



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

FALL 2015
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



Amelia having the time of her life making her own candle at the Connecticut Kronan Lodge #2 candle-making event for members and friends in late October. / page 5

THE TRUE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP



THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
We are finally back home after a busy summer and fall. Meeting so many of you personally reminds me of the true values of Vasa membership — Generosity, Truth and Unity — and what our fellowship brings us in our, often too busy, lives today. Birgitta

and I have met so many old friends but more importantly, every member we meet, whether we've met earlier or not, is just that; A friend. (A real friend, not just an emoji on internet.) I mean the kind of friend that always stands up and supports you. A friend that listens, questions, suggests and shares time with you and who has shared interests and values. Thank you friends for sharing time with me and Birgitta!

We started in early September with a one week trip driving to Kelso WA for DL Pacific Northwest #13's Convention. Following that, a couple days rest at home before jumping on a plane to Boston for a weekend with DL Massachusetts #2's Convention in Leominster, MA, a nice place about an hour west of Boston. We also had time for a little sightseeing including going to the top of Mount Wachusett just 30 minutes from the hotel. The 360 degree view was quite dramatic, although it was a little hazy at the horizon. We then proceeded to drive to Cromwell, CT where we had scheduled to hold our Grand Lodge Executive Board

meeting this year. It turned out to be a pretty intense four days of work, including taking care of all the many items that were referred to the GLEB at the GL Convention last year. We also stayed over for the DL Connecticut #1 Convention, which was conveniently held at the same hotel. Actually, to be more correct, that was the reason we selected to hold our meeting there. The trip concluded with a Vasa National Archives Board Meeting on the Sunday following the Convention. In mid-October we again jumped on a plane. This time to Omaha, NE to celebrate Lodge Omaha's 100th anniversary. We were met at the airport by Chairman Les Marks who together with Mit Grimes treated us to a ride to the hotel and later that evening to a really nice dinner. The next day we enjoyed a nice afternoon meeting many Vasa Brothers and Sisters from Lodge Omaha #330 and also members of Lodge Norrskenet #331, who had travelled from Sioux City, IA for the occasion. They had just celebrated their 100th anniversary the previous weekend. As this was our first time in Omaha we took the op-

portunity to do some travelling around and found several nice gardens that were still in full bloom this late in the year. Of course we were told that the weather (about 70 – 75 deg. F with clear blue skies) was specifically ordered just for us.

Our travels are now coming to a close for the year with a trip to Lodge Harmoni #472 in Portland, OR to celebrate their 90th anniversary in November.

In between the Connecticut Convention and the Omaha celebration I needed to take a trip to Cleveland, OH to represent the Grand Lodge and Vasa Archives at the trial against Rosenthal Collins Group (RCG). As you may remember, both the Grand Lodge and the Archives lost significant amounts of money to fraud in 2009 perpetrated by Enrique Villalba. He had an account with RCG and lost the money there. The trial concluded with a verdict in our favor. That does not mean we are quite done with the issue. There are some post-trial motions still to deal with, but the trial was a great suc-
/ continued on p4

National Archive News

Bill Lundquist, the president of the National Archives gives an update on filling the open position in Bishop Hill. / p3

East and West

District News - Golden Gate No.12 sponsors children's group / one of the larger Swedish flags ever sighted at Pacific Northwest's convention / p8

Holiday Greetings

Reconnecting with friends: Special holiday wishes from the Vasa Order community in Sweden, the United States and Canada. / p5-7

Youth News

Two gracious and happy earlier Vasa scholarship winners offer thanks and updates on what they're doing now. / p13

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Pepparkakor, glögg, Sankta Lucia, tomte, julbock and julbord — these are funny words only to people who aren't familiar with the details so important in the traditions of us Swedish Americans at this time of year. (See more such words in our Swedish Christmas Glossary on p. 14)

As we celebrate the season that's especially full of the world our forefathers brought with them from Sweden a generation or two (or more) ago, we are so proud to call ourselves Swedes. In this issue of the Vasa Star, our interest – and need – in keeping present the culture of our past is clear. With so much news from recent district and grand lodge gatherings (see p. 4, 8), and many local lodges with so many reports on the important, meaningful, entertaining and downright fun events in

the Vasa community (see p. 10), our pride for and desire in keeping up these traditions is evident.

While the fall has been full of festivals and conventions and activities, plans for many holiday celebrations abound. I hope you find those that are happening near you and can attend as many as possible! And in this age of increasing technology, the holiday season still elicits a joy in sending and receiving special greetings to each other — which you can find from your brothers and sisters of the international Vasa community on page 5-7.

I, too, wish you all en Glad Jul och Ett Gott Nytt År!
Önskar er alla:

AMANDA OLSON ROBISON
VASAEDITOR@GMAIL.COM

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Caitlin and Alexa takes a breather from selling tickets at Lindbergh #494. / p13



Sonja Krummrey with a taper that needs a bit more time and wax. / p5

Swedish words of Christmas

A Swedish Christmas glossary and Christmas trivia. / p14

Deadlines for The Vasa Star

Winter Deadline » January 15
Spring Deadline » April 15

- 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.

Where to Submit Material

MAIL TO:
vasaeditor@gmail.com
or
Vasa Star
PO Box 13331
Milwaukee WI 53213-0331

Please send no later than January 15.

NORDSTJERNAN

The Swedish Newspaper in America

is proud to be of assistance in presenting *The Vasa Star*, *Vasastjärnan* in a new format, in print and digitally. *Nordstjernen* has been reporting on current events in Swedish America since September, 1872.

Kenneth T. Jackson, Professor of History at Columbia University and Editor-in-chief, *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, said it best:

“Over the past century and a half, more newspapers were published in New York than in any other city in the world, in large part because of the huge foreign-born community and the variety of publications that the different ethnic groups spawned. Most had a brief and almost ephemeral life, but Nordstjernen has been remarkable for its long life and high quality. It not only helped Swedish immigrants adjust to life in a new world and a giant city, but it set a standard that other newspapers worked hard to emulate.”

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(Call now for a special if you are a Vasa member)

Family Tree Släktutredningar

I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information: swedengen@telia.com

Remember the Vasa Archives

when you are making a memorial donation
Send your donations to:
Vasa National Archives
PO Box 101, Bishop Hill, IL 61419

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DONATE to the Education & Scholarship Funds

Send your donations to: Vasa Order of America, Joan Graham, Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Ave., Richmond, CA 94804

How to submit Photos to the Vasa Star

Occasionally photos are submitted to Vasa Star that are not usable, and you're disappointed when your photo isn't used.

Here are some guidelines to follow:

1. Best photos are taken with a digital camera or a cell phone camera. These are perfect when downloaded to a computer and emailed directly to the Editor. Please don't try to modify them, no tweaking, no changing to black and white.
2. Photographs can be scanned, but be sure they are good quality photographs, at least 4x6 in size. If you scan them, be sure they are saved as a .jpeg and 250-300 dpi. If you are not sure of the size, mail the original photograph.
3. Photos pasted into a Word document are difficult to work with, so whenever possible don't use this method. Send the photos separately, as an email attachment or by regular mail.
4. Most importantly, be sure to include a caption naming each person (if it's a small group).

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Family Tree Släktutredningar

I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information.

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ARCHIVE NEWS

Message from the President of The Vasa National Archives

GREETINGS FELLOW VASA MEMBERS,
We have many new exciting opportunities to share in Bishop Hill. Should you have the opportunity to visit Bishop Hill during December you can enjoy "Julmarknad," the Christmas Market on Dec. 5-6 with sights, sounds and aromas of Christmases past, including special music, food specialties and excellent shopping. "Lucia Nights" on Dec. 11-12 include the Festival of Lights when several Lucias serve coffee and sweets in museums and shops. "Julotta" is a candlelight non-denominational church service in Swedish and English conducted in the Colony Church on Dec.25. All these activities are sponsored by the Bishop Hill Arts Council, the Bishop Hill Heritage Association and the Bishop Hill State Historic Site, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The recruitment efforts for a new archivist in the Vasa National Archives have been successful and two final interviews recently took place. I'm happy to report that Kathy Cuff has accepted the position and I look forward to working with her to achieve our goals.

Kathy comes to us with an advanced degree, seven years of experience as an archivist and brings a wealth of knowledge. She will be relocating from a university archives in Tennessee. Kathy understands the benefits of joining the other historic

associations in Bishop Hill and will be a relationship builder. Visiting the Archives requires a visit to the entire village with the rich history it offers.

Many necessary items have been accomplished at the The Archives and the residence to correct deficiencies, and together with local lodge members and community leaders we have developed supportive working relationships. The Julgran Fundraiser is in full swing. It is important that you, the members of the Vasa Order, help us financially meet the needs both of daily operation and the Archives Endowment Fund. The Archives offers education, research and a home for the history of the Vasa Order. All donations from the Julgran campaign are directed to the Archives Endowment Fund unless you specify differently.

Your gift of \$20/bulb to be hung on the Julgran helps grow that fund. If you haven't sent your contribution you still have an opportunity. The lit tree is ready for your bulb in memory or honor of someone you love. The donor list will appear in the February 28 issue of the Vasa Star. I know how busy we get at Christmastime but if you have set this important request aside, please locate it and send it along even if you think it might be late. We will gladly accept it and post your name in the list of donors.

The VNA Board met in Connecticut fol-

lowing the recent Grand Lodge meeting and I'm happy to report we have an excellent spirit of cooperation and understanding. Our meeting cost was minimal as many Board members were already there for the Grand Lodge Board meeting and some members joined the meeting electronically.

Over the past year, leaders of the Vasa National Archives and the Grand Lodge have been working through legal steps to restore our financial losses of 2009. Although the Ponzi scheme artist has been incarcerated it was determined there were other legal avenues for us to proceed. A jury trial was held in Cleveland a few weeks ago where members of the Grand Lodge and I represented our interests. I'm happy to report that an eight person jury granted us a positive verdict on all counts. There could be further legal follow-up so I remain guarded but hopeful we will ultimately recover significant funds and the loss of so many years ago will be behind us. The past six years have been difficult and I remain thankful for your support both as Grand Master during that time and now as President of the Archives. I'm hopeful that more specific good news regarding this can be shared soon.



IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
BILL LUNDQUIST, PRESIDENT OF THE VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES



God Jul och Gott Nytt År

Vasa Order of America Grand Lodge Executive Board

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Vice Grand Master Art Bjorkner
Grand Secretary Joanie Graham
Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon

Vice Grand Secretary Lee-Ann Hurtibise
MEB-Eastern Region Jack Harright
MEB-Midwest Region Bruce Elfvin
MEB-Western Region Jeff Klein

MEB-Canada Fae Doty
MEB-Sweden Ulf Alderlöf

GRAND LODGE NEWS

The Grand Master's Message (continued from page XX)

cess for us. For all the legal details please see article elsewhere in this issue written by Vasa's own legal counsel and GLEB Member Bruce Elfvin.

Even though the summer has now officially ended, we still don't have any rain. Well, you may have heard about all the rain and the mud slides in California. That is true, but all of that has been in Southern California. We have not received any of it here in Northern California and are as worried about our drought as we ever were. Our mantra continues to be "Brown is the new Green". We are all hoping that El Niño will

give us some relief later this year and into next.

You have heard me say this many times: **MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO BE OUR NUMBER ONE ISSUE.**

Are you keeping your members? Are you attracting new members? I hope you are growing as a Lodge. Many of our Lodges are working hard at keeping their members engaged and



making sure they are coming to the meetings. Yes, it does take a lot of work. Are you keeping your members informed about what is happening at the Lodge? A Lodge Newsletter is easy to put together and is an essential part in creating excitement for the Lodge. Publishing it by email removes the financial burden of printing and mailing it to all members. You may have some members who don't have email and for them you must of course publish it in print.

An exciting Lodge Meeting is essential if you are going to attract new and keep your current members. **Don't be boring!** The

competition for your current and prospective members' time is stiff. You have to have food at your meetings and put on programs that engage. Put a membership drive in place for your Lodge to get new members!

ONE new member is all I ask from each one of you. Remember too that it's very important to keep your current members. It bears repeating: **Don't be boring!**

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER

Wishing all friends all the best for the holidays!

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, 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. Bruce Elfvin, Grand Lodge Membership Chairman
3231 E. Overlook Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118 / elf4law@aol.com

Favorable verdicts in trial

October 14, 2015

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform you that the Vasa Order and Vasa National Archives received favorable verdicts in the Vasa Order of America v. Rosenthal Collins Group, case pending in Cleveland, Ohio. The Order was awarded nearly \$420,000 and the VNA over \$722,000 by the jury.

Many of our members have lived through the painful past several years since these sums were lost through Enrique Villalba's Ponzi scheme. Mr. Villalba did all of his trading through Rosenthal Collins Group (RCG) in Chicago. RCG is what is called a commodities and futures merchant. RCG will now challenge the verdicts in what are expected post trial motions. All of the verdicts are against RCG, which is a solvent entity.

The lead trial counsel for the Vasa Plaintiffs were Joel Levin and Apu Paul of Levin & Associates in Cleveland. In retrospect I



Bruce Elfvin

am very pleased that I was able to find such able counsel to represent the Order and Archives. Even though I am an attorney, this is not an area of the law that I claim any specialty in, so we brought in counsel that knew Ohio securities law to pursue the case. We are not at the end of this long road quite yet, but I am convinced that winning the trial is a huge step

toward recovering the money that Villalba squandered or stole from the Order and the Archives.

We will try to keep all our members up to date on any major developments, as I am also one of the counsel of record and will continue to represent the Order and Archives in seeking recovery. It is my hope to bring this to a conclusion and report to my fellow members of the Order soon.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY
BRUCE ELFVIN
GLEB MIDWESTERN REGION
AND COUNSEL FOR THE ORDER

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6 Arlington Lodge No. 62

Jeanne Andersen
Joseph Bailey
Sonja Jean Bensen
Robert E. Bruin
Ashley Kim Eevaridi
Diane Nordstrom Eriksson
Walter Eriksson
Sarah Haines
William Hardy
Catherine Kastning
Kevin Richard Krause
Marjorie McClelland
Todd Alan McClelland
Jonathon Joseph Melancon
Allison Nething
Michelle Norrman
Eric Ponczek
Lillian C. Spallone
Barry Seifert
Chad R. Widman
Tara Widman

Gothiod Lodge No. 486

Robert James Burek
Christy Kitta
Michael Louis Ferenc

Three Crowns Lodge No. 704

Jance Ann Denzler
Kristina Megan Denzler

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8

Linne Lodge No. 153

Bethany Kemble

Viljan Lodge No. 349

Marilyn Kay Overgaard
Wendy Lundeen Wright
Thomas Lawrence Wright

Linde Lodge No. 492

Mary Hahn

DL PENNSYLVANIA NO. 9

Drott Lodge No. 168

Ann N. Black
Shalonda Brockington
Virginia Cain
Joseph R. Coelho
Walter Eriksson
Timothy R. Holland
Victoria Smith Howard
Marit R. Knollmueller
Kristen Peterson Leedom
Maxine McCarrick-Randolph
Linda Olson
Peter Olson
Susan Remmert
Lara Ring
William Ring
Keith Shoemaker
Wendy Shoemaker

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12

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Carolyn Fedor-Thurman
Ean Montoya

Lindbergh Lodge No. 494

Frida Maria Rebecka Willis

Norden Lodge No. 684

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Dennis Donnelly
Bo Gunnar Hammarling
Aaron David Holt
Christin E. Holt
Rebecca Elisabeth Holt
Kenneth O'Rand
Audre J. Smith

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13

North Star Lodge No. 145

Ingrid Elisabeth Julagay

DL PACIFIC SOUTHWEST NO. 15

Skandia Lodge No. 249

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Mayflower Lodge No. 445

Monal Ingegars Suero
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Maj-Lena Kristina Eklund
Joseph Fagin
Gun Olsson Fagin
Al A. Suero

Oak Leaf Lodge No. 685

Jason Aaron Blohm
Brian Keith Compton
Eva D. Hilborn
Howard B. Hilborn
Bengt Johansson
Gina Johansson
John R. O'Leary
Tal C. Ross
Talese S. Shertzeh

DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17

Omaha Lodge No. 330

Gerald L. Anderson
Doris Elaine Kummer
Eleanor Lorraine Rosenquist

Do you have a question for the Grand Lodge?

Ever wonder why or how or when...? Send your questions about anything Vasa-related to vasajlg@aol.com and then watch for the FAQ Column in The Vasa Star.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Candle making with Kronan Lodge

Connecticut Kronan Lodge #2 organized a candle-making event for members and friends on Oct. 31. The popular event at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Redding, Connecticut, was the brainchild of lodge members Lilian Nordström and Britt Nordlund.

It is a fun event to organize since it involves everyone, and with everyone bringing their own stumps for the wax, the

colors of the new tapers are a surprise for everyone. In this case everyone loved the resulting warm autumn colors of their new candles. Close to 40 guests turned up for the event, which included a Crockpot turkey meal with salad, bread and soda. Here are a few recommendations for your own candle-making event:

While melting wax may seem relatively straight forward, it is perhaps one of the



Ann Rudolf, Sonja Krummrey and Karen Baker assisting Amelia at candlemaking.



Lilian Nordström, Britt Nordlund

most dangerous aspects of the activity. By observing a few safety precautions, you will avoid all hazards, however.

- + Always have a fire extinguisher within reach.
- + Do not leave melting wax unattended.
- + Never melt wax directly on your stove. If possible, use a double boiler, since it helps distribute heat and prevents too high temperatures.
- + Use an electric heat source.

Once the wax has melted, keep the temperature at about 160-170 degrees Fahrenheit. Make and use a rig to hold a length of wick (a hanger can work – just bend with pliers). The length of the wick should be about twice the length of a single taper candle, since tapers are dipped in pairs.

Each pair of tapers will initially need to be weighted with something (nuts or bolts work well). This keeps the wick straight or taught while dipping. Dip the tapers until they reach the desired thickness, always dipping with a smooth and continuous movement. At some point, cut the weights off the taper

bottoms and continue to dip.

When you've reached the desired thickness simply hang the tapers and allow them to cool entirely.

Our group at the Kronan event walked in a line around the table to allow for the wax to set between dipping – it became a perfect time to renew our knowledge of traditional Christmas songs. "Så går vi runt om ett enebärnsnår, enebärnsnår ..." (This is how we walk around a juniper thicket, juniper thicket...)

SUBMITTED BY METTE BARSLUND
MARTENSSON. LL DIANA BIRGER JARL #3

**Vasa Order of America
Southwest Chicago suburbs
Bessemer No. 203
Wishes
You**

**God Jul
och Gott Nytt År!**

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

to all our Vasa friends from
District Lodge Pennsylvania #9

Margaret Schueman – District Master
Cheryl Brown – Vice District Master
Sharen Swanson Tizzano – District Secretary
Richard Erickson - District Treasurer
Bo Carlsson - Member Executive Board
Arne Dunhem - Member Executive Board
Julie Olson – District Cultural Leader
Linda J. Smith – District Historian
Nobel-Monitor Lodge #130 - Cleveland, OH
Drott Lodge #168 - Washington, DC/Maryland
Oscars Borg Lodge #172 - Philadelphia, PA
Svea Lodge #296 - Erie, PA

Distriktslogen Södra Sverige Nr 20

God Jul och Gott Nytt År

tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Executive Board Members:

Karl Axel Bengtsson • Gunilla Broddesson
Agneta Västerstjärna • Bengt Åberg
Alf Nilsson • Hans-Åke Rytterdahl
Olle Wickström • Maureen Bengtsson
Catherine Bringselius Nilsson

God Jul & Gott Nytt År
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From all of us at
FRIHET LODGE No. 401
Seattle, Washington

God Jul & Gott Nytt År
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
To everyone in Sweden,
Canada & USA
LINDE LODGE No. 492,
Milwaukee Wisconsin

**GOD JUL
OCH
GOTT NYTT ÅR
Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
Från
Bishop Hill Lodge No. 683
Bishop Hill, Illinois**



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



God Jul och Gott Nytt År
önskar
Berit och Hans Bogren
LL Höganäs # 634

*May the special warmth that is
Christmas be with you always.*

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!

From Nobel Lodge #184
Portland, Oregon
and to our sister lodge
Mälardrottningen Nr. 563

En Glad och Trevlig Jul
MERRY CHRISTMAS
Hälsningar
OSCARS BORG LODGE #172
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Ulf och Ingegerd Alderlöf
MEB Sweden
LL Ronneby # 630

Logen Ronneby # 630
önskar sina Vasasyskon och vänloger
En God Vasa Jul och ett Gott Nytt Vasa År

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
önskar
Gudrun Gustafsson
LL Blå Jungfrun # 749

God Jul och Gott Nytt VasaÅr
tillönskas alla Vasavänner
Bertil och Ann-Margreth Ericsson
LL Ronneby # 630

Logen Kärnan # 608,
Helsingborg önskar
GOD JUL OCH GOTT NYTT ÅR 2016

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Britt-Marie & Hans-Erik Lindeblad
LL 628 Calmare Nyckel

God Jul och Gott Nytt År önskar
Maureen och Göte Bengtsson
SLKL-Sverige Ordförande
LL Småland # 618

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
Logen Höganäs nr 634

God Jul & Gott Nytt År
Members and Friends in Milwaukee
in our Favorite Linde Lodge 492
and to all our Vasa Friends all over
the world
Liza & Rolf Ekstrand

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon
Göran och Catherine
Bringselius Nilsson
PS LL # 678 och FDM/SLD DL # 20

God jul och Gott Nytt VasaÅr
tillönskas alla Vasavänner
Olle o Marie Wickström
SLD 20/FDM

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
önskar
Gunilla & Sven Broddesson
VDM & DD
LL Kärnan # 608

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Hans & Ingrid Rytterdahl
MDER DL 20 S. Sverige
LL Ronnevy # 630

God Jul och Gott Nytt År!
önskar
Karl-Axel & Anita Bengtsson
DM DL 20
LL Höganäs # 634

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
önskar
Alf & Ingrid Nilsson
VDS
LL Kärnan # 608

VASA SCHOLARSHIPS TO SWEDISH LANGUAGE CAMP

The Grand Lodge Executive Board will award up to five Sjölundens Scholarships to qualified applicants from the U.S. and Canada.

Eligibility

Applicant must be between 12 and 18 years of age as of April 1, 2016.

Applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent must be a member of the Vasa Order of America for at least two years prior to April 2016.

Requirements

Award winner is expected to provide:

- A. Evidence of health and accident insurance absolving the Vasa Order of America of any liability,
- B. A letter of recommendation from a current teacher and the latest records of grades,
- C. A brief essay on "WHY I SHOULD BE CHOSEN TO GO TO THE SJÖLUNDEN SWEDISH CAMP,"
- D. A letter, bearing the Local Lodge Seal, verifying that applicant, parent/guardian or grandparent will be a member for at least two years prior to April 1, 2016,
- E. Other comments that will assist in selecting the winners.

Awards

The Vasa Order of America will pay the basic tuition (around \$2,035) for the two-week 2016 Summer Program and will reimburse travel expenses up to \$600 against submitted receipts. All other costs will be borne by the recipient.

Date of Camp: August 1-13, 2016 (schedule is subject to change.)

Refer to: <http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-languages/swedish-language-village>

Additional information and the scholarship application is available on the Vasa web site: www.vasaorder.com.

Deadline for application is a postmark date of February 10, 2016

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Agneta och Bo Västerstjärna

DS - DL Nr 20

LL Skåne #570

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
önskar

Bodil & Leif Carlsson

LL Höganäs # 634

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
tillönskas alla Vasasyskon

Bo & Heléne Ljungklint

DKL DL 20

LL Carl von Linné # 678

God Jul och Gott Nytt År
önskar

Knut Rosenkvist, DHM DL 20

LL Höganäs # 634

God Jul & Gott Nytt År
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
To everyone in Sweden, Canada & USA

Amanda Olson Robison

Bill, Ellen, Jonah

The Grand Lodge

2016 Scholarship and Essay Contest

The Grand Lodge of the Vasa Order of America offers the following to students attending or planning to attend institutions of higher education.

A limited number of \$1,000 COLLEGE or VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS: awarded to students to continue education at an institution of higher learning.

Applications will be available on the Vasa website (www.vasaorder.com) from September 15, 2015 to January 15, 2016.

To be eligible, all the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2016 to be considered.

1. Completed application.
2. Complete transcripts of grades through the first half of the senior year for high school students or fall semester of current academic year for college students.
3. Include a current, good quality, passport style photo 2"x3" or email a high-res headshot to vgm@vasaorder.org.
4. Letters of recommendation from applicant's Local Lodge.
5. Letters of recommendation from two personal references.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor.
7. An original, typed essay, not to exceed 1,000 words.

Please put in one envelope if possible.

Suggested Essay Subjects:

1. The role youth can and should play in Vasa.
2. My vision of the future of Vasa.
3. My local lodge and the community.
4. What Vasa means to me.
5. My Swedish Heritage.

AWARDS ARE PAYABLE TO the institution at which the student is enrolled or accepted for enrollment. The \$1,000 College or Vocational School Scholarship, student needs to be enrolled in an accredited vocational school or institution of higher learning taking no less than six (6) credits per semester or eight (8) credits per quarter in the academic year immediately following the award. In extraordinary circumstances, on petition to the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee, payment may be postponed for a period not to exceed two years.

For questions email: vgm@vasaorder.org

Family Tree Släktutredningar

I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information.

swedengen@telia.com

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

Golden Gate No. 12 Children's Club



Norden Lodge #684 is pleased to announce their sponsorship of the children's club, Svenska Kids Musik Club/Charter #211 (August 9, 2015). This club is under the team leadership of Norden Lodge members, Christin Holt and Kathryn Lack. Twenty-five children and teenagers are in the group learning traditional Swedish dances, songs and culture. Our lodge is

looking forward to the group performing and we already have them on our program schedule for 2016. This year they will be dancing at our annual Lucia and Lutfisk Dinner on December 12 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fresno.

SUBMITTED BY CAROL ANN SELL

Pacific Northwest No. 13

The 55th Biennial Convention

From solemn to silly, singing to selling, the 55th Biennial Convention of District Lodge Pacific Northwest had something for everyone. Saturday started with a meaningful presentation of colors. The Flag Ceremony was conducted by the Past District Masters of PNW #13 and assisted by Ray Nyroos, PDM District 18 and Daga-Karin Lindquist PDM District 15. The PDMs of District 13 taking part in the ceremony were: Cynthia Erickson, Peter Strandberg, John Erickson, Judy Rust, Alice Iverson and Bernice Pearson who did the narration about each flag.

At the Saturday night Banquet the Convention Committee presented a skit in which they "assisted" DM Jeff Klein with a sing-a-long. VDM Jim McGinley added his musical accompaniment with his "One Man Beer Bottle Band." Carol DeSau, Anne Shams, Linda Hovis and Carol McGinley, all dressed as a giant Swedish flag, danced and helped lead the singing. Elsie Nordby and Alice Iverson were the Vasa Quality Control Board, rendering unique comments throughout the presentation, and Bernice Pearson was the commentator.

The Svensk Butik was a popular highlight of the convention - selling history books, recipes, stress kits, soft-sculpture Dala tupp



Dressed as a giant Swedish flag, Convention Committee members (from left to right) Linda Hovis, Carol DeSau, Anne Shams from Nobel Lodge #184 and Carol McGinley from Svea Lodge #469, performed a skit for the 55th Biennial Convention of District Lodge PNW #13 held at the Red Lion Hotel in Kelso, WA.

(Dala roosters), note cards and commemorative, etched Dala rooster wine glasses. The Cultural Center offered everything from displays of Nordic needlework to a digital photo frame showing the PDMs of District #13, and, of course delicious Scandinavian treats.

Elsie Nordby received a special Commendation for Outstanding Service rendered to the District. GM Tore Kellgren presented a "Vasa Telegram" to Svea Lodge #469 and other local lodges also celebrating special anniversaries.

SUBMITTED BY BERNICE PEARSON
DISTRICT LODGE PACIFIC NORTHWEST # 13

Connecticut No. 1

DEAR CONNECTICUT VASA MEMBERS

I'm Linda Johnson Steinmiller, the newly elected District Master of Connecticut #1. I was born and raised in Hartford Ct. and attended Greater Hartford Community College.

My Swedish roots run deep. My mother, PDM Harriet Clauson Johnson was born in Borås. My father, Carl Arthur Johnson was born in Jämtland.

Having served as Chairman of Norden Lodge #1 I've seen membership decline over the years. As District Master I must work at gaining new members. My goal is to deliver a positive message with an emphasis on culture and heritage.

I have appointed Gary Steinmiller as District Membership Chairman to work alongside me. We plan to seek out people with Scandinavian roots or people that want to experience Scandinavian culture. I will encourage all lodges to supply their libraries, community centers and local schools with brochures on the Vasa Order of America, which explain some of the history and benefits of membership.

I also highly recommend all VASA members to introduce their children and grandchildren to our organization so they can celebrate cultural traditions and their heritage together.

IN TRUTH & UNITY
LINDA JOHNSON STEINMILLER
DM DISTRICT LODGE 1



If you were not able to attend the recent Connecticut District Lodge Convention you missed a nice day where traditions from VASA's past were on full display. District officers were both elected and appointed under the watchful eyes of the Grand Lodge. Following the business portion of the day was an evening of dining, conversation and dancing to the wonderful music of Ed Hendela.

All of Connecticut's new district board members will be shared with you soon at your local lodge meetings, newsletters, Vasa Star and Nordstjernen. When you get this information you will see that I (Gary Steinmiller) have been appointed your Connecticut Membership Chairman. Some might suggest that I am a new captain on a sinking ship, but I believe with a little effort "our ship" can remain afloat. (No Pun intended).



I suggest we begin close to home. If you know of a member that terminated a membership, reach out to them. If you have family nonmembers, give them a membership as a gift that will serve both the giver and receiver. If you attend a church with some Scandinavian members, inform them about VASA and the value of becoming a member during your fellowship meetings. If you shop in a store that sells Scandinavian items or food, take some time to talk to the management. Maybe something can be worked out that will benefit both the store and a Vasa member. If all four Ct. Lodges bring in just one new member a month we will have 48 new members next year. I will begin this process by purchasing a gift membership for each one of my children. And when Christmas comes along I will give it to them. When they ask me what I would

like, I will ask for nothing material. I will ask that they join me at VASA PARK for our summer events.

A message from the Grand Lodge came through loud and clear. Be enthusiastic and make our meetings and events "FUN". I agree, if we are fortunate enough to increase our membership we must have something fun for them to do. So I ask all of you what your fondest memories of VASA are. We can use your memories and make our meetings and events fun once again. Pass these memories on to your local leaders.

Ct. District # 1 is where it all began for VASA and as membership chairman I'm appealing to all of you to show that Connecticut has what it takes to grow again.

GARY STEINMILLER
DL CT. #1 MEMBERSHIP MHAIRMAN

Eastern Region



GM Tore Kellgren at Connecticut convention.

Greetings from the Eastern Region. This fall has been very busy with conventions and meetings. On the weekend of September 19, District Lodge Massachusetts No. 2 held their convention in Leominster, MA. District Master Marlene Ekstrand held an extremely well organized and productive meeting. We also had the pleasure of having our Grand Master, Vice Grand Master and some Grand Lodge Executive Board members attend the District Convention.

Members from Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey are very active and have a wonderful time during annual conventions; this meeting had significant input from the respective delegates. Four new delegates were initiated into the District Lodge, all the new delegates had good ideas and suggestions. Some discussion was had regarding the possibility of a new lodge in Vermont, the future of our organization and how to keep and expand on membership. The banquet was very nice and the entertainment was an outstanding Finnish folkdance group who performed with live music.

The following week was the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Grand Lodge Executive Board in Cromwell, Connecticut. Grand Treasurer Keith Hanlon, who was unable to attend due to recent surgery, attended the meeting via Skype. We spent four full days working on motions and recommendations passed to us for action from the Grand Lodge Convention. I am very pleased with the work we accomplished. I have sat on many different boards over the years and some work and some don't. This board works very well together.

The following weekend was District Lodge Connecticut No. 1 convention. All the visiting Grand Lodge officers as well as Past Grand Master, George Nord, Bill Lundquist and his wife Sheila were in attendance. Many District Masters, Grand Lodge Deputies and members from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey also attended.

On Thursday night the District hosted a wonderful dinner. Ulf Martensson, editor and publisher of Nordstjernen also took time to attend the meetings. Ulf is an active member in District 1 and is always a pleasure to visit with. District Master Joe O'Leary



Finnish folk dance group at Massachusetts banquet.

ran a superb meeting; many items related to Connecticut Vasa Park were discussed and acted on. Sister Linda Steinmiller was elected to serve as the new District Master for the incoming term. The banquet was very nice and Ed Hendela entertained us with wonderful accordion music.

We did have an oddly memorable situation at each convention: the fire alarm was pulled and the building had to be evacuated - at both conventions! Never a dull moment at a Vasa gathering. On Sunday, many of us traveled to Rhode Island to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Little Rhody Vasa Park and had a great time sharing in their celebration. The event was so well attended

that it actually sold out. There are many Vasa Parks, and each of us who has been part of them knows how special they are and how rewarding it is to keep them alive and well. Our most sincere congratulations to all the members that have spent so much time to keep the park going for 50 years.

The following weekend of October 3 was the Annual Leif Eriksson Smorgasbord at my own home Vasa Park in New Jersey District No. 6. District Master Randy Pierson and his executive board (along with many helpers) ran a fantastic event. Smorgas Bandet entertained and GLEBM Ulf Alderlöf and wife Ingegerd (all the way from Sweden) PDM, District 1, Joe O'Leary

and wife Maryanne attended the event along with VGM Art Bjorkner and wife Nancy.

In early November, District Lodge New York No. 4 will have had their convention at the Marriott Hotel in Melville, NY. I am sure we will have as much fun there as we did in New England. It has been exceptionally rewarding to attend meetings throughout the eastern region. We are blessed to have a geographic situation that allows for so many of us to meet and visit with other lodges, districts, Vasa parks and Scandinavian cultural events, and to get to know and share time with one another. It has been quite a month for Inger and I and it was especially nice to have so many members from across the country, Canada and Sweden gather together this fall.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
JOHN C HANRIGHT
GLEBM EASTERN REGION



Massachusetts banquet, seated from left is vice grand secretary Lee-Ann Hurtubise and husband Carl, vice grand master Art Bjorkner and wife Nancy and on the right is Connecticut district master Joe O'Leary and wife Maryanne. John Hanright in the bottom of the photo with his back to the camera.

Family Tree Släktutredningar

I am a member of the Vasa Order in Sweden and an expert in Swedish genealogy. Over the years I have helped many Vasa members to find their roots in Sweden. If you want my help to find your Swedish ancestors, please email me for further information:
swedengen@telia.com

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

Arlington No. 62



Bruce Brattstrom, Alex Brattstrom, Laura Brattstrom, Erika Brattstrom

BUDD LAKE, NJ / On June 20, 2015, the Mount Olive Rotary and Boy Scout Troop 312 honored Alex Brattstrom on becoming an Eagle Scout. The ceremony was held in Viking Hall at Vasa Park and was attended by many dignitaries, Alex's friends, family and Vasa members.

Alex discovered his love for the outdoors early on. His Eagle Scout Project consisted of designing and building two Emergency Life Safety Stations located at Vasa Park Pool. The stations consist of a ring buoy and protective case, a 50-foot throw rope, a 16-foot reaching pole with a life hook and a first aid kit all mounted on a 6x6 pole with a solar powered light fixture on top. In addition to his project, Alex presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Mount Olive Township Mayors Special Projects Office and the Association Dedicated to the Preservation and Protection of Beautiful Budd Lake. He hopes his design will be utilized in the future

at various locations around the lake. In total, 178 hours went into the project by Alex and his team of supporters.

Outside scouting, Alex was active in his high school Robotics Team and recently earned the rank of Shodan (First Degree Black Belt) in Karate. He is a member of the National Honor Society and graduated with High Honors with the Mount Olive High School Class of 2015. He now attends Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Massachusetts and is studying Robotics Engineering.



Alex Brattstrom reciting the Scout Oath and Scout Law before receiving the Eagle Scout Award.

SUBMITTED BY BRUCE BRATTSTROM



New Fylgia members, Scotty and Alena



Scott and Mimi, winners of most traditional and most unique lutefisk.

Fylgia No. 119

SAN FRANCISCO, CA / New faces, new ideas, new energy are always healthy to an organization. Fylgia has five new faces: Betty Miller, Brenda Savage, Alena Chaps, Scotty Schulkin and Eric Schulkin. Välkomna. We have been busy this fall with Crayfest 2015 – the best and most well attended yet, at Nordic House in Berkeley hosted by Pia.

Runes: Magic or Mystery was the theme of the lecture by Dr. Jonas Wellendorf of UC Berkeley's Scandinavian Studies department. The discovery of many sites in Scandinavia exhibiting runes indicates the Vikings were a literate and humorous group of people. Modern people attribute a magical quality to runes – that of divining and interpreting the past and future.

The second annual Lutefisk Contest was held in September with winners in three categories: most traditional – Scott Schulkin; most unique (a casserole) – Mimi Holtermann-Docto; and best tasting (three dips to be spread on rye crisp) – Bob Olson. Last year there were lutefisk tacos, ice cream, and



Bob and Chris Olson with their lutefisk dips.

pizza. The sky is the limit with this item!

In October we celebrated our anniversary at the South Beach Yacht Club as guests of Bob and Chris Olson, and in November we are hosting a group book review of "Echoes from the Dead" by Johan Theorin.

In December we will host a Julbord at Plaj in San Francisco.

SUBMITTED BY DIANNE DAHLBERG



Dr. Jonas Wellendorf at Fylgia No. 119 lecture on Runes: Magic or Mystery

Tegnér No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / Our lodge did not have a meeting in Aug. However, some members attended the Crayfish Party at Nordic House in Berkeley. Our meetings resumed at Bjornson Hall in September with Vice-Chairman Ann Tennis chairing the business meeting in the absence of Chairman Ken Weissenborn. Nominations for next year's officers were made; most officers will probably serve another year. Entertainment was the Greta Garbo movie "Queen Christina." Because of time constraints and while we waited for some potluck dishes to warm up,

our speaker, Uffe Gustafsson told us a bit about his life in Sweden and America. His work brought him to America when he was 22 years old. He liked America so much that he decided to stay - he held various jobs, including chef, and he now lives in Oakland where he has a coffee shop. He also has a vineyard near Murphys and makes wine. It was an interesting account of a Swedish immigrant of today.

SUBMITTED BY ANN TENNIS



At a recent midsummer festival, Henrik Karlsson (top row, second from left) and Anna Karlsson (bottom row, far left) share good cheer with other lodge members.

Tegner No. 109

SCOTIA, NY / Tryckfelsnisse (printers gremlin or lost info) occurred in the last issue. Editors apologize!

America is a melting pot, yes, but many of those with ties to Sweden or who have a love of Swedish culture like to ride along the rim of that pot and enjoy celebrating their Scandinavian heritage and fondness for Sverige with one another.

Two of Tegner #109's more unique members are just such a couple: Henrik and Anna Karlsson. While Henrik hails from Malmö, his wife Anna is from Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. Anna visited Sweden for years and fell in love with the Swedish culture, finding it a "fantastic, friendly and generous country" with great food. Eventu-

ally meeting up with Henrik, their first face-to-face meeting was actually in Denmark. Settling in the Albany area of New York, the two joined Vasa a number of years ago and are now pillars of the ledarskap of Tegner #109.

In 2014, Henrik (who gained U.S. citizenship in January that year) was elected Vice Chairman and Anna (a U.S. citizen since 1989) was elected to take on the demanding recording secretary role. Both attend every meeting and volunteer to help at every lodge function. Their youthful enthusiasm and joyful involvement help bring others on-board to aid at the various seasonal festivals and fundraisers. We are lucky to have them.

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA NAPLE

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN/BEMUS POINT, NY / Our lodge continues to gather for meetings, discussions, cultural reports and food. In late August, we had our annual corn and hot dog roast. Corn was steamed by past District Master, Edwin Sandberg, who has done this for "100 years" as announced by emcee Bernice Veights. Lodge chairman Tom Eckberg cooked the hot dogs, and all who attended brought special food to add to the meal. The blessing was given in Swedish by PCL Allie Linnea Nelson Withers.

Thule is now into its 108th year in the Jamestown/Bemus Point area. Susan W. Sipos is the VC, Lynne Meyers is secretary, and Loretta Smith is treasurer. A fall dinner is planned for early November and the annual Dopp i Gryta will be held in December. Our monthly meetings were moved from evenings to the third Saturday afternoon of each month. The election of officers for 2016 will take place soon. Winters have proven to be a hardship at times, so Thule will take a winter break with no meetings in January and February.



Cultural leader Sonja Pascatore getting the final touches on the table of food before all enjoyed the roast.

Our lodge is located at 4123 Pancake Hill in Bemus Point, and welcomes visitors. Everyone of Thule Lodge wishes you a wonderful Christmas season and a happy

Brahe No. 245

ROCKFORD, IL / We gathered in our VASA Park on Sept. 27, eleven members present. In the absence of our chairman, Auditor David Tollin conducted our meeting. Secretary Tess Anderson read the minutes of previous meeting and Park Board chairman Roy Ylitalo discussed the search for a new realtor. Dennis Eksten explained that the U.S. Postal system issued a commemorative stamp of actress Ingrid Bergman, purchasable at any U.S. post office.

On Oct. 25, eleven members met on a cool but sunny afternoon in VASA Park where Cultural Leader Betty Rottman discussed an article in the October Senior Courier newspaper about how Ron Ramlow builds models of old ships and donates them to various organizations including the city hall of Loves Park and area libraries. The meeting was conducted by Gary Johnson, who is the recovering victim of a serious automobile accident!



Cultural Leader Betty Rottman discusses a newspaper article at the October meeting.

The November meeting on Nov. 15 was in the Cherry Valley Public Library.

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS G. EKSTEN

Svea No. 253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / In July, Catherine Swanson had two signings and poetry readings from her new book A Map In The Wind. Kräfstkiva was celebrated in August with bright red kräftor, an overflowing smörgåsbord, beverages and Ed Hultgren's homemade aqvavit. Tack to Ulla Williams, Jean Bang, Faye and John Bevelhimer, Dennis Danielson, Douglas Krantz, Eija and Ole Vesterqvist, and Kristina Grasso for coordinating this event.

In September, we welcomed District Cultural Leader / District Deputy Timothy Ogrentz and his wife Linnea. The charter was draped for Wayne Johnson. Past Chairman / PDM Edward Hultgren presented "Viking Voyage To The Northern Isles." We explored the North Atlantic and Arctic islands discovered and colonized by Viking explorers for 1,200 years, including New-



Ed Hultgren presented the program "Viking Voyage To The Northern Isles"



Mystery books by Icelandic authors Yrsa Sigurdardóttir and Arnaldur Indridason

foundland, Greenland, Iceland, Scottish Isles, Svalbard archipelago and Norway. Archaeologists and volunteers have searched through layers to reveal the settlements and the lives of their forebears.

The Luncheon Group met at Rick's Café Boatyard on Eagle Creek Lake, a very Swedish venue overlooking the water. Tack to Faye and John Bevelhimer for arranging this outing.

SUBMITTED BY JOELLA HULTGREN



Glenn Carlstrand, Linnea Ogrentz, and District Cultural Leader Timothy Ogrentz



Svea lodge member Carol Kaday and her husband Dan.

Svea No. 296

ERIE, PA / It was a perfect summer day when the Swedes from Svea Lodge 296 gathered to celebrate a crayfish party. This event features the best of our culinary and singing skills! The star is the nicely presented tray of crayfish. They are toasted to verses of Helan Går.

SUBMITTED BY LUCIA DOYLE



Star tray of crayfish.

Nordikfolk No. 761

MUNSTER, IN / Fall is here and we are anticipating a new year enjoying our heritage among our members of Nordikfolk. We are planning a Viking Dinner where we hope to entice new visitors to see what we are about and become members.

This summer we had a crayfish party (kräfts-kiva). Dining is traditionally outdoors but we held it indoors after our meeting. We had crayfish, Akvavit and other kinds of snaps and beer, and we sang the traditional "Helan Går." It was a first experience for some but they found the crayfish quite tasty. Credit goes to Linnea who did the cooking. It was a fun way to learn more about our heritage while making it real.

District cultural leader Tim Ogrentz has introduced Kubb into our district lodges. Kubb has become very popular and we have had several games in various parks. Strangers usually ask what we are playing and it affords another opportunity to introduce the community to VASA.

We continue hosting a Viking Series at our library, a genealogy class with Herb Smith, and a craft night at Michaels where we are making items for our next Nordikfolk Fair.

We are busy and hope to share ideas you can incorporate into your lodge. Please remember to keep our leader Lynda Smith and her husband Herb in your prayers as they suffer from health issues. They are real tough Swedes and make us proud as they press forward.

SUBMITTED BY JEAN OGRENTZ



Open House Import with the Mt. Horeb trolls in front.

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / We kicked off the season in full force with a fabulous Kräfts-kiva on a sunny Saturday in August. About 40 people ate and drank, and members from SKOL arranged a Kubb tournament as well. The weather was still on our side for our field trip. We cancelled our two-day plans to Minneapolis due to low attendance, but instead headed on a one-day trip to Mount Horeb, WI. With a dozen members we scouted out everything from the incredible trolls all over town (it's quite Norwegian there), to the Scandinavian gift store Open House Import - where they have everything, the incredible wood carving store, eatery, the county park, antique shops, the museum, etc. It was the most gorgeous fall

day, and tired but happy we ended the day with a great dinner at Bonfire in Madison.

Now our 25th Annual Scandinavian Festival is already behind us. The greatest team of workers made sure everything clicked and gave each other breaks to go enjoy the festivities: everything from eating and shopping, to genealogy and entertainment, especially the ABBA Salute Band. November will hold a presentation of Moomin Trollen, then December a Christmas luncheon, Lucia program and Julotta. Busy, busy! Contact us if you'd like to join us.

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND



Jan Kamholtz at the wood store admiring their work.



Meatball production for the Scandinavian Festival.



Liza thanking the ABBA Salute Band for their performance.

Linnea No. 504

PETALUMA, CA / The lodge's annual "BBQ on the Patio" meeting was held in August at the Veterans Memorial Building in Petaluma. It was hosted by members Linnea Koagedal and Rich Johnson with 23, including 4 guests, attending. Master Chef Rich Johnson worked his magic at BBQ on the patio with delicious tri-tip for the group. Members arrived with a varied selection of potluck dishes to share. The tables were beautifully decorated with greenery and a sunny bouquet of fresh sunflowers graced the buffet table. Ann Conger chaired an informal meeting and Oscar Carlson led us in an opening prayer and the singing of Happy Birthday, both in English and Swed-

ish, to those who celebrated their birthdays since we last met. The Lodge announced it had awarded a \$650 scholarship to Sara Brevick, granddaughter of member Thelma Jorgensen, and a past St. Lucia of our lodge. Sara is a very worthy candidate and is studying agriculture business in college. We are looking forward to Linnea Lodge's 88th Anniversary Luncheon in November when we will celebrate and honor our members for helping keep our Lodge strong!

SUBMITTED BY MARY WAHLBERG

BBQ on the Patio ... (L to R) Anne Marie Eskilsson, Dianne and Nick Provenzano, Master BBQ'r Rich Johnson, Ann Conger, Vagn and Saga Thovtrup.



Lindbergh No. 494

LOS ALTOS, CA / Forty members and guests enjoyed our popular annual salad supper at our August meeting. Following initiation of Marian Barlow, we were entertained by Scott Schulkin of Fylgia Lodge. Scott related the Swedish history of Kräftskiva and showed a humorous video of Swedish celebrants in action. We celebrated Membership Appreciation and the 88th Lodge Anniversary in September. Spirits were high among the 65 members and guests. With special thanks to Chef Dave Jansson, the festive dinner included a shrimp salad appetizer, entrée of fresh baked salmon and roasted stuffed loin of pork with roasted potatoes and vegetables. We finished with fresh berries with whipped cream and coffee. A tempting array of prizes sold many tickets for the drawing. Our lively dancing members enjoyed the live music of Mel's Mood Swings. The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the annual Lindbergh Laureate, Laila Thurfjell! Laila has been an active member and officer in many capacities. The Lodge celebrated Oktoberfest with

a supper of sausages, sauerkraut, potatoes and apple strudel with ice cream. Our after-dinner speaker, Tove Norrlander, brought a beautiful array of original jewelry for our admiration and temptation.

SUBMITTED BY BETSY NILSON



Members ready to feast on Salads at our August meeting.

Nordic No. 708

ATLANTA, GA / Our lodge started the contest in 2011 and for the last three years opened it to anyone in the U.S. This year we received 26 entries from six states: Georgia, California, Oregon, Illinois, New York and North Carolina. For a week, the two judges, Professor Jay Lutz and Dr. Sten Ekberg faced the hard work of selecting winners, who were revealed at Nordic Lodge's annual crawfish party on August 22. One \$50 grand prize and three honorable mentions were selected. However, one more prize got added - a bottle of Absolut Vodka, donated by George Smedberg and Tom Riley - as a runner-up prize to a "people's choice" winner who had to be present at the crawfish party. At last juror Lutz cleared his throat and the big moment had come. "The winner of the first prize is Pam Minton, Cummings, GA, with 'I'm a Crawfish!'" The first Honorable Mention went to Anita Menegay, Marietta, GA, for "Crawfish In Traps." The second and third were presented to Pam Minton, for the songs "Little Crawfish"

and "I'd Like To Feed the World Crawfish." Everyone wondered who the winner of the vodka would be, and the audience voted. Most votes went to "I'm a Crawfish." But haven't we heard that title already? Sure enough: The winner of the audience runner-up prize also went to Pam Minton. She is now proclaimed the Schnapps Song Queen of the Year!

Winner of the first prize as well as winner of the audience runner-up prize:
Pam Minton, with

I'M A CRAWFISH
Sung to the melody of "Mr. Sandman"
I'm a crawfish, I swim alone,
I call the streams and rivers my home.
I am so quick and I'm very clever,
at night I steal your Aquavit, however.
Plastered, still want some more,
don't touch my bottle, I'll show ya' the door,
I've devised the perfect scheme.
I'm a crawfish, living the dream.

SUBMITTED BY GÖRAN RYGERT



Guitarists Sten Ekberg and Hans Hörnfeldt accompanied the schnapps songs.



Caitlin and Alexa with Grandpa Chuck Wallin, taking a breather from selling tickets for the drawing.

YOUTH NEWS

Dear Vasa Order of America,

My name is Lauren Ell and I am from Joshua Tree, California. I am 27 years old and have attended Vasa events since I was 8, such as Desert Viking events in the Coachella Valley, Midsummer at Vasa Park in LA, and I was even a participant in the Svea beauty pageant one year.

Vasa has been a tremendous influence in my life by providing me scholarships to Sjolunden language camp in Bemidji, Minnesota as well as university.

I attended Sjolunden four times — two summers for two weeks and two summers for a month. I enjoyed learning about Sweden so much that when the counselors introduced foreign exchange programs, I decided I would live abroad in Sweden.

In 2006 I moved to Älmhult, Sweden where I lived for 10 months through the Rotary International Youth Exchange program. While there, I attended school, lived with two host families and traveled in southern Sweden. I spoke Swedish at an intermediate level because of the Swedish I learned

at Sjolunden.

With Vasa's financial assistance I also attended Cal State Northridge and Humboldt State University. While there I experienced living in different environments, the city and coastal forest, and I gained interest in subjects relating to environment and communication. I have since become an online marketing consultant as well as a blogger who emphasizes environmental conservation and community awareness.

For the first time in 10 years I recently revisited Sweden. This time I was in the northern region near Kiruna. It was very special for me to return and remember Swedish just as well as I did when I first lived there.

I am now planning to move to Sweden in 2016 and I give many thanks to Vasa for expanding my interest in the world and being brave to step outside my home.

Best,
Lauren Ell

Vasa Order of America—Grand Lodge

I would like to thank you for my scholarship. Because of it, I had the opportunity to be a Credit Student at Sjolunden Swedish Camp. I had the chance to learn so much this summer with my first credit-camper experience. This included learning more language skills but also how to build character and a lot about values. Getting the scholarship made my whole summer better, and it helped me toward becoming a well-rounded person. I plan to return next year for another 4-week session. I will apply again.

Thank you, again.

Emily "Emilie" Benson, age 15
Mankato, MN

Svenska Språkhörnan – The Swedish Language Corner

Christmas Glossary

This list, extensive as it is, by no means contains every Christmassy Swedish word you can think of, but I am sure you will have fun learning some new words and practicing Swedish by putting together sentences. Here are a few examples:

Jag bakar pepparkakor – I bake gingerbread cookies.

Vad önskar du dig i julklapp – what do you wish for Christmas (present)?

Snön är vit – the snow is white.

Det här har vi på julbordet: (lägg till maträtter) – This is what we have on the Christmas buffet: (add food items).

ADVENT - ADVENT
ADVENTSSTJÄRNA – ADVENT STAR
ANNANDAG JUL - BOXING DAY
APELSIN - ORANGE

BAKA - BAKE
BAND (TYG-) - RIBBON
BARR, GRANBARR- NEEDLE/ -S

CHOKLAD - CHOCOLATE (VARM - HOT)

DADLAR - DATES

ELD - FIRE
ELEKTRISK LJUSSTAKE - ELECTRIC
CANDLESTICK
FAMILJEHÖGTID - FAMILY CELEBRATION
FAMILJEMIDDAG - FAMILY DINNER
FESTMÅLTID - BANQUET
FIKON – FIG/-S
FINKLÄDD - DRESSED UP
FIRA - CELEBRATE
FRÖJDAS - REJOICE
FÖDELSE - BIRTH
FÖRÅTA SIG - OVEREAT

GARNERING – GARNISH, DECORATION
GELÉ - JELLY
GIVMILD - GENEROUS
GLAD - HAPPY, GLAD
GLANSPAPPER - GLOSS PAPER
GLASYR - GLAZE
GLITTER - GLITTER
GLÄDJE - JOY, HAPPINESS
GLÖGG - MULLED WINE
GODIS, SÖTSAKER - SWEETS, CANDY
GOD JUL! - MERRY CHRISTMAS!
GRAVLAX - PICKLED SALMON
GRIS - PIG

GRISFÖTTER - PIGS' TROTTERS

HALM - STRAW
HANTVERK - HANDICRAFT
HASSELNÖT - HAZELNUT
HEMLAGAD – HOME COOKED
HÄLSNINGAR - GREETINGS
HÖGTID - HOLIDAY

INGEFÄRA - GINGER
INKÖP, KÖP/A - PURCHASE
INLAGD SILL - PICKLED HERRING

JANSSONS FRESTELSE - “JANSSON’S
TEMPTATION”: A GRATIN OF ANCHOVIS,
ONION, SLICED POTATO AND CREAM
JUL - CHRISTMAS, XMAS, YULE, YULETIDE
JULAFTON - CHRISTMAS EVE
JULBOCK - CHRISTMAS GOAT
JULBORD CHRISTMAS BUFFET
JULBÖN - CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH
SERVICE
JULDAGEN - CHRISTMAS DAY
JULGRAN - CHRISTMAS TREE
JULGRANSBELYSNING - CHRISTMAS TREE
LIGHTS
JULGRANSFOT CHRISTMAS-TREE STAND
JULGRANSGLITTER - TINSEL
JULGRANSPLUNDRING - PARTY ON ST.
KNUT’S DAY TO STRIP AND THROW OUT
THE TREE
JULHÄLSNING - CHRISTMAS GREETING
JULHANDLA - CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
JULKAKTUS - CHRISTMAS CACTUS
JULKLAPP - CHRISTMAS GIFT
JULKLAPSPAPPER- CHRISTMAS WRAPPING
PAPER
JULKORV - CHRISTMAS SAUSAGE
JULKÄRVE - CHRISTMAS CORN SHEAF

JULLJUS – CHRISTMAS CANDLE/-S
JULMARKNAD - CHRISTMAS FAIR
JULMUST – CHRISTMAS SODA
JULOTTA - EARLY CHURCH SERVICE ON
CHRISTMAS DAY
JULPYNT - CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
JULSED - CHRISTMAS CUSTOM
JULSKINKA - CHRISTMAS HAM
JULSKYLTING - CHRISTMAS WINDOW
DISPLAY IN STORES
JULSTJÄRNA (FLOWER) - POINSETTIA
JULSÅNG - CHRISTMAS CAROL
JULTOMTE - SANTA CLAUS
JULÖL - CHRISTMAS BREW
JÄRNEK - HOLLY

KAFFE - COFFEE
KALKON - TURKEY
KANEL - CINNAMON
KNÄCK - HARD TOFFEE
KNÄCKEBRÖD - HARDTACK
KOLA - TOFFEE
KORV - SAUSAGE
KRUBBA - CRIB
KÖTTBULLAR – MEATBALLS

LAX - SALMON
LIMPA – LIMPA BREAD
LJUS (STEARINLJUS) – CANDLE/-S
LJUSSTAKE - CANDLESTICK
LUSSEKATT – LUCIA (SAFFRON) ROLL
LUTFISK – LUTEFISK, STOCK FISH

MANDEL - ALMOND
MANDELMASSA – ALMOND PASTE
MARSIPAN - MARZIPAN
MIDVINTER - MIDWINTER
MISTEL - MISTLETOE

NÖT – NUT
NÖTKNÄPPARE - NUT CRACKER

OMSLAGSPAPPER - WRAPPING PAPER
OST – CHEESE

PAKET - PACKAGE
PEPPARKAKOR - GINGERBREAD COOKIES
PILSNER - PILSNER
PRESENT – PRESENT, GIFT

PRINSKORV - LINK, SMALL SAUSAGE

RECEPT – RECIPE
REN/-AR - REINDEER
REVBENSSPJÄLL – SPARE RIBS
RIMFROST - WHITE FROST
RIM, RIMMA - RHYME
RISGRYNSGRÖT - RICE PORRIDGE
RUSSIN – RAISIN/-S
RÖDKÅL - RED CABBAGE
RÖKT – SMOKED

SAFFRON - SAFFRON
SE NAP - MUSTARD
SILL - HERRING PICKLED HERRING -
INLAGD SILL
SKORSTEN - CHIMNEY
SKÄGG - BEARD
SLÅ IN (PAKET) - WRAP
SLÄDE - SLEIGH
SLÄKTINGAR - RELATIVES
SMÄLLKARAMELL - CRACKER
SMÖR - BUTTER
SNAPS - SHOT
SNÖ - SNOW
SNÖFLINGA - SNOWFLAKE
SNÖRE - STRING
STRUMPA - STOCKING
STÖK - PREPARATIONS

TJUGONDAG KNUT - ST. KNUT’S DAY
TOMTE - GNOME
TOMTEMASK - SANTA CLAUS FACE MASK
TOMTENISSE - CHRISTMAS BROWNIE
TÅRTA - CAKE
TÄNDSTICKA - MATCH
TÄNDSTICKSASK- MATCHBOX

VITMOSSA, RENLAV - MOSS
VÖRTBRÖD - MALT BREAD

ÄPPLE - APPLE

ÖL - BEER
ÖNSKAN, ÖNSKA SIG - WISH
ÖNSKELISTA – WISH LIST

Christmas Trivia

1. On which date is Christmas celebrated in Sweden?

- December 24
- December 25
- December 26
- December 27

2. Let’s talk about food. There is something that is very important to eat at Christmas in Sweden. What is it?

- Turkey
- Ham
- Chicken
- Beef

3. This casserole is named after a Swedish last name. Which name?

- Svensson
- Andersson
- Jansson
- Axelsson

4. A traditional fish dish eaten at Christmas that lately has gone out of fashion.

- Pike
- Cod
- Lutefisk
- Tilapia

5. Which is the Swedish name for Santa Claus?

- Jultomten
- Tandfen
- Påskharen
- Spöket Laban

6. In many homes in Sweden around Christmas time, there is a straw animal that often sits by the Christmas tree. Which animal is it?

- Horse
- Goat

Reindeer
Sheep

7. If you eat Christmas buffet for lunch, which of these might you have for supper, following an old tradition?

- Soup
- Rice Porridge
- Pancakes
- Black pudding

8. What is the Swedish version of the Christmas carol “Silent Night” called?

- Sankta Lucia
- Nu är det jul igen
- Stilla natt
- Staffan stalledräng

9. Which traditional hot beverage comes both with and without alcohol and is often enjoyed in December?

- Hot chocolate
- Glögg
- Coffee
- Milk

10. Poinsettias are very popular in Sweden. What is this plant called?

- Jultulpan
- Julgran
- Julstjärna
- Julhyacint

Answers: 1 - Dec. 24; 2-Ham; 3 - Jansson; 4 - Lutefisk; 5 - Jultomten; 6 - Goat; 7 - Rice porridge; 8 - Stilla natt; 9 - Glögg; 10 - Julstjärna

SWEDISH NEWS

Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Loge utfärd 22–23 aug. 2015. Vädergudarna var på sitt bästa humör när vi äntrade bussen på lördagsmorgonen. Efter upphämtning i Lerberget, Viken och Helsingborg styrdes kosan norrut med 48 glada Vasasyskon. Snart var det dags för fika, vilket smakade ljuvligt i det fina sommarvädret. Stämningen var på topp och vi stannade igen vid en vacker rastplats vid en sjö för dagens lunch, pasta, kycklingsallad och drycker, som gruppen ordnat. Fantastiskt gott. Nästa stopp, Gunillabergs säteri i Bottnaryd, (Jönköping), där en guide berättade om konstnären Tage Andersen som lagt ner sin själ för att skapa denna anläggning. Lite tid att strosa runt bland växter och djur innan bussen tog oss till Scandic Hotel, Jönköping. Det blev välbehövlig vila på rummen innan vi samlades i restaurangen för att åtnjuta en god buffé. Söndag morgon startade vi färden mot färjan till Visingsö.

Vädret var fortfarande fint och Vättern låg spegelblank. På Visingsö möttes vi av en kunnig guide som lotsade oss runt på ön och berättade om Brahe-ättens historia. Turen avslutades i den gamla Brahekyrkan som uppfördes i början av 1600-talet, och farväl av den trevliga guiden. Lunch stod framdukad åt oss på restaurang Framnäs, innan färjan återvände till fastlandet. Nästa stopp var Gränna där vi fick vara med om polkagristillverkning. Söderut med allsång, lotterier och en härlig stämning i bussen. De omtänksamma hade också arrangerat kvällsmat, så vi stannade vid Lagans Vägkrog där goda räkmackor väntade oss. Vid åtta-snåret tillbaka i Höganäs, mätta, trötta men väldigt belåtna med en otroligt välplanerad och välorganiserad resa!

SUBMITTED BY BERIT OCH HANS BOGREN



MEMBERSHIP – WWW.VASAORDER.COM

Membership has its privileges: First and foremost, as a member of Vasa you become an instant member of an extended family—wherever you go, where there's a lodge, there are friends, regular meetings and a multitude of events and activities to join, share in and carry over to other members of your immediate family.

Inquire about membership and your local district through vasajlg@aol.com (Joanie Graham, GL Secretary) or membership@vasaorder.com (Bruce Elfvin, Membership Chairman) - Subject: Membership. Or, write Grand Lodge Membership Chairman Bruce Elfvin, 2924 E Overlook Rd., Cleveland Hts., OH 44118-2434 USA

IN MEMORIAM

Memorial Notices should be mailed with check or money order to The Vasa Star, PO Box 13331, Milwaukee, WI 53213-0331. Email: vasaeditor@gmail.com. The fee is \$8 for one column inch. Longer obituaries will be charged a flat fee of \$25.00. All notices must be typed and in a format similar to what you see here. NO newspaper clippings

If you submitted an Obituary and it is not listed here, please resubmit to be included in the following issue..

ALBERTA, CANADA

IVY LILLIAN OGREN, 99, died on July 8, 2015. Left to cherish her memory are her two children, Roger (Jennifer) and Sheila (Dale) Sigfuson; five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; her sister Eileen (Pete) Schmidt; two brothers, John (Karen) Bellamy and William Bellamy; and many nieces and nephews. Ivy was predeceased by her husband, Andrew

and 12 siblings. Ivy joined Local Lodge Skandia No. 549 on April 7, 1951.

LLOYD PEARSON, 90, died on August 26, 2015, at Leduc, Alberta. He will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife, Angela; his three children, Elaine (Perry) Dougan, David (Yvonne) and Daniel (Gerry); seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews and friends, as well as relatives in Sweden. Lloyd was predeceased by his parents, Andrew and Ellen, and brothers, Vernon, Clair and Ray. Lloyd was a member of Local Lodge Buford No. 577, Calmar, Alberta, for many years before joining Local Lodge Skandia No. 549, Edmonton, Alberta, in 1998.

CALIFORNIA

BIRGIT LINDBERG died on September 21, 2015 at the age of 93. She was born in Los Angeles on August 15, 1922, and was a member of North Star Lodge No. 106 since 1973, where she served as Chairman from 2000 through 2003. Birgit was an accomplished painter on wood, canvas and porcelain and practiced Rosemaling to some extent. Birgit will be missed by her husband Erik, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as all her brothers and sisters in North Star Lodge No. 106.

OHIO

RALPH CARTER, 91, died July 5, 2015 in Medina. He was born October 31, 1923 in Oak Park, IL. He joined Nobel-Monitor No. 130 in 1955,

making him a 60-year member. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Ruth Eckblom Carter, and is survived by his daughters Mary Anne Kenerson, Karen Hagans and four grandsons. Ralph proudly served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps Pacific Fleet Forces during WWII and was interred with Military Honors at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery on July 17. Once a Marine, Always a Marine! Semper Fi.

PENNSYLVANIA

ELEANOR SCHWENDEMAN (nee Lindblom), 94, died August 7, 2015 in Hackettstown, NJ. She joined Oscars Borg Lodge No. 172, Philadelphia, in 1943, and was a faithful member for 71 years. She was preceded in death by her husband Joseph, and is survived by her son David, daughter Ellen Scherr, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

WASHINGTON

DOROTHY MAY JOHNSON of Shoreline, died August 22, 2015 at age 101. She was born in 1914 in Toppenish, WA. "Dot" was a long-time Frihet No. 401 and Swedish Club Women's Chorus member and will be greatly missed.

WISCONSIN

LILLIAN LARSON, 91, died October 14, 2015. Lillian and late husband Harold joined Linde Lodge No. 492 in 1972 and were very instrumental in the life of the lodge, always involved with Holiday Folk Fair or Peasoup and Pancake dinners. Lillian also attended many conventions. She leaves two sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren behind. She will be missed by all.

SWEDISH NEWS

Småland No. 618

JÖNKÖPING, SWEDEN / Som vanligt medverkade vår loge vid denna stora hembygdsfest. I kortegen med temat "Mode & Bilnostalgi" tågade man in med Tranås musikkår i spetsen. Bo Ahlsgård bar Vasaflaggan. Bland bilarna som visades fanns en Chevrolet Master från 1939. Den kom till Sverige genom en Svensk-amerikan som återvände hem 1946. Kulturledare Maureen Bengtsson berättade om Vasa Orden av Amerika på både svenska och engelska och överlämnade logens diplom till Texas Lucia 2014, Sarah Archer. Hon kommer från Houston och var den 27:e Lucian som besökt Barkeryd. Hon höll tal på svenska och berättade om sin släkt som utvandrade från Jämtland.

Lördagen den 26 september hölls höstens första logemöte. Vi välkomnade vår nye Distriktsdeputerade Christer Hultberg med hustru Anette och vår tidigare DD Kjell

Isberg, alla från Logen Westervik nr 679. Maureen berättade under "Kontakt Amerika" om bl.a. Little Rody Park i Rhode Island som firat 50 år och om olika evenemang i Vasaparken i Angora, Kalifornien. Årets Svensk-Amerikan, Emily Tepe, från Wilmington, Delaware presenterades och som avslutning på logemötet spelades hennes sång "Future Love". Logehistorikern Bo Ahlsgård gjorde nedslag i logens historia. Efter en välsmakande supé visade Joakim Svahn ett bildspel med titeln "Längs Storgatan". Med delvis unika bilder från förr och bilder från nutid kunde vi se hur Jönköping förändrats under mer än hundra år.

Logen Småland önskar alla - God Jul och Gott Nytt År.

SUBMITTED BY GÖTE AND MAUREEN BENGSSON



From left to right Cultural Leader Maureen Bengtsson, Texas Lucia Sarah Archer and her mother Barbara Archer

DET SANNA VÄRDET AV MEDLEMSKAP

STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASASYSKON,

Vi är nu äntligen hemma efter mycket resande under sommaren och hösten. Vi har nöjet att möta så många av er personligen och det påminner mig om det sanna värdet av Vasa medlemskap—Ädelmod, Sanning och Enighet – och vad vår gemenskap betyder för oss i vårt, ofta alltför jäktiga, dagliga liv. Birgitta och jag har träffat så många gamla vänner men ännu viktigare, varje medlem vi möter, oberoende av om vi har träffats tidigare eller inte, är just det; En vän. (En riktig vän, inte bara en emoji på internet.) Jag menar den sortens vän som alltid ställer upp och stödjer dig. En vän som lyssnar, frågar, föreslår och ger av sin tid och har liknande intressen och värden. Tack vänner för att ni tar er tid med mig och Birgitta!

Vi tog en vecka i början på september och körde till Kelso, WA för DL Pacific Northwest #13s distriktsmöte. Sen, efter att ha vilat upp oss ett par dagar hemma var det dags att hoppa på ett plan till Boston för en helg med DL Massachusetts #2s distriktsmöte i Leominster, MA, en trevlig stad cirka en timmas körtid väster om Boston. Vi hade också tid för lite sightseeing. Bland annat körde vi upp till toppen av Mount Wachusett som ligger ca 30 minuter med bil från hotellet. Vyn, 360 grader, var ganska dramatisk, även om det var lite disigt vid horisonten. Vi körde sedan till Cromwell, CT där vi hade Storlogens styrelsemöte. Det visade sig vara fyra intensiva dagars arbete, med bl. a. de många motioner och rekommendationer som hade remitterats till SLER på Storlogemötet förra året. Vi stannade sedan kvar för DL Connecticut #1s distriktsmöte, som bekvämt nog hölls på samma hotell. Ja, om rätt skall vara rätt så var det ju anledningen till att vi valde att hålla vårt möte där. Resan avslutas med Vasa Arkivets styrelsemöte på söndagen. I mitten av oktober

var det åter igen dags för en flygtur. Denna gången till Omaha NE för att vara med att fira Loge Omahas 100-årsjubileum. På flygplatsen möttes vi av Ordförande Les Marks som tillsammans med Mit Grimes körde oss till hotellet och senare på kvällen bjöd ut oss på en trevlig middag. Nästa dag hade vi en härlig eftermiddag och mötte många Vasasyskon från Loge Omaha #330 och även medlemmar från Loge Norrskenet #331, som hade rest från Sioux City, IA för att övervara festligheterna. De hade firat sitt 100-årsjubileum helgen innan. Eftersom detta var vårt första besök till Omaha passade vi på att göra lite sightseeing och hittade flera botaniska trädgårdar som fortfarande var i full blom såpass sent på året. Naturligtvis hörde vi att vädret (ca 23 – 25 grader C med klarblå himmel) hade beställts speciellt för oss.



I november åker vi till Loge Harmoni #472 i Portland, OR för att fira deras 90-årsjubileum. Det blir vår sista Vasa resa i år.

Mellan resorna till Cromwell och till Omaha behövde jag ta en tur till Cleveland OH för att representera Storlogen och Vasa Arkivet vid rättegången mot Rosenthal Collins Grup (RCG). Som ni kanske minns, förlorade både Storlogen och Arkivet mycket pengar 2009 p.g.a. bedrägeri som begåtts av Enrique Villalba. Han hade konto hos RCG och förlorade pengarna där. Rättegången avslutades med ett domslut till vår fördel. Detta betyder i och för sig inte att vi är helt färdiga med ärendet. Det är motioner som både RCG och vi fortfarande kommer att behöva ta hand om, men domslutet var en stor framgång för oss. För mera rättsliga detaljer se

artikel, på annan plats i detta nummer, skriven av Vasas egen advokat och MSLE Bruce Elfvin.

Trots att sommaren nu är slut, har vi fortfarande inte fått något regn. Tja, du har kanske hört om mycket regn och stora jordras i Kalifornien. Det är sant, men allt det har varit i södra Kalifornien. Vi har inte fått något av det här i norra Kalifornien och vi är fortfarande lika oroliga för torkan. Vår mantra är och förblir "Brunt är det nya Gröna". Vi hoppas att El Niño kommer att ge oss lite lättnad senare i år och förhoppningsvis också långt in på nästa år.

Ni har hört mig säga detta många gånger: MEDLEMSKAP FORTSÄTTER ATT VARA VÅRT STÖRSTA PROBLEM. Behåller ni era medlemmar? Får ni in nya medlemmar? Jag hoppas din Loge växer. Många Loger arbetar hårt med att engagera sina medlemmar och ser till att de kommer till varje möte. Ja, det är mycket arbete. Håller du era medlemmar informerade om vad som händer på Logen? Ett nyhetsbrev är lätt att sätta ihop och är en viktig del i att skapa intresse för Logen. Genom att publicera det via e-post tar det bort den ekonomiska bördan att trycka och posta det till alla medlemmar. Ni kanske har några medlemmar som inte har e-post och för dem måste nyhetsbrevet naturligtvis publiceras i tryck. Ett engagerande Logemöte är nödvändigt för att locka nya och behålla nuvarande medlemmar. **Var inte tråkiga!** Konkurrenten om nuvarande och blivande medlemmars tid är hård. Det är viktigt att ha mat på mötet och att ha ett program som engagerar. Starta en kampanj för att få in nya medlemmar! EN ny medlem är allt jag berfrån var och en av er. Kom också ihåg att det är mycket viktigt att behålla nuvarande medlemmar. Det tål att upprepas: **Var inte tråkiga!**

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER

The Swedish
Newspaper in
America wishes
all Vasa friends
happy holidays—
En riktigt God Jul
och Gott Nytt År!

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