



THE VASA STAR

Vasastjärnan

Publication of THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

Winter 2013

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

by William Lundquist



Bill Lundquist

Dear Vasa Brothers and Sisters,

Since my last message many significant events have taken place in the lives of all of us, some positive and others negative. We were shocked by the tragedy in Connecticut involving the senseless loss of innocent lives and we continue to see many along the east coast of the US continue to suffer from the effects of Hurricane Sandy. We have many members in the Eastern Districts who were deeply affected by both these events.

On a positive note, we again witnessed a peaceful transition of power in the US government. Regardless of our political party affiliation we all wish President Barack Obama and his cabinet success in the coming four years. It is a privilege to live in the part of the world where we can experience the freedom of democracy.

Christmas was no doubt the highlight of the season and is generally thought to be a source of happiness to many. Recalling positive childhood memories in all Christian cultures makes Christmas the holiday so many of us eagerly anticipate. I'm sure many of our local lodges celebrated the season with Lucia Pageants and Jul dinners that were carefully planned, beautiful events. A Lucia program is one that guests enjoy and a way to bring in potential new members. Unfortunately, the Christmas season is not happy for all. Often the lonely and elderly suffer deep sadness during the Christmas holiday season. I hope you included them in your festivities this year.

We were fortunate to visit the National Archives in Bishop Hill the first weekend in December.

The annual Julgran Memorial Program following our Julgran Fundraiser was meaningful and well attended. The Fundraiser was a success with proceeds earmarked for the Vasa National Archives Endowment Fund. Each year the fundraiser is more successful. Thank you to all our members who contributed to the project. Bishop Hill Local Lodge #683 invited those of us who attended the program at the Archives to attend their annual Lucia Pageant and dinner held at the Colony School. It was a lovely evening culminating with a visit from Santa himself. We were lucky enough to attend NordiKids Children's Club's Lucia Program in northern Indiana on our journey back to Michigan. My own local lodge, Viking #730, hosted our Lucia Pageant December 15. We held a successful raffle of a beautiful child size Dala Rocking Horse, created by one of the local members. Proceeds from the raffle and other activities of the local lodge have made it possible for Viking Lodge #730 to create an additional \$1,000.00 Grand Lodge Scholarship to be awarded in 2013 to a deserving student anywhere in the US,

Canada or Sweden. Viking Lodge #730 will also continue their full scholarship program in support of the children and grandchildren of local lodge members. I would like to challenge all local lodges to create Grand Lodge Scholarships to assist young members across the US and/or Canada and Sweden. If your membership is aging and you are financially equipped, please consider establishing a large scholarship in honor of your Local Lodge. The interest on a \$20,000.00 endowment will start building an annual scholarship in just a few years.

The Grand Lodge has recently received a large financial gift to the GL Education Fund from the estate of a California resident, Bertha Evelyn Kalm. The Executive Board is currently reviewing options for its specific use in 2013. I am hopeful many members will consider Vasa and the Vasa Education Fund in their estate and will planning. The large gift from Ms. Kalm was an unexpected blessing that will go a long way rebuilding the Education Fund. The Vasa Order of America is honored by and grateful for her generosity. The support from individuals like

Ms. Kalm and the many District Lodges, Local Lodges and individual members make it possible to continue our restoration efforts on behalf of the Order.

In closing, once again I want to remind you to carefully choose your Grand Lodge delegates to the 2014 GL Convention. They need to be far-sighted and creative when serving on multiple committees at the convention. We need those who will be futuristic and able to consider the needs of all members and Districts. Please look for those who want to continue serving the Order in leadership roles in the Grand Lodge. We have made continuous progress during the past two years because the current Grand Lodge Board Members have been talented, open minded and willing to make difficult decisions for the good of the Order. Please continue your support for the Vasa National Archives in your upcoming conventions. It's only through your support that the Archives continue its daily operations.

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

Continued on page 8

Logen Småland Nr 618

Jönköping

Högtidsmötet den 27 oktober var extra festligt då vi firade att Logen fyllt 65 år. Vi kunde hälsa DD Br Bo Ljungklint och ytterligare fem gästande Vasa-syskon välkomna. Tre nya medlemmar togs in i Logen och tre medlemmar tilldelades Logens förtjänstecken.

Sy Kerstin Johansson fick motta blommor. Hon gick med i Vasa Orden av Amerika år 1952, för 60 år sedan, och är nu medlem i vår Loge och i Skandia Lodge No. 247 i Pasadena, CA. Logehistoriker Bo Ahlsgård presenterade glimtar ur Logens historia. Gästerna framförde hälsningar och ett stort antal hyllningstelegram lästes upp. Vid supén underhöll fem studerande från Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola med ett strålande sång- och musikprogram. Ett par av dessa unga damer deltog försommaren 2011 i en körturé till svenskbygderna i Minnesota och Illinois. Detta var en minnesvärd kväll.

Under efterkapitlet vid Logemötet den 24 november visades en film från 1970-talet om "Resan till Amerika." Den började med grundandet av kolonin New Sweden på 1600-talet men uppehöll sig mest vid massmigrationen som startade på 1840-talet. Många kända platser och personer från emigrationsepoken passerade revy. I mingelrummet skrev vi på de julkort som skulle sändas till våra vänloger.

Jullogen den 15 december var som vanligt en av årets höjdpunkter. Valet av tjänstemän för år 2013 genomfördes snabbt. Ett hemlagat traditionellt julbord avnjöts, avslutat med risgrynsgröt. Sy Maj Fornander deklamerade Viktor Rydbergs "Tomten" åtföljt av KL Sy Maureen Bengtssons bildspel med Harald Wibergs klassiska illustrationer. Detta har blivit en tradition i vår Loge. Vi sjöng några kända julsånger. Stämningen var som vanligt på topp och vi önskade varandra En God Jul och Ett Gott Nytt År.

Vid varje möte i Logen Småland framförs hälsningar från några av våra tio vänloger, åtta i USA och två i Canada. Detta är välkomna och intressanta inslag under "Kontakt Amerika."

Insänt av: Göte Bengtsson, Ordförande



Kerstin Johansson, who is a dual member of Skandia #247, Pasadena, CA, receives her 60-year pin.

Drott Lodge #168

Washington, DC



Drott Lodge's Victor Erickson turned 100 on November 6, 2012. He is shown here with his wife Elma and Drott member Gerry Schueman at the lodge's 33rd annual Christmas Bazaar on November 3, 2012, just three days before becoming a centenarian. Lodge members and bazaar customers alike joined the

fiddlers who serenaded Victor, first singing "Happy Birthday" followed by the Swedish birthday song "Ja, må du leva." Victor had a quiet day on the 6th, resting up for the big family celebration held on November 11. Elma reports that while Victor was pleased with all of the token gifts delivered from the lodge on his birthday, his favorite thing was the herring. **In the photo are Victor's wife Elma Erickson and super Drott member Gerry Schueman.**

It was a dreary afternoon December 9 when Drott Lodge #168's Lucia Procession began in the darkened parish hall. But the room brightened as the 29 participants, led by the lovely Annika Fagerstrom as Lucia, walked up the aisle to the delight of what was probably the largest audience in more than two decades. The Lucia attendants included three recently arrived Swedish au pairs looking for a touch of home and two previous Drott Lucias.

The Birdwell Family offered a rendition of "Goder Afton," Annika read the "Lucia Verse," and Olga Prokunina sang "Bethlehems Stjärna." Eight red-clad tomtar visited. The Lucia song and Christmas carols were sung by the eight-member adult chorus, many in traditional dress, and even the youngest children boldly sang the easy parts of the famous "Tip Tap."

Following the recession, Olga and her father, Göran Olsson, played an advent fiddle composition and continued playing as folks danced around the Christmas tree. There was a Christmas mini-bazaar, children made Swedish Jul crafts at Chairman Julie Olson's Kid's Corner, and all lined up to feast on the abundant Julbord. Santa (aka Rodney Rydlun) arrived and spoke with each of the children eagerly gathered round him before presenting them with age-appropriate gifts.

Congratulations and many thanks to Lucia coordinator Karin Alexis Frenze for another job well done.

Annika Fagerstrom is the eldest of four children, an 8th grader who loves math and science and also loves circus performance. **Annika Fagerstrom is shown in the photo with her mom shortly before the Lucia procession.**

Submitted by: Carol Whitley

THE VASA STAR
(USPS 657-020)
Winter 2013
Vol. 106, No. 1, Serial 849

Published by:
Vasa Order of America
vasaorder.com

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

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

Vasa Star Editor:
Send articles, photos & Memorials to:
Annelie Lindberg
105 Gorrión Ave
Ventura, CA 93004
E-mail:
vasaeditor@earthlink.net
805-672-0032

Circulation Manager:
(All Address Changes)
Joan Graham
5838 San Jose Avenue
Richmond, CA 94804
Phone: 510-526-5512
E-mail:
circulationvasastar@gmail.com

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

Vasa Supplies:
Secretaries (only) order lodge supplies from
Gail Olson, VGS
654 Western Hwy
Blauvelt NY 10913
845-359-9151
E-mail:
gailolson@optonline.net

Membership Chairman:
Art Bjorkner
31 Vasa Drive,
Hackettstown NJ
07840-5314 USA

Advertising:
Orders for advertising should be sent to
Annelie Lindberg
105 Gorrión Ave
Ventura, CA 93004
E-mail:
vasaeditor@earthlink.net
805-672-0032

Advertising Prices

Half Page	10"x7"	\$500
Quarter Page	7"x5"	\$275
Eighth Page	5"x4"	\$150
Sixteenth Pg	2"x3"	\$ 75
Column Inch	2"x1"	\$ 30

(sizes are approximate)

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Vasa Star, 5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804.

Message from the Editor

It is fantastic that some of our Vasa lodges are turning 100. What a statement that says for our wonderful Vasa organization, to stand the test of time, and be true to the motto onward and upward. Our mantra of generosity, truth and unity is the driving force in the success of a lodge.

On our cover page Kerstin Johansson receives her 60 year pin at Småland Lodge, Drott Lodge's Victor Erickson celebrates his 100th birthday, and our Grand Master delivers his winter column to inform, inspire and keep us connected. Our youth are featured prominently with beautiful pictures from Lucia pageants and holiday festivities. Their fun and dedication to learn about their traditions is wonderful to see and read about. Svea Lodge #296 celebrated three generations of Lucias last December; Bråviken turned 20, Kronan Lodge #433 and Evening Star Lodge #426 turned 90, and Thule Lodge #127 turned 105! Read about the 70 year pin awarded to Maurice Segerberg from Framåt Lodge #405 on p. 6.

Viktoria at the Vasa National Archives is preparing for the big Sami Exhibit this June and hopes many of you will be able to visit this summer.

Nordic Lodge #708 in Atlanta held their Fourth Scandinavian Festival. Songs, spex and pancakes, oh my! A great raffle took place at Viking Lodge #730 to benefit the Scholarship Fund, and how generous of Harold Johnson to donate the beautiful Dalahäst rocker to the Vasa Archives in Bishop Hill, IL.

The sound of the nyckelharpa, played by Lennart Björnkvist could be heard at a recent Härnösand meeting and renowned Expressen journalist Ulf Nilsson was a guest at Nordic Lodge #708 in Georgia.

If you want to learn how to introduce yourself to a Swede, our wonderful Siv Swan-Pierson provides that lesson for you on p. 10, and our Cultural Leader in Sweden, Stig Sälgebäck provides news about the Swedish American Center.

Please remember that April 1 is the deadline for the next issue and any photos sent via mail need to be sharp and clear so that it will scan into the computer. Thanks for all your kind notes and messages. I love editing the Vasa Star and I am looking forward to my lodge turning 100 very soon. Maybe there will finally be a picture of me in the next issue!

Princess Estelle of Sweden, just celebrated her first birthday on February 23. Proud parents are happy at their home in Haga Park, in north Stockholm and below is a recent photo of the three of them.



PAGE 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Editorp. 2

Archives News.....p. 3

District Lodge Newsp. 3

Lodge News.....p. 4-8

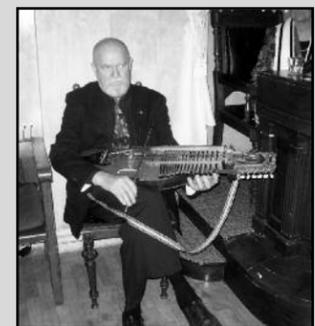
Swedish Newsp. 8-9

Cultural News.....p. 9-11

Youth Newsp. 11

New Membersp.12

In Memoriamp.12



PAGE 9

Annelie



A recent picture of Kronprincessan Viktoria and Daniel's daughter, Princess Estelle.

If you prefer to read an electronic copy of *The Vasa Star*, email vasajlg@aol.com to be removed from the mailing list for the paper copy. You can read *The Vasa Star* at vasaorder.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For the Good of the Order - presenting this new column where members may share their ideas, thoughts, and concerns relating to The Vasa Order of America. Please keep your comments under 150 words, and remember our motto: Generosity, Truth and Unity. Letters will be printed as space allows.

Deadlines for The Vasa Star:

Spring Deadline is April 1
Summer Deadline is July 1
Fall Deadline is October 1
Winter Deadline is January 1

Picture and article, 200 words or less.
For Letters to the Editor column, 150 words or less.

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.

ARCHIVES NEWS



Lucia, Julmarknaden och for ever living julgran, närmar sig med stormsteg, i Bishop Hill.

Träden blir allt mera nakna utanför och gör sig redo för vinterns vila.

Mänskligheten stressar på mera och mera, för att hinna med allt som har med pynt, julklappar, skriva julkort till alla nära och kära, sist men inte minst kommer förberedelserna med all mat som ska handlas och lagas. Varje år samma visa, även att man säger till sig själv "i år ska det bli annorlunda, i år ska jag förbereda allt i tid, så att jag inte behöver stressa i sista minuten" förmodligen kommer jag och många med mej stressa även denna kommande jul !

Vaför inte sitta ner tio minuter varje dag, tänka igen året, andas i all julstress, och bara tänka på allt det vackra och fina som passerat under 2012, det bästa fotoalbum och minnet bär vi ju alla inom oss!

Året har gott väldigt fort, som Ni alla vet arbetar vi väldigt intensivt med vår Same utställning, Inbjudan har börjat att skickas ut, vi har affischer för utställningen, beställ dom från arkivet och gör extra reklam i Din hemstad, vårt mål är att få hit över tusen besökare under Juni månad, Vi hoppas att många av våra besökare kommer från Sverige och Kanada, så att vi får möjlighet att visa vårt vackra arkiv för våra medlemmar. Vi behöver all hjälp som finns tillgänglig, både här i Bishop Hill under Juni månad 2013, såväl som ekonomisk hjälp, för inköp av ljud- ljustanläggning till utställningen, etc.

Vi behöver folk som hjälper till på varje plan på Arkivet, med upppackning inför utställningen samt nerpackning efter utställningen slut. All hjälp är välkommet!

Utställningen är uppdelad i fyra olika färger!

Den röda presenterar kulturen, och hur livet var för samerna som vallade renarna på fjället. Deras språk, deras traditionella kläder, Yoik deras speciella sätt att sjunga så att dom på detta sätt kunde kommunicera, den röda delen inkluderar också foton, böcker och cd:s.

Den Gula delen presenterar Hantverk, färgning av renskinn, rötter och tenn arbeten, hantverk av horn, vävning av färgglada band samt dess mening av färger. Även denna del omfattas av texter samt foton.

Den Blå och gröna delen omfattar Samernas långa levnads historia dåtid till nutid, hur folk lever idag. Denna sektion inkluderar foto, kulturföremål, skor som är tillverkade av renskinn, leksaker, scarves, bälten, och tillbehör till kläderna.

Röra och känna (för de yngre)

Du kan sitta ner på ett renskinn, titta i olika väskor och finna Samiska föremål, deras leksaker, och nöjesspel, läsa böcker, lyssna på CD:skivor.

Here in Bishop Hill, Santa Lucia, the Christmas market, and the Forever Living Christmas tree are all approaching in leaps and bounds. Outside the trees are shedding their leaves and getting ready for their winter rest. We humans become more stressed as we shop for gifts, write Christmas cards to loved ones, put up decorations, and, last but not least, prepare all the special foods. Every year I tell myself that "this year will be different. This year I will prepare everything ahead of time so I don't have to rush at the last minute." But I know that I and many others will probably be just as stressed again this year. We need to sit quietly for ten minutes every day, take a deep breath, and just think of the beauty and good things that happened to us in 2012 – the best photo albums and memories that we all carry within us!

This year seemed to go very quickly. As you all know, we are working very intensively on the Sami exhibit. We have started sending out invitations. Posters can be ordered from the Archives for use in advertising this event in your town. Our goal is to get over a thousand visitors during the month of June. We hope to get visitors from Sweden and Canada so that they can see what we do at the Archives. We need all the help that we can get, both here in Bishop Hill during the month of June 2013, as well as financial assistance for the purchase of music, light installation for the exhibit, etc. We will need people to help us on all three levels at the Archives, with unpacking and then re-packing after the exhibit is over. Any assistance will be much appreciated!

The exhibit is divided into four different colors. The Red presents their culture and what life was like for the Sami as they herded reindeer in the mountains, their language, their traditional clothing, their particular way of singing (Yoik) which is a method of communication. The Yellow part presents crafts, such as coloring reindeer skins, roots and tin works, weaving colorful ribbons. This part is covered by texts and photos. The Blue and Green sections include the Sami's long history from past to present – how people live today. This section includes photos, artifacts, shoes made of reindeer skin, toys, scarves, belts, and clothing accessories. Touch and feel. You can sit down on a reindeer skin, look in different bags and find toys and fun games. You will be able to read books and listen to CDs.

Submitted by: Viktoria Kofoid Almgren

Dear Vasa Members,

I am wishing you all a healthy and prosperous new year.

I would like to recognize some Vasa members that helped out with the Archives fundraiser/Julgran memorial ceremony on December 1, 2012.

Bill Lundquist for mailing the letters and memorial bulbs; his wife, Sheila, who together with Gene and Dawn Kiesel emptied all the received envelopes plus filling out a spreadsheet with donor names, memorial names and \$ amounts which created a list of memorial names for Rolf Bergman, Tom Cleveland, Sten Hult and Bill Lundquist to read during the ceremony.

Marty Bergman for preparing the bulbs with hooks and placing them neatly in a circular order onto plates; Tom and Sue Cleveland's daughter (Elizabeth) and son (Matthew) for hanging the bulbs individually on the Julgran during the ceremony; Viktoria Kofoid for decorating the lower level, the main floor, front porch area and for making the Glögg; Nancy Hult for donating all the coffee cakes; Sue Cleveland for donating the Swedish almond cake. Other goodies were also donated to the refreshment table from various donors. When all the Christmas candles in the ceremony hall were aglow, it looked and felt like Christmas time.

Mike Pearson, Sr. did the audio taping for the website. A young lady by the name of Amy Meier from Lynn Center (IL) played the keyboard and flute during the ceremony. The music from her flute was beautiful and the keyboard music accompanied our singing. Sheila Lundquist provided the program leaflets, song sheets and small candles that were lit during the singing of "Silent Night."

After the ceremony we all walked over to the Colony School House where Bishop Hill Lodge #683 had a smorgasbord and presented a Christmas program complete with a Lucia and her helpers. Thank you to Viktoria for the invitation to come to the Archivist's residence later in the evening for finger food and refreshments. Everyone connected with the Archives enjoyed her always warm and friendly hospitality.

Last, but not least, thank you to all the Vasa members that donated to our annual Julgran fundraiser for 2012 and to any other non-members who may have contributed to our cause.

In Truth and Unity
Sten Hult

Vice President, Vasa National Archives

DL NEWS

District Lodge #18 Alberta, Canada

Following is a brief two year review.

In 2011 the District Convention was held and a report was sent into Vasa Star following the Convention, however, some of you may not have read this report as at this time the Vasa Star was not doing a printed version, only a digital version which had to be read online from the Vasa website.

The Executive Board has held meetings in October 2011, April 2012 and October 2012 to keep up-to-date with various happenings, changes and suggestions.

Since 2012 is a free year without a Convention, the District held a weekend campout in conjunction with Skandia #549 Midsummer Celebration at Vasa Park, June 22, 23, and 24th. The celebration was for all members in the District and their families.

The weekend was a success with the following activities taking place. A wiener roast Friday evening was one of fellowship with the clear sky and shining stars helping all to enjoy the evening.

Saturday was busy day with a golf tournament, making of

wreaths, dancing down the streets of Vasa Park following the music trio of Edwin Erickson, playing the button accordion, Lloyd Eriksson on the violin and Jerry Hall on the guitar. After the maypole was raised the small children danced around it with streamers. All participants enjoyed appetizers of shrimp, herring, different cheeses, salmon, breads and crackers served in the clubhouse. A potluck supper followed with Skandia supplying the meat. As usual there was a lot of food and very little leftover as 170 were in attendance to enjoy this bountiful meal.

The Past District Masters Club of District #18 served pea soup and pancakes with whipped cream and strawberries for brunch on Sunday. As usual all 130 people enjoyed this meal.

In September Past District Master of District #18 and Grand Lodge Member of the Executive Board for Canada, Ken Banks, passed away. His funeral was well attended by many Vasa members. He will be sadly missed by all.

In Truth & Unity
Lois Brown - District Historian

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR

Mike Pearson

7309 New Hampshire Pl
Hammond, IN 46323-2937 USA
Phone: (219) 588-4752

E-mail: MikePearson@Nordicfolk.com

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

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



THE SWEDISH CLOCK MAKER

Traditional Swedish design
handcrafted in Oregon.

Custom painted to order
in any color or folk art style.

For details see website:
swedishclockmaker.com

Walt Schullstrom
Phone 541-461-0329
Email: suwalschul@aol.com

LODGE NEWS

Brage-Iduna Lodge #9 East Longmeadow, MA



Brage-Iduna Lodge's Lucia ceremony.

The members of our Three Crowns Swedish Children's Club were much appreciated for their performance of the Lucia pageant and holiday celebration on December 9, 2012.

The procession of long white gowns up the red-carpeted aisle of the church sanctuary brings to mind the themes of light, generosity, and nourishment. Several Lucia lyrics were sung in Swedish; the audience joined in other hymns. Readings and poems explained the meanings and customs of this Scandinavian tradition.

The Jul party featured the Children's Club in a festive mood performing Scandinavian songs, amusing dances, and the familiar långdans with many attendees joining in. Such a pleasure to see all tables filled with children's families, visitors, lodge members, and

representatives from the MA District!

An abundance of potluck treats were offered on the buffet table; one member had brought Swedish coffee breads from Worcester, another member's relative had contributed the glögg which was served warm in little cups.

This year's Lucia was Rachel Lacey, daughter of member Jill Lacey. Rachel, a senior at Westfield High School, is involved with several intramural sports, and cares for and rides her horse year-round. She looks forward to college in fall, 2013.

Lodge chairwoman Margaret Falkowski expressed thanks to club leader Marcia Radner and to all volunteers whose efforts contributed to such an enjoyable seasonal celebration.

Submitted by: John Morgan
Photo by: Larry Radner

Scandia Lodge #23 Manchester, CT



Christmas Luncheon 2012.

Back row June Roncarti, Gail Porter, Mel and Sylvia Helstrom, Paul Berg and Al Davis. Seated: Clara Stowell, Judy Anderson, Judy Mitrowski and Karen Davis.

Submitted by: June Roncarti

Spiran Lodge #98 Rockport, MA

On December 8, Spiran Lodge #98 presented its annual Jul Fest celebration. Many tables were set up throughout the lodge for sales of seasonal items. The Swedish deli table run by Eric Rask and his crew featured medvurst, sylta, potatis korv, along with the farmers and Bond-ost cheeses, and lingonberry and other jellies. Glögg rounded out the offerings. The bread table run by Barbara Anderson's group offered Vört limpa, Swedish rye and almond rings as well as pepparkakor. On another table was Nisu made by

Claire Franklin and the men and woman of the lodge. The greens table was spectacular with Christmas centerpieces and cemetery baskets, all made by the ladies of the lodge. The gift table was run by Elana Brink and her group, which presented Nordic items for Christmas gifts, and the "grab" table was managed by Jessica and Austin Matus with treats for the youngsters. A lovely lunch was prepared by Janice Ramsden and her crew for the lodge was enjoyed by all. The MARK French band entertained the lunch guests. A spe-

cial appearance by a 92 year old member, Miriam Lane, was enjoyed by all as she tickled the ivories with some of the old Swedish tunes.

The St. Lucia procession and children dancing was a resounding success. The procession was led by Erica Rask wearing the candle lit wreath. She was followed by several boys and girls

dressed in white robes with wreaths on their heads all holding candles. The children sang Silent Night and Jingle Bells followed by 3 traditional Swedish folk dances. Their instructors; Jessica Matus and Eva Korpi were very proud of their performance.

Submitted by: Herman Lilja
and William Holmes

North Star Lodge #106 Los Angeles, CA



Lucia Catherine Pages

Catherine Pages served as Lucia this year after participating in the pageants for about six years. Catherine lives in San Diego where she enjoys the

sunny weather and beautiful beaches.

She is 12 years old and loves fashion, modeling and singing. She has big dreams of becoming a professional singer.

Catherine has also made it into the California Youth Conservatory, which is a very big accomplishment for her.

Her parents are Wayne and Cheryl Pages. She has two older siblings and a cat and a dog. Catherine is working on some new songs and plans to make some music videos very soon. She is very thankful for her friends for being so supportive and having her back through everything. She would like to thank the North Star Lodge for this great opportunity to portray Lucia.

Submitted by: Catherine Pages

Thule Lodge #127 Jamestown, Bemus Point, NY



Cultural Leader Fanchon Fuller and Lodge Auditor Jerry Erickson examine many kinds of cookies at the Dopp i Gryta event.

Our Thule Lodge #127 completed its 105th year as the Swedish organization in this southwestern New York area. Preserving the Swedish heritage through events and activities continues to be the main goal of the lodge, along with providing fellowship among the members. Chairman Ralph Veights will pass the gavel of the lodge to the new lodge chairman, Jeffrey Anderson, in January 2013. Susan W. Sipos will serve as the vice chairman, with Carolyn Ostrom as the lodge secretary, Donna Sandberg as the financial secretary, and Loretta Smith as the lodge treasurer.

The final event of the year was the annual Dopp i Gryta in the middle of December. Besides different kinds of bread for dipping in the sauce, ham, korv, pickled herring, beets, scalloped potatoes, Swedish meatballs, cheeses, cucumbers

and many kinds of cookies were served. An enjoyable time was had by all at this festive occasion. Historian John Sipos read the story "Christmas Eve Scandinavian Style." Cultural leader Fanchon Fuller gave the history of the Jul-buk which is made of straw and decorated with red ribbons. Past Cultural Leader Allie Nelson Withers gave the Swedish table blessing in Swedish and in English.

Winter meetings will continue to be held on a Saturday afternoon due to winter conditions, and plans are already being formulated for spring time activities and events. All those at the Thule Lodge #127 wish everyone a happy new year in 2013. We always welcome visitors if you are in our area.

"God dag" to all.

Submitted by: John Sipos
Lodge Historian

Tegner Lodge #149 Oakland, CA



Star boys, left to right are: Kristopher Root, Keegan Lister (Lucia: Annika Zamora) and Joacin Zamora.

At our October meeting, Nani Löfström from Framåt Lodge #405 gave a presentation on the Sami. Her grandmother was from Lappland and Nani spent some time in that culture when she studied in Stockholm. She showed us lovely Sami jewelry which she made herself.

In November we celebrated our 104th Anniversary at Björnson Hall. Charlotte Weissenborn prepared the turkey and others brought side dishes. DM David Jansson was our special guest and a brief history of our lodge and a few remarks about Esias Tegner for whom the lodge is named was presented. Diane Eatherly told one of her Swedish jokes just before we initiated our 2011 Lucia, Meagan Youngdahl.

On December 8th we held our Lucia Pageant. Our Lucia was ten-year-old Annika Zamora. Her grandparents are Vice Grand Master Tore Kellgren and Past District Master Birgitta Kellgren. Her parents are Raul and Carina Zamora. Annika is a fifth grader at Chabot Elementary School in Castro Valley, CA. She likes performing in her school's musicals and is learning to play the trumpet. She swims on the Chabot Marlin's swim team. She will be traveling to visit her relatives in Sweden next summer.

The Star Boys in the pageant were Kristopher Root, Keegan Lister, and Joacin Zamora, Carol Madigan read the Lucia story and Diane Eatherly read about the Tompte. Our singers were Elsy Mattsson, Marie-Ann Hill, and Tore Kellgren. Laura Nordendahl again made our Lucia buns. It was a most enjoyable start to our Christmas season.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

Advertise
in the
Vasa Star

Monitor Lodge #218

Sacramento, CA



Monitor Lodge hosted its annual Julbord with Lucia before Christmas. A wonderful celebration of the season, good fellowship, glögg and the traditional courses of prepared food. A very special thank you from the membership goes to Kurt and Eivor Pfannkuch, DeeDee Dahlberg, Peggy Carlson, and Lisa and Myrtle Widmark. These "table leaders" were responsible for acquiring food within the membership as well as preparation and set up for their tables.

This event has been a tradition for many years and much experience and expertise has developed by the team. New this year to the crew is Thersa Alberts, glögg maker extraordinaire!

Honored as Lucia, Jacqueline

Royer was a beautiful addition to the evening, evidencing grace and understanding of her role. Attending Lucia were Alyssa, Megan and Ashley Leaman, Annika Rea, Elsa Tjeder, Tess and Lydia Ellis, and Emily Brainerd. Handsome and poised, Christian Royer appeared as Star Boy and Emil Rea was Tomte. Birgitta Ellis, Karin Johnson and Gail Nemy, along with moms of some of the kids are warmly thanked and acknowledged as doing a splendid job teaching and guiding the children.

Because this is such a successful and well attended annual event, in 2013 the lodge is planning a smörgåsbord to be held in November and a Luciafest in December.

Submitted by: Charles Rea

Brahe Lodge #245

Rockford, IL



Standing from left to right: David Tollin, Park Board Chairman; Charlotte Tollin, Treasurer/Financial Secretary; and Roy Vltalo, Vice Chairman.

Brahe Lodge celebrated its annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at our Vasa Park Lodge in Rockford, IL.

First we heard the officers update us on lodge activities and plans, then we all enjoyed a delicious smörgåsbord pro-

vided by the members. Afterward, we enjoyed playing bingo with many prizes given to winners.

Of course, we also had a beautiful Christmas tree displayed in our lodge.

Submitted by Vasa #245 Member: D. G. Eksten

Skandia Lodge #247

Pasadena, CA



Julianne Rose as Lucia

The regular business meeting at Skandia Lodge in Pasadena, CA, was the scene of Skandia's annual invitation to the District Master and officers to join Skandia for dinner and to lead our business meeting. The

current District Master, Gunlog Spaberg, lives a considerable distance out of the Pasadena area especially for a working evening, (she and husband PDM Gary joined us for our Anniversary dinner in March

and we thank them very much for their extra efforts). This October evening, Vice District Master Ann Hulgren admirably filled the job. Following an excellent dinner of fresh summer salad, lasagna, and several desserts under the direction of Past Chairman Nel Solt, Skandia Chairman Jane Hendricks opened the regular business meeting. Following the regular opening ceremonies, the District Master and her staff were escorted into the Lodge room and the meeting proceeded with the initiation of Skandia's newest member, Emmaline Mauritsen, sponsored by her father, Ernie Mauritsen. The District Officers and guests had much to add to the evening and brought us news from around the District and their individual local Lodges. We look forward to the District visit next year also – maybe we have started a special trend as we initiated new members at the October 2011 District Officers' visit and now again this year.

As we close the calendar on 2012, we open the 100th Anniversary Celebration year of 2013 with the report on the Annual Skandia Lucia Celebration. It is such a pleasure to work with the members and friends of Skandia Lodge and this Lucia event was a true reflection of the spirit that lives in the heart of Skandia Lodge.

In preparation for our Luciafest, Christmas trees were prepared and decorated, the tables and chairs were placed, the tables were set, the table decorations – gift favors were assembled and arranged, and the food stored and ready and the elves enjoyed a happy pre-feast.

Saturday, December 8th, dawned bright and happy, with Nel Solt and Judy Orcutt and their trusty potato peelers, scrubbed and peeled and cut and reduced that ton of Yukon Gold potatoes into proper order for the mashed potatoes for dinner. Birgitta and Rudy Roodsari appeared with the fixings for the glogg and prepared the vegetables, Betsy performed her magic on the appetizer table, Alma Marie brought her wonderful decorations and transformed the Lodge into a Christmas castle. Lori Wennbo and son Robert took care of the reservation table, and Birgitta and Kathleen Demarjian organized and directed the great group of youngsters for the Lucia procession accompanied by accordionist, LeRoy Anderson with Julianna Rose as Lucia. We were then treated to such a fine performance by the Swedish Folk Dance Club again accompanied by their musicians with many traditional folk dances and then dancing for all around the Christmas. Robert had a special contact that brought Santa Claus to visit everyone with gifts for the children. Bob Solt and Norman Pedersen properly sliced the prime rib roasts, and Kathleen, Skandia friend Lucia Davis, helpers Joel and Christa, and many others plated the dinners which were served by Skandia's team of servers – the sons and daughters of the Skandia members in attendance. There were so many bright spots for the day, and the happy spirit of willingness to make this a very special event, that there were smiles all around.

Just a few days later was the regular December business meeting of the Lodge and, bless

her heart, Alma Marie brought her bountiful bags of decorations and the Lodge was transformed again into Christmas glory; a tasty spaghetti dinner accompanied by Sharlene's meatballs – special delivery from the Martin family household in 29 Palms – plus pies and cookies started the evening with so many members in attendance

for the business meeting that we ran out of copies of the minutes. Many are the preparations for the actual Anniversary Luncheon on March 9, 2013. What a great place to spend an evening with good company, good food and good news. So 'til next time, onward and upward.

Submitted by: Dr. Jacqueline E. Ahlen, Vice Chairman

Svea Lodge #253

Indianapolis, IN



Lily Rose Elfie Jervis is the Lucia for 2012.

The annual celebration of Lucia and the Christmas program took place at the Latvian Center in Indianapolis, IN. Beginning with welcoming glögg and punch, 160 guests were greeted to a beautifully decorated hall, tempting raffle prizes, and the colorful Swedish Emporium which was stocked with gifts and Swedish treasures. Julmiddag Smörgåsbord followed with dozens of delicious menu items, both Swedish and seasonal.

Our Lucia for 2012 is Lily Rose Elfie Jervis, 14 years old, and the daughter of Emily and John Jervis, sister of Noah (17) and Phili (5) Jervis, and granddaughter of Bill and lodge member Diann Ryan. She has participated in the Lucia procession and pageant for at least six years. Born on June 25, 1998, Lily Jervis lives in New Augusta in northwest Indianapolis, IN, and is a freshman at University High School in Carmel, IN; she is active in music and drama, and is a member of the University High School Choir (and was selected to sing a soprano solo at the fall concert), and played the White Rabbit in the University High School production of "Alice In Wonderland." Lily Jervis is a member of

the Games Club at University High School, volunteered at the Carmel International Arts Festival, played the trumpet with an ensemble at the Salvation Army Kettle at Circle Center Mall, sang with the choir at Salem Lutheran Church, played volleyball and basketball in school, and participated for 8 years in Girls Scouts, including volunteering at animal shelters. The Lucia Processional included Lucia, Tärnor, and Stjärngossar; the Svea Singers led the audience in the Allsång. Efterrätt/Dessert followed; the evening concluded with the raffle drawings, Ringdans, and Jultomte (played by Scott Clarkson) with gifts for the children (arranged by Carol Atherton-Clarkson). Many thanks to Eija Vesterqvist for arranging the Children's Corner; to Annette Johansson for directing the Svea Singers; to Barbara Griffith and Jonas Björk for organizing the Lucia Procession and children; to Ulla Williams for coordinating the meal, hall arrangements, and reservations; and to Susie and Mark Swanson for stocking and working so hard at the Swedish Emporium.

Submitted by: Joella D. Hultgren Publicity Committee



Rebecca Wiebke, 2012 Lucia Lily Jervis, and Linnea Sandell.

Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA



Left to right: Lynette Donnelly - mother, Lena Donnelly - Lucia, Hunter Scott - Star Boy, and Tina Scott - mother.

Our Luciafest was held December 9th at Luther Memorial Church. An interesting face was that this year's program featured three generations of Lucias. Lena Donnelly, our 2012 Lucia and Starboy Hunter Scott, are the grandchildren of Shirley Collier, who was Lucia here 50 years ago. Her daughters, Lynette and Tina also became Lucias and their children were eager to follow in their footsteps.

Lena is in the 9th grade at Iroquois High School where she participates in soccer and softball. She plans to major in Physical Therapy. She has two older brothers.

Hunter is her cousin and is 16. He is enrolled in Harborcreek High School and Erie County Vocational Tech. He loves diving, track and field, computers and snowboarding.

The Luciafest at Svea began in 1957 at Bethany Lutheran Church and ia a way of passing on Swedish Christmas traditions to our offspring. We enjoyed Lucia buns and cookies in the Fellowship Hall, decorated with our members lovely Swedish ornaments.

Submitted by: Linda Collin

Omaha Lodge #330

Omaha, NE



Lucia Alexandra Weiss with sister Paige.

We celebrated Sankta Lucia day at our meeting on Sunday, December 9th.

Alexandra Weiss was our Sankta Lucia, and her sister, Paige, served as her attendant. They are the daughters of Brian and Sonja Weiss and granddaughters of Vasa members Dick and Jan Sayers. Alexandra is in the 5th grade at La Vista West Elementary School. She enjoys swimming and reading. Paige is in 2nd grade at the same school and loves dancing and her cats.

Submitted by: June Soderlund

Balder Lodge #343

Ferndale, CA

November 17 we celebrated Thanksgiving with a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. Members enjoyed watching "Pippi Longstockings" and after words we auctioned off some gently used items as a quick fundraiser.

December 15 we celebrated a Swedish Christmas with a potluck lunch and enjoyed being entertained by St. Lucia played by Kathy Holtermann. We all enjoyed the program and singing some Christmas carols.

In 2013 our program activities will honor the various Scandinavian Countries. Honoring a different country that we may not be so familiar with will allow us to learn more about their customs through the food we share and the products that each country produces. I am looking forward to see what this year will bring.

Submitted by: Christian Nielsen
Vasa Star Correspondent

Skogsblomman Lodge #378

Preston, WA



Children's program performers pictured (left to right): Aidan Thornsberry, Aiden Lowe, Olivia Larsson, Erica Larson, Kenley Larsson, Colin Larsson, and Violette Lowe.



The Skogsblomman Lodge in Preston, WA, (about an hour east of Seattle) celebrated its annual Christmas Party on December 9th, 2012. The children's program featured a delightful skit about "The Jultomten's Visit," directed by Youth Leader Alexa Lowe. The cast consisted of Troy Larson, Anthony Lowe, and seven youth (*Aidan Thornsberry, Aiden Lowe, Olivia Larsson, Erica Larson, Kenley Larsson, Colin Larsson, and Violette Lowe*). Lovely musical accompaniment on the cello and contrabass was provided by lodge member Melissa Shogren and her son James Shogren. Dozens of members and their extended families enjoyed the festive holiday program and traditional smorgasbord capped by a jolly visit from Santa Claus. A gourmet buffet of delicious Scandinavian food and beverages was planned and served by lodge volunteers.

Submitted by: Shawn Thornsberry

Framåt Lodge #405

El Cerrito, CA

On December 14th, 50 members, families, and friends gathered to celebrate that favorite holiday Santa Lucia Day. Marilyn Jackson and Mimi Holtermann-Docto led the group in a long dance to the tune *Nu Är Det Jul Igen* around the dining room and finally to the smörgåsbord buffet table. Framåt member and Chef Ryan Brodie served our traditional Swedish favorites. Following dinner Lucia (Allyson Martindale) and her attendants (Morgan Martindale and Alicia Chavez, with Anthony Chavez as tomte) presented the *Sankta Lucia* program, with Joanie Graham reading the story of Lucia. In the darkened dining room, tables were lit with candles in Swedish candelabra hand-made and hand-painted by 70-year Framåt member Maurice Segerberg.

During the dinner, Chairman Robert Homer presented membership pins to members: Maurice Segerberg – a 70 year jewel, Patsy Nilsson – 40 years, Oland Lewis – 25 years, and Gary Lewis – 10 years. Unable to attend, Ellene Brodie was presented with her 70-year jewel at home by Grand Secretary Joanie Graham. A 10-year pin will be presented to Ryan Segerberg. At our Thanksgiving dinner, 10-year pins were presented to members John and Shirley Gotelli and John and June Hopkirk.

Submitted by: Joanie Graham



Chairman Robert Homer presented pins to Gary Lewis, Oland Lewis, Patsy Nilsson and Maurice Segerberg.



Morgan Martindale, Lucia Allyson Martindale, Alicia Chavez, Anthony Chavez, and musician Marilyn Jackson.

Evening Star Lodge #426

Los Alamitos, CA



On Saturday, December 15, 2012, Evening Star Lodge #426 celebrated its 90th Anniversary as well as the 45th Anniversary of Morning Star Children's Club #172 at the beautiful Petroleum Club in Long Beach, CA.

The evening began with the Lucia Pageant led by our beautiful Lucia, Kaelin den Hartog. The program was under the direction of past Lucia, Stephanie Tomasevic with musical accompaniment by LeRoy Anderson of Nordic Lodge. Following the Lucia Program, Grand Lodge Deputy Thomas Jahn, a member of Evening Star Lodge, introduced the following dignitaries attending our event: Grand Lodge Language Director Siv Swan Pierson; District Master Gunlog Spaberg; Vice District Master Ann Hellgren; District Treasurer Robert Solt; District Cultural Leader Nel Solt; Assistant District Secretary Arlene Lundquist; District Trustees Mary Ethel Pierson and Robert Salk; District Auditor and Youth Supervisor Ann Heinstedt, and

Jane Hendricks, Chairman of Skandia Lodge.

Lucia Kaelin was presented with a very special commemorative amulet by Chairman Haakan Spaberg.

Edwin Bennett, a medical student, was selected as the winner of the Evening Star Lodge Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00.

The evening continued with a superb dinner. Cookies and cake were served following dinner and 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.

Article and Photo Submitted by: Thomas Jahn, GLD

Kronan Lodge #433

St. Paul, MN



On December 8, 2012, members and friends of Kronan Lodge celebrated the 90th year of our lodge at our annual holiday luncheon. We gathered at The Lexington restaurant in St. Paul for a delicious meal and lively conversation. Our lodge's 90th anniversary coincided with the 90th birthday of our friend and long-time

member, Ebon Hedenskog. (Ebon is pictured third from the left in the front row.) Ebon has held many positions within Kronan Lodge through the years and we were so happy that she and her daughter could join us.

Submitted by: Kendra Nielsen
Photo courtesy of: Eleanor Pearson

Nordic Red Rocks Lodge #760

Sedona, AZ



Lucia Vivi Arnett

Our Lucia Fest was held on December 9, 2012 at the Elk's Lodge in Sedona, AZ. Vivi Arnett was our Lucia and the food and fellowship were wonderful. In November we enjoyed a DVD of Robert Asp entitled "The Hjemkomst."

Norden Lodge #513

Meeting Creek, Alberta, Canada



Norden Lodge celebrated Santa Lucia at the home of sister Ruby Swedberg. The festivities began with a smörgåsbord dinner. The children and grandchildren of the members presented the Santa Lucia program.

Santa Lucia - Elina Lidberg;
Santa Lucia's attendants - Anna

Lidberg, Sarah Swedberg, Rebecca Montgomery; Star boys - Dylan and Matthew Swedberg

Jultomten arrived with gifts for the children. The adults had a great time with their gift exchange.

Submitted by: Cultural Leaders Lill Roth Lee, Carol Montgomery

Phoenix Lodge #677

Phoenix, AZ



Lucia Annika Hillyard.

2012 Lucia Annika Hillyard is in eighth grade at Emmanuel Lutheran School, where she enjoys history and track. Her father is an Arizonan, and her mother is Finnish. Annika visits her Finnish and Swedish rela-

tives regularly where she likes to pick berries in the summer, and in the winter, she enjoys building snow houses and having riisipuuro, the Finnish rice pudding traditionally eaten on Christmas.

The Lucia pageant was a beautiful event, as it is every year. We had over 146 attendees, with at least 24 volunteers, making this a very special celebration for our Lodge. After our luncheon and pageant we enjoyed singing and dancing around the beautifully decorated tree. Our day concluded with a visit from the grand Jultomte himself - Santa Claus, who handed out gifts to many children.

Vinland Lodge #703

Cape Cod, MA



Our loyal members, families and guests celebrated our Lucia Fest on December 15 at the Dennis Senior Center. The festive and darkened room quieted as the Lucia Procession began led by Lucia, Samantha Spencer. She is the daughter of Jessica and William Klimczyk and granddaughter of Kathleen and Peter Klimczyk. Attendants included Kyra Brymdyr, Grace Sohoel-Goldberg, Morgan Oats, Amy, Nicole and Victoria Peterson and Alexis Spencer, sister of our Lucia Bride. We reviewed our knowledge of the Lucia history as the Origin of Lucia was read. George Hedlund on accordion played the customary Scandinavian music for singing and dancing around the Christmas tree. A reading of "The Night Before Christmas" was followed by the presentation of gifts to the children.

Samantha and Alexis Spencer sang holiday carols in their beautifully trained and gifted voices. Four remembrance baskets were given to valued members who have been ill recently. We were treated to "Magic Meatballs," open-faced sandwiches, delicious desserts and Lucia buns. Holiday raffle gifts that featured three dolls - one dressed in an authentic Norwegian costume, another representing the Lucia bride and another in holiday attire. There was a large Julbok, a treat-filled gift basket and so many other festive items, which allowed nearly everyone a prize, or two. Everyone participated in the preparations and cleaning up chores, like one large and close family. Yes, that is who we are!

Submitted by: Dorothy Ann-Ellner Kean

Nordic Lodge #708

Atlanta, GA



The spex group in action. From left to right: Göran, Magnus, Erik, Sten.

The Fourth Annual Scandinavian Festival program opened with Vasa Drängar performing three songs - for once all of them were in English. The first song was "Georgia On My Mind," arranged by Swedish choir director Lennart Johansson. The second song sung was by Swedish poet Ruben Nilson, "The Poet, Mr. Willow." Ruben Nilson (1893-1971) wrote a great number of songs critical to society but in a very folksy and humorous way. In this song the poet shot himself because the greedy Mr. Hawk did not want to pay for the poems.

Vasa Drängar's third song was "Grass Widower Blues," by Povel Ramel (1922-2007) one of Sweden's funniest entertainers, the man behind "Knäppupp" and other beloved shows in Sweden. The song is about a grass widower (a grass widower is a married man who for a time is left home alone while his wife temporarily is out of town).

He is sitting there, with a hangover, trying to remember his wife's admonitions and everything she told him to do - just as she suddenly comes home, far too early.

The Scandinavian Show this time had a Russian flavor. Specifically for this program a group called "The Scandinavian Balalaikas" was created. It consisted of musicians from the Atlanta Balalaika Society, including Jan and Göran Rygert, plus Vasa Drängar's Gabe Granitz on accordion. On their Russian instruments they played two Swedish songs, "Come Forth O Lord of Night" by Bellman and "Polkan går," a Swedish traditional song. We also heard Gabe playing solo on his accordion and Norwegian Arlene Lathrop performing Danish



Vasa Drängar. From left to right: Göran Rygert, Sten Ekberg, Erik Kind, Jay Lutz, Dale Nordin, Hans Hörnfeldt, Magnus Edlund and Sven Lovegren.

songs on oboe, accompanied by Gabe on the piano.

Duo Yellow Blue, consisting of Alla Melnyk (from Ukraine, whose flag is yellow and blue) and Göran Rygert (from Sweden, same colors on the flag) performed on Russian bayan which is similar to accordion, and contrabass balalaika. They played "Hårgalåten," a beautiful song from the Swedish province of Hälsingland and "Pastushok," a Ukrainian folk melody in which Alla showed her great virtuosity.

The show concluded with a spex. Vasa Drängar's spex group presented three songs from a spex of Chalmers, Göteborg, from 1959. The title of the spex is "Catherine the 2nd" and is

about Catherine the Second of Russia and her struggle for providing Russia with a successor on the throne. Her husband Peter is not quite interested in participating.

The spex group was not only accompanied by Gabe on the piano, but also by "The Scandinavian Balalaikas." This fourth Scandinavian Show was a great success. It was probably the best so far and greatly appreciated by the audience of more than 50 people, who enjoyed the show with a glass of wine and delicious Swedish pancakes with various fillings.

Submitted by: Jan Rygert, Secretary

Photos: Courtesy of The Gwinnett Citizen, Atlanta, GA

Stenland Lodge #727

West Nyack, NY



Stenland Lodge #727, District #4, celebrated their annual "Lucia Fest" and Christmas Party at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 112 N. Main Street in Pearl River, NY, on Saturday December 8, 2012, at 7 p.m. The evening began with the Lucia Pageant, which included 20 children. Some of the participants told the story of Sankta Lucia both the historical and one of the Legends. All the participants sang the traditional Sankta Lucia songs plus some Christmas carols. Katie Owens of Pearl River, NY, was the Lucia Bride this year.

After the pageant everyone proceeded to Fellowship Hall where coffee, glögg, soda, etc. was served. Many varieties of Swedish cookies, cakes and "bulla" graced our serving table.

The evening continued with Swedish music and a visit from the much awaited "tomten" or Santa Claus. Santa Claus always has treats for all the children.

The evening concluded with an extraordinary raffle table. Two bicycles were raffled off plus many baskets filled with food and/or Christmas items.

Submitted by: Ingrid Allison



Scandia Lodge #728

Prescott, AZ



Rhiannon DeVault-Harrell as Lucia, with her sisters Khiernan and Daihnnon.

Scandia Lodge #728 celebrated Christmas festivities with a traditional Smorgasbord feast and a Lucia procession on December 9th. The lodge enjoyed 17-year-old Rhiannon DeVault-Harrell as Lucia; her sisters Khiernan, 12 years and Daihnnon, 10 years, served as attendants. Rhiannon is a senior at Prescott High School interested in languages and other cultures.

Rhiannon's achievements include student ambassador to Italy, Greece and France, Junior ROTC, Key Club and participation in Advanced Placement classes. Hoping one day to teach language in Japan or France, she has taken Latin, French and currently Japanese, with plans to take Swedish, Chinese and Sign language in the future.

The Smorgasbord dinner was chaired by Joanne DeMent, who arranged for the cold table and glogg to welcome each person as they arrived. Nordic items were sold, as well as tickets for the Money Tree Raffle and Scandinavian Gift Baskets. The hot table was abundant with traditional dishes, including Smoked Salmon, Gravlax, Herring, Ham, Meatballs, Pork Loin and Korv.

The "Swedish Singers" Inger DaPron, Mia Ackley, Hillevi Baer and Nina Erickson sang selections in Swedish of favorite old-time Scandinavian carols. This lodge special event was a successful ending to our busy year.

Submitted by: Pat Flippen and Jaynie Anderson

Viking Lodge #730

Flint, MI



Carlson and hand decorated with Scandinavian characters and graphics by Vickie Carpenter. This was a special project for Viking #730 Scholarship Fund and tickets were sent to all lodges in the US and Canada. The winner of the rocking horse was Harold Johnson, from Viking Lodge #730, and he graciously donated it to the Archives in Bishop Hill.

Submitted by: Ron/Dee Carlson

The St. Lucia dinner was held on December 15th at the Elks Club in Flint, MI. The St. Lucia procession marched through the ballroom with music playing in the background. The coordinators for the pageant were Marty Shaw (a former St. Lucia) and Bill and Sheila Lundquist. Brianna Horne was this year's St. Lucia, she is the great-granddaughter of Ron and Dee Carlson; several past St. Lucia princesses joined the procession as well. The court consisted of "star boys" with cone shaped hats and the maidens dressed in white gowns with tinsel halos in their hair.

Warm glögg with almond and raisins, along with other beverages, were served as our guests enjoyed listening to live music, visiting and shopping the various Swedish items that were available for sale. A traditional Swedish smorgasbord was served and consisted of pickled beets, cucumber salad, smoked salmon, pickled herring, roast port, Swedish meatballs, red potatoes and red cabbage.

Gene Kiesel sold tickets for the three door prizes. He also organized and sold tickets for the infant dala rocking horse, made and donated by Ron



Sierra Kronan Lodge #737

Roseville, CA



2012 winds down and our lodge members prepare for the Christmas Season looking forward as well to a New Year of fellowship, cultural activities, and a growing Sierra Kronan family.

This year's Lucia, Elise Chatterton, is the great-granddaughter of long-time member, Donna Huttner. Lucia's court includes cousins T.J. Vlahos as Star Boy, his sister Abby Tucker, and Elise's siblings Miley and Mikey Chatterton. Another cousin, William

Laumann, one of our newest youth members, provided the music and assisted in coaching the children.

By participating in programs such as Lucia, the children are learning to appreciate their Scandinavian heritage. Miley Chatterton looks forward to being a future Lucia. So much so that she took home her costume and borrowed her sister Elise's crown to prepare for a report to her second grade class – a 'show and tell' that reflects her interest in Swedish culture and tradition.

Each year for the Lucia program, the smallest child wears a special white robe. This time the honor went to Abby Tucker. The robe was sewn by one of our oldest members, Wanda Magnuson Nesewich for her son's kindergarten graduation in 1940. Wanda, who saved and cherished the robe for these many years, has donated it to Sierra Kronan to use at our Julfests.

Submitted by: Carol Nesewich, Lodge Historian

Jubileum Lodge #755

Madison, WI



The 2012 Lucia for Vasa Jubileum Lodge #755 in Madison, WI, is Annika Keillor, granddaughter of lodge member Ann-Britt Keillor.

Annika is a junior at Madison East High School. She enjoys playing ice hockey, reading books, and spending time with her friends and family. She visited Sweden five years ago with her family and would love to go back some day.

Annika was attended by Hanna Rubasch, Emily Rubasch, Katy Lucas, and Ian Rubasch.

Submitted by: Robert Merrill, Historian

SWEDISH NEWS

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

Kära Vasasyskon,

Sedan mitt senaste meddelande har många väsentliga händelser ägt rum, en del positiva och andra negativa. Vi blev chockade av den meningslösa tragedin i Connecticut och vi fortsätter att se många längs den östra kusten i USA fortsätta att lida av effekterna av orkanen Sandy. Vi har många medlemmar i de östra stadsdelarna som var djupt påverkade av båda dessa händelser.

Vi bevittnade återigen en fredlig övergång av makten i USA: s regering. Oavsett vår politiska partitillhörighet önskar vi President Barack Obama och hans kabinett framgångar under de kommande fyra åren. Det är ett privilegium att leva i den del av världen där vi kan uppleva frihet och demokrati.

Julen var utan tvekan höjdpunkten på säsongen och en källa till glädje för många. Man upplever positiva barndomsminnen och i den kristna kulturen blir det Julhelgen som förvandlar oss till ivriga små barn. Jag är säker på att många av våra lokala loger firade säsongen med vackra Luciafester och välplanerade Julmiddagar. Ett Lucia program är ett möte som gästerna njuter av och ett sätt att få in potentiella nya medlemmar. Tyvärr är Julen inte alltid detsamma för alla. De ensamma

och äldre kan drabbas av djup sorg under denna säsong. Jag hoppas att de fick vara med på din Luciafest.

Vi hade turen att besöka Arkivet i Bishop Hill den första helgen i December. Den årliga Julgran Minnesprogrammet var meningsfullt och välbesökt. Insamlingen var en succé för Vasa Arkivets Endowment Fund. Varje år blir denna insamling mer framgångsrik. Tack till alla våra medlemmar som bidragit till projektet. Bishop Hill Lokal Lodge Nr 683 bjöd oss som deltog i programmet på Arkivet att delta i deras årliga Luciafest Middagen hölls på the Colony School. Det var en härlig kväll med besök från Jultomten. Vi blev underhållna av NordiKids Lucia program i norra Indiana på vår resa tillbaka till Michigan. Min egen lokal lodge, Viking 730 hade Luciafest den 15 december. Vi höll ett lotteri på en Dalahäst, byggd och målad av en av våra medlemmar. Inkomster från lotteriet och andra aktiviteter i den lokala logen har gjort det möjligt för Viking Lodge Nr 730 att skapa en extra \$ 1,000.00 till Storlogens Stipendiet som kommer att ges ut under 2013 till en förtjänt elev. Viking Lodge Nr 730 kommer också att fortsätta sitt fulla stipendieprogram. Jag skulle vilja utmana alla lokala loger att skapa en Storlogs Stipendium till att hjälpa unga medlemmar över hela USA, Kanada och Sverige. Har ni ett konto, kan räntan på en

\$20,000.00 kapitalförsäkring börja bygga ett årligt stipendium på bara några år.

Storlogen har nyligen fått en stor ekonomisk gåva till the Education Fund från dödsboet efter en kvinna boende i Kalifornien, Bertha Evelyn Kalm. Jag hoppas många medlemmar kommer att tänka på Vasa och Vasa Education Fund i sin planering. Den stora gåvan från Ms. Kalm var en oväntad välsignelse som kommer att gå långt till att återuppbygga the Education Fund. Vasa Orden av Amerika hedras av och är tack samma för hennes generositet. Stödet från individer som Ms. Kalm och många av Logernas och enskilda medlemmar gör det möjligt att fortsätta vår restaurering på uppdrag av Ordern.

Jag slutar med att påminna dig om att noggrant välja dina Storlogsdelegerater till 2014 GL-konventionen. De måste vara framsynta och kreativa när de sitter i olika kommittéer, och som tar hänsyn till alla medlemmars behov under kongressen. Välj dem som har intresse och krafter att fortsätta i Storlogen. Vi har gjort stora framsteg under de senaste två åren, för att den nuvarande styrelsen har varit begävad, öppen och villig att fatta svåra beslut för the Good of the Order. Fortsätt ge ditt stöd för Vasa Arkivet i din kommande kongress. Det är bara genom ert stöd som Arkivet fortsätter sin dagliga verksamhet.

I sanning och enhet,
Bill Lundquist, Stormästare

Logen Höganäs Nr 634



Vår julfest hade vi lördagen den 15 december 2012 på Hemgården i Viken. Vi var 60 personer som hade samlats och vi hade gäster från ett par olika loger.

En stämmingsfull parentation hölls för vår bortgångne medlem, Sy Ingrid Svensson.

Slutnominering och val av tjänstemän för 2013 genomfördes av FDO Sy Evy

Lindstrand. Alla tjänster är tillsatta.

BKL Sy Ingrid Berg framförde julhälsningar från några av våra vänloger och LH Br Gunnar Lindstrand pratade som vanligt om gamla tider.

Mötet avslutades som vanligt med en vacker ljussläckningsceremoni.

Continued on page 9

Logen Höganäs Nr 634

Continued from page 8



Möteslokalen förvandlades till en sal med julstämning. Under tiden serverades glögg och pepparkakor. Julmaten smaka mycket gott och vid kaffet med mandelmussla kom fyra välsjungande luciätärnor och sjöng för oss. Även jultomen kom och hade många fina julkappar med sig till oss.

Lotteribordet kom fram också och många gick hem med fina vinster.

Kvällen avslutades med att vi alla sjöng "Nu tändas tusen juleljus." Vi önskade varandra



en God Jul Och Ett Gott Nytt År och gick hemåt nöjda och glada efter en fin Vasakväll.

BKL Ingrid Berg
Logen Höganäs Nr. 634

Logen Härnösand Nr 673



Gundström, Bengt och Astrid Nyberg, samt Lars-Erik och Ulla Magnusson till bords. Ulla-Britt Nordin ledde allsång med komp. av Bosse Selin på dragspel. Kvällens underhållare Bengt Andersson, hade plockat ihop några finstämda låtar, som han framförde med ackompanjering på sin gitarr. Kvällen avslutades med kaffe och oett lotteri med många fina vinster.



Fredagen den 26 oktober höll Vasa Orden nr 673 sitt andra möte för hösten, med 40-talet medlemmar.

Ordförande Karl Bäcklund ledde förhandlingarna som avslöpte i sedvanlig ordning.

Kassör Lena Selin tilldelades FDO-märket för 3-års tjänst. Nomineringar till tjänstemän för kommande år upplästes, varefter förhandlingarna avslutades.

Till efterkapitlet inbjöd kvällens värdar: Per och Britt-Marie

Fredagen den 27 november höll Vasa Orden nr 673 Härnösand sitt tredje möte för hösten med 35-talet medlemmar.

Ordförande Karl Bäcklund öppnade mötet, som inleddes med parentation för avliden medlem. Vacker musik på nyckelharpa framfördes av Lennart Bjärnkvist.

Efter detta vidtog förhandlingar, varvid nominering av tjänstemän för kommande år upplästes. Därefter följde val av styrelse och tjänstemän.

Efter avslutade förhandlingar inbjöd värdarna Barbro och Lars Sundgren, Lena och Bo Selin samt Monika Bäcklund medlemmarna till bords.

Bengt Nyberg ledde kvällens allsång med komp. av Bosse Selin. Under kvällen anordnades bingo under ledning av Kjell Hamrin, med många fina vinster och glada vinnare.

Bo Selin, Kulturledare

Logen Bråviken Nr 751



Criss Hagfeldt läser prolog till fanorna.

Vasa Star Winter 2013

Logen Bråviken Nr 751 firade 20 år Logen Bråviken Nr 751, den näst yngsta i Distriktsloge 19, firade 20 årsjubileum den 10 november 2012. Logen är en av tre i Östergötland och festligheterna ägde rum på ordinarie mötesplats, i det nya Ordenshuset i Norrköping.

Det var en spänd förväntan redan i minglet inför 20-årsjubileet. Många kära återseenden och hälsningar med kramar och skålar.

Högtids-och jubileumsmötet hade samlat 37 egna medlemmar samt 40 gäster från 10 andra

lokalloger i Sverige. Till middagen anslöt ytterligare två gäster.

Innan högtidsmötet började i logelokalerna togs vasagästerna in i omgångar och presenterades. Den sist intagna, som sig bör, var distriktsordföranden för DL19 Ewa Pilhammar Andersson.

Ordförande Maggie Ahlin Thelin ledde mötet i en högtidlig form och gjorde en resumé av Logens utveckling genom de tjugo åren som gått från instiftandet 1992 fram till idag. De som medverkade vid instiftandet var bland andra FDDM Aldor Jansson, FDO Gunnar Nordh, samt FDO, FDDM och HM i Logen Bråviken Lisbeth Hallberg Qvarfordt. En av höjdpunkterna under de tjugo åren var Distriktsmötet i Söderköping år 2009 som arrangerades av Logen Bråviken.

Vid jubilerande högtidsmöten genomförs ofta en fanparad och en sådan gjordes på ett mycket hedersamt sätt av Hans Liljebadh (Sverige), Barbro Hult (USA), Marie Louise Hultin (Kanada) och Kurt Thelin (Vasafanan). Kaplan Criss Hagfeldt läste prologer till fanorna. Fanparaden avslutades med att mötesdeltagarna fick höra respektive nationalhymner – USA – Kanada – Sverige.

Så var det dags för Ordens väl. Det förekom många tal från distriktsordförande, före detta distriktsordförande, ordföranden från gästande lokalloger, distriktsdeputeranden och andra. Vår tidigare mångåriga medlem Karl Westman, nu på besök tillsammans med hustru Marianne från Logen Calmare Nyckel nr 628, höll ett fyndigt tal till en 20-åring. Gåvor, telegram och hälsningar överlämnades från Storlogen, Distriktsloge 19 och 20, Lokalloger i Sverige samt från enskilda Vasasyskon.

Kurt Thelin, aktiv golfspelare och tillika kassör såväl i Logen Bråviken som i Distriktslogen, gjorde en resumé av Logen Bråvikens golfturné 2012. Årets vinnare – Karl Jerlock – hyllades och fick ta emot vandringspokalen med ingraverat namn.

Därmed var själva högtidslogen avslutad och dörrarna öppnades till bankettsalen med de mycket vackert dukade borden. Här bjöds 79 logemedlemmar och gäster på en välsmakande jubileumsmåltid.

Stämningen var från början mycket hög och en rolig och kvick "kock" underhöll under middagen. Så var det dags för jubileumslotteriet. Sponsorer och egna logemedlemmar hade



Fanparad

skänkt lotterivinster till ett litet högre värde denna gång. Bland ett 15-tal vinster fanns en tavla, flera kilo egenfiskad gös, en lokal flygtur, presentkort i lokala butiker mm.

Trion Amigos bjöd på underbar dansmusik passande kvällens åldersgrupp.

Festen avslutades på småtimmarna med nattamat. De sista gästerna lämnade Ordenshuset framåt halv två.

Ett stort tack till alla som medverkat vid arrangemanget och speciellt till jubileumskommittén bestående av Maggie Ahlin Thelin, Owe Norberg, Inger Malmqvist Norberg, Viveka Skott och Sven-Åke Andersson. I samband med genomförandet förstärktes kommitté med Marie-Louise Hultin, Magnus Arnoldsson och Jan Hult.

Una och Karl Jerlock

CULTURAL NEWS

SWEDISH JOURNALIST ULF NILSON IN ATLANTA



From left to right: Göran Rygert, Aino Heimerson, Jan Rygert, and Ulf Nilson.

Fifty members of the Nordic Lodge #708 in Atlanta came to listen to renowned journalist and author Ulf Nilson on November 18th.

Ulf Nilson has a long career as a foreign correspondent for the Swedish newspaper Expressen, for which he has worked since 1963. He was based in New York for 17 years.

Already at the age of 23 he had covered the Hungarian uprising. He went to Vietnam fifteen times to cover that war. He covered the American hostage drama in Teheran in 1980. He has met Marshal Tito, Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Reagan. He met Khomeini in Teheran. He interviewed Martin Luther King. He got to report on all of Muhammad Ali's championship fights. Walter Cronkite was one of his friends.

The audience of the evening was exceedingly interested in hearing about Ulf Nilson's life as well as his opinions about what's happening in the world today. Afterwards the questions showered down.

Ulf Nilson was accompanied by his wife Aino Heimerson, also a journalist with experience from the Near East and Africa. She worked for the Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet. For many years she also was a food writer and dining critic. Her father was the well-known artist and cartoonist Ewert Karlsson, known as EWK.

Ulf and Aino were very happy for this opportunity to visit Atlanta, where they had not visited before (well, Ulf was here shortly many years ago). They had a great time, had time to relax and enjoy some good food. We even had them attend to a Russian balalaika concert, which was much appreciated.

The fare of the evening consisted of excellent, delicious sandwiches (open-faced of course – this is a Swedish organization!) with salmon, liver paté and other goodies. They were all created by a team of our talented Nordic Lodge ladies.

Submitted by: Göran Rygert
for Nordic Lodge #708, Atlanta

Introduction to Swedish Chapter 1 - How to Introduce Yourself

Comments on the examples: The exercise below will help you to briefly introduce yourself in Swedish; in turn you will be introduced to some of the most basic elements of Swedish grammar. To facilitate the learning, the Swedish words have been marked with accent signs to show which syllable should be more stressed than the others. Since it is necessary to carefully distinguish between short and long vowel in spoken Swedish, long vowels have been underlined in the examples. Furthermore, letters that usually are not sounded in spoken Swedish have been crossed-out; 'och' ('and'), for instance, is in this course shown as 'och', since the two last letters usually are silent. More about the pronunciation and the three extra vowels in Swedish - å, ä, and ö - will follow in chapter 9. Each word is given with its literal counterpart in English. The purpose of this is to help you to immediately understand the sentences presented and also to demonstrate how the word order in Swedish differs from English.

STUDY: Hej! Jag heter ... och kommer från [USA]. Vad heter du? Hello! I am called ... and come from ... What are called you? Jag heter ... I am called ... **Var kommer du ifrån n? / Vårifrån n kommer du?** Where come you from? / Where from come you? **Jag är från ... och studerar svenska här.** **Jöbbar du i Stóckhólm?** I am from ... and study Swedish here. Work you in Stockholm? **Nej, jag árbétar ínte há r; jag ä r óckså studént.** No, I work not here; I am too/also student.

Notes and explanations to the sentences: 'Från' is usually changed to 'ifrån n' (literally 'in-from') when it appears after the word it is referring to or at the end of a clause or a sentence.

Personal Pronouns (words denoting persons doing something) 'Jag' (I) and/ (you) are pronouns, words denoting persons performing an action: 'I run' (springer), 'You saw' (såg). In English 'you' can refer either to one individual or to several persons; in Swedish you use separate forms, depending on the number of people you are addressing. The personal pronouns also exist in a different form, the objective. The objective form is used whenever someone or something is the object of an action. In the sentence 'You saw me', 'you' is the basic form of the pronoun, whereas 'me' is the objective form of 'I'. Swedish is in this respect very similar to English.

Singular (Referring to one person)

Subjective forms

jag = I
du = you (Ni = you [polite form])
han = he
hon = she
den = it/det = it

Objective forms

mig/mej = me
dig/dej = you (Er = you [polite form])
honom = him
hénne = her
den = it/det = it

Plural (Referring to more than one person)

Subjective forms

vi = we (Ni = you [polite form])
ni = you
de ('dom') = they

Objective forms

oss = us (Er = you [polite form])
er = you
dem ('dom') = them

Comments on the Personal Pronouns: Swedes usually address each other with the pronoun 'du', regardless of what position they might have or if they meet for the first time; in fact, the formal 'Ni' is nowadays considered old-fashioned and is mainly used when talking to older people. The English habit of frequently inserting the name of the person you are talking to is not common in Swedish and can sometimes be felt to be too intimate. The 'o' in 'hon' is pronounced like 'oo' in 'good'. There are two words for 'it' in Swedish. This is because Swedish, unlike English, still defines living beings and things in terms of gender, and is in this respect similar to the German with its 'der, die, das' and the French 'le, la'. Whether one should use 'den' or 'det' is decided by what gender the word it refers to has. In the general and neutral meaning 'it' has in phrases like 'it is cold today', 'det' is used: 'Det är kallt idag'. The words for 'they' and 'them' is normally spelled 'de' and 'dem' respectively, but are almost always pronounced 'dom'.

Verbs – Doing-or-Being Words: 'Heter', 'kommer', 'är', 'studerar', 'jobbar' and 'arbetar' are verbs, words that show what someone/something is or does or what is happening. While English has two different endings for regular verbs depending on who is performing the action – I read, you read, but he/she/it reads – Swedish very conveniently uses only one form, regardless of person: Jag kommer, du kommer, hon kommer, vi kommer etc. Most regular verbs use the ending -er, -ar or -r when they are in the present tense, that is describe an action taking place now: 'hon studerar' = 'she studies/is studying'.

Submitted by: Siv Swan-Pierson, Grand Lodge Language Director

SJÖLUNDEN NEWS



Swedish Adult Classes at Sjölund, Bemidji was this year held from October 21 through October 27. All 16 students led by 3 teachers had a wonderful week with Swedish food prepared by Swedish Cooks from Bemidji. Everyone was divided up in 3 classes depending on their Swedish knowledge. Some of the students return from year to year. During free time in the middle of the day you could take a walk in the beautiful surrounding, shop in the Kiosk, do arts and crafts, see a movie, listen to music, or just do nothing.

This was a week that I will never forget.

Submitted by: Maidie Karling, District 15

**DET GÅNGNA – DET
NUVARANDE – FRAMTIDEN**

Med årsskiftet nära förestående ter sig rubriken rimlig, men tonvikten ligger på framtiden.

Under 2012 har i Sverige ett antal framstående personer blivit föremål för minnesprogram: som t.ex. Raoul Wallenberg och August Strindberg. Om dessa och en del annat är redan rapporterat inkl. The Swedish-American Bridge Conference i september. Men det finns anledning att också nämna någon nu levande person av allmänt intresse såsom den världsberömda fotografen Lennart Nilsson, som i augusti fyllde 90 år. Hans ålder utgör ingen gräns för fortsatt verksamhet t.ex. i samarbete med Karolinska Institutet i Stockholm.

Förändringar under året har inneburit, att två personer med förnamnet Erik har avgått från sina ledande positioner. Professor Erik Åsard har gått i pension som ämnesföreträdare för Nordamerikastudier inom engelska institutionen vid Uppsala universitet. Han är Sveriges främste expert på USA, fr.a. allt politik och samhällsförhållanden. Den för Svensk-Amerika välkände historikern Dag Blanck, som hittills delat sin tid mellan samma Uppsalainstitution och Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center i Rock Island, Illinois, har tillförordnats som efterträdare till Erik Åsard. Såväl Åsard som Blanck har varit med om att starta SAAS (Swedish Association for American Studies) 1998, en akademisk organisation men också öppen för andra intresserade.

Den andre Erik är Erik Gustavson, som efter 33 år avgått som föreståndare för Sverige Amerika Centret (SAC, f.d. Emigrantregistret) i Karlstad och efterträts av Mathias Nilsson, som de senaste åren varit biträdande föreståndare. Erik Gustavson efterträdde 1979 sin far, Sigurd Gustavson, som 1960 grundade Emigrantregistret. Erik är en av de främsta företrädarna för upprätthållandet av förbindelserna mellan Sverige och Svensk-Amerika. Förutom genom SAC har Erik Gustavson haft och har alltjämt flera andra uppdrag, inte minst inom Vasaorden av Amerika som distrikthistoriker och ordf. för LL Lodge Karlstad Nr 632, men han blir också kvar inom SAC. Efterträdaren Mathias Nilsson är dataingenjör och har tagit fram prototypen för EmiWeb, den växande portalen för databaser inom migrationsområdet. Vid endast 30 års ålder har han dessutom redan ett mångårigt intresse för migrationshistoria.

SAC är också mötesplatsen för vasamedlemmarna vid logemöten och andra samlingar.

Vi går alltså in i det nya året med delvis nya ledare men med oförändrad målsättning att bibehålla och hela tiden förbättra de transatlantiska relationerna. Ett uttryck för detta kunde vara: ett nu med framtidsinriktning.

Vad väntar oss då under 2013? – Först kommer de vanliga logemötena med gemenskap och en del lokalt viktiga beslut. I maj månad stundar distriktsmöten inom Vasaorden, för DL 19 i Skövde, Västergötland,

17 – 19 maj och för DL 20 i Ljungby, Småland, 9 – 11 maj. Vi hoppas att som vanligt få besök från storlogen och andra vasasyskon utanför de egna distriktslogerna. Många viktiga (framtid)frågor kommer upp.

I den vidare kretsen av svenskamerikanska intressen kommer NAAS (Nordic Association for American Studies), där SAAS ingår, att arrangera sin vartannat års konferens i Karlstad 24 – 26 maj vid Karlstads Universitet och delvis vid SAC. Oberoende av nordisk eller svensk arrangör brukar många från såväl de nordiska universitet som från universitet i USA, Canada och andra europeiska länder delta. Alla ämnen är aktuella: samhällsfrågor, litteratur, teater, film och andra kulturyttringar, utbildning, miljöfrågor, globalisering, historia inkl. migrationshistoria. Det mesta av detta kan nog ha intresse för vasamedlemmar.

Låt oss hoppas på ett nytt gott Vasa-år.

Stig Sälgeback, SLKL Sverige
Stig.salgeback@telia.com

The title is chosen when writing in front of the new year coming in very soon, but the main issue is the future,

Looking back on 2012 some outstanding personalities like Raoul Wallenberg, Dag Hammarskjöld and August Strindberg have been honored at various occasions. About these people and other matters reports are already given including The Swedish – American Bridge Conference in September. But there are good reasons to mention also some still living person as the world famous photographer Lennart Nilsson, who recently turned 90.

This considerable age of his does not prevent him from working as usual in co-operation with Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm.

Two remarkable changes have occurred creating retirement/resignation of two leading persons with the common first name Erik. Professor Erik Åsard has retired from his chair for North American Studies within the Institution of English at the University of Uppsala. He is Sweden's greatest expert on the US concerning politics, public affairs and social conditions.

One for Swedish-America well known historian, Dag Blanck, who so far has partly worked in the same institution and partly as director for The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center in Rock Island, IL, has now been appointed temporarily to replace Åsard. Both these men have been instrumental in creating SAAS (Swedish Association for American Studies) 1998, an academic organization, but open to all with interest in the subject.

The other Erik is Erik Gustavson, who after 33 years as director for The Swedish-American Center (SAC; earlier The Emigrant Register) has resigned and been replaced by Mathias Nilsson, who for some years has been assistant director at the SAC. In 1979 Erik Gustavson replaced his father, Sigurd Gustavson, who founded The Emigrant Register in 1960.

Continued on page 11

THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

Continued from page 10

Erik is an outstanding representative for the maintenance of good relations (kinship) between Sweden and Swedish America. In addition to SAC he has had and still has other duties, not least within the Vasa Order of America as district historian and chairman of the local lodge Karlstad No. 632. He will also stay on within SAC. Mathias

Nilsson, the successor, is a trained computer engineer and has created the prototype for EmiWeb, the growing portal for dates in the migration field. At the age of 30 he has already had a longstanding interest in migration history.

SAC is the meeting point for Vasa members at lodge meetings and as individuals. The new year will start with some new important leaders, but the goals are unchanged dealing with good transatlantic relations and

efforts for increasing knowledge. A way of expressing this aim would be: A forwardly directed present.

What are we going to face 2013? – First our regular meetings with local decisions to be made. Some, maybe more important issues, will be discussed at the district meetings for DL 19 in Skövde, Västergötland, May 17-19 and for DL 20 in Ljungby, Småland, May 9-11. We hope for attendance of many Vasa members

and usually the Grand Lodge will be represented. There are always reasons for planning the future. – May 2013 contains also another meeting of Swedish-American interest. The Nordic Association for American Studies (NAAS), where SAAS is a part, will arrange its biannual meeting in Karlstad with support from the Karlstad University and from SAC. Usually scholars from not only the Nordic countries and the US and Canada will attend, but also

other European countries will send participants. Many different subjects are listed: history including migration history, literature, theater, movies, education, environment, globalization and more. Vasa members may be interested in some of these fields.

Let us hope for a Good New Vasa year!

Stig Sälgeback, SLKL Sverige
Stig.salgeback@telia.com

YOUTH NEWS

Vasa Kornet #16 Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN



Taylor Spreeman reigned as Lucia for our annual Christmas Party. She is pictured with Justus Berg as Tomten.

Our annual Lucia Festival of Lights was held Sunday, December 2nd at Bethel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. Lucia Taylor Spreeman has been a member of the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers since the age of 4. Her maternal great-great-grandparents settled in Afton after immigrating from the Skåne province in 1885. She represented Svenkarnas Dag in 2006 as the Junior Queen and became a member last year of the Kronan Lodge #433 in St. Paul. Her mother, Sally Spreeman, is also a member of Kronan Lodge #433. A sophomore at Henry Sibley High School, Taylor is active in tennis,

Nordic skiing, and softball. A Girl Scout since kindergarten, she will soon begin work on her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Following the Lucia pageant, the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers (all members of either clubs Linnea #14 or Vasa Kornet #16) performed several folk dances. Music was provided by Carolyn Spargo, accordion and piano, Tom Spargo, guitarist, Fiddlers Julie Anderson and Antonio Spargo.

A community sing of Christmas Carols and other music added to the festivities.

A raffle was held and sale of home-baked Christmas cookies. This event was sponsored by the Parents Club of the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers and we appreciate their support.

Honored guest was Miss Svenkarnas Dag 2013, Lydia Thoreen, a former member of the Vasa Junior Folk Dancers and a member of Steinbock Lodge #138. She and her Junior Royal attendants were recognized as were other former Miss Svenkarnas Dags.

A visit from Santa with treats for the children, coffee and cookies being enjoyed by everyone, completed this colorful festive Christmas party.

Submitted by: JoAnn Thoreen

in their white gowns, silver belts and garland in their hair with candles flickering and the Bakers and Star Boys were so handsome. The Tomtar were so cute stomping their feet to *Tomtarnas Julnatt* (Tipp Topp). Past Lucias were present at each performance and looked so lovely with their red sashes.

Sixteen year old Linnea is a member of Olympic Lodge #235 and has been

dancing in Barnklubben Rix since she was 2 years old. Linnea has dreamed of being the Lucia since she was 5 and now her dream has come true. She was so touched and thankful for all the alumni families of Rix that came to help make each pageant a joy for all who attended.

Submitted by: Elaine Lindquist McGrath

Sveaborg Lodge #449 Concord, CA



Chosen as this year's Lucia for the annual Julfest of Sveaborg Lodge in Concord, CA, is Kirsten Sibley. Now 15 years old, she is a freshman at Campolindo High School in Moraga

and is on the Varsity Volleyball Team. Her club volleyball team, Vision, is ranked 7th in the nation in her age group.

Kirsten has been a member of Sveaborg's youth group, Vasablad, since she was four. Director of the group is Rosemary Fassel. Every December Sveaborg Lodge has a popular Julfest celebration, complete with a large smögåsbord and Santa Claus. The children sing a number of Swedish Christmas songs.

Kirsten has many relatives in Sweden and Norway and is thankful for the opportunity to learn of her Scandinavian Heritage.

Submitted by: Bob Burman

Nordikids #208 Lucia 2012



Sarah Huszar

Sarah Huszar, daughter of Wanda and Bill Huszar of St. John, IN, was chosen as the 2012 Lucia for Nordikids #208 and Nordifolk Lodge #761.

Sarah performed with her culture club at "Christmas Around the World" at the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago, IL, on Saturday November 24th as well as at the Ikea in Bohlinsbrook, IL, on Friday December 7, and the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond, IN, on Sunday December 16.

Nordikids big celebration/fundraiser took place on Sunday December 2 at Wicker Park Social Center. Seasonal songs were performed in Swedish and English. Sarah's solo in Swedish was Beautiful Savior. This event included a luncheon, craft sales, bake sales, followed by dancing for all around the Christmas tree.

Sarah is a fourth grader and is V.P. of Student Council at Kolling Elementary in St. John, IN. She has been involved with Nordikids since Kindergarten. She is active in Girl Scouts, 4H, gymnastics, ballet, and soccer. She attends Holy Shepherd Lutheran church in St. John, IN, where she plays in the Children's Bells. Sarah's great-grandparents, Ove Bruhn and Mathilda Nilsson, immigrated from Sweden over a century ago from Malmöhus and Blekinge. Nordikids has been a great way for Sarah to learn about her heritage.

Submitted by: Lynda Smith

Olympic Lodge #235 Garden City, NY



Linnea Svanhild

Barnklubben Rix #1's Lucia for 2012 was Linnea Svanhild Abrahamsen. She sang *O Helga Natt* so beautifully; her angelic voice brought tears to our eyes. In each of the 3 pageants performed, Linnea was supported by current and alumni members of the club. The Big Star was carried by Kent Johnson, the Candle Girls - Liv Abrahamsen (the Lucia's sister) and Lorelei - spoke their Swedish lines well. The Maidens including Heidi Abrahamsen (the Lucia's other sister) looked so festive and beautiful standing

Satellite Lodge #661 Kalamazoo, MI



Annalise Piazza as Lucia for Satellite Lodge #661.

Lucia was celebrated on December 15, 2012, at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo, MI. Our St. Lucia was Annalise Piazza, granddaughter of Karin and Ingemar Forsblad, attended by Ingrid, Lars and Kaijsa Johnson, Katie Groesbeck, Rachel Forsberg, Erik and Steven Olson, and Jon Cleasby, tomte. The beautiful pageant and music program was led by Janis Forsberg, who now is a pro after doing this for the lodge for several years. Mary Johnson was also very helpful. As in previous years, Susan Jones accompanied on the piano with several adult members singing together with the children. Jon Cleasby performed a solo, "Silent Night," with confidence and style. Rev. Kenneth Johnson in his long black (Swedish?) coat sang the beginning of "Staffan var en stalletdräng" followed by the rest of the singers.

The parents of Annalise are Dr. and

Mrs Brian and Annika Piazza. Annika gives this information about her daughter: Annalise is 15 1/2 years old and in the 10th grade in Plymouth High School in Plymouth, IN, about 2 hours south of Portage, MI. She has joined her big brother in the high school speech team and acting in the high school musical, so she was happy to play the role of Lucia for her mormor's Vasa lodge! We were all proud to see her hold the crown of candles so steady and sure! Anna has also practiced her poise in the marching band where she plays her clarinet while marching in careful coordination with her friends. She enjoys school and rises to meet the challenge of difficult classes. She shares her adventures in chemistry lab with her chemistry-enthusiast grandparents ... who knows, maybe she'll follow in their footsteps. Right now she is interested in people and wants to help others no matter what career path she chooses.

It was a great joy for her parents, Brian and Annika, to watch Annalise portray Lucia with confidence and recite the Swedish poem with such eloquence. Thank you very much for opening this opportunity to her!!

We then gathered downstairs and enjoyed glögg, coffee, cookies, Norwegian cake, other refreshments and fellowship in a room decorated by Roger Drong. With few children around, the only dance was the traditional Ox dance, led by Ted Ruser. Great enthusiasm was shown by eight male performers, some father and son opposites.

In Truth and Unity
Karin Forsblad, RS

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 Lodge No. 9
Rauley A. Caine
Rachel A. Lacey
Charles W. Schoonover
Spiran Lodge No. 98
Myrna Lee Johnsen
Robert G. Johnsen
Carol Thompson
Heidi Waller
Birka Lodge No. 732
Nancy Selma Forsstrom-Gillespie

DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3

Pioneer Lodge No. 506
Laura E. Homsany

DL NEW YORK NO. 4

Stenland Lodge No. 727
Martha Torres

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6

Arlington Lodge No. 62
Tami Rose Bonner
Diane Catherine Cox
Lycan Lodge No. 507
Jesse Dylan Catrone
Jessica Lee Catrone
Anne M. Fiore
Three Crowns Lodge No. 704
George Walter Abrahams
William C. Sturm

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Kronan Lodge No. 179
Kenneth Gunnar Olson
Madelaine Josephine Olson
Thomas Smith
Viljan Lodge No. 349
Frederick James Nord

Joe Harbor Lodge No. 534

Gerhard F. Carlson
Satellite Lodge No. 661
Kenneth Lee Johnson
Kim Lee Tilma
Lindgren Lodge No. 754
Elizabeth Gale Leigeber
Desiree Angela Nunez

DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

Nobel-Monitor Lodge No. 130
Scott Alan Carlson

DL SUPERIOR NO. 10

Framåt Lodge No. 463
Robert Hasselbom
Don Charles Lavelle
Charles Dennis Londo
Heidi Londo
Andres Emil Nelson
Emelia E. Ogren
Harold Ragnar Ogren

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

Tegner Lodge No. 149
Meagan Ann Youngdahl
Monitor Lodge No. 218
Andy J. Hopkins
Loren John Weatherly
Framåt Lodge No. 405
Randolph Lee Grandin
Siv Marianne Haire
Skogen Lodge No. 700
Allison Irene Denofrio
Torja Darian Denofrio

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

Astor Lodge No. 215
Jessica Burmester Creager
Marie Creager
Betty Ann Jensen

Karla May Swenson

Skogsblomma Lodge No. 378
Paul Eric Larson

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

North Star Lodge No. 106
Jocelyn Denna Pages
Skandia Lodge No. 247
Melissa Kate Demarjian
Mayflower Lodge No. 445
Kenneth Dean Affolter
Robert G. Anderson
Aimee Katrina Elder
Gregg Alan Elder
Jillian Virginia Elder
Marissa Christine Elder
Virginia Richmond Elder
Linnea Elsa Goelz
Scandinavian Lodge No. 667
Melanie Anne Swanson
Oak Leaf Lodge No. 685
Kelsey Leigh Lindquist
Baltic Lodge No. 689
Helen Hathaway
Iris M. Starkey
Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719
Mikael Koltai
Bryce Gunnar McAteer
Nordic Heritage Lodge No. 741
Zandra Wagner Cousins
Bengt Gunnar Fernquist
Ester Viola Loeffler

DL ALBERTA NO. 18

Skandia Lodge No. 549
Susan Ellen Bligh
Brian David James Bonnar
Devin Louis Bonnar
Nicole Maryanne Bonnar
Robyn Elizabeth Bonnar
Jesse Heeks

Benjamin Vincent Herman
Ashley Gail Lomness
Melissa Dawn McCuiag
Andrea Lynn McRae
Natalie D. Purdon
Nicholas Peter Watson-Kostamak

DL NORRA SVERIGE NR. 19

Vänersborg Nr. 471
Bengt Almqvist
Stig Larsson
Stockholm Nr. 589
Neil Jonsson
Alice Jonsson Norberg
Anna Prosell
Engelbrekt Nr. 619
Inga-Lill Backman
Bengtåke Carlsson
Catarina Carlsson
Leena Gröhn
Catarina Hellman
Bengtåke Hellman
Gotland Nr. 624
Birgitta Andersson
Kjell Andersson
Runar Edholm
Anders Engström
Inger Engström
Gunilla Hedqvist
Roland Hedqvist
Britt-Marie Olsson
Torgny Olsson
Hjälmaren Nr. 625
Birgit Andersson
Gunnar Persson
Berit Svedin
Sven-Olof Svedin
Skövde Nr. 626
Britt-Marie Andersson
Ove Andersson
Håkan Gustafsson

Monica Johansson

Nils-Erik Johansson
Lidköping Nr. 636
Elsa Arvidsson
Gunilla Enggren
Kari Joukainen
Leif Lidholm
Margareta Lidholm
Anders Salqvist
Per-Olof Wistmar
Uddevalla Nr. 638
Ingemar Johansson
Anita Magnusson
Mellerud Nr. 644
Ola Hansson
Enköping Nr. 646
Görel Andersson
Lars-Göran Andersson
Kristina Nr. 656
Boo Winnerfeldt
Laila Winnerfeldt
Kongahälla Nr. 702
Hans Hellberg
Ingrid Hellberg
Filbyter Nr. 714
Viktor Carlsson
Mikaela Nyman
Ulla-Britt Stolt
Knallen Nr. 745
Ingrid Henriksson
Gunbritt Persson
Lennart Persson
Gunder Svensson
Birgit Wistmar

DL SÖDRA SVERIGE NR. 20

Skåne Nr. 570
Britt Sahlin
Jerry Sahlin
Kärnan Nr. 608
Anita Frejd

Sven Frejd

Anita Jönsson
Lars Nilsson
Småland Nr. 618
Anders Emmerman
Gunnel Suneson
Måns Suneson
Calmare Nyckel Nr. 628
Britt Dicksson
Sune Dicksson
Magnus Jernetz Gustavsson
Elisabeth Stenkula
Tomelilla Nr. 631
Birgitta Jönsson
Höganäs Nr. 634
Agneta Bergström Hult
Yngve Hult
Westervik Nr. 679
Inger Gunnarsson
Tatyana Andersson
Claas Andersson
Anders Nilsson
Kirsti Nilsson
Maj Rondahl
Nybyggarna Nr. 698
Anitha Andersson
Klockan Nr. 747
Inger Fröidh
Ingemar Jönsson
Ingrid Jönsson

GRAND LODGE JURISDICTION

Atlanta Lodge No. 708
Edward Arnold From
Alla Melnyk
Carl Widen Lodge No. 743
Thomas Orrin Amren

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

ARNE LJUNGREN was born in Borås, Sweden on September 26, 1926. He died on July 27, 2012 in his Palm Desert, California home at the age of 85 after a long illness. During his youth he served in the Swedish Navy, visiting North Africa as a photographer. He went on to live in New Zealand and Australia for a few years, but returned to Sweden before moving to the East Coast of the USA. Eventually he settled in Van Nuys, California and worked for Kodak as a lithographer. Arne loved to be surrounded by people and was famous for his New Year's Eve parties. He served as Chairman at the Swedish Hollywood Club and was Vice Chairman at Golden Valley Lodge #616 for two terms before he retired to Palm Desert. He joined Desert Viking Lodge there and was a dual member. Arne is survived by his niece Eva Bergstrand and her family who live in Göteborg, Sweden.

MAJKEN ULLA LUNDGREN passed away peacefully in Menlo Park, California on July 2, 2012. She was born in Bunkeflo, Sweden in 1930 on July 2. Majken was a long time resident of Long Beach, California for 45 years. She was a very active member of Evening Star Lodge #426 together with her accordion playing husband Torsten. She was active in the Church of Sweden in San Pedro for many years. Majken was talented in home arts and enjoyed sharing Swedish traditions with her family and community. She is survived by her daughter, Madeleine Viden of Menlo Park, CA, son-in-law Anders, granddaughter Anna Viden, and family in Sweden. Majken will truly be missed by her many friends and family.

GEORGIA

ALCY HUDKINS of Nordic Lodge #708 passed away on October 4, 2012 after a long struggle with cancer. She was born in Sweden and was a Vasa member for over 15 years, attending the monthly IKEA Swedish women's luncheons. Before moving to Fairburn, GA close to Atlanta, Alcy and her husband lived in Los Angeles where her husband worked for Delta Airlines. As her condition worsened, she was under the care of the Southwest Christian Care Hospice. Her service was held at the First Christian Church of Fairburn on October 6, 2012. She is survived by her two sons, Dennis and Lennart from Sweden.

MARY LOUISE SELTZER of Nordic Lodge #708 passed away suddenly on November 17, 2012 after suffering a severe headache. Although Marylou was not of Scandinavian descent, she maintained an enduring affection for the culture and people of the north. She hosted several Swedish exchange students and was involved with several Scandinavian organizations in the Atlanta area. She is survived by her son Scott and daughter-in-law Cheryl Seltzer, brother Raymond Lerch, sisters Cathy Pelletier, Violet Slater and Karen Curry all from Baltimore, MD. She also had a daughter Katrina, who died in infancy.

MASSACHUSETTS

CARL-ERIC ANDERSON died July 12, 2012 in South Dennis, MA at age 62. Carl-Eric was born January 22, 1951 in Worcester, MA to Eric and Lena Anderson. He joined the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam and retiring as a Sergeant E5. He was an active member in the formative years of Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod. If anyone needed assistance, Carl-Eric was the man for you. His children Travin Hughes, Sonja Anderson and Zechariah Anderson, seven grandchildren and his sister Karin Cadwell and her family survive him.

JOHAN SEVERIN CHRISTIANSEN died in Chatham, MA on November 8, 2012 at age 83. Born on April 28, 1929 in Sandefjord, Norway he left home at age 17 for the Merchant Marine Service. Later, he captained his own commercial

fishing boat plying the waters of New England. Johan was an enthusiastic, supportive member of Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod. He is survived by his wife, Xenia, sons John and Peter and two grandsons.

MICHIGAN

VIRGINIA MAY SWENSON, age 93, passed away on October 7, 2012 in Flint, MI. She was born in Chicago, IL on January 6, 1916. Virginia was a member of Viking Lodge #730. Her husband Oliver preceded her in death. She is survived by son Bruce P. Swenson.

NEBRASKA

DORTHY A. SCHEWE was born July 14, 1927 and passed away on October 18, 2012 at the age of 85. She is survived by her husband, A.I.E. Schewe, her sister Betty Bybee, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother. Dorothy joined Omaha Lodge #330 on January 12, 1992. Her husband is also a member of Omaha Lodge.

NEW YORK

DELMAR "TED" THEODORE FREDRICKSON, JR. passed away December 3, at age 85. He was a member of Klippan Lodge #328 of Rochester, NY and Thule Lodge #127. He was also Grand District Master. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Kathryn, children Marla, Carolyn and Larry, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

PENNSYLVANIA

DORIS. E KIRKPATRICK, 94, born December 26, 1917, passed away August 11, 2012. Doris joined Oscars Borg Lodge #172 in Philadelphia in June 2007. She was an active honorary member for many years prior to initiation. Beloved wife of the late Vincent Kirkpatrick, devoted mother of Gayle Kirkpatrick, adoptive mother of the late Sue Brown, and dear friend of Mary Odell.

VIRGINIA

HENRY HANSON, a retired Foreign Service Officer and Professor Emeritus, died Sunday, December 30, 2013 at the GreenSpring Retirement Center in Springfield, Virginia of natural causes.

Mr. Hanson was born in Connecticut in 1918, the only child of a Swedish-American mother and a Swedish-born father. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT and received his MA in history from Harvard University. During World War II, Henry served in the US Navy. He married Mildred Bernsten, of Stockholm, Sweden in 1944.

His interests in history, politics, and culture led him to the diplomatic core. He served as a Foreign Service Officer for the State Dept. in Stockholm, Sweden; Ghana, West Africa and Helsinki, Finland. He also served as a USA official and a political analyst. At the young age of 50, Henry retired and embarked on a second career as a professor of history, government, and western civilization in the Maryland and Virginia Community College systems. The Hanson family lived in the Washington, DC area.

All the while, throughout a busy and full life of career and family, Mr. Hanson remained interested in and devoted to Scandinavian culture. He promoted the local chapter of the American Scandinavian Foundation and was one of its early presidents. He was also active in the Drott Lodge of the VASA Order of America, the Swedish Cultural Union, and the Swedish-American Historical Society where he served as a member of the board. Henry received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Scandinavian Association in September 2008.

He is survived by his two children, Rolf Hanson and Ingrid Butler, and four grandchildren. His wife of 67 years, Mildred Hanson, passed away October 22, 2012.

MILDRED HANSON, 92, a retired Scandinavian languages instructor, died October 22, 2012 of a heart attack. She lived at Greenspring Village Retirement Center in Springfield, VA. Born in 1920 in Korea to Swedish missionary parents, she lived there until age 11 when the family returned to Sweden. While working at the American Embassy in Stockholm, she met her husband, foreign officer Henry Hanson, whom she married in December 1944 in USA. After the war, and a posting in Ghana, West Africa, they settled in Alexandria, VA. In the 1960's they lived in Helsinki, Finland where Henry was assigned to the American Embassy.

Throughout her career, Mildred taught for various government agencies. In 1971 she started the Swedish School for Adults in Falls Church, VA. She was active in the American Scandinavian Foundation, in SVEA, the Swedish Cultural Union and Drott Lodge, and the Women's Committee of the National Symphony. She was awarded a medal from the King Carl Gustaf for her leadership in the Swedish American community.

Mildred is survived by her two children and four grandchildren.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JAN A.G. BLANCK, 74, passed away on May 6, 2012, at his home in Annapolis MD of metastatic cancer. Born July 20, 1937, in Stockholm, Jan, a civil engineer, moved to the Washington DC area in the 1970s. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Siv Margit Alexanderson Blanck, a daughter and a son, two sisters and four grandchildren. He joined Drott Lodge #168 in November 1973.

JOSEPH A. WILSON, born in Washington DC on January 29, 1930, died in Fredericksburg VA on August 8, 2012. A Naval Korean War veteran and a retired DC firefighter, Joe was a member of Drott Lodge #168 since June 1983. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Betty Sydner Wilson. Other survivors include a daughter and son and three grandchildren.

WASHINGTON

MYRTLE H. ANDERSON was a 61 year member of Svea Lodge #469 in Longview and Columbia Lodge #609 in Rosburg. She passed away on November 12, 2012. Born to Herman and Sarah Oest in Napavine, WA on April 7, 1914, she is survived by husband Norman Anderson and sons Bob, Jerry and Don. She was preceded in death by son Ted. Her memorial service was held on November 24, 2012.

KATHLEEN E. MARCH of Longview WA was born February 14, 1919 in Astoria, OR. She died on December 9, 2012. She was a 68 year member of Svea Lodge #469. Her parents were Fred and Anna (Menni) Young. She married Gunnar Erickson on September 28, 1940. He predeceased her in death. She later married James March on November 4, 1997. He survives her as does her daughter Nancy Eytcheson and 3 stepsons, John, Patrick and Jerry March, 8 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

MILDRED SANDSTROM was born February 9, 1914 in Ballard, WA and passed away October 30, 2012. Mildred was a member of Frihet Lodge #401 since 1999. She was also a member of the Swedish Club and the Order of the Runeberg #101. She leaves her son Michael (Lauriel), and sister Gladys Allerdice. The Seattle Mariners lost one of their biggest fans!

WISCONSIN

JOHN EBERT, 97, long time member of Linde Lodge #492, passed away on November 5, 2012. He was born on September 19, 1915. John moved to Fort Walton Beach in FL after his late wife Marina passed away in 2009 to be close to

his nephew. John celebrated his 60th membership year with the lodge this year as he joined in 1952. During his years with the lodge he became very instrumental and held many offices (as did his wife), including chairman of the lodge. They both were very active with the work in the lodge as well as enjoying all the entertaining activities. Well into their retirement, they moved to Bradenton Florida, but continued to stay close with Linde members. While downsizing their household they made many donations to the lodge, mostly noted were their huge Dalahäst collection and Marina's folkdräkt. All these items became auction and fundraising items for Linde Lodge. John will be missed immensely by all our lodge members.

CANADA

LOIS HELEN ANDERSON (nee Woodcock), 77, passed away on August 16, 2012, in Edmonton, Alberta. She will be remembered forever by her husband, Rune, her children: Eric (Marilyn), Helene (Barry) and her grandchildren: Angelica, Nick and Ethan, as well as other family members and friends. Lois was predeceased by her parents, Florence and Harry and brother, Jerry. Lois joined Local Lodge Skandia No. 549 in Edmonton, Alberta, on October 2, 1971.

KENNETH HAROLD BANKS, 67, passed away on September 9, 2012, in Leduc, Alberta. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Carol; daughter, Jennifer deHaan (Paul); son, Curtis; mother, Lois; sister, Barbara; grandsons, Ryan and Evan; as well as his niece, nephews, extended family and many friends. He was predeceased by his father, Harold (Bud) Banks. Ken joined Local Lodge Skandia No. 549 in Edmonton, Alberta, on October 7, 1967, and quickly became active in Vasa at all levels. He held various offices at the Local and District Lodge levels, and was Past Chairman of Skandia No. 549 and Past District Master of District Lodge Alberta No. 18. Ken was serving his second term as Grand Lodge Executive Board Member for Canada at the time of his passing.

DONALD HAZLEWOOD, 75, passed away on October 28, 2012, in Edmonton, Alberta. He is survived by his Mother-in-Law, Ruth Bergquist; brother, Glen (Linda); his children, Linda (John) Randolph and Robert (Cathy) and their families, as well as many extended family members and friends. Donald was predeceased by his wife, Evelyn; brother, Larry; parents, Esther Gillies and Charlie Hazlewood. Donald joined Local Lodge Skandia No. 549 in Edmonton, Alberta, on May 4, 1959.

EVELYN HAZLEWOOD (nee BERGQUIST), 75, passed away on December 16, 2011, in Edmonton, Alberta. She was predeceased by her father, Edwin; brother Gerald, and nephew, David Bergquist. She was survived by her mother, Ruth Bergquist; her sister, Anna Cook; her loving husband, Donald Hazlewood; her daughter Linda Randolph (John); and her son, Robert (Cathy) and their families; as well as many extended family members and friends. Evelyn joined Local Lodge Skandia No. 549 in Edmonton, Alberta, on April 4, 1953.

DOROTHY JOHNSON, 60, of Spruce Grove, Alberta, passed away on January 4, 2012. Dorothy was predeceased by her loving husband, Gordon, her father, Peter, and her brother, Ian. Dorothy was survived by her children, Scott (Lenore) and Le-Anne McLeod (Lincoln) and their families, her mother, Patricia, her sister, Moira, as well as many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, and many extended family members and friends. Dorothy joined Local Lodge Skandia No. 549 in Edmonton, Alberta, on June 1, 1974. Dorothy and Gordon Johnson will always be remembered in Skandia for bringing back Children's Summer Camp to Vasa Park at Pigeon Lake, Alberta.

MEMORIAL NOTICES

should be mailed with check or money order to: Annelie Lindberg, 105 Gorrion Ave., Ventura, CA 93004. E-mail: vasaeditor@earthlink.net. 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.