



THE VASA STAR

Vasastjärnan

Publication of THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

JANUARY-MARCH 2011

www.vasaorder.com



Gustaf Fröding 150

Selma Lagerlöf



The Grand Master's Message



Bill Lundquist

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

It has been a pleasure meeting and sharing my vision for the Vasa Order of America as I've traveled to several District Conventions. I'm honored and thankful to report that all the Districts I've visited thus far have voted to make an annual donation of 5% of their unused allocated balance in the Old Age and Benefit Fund to support the important work of the Vasa National Archives in Bishop Hill. Your level of understanding and abundant generosity is making a tremendous difference for the future of the Archives.

Thank you also to those members who donated generously to the National Archives first annual *Ever Living Julgran Fundraising Campaign* celebrating the lives of our loved ones at Christmas time. Bishop Hill was beautiful, covered in new fallen snow on the day of the dedication ceremony. I'm hopeful many more of you will join me for that moving event next year. Five members of the Archive's Board were in attendance.

You will soon be receiving this year's beautiful Vasa stamp which I know you will be happy to post on your mailings. This *Scholarship Stamp Fundraising Campaign* is essential for us to once again begin giving college scholarships to our students/future leaders within our Order. I urge you to give generously to this project. Start celebrating the renewal of this important program for the Vasa Order of America!

I challenge Local Lodges to have annual program planning meetings where you develop interesting cultural programs to be part of every meeting. We cannot be complacent about sharing our culture. I urge Local Lodge Cultural Leaders to seek interesting program ideas that will connect members to their ancestry and the Swedish/Scandinavian culture past and present. Look to the Internet, articles in Scandinavian newspapers, magazines and newsletters from other Districts as well as your District Cultural Leaders and the Grand Lodge Cultural Director for program ideas. Offer the Swedish table grace and sing the Swedish birthday song to members who celebrated their birthdays each month. Call those you haven't seen for a while or offer transportation to those in need. Bring energy into your meetings. Remember, we lose more members through disinterest than we do by death. Give potential members a reason to want to join but don't forget to care for and share with each of your current members. Surprise your members this year with the best programs, the best fellowship and the best reason to be part of our Order. One future active member can reenergize your Lodge....look for that member; it may be someone in your own family!

I would like to thank a special group of Vasa members, our Past Grand Masters and Past District Masters. You have my gratitude for your service. Please continue to do all you can to assist your Local and District lodge officers by providing advice and counsel.

Be passionate about your obligations and excited about the programs ahead. Get your fire back for the Vasa Order of America. Come into the coming year excited about the future of your Local and District Lodges as well as the programs ahead.

*In Truth and Unity,
Bill Lundquist, Grand Master*

Kära Bröder och Systrar!

Det har vart ett nöje att få träffa och dela med mig av min vision för Vasa Orden av Amerika med dem som jag har träffat under de Distriktsmöten jag deltagit i. Jag känner mig hedrad och mycket tacksam till alla distrikt som jag besökt, eftersom de flesta har röstat för, kommer att göra en årlig donation av 5%, genom att skänka deras oanvända tillgångar som finns i bl a "Äldre fonden," för att stötta det viktiga arbetet som sker inom Vasa Arkivet i Bishop Hill. Er förståelse betyder mycket för Arkivets framtid.

Ett stort tack också till de medlemmar som så generöst skänkt till vår första årliga *Levande Julgrans Insamlings Kampanj*, som är till för att hedra minnet av våra älskade, under julen. Bishop Hill var så vackert med nyfallen snö, den dag då själva ceremonin ägde rum. Jag hoppas att många av er kommer att närvara under denna rörande ceremoni nästa år. Vi hade fem styrelsemedlemmar från Arkivet som var närvarande.

Ni kommer snart att få årets fina Vasa frimärke och som jag vet att ni gladeligen sätter på er post. Den här *Frimärks Insamlings Kampanjen* är nödvändig för att vi återigen ska kunna ha möjlighet att ge stipendier till våra studeranden/framtida ledare inom Orden. Jag ber att ni skänker generöst till detta ändamål. Se fram emot ett återinförande av detta viktiga program för Vasa Orden av Amerika.

Jag utmanar alla lokala loger till att hålla årliga planeringsmöten, där ni kommer att utveckla och planera intressanta kulturella ämnen som en del av varje möte. Vi måste dela med oss av vår kultur. Jag ber våra kulturledare i våra lokala loger, att komma fram med programidéer, som gör att medlemmarna känner behörighet till sitt ursprung samt känner ett samband till den svenska/skandinaviska kulturen från förr och nu. Titta på nätet, artiklar i skandinaviska nyhetsupplagor, tidningar och nyhetsbrev från andra distrikt samt i ditt eget distrikt, tillfråga dina egna kulturledare och rådfråga Storlogen om program idéer. Ni kan läsa den svenska bordsbönen och ni kan sjunga den svenska födelsedagssången till dem som fyller år, under era möten. Ring till dem som ni inte har sett på ett tag eller erbjud skjuts till dom som behöver. Tillför ny energi på era möten. Kom ihåg att vi mister fler medlemmar genom förlorat intressa än vi gör på en dödsfall. Ge potentiella medlemmar en bra anledning till att bli medlem, men glöm samtidigt inte att bry dig om och ta hand om dina befintliga medlemmar. Överraska dina medlemmar under det här året genom att ha de bästa programmen, den bästa gemenskapen, och den bästa orsaken till att vara medlem av vår Orden. En enda ny medlem kan tillföra ny energi i din loge.....leta efter den medlemmen, det kan till och med vara någon i din egen familj!

Jag skulle vilja tacka en speciell grupp av våra Vasa medlemmar, våra f d Stormästare och f d Distriktsmästare. Jag är er evigt tacksam för era tjänster. Jag ber er fortsätta att göra allt ni kan för att stödja era lokala- samt distriktsloger genom att ge råd och hjälp.

Visa entusiasm i dina åtaganden och inge en ny energi inför framtida program. Ge ditt allt till Vasa Orden av Amerika. Se framåt, tillför nya idéer som kan gynna din lokala loge och distriktsloge samt framtida program.

*I Sanning och Enighet,
Bill Lundquist, Stormästare*

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AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

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

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

IN MEMORIAM

Please read instructions on how to send and pay for Obituaries.

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 Sept.-Dec. Issue of the Vasa Star: Several NY Vasa Lodges, Participated in the 70th Annual Sweden Day in the Bronx

Page 30. Please note that correct spelling is MANHEM, not Manheim.

Submitted by: Maire E. Knuts

**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.

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.

Cover: Monarch Butterfly, Holdens Arboritum, Kirtland, Ohio. Picture taken by: Erick Carlson. Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130.

Letter from the Editor



This is the issue where we feature our Lucia's from 2010, and there are lots of them. Many of the Lucia articles come with a short bio of these girls, and it is quite impressive to read about all their accomplishments despite their young age.

From one celebration to the next, *Easter* and *Walpurgis* celebrations are not that far away. For those that do not know why we do and eat certain things during these holydays, there are a couple of articles where you can learn more about our customs in the *Culture* section. There you can also find wonderful articles about two very famous Swedes that have had a huge impact in the world of writing.

I find it uplifting to read about so many enthusiastic and creative people in our lodges, working hard to come up with new fun ideas to make Vasa more interesting and "updated," if you will. For example, one lodge organized a community Lucia Festival with over 300 visitors; others have game nights, cooking lessons, organize hiking clubs, book discussions on Swedish authors, and one lodge started a Swedish film group. Sounds like fun! On another positive note, there are lots of new members reported.

The cover of this issue has a spring like theme. Since we have had a pretty rough winter, here in the US, as well as in Sweden, I thought the butterfly might give us a small reminder that spring is not that far away!

Marie

"Fjäril vingad syns på Haga....."

("The butterfly with its wings can be seen at Haga.....")

- From Carl Michael Bellmans, Fredmans Epistlar

Brev från Redaktören

I den här upplagan presenterar vi 2010 års Lucior och de är rätt många. En del Lucia artiklar innehåller en kort biografi av dessa flickor och det är imponerande att läsa om allt som dom har hunnit med, trots deras unga ålder.

Från ett firande till nästa, snart är det *Påsk* och *Valborg*. Många gånger vet vi inte varför vi gör och äter vissa saker under dessa högtider. Det finns några artiklar där du kan lära dig litet mer om våra seder och bruk under *Culture*. Där kan du också hitta underbara artiklar om två mycket berömda svenskar som har haft en enorm påverkan inom den litterära världen.

Jag finner det inspirerande att läsa om så många entusiastiska och kreativa människor inom våra loger som arbetar hårt för att komma fram med nya roliga idéer att göra Vasa mer intressant och mer "uppdaterat." Till exempel, en loge organiserade en kommunal Lucia festival med över 300 besökare, några anordnade spelkvällar, matlagningskurser, organiserade vandringar, bokträffar där man diskuterar svenska författare och en loge startade svenska filmkvällar. Låter kul! En annan positiv notering är att många nya medlemmar tillkommit.

Omslaget av denna upplaga har ett vårtema. Eftersom vi haft en rätt tuff vinter, här i USA och även i Sverige, ger fjärilen oss en liten påminnelse om att det inte är så långt till våren.

Marie

"Fjäril vingad syns på Haga....."

- Ur Carl Michael Bellmans, Fredmans Epistlar



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ARCHIVES NEWS

Better Access to Microfilm



New microfilm scanner used at the Vasa Archives.

Last year we published in this column an equipment wish list for the Archives, comprising equipment and supplies needed for maintenance of and access to our collections. Generous donations have come from different individuals and lodges that enabled us to purchase several items on the list, including a small net book computer and a digital camera. One member even sent a role of Permalife bond paper, which we had mentioned would help to preserve charters long term. These responses were wonderful and humbling, given the tough economy. Vasa members really know how to step up to the plate when called upon.

The big ticket item on the list, a new microfilm scanner, was also in the works since we heard at the District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8 Annual meeting last spring that the district would donate funds for its purchase. We are happy to announce that, as of December 2010, a brand new Canon Microfilm Scanner II is installed at the Archives and in full use.

The Canon machine is a giant step up from the hand-crank microfilm readers we had been using. It has, for starters, a very fine lens that allows a sharper focus on the images on microfilm. It also uses a motorized advancement feature so one can look through the film very slowly or very quickly with a simple turn of the control knob. One can read the microfilm on a very clear screen on the machine, zoom in or out, and additionally one can scan the frame being viewed and capture

it as a digital file on the computer. The digital file can then be printed on a printer in the office or be sent to researchers as an email attachment. The scanner is versatile also in what it reads, both fiche and film rolls, film rolled clockwise or counter clockwise, and both positive and negative film.

Let us explain also what the machine does not do. It does not create microfilm; it reads and scans film we already have in the collection. To add to our microfilm collection we would need to send the items for filming to a microfilming service center. The machine does not scan entire rolls en masse so that one could automatically transfer film to digital files. A machine that could do this does exist, but for a much higher price tag. Furthermore, despite the temptation to digitize everything in sight these days, it does not make sense for us to spend our precious resources converting the entire microfilm collection, let alone maintaining two collections of the same thing: analog and digital. But it is very useful that we can choose out pages to convert to digital, when we need that format. The scanner also does not do automatic keyword searches. One still needs to peruse the film for desired information.

Microfilm is an analog technology, but a very reliable one. To have the body of our lodge documents in this format gives us full confidence that it will be preserved for one hundred years and longer. Our microfilm collection is mainly of lodge minutes from the beginning of the organization through the middle 1980s, when Lennart Setterdahl traveled the country filming lodge records. With the new Canon Microfilm Scanner, we have better access than ever to these great resources.

If you have a question that could be answered by looking in lodge meeting minutes or membership books, feel free to send your request to the Archives (vasaarchives@winco.net). With available records, say from the 1920s, you may get back an email attachment from the minutes in the Recording Secretary's own hand from ninety years in the past. A picture of the page from the minutes appears on the computer monitor in your home right before your eyes.

Svensk Sammanfattning

Distriktslogen Lake Michigan #8 bidrog ekonomisk till arkivet så att vi kunde köpa en ny scanner (bildläsare) som vi kan använda till mikrofilmerna, Canon Microfilm Scanner 300 II, detta underlättar arbetet med mikrofilm. Nu kan arkivet bifoga dokument på mikrofilm med e-post som scannern (bildläsaren) omvandlar från analogt till digitalt format. För det mesta har vi loge protokoll och medlemskapsböcker på mikrofilm. Om du har frågor som du kan få svar på genom att titta igenom historiska protokoll, antäckningar eller medlemskapsböcker kan du göra en förfrågan hos arkivet (vasaarchives@winco.net). Om vi hittar det ni söker kan vi bifoga bilder på t ex protokoll med den information ni söker.

Submitted by: Lars Jenner,
Archivist

EVER LIVING JULGRAN DONORS

NOVEMBER 2010

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Lars-Åke & Hillevi Sjöberg

DECEMBER 2010

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JANUARY 2011

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Continued on next page

Ever Living Julgran Donors

Continued from previous page

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Erik Wiesequist Jr.
Margareta Yarwood

Submitted by: Jake Gruel

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Learn Swedish the Vasa Way! Lär dig svenska på Vasa vis!

It is my great pleasure to announce the Grand Lodge's plan to launch a Swedish Language Program. This is in accordance with GM Bill Lundquist's goal for Vasa to preserve the Swedish language. As the newly appointed Grand Lodge Language Director it is my and my committee's responsibility to initiate and oversee this program. A few words about my background: native Swede (I lived most of my life in Sweden and have spent the last 20 plus years in the U.S.) For a number of years I worked as a teacher and counselor; my last job before retiring was as an administrator and Swedish teacher at a language school in San Diego, California.

Now let me tell you a few things about this exciting new endeavor. Our intention is to design an effective and enjoyable program that can be utilized by everybody in the local lodges; a program that emphasizes spoken communication including talking and listening, that is, learning how to converse in Swedish and understand spoken Swedish in radio and TV programs, movies, etc. An additional goal is to learn to read easy to intermediate Swedish texts. We are in the initial planning stages of the project, currently building an organization for communication and support of the participants in the program. We are also planning to put together a

survey, which will provide us with important information for creating a plan that fits the needs and desires of our members.

As I am sure you understand this is a major enterprise for Vasa. It will take time to get all the details in place, so I respectfully ask for your patience. My committee and I will be hard at work for the foreseeable future, and we will keep you posted as the project progresses. Your support and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Vänliga hälsningar

**Siv Swan-Pierson, Grand Lodge
Language Director**

LUCIA 2010 LODGE NEWS

Brage-Iduna Lodge #9 Springfield, MA



Rachel Lacey as Lucia

What better venue for the cherished Lucia celebration than the sanctuary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in E. Longmeadow! Its wood framing and furnishing, red carpeting and soft lighting engender a sense of expectation and reverence. Rachel Lacey, daughter of Jill and Peter Lacey, was this year's Lucia. As a 10th grader in Westfield H.S., Rachel participates in basketball, lacrosse, track, softball, dancing and singing. She loves animals, especially her horse Lacey whom she rides all year round. It was her great aunt Greta Nasman who interested Rachel and her mother to become active in Vasa six years ago.

Submitted by: John Morgan
Photo by: Larry Radner

North Star Lodge #106 Los Angeles, CA



Lucia, Cara Shore, granddaughter of Jean Ahlin Shore.

Submitted by: Elinore Thornton

Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 Cleveland, OH



Elizabeth Carlson

Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 held their Lucia celebration on Dec. 11 with 137 members and friends attending the 'smörgåsbord,' which also included a basket raffle and a "Jul butik," both of which were fundraisers. The men of the *Vasa Voices* sang their traditional *O Lutefisk* song to the enjoyment of all.

After the meal we moved into the sanctuary for the program. *The Vasa Voices*, under the direction of Scott Dorsey, sang several traditional and favorite "Jul" songs in Swedish. Following some congregational carol singing, the Lucia procession climaxed the program. Elizabeth Carlson, as Lucia, led her attendants and star boys as they sang 'Sankta Lucia.' The program which followed, under the director Anna Rietsch, included such favorites as: *Goder Afton*, *Lusse Lelle*, *Tomtarnas jultatt*, *Luciavisan*, *Gläns över sjö och strand*, *Staffansvisan*, and *Nu tändas tusen juleljus*.

Submitted by: Marty Bergman

Runeberg Lodge #137 Minneapolis, MN



Sara Thofson

Sara Thofson, daughter of David and Suzanne Thofson, and sister of Emma Thofson from Medford, MN, member of Runeberg Lodge #137, Minneapolis, MN. Sara has been a member of the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers since 1998.

Sara is a Sophomore at Medford High School on the high honor roll, member of band, choir, musicals, student council, SADD, volleyball, track and field. She is also a Senior Girl Scout and has earned the Silver Award, swims with the Faribault Stingrays Swim Club, has attended CLV Sjölundens Swedish language camp for six years, received one high school foreign language credit and received two Vasa Order of America scholarships.

She has traveled on three mission trips with youth from Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna, MN. These trips have taken her to Mississippi, Arkansas, and California.

She has also had the privilege to travel to Sweden twice and visit with family in the Jämtland province, where her maternal late great-grandmother immigrated from in 1889.

Submitted by: Janice Lehman

Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA



L-R: Chairman Marie Ann Hill and Lucia Karen Root.

Members of Tegnér Lodge #139, Oakland, CA, held its Lucia program and Christmas smorgasbord on December 13. We had a difficult time finding a girl to be our Lucia this year. However, about an hour before our program was to begin, a volunteer stepped forward. Following are her thoughts about her Swedish heritage and being Lucia.

Karen Esther Maria Root

I was born in 1959 and raised in Oakland until the age of 10. Unfortunately my father died and we moved out of the area. I fondly remember my whole family being involved with Tegnér Lodge as far back as I can remember. I used to enjoy going to various locations to practice dancing and singing. I loved Astri Feist and Irene Bryggman. I loved it when we would get dressed in our Swedish costumes to perform. We attended a large Swedish festival in Turlock one year. I can vaguely recall dancing around a Maypole at a summer festival. I especially enjoyed going to the summer Swedish camps every year. They were so much fun!

I loved taking hot dogs and getting sticks and fishing for crawdads. I wouldn't eat them (ewh) but the adults did, as we caught so many. The arts and crafts area was very special as we were taught how to make straw goats and stars. My mother still has those and puts them on the Christmas tree every year. It was always fun singing and dancing around the big bonfires at night.

I still have my very first Swedish costume made by my "mormor." I also still have my Swedish grammar book from a school over in San Francisco. Mom

would take us after school one afternoon a week so we would be able to speak Swedish. I am very proud of my Swedish heritage. (Let's say I am mostly Swedish with a little stubborn Irish thrown in).

I have been an antique dealer for many years and every time I found any Swedish folk art or pretty much anything Swedish, I always bought it. I even managed to find a few crystal vases with paper labels on them. My best find was an Orrefors vase for only \$40.

My mom went to Sweden in 1982 and all I wanted was the "BIG" horse like she had. I never expected to actually get it as it was so large. Well – mom carried it on her lap the whole way home. Boy, was I surprised. She also returned with many handmade gifts from relatives and let each of us choose what we wanted. I had to have the oval wooden box with lid. She also brought everyone of us a piece of Kosta crystal. My mother has given me many pieces of beautiful Swedish linen as gifts over the years, which I just treasure.

I really enjoyed the fact, after waiting so many years, that I finally got to be Sankta Lucia for Tegnér Lodge. I thank you for that honor. Although I did miss the real candles in my crown. Just goes to show you are never too old to feel that special.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

Drott Lodge #168

Washington, DC



Chloe Shaltanis

One hundred years ago a small group of Swedes chartered Drott Lodge #168 of the Vasa Order of America in our nation's capital. The founding and early

members of Drott were from different backgrounds and regions of Sweden. Some were with their families; others were alone in their new country. Drott Lodge became an extended family for all of them and it still serves this purpose today. The Lucia program exemplifies the bond of generations, families, siblings, cousins, and friends. Participants came from far and wide. Lucia attendants Ainsley and Ellie McCabe, the granddaughters of Swedish-born Karin McCabe, traveled three or more hours, all the way from Williamsburg, Virginia, to be in our Lucia in Potomac, Maryland.

"Sankta Lucia," the lovely Chloe Shaltanis, led the procession of children as they walked in graceful solemnity through the sanctuary's darkness toward the altar, guided by the light of candles. Following the youngsters were adults in vernacular Swedish dress (Julie Olson, Margaret Schueman, Erland Magnusson), symbolizing Drott's 100th anniversary.

The Drott Chorus was comprised of Swedish and American-born singers. A moving Advent song was sung by soloist Pastor Mark Shaltanis.

Festivities continued after the program with dancing and singing around the Christmas tree, a visit from "Jultomten," a children's corner, and "julfest" with Swedish and seasonal foods and treats.

Submitted by: Dr. Karin Alexis Frenze, Historian

Astor Lodge #215

Astoria, OR

For the first time, Astor Lodge planned and organized Astoria's community "Sankta Lucia Festival of Lights." This festival occurs annually on the day after Thanksgiving because the town's young people are home for the holiday. Over 300 attended the ceremony held at Astoria High School. Astor Lodge's involvement was an attempt to return to a more traditional observance. Against the backdrop of a Victorian living room festive with holly, a tree decorated with red and white woven hearts and straw ornaments, and a large hand-carved wooden julbock, the audience sang carols and was entertained by the Astoria Tuba Quartet and dance selections by the Nordic, Viking and Scandia folkdancers.

This Lucia, sponsored by the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Association, is a fundraiser for two scholarships awarded to youngsters active in local Scandinavian events.

Continued on page 9

Astor Lodge #215

Continued from page 8



Niina Tile

Astor member, Maureen Sundstrom, explained how Lucia is observed in Scandinavia today. Lucia Niina Tile and her “tärnor” and “stjärngossar” then entered the darkened auditorium and processed reverently up and down the aisles as Maureen sang the Lucia song in Swedish and English, accompanied by accordionist Coreen Bergholm and trombone player Ken Presthus.

The evening ended as merrymakers danced traditional ring dances, polkas, schottisches, and favorites like the butterfly and chicken dance, around the Christmas tree in the high school commons to the music of the Scandinavian Country Band. Lucia and her attendants served coffee bread to the merrymakers; then joined in the dancing. Refreshments were provided by Astor Lodge under the chairmanship of Gerry Swenson. It was a heartwarming start to the holiday season. “Gott Nytt År” to all!

Submitted by: Maureen Sundstrom

Monitor Lodge #218

Sacramento, CA

Members of Monitor Lodge #218 held their 2010 “Julbord” and “Lucia Fest” on Friday, December 3, 2010 at the I.O.O.F. Hall in Sacramento. Monitor’s 2010 “Sankta Lucia” was Julia Nemy, granddaughter of Gail Nemy. Lucia’s “tärnor” were Allyssa, Megan and Ashley Leaman, Jaqueline Royer, Annika Rea, and Clara and Lydia Ellis, with Christian Royer as “Stjärngosse” and Emil Rea as “Tomtenisse.”

Julia Nemy is a freshman at Convent School of the Sacred Heart High School in San Francisco. She is on the award-winning school newspaper and a member of the Varsity cross-country team. She studied ballet at the San Francisco Ballet School and performed in the Nutcracker with the San Francisco Ballet for two years. Julia and her twin brother Stephen have gone to *Swedish Camp Trollebo* at Silver Lake the past two years and both enjoy learning about their Swedish heritage.

Julia’s “Farmor,” Gail Nemy, has been a member of Monitor Lodge in Sacramento since 1992. She learned about Vasa while taking a Swedish language class with Christi Kagstrom, the instructor and also a member of Monitor Lodge.

Birgitta Ellis, one of Monitor’s resident Swedish teachers began enlisting participants for the Lucia group in late September. She worked with them weekly up until the Lucia pageant, teaching them the traditional Lucia songs. Birgitta has been a member of Monitor since the early 60’s, shortly after arriving here from Stockholm via England.

The evening had begun with a social hour including traditional “Glögg” along with gingersnaps and several cheeses. After Lucia was celebrated, the “smörgåsbord” was ready to be enjoyed. Yvonne Magneheim led us in singing “*Helan Går*” while we enjoyed Aquavit



Julia Nemy, our Lucia.

made and bottled by Kurt Pfannkuch. Music was provided for the evening by Tom Anderson on keyboard and, as we enjoyed a variety of desserts, a group of our members joined Tom in singing a variety of American and Swedish Christmas songs.

Pictures and article submitted by:
Brian Stockham, Historian



Ed Netzel, Chairman, is presenting a traditional Lucia necklace to Julia Nemy.

Svea Lodge #253

Indianapolis, IN



Rebecca Wiebke as Lucia, Lina Vesterqvist to the left and Zoe Harding on the right.

Light and joy appeared on Sunday, December 5 when a procession of 24 children entered the hall and went on stage, singing as they came. Songs included *Sankta Lucia* and *Tre Pepparkaksgubbar*. Our Lucia with her candle crown was Rebecca Wiebke, daughter of Ingrid and John Wiebke. She is pictured with Lina Vesterqvist on the left; Zoe Harding on the right.

Rebecca, born in Sweden, is 14 years old and in the 8th grade. She belongs to the National Junior Honor society, plays soccer and alto sax in her school bands. Rebecca visits family in Sweden each summer where she spends time with "Mormor och Morfar," her aunt and an uncle.

As the children departed, a 14-voice adult choir joined to reprise *Sankta Lucia*. Then they sang traditional songs such as *Nu Tändas*, *Tusen Juleljus* and *Stilla Natt*. *Betlehems Stjärna* was beautifully sung by Annette Johansson, who was also the evening's pianist. Wesley Hanson sang a verse of *Betlehem*, *Du Lilla Stad*. The program ended with a sing-along for everyone, including *Bjällerklang* (Jingle Bells).

After a fine traditional Swedish dinner, minus Lutefisk, "Jultomten" (our incoming Chairman Michele Escalante and her husband Josh) appeared with bags of goodies for the kids. The floor was then cleared for ring dancing for young and old, which went on well into the evening. 206 people had a fine fest!

Submitted by: Wesley Hanson

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA



Star boy Chase Chaffe and Lucia Ashli Sweeney.

Our Lucia Fest was held December 12, 2010, at Luther Memorial Church, Erie, PA. Sandra Miller, Chair of Svea Vasa, welcomed all. There was narration and hymns sung in Swedish and English. The little "tomtar" all dressed in red, are always a highlight. Our Lucia this year was Ashli Sweeney, a junior at East High School. She enjoys singing and drawing as well as karate. Her plans are to join the National Guard and then become a special education teacher.

Star boy was Chase Chaffee and Christ Kindle as Emma Chaffee. She is a junior at Fairview High and she loves to sing and play the piano. She plans to attend Penn State and study Criminal Justice. After the program all were invited to have "kaffe och dopp" in Fellowship Hall.

Submitted by: Linda Collin

Omaha Lodge #330

Indianapolis, IN

Our Sankta Lucia this year, Erin Clough, was attended by two star boys, her cousins Dylan and Jacob Meyer. They are the grandchildren of member Marlene Clough.

Erin is a sophomore at Burke High School in Omaha. She plays the guitar and piano, sings in the school choir and is interested in drama. She is the daughter of Doug and Lori Clough.

Dylan Meyer is a sophomore at Northeast High School in Lincoln, NE. He enjoys sports, especially basketball and cars. He and Erin both have their driver's licenses. Jacob is in the fifth grade at Kahoa Elementary School and also likes to play basketball. He enjoys electronic games. They are the sons of



Erin Clough as Lucia. Dylan and Jacob Meyer as star boys.

Rochelle Meyer and Tim Meyer, both of Lincoln.

Submitted by: June A. Soderlund

Skogsblomman Lodge #378

Preston, WA

Skogsblomman Lodge in Preston, WA, (about an hour east of Seattle) celebrated its annual Lucia Pageant and "Julbord" on December 5th, 2010. Our "Sankta Lucia" was Kelly Chiat, age nine, who turned ten on St. Lucia's feast day, December 13th. Kelly attends the French Immersion School of Washington in Bellevue, WA, studies ballet and is bilingual. She and her family enjoy camping and day camp at Vasa Park Resort on the shores of Lake Sammamish. Lovely musical accompaniment on the cello was provided by lodge member Melissa Shogren. Dozens of members and guests enjoyed the festive holiday program and traditional smorgasbord capped by a jolly visit from Santa Claus.

Submitted by: Shawn Thornsberry and Rose Zappert



Lucia program attendants and star boys pictured from left to right: Aidan Thornsberry, Grayson Holmes Lamp, Erica Larson, Olivia Larson, Kelly Chiat ("Lucia"), Dylan Thornsberry, Kayla Chenier, Ella Lamp, and Brielle Chenier.

Solidaritet Lodge #396

Mount Vernon, WA



Lucia Kyleah Rose Smith and her attendants.

Solidaritet lodge celebrated its 90th anniversary and Lucia on December 12 at the Cotton Tree Convention Center in Mount Vernon.

The celebration, attended by 100 members and guests, started with a flag ceremony with flags from the Scandinavian countries and the awarding

of 10-, 25-, and 50- year pins to long-time members (including five 50-year members in absentia). Also honored was the oldest member present at the event, 103 years old Betsy Stenger. Next, Chairman Helge Andersson read several congratulatory e-mails from other lodges, including some from Sweden, and then he presented some highlights of the 90-year history of the lodge. A wonderful smorgasbord followed, enjoyed by all, with live Scandinavian music by the energetic Sylvia Jorgensen/Paul Johnson duo. Next, the light was turned low and the Lucia procession entered. Our Lucia this year was 15-year old Kyleah Rose Smith. Her sister Klare was the Lucia the previous year. After Lucia and her attendants left the hall, Sylvia and Paul played more Scandinavian music and the Vasa regular dancers were able to entice a number of non-dancers to join them on the dance floor.

Submitted by: Willy Evans

Evening Star Lodge #426

Los Alamitos, CA



Morning Star Children's Club presenting a Lucia Program at Evening Star Lodge's 88th Anniversary.

On Saturday, December the 18th, Evening Star Lodge #426 celebrated its 88th Anniversary as well as the 44th Anniversary of *Morning Star Children's Club #172* at the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Garden Grove, CA.

The evening began with the Lucia Pageant led by our beautiful Lucia Annika Spaberg. The program was under the direction of past Lucia Stephanie Tomasevic with musical accompaniment by Marie-Louise Nystedt.

Following the Lucia program,

Chairman Haakan Spaberg introduced the dignitaries attending our event. Lucia Annika was presented with a commemorative amulet by Chairman Haakan Spaberg. Chairman Haakan was presented with his Past Chairman jewel by District Master Robert Salk.

The evening continued with a very special Swedish dinner prepared by the ladies of Evening Star Lodge. Cookies and cake was served following dinner. During dinner, the boys and girls of the Morning Star Children's Club took

charge of our opportunity drawing with gifts provided by lodge members.

Past Lucias and mothers led the audience in typical Swedish and American Christmas songs.

The evening concluded with singing and dancing around the Christmas tree and the coming of the much awaited Santa Claus.

Preparations for next year's Anniversary and Lucia Pageant are already underway.

Submitted by: Thomas Jahn

Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI

Linde held its traditional Lucia on December 12th in a blizzard and snowy day. This did not stop our brave *Skansen Children's Club*. The program included many of our beloved Swedish Christmas songs.

2010 Lucia was Anna Lorbach, 10 years old, and she made several generations of Skansen, Linde and Vasa family (Meyer) members proud. She also did a violin solo of *När juldags morgon glimmar*. Another girl in the Club, Ashley LeBlanc sang the solo "*Tryggare kan ingen vara,*" which equally made all of her Gruel/LeBlanc family proud.

Afterwards a coffee social with open faced sandwiches (hundreds and hundreds) and bakery was served. Skansen with Lucia led us off in the fun "dans runt granen" and just about everybody joined in. Skansen also showed off their newest dances, and to end a perfect program,



Back row from left - Sophie Andersson, Annika Mårtenson, Ashley LeBlanc, Lucia - Anna Lorbach, Starboy Krister Mårtenson, Elizabeth Greene, Niklas Mårtenson, Cate Conlon and Rex Wasserman. Front row from left: Tomte-nisse Grace Katsekes, Gingerbread Maggie Conlon, Annika and Sarah Laufer, Lola Wasserman, George Katsekes and Luke Lorbach.

"Tomten" came and talked to all the children, and yes, all of us were children that day.

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand,
Linde and Skansen Lodges

Lindbergh Lodge #494

Palo Alto, CA



Lucia is Alexa Wallin.

Our Christmas/Lucia celebration began with hors d'oeuvres and appropriate beverages including that special Christmas treat of "glögg." There was a friendly and festive air during the social hour before the serious part of the evening began. Over 100 people attended and there were many children excited about the evening's activities. The dinner was lovely with dishes provided by the membership. We honored our monthly birthday group with songs and hurrahs.

Lucia this year was Alexa Wallin, the granddaughter of our past chairman Chuck Wallin. The parade was beautiful,

Lucia in her crown of light followed by many children dressed in gowns, even some "stjärngossar," and they sang in Swedish. Santa soon arrived and had a serious talk with all of the children and then gave each a special gift. The music and dancing began with children and adults dancing around the tree. Music was provided by Jack Haderle and got everyone's feet tapping. Dente Larsen and Danika Elrick led the group around the tree and they did a wonderful job.

It was a wonderful way to start out the Christmas season and made the evening for all of us a memorable event.

Submitted by: Muriel Nelson Beroza

Golden Valley Lodge #616

Van Nuys, CA



Morgan Klintare

December 18, 2010, hade logen jul-middag med Lucia samt Tomte. Lucia framträdandet, var under ledning av Lillemor Possecker, väldigt vackert och fint med svenska och amerikanska sånger. Lucian Morgan Kintare är dotter till medlemmarna Conny och Heidi Klintare.

Submitted by: Stig and Yvonne
Klintare (farmor och farfar)

Vasa Star January-March 2011

Satellite Lodge #661

Kalamazoo, MI



Ingrid Johnson

Satellite Lodge #661 had a fun St. Lucia Celebration on December 11 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo. Ingrid Johnson, daughter of Pastor Ken and Mary Johnson, was St. Lucia. She gave a reading in Swedish about the St. Lucia history. Ingrid's sister, Kajsa Johnson was a "tärna," as well as Katherine Grosbeck. Steve Olson and Lars Johnson, Ingrid's brother, were "stjärngossar." We sang some traditional Christmas songs and a few Swedish songs. Following the pageant, we all enjoyed music, dancing, and wonderful Swedish treats.

Submitted by: Jan Forsberg

A Vasa-bridge to your Swedish ancestors!

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swedengen@telia.com

Phoenix Lodge #677

Phoenix, AZ



Emily Joy Noelle Wood

This year's Lucia pageant was very well attended! We all had a wonderful time, enjoying our "julbord," music, singing, and of course, our Lucia program.

This is the third year that Emily Joy Noelle Wood, daughter of Roger and Jeanette Wood, has participated in the Lucia Festival.

Emily is currently a sixth grader at Madison Meadows and received straight A's in her first quarter this year. Along with basic academic studies, she is taking chorus and band (percussion). She also plays basketball on the Junior Varsity team. Emily enjoys reading, camping, singing, and playing the piano. This past summer, she was able to travel to England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales for two-and-a-half weeks as a student ambassador in the People-to-People program started by Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Emily really enjoys participating in the Lucia Festival and learning more about her Swedish heritage. Her maternal great-grandfather came from Sweden. On her father's side, Emily is of English, Irish, German and Lithuanian descent. On her mother's side, she is Norwegian, Swedish, French and Scottish. One of her ancestors came to Sweden with General Bernadotte.

Submitted by: Sara Nilsson, Chairman

Bishop Hill Lodge #683

Bishop Hill, IL



Clair Mannon

Bishop Hill Lodge held its Christmas smorgasbord on Saturday, December 5, in the colony school. The evening started with Morris Nelson saying the table blessing in Swedish, next everyone enjoyed the smorgasbord with many Scandinavian dishes.

Clair Mannon from Geneseo, IL, was our Lucia for the evening. She is 9 years old and attends Southwest Elementary School as a 4th grader and is a member of First Lutheran Church, Geneseo, IL. Claire enjoys singing, doing plays, dancing, gymnastics, cheerleading and being Lucia for the holidays in Bishop Hill. Claire is also a member of the Vasa Children's Club in Bishop Hill. She is the granddaughter of Vasa members, Rune and Nan Swanson.

After our Lucia program the Julbock made his annual appearance – what a disruption of fun he makes. Next everyone enjoyed singing Christmas songs, after singing Roger Anderson read a story for the group. Morris Nelson was given an Honorary Lifetime Membership from the lodge. The evening ended with our annual raffle. We had around 80 members and guests in attendance for the evening and everyone enjoyed themselves that day.

Submitted by: Jeff Anderson

Norden Lodge #684

Fresno, CA



Sarah Wiens

Norden Lodge #684 celebrated its annual Lucia and Lutfisk Dinner on Saturday, December 11th. The evening was wonderful with delicious food and a magnificent program. After dinner, the lights dimmed and then from the back of the hall our beautiful Lucia, Sarah Wiens, led the procession of young ladies dressed in white robes singing *Sankta Lucia* followed by the young star boys ("stjärngossar").

Sarah Wiens is 17 years old and a senior at Central High in Fresno, CA. She is on the Varsity Water polo and Swimming team. She also enjoys triathlons, downhill skiing, and basketball. Sarah manages to balance her three AP courses, friends, and morning swim practices throughout the week. She is in the Dare to Dream Volunteer Club, Debate Club, and the Read to Lead Club at school. Sarah is volunteering at Children's Hospital of Central California. She has been participating in the Vasa lodge and its traditions ever since she was a little girl. Sarah visits her grandparents in Uppsala, Sweden every other year. While there, she also gets to spend time in the beautiful "High Coast" in northern Sweden where her grandparents have a summer home. Sarah is looking forward to celebrating Christmas with her grandparents and uncle in Sweden this year.

Submitted by: Carole Ann Sell,
Historian

Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod #703

Cape Cod, MA



Emma Brimdyr as Lucia with her attendants and one Tomte.

Our annual "Lucia Fest" was celebrated with a traditional Lucia procession of 23 children. A beautiful and poised Lucia, Emma Brimdyr, daughter of Chris and Kajsa Brimdyr led the line of attendants and one "tomte." Emma is the granddaughter of Karin and Chuck Cadwell and the great-granddaughter of Lena Anderson. An active Vasa family! Kajsa, her sister Anna Blair and cousin Trapin Hughes organized, costumed, and helped the children practice. The procession was majestic and left many with tears and smiles. Svea Peterson, Gerd Hedlund and Trapin led everyone in singing and dancing around the Christmas tree. The children listened to a story, received straw ornaments and Emma received an engraved pewter Lucia necklace from the Yankee Crafters shop. Deborah Goldberg was our professional photographer. The raffle of holiday wrapped gifts and baskets helped our scholarship program. Desserts and coffee was our final pleasure. Well done, Marilyn Sohoel and committee.

In November, Jim Coogan, a Cape Cod historian and author entertained us with many tales. We devoured home-cooked specialties at our International Potluck in October and in September we hosted a speaker from IFAW, *International Fund for Animal Welfare*. We are pleased to have welcomed six new members this past fall also.

Submitted by: Dorothy Kean

Viking Lodge #730

Grand Blanc, MI



Lucia Madison Carlson

Madison Carlson, age 13, and daughter of Clint and Patricia Carlson, Swartz Creek, MI, portrayed St. Lucia, an early Christmas martyr, at the Viking Lodge #730 Lucia Pageant and Smorgasbord held December 12 at the Grand Blanc Senior Center.

Madison, an 8th grade student at Swartz Creek Middle School, is active in basketball, baseball and band. Her grandparents, Carl and Virginia Carlson, are charter members of Viking Lodge #730, Vasa Order of America.

The pageant and Swedish smorgasbord that was available to the public included music and dancing by Jerry Peterson's quintet, and Christmas songfest by Howard Weaver playing his button accordion.

Submitted by: Howard Weaver

Birka Lodge #732

Hamilton, MA



Lucia Sonja Williams

Sonja Williams, age 12, daughter of Sharon Williams and granddaughter of long-time Birka members, Nancy and Gordon Hayward, all of North Reading, became Santa Lucia during the annual Jul Fest held at the lodge on November 27th. Her sister Sarah was Lucia in 2006.

She is in the 6th grade at the Abundant Life Christian School in Wilmington. She loves ballet, swimming, handbell choir at church and is an avid reader.

The festival of Santa Lucia begins before dawn on the 13th of December, which under the old Julian calendar (used in Sweden before 1753) was Christmas Day and the longest night of the year. Throughout Sweden the oldest daughter in each household comes to her sleeping parents dressed in a long white gown tied with a red sash and wearing a crown of lingonberry leaves in which are set seven lighted candles. She carries a tray of steaming hot coffee and "Lussekatte." The procession includes her sisters and brothers, also dressed in white, holding lighted candles and singing of the light and joy of Christmas. The sisters of the Lucia wear a wreath of tinsel in their hair and a piece tied around their waist, while the boys have tall pointed caps sprinkled with stars. Awakened by the lights and singing, the parents rise and eat.

Submitted by: Lois Johnson

Jubileum Lodge #755

Madison, WI



Lucia Emily Rubasch

The 2010 Lucia of Vasa Jubileum Lodge #755 is Emily Rubasch, the daughter of member Gunilla Rubasch and her husband Rick.

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



Viking Lodge #756

Greenfield, MA



Lucia and her court posed in front of the Christmas tree.

Viking Lodge #756 held its Lucia Celebration on December 12 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Lucia this year was Liz Saulnier. Attending Lucia were Chloe Hayden, Mahri Hayden, Megan Hrinda, Anneka Johnson, Avery Johnson, Morgan Madden, Leah Pion, Mackenzie Pion, Lilly Savoie, Abigail Schlinger, and Ashley Schlinger. Star boys were Andy Bostrom, Kristopher Bostrom, Gus Kohlin, and Sigurd Kohlin. Helping with readings were Nancy Pond, Anne Marie Kogos, Chris Jefferson, Carol Walker and Sigrid Howell.

Phil Johnson gave us the greeting and history of Lucia, and Torvald Kohlin was "Tomtefar." Providing cello accompaniment were Nancy Pond and Stan Jefferson.

As always, the congregation and the entire court sang Silent Night in several languages, Swedish, Finnish, English, German, French, and Chinese. Pastor Jeff Galbraith gave a benediction to close our festivities.

Submitted by: Phil Johnson

LODGE NEWS

Thule Lodge #127

Jamestown, Bemus Point, NY



Loretta Smith is shown with a variety of homemade pies that she baked for the members of the Thule Lodge #127 at a recent meeting.

Hello from Thule Lodge #127 in the Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY, area. We are in the middle of our winter weather, and look forward to the spring for our many warm weather events.

Thule Lodge #127 completed its 103rd year in December 2010, and continues to preserve the Swedish heritage through events and activities. Cultural leader Fanchon Fuller informs members of all future activities, along with providing some information on a Swedish activity. All appreciate Fanchon for her time and efforts.

Election of officers took place recently, and past chairman Eugene Johnson was in charge of the nominating committee. Elected as the chairman of the lodge is Ralph Veights, with Jeff Anderson as the vice chairman. Lucile Marsh will serve as the lodge secretary and Loretta Smith as the treasurer. Donna Sandberg will serve as the financial secretary. Diane Shaw will serve as the lodge chaplain, and John Sipos as the historian. Don Carlson will serve as the inner guardsman, with Nels John Nelson as the outer guardsman. Fanchon Fuller will continue as the cultural leader. Donna Johnson will serve as the mistress of ceremony, assisted by Bernice Veights. Current lodge chairman Edwin Sandberg will hold the

title of the immediate past chairman.

The lodge is holding their monthly business meetings on the winter schedule of the third Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. At a recent meeting, newly elected treasurer Loretta Smith provided us with her homemade pies during the refreshment time.

Our lodge had the wonderful opportunity to have some improvements in the last year, and this was due to the financial

generosity of many, under the direction of Robert Fuller. Lodge member Susan Sipos compiled the list for all to see, and included Swedish art decorations to add to the attractiveness of the list. Thule Lodge hopes that everyone will have a happy spring season. If you are in our area, we would welcome you to our lodge at 4123 Pancake Hill Road. "God dag" to all!

Submitted by: John Sipos, Historian

Tegnér Lodge #149

Oakland, CA



Members and guests of Tegnér Lodge #149 at their 102nd Anniversary banquet.

Twenty-two members and guests of Tegnér Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, celebrated the lodge's 102nd Anniversary with a banquet at Pier 29 Restaurant in Alameda, CA, on November 13, 2010. Remarks were made by our Chairman Marie Ann Hill, District Master Scott Matthews, Grand Lodge Treasurer Keith Hanlon, Past Junior District Master Richard Wooster, and Assistant District Master Victoria Thurman. Rhoda Gilbertson read the congratulatory cards the lodge had received, and Ann Tennis gave a short review of the life of Esaias Tegnér for whom our lodge is named. A good time was had by all.

The next week we held our regular potluck supper meeting at Björnson Hall. Kathryn Hughes and Richard Orlando showed us pictures taken during their trip to Sweden last summer.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

Svea Lodge #253

Indianapolis, IN

An Indianapolis Police squad car arriving at a meeting of Svea Lodge #253 is no cause for suspicion; it is the arrival of our incoming Chairman Michele Escalante, formerly of the I.P.D., and her

husband Josh, who is still on active duty. Do any other lodges have such an arrival?

At our October meeting, the program was presented by the Manager of the

Continued on page 17

Svea Lodge #253

Continued from page 16



Lodge members at the Indianapolis International Festival.

Latvian Community Center, the excellent facility in which we hold our meetings. He spoke on Latvia in its earliest times and Latvia today. In early times Latvia was a part of Sweden's Baltic domain. Being in fairly close proximity on opposite sides of the Baltic Sea, Swedish-Latvian interchange remained active through the centuries.

Latvia today is strongly independent, but Swedish influence is very evident. Accompanying videos showed modern, active cities and beautiful seaside and rural landscapes. Our Latvian "landlords" are very hospitable; it was fun watching the last Super Bowl with them in their largest meeting room having a stage and super-sized screen.

Our November program remains heartfelt to this writer. It was a historical overview of Svea 253. A birthday party in 1913 was the seminal event that started us off. It was a thrill to see our charter, dated May 29, 1913, shown on the screen. The document bears likenesses of Martin Luther, flanked by Gustavus Vasa and his grandson Gustavus Adolphus. Twenty-four charter member signatures are shown, all displaying fine penmanship.

This program also reviewed past practices and events up to the present. At one time black/white balling determined membership. Some lodge members participate in the Dance Norden group, which has kept traditional Scandinavian dances alive. Svea 253 also has hosted a number of District 8 conventions.

Each November our Lodge participates in the *Indianapolis International Festival*, held in a large hall at the

Indiana State Fairgrounds. This year our display booth bore the theme "Food for Thought." Pictorial settings of traditional Swedish meals were displayed. Various food items lots of "Limpa," and other merchandise items were for sale. The centerpiece of our booth was a display of the place settings and menus for the Nobel Prize banquet in Stockholm, along with a large photographic portrait of the King and Queen.

This month at our Tuesday luncheon we will dine Chinese. Restaurants are chosen by a committee of three who "dine out" and then make the selection.

So Svea #253 keeps booming right along, "lycklig och stark."

Submitted by: Wesley Hanson

Strindberg Lodge #259

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada



The picture is of Gunvor and Karl Larsson, long-time members of the Strindberg Lodge in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, at the Lodge's Christmas lunch on November 28.

Submitted by: Karen Adams

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA

David and Karen Cope showed us how to make "korv," and we all had a chance to enjoy it later on at a dinner.

The *Heritage Day Festival* in Erie last year was held in conjunction with the "Tall Ships" which visited Erie, along with our own flagship Niagara.

We continued our "God Jul" celebrating with a dinner at the Erie Shrine Club. The committee (couples "The Copes" and "The Wallins") did a wonderful job. We had music on a "nyckelharpa" - an authentic old Swedish instrument. Everyone received lovely gifts - mostly Carl Larsson prints, suitable for framing. Our rosmaling artist decorated a lovely cabinet which we used for our annual raffle.

Learning the Swedish language is interesting and fun for a dedicated group who meet every Tuesday at members' homes on a rotating basis.

Submitted by: Linda Colin



Rosmaling cabinet - our raffle item - decorated by Berit Benacci.

A Vasa-bridge to your Swedish ancestors!

Looking for your relatives in Sweden?

I have helped many satisfied Vasa-members finding their Swedish roots.

Further info please e-mail:
swedengen@telia.com

Bishop Hill Lodge #683

Bishop Hill, IL



Bishop Hill Lodge #683 held its October meeting with Halloween Gotcha & Costume Party (left to right Jasper Jenner, Lars Jenner, Judy Anderson and Jeff Anderson).

Bishop Hill Lodge #683 held its November meeting by having the election of Officers, and a program was given by Harlan Nelson on his antique toys.

Submitted by: Jeff Anderson

Oak Leaf Lodge #685

Thousand Oaks, CA



Ann Marie Wotky is talking about her expedition to Antarctica.

This year has 'flown by.' We have had our monthly meetings and socials. Of course we celebrated Midsummer on June 25th at Vasa Park in Agoura, CA, as well as the "Marknad" on September 19th. The second annual contest among the local lodges to determine which lodge made the best Swedish meatballs was a huge success.

On July 25th we had a swim party with a barbecue at the home of our Chairman which was a very enjoyable event for lodge members.

Our October social was a fall party and belated 42nd Anniversary of Oak Leaf Lodge attended by members and guests. A talk by our member, Torsten Olsson, about the model of a Stave Church he built over a period of 2-1/2

months, which is now housed at the Scandinavian Cultural Center at California Lutheran University.

Each member received a colored ribbon which denoted their years of membership. There were three Charter members present at this special time, they were Aina Dackow, Lorraine Olsson and Mary Ann Kenyon.

In November our lodge members shared a traditional American Thanksgiving meal which was followed by a talk and slides by our member Anne Marie Wotkyns telling of her Polartec Expedition to Antarctica aboard the Swedish ship "Oden."

In December we celebrated the comings of Christmas with a wonderful Christmas dinner prepared by our fabulous cooks, most all Swedish dishes. There was singing of Christmas songs, both English and Swedish, accompanied by Torkil Hammer and his "Nyckelharpa."

Submitted by:
Judith "Judi" Ann Palmquist

Skogen Lodge #700

Redding, CA

September 18th we celebrated our 37th Anniversary at a local restaurant, with the initiation of two new members; Karen Stephens and Fred Erickson. We also received a surprise visit from our District Master Scott Matthews and his wife Katherine at the dinner. We were entertained by the Redding Riverside Chorus, a barbershop singing group.

Ruben Swede Englund, our chairman, spoke in Turlock, California earlier in the month of September at the Jenny Lind Lodge on the history of Swedish copper in the community. Our lodge had two Scandinavian costumes on display in the state fair this year which brought a great deal of attention to our lodge in Redding.

During our monthly meeting in October our cultural presentation was done on Scandinavians in Shasta County. Our member Nanci Courtemarche did a wonderful presentation on Peter Lassen, the founder of the mountain range east of Redding. In the future we will be doing cultural presentations on Swedish miners in Shasta County during the gold rush days, and Swedish historical name sites in this county during the 1800's. We will also have cultural presentations on Swedish-Americans in the Vasa organization.

On Sunday December 12th our lodge celebrated "Sankta Lucia" with many members present and again with many guests. The festivities were held in our lodge which dates back to the early 1870's. Our lodge was well decorated by the decoration committee headed by Karen Elliott and Virginia Slottrup. We were all served a Swedish "Julbord" headed up by members under the direction of Nanci Courtemarche. The Lucia procession was led by Linnea Spencer our Lucia for this year with a parade of some beautiful

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Shown here are the two costumes that were on display at the state fair this year. The Swedish costume comes from Rätvik in Dalarna, and the other one comes from Norway and is from the area known as Telemark..

Skogen Lodge #700

Continued from page 18

young ladies in white robes. We were treated with special music by Celina Young who possesses a beautiful voice. Her voice traveled so well from all corners of this large and open lodge meeting hall. Celeste Spencer organized the event this year. Also represented in the program was Darlene Stratton at the piano.

Many of the members and guests danced around the Christmas tree, and a number of foreign exchange students also joined in with the celebration.

During dinner we were treated with Jazz music by Alan Spencer on the saxophone and Chris Uchuri on the bass guitar. It was nice to see young and old enjoying this evening.

We now look forward to an eventful, happy, and meaningful year in 2011. Besides our social activities for the year we also have game nights, speakers meetings, historical field trips, cooking lessons, book discussions on Swedish emigrations, and topics relating to Scandinavian studies, and Skogens hiking Viking club.

Submitted by: **Ruberth "Swede" Englund, Chairman**

Sierra Kronan Lodge #737

Roseville, CA

Our Cultural Programs continue to enlighten and entertain. In June, Anni Bonfils and Kirsten Olesen gave a talk on their country of origin: Denmark. It is located on the Jylland peninsula and also includes two major islands, Sjaelland and Fyn. You can visit Grenen Beach, the northernmost point in Denmark, and stand with one foot in the North Sea and the other in the Baltic Sea. Denmark has a temperate climate and the terrain is low and flat to gently rolling plains. This country is famous for the Little Mermaid statue, *Hans Christian Andersen* with his well-loved fairy tales, *Legoland*, *Tivoli Gardens*, and its bicycle lifestyle among many other things. About one-quarter of the population lives in greater Copenhagen, which was recently named the world's most livable city. Anni displayed her beautiful cross-stitch map of this modern prosperous nation.

On October 9th, Sierra Kronan participated in the 27th annual *Sacramento Scandinavian Festival* where people enjoyed traditional music, food, baked goods, and merchandise. There were handiwork demonstrations including lace mak-

ing and wheat weaving. In addition to vendors from all over northern California, the different local Scandinavian organizations made crafts to sell at this event too. Sierra Kronan has been specializing in pieces with a Dala Horse theme. The day's entertainment was the El Dorado Scandinavian Dancers. During the flag ceremony, each country was represented by a person wearing the traditional folk costume who walked to the podium to the tune of the country's national anthem.

In November, Raye Brown and Kathy Matthews gave a presentation on Norway. Raye has had good success researching her roots. Records located at Bergen indicate her ancestors lived by the Hardinger Fjord near Rosendahl. Maps of Norway showed the rugged coastline broken by fjords and islands - National Geographic has listed the Norwegian fjords as the world's top tourist attraction. The ladies displayed bowls, plates, a box, and a cake-stand all decorated by "Rosemaling." 'Rose Painting' is a form of decorative flower painting that originated in Norway around 1750. The designs use C and S strokes and feature scroll and flowing lines, floral designs, and subtle colors. There are three main styles named for the regions where each originated. This art form, brought to the US by immigrants, began to go out of style starting about 1860. However it experienced a revival in the 20th century. Both Raye and Kathy enjoy the classes they take.

Our annual "Jul Fest" was held Friday, December 10th. The tables were decorated in green and red on white tablecloths. Elise Chatterton was delighted to be our Lucia once again. The youngsters wore white robes; the girls had red sashes and the boy's red ribbon boutonnieres. The hall was darkened as they preceded center stage to the music of the Santa Lucia song. A brief history of Lucia was read, after which the children picked up trays of ginger snaps and offered them to members and guests. Everyone enjoyed a minismorgasbord followed with a hot cup of "glögg" prepared by Scott Matthews, our former lodge chairman.

Submitted by: **Carol Nesevich**

Jubileum Lodge #755

Madison, WI

We've had a wonderful fall here, with two fine meetings and the start of a new Swedish film group.

On October 10, Prof. Emeritus David

Michelson from the UW Geology Department explained why Wisconsin looks like Sweden (It's the glaciers). During the last Ice Age, our glacier stopped just west of Madison, and Sweden's glacier paused over the region of Lakes Vänner and Vättern on its retreat from the European mainland.

Using photographs (some from *inside* glaciers) and excellent diagrams, Prof. Michelson explained how advancing glaciers form the teardrop-shaped hills called drumlins, which dot eastern Wisconsin and much of Sweden. Stationary glaciers leave ridges of till (loose rock ranging from silt to boulders), called moraines, along their edges. Retreating glaciers leave outwashes of till and buried ice boulders. These melt and leave low spots, called kettles, accounting for the thousands of lakes in Wisconsin and Sweden. Rivers of melt water in tunnels underneath the glacier also fill up with silt and gravel, forming snakelike ridges called eskers. The Uppsala Esker in eastern Sweden is one of the largest in the world.

Formerly glaciated areas also feature many old lake beds and larger lakes, formed as the glacier's weight compressed the land by a thousand feet or more. As glaciers retreated, sea level rose, and the land rebounded, these basins filled in and lakes drained, often very suddenly, and the rushing waters formed spectacular features like the Dells of the Wisconsin River.

Our 23 attending members and five guests (two of whom applied for membership) gained a new appreciation for the dramatic forces that shaped the landscapes we love in Wisconsin and Sweden. After the program, we enjoyed "Sockerkaka" med "äpplen," cheese, crackers, grapes, and coffee, served by long-time lodge members, Hans and Lois Fride.

Submitted by: **Robert T. Merrill**



Prof. Emeritus of Geology David Michelson making glaciers fascinating.

SWEDISH NEWS

Logen Skåne Nr 570

Malmö



Lucian Isabella Winroth med tärnor.

Logen Skåne Nr 570 Malmö hade julmöte med Lucia fredagen den 11 dec. Efter logemötet berättade kulturledare br Olle Olsson om jultomtens härkomst, en av många historier som finns i världen och sen blev det dags för lite glögg och pepparkakor. Efteråt kom Lucia med tärnor som var valda av tidningen Kvällspostens läsare och sjöng underbart vackert. Efter ett digert julbord med många rätter från sill till risgrynsgröt, lämnade ingen bordet utan att vara mätta. Tomten kom som vanligt med många julklappar. Efter kaffet fanns tillfälle att försöka vinna litet fler julklappar, på sin lott, från ett jättestort vinstbord. Glada vandrade vi sedan hemåt i den snörika omgivningen.

Insänt av: **Olle Olsson, KL**

Logen Småland Nr 618

Jönköping

En återblick på höstens efterkapitel. På septemberlogens efterkapitel var temat *En resa till "svenskbygderna" i Illinois och Minnesota*. Sy Maureen och br Göte visade bilder och berättade om olika platser de besökt. På bilden syns Jenny Lind Chapel i Andover, Illinois. Kapellet byggdes 1854 av prästen Lars Paul Esbjörn som härstammade från Gästrikland. För att ha råd att bygga bl a detta kapell reste han runt och samlade in pengar. Den största gåvan fick han från Jenny Lind, därför fick kapellet hennes namn.

På högtidsmötet i oktober fick vi åter-

gen höra Zara Brinck framföra några vackra sånger. Zara är barnbarn till sy Ing-Marie och br Per Olof Brinck.

Vårt novembermöte gick i indianernas fotspår. Br Rune visade bilder och berättade livfullt om några indianstammar i Nordamerika från norr till söder och från öster till väster, hur de levde och hur de har det idag.

Årets traditionella julloge med utsökt god julmat som några Vasasyskon stod för uppskattades av alla. På julbordet i år fanns uppställt ljusstake, julbock och en ren som vi fått från vår vänloge Pioneer Lodge i Rhode Island, USA. Med jul-



Jenny Lind Chapel

musik i bakgrunden kunde vi njuta av julmaten, prata med varandra och även avbryta för att sjunga några julsånger. Br Rune berättade om jultraditioner i Europa och USA. Kvällen avslutades med att sy Maj läste "Tomten" av Viktor Rydberg samtidigt som bilder sammanställda av sy Maureen visades. Broder Stig-Gösta Svensson läste denna kväll ett par egna dikter med mycket tänkvärt innehåll inför helgen. Ordföranden br Per Olof önskade alla en God Jul och ett Gott Nytt År.

Insänt av: **Maureen Bengtsson, KL**

Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633

I oktober hade vi en fantastiskt trevlig kväll, då vi gästades av *Accordion Club*, en stor grupp dragospelare från Stockholm. Vi fick njuta av många gamla fina melodier i ett härligt sammansatt program. Som många gånger tidigare bjöds vi på detta av br Bo och sy Marianne Hjulström.

I november stod våra systrar från Nyköping för en förstklassig underhållning. Vi fördes via vacker musik in till en klosterträdgård dekorerad med blommor och stora kandelabrar. Där framförde en grupp nunnor en rolig sång. Efter god mat och trevlig samvaro fick våra bröder med hjälp av sina sångförmågor tävla i ett roligt bildspel.

Lucia firades som vanligt i december. Vi njöt av ett delikat julbord, därefter

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Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633

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kom Lucia med tärnor och en söt liten tomte. Han tröttnade efter en stund, men Lucia och hennes följe underhöll med vackra julsånger. Lucian och några tärnor är barnbarn till sy Berit Söderström.

Insänt av: Lillemor Karlberg, KL

In October we had a fantastic evening when the *Accordion Club* from Stockholm came to entertain. Many old songs were performed by a great number of accordion-players. As usual our members Marianne and Bo Hjulström sponsored this wonderful event.

In November our sisters from Nyköping entertained all of us. While beautiful music was played, we were all led into a convent garden beautifully decorated with big candles and flowers. They performed some pretty funny songs, all of them dressed like nuns. After a delicious meal and coffee with donuts (which in Swedish are called monks) our brothers had a competition singing songs.

Lucia was celebrated in December as usual. Delicious Christmas food was served, and later the Lucia procession came to sing for us. One little "tomte" tired quickly, but the Lucia and her maidens performed wonderfully. The Lucia and some of the maidens are grandchildren to our sister Berit Söderström.

**Submitted by: Lillemor Karlberg,
Cultural Leader**



Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Höganäs



Br Hans och sy Berit Bogren serverar glögg till sy Lena Nilsson.



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47 Vasasyskon hade samlats till Högtidsmöte. Vår ordförande sy Evy Lindstrand hälsade oss alla välkomna.

Efter Vasasången förklarade O sy Evy Lindstrand mötet öppnat. Ceremonimästarparet, br Ulf och sy Barbro Carlson iordningställde salen för intagning av kandidaterna och sedan skulle CM presentera dem för logen. Våra nya medlemmar heter sy Inger och br Magnus Ekehed samt sy Britt-Marie och br Niels Henriksen.

KL sy Ingrid Berg berättade att hon

skickat julkort och Vasa Nytt till våra vänloger. LH br Gunnar Lindstrand berättade om "roliga" händelser som styrelsemedlemmar hade råkat ut för t.ex. vid ljussläckning då det upptäcktes att ljusen aldrig hade blivit tända!! FDO br Leif Larsson läste upp förnomineringen av tjänstemän för 2011.

Efter en vacker ljussläckningsceremoni avslutades mötet och efter en stund intog vi våra platser vid det stiligt dukade borden. Dansade gjorde vi till "husban-

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Logen Höganäs Nr 634

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Br Niels och Sy Britt-Marie Henriksen med faddrarna Br Leif och Sy Bodil Larsson och Br Magnus och Sy Inger Ekehed med faddrarna Sy Evy och Br Gunnar Lindstrand.

det.” Naturligtvis hade vi lotteri och många gick hem glada och lite trötta efter en mycket trevlig kväll.

På årets sista möte, vårt julmöte, samlades 68 Vasasyskon på Hemgården i Viken. VO br Karl-Axel Bengtsson tjänstgjorde som Ordförande denna kväll och han hälsade vår DD br Alf Nilsson och MDER br Bengt Åberg varmt välkomna. Vi hade också gästande ordenssyskon från LL Carlskrona Nr 601 och från Logen Kärnan Nr 608.

Br Karl-Axel Bengtsson öppnade mötet. Protokoll och skrivelser lästes upp och därefter förrättade sy Berit Bogren slutnomineringen och val av tjänstemän för 2011. Alla poster blev tillsatta denna kväll.

En rapport från medlemsvårdskommittén, genom br Hans Bogren, berättade att de varit ute med julblommor till dem som inte kunde närvara vid våra möten. KL Ingrid Berg läste upp julkvällsningar från några av vänlogerna. LH för denna kväll, sy Birgit Olsson, blickade tillbaka på julmötet den 10 december 1983. O Karl-Axel Bengtsson avslutade mötet.

Borden dukades upp med julmat, men innan vi åt serverades glögg och pepparkakor. När vi hade intagit våra platser vid borden, hälsade vår O Br Karl-Axel Bengtsson tre gäster välkomna till denna kväll.

Efter maten fick vi besök av Lucia med tärnor som sjöng vackert. Sy Birgit Olsson läste tre juldikter för oss som var skrivna av Karl-Axel Karlfeldt, Alf Henriksson och Gabriel Jönsson. Därefter knackade det på dörren och där stod Tomten. Alla fick varsin julkapp, så vi hade tydligen varit snälla allihop!!

Fem av våra medlemmar har deltagit vid samtliga möten under 2010 och de fick var sin ros samt en trisslott. Innan vi skildes åt tände vi traditionsenligt varsitt ljus och sjöng: “Nu tändas tusen juleljus.”

Insänt av: Ingrid Berg, KL

Logen Enköping Nr 646

Snön låg som ett vitt täcke när logen Enköping Nr 646 firade sitt Luciamöte lördagen den 4 december. Som vanligt hade våra kommittéer lagat till ett julbord med många av de traditionella julrätterna. Ordenssyskonen lät sig väl smaka och passade även på att sjunga lite allsång.

När det var dags att dricka kaffe, skred vårt vackra Luciatåg in. Det var fem flickor som stämde upp i mycket fin sång. De blandade svenska Lucia sånger

med engelska julvisor och vi alla njöt av denna stämningsfulla stund. Ordförande Karl-Erik Axelsson tackade dem å logens vägnar genom att ge ett litet julpaket till var och en.

Efter Luciatåget genomfördes det årliga Lucia lotteriet och i år hade många ordenssyskon överlämnat gåvor som logen tacksamt tagit emot. Logesyskonen Lena och Sven-Olof Johansson vann det vackra pepparkakshuset.

Som avslutning passade vår DD Liberth Karlsson att tacka för en trevlig samvaro samt Lucia som i denna tids mörker lyste upp kvällen och ingav en känsla av att julen snart är här. Han önskade alla också en God Jul.

Insänt av: Elisabeth Agge, PS



Sven-Olof Johansson

Logen Tre Hjärtan Nr 665 Halmstad

Logen Tre Hjärtan Nr 665 Halmstad hade logmöte med Lucia den 15 Dec. Ritualenligt hölls logens julmöte i logesalen i Svarta Örn huset i Halmstad, det blev logens sista julmöte eftersom logen efter årsmötet kommer att upphöra och gå samman med logen Klockan Nr 747, Skåne. Efter mötet samlades vi en våning ner där vi serverades glögg och pepparkakor och sen kom Lucia med tärnor samt en liten tomte och sjöng för oss. Efteråt bjöds det till bords där ett julbord serverades och avnjöts tillfullo av logens medlemmar och gäster från LL Skåne Nr 570 och Klockan Nr 747. Till kaffet serverades det struvor, som är en speciell kaka vid juletid. Varje deltagare hade en

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Logen Tre Hjärtan Nr 665

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Lucia Celica omgiven av tärnorna Elin och Lolo och Tomten Lucas.

julklapp med sig och dessa lottades ut, så att var och en fick en julklapp med sig hem igen. Efter en trevlig kväll var det så dags att ge sig ut i den kalla och snöiga

natten hem till den ljuva värmen. Vi alla önskade varandra en God Jul och Gott Nytt År.

Insänt av: Olle Olsson

Logen Härnösand Nr 673



Lucia i logesalen.

Fredag den 10 december började vi vår julklubb med mingel där värdparen Johansson, Wallin och Bäcklund serverade glögg och pepparkakor. Även baren var öppen där andra drycker fanns att tillgå.

När vi sen samlades i logesalen kom Lucia med följe på besök. Det var Kapellsbergs Skolans skönsjungande ungdomar som framförde julsånger, a capella, på ett förträffligt sätt. Deras härliga röster gav oss en mycket njutbar stund.

I matsalen stod sen borden dukade, och vi åt under skönt ackompanjemang av Bert Wallins dragspel där man glatt

sjöng med i de kända julsångerna. Sedan ställde Kjell Johansson upp med gitarr och sång och Bert Wallin spelande dragspel. Vi känner oss som vanligt väldigt privilegierade eftersom vi har sådana stjärnor med i vår loge. Att de dessutom ställer upp med underhållning på våra sammankomster är en stor tillgång.

Vid kaffet knackade Tomten på dörren och kom in med sin stora säck där det faktiskt fanns klappar till alla. Kvällen avslutades med önskningar om En God Jul och Ett Gott Nytt År till alla.

Insänt av: Barbro Sundgren, KL

Foto av: Håkan Larsson

Logen Nybyggarna Nr 698 Ängelholm



Ingvar överlämnar lergök i silver till Lars Jenner Vasa-Arkivet.

Logen har under året haft åtta härliga möten där några nya syskon tillkommit, dock har det hållits parentation över två syskon som varit med i logen sedan början 1973.

I september var fyra av logens syskon i USA och hälsade bl.a på i *Bishop Hill* där de upplevde mycket trevligt, samt överlämnade en lergök i silver till den samling som finns där.

Lördagen den 4 december, hölls 2010-års sista logemöte med val av tjänstemän för år 2011, alla platser blev tillsatta. Mötesförhandlingarna avslutades med att KP, VO och FDO läste var sin adventsvers.

Logens syskon fick denna kväll vid *Kontakt Amerika* lyssna till KL br Gunnars berättelse om svensk-indianske Adam som kunde bli väldigt arg men som också hade humor. När Amerika upphöjde Columbus dagen till nationell helgdag, åkte Adam till Italien, Columbus hemland, där steg han av flygplanet i full indianskrud, slog med kraft ner sitt spjut i marken och sa: *Härmed förklarar jag Italien för upptäckt och från och med nu är detta land indiansk mark! Kan Columbus komma till oss och förklara det för upptäckt, så måtte väl jag kunna göra detsamma i Italien.* Succén var stor, det tyckte inte minst påven, som Adam fick audiens hos.

Kvällens efterkapitel var ett gott julbord. Fyra tomtenissar sjöng julsånger och sen kom Tomten med en stor säck klappar till snälla "Vasabarn." Det blev en trevlig avslutningsafton för det gågna året och innan vi skildes åt önskades en God Jul och ett Gott Nytt År.

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Logen Nybyggarna Nr 698

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När ni läser detta är vi en bra bit in på det nya året, Logen Nybyggarna #698 önskar alla loger i Sverige, Amerika och Kanada en god fortsättning på det nya året.

Insänt av: Gunnar Hyberts,
Kulturledare

Logen Kongahälla Nr 702 Kungälv

Logen Kongahälla Nr 702 har glädjen att få vara värd, då Distriktslogen Norra Sverige Nr 19 skall ha sitt *Distriktsmöte i Kungälv* den 27 – 29 maj 2011. Mötet och inkvarteringar kommer att vara på Hotell Fars Hatt i Kungälv.

Kungälv är en relativt liten stad med f.n. ca. 40.000 innevånare, men rik på gammal historia och nära till en vacker natur och bl.a. två sevärda fästningar.

Vi önskar alla Vasasyskon hjärtligt välkomna till oss i Kungälv och kommer att göra vårt bästa för att det skall bli ett trivsamt tillfälle att träffa logesyskon från många loger. Vi kommer att anordna en utflykt till *Marstrand* med guidning, rundvandring i Kungälv för de som ej deltagar i mötet. Vasakväll med Vikingafest och bankett med underhållning och dans. Inbjudan kommer att gå ut månadsskiftet januari-februari till delegater och loger.

Om ytterligare information önskas, vänligen kontakta oss, Sune Börjesson telefon: 031-52 77 40 eller Morgan Andersson telefon 0303-22 55 47, e-post: ll702@vasaorden.com

Insänt av: Rolf Claesson



Bohus Fästning, Kungälv.

Logen Bråviken Nr 751



Owe Hilding medlem i Logen Bråviken här med två blivande nyförvärv Eddie och Louise Ugglå.

Tiden går fort, det var ju inte allt för länge sedan logen firade sina första tio år i *Norrköpings Stadshus* med över hundra deltagare. Nu har man så smått börjat fundera på hur de tjugo åren kommer att firas. Ja, det var tankar som kom under 18-års firandet som bl. a. innehöll ett mycket trevligt program om nationalskalden och Nobelpristagaren, Verner von Heidenstam, av Övalralidsintendenten Per Gunnar Andersson och baronen Eddie Ugglå. Det blev ett program med många glada skratt, inte minst genom att en av kvällens gäster hade med sig ett brev som Heidenstam skrivit till en nära familjemedlem!!

Festklädda medlemmar, härlig buffé och som vanligt på festhumör, ordförande Maggie Ahlin, gjorde att medlemmar och gäster fick en verkligt trevlig kväll.

Logen ser ljusst på framtiden och emot nya medlemmar. Det nya året 2011, började med att två nya medlemmar blev intagna, dessutom kommer samarbetet mellan de tre logerna i Östergötland att förstärkas. FDM sy Lisbeth H Qvarfordt arbetar för att de tre logerna ska samarbeta mer, inte minst genom att medlemmarna besöker varandras loger. "För mig finns inte nedläggningar utan en utveckling, som man kan få, om man samarbetar mellan flera aktiva loger, vilket då också ger en stabilitet för hela ordensväsendet. Man kan inte slå sig till ro och tro allt ordnar sig av sig självt. Vasaordens framtid ligger i förnyelse och då kommer medlemsantalet öka i logerna. Man ska inte lägga ner loger bara för man för sent insett att man inte kan besätta de viktigaste tjänstemannaposterna längre, för då har logen slumrat till

för länge. Vår konstitution har så många fina pärlor, men lite förenklingar går möjligen att göra, loveväsendet i Sverige ökar enligt analytiker, så flera måste skaffa större logelokaler. Kanske det gäller också vår Orden om någon tid. Vasa Orden i Tiden" slutar sy Lisbeth.

Insänt av: Lisbeth Qvarfordt Hallberg

Logen Vadstena Nr 762

Vilken fin avslutning på 2010, tre nya medlemmar inröstades och det signalerade för inröstning av flera medlemmar inför det nya året, Vadstena har vaknat upp efter ett par tunna år. Det ser verkligen bra ut, tycker FDM Lisbeth H Qvarfordt, flitigt mötesdeltagare på Vadstenalogen.

Stig Carlsson blir kvar som Ordf., Övralidsintendenten Per Gunnar Andersson, ny medlem, går in som ceremonimästare. Sy Lisbeth gratulerade logen och önskade till fler nya stora framgångar under 2011.

Det blev stort Luciatåg på kvällen av elever från Vadstenas musikklasser. Sen blev det traditionell buffé och logens kassörska Marika, hade ordnat med en frågetävling i tolv avsnitt. Där var frågor gällande Amerika, bl a hur många stjärnor det finns i dess fana, olika presidenter mm. Segrade gjorde P G Andersson som fick med sig en fin godiskorg hem.

Ja hem, åkte vi ju alla till slut efter en mycket trevlig julavslutning med allt som man kan önska sig.

Vi sex närvarande från Logen Bråviken skickar en hälsning till alla våra Vasamedlemmar och inte minst stort tack och en önskan om en god fortsättning till vår fadderloge Vadstena.

Vi glider Skänningegatan fram och beundrar hur fint det lyser i alla hus och ett som utmärkte sig litet speciellt, "i amerikansk" stil.

Insänt av: Inge Hallberg



Delar av logemötet samlade inför starten av det nya året.

YOUTH NEWS

Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1



Heather Marie Mattson Grosso

Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1, the oldest children's group in the Vasa Order of America, held their 90th annual Lucia Festival at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in West Hempstead, NY, on December 5, 2010. The afternoon started with a lovely version of the Sankta Lucia legend, read by Laura Perri (Lucia 2009).

Participating in this year's program were 34 current members and several alumni singing traditional songs

and reciting poems in Swedish. The children, led by choir director Nina Prasso, sang and read beautifully in Swedish.

This year's Lucia was Heather Marie Mattson Grosso, daughter of Wendy and Ronald Grosso. She boasts having strong Swedish roots from her "Morfar," Ronald who hails from the Åland Island. She joyfully dances in her Great-Grandmother Elna's handmade, traditional Swedish folk costume.

Heather looked beautiful in the long satin gown with a wreath of greens and candles on her head. She carried a copper tray with a copper coffee pot and "lussekatter." She sounded angelic singing "Hosianna" and "O Helga Natt." She was attended by maidens, star boys, bakers and "tomtar." Max Nero was the big star boy and Maribetta Russo gave a beautiful rendition of the Lucia poem. Candle girls, Alexandria Oderwald and Rachel Mackay read their parts flawlessly. The youngest Elsa Rix members, dressed as little "tomtar," delighted the audience as they "tippy, tip-tapped" through their songs.

After the Lucia pageant, everyone gathered in the Social Hall for homemade sandwiches, coffee bread, cookies, "glögg," coffee and soft drinks. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Dahlstrom-Schumacher, the children, dressed in their Swedish costumes, showed their exper-

tise in folk dancing. The youngest members were adorable dancing Shoemaker while the veteran dancers performed "Tre Karls" and "Talgoxen." They were accompanied by Jeanne Eriksson Widman Andersen, Wayne Soderlund and Johnny Soderlund who also played Christmas tunes to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

Barnklubben Elsa Rix #1 2010 Lucia, Heather, is a proud member of Vasa Lodge Olympic #235. In addition to enjoying Swedish folk dancing, Heather is an avid sailor and varsity soccer goalie. A gifted artist, she looks forward to studying graphic design in college next fall.

The group wishes to thank the parents, alumni and friends who worked very hard purchasing supplies, setting-up, decorating, printing programs, baking, making sandwiches, working in the kitchen, working at the gift table, selling raffles, serving coffee and cleaning-up. There were many homemade types of bread, "glögg," Swedish gift items, beautiful Lucia dolls and our double CD with Lucia booklet for sale on the gift table as well as an abundance of raffle prizes.

Copies of the *Lucia and Folk Dances* CD and dance book are available at: www.skandjam.com (click the Elsa Rix link)

Submitted by: Wendy Mattson-Grosso

Nordikids



Lucia Sofia Crystina Nelson and her attendants.

Nordikids celebrated their 10th annual Lucia at Wicker Park Social Center in Highland, IN, on December 5th, where over 130 people gathered for dinner and a full day of Swedish fun. The Nordikids performed many songs about Lucia and the coming "Jul." This year, Sofia Crystina Nelson was the honored Lucia, and she sang "O Helga Natt" (O Holy Night) as a solo. Sofia is the daughter of Annelise Gingold-Nelson and Craig Nelson. Her paternal grandparents are Tennes and Joanne Nelson and her maternal grandparents are Julian Gingold and the late Birgitta Svensson.

Sofia is 14 years old and attends Highland High School where she is a freshman. She is a teacher's aide for Highland Middle School and is on the honor roll. She is active with her church, Our Savior Lutheran in Lansing, IL, where she attends confirmation class and also teaches Sunday school as well as volunteers for most church activities. She attended *Sjolunden* language camp in 2009 and hopes to go back very soon.

Sofia's mother, Annelise, is the Swedish language instructor for Nordikids #208 and she is also a member and past officer of Nordik Folk lodge #761.

Submitted by: Lynda Smith

Skansen Children's Club

Skansen Children's Club in Milwaukee performed their Lucia and Christmas program at Linde Lodge's Annual event. They also performed their new dances and all had friendly chats with Santa Claus. He handed out apples and candy canes, and brought them all together for a "family picture."

Skansen also put on a small Lucia program at the Swedish Consulate in Milwaukee on December 10th. Consul Johan Segerdahl hosted a Christmas get-together with "business Swedes" where "glögg," "lussekatter" and other goodies were served.

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand



At the Consulate, From left: Lola Wasserman, Luke Lorbach, Niklas Mårtenson, Elizabeth Greene, Lucia - Anna Lorbach, Annika & Krister Mårtenson, and Rex Wasserman.



A "family picture" of Skansen Children's Club and Santa Claus.

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand, Linde och Skansen

Tankar kring en ungdomsloge, Young Vasa

Jag åkte ut och träffade ungdomar från Campus Norrköping och närliggande skolor i åldrarna 18-25 år, för att se hur många som skulle vara intresserade av Vasa Orden. Jag berättade om eventuella ungdomsloger med Vasa Orden av Amerika som skulle vara en fristående organisation med ändå vara en aktivitetssklubb under Vasa Orden. Det visade sig att det fanns intresse för en sådan ungdomsloge inom Vasa Orden.

I dagens IT samhälle är det ju lättare att nå varandra. Ungdomslogerna kan träffas och Chatta/Facebook/Twitter med eventuella medlemmar i logerna i USA resp Kanada. Det finns mycket att diskutera och möjligheterna att träffas inte bara över nätet utan besöka varandras loger för att träffas och besöka industrier och olika media. Det går också att ha kontakt med varandras skolor och utbyte av varandras läromedel. Som jag ser det är detta ett enorm kontaktnät genom Vasa Orden.

Jag räknar med att grupperna skall ingå i Orden, vilket gör att när besöks görs i de olika ländernas loger så har man också möjlighet att få hjälp med logi mm. För att ingå i Vasa Orden av Amerika som stödförening så behövs kanske att man tar ut en så kallad medlemsavgift. Lokaler kan man säkert ordna i Campus i skolornas olika lokaler. Viktigt är att man har tillgång till datorer.

Numera har väl nästan varje skolelev i den åldern egen dator. Jag är säker på att många ungdomar kommer att en gång vilja vara med i den stora organisationen av Vasa Orden av Amerika. Nyfikenheten om Vasa Orden tydde på detta av de ungdomar jag träffade.

Någon frågade om de ev kunde få arbeta i USA resp Kanada med de ev kontakter de skapat här hemma igenom ett medlemskap av en ungdomsloge.

Jag ser stora möjligheter till att starta en ungdomsloge här. Men det är också ett sätt att värva ungdomar inom våra loger och ett ökat medlemskap inom Vasa samt ett begynnande intressera för det stora arbetet inom Vasa.

Det var en ganska entusiastisk skara jag träffade och lovade höra av mig om framtiden.

Insänt av: Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt,
FSLPD

Continued on next page

Thoughts around a future youth lodge, Young Vasa

In order to raise the interest and get younger people involved in the Vasa Order of America I went on a small tour to the University in Norrköping and nearby schools to speak with students within the age group 18 – 25. I told them about the possibility of forming a youth lodge connected to the Vasa Order of America. Based on the discussion we had, it seemed like there was a genuine interest for such a lodge.

In the current age of IT technology it is much easier to get in contact with each other. The Youth lodges could meet and connect with members in USA and Canada via instant messaging, Facebook or Twitter.

As I see it, there is a huge network directly linked to the Vasa Order. I presume that the youth lodges would be a part of the Order, and therefore would be able to get help with accommodation and more when visiting from other countries. In order to be connected to the Vasa Order of America as a support group, it might be necessary to charge a small fee to grant membership

The youth could meet at premises at a Campus or any of the schools. The important thing is to have access to computers. However this might not be a problem since most of the youth nowadays have their own notebooks, laptops or computers. At these meetings they could get together to discuss and chat/Twitter/Face book or use Skype or any other instant messaging available.

I am certain that many teenagers and students would like to join the major organization Vasa Order of America later on. The interest for the Vasa Order seemed to be high when we talked to the students.

One student asked me if they found work in the US or Canada could there be a possibility to use the connections made at home. I can see all the opportunities for future members having their start here. This might also be a way to get the youth involved with our lodges, and make them interested in the work we do within the Vasa Order of America.

It was quite an enthusiastic crowd I met, and my promise was that I would get back to them in a near future

Submitted by: Lisbeth H. Qvarfordt, FSLPD



Art Director Owe Hilding ställde upp och förverkligade Lisbeths idé hur logo skulle se ut för Young Vasa. Owe blev året efter medlem i Logen Bräviken.



The look of the possible logo.

FAMILY

WEDDING

Carmen Holmlund and Reid Antonello



On October 10, 2009, Carmen Holmlund, a member of Local Lodge Nordstjärnan #575, Falun, Alberta, wed Reid Antonello in a ceremony which took place in the Edmonton Catholic Basilica in Edmonton, Alberta. Carmen, a District Scholarship recipient in 2003, is the daughter of Murray and Beverly Holmlund, and granddaughter of Eileen Holmlund, Secretary of Nordstjärnan. Reid is the son of John Antonello and Sherrie James. The newlyweds were photographed with Carmen wearing a DL #18 Swedish Bridal Crown. Congratulations and best wishes to Carmen and John.

Submitted by: Fae Doty, District Master, DL #18, Alberta, Canada

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.

Art Bjorkner, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman

31 Vasa Drive,

Hackettstown NJ 07840-5314 USA

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2

Brage-Iduna #9

Patricia Johnson
Nordic #611
Anthony Parretti
Gregory Patient
Vinland of Cape Cod #703
Harriet Johansson Alvord
Kenneth Amend
Lee Ann Amend
Mei Lee Amend
Clifton Gustafson
Birka #732
Sharon Linnea Smith

DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3

Star #56

Paulette Bowers
Astrid Drew
Arlene Jernquist
Pioneer #506
Margaret Marisi

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Gothoid #486

Emily Rose De Feo
Amanda Rose Kirchoff
Stefanie Marie Lawlor
Jonathan William Lawlor
Beth Zisa
Eugene Zisa
Viking #735
Judy Dixon
Karin Klein
Lori Scheufler

DL MINNESOTA NO. 7

Stenbock #138

Donald William Nelson

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Svea #253

Jean Keith
John Keith
Ingeborg Andren Lundberg
Ingvar Nilsson
Sussie Nilsson
Diann Elfie Ryan
Glenn Edward Sweitzer
Viljan #349
Richard Homer Johnson
Linde #492
Inge Karl Hallberg
Lisbeth Hallberg-Qvarfordt
Håkan Östen Hjort
Harriet Jansson
Svante Jansson
Satellite #661
Beverly Mae Finnerty
Sarah Elizabeth Forsberg
Kathryn Irene Yarger
Jubileum #755
Vanessa Pascala Angur
Bengt Anders Angur

DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

Nobel-Monitor #130

Dorothy Broz
Philip Johnson
Drott #168
Roland Bostrom
Carin Shelley Busch
Matthew Molchan
Rebecca Ruth Ramsey
Nancy Johanson Sharp
Thomas B. Whitley

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Tegner #149

MaryAnn Nichelini
Monitor #218
Kerstin Larsen
Audrey (Abby) Boxwell
Theresa Ann Alberts
Anita Harriet Nord
Sandra Johnson
Neil Johnson
Svea #348
Roxanna Eghtesad
Karin Elneborg
Framåt #405
Dallen Graham
Sveaborg #449
Eva Johanson
Wade Olofson
Lise Peachee
Brenda Savage
Linnea #504

Helen Catarina Johansson
Tony Johansson
Norden #684

Aimee Carlson
Kathy Puga
Jean Hedegaard
Sierra Kronan #737

Gayle Swanson
Valhalla #746
Judith Lynne Allen
Constance Knutsen Grimes

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

North Star #145

Allen Isaacson
Judith Larson Mozell
Alisa Kliment Vashon
Skogsblomman #378
Troy Larsson

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Viking #256

Dorothy Marie Qualls
Northern Lights #620
Annelie Lindberg
Glenn T. Seaborg #719
Nellie Gunhild Almquist
Leslie Paulette Carter
Kjersten Leigh-Anne Kindig
Christine Cooke Taylor

DL ALBERTA NO. 18

Skandia #549

Andrew James Andersen
Jean Hedegaard
Jordana Elizabeth Hostyn
Nicole Wendy Litven
Tyler Lee Lyster
Chris Wyatt McGeough
Donna Lee McIntyre
Sheena Lynn Pearson
Kyla Marie Nyroos
Alison Margaret Spence

DL SÖDRA SVERIGE NO. 20

Carlskrona #601

Siv Gustavsson
Sylvia Neiland
Anders Neiland
Kärnan #608
Lennart Hedberg
Jeanette Hildingsson
Ingrid Hult
Johan Hult
Jeanette Croona
Ulf B. Croona
Laila Hägg
Claes Hägg
Katarina Ljungkvist
John-Olof Ljungkvist
Brita Wahlgren-Lind
Christian #617
Kerstin Salomonsson
Rickard Wahlgren
Anna-Karin Borgsten
Anders Borgsten
Småland #618
Lennart Emanuelsson
Calmare Nyckel #628
Birgitta Jarewall
Stefan Jarewall
Birgitta Magnusson
Börje Magnusson
Anneli Sigvardsson

Ronneby #630

Berit Romelsjö
Tomelilla #631
Pia Anvåg
Hans W. Lundgren
Höganäs #634
Inger Bengtsson
Sixten Bengtsson
Iwa Nilsson
Bengt Nilsson
Bertil Hagström
Maj-Britt Carlsson
SolBritt Nilsson
Inger Ekehed
Magnus Ekehed
Britt-Marie Henriksen
Niels Henriksen
Westervik #679
Inger Brolin
Kökan Brolin
Marianne Almqvist
Bert Henrysson
Leif Söderberg
Utvandrarna #680
Sonja Petersson
Åke Petersson
Klockan #747
Ann-Margreth Andersson
Ing-Marie Åberg
Blå Jungfrun #749
Lena Ljungblom
Sture Ljungblom

DL ARIZONA NO. 21

Phoenix #677

Lyla Kirsch

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.

Gustaf Fröding 150 *Sveriges störste poet hyllades under hela 2010.*

Gustaf Fröding (1860-1911) var ett litterärt geni, inte jämförbar med någon i hans generation, inte heller i tidigare och senare generationer. Framför allt producerade han stor poesi, men han arbetade i början också som journalist och skrev många fabulösa historier. Han sociala liv var en katastrof, men som inte hindrade honom från att under sin ganska korta livstid skriva en stor mängd av den bästa poesin på det svenska språket. Under jubileumsåret, 2010, uppmärksammades hans liv och verk i mycket stor omfattning.

Jag började skriva den här artikeln den 22 augusti, 2010, författarens födelsedag, och den är skriven i Karlstad, nära hans födelseplats, Alster, tillhörande Karlstads kommun. Han föddes där i en välbärgad familj, men snart efteråt försämrades livsvillkoren genom moderns sjukdom samt faderns ekonomisk kris och familjen tvingades lämna sitt hem på Alsters herrgård. Trots åtskilliga flyttningar mellan släktingar klarade Gustaf av gymnasie-studier och blev student vid universitetet i Uppsala. Där blev det inte så mycket studerande eftersom han hamnade i dåligt sällskap som ledde till alkoholmissbruk och ett liv i misär. En vän, en tidsningsredaktör på Karlstadstidningen, tog hand om honom och lät honom skriva lokala historier, och som blev mycket uppskattade av läsarna på grund av den humor och satir dessa innehöll.

Han blev aldrig av med sitt alkoholproblem, men han kunde under friskare perioder skriva den underbaraste poesi. Några av dikterna var roande och underhållande, men han skrev också mycket seriöst om allting i livet, I all sin produktion var han mästaren av rim och rytm utan att förlora kärnbudskapet i dikten, sannolikt en sällsynt medfödd talang. Detta är också förklaringen till lättheten att tonsätta dikterna. Dessutom skapade han massor av nya ord, kombinationer av redan existerande men också verkligt nya. Litteraturexperten har sagt, att "Frödings lyriska form är hans eget medfödda språk."

Hans dikter har naturligtvis översatts till åtskilliga främmande språk. Men oväntade hinder uppkommer i översättningsprocessen på grund av författarens

exklusiva behandling av det svenska språket i kombination med dess musikaliska kvalitéer och kan fullt ut förstås och uppskattas bara av dem som har svenska som modersmål. Musikaliteten i den provinsiala dialekten i Värmland och de mycket speciella orden och fraserna, är ibland omöjliga att översätta. Men översättningar har lyckats med gott bevarande av innehållet och beträffande engelska känner jag till en bok, som kan rekommenderas för närmare bekantskap med författaren. Här nedan kan ni se titeln till en bok på engelska för närmare "bekantskap" med författaren.

Trots alla sociala och mentala problem under hans ganska korta liv resulterade det i en mycket omfattande litteratur av högsta kvalitet. Fröding har bedömts som "den största rent poetiska talangen i modern tid," enligt Walther A. Berendsohn, tysk litteraturhistoriker. Hans eftermäle är starkt och levande. Hans dikter reciteras och sjungs fortfarande, inte bara under de stora festligheterna, men som nådde sin höjdpunkt kring hans födelsedag. Vid hans födelseplats, Alsters herrgård, bjöd Karlstad stad på en 150 m lång tårta för folket att dela på den 22 augusti. Detta party följdes sedan på kvällen av en stor utomhuskonsert. Många kulturella aktiviteter hade arrangerats tidigare under året och ytterligare firanden hölls under hösten.

Literature: "The Selected Poems of Gustaf Fröding" av Henrik Aspán och Martin Allwood.

Eageleye Books International, P.O. Box 4550, Walnut Creek, CA 9546, USA.

Insänt av: Stig Sälgeback, SLKL

Gustaf Fröding 150

*Sweden's greatest poet was honored
throughout the entire 2010.*

Gustaf Fröding (1860-1911) was a literary genius, not comparable to any one in his generation, nor in earlier or later generations. Most of all he produced great poetry, but he also worked as a journalist writing fabulous stories. His social life was a mess but that did not prevent him from writing large amounts of the best poetry ever written in the Swedish language during his short life. Sweden brought a lot of attention to his

life and work during last year's anniversary.

I began writing this article on August 22, 2010, the author's birthday, and it is written in Karlstad, close to his birthplace, Alster, belonging to the city of Karlstad. He was born into a well-to-do family, but when his mother's conditions started to deteriorate from a disease, and his father experienced a financial crisis, the family was forced to leave their home, considered an estate at the time. Despite many moves between family members Gustaf made it through high school and became a student at Uppsala University. In Uppsala no real studies took place because he started to hang out with the "wrong people" leading to alcohol abuse and misery. A friend and editor at a newspaper, Karlstadstidningen, took care of him and let Gustaf contribute to the paper by writing local stories that became much appreciated by readers due to the content of humor and satire.

He never overcame his alcohol problem, but he was, during sober times, able to write the most wonderful poetry. Some of the poems were amusing and entertaining as were his stories in the newspaper, but he also wrote very seriously about everything in life. In all of his writing he was the master of rhythm and rhyme without losing the core of the message, a rare inborn talent. That is also why his poems were so easy to set to music. He created many new words as well as new combinations of already existing words. It has been said by literary experts that Fröding's lyrical form was his own "native" language.

His poems have been translated to several foreign languages. But unexpected obstacles arise in the translation process due to the authors' exquisite treatment of the Swedish language combined with the musical qualities that can be fully understood and appreciated only by those having Swedish as their mother tongue. The music of the provincial dialect in Värmland and the very special words and phrases are sometimes untranslatable. Translations have been accomplished with good preservation of the form and content in English. Below is a title of a book in English that can be recommended for closer acquaintance with the author.

In spite of social and mental problems

Continued on page 30

Gustaf Fröding 150

Continued from page 29

throughout his fairly short life resulted in extensive literature of highest quality. Fröding has been assessed as "the greatest poetical talent of modern time," (according to Walther A. Berendsohn, German literary historian). The posthumous reputation is great and living. His poems are still quoted and sung regularly, not only during the big festivities that reached its maximum around his birthday last year. At his birthplace, the still remaining estate at Alster, the city of Karlstad served a 150m long cake for people to share on August 22. The party was in the evening followed by a big outdoor concert. Many cultural activities took place earlier and further celebration did follow.

Literature: The Selected Poems of Gustaf Fröding by Henrik Aspán and Martin Allwood. Eagle Eye Books International, P.O. Box 4550, Walnut Creek, Ca 9546, USA.

Submitted by: Stig Sälgeback, GLCD

Selma Lagerlöf

Den svenska författaren Selma Lagerlöf (1858 – 1940) var den första kvinna och också första svensk, som fick Nobelpriset i litteratur. Det var 1909 och 1914 blev hon också som första kvinna någonsin invald i Svenska Akademien. En av hennes mest kända böcker är *Nils Holgerssons Underbara Resa*. Med egna ord berättar jag kortfattat hur det gick till när Gud skapade Småland, enligt Selma Lagerlöf i boken om Nils Holgersson.

Det var på den tiden när Vår Herre skapade världen. När han höll på att arbeta i södra Sverige, råkade Sankte Per komma förbi. Han stannade och såg på och efter en stund frågade han om det var ett svårt jobb, och Gud svarade att det inte var så lätt. Men Sankte Per tyckte det verkade vara ganska enkelt; bara lägga ut den ena biten land bredvid den andra. Han var säker på att han skulle kunna göra ett sånt jobb både snabbare och bättre, så han erbjöd sig att hjälpa Gud, om han kanske behövde vila sig.

Vår Herre var väldigt tveksam, men eftersom Sankte Per var så envis, lovade Gud till sist att han kunde få slutföra arbetet med Småland som inte var halvfärdigt. Östra och norra delarna var klara och Småland såg ut att bli ett vackert och bördigt land. Gud hoppades att

Sankte Per inte skulle kunna förstöra det som hade börjat så bra. Så Sankte Per fick överta arbetet med Småland, medan Gud gick söderut för att skapa Skåne

Då Skåne var färdigt, bad Gud Sankte Per komma och se på hans arbete, när han var klar med Småland. Jag var färdig för länge sedan, sa Sankte Per, och det hördes på rösten hur nöjd han var med vad han hade åstadkommit.

När Sankte Per fick se Skåne, måste han erkänna, att om det landet var inte annat än gott att säga. Det var ett bördigt och lättodlat land med stora slätter vart han såg och knappt en tillstymmelse till berg. Det syntes att Vår Herre verkligen hade velat göra ett land där folk skulle kunna trivas och må bra. Ja, det här är ett bra land, sa Sankte Per, men nog tror jag mitt är bättre. Då ska vi gå och se på det, sa Vår Herre.

När de kom till den del av Småland där Sankte Per hade arbetet, tvärstannade de båda två, och Gud utropade förskräckt: Vad i hela världen har du gjort med det här landet? Sankte Per blev också förvånad. Han hade tänkt att ingenting kunde vara bättre för ett land än mycket värme. Därför hade han dragit ihop massor av sten och klippor och staplat upp för att det skulle komma nära solen och få mycket värme. Ovanpå stenhögarna hade han brett ut ett tunt lager jord och tänkt att allt var bra. Men medan han var i Skåne hade det kommit ett par störtskurar, och mer hade inte behövts för att visa vad hans arbete var värt. All jord hade sköljts bort och den kala berggrunden syntes överallt. Där det låg lera och tungt grus över hållarna var det lite bättre, men det såg så magert ut att det var lätt att förstå, att där knappast skulle kunna växa annat än gran, mossa och ljung. Men det fanns massor av vatten. Det hade fyllt upp alla klyftor. Där fanns sjöar, åar och bäckar överallt, för att inte tala om mossar och kärr, som utbreddes sig över stora områden. Det värsta var dock, att medan vissa trakter hade för mycket vatten, hade andra nästan ingenting, så att stora fält såg ut som torra hedar, där sand och jord virvlade upp vid minsta vindfläkt.

Sankte Per var nog chockad men urskuldade sig och sa, att han hade velat bygga upp landet så högt att det skulle få mycket värme från solen. Men då får det ju också mycket av nattkölden, sa Vår Herre, för den kommer från himlen den med. Jag är allt rädd för att det som möjligen skulle kunna växa här kommer att frysa bort, något Sankte Per inte hade tänkt på. Här kommer att bli ett magert

och frostbundet land, sa Vår Herre, och det var inte underligt att han var bedrövad, när han såg hur det nu såg ut

Då försökte Sankte Per trösta Vår Herre och han sa: Var inte så förtvivlad för det här. Vänta bara tills jag hinner skapa människor, som kan odla upp mossarna och röja åkrar ur stenbackarna. Då tappade Vår Herre tålamodet till sist och röt: Nej, nej, nej! Gå ner till Skåne, som jag gjort till ett gott och lättskött land, och skapa skåningen. Men smålänningen skall jag själv göra.

Så skapade Vår Herre smålänningen. Han gjorde honom snabbtänkt och förnöjsam, glad och arbetsam, företagsam och duktig för att han skulle kunna försörja sig i sitt fattiga land.

Hur gick det då för Sankte Per? Hur lyckades han med att skapa skåningen? Ja, det är en helt annan historia, som Selma Lagerlöf inte berättar för oss.

Inläst av: Gun Lith, LL Westervik
Nr 679

Selma Lagerlöf

The Swedish writer Selma Lagerlöf (1858 – 1940) was the first woman, and also the first Swede who received the Nobel Prize in literature. The year was 1909, and in 1914 she was an elected member of the Swedish Academy, the first woman ever. One of her best known books is *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils Holgersson* from which the following is a shortened version, in my own words, telling us how the county of Småland was created.

It was in those days when Our Lord was creating the world. When he was working in southern Sweden, Saint Peter happened to pass by. He stopped to look and after a while asked if it was hard work, and God answered that it wasn't that easy. Saint Peter however thought it seemed to be rather simple; only putting one piece of land next to the other. He was sure he himself could do such a job both faster and better, why he offered to help the Lord, if he possible needed some rest. God hesitated, but as Saint Peter was so stubborn God at last allowed him to finish Småland, which wasn't yet half-finished. The eastern and northern parts of the county were done, and Småland seemed to become a pretty and fertile land, and God hoped Saint Peter wouldn't ruin what was given such a good start. So Saint Peter took over Småland while God went southward to create the county of Skåne.

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Selma Lagerlöf

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When Skåne was finished God asked Saint Peter to come and look at his work, when he had completed Småland. I was ready long ago, Saint Peter said, and from the sound of his voice it could be heard how pleased he was with what he had accomplished.

When Saint Peter saw Skåne, he had to admit there was nothing but good to say about the land, it was fertile, easy to cultivate, with large plains wherever he looked, and hardly a sign of mountains. It was evident Our Lord had really wanted to make a land where people could get on well and feel at home. Yes, this is a good land, Saint Peter said, but I think mine is better. Then we will take a look at it, said Our Lord.

When they came to the part of Småland where Saint Peter had been at work, they both stopped short and God, horrified, exclaimed: What on earth have you done to this land? Saint Peter, too, was quite astonished. He had had the idea that nothing could be better for a land than much warmth. He had therefore gathered lots of stones and rocks and built up a high land, so it would come close to the sun to get warmth. Over the stone heaps he had spread a thin layer of soil, thinking everything was well arranged. But while he was in Skåne some heavy rain had fallen, and that's all what was needed to show the result of his work. All the soil had been washed away, and the bare bed-rock stuck out everywhere. Where there were clay and heavy gravel over the rocks it was a bit better, but it looked so poor that it was easy to understand that hardly anything could grow there, except spruce and juniper and moss and heather. But there was plenty of water. It had filled up all the clefts of the bed-rock. There were lakes and rivers and brooks everywhere, to say nothing of moss and swamps which spread out over large areas. The most distressing things, however, while some places had too much water, others had almost nothing, so large fields looked like dry moors, where sand and soil whirled up at slight-wind.

Saint Peter was shocked but excused himself saying he had wished to build up a land so high that it would have plenty of warmth from the sun. But then it will also have much of the night chill, Our Lord said, for that too comes from heaven. I'm afraid what possibly could grow

here will be frost-bitten, something Saint Peter hadn't thought of. This will be a poor and frostbitten land, the Lord said, and it wasn't surprising he was distressed seeing what it now looked like. Saint Peter tried to comfort Our Lord saying: Don't be so upset about this! Just wait until I create people that are being able to cultivate the moss and clear the fields from the stony ground.

At last Our Lord lost his patience and shouted: No, no, no! Go down to Skåne, which I have made fertile and easy to cul-

tivate, and make the Scanian. But the Smålander I am going to create myself.

So Our Lord formed the Smålander. He made him quick-witted and contented, happy and hard-working, enterprising and clever, so that he could make his livelihood in his poor land.

What about Saint Peter, how did he succeed in creating the Scanian? Well, that's quite another story that Selma Lagerlöf doesn't tell us.

Submitted by: Gun Lith, LL
Westervik Nr 679, Småland.

Book Review & New Books

The Journey Takers

Author: Leslie Albrecht Huber
Foundation Books 2010, 322 s

Leslie Albrecht Hubers bok, *The Journey Takers*, är en högst intressant bok om hur emigranter från tre europeiska länder genom sju generationer tar sin form och till bl.a. den familj, där författarinnan och hennes barn tills vidare utgör en av slutprodukterna. Dessutom har hon gått tillbaka genom ytterligare tre generationer i de tre länderna (Tyskland, Sverige, England) och då kommer man till mitten av 1700-talet. Det är alltså en utomordentligt omfattande bok baserad på nästan 10 års mycket grundlig släktforskning i samtliga berörda länder. Referenslista och bibliografi upptar 55 sidor. Författarinnan har tidigare publicerat hundratals artiklar inom genealogi och historia, men detta är hennes första bok.

Hon belönades för en av dessa artiklar 2004 med "The Franklin D. Scott Award" av det Svenskamerikanska Historiska Sällskapet i Chicago.

En bok med så mycket fakta skulle kunna bli tråkig, men så är inte fallet. Författarinnans fantasifulla presentation skänker liv till, framför allt, de äldre generationerna i ursprungsländerna och i USA. Dessutom skildrar hon samtidigt sitt eget liv och sin egen familj i förhållande till forskningsarbetet på respektive besökta platser samt de människor hon har mött nu. Dessa inslag av fiktion och självbiografi gör boken lättläst och ibland lika spännande som en roman.

Ett gemensamt tema som följer hela släkthistorien är den kristna religionen Mormonism, som i mitten av 1800-talet introducerades i Europa genom missionärer från USA. Alla Leslie Hubers förfäder i boken från

Mecklenburg i Tyskland, Skåne i Sverige samt Buckinghamshire i England konverterade till mormonismen vilket resulterade i att de blev förföljda i sina resp. hemländer och som också blev huvudmotivet till emigrationen. En annan bidragande faktor just då, var all uppmuntran som gavs till alla troende mormoner, var att samlas i Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Den svenska historien utspelade sig i Vallby och Kyrkheddinge i Skåne och resulterade i att Kerstina (Karsti) Nilsdotter vid 17 års ålder ensam emigrerade. Hon anlände till Utah under inbördeskrig (1861) och gifte sig där med engelsmannen Edmond Harris. De båda utgör två av de fyra huvudpersonerna i släkthistorien. De andra två var Georg Albrecht och Mina Haker från Tyskland. Sju av bokens tretton kapitel handlar om Kerstina Nilsdotter, hennes förfäder och hennes ättlingar.

I slutet av boken beskriver författaren den amerikanska varianten av flykten från landsbygden, samtidigt som författarens föräldrars generation bestämde sig för att inte alla mormoner måste bo i Utah.

Mormonreligionen har bibehållits genom alla generationerna och tillgången till det familjehistoriska biblioteket i Salt Lake City har givetvis varit till fördel när det gäller material till boken. Men studierna som gjorts på plats i de europeiska länderna är imponerande och har belyst emigranternas ursprungsmiljö och vardagsliv i relation till Europas historia under senare delen av 1700-talet och tidigare delen av 1800-talet.

En fördel som denna bok har är att man går litet längre än vad vi är vana vid från liknande emigrationshistorier genom att den ger oss en bredare bakgrund samt en rikare beskrivning av det nya livet som

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Book Review & New Books

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immigranter. Alla som är intresserade av att forska djupare i detta ämne bör läsa boken, som tills vidare bara finns på engelska.

Stig Sälgeback, Karlstad

Boken kan enklast skaffas genom www.amazon.com
För ytterligare information gå till www.thejourneytakers.com eller www.understandingyourancestors.com

The Journey Takers

Author: Leslie Albrecht Huber
Foundation Books 2010, 322 s

Leslie Albrecht Huber's book *The Journey Takers* is a highly interesting account of how emigrants from three European countries through seven generations crystallize into the family in which the author and her children so far are the latest members. In addition she has gone back three generations in the three countries (Germany, Sweden and England) and arrived in the middle of the 1700s.

The book is extraordinarily comprehensive, based on nearly ten years of very thorough genealogical research in each of the countries concerned. The footnotes and bibliography take up 55 pages.

The author has previously published hundreds of articles in the fields of genealogy and history, but this is her first book. She was honored for one of her articles in 2004 with the "Franklin D. Scott Award" by the Swedish American Historical Society in Chicago.

A book with so many factual details risks being boring, but such is not the case here. The authoress lends to the presentation her imagination, which gives life, above all to the older generations in the countries of origin and the USA. Furthermore, she portrays her own life and her family at the same time in relation to the research work carried out in each of the places visited and the people she has met there in the present. These aspects of fiction and autobiography make the book easily accessible and at times as thrilling as a novel.

A theme running through the book and the entire family history is the common Christian religion in the form of Mormonism, which in the mid-1800 was introduced to Europe by missionaries from the USA. All of Leslie Huber's

ancestors in the book, from Mecklenburg in Germany, Skåne in Sweden and Buckinghamshire in England, converted to Mormonism and, as a result, were persecuted in their homelands, which provided the main motivation to emigration. Another contributing factor was the encouragement at the time for all believers to gather in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The initial Swedish history played out in Vallby and Kyrkheddinge, Skåne, and resulted in the emigration of Kerstina (Karsti) Nilsson, alone, at age seventeen. She arrived in Utah during the Civil War (1861), where she married the Englishman Edmond Harris. They are two of the four principle immigrant figures in the family history. The other two were Georg Albrecht and Mina Haker from Germany. Seven of the book's thirteen chapters deal partly with Kerstina Nilsson, her ancestors and her descendants.

At the end of the book the author describes the American counterpart to the flight from the countryside, while at the same time the author's parent generation put to rest the idea that all Mormons must live in Utah.

The Mormon denomination has been maintained through all the generations, and the access to the family history library in Salt Lake City has plainly been advantageous as far as the material for the book is concerned. But the on-site studies in the European countries are impressive for casting light on the emigrants' original environments and every day life in relation to European history in the latter 18th and early 19th centuries.

To its credit this book goes a few steps farther than to what we are accustomed from similar emigration history by giving both a broader background and a richer description of the new life as immigrants. Everyone interested in delving deeper in these matters ought to read the book, which so far has only been published in English.

Stig Sälgeback, Karlstad

Leslie Albrecht Huber: *The Journey Takers*

Foundation Books, 2010, 322 p. \$19.95

Available through www.amazon.com

For additional information see:

www.thejourneytakers.com or

www.understandingyourancestors.com

Hero of the Titanic

The sequel to "Maiden of the Titanic" is available with the title, "Hero of the Titanic," published by MWC Press, Davenport, Iowa, written by Lilly Setterdahl.

The historical novel continues the story of the Swedish character, Anna, and the Italian character, Roberto, with many ups and downs through World War I. Anna encounters her own problems while Roberto is severely tested as he continues to save lives whenever he can. Despite his considerable charm, he is unlucky in love until...

Submitted by: Lilly Setterdahl
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Easter

In Sweden, the Easter celebrations used to begin with the three days of Shrovetide, full of carnivals, games and revelry. One of the more popular activities was to playfully thrash each other with birch twigs on Shrove Tuesday. Another Shrovetide practice was to toboggan down steep slopes so that the flax would grow tall. People were also supposed to mark Shrove Tuesday by eating seven hearty meals. A 40-day fast then followed, with its own rules concerning food, such as a ban on eating meat or eggs.

Easter, the most important Christian festival of all, commemorates the resurrection of Christ. It begins on Palm Sunday in celebration of his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In olden time the red-letter days in Holy Week before Easter were governed by church decree. On Maundy Thursday, you were not allowed to spin or chop wood, as this might intensify Christ's suffering. Also on that day, witches flew off to consort with the Devil at *Mount Blåkulla*, and people used to protect themselves by painting crosses on their front doors and hiding broomsticks and rakes so that the witches could not fly on them. Good Friday was spent in quiet contemplation. People dressed in black and ate salty food without anything to drink. Young people thrashed each other with birch twigs. The whole week was designed to recall Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

On Easter Saturday, the celebrations turned joyful, and people began eating eggs again. Eggs were sometimes painted in different colors, probably because they were often given away as presents. In the 19th century, Swedes began filling paper eggs with sweets. In western Sweden, the practice was to light bonfires, fire shotguns and shout to scare away witches. People sent one another anonymous Easter letters with their own designs. The custom of bringing birch twigs into the house and decorating them with colored feathers dates back to the 1880s. In southern Sweden, egg games, such as egg-bashing, have long been popular. Trick-or-treat became an Easter time tradition in the 19th century, originally practiced by adults in masks and costumes, but later by young girls.

Easter is the first extended weekend of the spring, and for many this means the first trip out to their holiday cottage, which has been locked and deserted all

winter. There are window shutters to be opened and stuffy rooms to be aired. The woodstoves are lit, and the smoke fills the kitchen, naturally.

Coughing and spluttering, you flee out to the yard, where the wagtails — if you live in southern Sweden, that is — have just begun their mating ritual and the last of the snowdrifts are melting in the pale spring sunshine. In the north, Easter is more of a skiing holiday.

Once the cottage has been cleaned, swept and warmed up, Easter can begin. The members of the family arrive from near and far. At Easter, the aim is to gather as many relatives together as possible.

Secular holiday

While in other countries Easter is specifically a religious holiday; it has become a secular one in Sweden. The Swedes are well down in the statistics when it comes to church visits per year, and even if Easter swells the numbers slightly, most people celebrate it at home with their families and relatives.

Many of the practices associated with Easter have religious origins, but this is not something that bothers Swedes much. They eat eggs because they have always done so — not because they have just completed a fast.

Nowadays, eggs are a favorite accompaniment to the dish of pickled herring that is the centerpiece of most Swedes' Easter meals. And few associate the omnipresent birch twigs — nowadays decorated with brightly colored feathers — with the suffering of Christ. Easter has its own rituals.

From sweets to salmon

Children dress up as Easter witches; clad in discarded clothes, gaily colored headscarves and red-painted cheeks, they go from house to house in the neighborhood and present the occupants with paintings and drawings in the hope of getting sweets in return.

Having consumed all these sweets, they are then given Easter eggs filled with yet more. Parents of a more ambitious turn of mind let the children search for the eggs themselves in a treasure hunt — following clues and solving riddles until they find their prizes.

A traditional Easter lunch is likely to consist of different varieties of pickled herring, cured salmon and Jansson's Temptation (potato, onion and pickled

sprats baked in cream). The table is often laid like a traditional "smörgåsbord." Spiced schnapps is also a feature of the Easter table. At dinner, people eat roast lamb with potatoes au gratin and asparagus or some other suitable side dish.

Food plays a central role in most Swedish festivities and Easter is no exception. Some of the common foods eaten on Easter are Lamb, "Gravlax," herring, eggs and of course schnapps.

Leg of Lamb

5 lb leg of lamb
1/4 cup olive oil
2-3 cloves garlic
1 tsp. salt
black pepper
Pieces of rosemary stems
Oven temperature: 350° F

Combine the olive oil, salt, black pepper and pressed garlic in a small bowl. Finely snip the rosemary into the bowl. Butter an ovenproof roasting pan. Trim off any excess fat from the lamb and place in buttered roasting pan. Rub the olive oil mixture on the lamb on all sides. Wrap the lamb with aluminum foil and insert a meat thermometer in the center of the leg. Make sure it doesn't touch the bone. Roast in the oven until the meat thermometer reaches 145° F for rare, 160° F for medium or 170° F for well done.

Gravy

Use the juices from the roast
1 tbsp. flour
a little whole milk
salt or soy sauce

Drain off the pan juices from the roast into a saucepan. Whisk in the flour to create gravy; and heat up the gravy that is formed. Add milk and salt or soy sauce according to taste.

Glad Påsk!! Happy Easter!!

Source: Internet

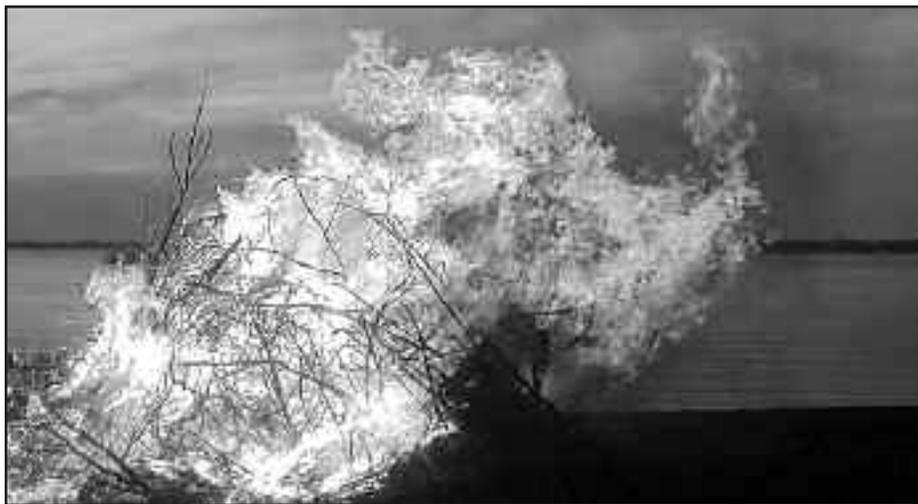


Walpurgis Night

In Sweden, Walpurgis Night (Swedish: *Valborgsmässoafton* or simply *Valborg*) has more or less become a de facto half holiday. The forms of celebration in Sweden vary in different parts of the country and between different cities. Sir James George Frazer in *The Golden Bough* writes, "The first of May is a great popular festival in the more midland and southern parts of Sweden. On the eve of the festival, huge bonfires, which should be lighted by striking two flints together, blaze on all the hills and knolls." One of the main traditions in Sweden is to light large bonfires, a custom that is most firmly established in Svealand and may have begun in Uppland during the 18th century: "At Walpurgis (*Valborg*), farm animals were let out to graze, and ever since the early 18th century bonfires (*majbräsor*, *kasar*) have been lit to scare away predators." In Southern Sweden, an older tradition, no longer practised, was for the younger people to collect greenery and branches from the woods at twilight, these were used to adorn the houses of the village. The expected reward for this task was to be paid in eggs.

Singing traditional songs of spring is widespread throughout the country. The songs are mostly from the 19th century and were spread by students' spring festivities. The strongest and most traditional spring festivities are also found in the old university cities, such as Uppsala and Lund, where undergraduates, graduates and alumni gather at events that last most of the day from early morning to late night on 30 April, or *sista april* ("The Last Day Of April") as it is called in Sweden. More modern Valborg celebrations, particularly among Uppsala students, oftentimes consist of enjoying a breakfast including champagne and strawberries. During the day, people gather in parks, drink considerable amounts of alcoholic beverages, barbecue and generally enjoy the weather, if it happens to be favourable.

In Uppsala, since the mid-1970s, students also go rafting on Fyrisån through the centre of town with home-made, in fact quite easily wreckable, and often humorously decorated rafts. Several nations also hold "Champagne Races," where students go to drink and spray champagne or somewhat more modestly priced sparkling wine on each other. The walls and floors of the old nation buildings are covered in plastic for this occa-



Typical bonfire at Walpurgis night in Sweden.

sion, as the champagne is poured around recklessly and sometimes spilled enough to wade in. Spraying champagne is, however, a fairly recent addition to the Champagne Race. The name derives from the students running down the downhill slope from the Carolina Rediviva library, toward the Student Nations, to drink champagne.

In Linköping, the students and public gather at the courtyard of Linköping Castle. Spring songs are sung by the Linköping University Male Voice Choir, and speeches are made by representatives of the students and the university teachers.

In Gothenburg, the carnival parade, The Cortège, which has been held since

1909 by the students at Chalmers University of Technology, is an important part of the celebration. It is seen by around 250,000 people each year.

In Landskrona, people gather at the Citadel to play beer-baseball, a game in which one drinks beer and plays baseball at the same time.

1. The name of the holiday is *Walpurgisnacht* in German and Dutch, *Valborgsmässoafton* in Swedish, *Vappu* in Finnish, *Volbröö*, (*Walpurgi öö*) in Estonian, *Valpurgijos naktis* in Lithuanian, *Valpur u nakts* or *Valpur i* in Latvian, *arod jnice* or *Valpuržina noc* in Czech, *chódotypalenje* Lower Sorbian, *chodojtypalenje* in Upper Sorbian.

Source: Wikipedia

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

ARIZONA

WALTER A. LENBERG, member of Solstad Lodge #709 since 2001, passed away in Arizona on November 1, 2010. He was born in Chicago, IL, on June 1, 1918. After serving in the Navy, he joined Motorola as a Production Manager. Continuing with Motorola, he and his wife moved their family to Arizona in 1956. Surviving are 4 children and 7 grandchildren.

CALIFORNIA

MONIKA FEIST died on January 8, 2011, at the age of 58. Monika was born in Albany, CA, on January 24, 1953, and joined Tegner Lodge #149 on April 1, 1967. She had a brother, Jim, who preceded her in death. She is survived by her sister Kerstin Feist, nephew Jack Feist and niece Dawn Feist.

LENNART A. E. GOHRN died in Oxnard, CA, September 28, 2010, at the age of 85. He was born in Lund, Sweden, on July 13, 1925, and joined North Star Lodge

#106 on May 4, 1982. He transferred to Oak Leaf Lodge #685 and returned to North Star Lodge #106 on June 1, 1998. He is survived by his daughter Gunilla Godebu (Niclas) and granddaughters Kara and Katja.

JEAN MARIE JOHNSTON passed away on October 16, 2010. Jean was a resident of Goleta, CA, and a member of Linnea Lodge #504 for many years. She was born in Chicago on December 16, 1919. Jean and husband Dr. Richard Johnston, M.D., were residents of Santa Rosa, CA, for many years and where he preceded her in death. They are survived by 3 sons, Ross, Kevin, and Pär, and 2 daughters Greta and Marcia.

SIV IRIS LINNEA NILSON passed away at home in Santa Rosa, CA, on October 13, 2010. She was born in Stockholm on May 5, 1931. Siv was the beloved wife of Stig Nilson, dear mother of Helen and Royce and dear grandmother to Ryan and Jeffery. Siv was a very talented painter, excelled at fine handcrafts and foods. A 26-year member of Linnea Lodge #504, she loved and participated in traditions of her native land. Siv was also a member of the Scandinavians. She will be greatly missed by her many friends.

SONJA SPIEGEL (nee Jansson) passed away on June 15, 2010, in Athens, GA, at the age of 88. She was born on December 8, 1922, and joined Mayflower Lodge #445 on October 25, 1960. Sonja was a Life Member since 1988, and received her 40-year pin in 2001.

ARNOLD SWANSON passed away on June 3, 2010, in Victorville, CA, at the age of 68. He was born in Chicago, IL, on April 16, 1942, and joined Mayflower Lodge #445 on September 18, 1958. He was a member of our Jr. Dance Club. Arnold was a Life Member since 2007, and received 25-year and 40-year pins.

Continued on inside back cover

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

CALIFORNIA (CONTINUED)

MAUD EMELIE UDVARDY passed away in Sacramento, CA, on December 7, 2010, from stroke complications. She was born on February 11, 1925, in Helsinki, Finland. Maud was an ethnic Swede from Finland. After enduring the Finnish Winter War and World War II, in 1951 she married the late Dr. Miklós D.F. Udvardy, who was from Hungary. They first immigrated to Vancouver, Canada, where they had 3 children, Monica Lilly, M. Andrew, and Beatrix. Maud and Miklós spoke Swedish together and, recognizing that their children would learn English outside the family, they insisted that the children speak Swedish at home. The family moved to Sacramento in 1966. Maud spoke both her native Swedish and Finnish along with English, Spanish, and German. Her adventurous life included living in Hawaii in 1959, a year in Honduras, and traveling by bus through South America. She wrote about her trips, acquired a B.A. degree from CSUS in California history, and volunteered at the local history museum. An avid bridge player and exercise enthusiast, she never quit aerobics classes. She helped protect wildlife habitat in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Lifelong concern fueled her involvement with animal welfare organizations. She is survived by her 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Jacob and Sarah. Maud maintained a lifelong interest in her Finnish-Swedish heritage. Maud is dearly missed.

ILLINOIS

CARL HERB HAROLDSON, 88, born June 6, 1922, in Falkenberg, Sweden, passed away on September 23, 2010, in Batavia, IL. Carl joined Viljan Lodge #349, Batavia, IL, on May 24, 1990. He was a 20-year member and had served as Chairman. He is survived by his wife Susanna, 1 daughter, 3 sons, 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

OHIO

PAUL A. JOHNSON SR. passed away on September 25, 2010, in Youngstown, OH, at the age of 94. He was born in Youngstown, OH, on September 15, 1916, and joined Harmony Lodge #465 on November 20, 1976.

OREGON

BARRY BRIAN OSTROM's courageous battle with stomach cancer ended June 24, 2010. He was 71 years old. The youngest of 4 children, Barry was born in the family home near Everson, WA, to Swedish parents Oscar and Gladys (Sahlbom) Ostrom on March 29, 1939. He graduated from Nooksack Valley High School where he excelled in academics, track, and earned a state farmer degree in FFA. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting from Western Washington University and an MBA from Washington State University. In 1964 Barry came to Oregon. He worked as a fiscal auditor for the secretary of the state's division of audits for 4 years. Following an audit of then Oregon College of Education, he was offered a job as the college's first budget officer. He served in that position for 13 years. In 1981 Barry became personnel-payroll manager for the Oregon State System of Higher Education, working out of the controller's division at Oregon State University. In 1986 Governor Atiyeh presented Barry with the award for outstanding management service employee in the department of higher education. After retiring in 1994, he remained active as a consultant at Western Oregon University. He also taught preparation classes for the Certified Payroll Professional examination, and founded 2 chapters of the American Payroll Association. Barry married Margaret Couper in 1967. Three sons were born of that marriage which ended in divorce. He married Diane Alderson in August 1980. Together they had 1 daughter. Barry served 8 years in the Oregon National Guard as a cook, which fostered a life-long hobby in food preparation, especially Scandinavian recipes. He grew a big garden and was known for his beautiful dahlias. The Ostrom family exhibited award winning produce and flowers at the Polk County and Oregon State fairs for many years. Together Barry and Diane led a 4-H horticulture club. Barry received the distinguished service award in 2009 from the Polk County 4-H Leaders Association for his years serving as treasurer of that group. In his retirement, Barry helped

Diane prepare projects for her second grade classes at Santiam Christian School. In 1998 Barry and Diane accompanied the Santiam Christian High School choir on a mission trip to Latvia. The trip included 4 days of training in east-west ministries in southern Sweden. That experience resulted in a passion for genealogy, and he made subsequent trips in 2001 and 2005 to visit relatives. He taught himself to read and write Swedish and was an active member of Tre Kronor, Vasa Order of America. He also served as a Scandinavian cultural consultant for the World Beat Festival. As part of the Monmouth writers group, he honed his writing skills for family history projects and produced various styles of poetry. He was a member of Monmouth Christian Church. He was preceded in death by his parents and son, Eric. Survivors include his wife of nearly 30 years, Diane, sons Karl (Heather) of Valley Center, CA, and Glen of Monmouth, OR, daughter Karyn of New York, NY, brothers Arthur (Dee) of Mt. Vernon, WA, Dixon (Carol of Vancouver, WA, sister Myrna Mills of Leaburg, OR, and 4 grandchildren.

PENNSYLVANIA

JAMES L. BERGE, 65, of Potomac MD died on June 2, 2010. A well-respected Washington DC dentist, Dr. Berge was born on March 20, 1945, in Minneapolis, MN. He and his wife Lois joined Drott Lodge #168 in 2009. In addition to his wife, survivors include five children, a granddaughter, his mother and a sister.

RUBY SKOOG BOLSTER, 86, departed this world on November 23, 2010. She was born on the 2nd of September 1924, in Minneapolis MN, and moved to the Washington DC area shortly after her marriage to Dr. Mel Bolster and to the City of Falls Church VA in 1958. Her work career included employment at the Federal Reserve Bank, the Federal Water Council, and DeVol Funeral Home. Ruby and Mel shared a love of family and of history and both were long-time community activists. In 2005 they were recognized by the Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society with the "Spirit of Falls Church Award" for their lifetime commitment to the improvement of the fabric of the community. Ruby's many memberships included the League of Women Voters, the Falls Church Historical Commission, the Falls Church Garden Club, the American Scandinavian Association, and the Falls Church Presbyterian Church, among others. Ruby and Mel joined Drott Lodge #168 in 1991. Just a week before becoming ill in November, Ruby greeted visitors at the Lodge's 31st Annual Swedish Bazaar. Her husband Mel predeceased her in 2005, and a son Mark predeceased her in 1972. Survivors include a daughter and her partner, a son and his wife, and two grandchildren. A memorial service and interment is planned for spring 2011.

HARRY WILBER HAASE, a World War II veteran and survivor of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, passed away on September 27, 2010 at the age of 97. He was born in Akron, OH, on September 13, 1913. Following the war he had a 30-year career with the General Services Administration and lived in the Falls Church VA area. Harry was predeceased in 2009 by his wife of 60 years, Florence Cole Haase. Harry and Flo were initiated into Drott Lodge #168 in 1976. Survivors include three children and five grandchildren.

ELLERY K. JOHNSON, 95, of Silver Spring, MD, died on December 3, 2010. Born in Wahoo, NE, on January 9, 1915, Ellery began his career in gas pipeline regulation. Following service as a weatherman in WWII, the Johnson family moved to the Washington DC area where Ellery worked for the Federal Power Commission. Both Ellery and his wife of 69 years, Lois High Johnson, were proud of their Swedish heritage. They joined Drott Lodge #168 in 1981. Ellery was predeceased by a son, the late Bertil C. Johnson. In addition to his wife, survivors include two daughters, a son, and two grandchildren.

TEXAS

GERALD "JERRY" FAGERSTROM passed away on November 13, 2010, at the age of 86. He was a member and Past Chairman of Carl XVI Gustaf Lodge #716. Jerry was a nationally known physicist, engineer and aerospace innovator. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

WASHINGTON

DELORES ANDERSON passed away on September 19, 2010, in Bonaventure, East Wenatchee, WA. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Milton Anderson. Delores retired from Sears & Roebuck in the Seattle area in 1981 and was a member of Frihet Lodge #401, Seattle, WA.

STEVE BERGGREN of Westport, WA, passed away on June 30, 2010, at the age of 69. He was raised and attended schools in Tacoma, WA. Steve was an engineer and surveyor. He served in the Army in Libya. Steve enjoyed fishing, clam digging, rock hunting, and coin collecting. Steve was very political and loved debating politics.

GEORGE "SANTA" BOXRZ, passed away on October 26, 2010, at Lynnwood, WA, at the age of 89. He was born on March 4, 1921, in Seattle, and spent his life in service to others. He was a member and officer in Frihet Lodge #401, Hope Lodge, Elks, Eagles, Santa Claus for the Starlight Children's Foundation, Frihet and many other charities. He will be greatly missed.

WISCONSIN

KARIN E. HEDMAN (nee Granath) passed away on July 21, 2010, at age 90. She was the beloved wife of Victor for 56 years and loving mother of Lars and Eric, and proud grandmother of Erin. Karin was born in Uddervalla, Sweden, and arrived in the USA on the first commercial flight over the Atlantic after World War II. She will be missed by all Linde Lodge #492 members where she had been a member for 49 years.

ANDERS SEGERDAHL, passed away on July 14, 2010. He was born on October 2, 1923. He was an Honorary Member of Linde Lodge #492, Knight Commander of the Swedish Royal Order of the North Star, and retired Swedish Consul for the State of Wisconsin. He was born in Linköping, Sweden, and immigrated to the USA in 1956, along with his wife, Birgit and son Johan. With the Segerdahl's help, we have been able to enhance our support to Skansen Children's Club and we have been sending young members to Swedish Language Camp over the years. You will be missed by all Linde members.

CANADA

KARIN EVA SADIE GRAYDON (nee Hammarstrand) passed away on September 13, 2010, at Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Sister Karin was born on December 4, 1907, in Gothenburg, Sweden, the daughter of Gottfried and Sadie Hammarstrand (nee Gustafson). In 1913 the family moved to Winnipeg, where they made their mark in the Swedish community. When their father died prematurely in 1920, the 6 siblings bonded together to care for their mother and each other. Karin was very active in the Lutheran Church, singing with her family in the church choir and later she served on the church council. She was a life member of the Order of Eastern Star, Patricia Chapter, and a long-time member of the Strindberg Sisters. Sister Karin joined Lodge Strindberg #259 (Winnipeg), being initiated on February 2, 1930. Karin was an Honorary Life Member and with 80 years of membership at the time of her passing, she was the longest serving member of our lodge. She was very active in the lodge and the Swedish community until age slowed her down. Although she lived in an assisted living complex, she was still alert and somewhat mobile when friends and family celebrated her 102nd birthday.

VERNER B. LOOV passed away on August 12, 2010, at the age of 84. He was born in Lund, Sweden, on January 29, 1926, and joined Skandia Lodge #549, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, on October 3, 1993. Verner came with his parents from Sweden to Canada at the age of 2. His youth was spent growing up on the shores of Battle Lake, Alberta, farming, sawing and planing lumber with time as a soldier in WW II. He married Melba and they had 6 children. It was during this time in 1963 that he began teaching and completed his education degree at the University of Alberta. He became counselor at Wataskiwin High School in 1970 where he worked until his retirement in 1985. He is survived by his second wife, Lucille, his children, Colin, Don, Gordon, Val, Richard and Karin, and their mother Melba, as well as step-children, 2 brothers Bill and Bob and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He served in many capacities for the lodge and was a careful publisher for Skandia Page which was mailed to all families and an outreach of some 40 persons he felt should know about our activities – Grand Lodge, District and lodges within the District were also included. He acted as a Swedish representative for the Scandinavian Heritage Society and several years as Treasurer with this group. This group just passed their 35th Anniversary where they won under the Scandinavian name, food service, second \$500, and third prize for Arts & Crafts with a \$250 prize.

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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