligheter med en trumpetfanfar varefter Vikingahövdingen Br Sune Börjesson hälsade alla deltagarna hjärtligt välkomna. Så var det då dags för det spänande ögonblicket där Br Sune Börjesson skulle tillkännage namnen på de utsedda vikingarna.

Till Årets Viking utsågs vår Br Karl-Eric Magnusson. Br Karl-Eric har varit

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Logen Kongahälla Nr 702

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medlem i vår Loge sedan 1974 och har under många år innehåft ett flertal tjänstemannauppdrag inom vår Loge, såsom Kaplan, Kulturledare, Vice Ordförande och Materialförvaltare samt varit Logens Distriktsdelegat vid Distriktsmöte. Således ett mycket bra val av Årets Viking.

Även Årets Hedersvikingar, Sy Märtha Albinsson och Sy Marianne Claesson, var mycket välmeriterade för sina utmärkelser. Sy Märtha och Sy Marianne har varit mycket aktiva i Logens Damklubb "Sabina," från starten 1973 fram t.o.m. 2009, då Damklubben förklarade sig vilande tills vidare. Damklubben har under alla åren varit ekonomiskt stödjande för såväl vår Loge Kongahälla Nr 702 som våra två Aktivitetsklubbar Vasakören Nr 10 och Vasa Folkdansare från Kungelf Nr 11. Damklubben har även under åren skänkt stora penninggåvor till olika hjälpsorganisationer samt arrangerat Logens vårfester på Valborgsmässoaftonen.

Denna del av ceremoni avslutades med att Sy Birgitta Haraldsson läste varannan vers och gästerna sjöng varannan vers ur "Vikingabalken."

Efter denna ceremoni var det dags att gå in i Inlandsgården för att inmundiga kvällens måltid som bestod av grillat kött, grönsaker och potatisgratäng samt dessert av glass med kaffe.

För musiken denna dag, till såväl allsången som den efterföljande dansen, svarade vår musiker Kenneth Fagerberg.

Under kvällen blev det naturligtvis även tid för kaffe med god tårtा samt dragning på kvällens lotterier. Åter igen en lyckad Vasafton.

Insänt av: Rolf Claesson



Årets Viking Br Karl-Eric Magnusson (sittande) med Årets Hedersvikingar: Sy Märtha Albinsson (t.v.) och Sy Marianne Claesson (t.h.). Dessutom fr.v. O Br Sune Börjesson, Sy Birgitta Haraldsson samt Vikingavakterna, Br Gerhard Arvidsson och Br Lars-Åke Larsson.

Logen Filbyter Nr 714

Linköping

Vid årets Barkerydsdagar fick logens medlem sy Inga-Lisa Calissendorff och henne framlidne make Gusten samt makarna Evert och Gunnel Jonsson en alldelers särskild uppmärksamhet. Det var The Swedish Club of Houston och Texas Lucia som till Hembygdsföreningen som gäv överlämnade två gjutjärnssoffor. Detta till åminnelse av det enastående arbete som ovannämnda par utfört när det gäller Texas Lucias årliga besök vid Barkerydsdagarna. Årets besök var det tjuugoandra i ordningen. Sofforna som placeras på verandan vid den så kallade "Sethastugan" är försedda med skyltar med paren Calissendorffs och Jonssons namn och skall påminna om hur mycket fint arbete som sker i det tysta.

Insänt av: Arne Samuelsson,
Ordförande

Logen Knallen Nr 745

En vacker majlördag drog vi åstad med vår buss på den vårliga utflykten. Våra resmål var i år något mer avlägsna än vanligt. Vi lämnade sålunda Sjuhäradbygden och satte kurs på Östergötland, närmare bestämt Östergötlands Ullspinneri och Ellen Keys Strand, båda i närheten av Ödeshög. Vi hade emellertid inte vädergudarna med oss på framresan. Regn och dimma skymde den vackra utsikten från motorvägen norr om Jönköping, av många ansett vara en av de vackraste motorvägssträckorna i Sverige.

När vi så småningom på slingrande skogsvägar nådde Storeryd, någon mil öster om Vättern, bröt solen fram och visade sig sedan i stort sett resten av dagen. Här har vi Östergötlands Ullspinneri. Ulla-Karin Hellsten och Börje Norberg bor på den gamla lantgården och driver företaget sedan 1981. Omgivna av betande finullsfärs på fälten och den gamla ladugården, upprustad och tillbyggd för själva produktionen och med bara en anställd. Här kardas, spinns och vävs maskinellt men i stor utsträckning med maskiner, som övertagits från nedlagda fabriker, inte minst i Sjuhäradbygden. Här finns t ex "Spinning Jenny," en gammal spinnmaskin, äldst i Sverige i produktion men enligt Börje överlägsen alla moderna maskiner. Garnet blir fylligare, jämnare och starkare, men det tar tid att framställa. Här finns också tre gamla jacquardvästolar i full drift. Det produceras stickgarn, strumpor, tröjor och filter. Speciell design och kvalitet har fyra



Här avnjutesdet medhavda kaffet med ladugården i bakgrunden inrymmande spinneri, väveri, utställnings- och butikslokaler.

gånger givit företaget utmärkelsen "Utmärkt Svensk Form." Representation på Världsutställningen i Sevilla och leveranser till Harrods i London är exempel på den internationella etableringen.

Ullfilter i modern formgivning, beredda enligt gamla hantverksmetoder har blivit företagets signatur. Med filter gjorde man entré på den japanska marknaden på utställningen Swedish Good Design i Tokyo 1997. I ladugården finns förutom tillverkning också utställningslokal och butik. En fantastisk liten nisch i svensk exportindustri.

Innan vi lämnade Storeryd avnjöt vi vårt medhavda kaffe på gårdsplanen. Vårt nästa mål var Ellen Keys Strand vid Ombergs sluttning mot Vättern. Ellen Key (1849-1926) känner vi som samhällsdebattör i främst kvinnosaks-, barn-, skol- och familjefrågor. Hon gav ut flera böcker och betraktas som en av våra mest inflytelserika författare inom dessa områden, även utanför landets gränser. Någon skönlitterär produktion ägnade hon sig inte åt. Efter ett intensivt och kringflackande liv sökte hon välbehövlig ro i sitt vackra Strand, som byggdes 1910. Här tillbringade hon sin tid fram till sin död 1926. Strand finns i stort sett oförändrat som museum men också upplåtet för författare och kulturella sammankomster.

Vi fick en intressant guidning genom det vackra hemmet, präglat av bl a ljusa enfärgade tapeter och mjuka, avrundade linjer.

Efter en rundtur på vackra, mäktiga Omberg och en väldsmakande lunch gick färdan hemåt, dock med ett kort uppehåll i Gränna för, naturligtvis, besök i polkagräs-bageri och -butik. En kaffepaus strax norr om Jönköping vid Vätterns strand, och vi var snart hemma i Borås på planerad tid efter en synnerligen intressant och upplevelserik dag. Stort beröm och tack till arrangörerna Leine och Rune Johansson med hjälp av Lilian Ewe Ericson.

Insänt av: Ingvar Carlén

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

GRAND LODGE JURISDICTION

Carl Widen #743

David Vassberg

DL CONNECTICUT NO. 1

Karl XII #103

Linda Anderson

Maureen Kenney

Henry Paski

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

Viking #756

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Kristina Athey

Donna Jackson-Kohlin

Sigurd Kohlin

DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3

Svea #362

Emily Conlogue

Thomas Conlogue

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Susan Tavares

Jane E. Tetrault

DL NEW YORK NO. 4

Thule #127

Timothy Cudney

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Leslie Larson

Gordon Lund

Ruth McKinley

Kathleen Peterson

David Phelps

Amy Sanderson

Olympic #235

Linnea Abrahamsen

Nancy Dahlstrom-McCann

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Arlington #62

Kelly Fay Andrews

Kathleen Ann Eger

Eric James Groething

Willamina Maj Groething

Catherine Hind

James H. Johnson

Judy D. Johnson

Gary M. Moore

David Mullen

Marylacie Mullen

Roberta Olson

Michael A. Trapani

Frithiof #63

Ronald Brooks

Michael Charey

Christine Davies

Gary Davies

Denise DiDomenico

Dagmar Heien

Jimmy Heien

Charly Pedersen

Diana Van Yahres

George Van Yahres

Grethe Zarnitz

Joseph Zarnitz

Lyckan #507

Robert Olson

Viking #735

Annelise Kuld Smith

Anna Elizabeth Sunnergren

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Linne #153

Sinikka Lisbe Roinila

Kronan #179

Marjorie Johnson

Viljan #349

Jason Lekander

Hagar #721

Edwin C. Backman

Karen W. Rudnick

Jubelium #755

Mikie Kuhman

Walton Orvyl Schalick, III

DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

Nobel-Monitor #130

Dorothy Johnson Broz

Philip Johnson

Oscars Borg #172

Susan Sjostrom

Svea #296

Linda Lee Graffius

DL SUPERIOR NO. 10

Superior #423

Shirley Bergman

Lois Bressette

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Framåt #405

Mimi Holtermann-Docto

Sveaborg #449

Judith Onopchenko

Norden #684

Inger Jernberg

Jacquelyn O'Keefe

Karen O'Keefe

Valhalla Scandinavians #746

Mardelle Ann Probasco

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Frihet #401

Jon R. Helgren

Karla M. Hemingway

Harmoni #472

Gunilla Orr

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Viking #256

Jan Stenstrom

Golden Valley #616

Dorothy Burns

Brad Fagerstrom

Mary Elizabeth Fagerstrom

Inga Francis

Amanda Marie Holstein

Amanda Polutanovich

Gunilla Polutanovich

Larry Polutanovich

Dagny Svensson

Laurie Taylor

Rebecka Michelle Thorsen

Delphine Trowbridge

Lindsey Wendt

Northern Light #620

Judith Blumberg

Joanne Stolpe

Please remember the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund and the Vasa National Archives when making a memorial donation. Vasa Scholarship Fund, Joan Graham GS, 5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804 ~ Vasa Archives, Jake Gruel, Financial Secretary, 13716 W. Lilac Lane, New Berlin, WI 53151.

YOUTH NEWS

Kids Jeopardy

Kristina Club #161 and RI District #3 are proud to announce that one of our children is a nationwide celebrity!

On Thursday, July 8, if you were watching TV you probably saw our own Jessica Anderson on Kids' Jeopardy. Jessica went online a few months ago, took tests, etc., and was flown out to California to meet with Alex Trebek. She and the other 10-to-12 year old contestants answered questions in various categories that I'm sure would stump most of us. Although not the big winner, Jessica did a great job and apparently had a super time meeting Alex, the other kids and doing a lot of sightseeing. When questioned before the program, Jessica's answer to the question "What are you doing this summer?" was, "I have set a goal to read 20 books a week" (that's right, I said WEEK)! And knowing Jessica, I'm sure she reached her goal.

**Submitted by: Lily B. Zarli
DCL - District #3**



Jessica Anderson with Alex Trebek.

Kristina Club #161

Apparently the witches had their GPS(s) working on Walpurgis Eve when they passed over Little Rhody Park on the way to Blåkulla because they decided to drop in and have a snack with the kids from Kristina Club #161! They didn't stay very long though and they were chased out in good fashion before the evening was over. Witches weren't the only visitors we had – the kids had been learning the words to "Ja ma han leva" and were able to welcome an unexpected visitor – none other than King Carl XVI Gustaf! Since the King was celebrating his birthday on April 30 we all joined in with the birthday song. He (Ray Johnson)

passed out gifts to the Kristina Kids and was gracious enough to allow his picture to be taken with them. Long live the King!

**Submitted by: Lily B. Zarli
DCL - District #3**



Back Row: Michael Gomez, Erik Halvarson, Meghan Anderson, Marissa Anderson. Front Row: Hope Halvarson, King Ray Johnson, and Emily Gomez.

Trollebo Swedish Family Summer Camp

On July 29, 2010, camps participating in the 8th annual Trollebo Swedish Family Summer Camp arrived at Silver Lake Campground.

There was a smaller group this year, but everyone took advantage of the many activities we offered. There were language/cultural events, Kubb, crafts (knitting, wreath making, tie-dyeing). In addition many took advantage of the outstanding fishing and hiking opportunities offered in this beautiful setting the High Sierras.

Although the temperature Gods were somewhat unfavorable, most of the group participated in an enjoyable star-gazing experience to watch the arrival of the full moon and planet Jupiter.

Director Edy Anderson extends a very big "welcome" to all Vasa members and friends to join next year's camp, July 28-31, 2011. She emphasized that although many school districts are already in session during this time, cabin sites will be available. She cautions, however, that the reservation deadline must be adhered to. This is a wonderful time for anyone wanting to experience the beauty of the Sierra Nevada Range and just get away

for a few days, to make the trip to this 7,000 foot camping area.

Several people are to be thanked for all their efforts: Myrtle Widmark, Gail Nemy and Betty Newstrom; the latter of whom is responsible for getting so many of her family together for this entertaining weekend. And, if you want to participate in "Swedish Train," Scott Matthews is your man.

This year was cooler than usual due to the late melting of the heavy snow pack. When the camp opened in early July there was a lot of snow still on the ground which brought out the much protected and very vivid red Snow Flower.

Edy thanks all of you for your support and hopes to see all of you again next year. Tack så mycket!

Submitted by: Edy Anderson



Camp participants.

KIDS CORNER

Kids Corner Contest Winner

Nancy Thenstedt,
Assistant Secretary,
Viking Lodge #735,
was the winner of the
Kids Corner Contest
for submitting her
grandson Shaun Berry,
Sjölunden Scholarship
Essay.



She was awarded a gift certificate from the POSTCAKE COMPANY INC.

CULTURE

Christmas in Sweden

Here, the Christmas celebrations begin with the first of Advent. The Swedish Christmas jubilations are similar to the Norwegian Christmas festivities in that it starts with "Luciadagen," the Saint Lucia ceremony. As in Norway, on the morning of 13th December, the boys dress up as star boys in long white shirts and pointed hats and carry star wands. The youngest daughter from each Swedish family puts on a white robe with a red sash and wears a crown of evergreens on the head with long, illuminated candles attached to it. With other children, she wakes her parents and serves them with coffee and Lucia buns.

In Sweden, the windows of almost every shop are seen to be lit up with electric candles and glowing stars by mid-December. In Swedish homes, Christmas trees are usually brought in one or two days before Christmas. Everyone in the family actively participate in decorating the tree with candles, apples, Swedish flags, straw ornaments and even small figures representing gnomes wearing red tasseled caps. The indoors of houses are adorned with flowers such as red tulips.

The festival, however, is observed most grandly on December 24, or Christmas Eve. As in other nations, Christmas here is a holiday celebrated in the company of friends and family members. Delicious dishes serve to make the occasion more enjoyable. "Risgrynsgröt," rice porridge specially prepared during Christmas here, and is enjoyed by many people. Hidden in it is an almond; the person who finds it in his or her bowl is believed to marry in the coming year. The custom is similar to the tradition of having "lillejulaften" in Norway. The Christmas Eve dinner may be a "smörgåsbord" (julbord), or buffet with a display of several Christmas food items. The "julbord" traditionally consists of such delicacies as small meatballs, pickled herring, spareribs, small hot dogs, lut-fisk, pork sausage, salmon, "Janssons frestelse" (potatocasserole with anchovy), and rice pudding. Drinks usually served with these dishes are "julmust," Christmas beer or snaps. A Scandinavian specialty is the "glögg" (mulled and spiced wine with almonds and raisins), which is served hot in small cups. It is to be remembered however, that the dishes

and drinks vary from region to region throughout Sweden.

After Christmas Eve dinner, a family member or a friend dresses up as "tomte" or Christmas gnome sticking a white beard, wearing red robes and giving away from his sack gifts, many of which have a funny rhyme attached on them that hints at their contents.

Christmas Day in Sweden is a quite day, compared to Christmas Eve. Some people attend the "Julottan," a church service held on the early morning of December 25. Churches are lit up entirely by candles for this service. Many people indulge in an extended Christmas Eve celebration on this day, going to restaurants and amusement parks with their friends or loved ones.

On January 13, known here as "Knutdagen," the Christmas celebrations come to an end and all Christmas decorations are removed.

The Christmas Stocking

A Christmas stocking refers to an empty sock or sock-shaped bag that children hang on Christmas Eve in the belief that it is to be filled with presents by Santa Claus. The gifts are generally of a small nature, consisting of small toys, goodies like candies and fruits, coins or other such items that are often referred to as stocking stuffers or stocking fillers. The bigger gifts are wrapped in paper and placed near the Christmas tree.

The tradition of Christmas stockings is said to have originated from the actions of a kind noble man named Nicholas, who was born in 280 AD, in Patara, a city of Lycia, in Asia Minor. While still young, his wealthy parents died in an epidemic. A true follower of Jesus Christ's principles, Nicholas became a Christian priest and used all his riches to help the poor, the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life in the service of God and was made Bishop of Myra at a young age. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his kindness and generosity. A true celibate, Nicholas never married and had no children of his own. But he loved children greatly and often gave gifts to the kids of his hometown. This is why, he became known as the gift giver of Myra. A rich man, he traveled across the country helping people, giving gifts of money and

other presents. However, Nicholas always gave his gifts late at night, so that his identity would remain a secret. He did not like to be seen when he gave away presents, so the children of the day were told to go to sleep quickly or he would not come! Nicholas was eventually named the patron saint of children and sailors (because of his concern for sailors and ships) and came to be known as Saint Nicholas.

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of Saint Nicholas' life and deeds. One popular account tells us of a poor peasant who lived happily in a small cottage in Patara, Saint Nicholas' hometown, with his wife and three daughters. But their happiness was short-lived when the wife suddenly died of an illness one day, leaving the poor man and his three daughters in despair. All the burden of household chores now fell upon the daughters while their father trudged on with his life with a heavy heart.

When the daughters reached a marriageable age, the poor father became even more depressed for he knew he could in no way marry them off to good men. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value - a dowry. Without a dowry, this poor man's daughters were unlikely to marry. The helpless father looked around desperately for some solution while her daughters did their own cooking, sewing and cleaning.

Meanwhile, Saint Nicholas had come to know of the poor peasant and his daughters. Knowing the financial condition of the father, the kindly saint decided to help him. But he wanted to do this secretly. So he went to the peasant's house one night with a bag of gold and waited for the family to go to bed before he could throw the bag through the open cottage window.

That night, after finishing their washing for the day, the daughters had hung their stockings by the fireplace to dry. Little did they know that their benefactor was hiding nearby, waiting for them to go to sleep. A little later, as they turned off the lamps and fell asleep, St. Nicholas tiptoed to the cottage window and peeked inside. In the light of the moon, he saw the daughters' stockings hanging close to his reach. He carefully put in his bag of

Continued on page 29

The Christmas Stocking

Continued from page 28

gold in one of the stockings and went away as stealthily as he came.

When the father found the bag the next morning and opened it, he was ecstatic. There was enough gold in the stocking to pay for the dowry of one daughter. It seemed like a godsend to him. Who could have sent it, he wondered. With this timely gift the father was able to provide for his eldest daughter and saw that she got married to a nice groom.

On another night Saint Nicholas set off with one more bag of gold, and threw it carefully into another stocking, so that the second daughter was provided for.

When his daughters excitedly brought the bag to their father the following morning and opened it, he could not believe his eyes. With this gift the father was able to marry off his second daughter too.

But by this time, the father had grown eager to discover his mysterious benefactor, and next night he kept on the lookout. Then, for the third time Saint Nicholas came with a bag of gold upon his back and walked on to the window. The old lord at once recognized his fellow townsman. He fell on his knees before the kindly Bishop, cried out in joy and gratitude and thanked him with all his heart. With his blessings of Saint Nicholas, the poor father was able to see his three daughters get married. He lived a long and happy life thereafter.

And this is how the tradition of Christmas stockings is said to have started in the European countries. It is also believed that Santa Claus is actually an alteration of this same Saint Nicholas, Santa standing for Saint and Claus for Nicholas.

Since then children have been hanging Christmas stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly waiting for gifts from Santa Claus. Originally, children simply used one of their everyday socks, but with time special Christmas stockings were created for this purpose. Today, Christmas stockings of a wide variety of styles and sizes can be found in gift stores across countries. There are also special Christmas stockings available in the market.

In modern culture, Christmas stockings are also a popular homemade craft. Some families design unique stockings for each family member. Many families create their own Christmas stockings

stitching the name of each family member to the stocking so that Santa knows which stocking belongs to which family member.

In some countries, the contents of the Christmas stocking are the only gifts that a child receives at Christmas from Santa Claus. Western Christmas tradition dictates that a child who behaves badly during the year will not get a gift in their Christmas stocking and will receive a piece of coal instead.

In many places, the Christmas stocking is to be stuffed by a gift that will stimulate the five sensory organs. Traditional celebrations of Christmas demand that the stocking be hung on the fireplace mantel. However, since many contemporary homes do not have fireplaces, stockings are hung in almost any location.

Today, children all over the world continue the tradition of hanging Christmas stockings. Kids of all nations look forward to Christmas and when the stockings are hung, they know the most anticipated time of the year is not far behind.

Lucia of Syracuse



According to legend, Lucia came from a noble and very rich family of Syracuse and she lived with her mother in Italy. While there, Lucia revealed to her mother that she had secretly vowed to remain a virgin. She asked her mother for permission to distribute to the poor anything that was due to her from her father's estate, which her mother granted. Lucia gave to the poor daily everything she possessed.

Her mother had promised Lucia to a young man and so when he learned that

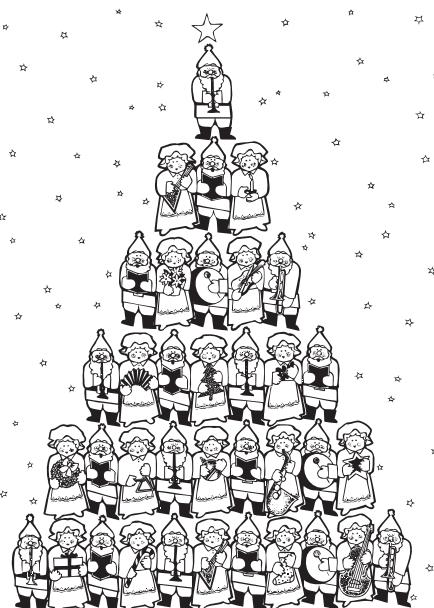
his fiancé vowed to remain a virgin and distributed her fortune to the poor, he went into a fit of rage.

He then denounced her to the consul of Pascasius as being an enemy of the deities of the Roman Empire. Persecution was very popular at the time and the judge happily received this motion. Lucia was then ordered to renounce her catholic faith. When she refused, the consul was so enraged by her courage that he decided to torture her. He wanted to bring her to a place of ill repute so that she would be raped by debauched people and in this way she would lose her virginity. But nobody was able to move her, even with a thousand men and a thousand cattle.

Furious, the counsel then poured on her peas, resin and boiling oil and then he sentenced her to be burnt at the stakes. When the flames were lit, the fire had no effect on her and she continued to sing from within fire.

The consul then thrust his dagger thrust into her throat but she did not die and it is only after a priest administered Holy Communion that she expired.

In reply to him denounced her, according to sources, Lucia that she extracted her eyes herself sending them in a box to her fiancé. That is the reason she is frequently invoked to cure ocular sicknesses and is represented in paintings carrying her eyes on a plate or in a cup. Others invoke her against sore throats or haemorrhages.



HAPPENINGS

Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2010 Mr John E. Norton besöker Enköping



I Dr Westerlunds trädgård gratulerade ordförande Karl-Erik Axelsson samt sekr. Erlisabeth Agge, årets Svensk-Amerikan Mr John E. Norton som besökte staden Enköping.

Tisdagen den 3 augusti 2010 anordnades en lunch för Årets Svensk-Amerikan 2010, Mr John E. Norton. Som arrangörer för denna dag var Enköpings Kommun, Logen Enköping Nr 646, Vasa Orden av Amerika och Bishop Hill Sällskapet.

Under trevlig samvaro intogs lunch i Dr Westerlunds bostad som dessutom är Enköpings Kommuns representationshus. Under lunchen gratulerade kommunfullmäktiges ordförande Jessika Vilhelmsson, Mr John E. Norton till sin utmärkelse. Hon berättade också lite om staden Enköping och att det är en av de snabbast växande kommuner i landet. Ordförande för Bishop Hill Sällskapet, Tommy Andersson samt ordförande för logen Enköping Nr 646, Karl-Erik Axelsson, framförde också sina gratulationer till Mr. Norton. Logen Enköping Nr 646:s ordförande berättade under sitt tal, att Mr Nortons är medlem i Bishop Hill logen av Vasa Orden av Amerika i USA, och som är vänloge sedan många år med logen Enköping Nr 646. Han berättade vidare att den första utmärkelsen till Årets Svensk-Amerikan var 1960 och det var samma år som Logen Enköping Nr 646 bildades för 50 år sedan. Som avslutning överlämnades gratulationstelegram, logen Enköping Nr 646:s standar samt boken om Vasa Orden av Amerika i Sverige, "Kontakt Amerika."

Mr. Norton tackade varmt för gratula-

tionerna och berättade att Enköping ansågs av honom som hans första hemstad i Sverige. Han kom till Enköping 1958 då han skulle börja studera på Biskops Arnö, men då var det ännu inte färdigbyggt, så chefen för Domus i Enköping vid namn Erik Bäckström med sin familj, tog hand om honom tills han kunde börja studera på Biskops Arnö. Han berättade att det var på Biskops Arnö han blev intresserad av svensk- samt Skandinavisk historia.

Efter lunchen kunde vi åka utflyktståg med kunnig guide runt Enköping. Dagen avslutades sedan med en kopp kaffe hos Dr Westerlund.

Insänt av: Elisabeth Agge, PS Logen Enköping Nr 646

Sverige-Amerikadagen i Önnestad

Traditionenligt startade dagen med gudtjänst i kyrkan, en mycket fin ceremoni där fyra tjejer spelade fyra hymner på harpa. Folkdrätskladda logesyskon bildade fanborg i kyrkan. Åhus Blåsorkester ledde marschen med fanborgen till Hembygdsparken där välkomsttal hölls av v. ordföranden Karin Holmqvist. Därefter följde nationalhymnerna och flagghissning.

Efter lunchuppehället hölls invigningstalet av CPT Jan E. Nilsson från Amerikanska Ambassaden i Stockholm. Årets mottagare av Hans Mattson plaketten f. generalkonsul i New York, Olle Wästberg, var förhindrad att närvara denna högtidsdag. Plaketten kommer att överlämnas personligen av en representant från Amerikanska Ambassaden. Högtidstalare var vår f.d. plakettmottagare, flygkaptenen och reseledaren Carl Werner Pettersson från Brinkelid, Åseda i Småland. Han kan på ett entusiastiskt sätt berätta om hur man kan finna släktingar i Amerika. Själv fick han år 1973, 200 nya släktingar däröver. Han värnar om kontakterna med släktingarna och uppmanar alla att göra detsamma. Han menade vidare att ett brev betyder så mycket, som då hans släkt, som förde dagbok varje dag, lite kortfattat skrev "körde gödsel och skrev brev till Sverige." Det var två viktiga händelser den dagen.

Av tidigare plakettmottagare hedrade bildkonstnärinnan Lisa Fajersson, Åhus och Tommy Swanson, Swanson's Travel i Osby, oss med ett besök. Hälsningar

från tidigare plakettmottagare om en fin dag hade anlött från Anne-Charlotte Harvey, Lilly Zetterdahl och Erik Gustavson. Även framfördes hälsning från DM Cathrine Bringselius Nilsson, Växjö.

Under eftermiddagen bjöds på countrymusik av Bengt Lindekvist från Asarum. Ett antal hantverkare fanns på plats och bjöd ut sina alster till försäljning. Logen Christian Nr 617, Önnestads Hembygdsförening och Släktforskarföreningen presenterade under dagen sina verksamheter. Återigen fick vi uppleva en fantastisk fin dag vid den vackra minnesstenen i Hembygdsparken i Önnestad över bygdens store son, Hans Mattson. År 2011 högtidlighålls denna dag den 21 augusti.

Submitted by: Karina Holmqvist, Logen Christian Nr 617 i Kristianstad

Several NY Vasa Lodges Participated in the 70th Annual Sweden Day in the Bronx

Vasa members from; Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1, Nobel Liljan #64, Göta Lejon #84, Freja #100, Olympic #235, Svea #340, Lindbergh #505 and Stenland #727 were all present to help celebrate Swedish Midsummer at the *Manheim Club* in the Bronx, the "Scandinavian Secret on the Sound." The gates opened at 11am on June 12 for the 70th annual *Sweden Day* and the tastefully decorated maypole looked fantastic with the American and Swedish flags, Swedish wimples, blue skies and the Long Island Sound in the background. *Smörgåsbandet*, consisting of Jeanne Eriksson Andersen, Wayne Soderlund and Chad Widman, supplied lively music for the day's activities. There were delicious Swedish and American entrees, ample beverages, Suzie's Coffee Breads, Barnklubben Elsa Rix's Swedish gift table and a wide variety of raffles available all day.

Susan and Ken Olson, members of Lindbergh Lodge #505 were honored as Couple of the Year for their years of dedication to the Swedish/American community. There was a private reception, actually a friendly, good natured "roast" of Suzy and Ken. Suzy and Ken then led the parade of flags and costumed folk

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Sweden Day in the Bronx

Continued from page 30



Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 folk dancing (Jade Emerson left and Mary Russo right). Jade is the daughter of Carl Emerson of Lindbergh Lodge #505 and granddaughter of Miriam and Ed Emerson of Lindbergh Lodge and Mary is a member of Olympic Lodge #235 (her mother Rebecka is also a member).

dancers around the property to open the main program. The recipients of the T. Edward & Avalene P. Karlsson Scholarships were then announced. Vasa members David Brown, Kathryn Brown, Brian McGrath and Deirdre McGrath (members of Olympic Lodge #235) and Ashley Smith (a member of Nobel Liljan #64) were among the winners this year along with a non-Vasa member, Taleen Josefsson.

The guests were treated to folk dancing performances by VOA Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 accompanied by Smörgåsbandet and VOA Vasastjärnan Junior Club accompanied by Eric Johanson. It is a joy to watch the younger children and the teens carry out the folk dancing of our ancestors. Everyone was invited to join in the ring dancing around the maypole with Jeanne Andersen leading the calls. At the end of the main program, a Vasa Memorial Service, led by Robin Abrahamsen (Olympic Lodge #235) was turned into a Memorial Moment for all guests to participate in. Rose petals were thrown into the Sound as prayers were offered for our dearly departed.

After the Children's games, races and some lively dancing around the dance floor, Brother Carl Geffken, District Master of NY District #4 presented their scholarship winners for 2010: Kathryn Brown and Deirdre McGrath, both from Olympic Lodge #235 and Ashley Smith from Nobel Liljan #64 were the proud recipients this year.

The Miss Sweden Day contestants

were six lovely and very articulate young women. The judges did not have an easy time choosing the winner from this highly deserving group. During the judge's deliberations, the guests were treated to a folk dancing performance by the *Swedish Folk Dancers of NY*. The results were then announced and the winners were presented with their prizes and beautiful bouquets of flowers. Kathryn Brown (Olympic Lodge #235) was crowned Miss Sweden Day 2010 and Katie Hansen (Nobel Liljan #64) was named First Runner-Up. The dance floor opened once again before everyone was wished goodnight until next year.

Go to Swedenday.com to see more and keep visiting for an announcement about Sweden Day 2011. For information about our talented photographers, Chrissy and Christian, go to Onsightphotos.com.

**Submitted by: Elaine McGrath
Picture by: Christian and Chrissy of
Onsight**

Swedish Vasa Members Visit Vasa Friends in USA

At the end of August and the beginning of September Vasa members in lodge Enköping #646, Karl-Erik Axelsson, Elisabeth Agge and Anne-Sofie Hjort together with Vasa friend Hillivi Sjöberg, Lodge Eskilstuna #633 and Lars-Åke Sjöberg, Lodge Mälardrottningen #563 went to Lodge Linde #492 in Milwaukee. Also from Sweden was Anne-Sofie Hjorts husband Håkan. During his stay in Milwaukee he joined Linde lodge as a new member.

The trip to Milwaukee started with a Crawfish party with Linde lodge at Lisa and Rolf Ekstrands home. We had a lovely time, meeting many friends and also got to know some new ones.

During the stay at Jake and Marge Gruels home we also got invited to Bishop Hill for a celebration of Mr. John E. Norton, the Swedish-American of the year 2010. We had the opportunity to meet Lars Jenner at the Vasa Archive where we saw the improvements that has been done. The house was nicely painted, and upstairs they have made a kitchen and a guest room. Outside are three flag poles that look very nice.

After the visit to the Archive we went to lunch in Bishop Hill to celebrate Mr. John E. Norton. He was very pleased to meet people from Enköping where he visited during his stay in Sweden during the Swedish-American of the year 2010

celebrations. Enköping is very special to him since it was one of the first places he visited during his very first stay in Sweden when he went to school at Biskops Arnö.

Before returning to Sweden we had the opportunity to visit Birgit and Jim Moxon, members of Linde lodge. Birgit was one of the leaders when Karl-Erik and Elisabeth went on a Vasa bus tour during 1996 when a bus of Swedes from different local lodges went around the central part of America to visit local lodges and historic places. It was a pleasure to meet again, and Birgit and Jim visited Karl-Erik and Elisabeth last year when they were over to Sweden.

The best thing with The Vasa Order of America is the chance you have to get friends across the continents and share the same interest in the Order and to keep the history of the immigration from Sweden alive.

A heartfelt Thank You goes out to Linde lodges members and especially to Jake and Marge Gruel from all of us: Elisabeth Agge, Karl-Erik Axelsson, Anne-Sofie Hjort, Håkan Hjort, Lars-Åke Sjöberg, and Hillivi Sjöberg.

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



Håkan Hjort LL #492, Karl-Erik Axelsson LL #646, Lars Jenner at the Archive, Jake Gruel archive board and Lars-Åke Sjöberg LL #563 at the Archive in Bishop Hill.

Lodge Stenland #727 Lucia and Jul Fest

**on
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 11, 2010
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
112 N. Main Street
Pearl River N.Y. 10965**

**Donation \$7.00 under 16 free
Come for glögg, coffee, cakes,
cookies and a raffle**

IN MEMORY OF

Edith Anderson Hedberg



Edith Hedberg passed away at home on Friday, September 24, 2010, at the age of 107. She was born in Lindome, Sweden, on April 29, 1903, and immigrated to the United States with her brother John in 1924.

Settling in Chicago, she met and married her devoted husband of 42 years, Sven Axel Anderson, who passed away in 1973. In 1974, Edith married John Hedberg. Their happy marriage of eight years ended in 1982 with John's passing. Edith was also preceded in death by her beloved son, Arnold Anderson. Edith's first residence in Phoenix, AZ, was as a winter home with Axel, and then following her marriage to John Hedberg, Phoenix became her permanent residence. She also maintained a summer residence in Pinewood, Munds Park, AZ. Edith was a multi-dimensional woman blessed with many talents and interests. She loved entertaining and received accolades for her cooking and baking. She excelled in sewing, both in design and execution, her creations, from hats to evening gowns, were award winners. Gardening was another avocation she loved. Her geraniums grew into trees, and she landscaped her home with an abundance of cultivated and wild flowers. Many still enjoy the offspring of her gardens. In her lifetime, she engaged in many forms of athletic activities – volleyball, swimming, jogging and hiking. She especially enjoyed hiking the trails of Squaw Peak and the forests around Pinewood. Travel with family or friends was another favorite activity. Edith made 19 trips back to her homeland of Sweden. She toured all of the United States, most countries of Europe as well as many destinations in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. She celebrated her 95th birthday with a safari to Kenya and her 100th birthday with her final visit to Sweden. Late in life she began a study of painting, and her efforts won many ribbons at the Coconino County Fairs. She loved to win, whether it was at a juried show, at a casino, or in a friendly game of bingo or rummy. Edith thoroughly enjoyed, prac-

ticed, and loved to share the many traditions of her Swedish heritage, and was a member of a number of Swedish-American clubs. Her church was also of great importance in her life. She was a current and long-time member of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Phoenix, and a former member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lincolnwood, IL, and Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Chicago. Edith is survived by her daughter Ardith Anderson (David) Williams, and her daughter-in-law Deborah Brome Anderson, six treasured grandchildren: Lauren Williams (Paul) Ghaffari, David Andrew (Catherine) Williams, Julie Williams (George) Darcy, Cynthia Elizabeth Anderson, David (Theresa) Anderson, and Peter (Deanna) Anderson. She enthusiastically celebrated the arrival and loved the visits of each of her great-grandchildren: Christopher, Alex, and Lisa Ghaffari, Matthew Williams, Grant, Madeleine, Olivia and Matthew Anderson. In addition she remained close to many nieces and nephews in Sweden, and held many other family members and friends dear to her heart. Edith was a special lady who touched many lives and will be greatly missed by her family, friends and caregivers.

**Submitted by: Stig Magnus,
Phoenix, AZ**

Samuel Linden



Samuel Linden, 72, of Stone Mountain GA, passed away on Friday, August 20, 2010. An industrious entrepreneur and respected civic leader, Mr. Linden spent more than three decades

building and managing successful construction and engineering businesses and worked tirelessly to strengthen Atlanta's Scandinavian community.

A native of Sweden, Mr. Linden grew up in Hallstahammar, and served in the Swedish Army before graduating with a degree in civil engineering from the Stockholm Institute of Technology. In 1962, Mr. Linden married Barbro Elizabeth Lingstrom, a native of Filipstad, Sweden. He immigrated to the

United States in 1966, where he continued his education at U.C.L.A., earning certification as a structural engineer.

Mr. Linden, his wife and two sons, Charles and Jeffery, moved to Atlanta in 1974. This relocation provided the opportunity for Mr. Linden to develop his business acumen and create his own companies that provided structural cable, construction and engineering services.

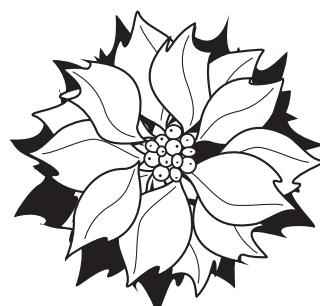
Admired for his integrity, intellect and leadership ability, Mr. Linden played an active role in expanding the social, educational and business functions of the Scandinavian community. He confounded the Vasa Order of America's Nordic Lodge #708 in 1974 and helped start the Scandinavian Festival in 1994. The Lindens frequently entertained and hosted visiting Swedish dignitaries, including the King and Queen of Sweden. He served as the Swedish Envoy during the 1996 Olympics, held in Atlanta, where he received a medallion from the King of Sweden.

In addition to activities with various civic, cultural and professional organizations, Mr. Linden's interests included membership in the Vasa Drängar men's choir and the competitive challenge of tennis, hockey and soccer. As coach for his sons' YMCA soccer teams, Mr. Linden enjoyed the rewarding experience of teaching youngsters to develop their athletic ability.

Those who knew Mr. Linden were struck by his affable personality, wisdom, and boundless energy. The Lindens' legendary hospitality and genuine interest in their community forged strong bonds in business, social, cultural and civic arenas and also helped introduce newly arriving Scandinavians to the United States and the metro Atlanta area.

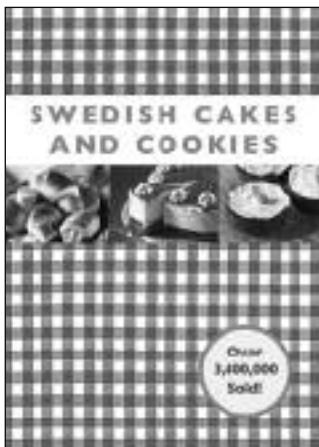
Mr. Linden is survived by his wife Barbro and his son Charles.

**Submitted by: Janet Rygert,
Nordic Lodge #708**



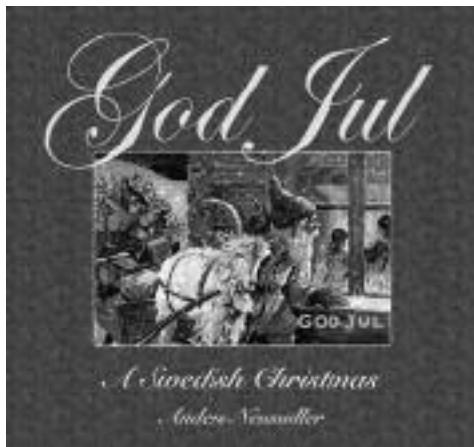
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In Memoriam

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

CALIFORNIA

PEGGY HIGGINS died on June 2, 2010. She was born on October 21, 1923, in London, England, and was initiated into Gold Nugget Lodge #662, Paradise, CA, on January 13, 2004. She was a dedicated and loyal member. She was predeceased by her husband Edgar, and her son Barry, and is survived by a nephew and his family in England.

CONNECTICUT

EDITH E. GRAHN died on May 31, 2010. Edith was born in Waterbury, CT, on April 5, 1911. She was the daughter of Gustaf and Hulda (Gustafson) Grahn. Edith was a proud member of the Order of Vasa and also a member of the Mill Plain Chapter of AARP, Winona Rebekah Lodge #8, and a lifelong member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Waterbury, CT. There are no survivors.

ILLINOIS

RUDOLPH "RUDY" G. LARSON died on June 14, 2010, in Aurora, IL. He was born on June 27, 1920. Rudy joined Viljan Lodge #349, Batavia, IL, on May 26, 1983. He was an active member and had served as chairman. He is survived by 2 sons, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

NEBRASKA

GRACE MARIE PEARSON died on August 11, 2010. Grace was born on July 23, 1920. She was preceded in death by her son John. She is survived by husband, Doyle R. Pearson, also a member of Lodge #330. Her survivors also include two sons and daughters-in-law, 2 daughters and sons-in-law, 18 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. Grace joined Omaha Lodge #330 on February 14, 1993. She was in charge of our Santa Lucia Festival many years.

OHIO

WALTER J. HOLMES, of Mentor, OH, died on July 3, 2010, at the age of 89. He is survived by his daughter, Ginny (Jay) Waters, son, Gary, and grandchildren Heather (Jared Tomlinson) Waters, M.D., and Brit (Andrea) Waters. Walter was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Helen M. "Mimi" (Larson), and his parents John and Anna (Seleen). He was a 73-year member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130, Cleveland, OH, and served his lodge for many years as Historian. Walter enjoyed playing his accordion at some Nobel-Monitor meetings and events such as Midsommar. Walter was honored to be a Life Member.

CAROLYN E. JENSEN, 82, of Swannanoa, NC, died on May 11, 2010. She was the beloved wife for 62 years of Albert Jensen. She is also survived by daughters Susan Johnson (Roger) and Gail Jensen. Carolyn was a devoted grandmother to Kimberly, Eric, and Elizabeth, and great-grandmother to Jacob, Joshua, Aiden and Brylan. She was a member of Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130, Cleveland, OH, joining May 2, 1987.

ALICE P. JOHNSON (nee Benson) died August 3, 2010, at the age of 90. She was the beloved wife of the late Ken Johnson. Alice is survived by two daughters, Sandra Johnson and Barbara Johnson (husband Shawn Jones), and granddaughter Kristin Jones. She was born in Chicago on May 5, 1920, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 in 1991. Alice will always be remembered for her generous and kind spirit.

CALVIN D. LARSON died June 12, 2010. He was born on April 19, 1929, in Bridgeport, CT, and transferred from Blenda Sture Lodge to Three Crown Lodge #38 on June 17, 1988. He is survived by his two children and three granddaughters.

NILS OLAF PEARSON, died at his Lyndhurst, OH, home on June 10, 2010, at the age of 76. Nils was born in Waskish, MN, graduated from Case Institute of Technology, and was a research chemist for 36 years at Lubrizol Corp. Survivors are his wife of 47 years, Carol J. (Vago) Pearson, children Brent Nils (Diana) Pearson of Largo, FL, and Ingrid (Andree) Poissant of Adrian, MI, granddaughters Alexandra Rose and Veronica Elaine Pearson, brother Vincent (Maryann), and sisters Lily O'Hotto and Vivian (George) Buckingham. Nils joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on September 9, 2001.

RADKA SWARD (nee Atanasoff), died on May 30, 2010, at the age of 88. She was born in Sofia, Bulgaria. She was the beloved wife of the late Hugo, mother of Jana Friess (Eric), and Lisa, step-mother of Carl (Oksana), grandmother of Hanna and Carl, aunt, cousin and friend to many. Radka joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on February 9, 1997.

MILDRED E. VALAND, of Willoughby, OH, died on September 2, 2010, at the age of 88. Mildred was born on February 4, 1922, in Cleveland, OH, and joined Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 on March 10, 1991. Mildred is survived by her daughters Majken (Dale) Casamatta, and Lesley (Ed) Lynch, grandchildren Eric, Kate, Dale, and Joe, and great-grandchildren Katelynn, Joe Jr., Talia, and Gabriel. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph.

MASSACHUSETTS

KARL SEABURG. We are saddened that Karl died on March 5, at the Peabody Glen Healthcare Center after a short illness. Karl was born and raised in Malden, MA. He attended Malden schools. His first job was at a gas station, which he started at 15 and worked until he was 18, at which time he joined the G.E. apprentice association program. He graduated while working for G.E. with a bachelor's degree from Northeastern University. At that time he was promoted to a Manufacturing Engineer at General Electric. Though he held several jobs during the following 44 years, General Electric was where he stayed until retirement. During his younger years, Karl was a busy person. In the summer time he camped on weekends with boating, swimming, mountain climbing and enjoying the outdoors. He jogged every day, which eventually took its toll on his knees. In the wintertime, he skied almost every weekend at Cannon Mountain, Mount Snow and Wildcat Mountain. He also had an affinity for big band music and enjoyed concerts as often as he could go. This lasted throughout his lifetime. He married Marilyn when he was in his thirties, bought a house which he lived in until he died. Marilyn and Karl have a son John, who is a chemist. When John went off to college in 1986, Karl and Marilyn joined the Birka Lodge and its dance group and the lodge as well. He was a Charter member and Treasurer of the lodge, watching the money like it was his own. He loved the Christmas Fair and drove yearly to the Crown Bakery for their famous kaffee bröd and other baked goods and took care of the Coffee/Dopp table at the Fair. Karl enjoyed people of all sorts and took them as they were. Consequently, he had a lot of friends to warm his life.

OREGON

CARLOTTA MARIE STRANDBERG died on August 14, 2010, in Astoria, OR, at the age of 75. Carlotta was born in Astoria, OR, on June 27, 1935. She joined Astor Lodge #215 on September 26, 1970, and during her years of membership served as Lodge Chairman for 6 years, Vice Chairman for 3 years and also District Deputy for many years. She was the wife of Past District Master, Peter Strandberg, and has traveled with him to all of the lodges in Pacific Northwest District #13. She was well known for her positive attitude and smiling face. We shall all miss her. Carlotta is survived by her husband, Peter, daughter, Carrie, son, Peter, Jr., three grandchildren and one great-grandson.

PENNSYLVANIA

EVELYN GERLING died on May 29, 2010, at the age of 91. She was born on December 5, 1918, in Philadelphia, PA. Evelyn joined Oscars Borg Lodge #172, Philadelphia, PA, on February 20, 1987. She was, in years past, a faithful member of our lodge. She was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Gerling. We will remember Evelyn with affection. Sov i ro.

WASHINGTON

RUTH S. JEWELL, died on May 15, 2010. She was born on November 20, 1922, in Spokane, WA, of Swedish immigrants, mother Alma Kylin, born in Blomskog, Värmland, and father, John Swanson, born Mjöback, Västergötland. Father died in 1932 and Alma raised Ruth and sisters Edith (deceased) and Hildur. Ruth married Thomas Jewell in 1942. In 1974 she took a trip to Värmland, Sweden. She had children Karen Ryan, John Jewell, Bob, died young,

and Ruby (Dan) Carney, 9 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. She was part of "The Club Girls," a sewing club for over 60 years. She loved to travel by the "Empire Builder" train, taking a grandchild for a special treat. She was a fantastic cook and was the "Lunch Lady" for school and area hotels. Ruth was a North Star Lodge #145 member for 32 years. Besides United States family, she is survived by first cousin Sonja Ericksson of Trollhättan, Värmland, Sweden.

PHYLLIS (Giste) MELTON died on August 1, 2010, in Tacoma, WA. She was born in Hastings, ND, in November, 1928. Phyllis had been a faithful and active member of Norden Lodge #233 in Tacoma, WA, sharing her Scandinavian expertise in baking and cooking. Phyllis is survived by sons Ron and Steve and their families, and a host of friends. Bless the memory of Phyllis!

MARY ESTHER OLSON died on June 19, 2010, in Spokane, WA, at the age of 81. She was born to Otto and Celinda (Bailey) Olson in Johnson City, NY, on August 30, 1928. Her grandfather, Otto, born in 1871, emigrated in 1891 from their farm near Vedum in Österbörd, Sweden. Mary's grandmother, Lena Nelson, born in 1876 in Pennsylvania, was a first generation Swede. Her grandmother's parents were from Småland, Sweden. Lena and Otto were married in 1892 in New York. Mary taught school for many years in New York, Tucson, AZ, and Joseph, OR. She rode her own motorcycle across the U.S., and made many trips to Sweden. Mary was active in the Elder Hostel program and traveled to China, Great Britain, and Norway. She played and taught the Dulcimer, participated in the Senior Serenaders, the Women's Club of Spokane, and Street Music Week. She sang with various groups at two Vasa Christmas parties. Mary was a member of North Star Lodge #145 of Spokane, WA, for 17 years. She is survived by several first cousins.

NAN OSTROM died on July 20, 2010, at the age of 97. Nan was born in Belden, ND, and moved to Elma, WA, as a teenager. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, quilting, and gardening. Nan is survived by a son, a sister, 5 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband.

ROBERT BLAIR TEDERMAN died on April 18, 2010, at Hospice House. He was born in Fresno, CA, on March 21, 1925, son of Axel Robert Tederman, whose father Axel Emil Tederman immigrated in 1878 from Finnerödja, Skaraborgs län, and mother Christine C. Olsson, 1879, from Örebro, Vägåker to Missouri, where they met and married. Axel Emil's father, Carl Carlson Tederman, was born 1817 Karlskoga, Valåsen, Sweden, married Stina Persfeldt (born 1820) in 1840 Rudskoga, Sweden. The family occupation was "hammersmith" (blacksmiths). Axel Robert homesteaded in Montana in 1910, married Edna Christine Hamer, fellow homesteader, of English and German descent in 1915. They moved to California, and back to homestead near Denton, MT. Bob attended a one room school and then with crop failure, they moved to Idaho where he graduated, and entered the U.S. Army, stationed in England, France, and Belgium. At the end of the war he was assigned to Military Police occupation work in Germany. He visited Denmark and could see Sweden across the channel. He attended the University of Idaho earning his electrical engineer degree. He was employed at Bonneville Power Administration for 35 years. He traveled throughout the U.S., Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, and Mexico. Robert married E. Etta Pillers in 1954 and had daughters Mary Shores Grier and Nancy Bunker, grandchildren Sara Shores Wilson, Patrick Shores, Ray and Megan Bunker, and 2 great-grandchildren. They joined North Star Lodge #145 in 1988. Bob was Chaplain many years, auditor, guard, and active in many other positions, setting up area for monthly meetings at his church. He was widely known for his beautiful smile and gentle disposition.

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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TIDBITS

Stieg Larsson Becomes the First Author to Sell a Million Kindle e-books

Given the lovingly detailed descriptions of early-2000s computers and technology the late Stieg Larsson peppered into *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest*, we're pretty sure he'd love to know that he's just become the first author to sell over a million Amazon Kindle e-books – and we can only imagine what kind of trouble Larsson's Lisbeth Salander would have gotten into with a Droid X or an iPad. Considering the dominance of Amazon's platform and company's recent announcement that Kindle titles are now outselling hardcover we'd guess that also makes him the first author to sell a million e-books period, which is fairly notable – and with the upcoming Hollywood adaptation of *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, we'd

guess these numbers aren't going to slow down any time soon. Too bad we don't know the breakdown of where these million books went – we'd love to know if Kindle devices are as popular as the Kindle apps on various other platforms.

Mona Rosell

In the Jul/Aug 2010 issue of the Vasa Star under Please Meet Mona Rosell where she talked about the fact that she was to represent Sweden in the World Stars Championship of Performing Arts 18-24 July in Hollywood, she received a silver medal.

Now you can go to youtube looked at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnmqoYh2t8M>.

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

Several locations in Sweden are bracing for a Hollywood *invasion this autumn*, with filming of the English-language version of "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo" set to start within weeks. So far, sites in central Stockholm and the nearby archipelago have been confirmed, as have locations in Uppsala, north of Stockholm, according to the TT Spektra news service. Film crews are also set to descend on locations in Hälsingland province in eastern Sweden, including Bollnäs, Gävle and Söderhamn.

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