



THE VASA STAR

VASASTJÄRNAN

SUMMER 2017
Publication of *The Vasa Order of America*



The Vasa Order of America in Sweden celebrated the Swedish-American of the Year, Jan Eliasson, at the John Ericsson Mausoleum in Filipstad and Långban, Sweden. /Page15

SEASON OF CONVENTIONS



DEAR VASA MEMBERS,

By the time you read this, my travels for the year are almost coming to close. Since I last had the opportunity to talk to all of you this way, I have attended district conventions at DL Alberta No. 18 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and DL Pacific Northwest No. 13 in Astoria, Oregon.

The planning of the next Grand Lodge Convention is well under way. Soon your Lodge will receive a letter with an offer to have a greeting in the Convention Program Book. Please consider placing that greeting. All

the proceeds go to defray the cost of hosting the Convention. Arrangements are being made for tours of our beautiful capital city of Sacramento and the surrounding Gold Country here in California. You will also have the opportunity to tour San Francisco, including the famous Fisherman's Wharf. Unless you are an officer or a delegate to the Convention, you will also have your pick of several other exciting tours. See note on page 5 in this issue of Vasa Star for more information about available tours. The Convention is now less than a year

away. It will be held between June 29 and July 6. Make a note of the dates and consider attending this very special Vasa event that only happens once every four years. This is a great Vasa experience, where you will have the opportunity to meet Vasa members from Canada, Sweden and from all over the U.S. At your latest District Convention you elected your Grand Lodge Delegate. Remember that information about this delegate must be submitted to Grand Secretary Joan no later than March 1 2018.

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National Archive News

A reminder to visit the Vasa National Archives in Bishop Hill and keep it in your estate plans / p3

Grand Lodge News

Save the date for the 2018 Grand Lodge convention and file your motions on time / p4-5

Scholarship winners

The Grand Lodge announces the winners of this year's awards and includes information to apply for next year / p6-8

Sweden America Day

Swedes and Americans together celebrated the 2017 Swedish American of the Year / p15

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



This is the third issue in which the Vasa Star has appeared in Nordstjernan's newly formatted newspaper, and by now I hope you're getting accustomed to its new look, perhaps even enjoying it! Change isn't always easy, especially when you're 145 years old (Happy birthday to Nordstjernan on Sept. 21!), but the newspaper continues to thrive – and I know it has a lot to do with our amazing, growing Swedish American community, and the integrity and ingenuity of the Swedish spirit. This entire issue of the Vasa Star speaks to our community, integrity and ingenuity.

Did you know there are more than 160 local lodges in the Vasa Order, governed by 18 district lodges in the United States, Sweden and Canada? You can read about everything that's going on in our lodges – local, district and national levels, even the international level. In fact, on p.15 you can read about the Swedish American of the Year as well as the international location of his celebration – which happens to be the final resting place of one of the most

influential naval engineers the U.S. has ever known – a Swede who spent much of his life in America. You may even live near one of the many sculptures, streets or parks named after him here in the U.S.

While on the subject of reading about everything going on in Vasa Land, I'd like to reiterate a message from our Grand Master Tore Kellgren: He continues to encourage us to share more details about what events our lodges have planned for the near future and perhaps a little less about the meetings we've already had. Many lodges are already doing this – be sure to read their great accounts of what they are planning for this fall (with invitations to join them!), and those that mentioned visiting Vasa brothers and sisters have attended their recent events – because they knew about them ahead of time. Of course another good reason to read about what's going on is that your lodge might even get ideas for programs in your area as well! After all, to a large degree, we are in community as the Vasa Order to preserve the unity of our common heritage.

Enjoy the autumn, wherever you may be.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
AMANDA OLSON ROBISON

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Linde Lodge's 90th anniversary party had special entertainment by Lekspel, (l-r) Paul Grevsmuehl, Mary Stetson and Lisa Horngren. / p13



Bishop Hill Midsummer celebration. / p14



The Swedish American of the Year. / p15



Mark Walstrom demonstrates the nyckelharpa at his music store in Berkeley, CA /p10

THE VASA STAR

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ARCHIVES NEWS

A message from the president of Vasa National Archives

DEAR VASA BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
I trust you have enjoyed your summer. The U.S. Midwest is beautiful this time of year with lush forests, the gorgeous blue Great Lakes and plenty of sunny days. If you are traveling I'd like to encourage you to visit Bishop Hill, IL and the Vasa National Archives. Hopefully you're regularly "visiting" us electronically using our website, vasaarchives.org. Our archivist Kathy Cuff updates the site and includes information regarding current displays and programs as well as activities in Bishop Hill.

You have all received the Heritage Fundraiser opportunity. Please consider donating generously to this important annual fundraiser. Support from all members of the Vasa Order maintains the Vasa National Archives, the permanent home for the history of our Order. Our history and the importance we

all place on Swedish culture and the immigration period will live on at the Archives with careful planning and the help of all members.

I am happy to tell you our list of Visionary Members has grown recently with the generous gift of \$10,000 from Brahe Lodge No. 245 in Rockford in northern Illinois. In the 1850s those suffering in Sweden saw immigration to America as the only way to start a new life. Early immigrants came to the Chicago area and continued moving west, unsure of where they were going. Those who survived reached Rockford where the Rock River acted as a geographic border. Records show that by 1900, 6,700 (22 percent) of all citizens (not including children) of Rockford were Swedish born. Naturally this would be an area where the Vasa Order would flourish, and the

membership of Brahe Lodge chose to permanently honor its members both past and present with this thoughtful gift to the Archives. I encourage all local lodges to make a financial gift to honor their members and proud history. You may direct your gift to the Vasa National Archives Preservation Fund or a specific project or area of interest. You will receive information from me in all future Heritage and Julgran Fundraisers regarding how you can easily include the Vasa National Archives in your estate planning. Anyone can make a deferred gift. We all want to be involved in making decisions that reflect our personal wishes, and having our affairs in order brings comfort, certainty and peace of mind. Bequests are very easy to set up in a will or living trust, often with only one or two simple sentences. Please consider us when you

work with your attorney or legal advisor drafting these documents. I would be happy to discuss this opportunity further with you anytime - call me at 810-845-5065. Bequests can be earmarked for specific purposes or toward the Vasa National Archives Preservation Fund.

As president of the Archives, one of my goals is to reach a Preservation Fund amount large enough to operate into the future. I'm once again asking for your support. I feel I'm speaking for many Vasa members when I say, "we're all aging" so please decide now to leave a lasting legacy.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
BILL LUNDQUIST
PGM AND PRESIDENT
VNA



Greetings from the Vasa National Archives

It was a wonderful, busy summer at the archives where we have completed lots of work with our collections. Progress has been made toward getting our collections into a digital library for our members to access anywhere at any time. Our summer outreach programs have done well with attendance and received lots of good reviews.

Our intern, Julia Meyer, scanned over 6 linear feet, or 3 filing cabinet drawers, of membership applications. At present, we are busy getting the collection online so we can complete the grant goals on time. Almost 3,000 old Vasa Order membership applications can be accessed through the website at <http://www.umvphotoarchive.org/digital>. Please take a moment to look at what we have so far and let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Our Midsummer Respite offered visitors to Bishop Hill a chance to hear music in the park during the day and dance around the Maypole in the evening. The Vasa National Archives hosted a Make 'n Take Clay Station with refreshments, during which nearly 70 participants created a variety of designs in clay and enjoyed letting their inner artists free.

For Bishop Hill's Festival of the Arts,

a spin on the Clay and Fiber Festival, we offered a hands-on natural dye station. Over 150 people visited the dye station and the archives over the weekend. Julia maintained the station and greeted visitors during the 2-day event. We heard lots of positive feedback and will host it again next year. If any lodge has extra T-shirts from their activities they would like to donate as art smocks, we would appreciate having them. Photos from our activities are available on our Vasa National Archives Facebook page.

We are planning for a future exhibit on the Vasa Order and want suggestions from Vasa members and lodges on what you want to see. This exhibit will be up for 2 years from April 2018 – December 2020. Thoughts so far include: exhibit on a particular lodge or district, regalia over the years, the Vasa Order during WWII, or the various people Vasa has honored over the years. Let us know what topic you want to see in the archives at 309-927-3898, Facebook, or vasaarchivist@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing your opinions and suggestions.

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
KATHY CUFF, MANAGER-ARCHIVIST
VASA NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The Nordic Council of Wisconsin Presents
2017

Nordic Council of Wisconsin on FACEBOOK

The Celebration of Nordic Children

SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL 2017

Featured Entertainment by the Swedish-American Children's Choir - St. Charles Illinois

Saturday October 7, 2017 • 10:00AM-6:00PM
RONALD REAGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4225 S CALHOUN ROAD NEW BERLIN, WI 53151

Submit Material to
vasaeditor@gmail.com

Vasa Star PO Box 13331
Milwaukee WI 53213-0331

For our next issue:
By Nov. 15

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

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

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

GRAND LODGE NEWS

Motions to the 2018 Grand Lodge Meeting

The Grand Lodge Vasa Order of America will meet for its 39th Convention on June 28-July 6, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, in Sacramento, CA. This is when you can present motions for the changes you want to see happen within Vasa.

Any individual member, local lodge or district lodge may submit motions to this Grand Lodge meeting. A member does not need approval from any local or district officer when submitting a motion to the Grand Lodge, but the local lodge secretary must certify (including the lodge seal) that the individual submitting the motion is a member in good standing (dues are current). You can find the Constitution at www.vasaorder.com. Please use the format provided in the last issue of Vasa Star. This will ensure a consistent appearance for the many motions to be considered. Please do not use the words "Whereas" or "Be It Resolved" or the motion will be returned to you for proper format. Remember that constitutions and bylaws use the words "shall" or "will," not "can,"

"should" or "could." When making a motion that involves finances, please show the probable cost along with the motion. If you submit more than one motion, please put one motion per form to avoid confusion. Please refer to your Constitution for Grand Lodge - Article XVII-Amendments concerning motions to change the Constitution.

Typed or printed

All motions must be typed or printed clearly so no errors in interpretation or intent will be made. The lodge seal and all signatures are required in hard copy, received by March 1, 2018. An emailed copy of the motion can be sent in addition to the required hard copy, to vasajlg@aol.com. Motions will be numbered in the order in which they are received. Motions are not voted on based on order received, but are assigned to delegate committees for discussion and then presented by the committee to the full Grand Lodge for vote. All Vasa members may attend the Grand Lodge meeting; while you will not have voice or vote, you may pass along your opinions to your

district's delegate at any time outside the meeting.

Mail your motions along with the lodge secretary's certification to: Convention Motions
c/o Joan Graham, Grand Secretary
5838 San Jose Ave.
Richmond, CA 94804. Email motions to her at: vasajlg@aol.com

ALL MOTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE GS BEFORE MARCH 1, 2018

Request an electronic copy of the Constitution or the Local Lodge Ritual by emailing Joanie at vasajlg@aol.com.

For hard copies, send your order and a check payable to Vasa Order to: Vice Grand Secretary Lee-Ann Anderson Hurtubise, 350 Kenyon Ave., East Greenwich, RI 02818. -Constitution for Grand Lodge, District Lodge, Local Lodge (all three): \$3.78 in U.S. or \$5.12 in Canada -Local Lodge Ritual: \$3.36 in U.S. or \$4.71 in Canada -Both: \$6.20 in U.S. or \$7.54 in Canada

Joanie Graham, Grand Secretary



Joanie Graham, Grand Secretary

Christmas Greetings

Send your lodge or personal Christmas greetings to vasaeditor@gmail.com

'Vasa Star'

PO Box 13331
Milwaukee WI 53213-0331
One inch greeting - \$10
Larger greetings - \$25

Submit your greeting no later than Nov. 1



The Grand Master's Message (continued from page 1)

In several previous issues of Vasa Star, I requested secretaries to send me information about members who will be celebrating milestone birthdays in 2017, including everyone over the age of 100 years. Thank you to all who have sent me this information. And if you haven't yet, it's not too late. That said, I only want this information for upcoming birthdays.

I like to emphasize the value of your contributions to the Vasa Star with thoughts for the future: Write about upcoming events in your articles. Think three to six months out. This makes it an advertisement for your lodge and gives readers across Vasa Land ideas for their future programs, as well as opportunities to visit other lodges for their special events. Please also send

in pictures, with a caption describing the event they are from and make sure to identify the individuals.

You may remember that about a year ago I announced that we have an arrangement with Volvo, where Vasa members can purchase a Volvo automobile at a discount essentially equivalent to the employee discount. Volvo has now expanded and formalized this program. It is valid for all Vasa members in the United States. Unfortunately Volvo is currently not offering any similar program in Canada or in Sweden. For more information contact Grand Lodge Secretary Joan Graham or myself.



I want to preface this next paragraph by saying that some Lodges are doing a wonderful job with membership, have great programs and members are looking forward to every meeting. If this describes your Lodge, PLEASE keep up the good work.

You have heard my mantra before, but it needs repeating: **MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO BE OUR NUMBER ONE CHALLENGE.** Your lodge should have a Membership Chairman, though this is not the only person in charge of membership retention and recruitment - **YOU ALL ARE!** By retaining your members and getting new members, your lodge can grow and thrive. For this to happen, an interesting lodge meeting is essential. **Make your meetings worth attend-**

ing! The competition for your current and prospective members' time is stiff. You need to have food at your meetings and have programs that your members don't want to miss. Cultural Leaders should work with lodge members. It is every member's job to make the meetings attractive to current and future members. **ONE** new member is all I ask from each one of you. Keep your current members!

Be enthusiastic!

IN TRUTH AND UNITY,
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER

The Special Financial Issue of Vasa Star with the fully audited 2016 financial reports for both the Grand Lodge and Vasa National Archives is now available on our web site, www.vasaorder.com.

GRAND LODGE CONVENTION 2018 – COME AND VISIT OLD CALIFORNIA

When you come to the Grand Lodge Convention in Sacramento during the week of June 29 – July 6, 2018, the entire group will enjoy two trips – to San Francisco and to the Gold Country. And while the delegates and Grand Lodge officers are in their meetings, spouses and guests can enjoy more trips around beautiful Northern California.



THE GOLD COUNTRY - Travel to the Gold Discovery Site in Coloma, California, where 50,000 hopeful men (and a few women) arrived in 1849 to find their fortune, then visit the historic town of Placerville (Old Hangtown) for a bit of shopping.



LAKE TAHOE - Visit the South Shore for shopping and gambling at one of the area's beautiful casinos and then cruise on one of Lake Tahoe's paddlewheel boats.



SACRAMENTO - See the historic Leland Stanford Mansion, Sutter's Fort and the 40-acre International Gardens.



SAN FRANCISCO - Visit the historic waterfront district, museums, the Golden Gate Bridge, The Swedish-American Hall, Chinatown and more.

SONOMA - Visit several wineries, have lunch at the world-famous Sonoma Cheese Factory, shop the quaint village of Old Sonoma and visit the northernmost of the California missions.

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

DL CONNECTICUT NO. 1
Karl XII Lodge No. 103
Sandra Jacobson
Jean Olson

DL NEW JERSEY NO. 6
Arlington Lodge No. 62
Donna Campanalunga
Laurie Fergusson

Dalahäst Lodge No. 742
Linda Lorraine Borsuk
Kristen Beth Isaksen

DL MASSACHUSETTS NO. 2
Nordic Lodge No. 611
Denise Mary Adams
Leah Mary Adams
Matthew James Anderson
Carol Ann Asplund
Veronica Marilyn Parretti
John Steven Sushchik
Vinland of Cape Cod No. 703
Karen Andrea Anderson
Verner Kullenberg

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8
Bessemer Lodge No. 203
Jenna Lee Lindgren
Joshua James Lindgren
Herbert Winfield Smith III
Svea Lodge No. 253
Dolly Eloris Anderson
Andra Cochran
Philip Lee Cochran
Amanda Hopson
Marcia L. (Marti) Matthews
Nancy Naan
Carol Sternecker

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8
Bessemer Lodge No. 203
Jenna Lee Lindgren
Joshua James Lindgren
Herbert Winfield Smith III
Svea Lodge No. 253
Dolly Eloris Anderson
Andra Cochran
Philip Lee Cochran
Amanda Hopson
Marcia L. (Marti) Matthews
Nancy Naan
Carol Sternecker

DL RHODE ISLAND NO. 3
Svea Lodge No. 362
Lisa M. Avedisian
Donna M. La Porte
Ronnie A. Tavares
Michele C. Tetreault

DL NEW YORK NO. 4
Freja Lodge No. 100
George Johnson
Daryl Lindholm
Len Lindholm
Heather Ostman

DL LAKE MICHIGAN NO. 8
Bessemer Lodge No. 203
Jenna Lee Lindgren
Joshua James Lindgren
Herbert Winfield Smith III
Svea Lodge No. 253
Dolly Eloris Anderson
Andra Cochran
Philip Lee Cochran
Amanda Hopson
Marcia L. (Marti) Matthews
Nancy Naan
Carol Sternecker

DL NEW YORK NO. 4
Freja Lodge No. 100
George Johnson
Daryl Lindholm
Len Lindholm
Heather Ostman
Thule Lodge No. 127
Ann Lorine Bentley
Kaitlyn Lorine Bentley
Olympic Lodge No. 235
Elsa Christina Lorieul
Lena Christina Lorieul
Ashley E. Smith
Bonnie Smith

DL NEW YORK NO. 4
Freja Lodge No. 100
George Johnson
Daryl Lindholm
Len Lindholm
Heather Ostman
Thule Lodge No. 127
Ann Lorine Bentley
Kaitlyn Lorine Bentley
Olympic Lodge No. 235
Elsa Christina Lorieul
Lena Christina Lorieul
Ashley E. Smith
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George Johnson
Daryl Lindholm
Len Lindholm
Heather Ostman
Thule Lodge No. 127
Ann Lorine Bentley
Kaitlyn Lorine Bentley
Olympic Lodge No. 235
Elsa Christina Lorieul
Lena Christina Lorieul
Ashley E. Smith
Bonnie Smith

DL SUPERIOR NO. 10
Manhem Lodge No. 159
Gary F. Mailloux

DL GOLDEN GATE NO. 12
Tegner Lodge No. 149
Caroline Maria Woods-Mejia
Jenny Lind Lodge No. 388
Robert H. Peterson
Thomas Nils Simonsson

Sveaborg Lodge No. 449
Viktoria Marie Gilbert
Susan Elaine LaPat
William Anthony LaPat
Ingrid R. Stabb
Lindbergh Lodge No. 494
Peter N. Anderson
Jessica Maria Poll
Scott Douglas Poll
Matthew L. Starkey
Skogen Lodge No. 700
Charles Lawrence Christian

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 13
North Star Lodge No. 145
Nerissa Mari Meyer
Celia Karen Nyamweru
Beverly Schoen
Astor Lodge No. 215
Claudia Marie DeLoff
Kara Mae Dowaliby
Mara Hunter Dowaliby
Emily J. Falleur
Kasie Elizabeth LaFramboise
Chelsea Meredith Mattingly
Karen Reintzell
Frihet Lodge No. 401
Emily Higgins
Anette Kopcinski
Yvonne Thomas

DL PACIFIC NORTHWEST NO. 15
North Star Lodge No. 106
Melinda Rose Singer
Skandia Lodge No. 247
Clara Miller

Bille Jo Olson
Mayflower Lodge No. 445
Inger B. Akerlund
Rolf Lennart Danryd
Susanne Eriksson Guerra
Carolin A. Malmkvist
Myra G. Posert
Christopher Scott
Chris Velline
Ellen Velline
John William Wilson
Golden Valley Lodge No. 616
Daniel Clarke Buck
Tyra Dios
Kristina Maria Foley
Caitlyn Erin Haggerty
Carter Montgomery Lien
Chelsea Moanilehua Rhoades
Linda Trowbridge
Desert Viking No. 682
Troy Bankord
Patricia Bocker
Frida Jorgensen
Daphne Mitchell
Oak Leaf Lodge No. 685
Lois Rebecca Halvorson
Norma Angelica Halvorson
Glenn T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719
Brita Anderson
Per Daniel Engstrom
Thora Ericson
Carol Kerr
Shirley Olson
Anna Lena Perumean
Nadine Suess
Cathy Thieleen-Hardy
Jim H. Yates
Maili Helen Yates

DL ALBERTA NO. 18
Skandia Lodge No. 549
Shannon Arthurs
Ryan de Haan
Madison Eliasson
Steven Eliasson
Colette Hanscom
Shawn Hanscom
Katrina Hertz
Nicholas Hertz
Tara Liber
Derek McEvoy
Travis McEvoy
Jeetika Mishra
Rajesh Mishra
Heather Weiss
Jon Weiss
Joshua Winquist

DL ARIZONA NO. 21
Phoenix Lodge No. 677
Kathy A. Anderson
Robert Andrew Anderson
Benjamin Bakall
Lowell Richard Dahlgren
Ruth Carol Gregory
William Alfred Gregory
Robert M. Peterson
Willis L. (Pete) Peterson
Donald A. Swanson
Flora M. (Kiki) Swanson
Scandia Lodge No. 728
Simone Potter
William Potter

DL IOWA-NEBRASKA NO. 17
Omaha Lodge No. 330
Iona Blaney Stites
Kirsten Margareta Stites
Corrine A. Youngblood
Norrskenet Lodge No. 331
Thomas Raymond Munson

Karin Murray
Marge Swanson

DL ALBERTA NO. 18
Skandia Lodge No. 549
Shannon Arthurs
Ryan de Haan
Madison Eliasson
Steven Eliasson
Colette Hanscom
Shawn Hanscom
Katrina Hertz
Nicholas Hertz
Tara Liber
Derek McEvoy
Travis McEvoy
Jeetika Mishra
Rajesh Mishra
Heather Weiss
Jon Weiss
Joshua Winquist

DL ARIZONA NO. 21
Phoenix Lodge No. 677
Kathy A. Anderson
Robert Andrew Anderson
Benjamin Bakall
Lowell Richard Dahlgren
Ruth Carol Gregory
William Alfred Gregory
Robert M. Peterson
Willis L. (Pete) Peterson
Donald A. Swanson
Flora M. (Kiki) Swanson
Scandia Lodge No. 728
Simone Potter
William Potter

CENTRAL REGION
Facklan Lodge No. 148
Heidi Cecilia Ekborg-Ott
Carl XVI Gustaf Lodge No. 716
Kathy Anne Hellstrom
Marissa Williams
Carl Widen Lodge No. 743
Sherry Darlene Simril

WINNERS OF THE 2017 SCHOLARSHIPS

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce the winners of this year's College or Vocational School Scholarship Awards.



Alexander Scott
Mayflower Lodge No.445
DL Pacific SW No.15

Winner of Oscar & Mildred Larson Scholarship - \$1,200

Alexander will be attending Cal Poly Pomona University, studying mechanical engineering. He would like to pursue technological advances in the study of battery and power technology. When time permits he works at Vasa events doing set up, gate admission, and greeter (Vasa Ambassador). He has received a National Congressional Award for putting together documentaries of the SS Lane Victory, a WWII cargo vessel in San Pedro.



Emily Conlogue
Svea Lodge No. 362
DL Rhode Island No. 3

Winner of Nilsson and Birtwhistle Scholarship - \$1,200

Emily is attending Barnard College, majoring in archaeology. She intends to do archaeology field work or museum work. Emily belongs to the National Honor Society and was on the College Dean's list. In high school she participated in track & field, cross country, swimming, rowing team and various Vasa events.



Alexandra Bjorkner
Sveaborg Lodge No.446
DL New Jersey No.6

Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship - \$1,200

Alexandra attends University of Alabama, majoring in occupational therapy. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has been an outstanding dancer since the age of 4, on dance teams since grade 6, a member of Universal Dance Association and All American in 2015. She joined Vasa at age 14 and is busy setting up a Sveaborg No.446 Vasa Club in Alabama as its chairman and cultural leader. During spare time Allie has participated in numerous outreach programs..



Jennifer Pearson
Nordik Folk Lodge No.761
DL Michigan No.8

Winner of Einar & Edith M. Nilsson Scholarship - \$1,200

Jennifer is currently attending Purdue University, studying general communications. She would like to work in the museum industry. Jennifer has been a Vasa member since 2011 and was a very active member of Nordikids No. 208. She continues to assist with the club while also holding an office in the local lodge.



Amelia Vance
Evening Star Lodge No.426
DL Pacific SW No.15

Winner of Gauch/Klinglof Scholarship - \$1,200

Amelia is attending Biola University, studying psychology. She would like to be a teacher and psychologist. Amelia was a member of the Children's Club, participated in many Lucia pageants and other youth groups, and has volunteered many hours assisting in school and church. She is a fine student that takes her study seriously and is very dependable..



Harrison Ogrentz
Golden Nordik Folk No. 761
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Winner of Bo & Sigrid Bjorling Scholarship - \$1,200

Harrison is attending Western Michigan University, studying music composition, and majoring in multi-media arts and music composition. Harrison is a member of PHI Theta Kappa National Honor Society and plans to work in both music composition and music technology. He has been member of Nordikids Children's club since age 5, is a member of Nordik Folk Lodge and is a guard.



Elizabeth Cleveland
Viljan Lodge No. 349 / DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Winner of Oscar & Mildred Larson Scholarship - \$1,200

Elizabeth will be attending the American University of Paris, majoring in International Affairs with an interest in working for the United Nations. Elizabeth is part of the National Honor Society, is a founding member of the high school FIDM Fashion Club and the National Technical Honor Society. She has been actively involved with Vasa her whole life since parents have both been District Masters. She has assisted in the local lodge and Vasa Park.



Jonas Spaberg
Evening Star Lodge No.426
DL Pacific SW No.15

Winner of Grand Lodge Scholarship - \$1,200

Jonas will be attending Oregon State University, studying accounting and criminal justice with hopes to pursue a career with the FBI. Jonas has volunteered many hours assisting in senior living facilities, and serving food to the homeless. He was a Children's Club member for 10 years, in the Vasa junior folk dance group for two years and attended Viking Village eight times.



Heidi Abrahamsen
Olympic Lodge No.235
DL New York No.4

Winner of a Grand Lodge Scholarship - \$1,200

Heidi attends New York Institute of Technology majoring in architecture. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Art Honor Society. Heidi was elected as captain of the track team by her coach and peers, and did a tremendous job of motivating her teammates and leading by example in all that she does. She joined Barnklubben Elsa Rix No.1 in 2001 (age 3) and became a Vasa member (age 14). She has participated in many Nordic events including Sweden Day, Midsummer in Battery Park and local lodge/District events.



Marissa Childs
Svea Lodge No. 253
DL Lake Michigan No. 8

Winner of DL Lake Michigan No. 8 Scholarship - \$1,200.

Marissa is attending Hanover College, majoring in engineering physics. Marissa was active in high school and was awarded the Women's Soccer Top Scholar Athlete, Communicator Award, Track Top Scholar, Band-Flute Outstanding Marching award, was salutatorian and president of her class, and is in National Honor Society. She participated in various lodge events and was Lucia in the Sankta Lucia program.



Kaelin Den Hartog
Evening Star Lodge No.426
DL Pacific SW No.15

Winner of Edith Gauch/Klinglof Scholarship- \$1,200

Kaelin will be attending Michigan State University, Lansing and majoring in Spanish. She would like to work internationally to be able to help decrease the human impact on

the environment. She received the Seal of Biliteracy, Girl Scout Bronze and Silver awards, and Distinguished Student award. Kaelin has participated in Lucia, Midsummer, volunteered at Vasa Park and Viking Village for many years, she was a Youth Leader at Viking Village and Golden Valley Lodge. She is the Youth Representative throughout D-15 and Lodge Master of Ceremonies

The Grand Lodge 2018 Scholarship and Essay Contest

The Grand Lodge of the Vasa Order of America offers Scholarships to student members attending or planning to attend institutions of higher education.

ALL INSTRUCTIONS BELOW MUST BE FOLLOWED TO BE CONSIDERED

Applicants for the above scholarships must have become a Vasa member prior to February 15, 2017.

Applications will be available at the Vasa website (www.vasaorder.com) until January 15, 2018.

To be eligible, the following items must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2018 to be considered.

1. Completed application with enclosures **MUST** be postmarked no later than February 15, 2018..
2. Complete **"OFFICIAL"** 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. Current, **passport** style photo (on photo quality paper, preferably 2" x 3")
4. A letter of recommendation from applicant's Local Lodge with date of initiation and seal.
5. Letters of recommendation from two personal references **signed and dated** within last 6 months.
6. A letter of reference from your Dean, Principal, Teacher or Counselor, on **letterhead signed and dated** 2018.
7. Fill out application online, then print.
8. An original, typed essay, not to exceed 1,000 words. Cannot have been submitted in prior years.

Please put in one envelope if possible.

Choose an essay subject from the following list: (put the subject number at the top of essay)

1. What do you consider a strategy to entice new members to VASA? How could you promote this successfully?
2. If you have visited a Nordic country, what was the most impressive element of your visit and why?
3. Explain the differences in Nordic music written by Sibelius, Kalle Jularbo and ABBA and which best suits you.
4. How would you describe a Nordic folk costume to someone? When and where are the costumes most used today?
5. Describe the various economies of the Nordic countries and compare their success.
6. Within the Nordic countries, choose what is a most popular tourist attraction and provide your thoughts on its appeal.
7. What Nordic invention appeals to you in being most important to mankind and why have you selected this?

AWARDS ARE PAYABLE TO the institution at which the student is enrolled or accepted for enrollment. To qualify for the College or Vocational School Scholarship, a 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.

Art Bjorkner, Vice Grand Master
31 Vasa Drive
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Phone: (973) 426-0776
E-mail: vgm@vasaorder.org

Winners of Grand Lodge Scholarship - \$1,200 each



Morgan Greta Klintare
Golden Valley Lodge No. 616
DL Pacific SW No. 15
Morgan is attending Cuesta College, studying nursing. Her long-term goal is to be a cardiovascular surgeon. Morgan has received four National Gold Medals for rowing and was on the U.S. National Women's Team for two years. She has been a Golden Valley Lodge Princess and Lucia for three years.



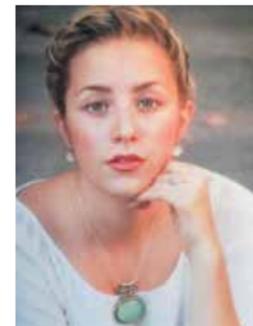
Robert Prasso
Olympic Lodge No. 235
DL New York No. 4
Robert is attending Loyola University New Orleans, majoring in business. He is a member of National Honor Society and All City Band, and is founder and president of an International Business Alliance Program Club. Robert was a member of the children's dance group Elsa Rix No.1, and participated in many events.



Lars Heinstedt
Golden Valley Lodge No. 616
DL Pacific SW No. 15
Lars will be attending Montana State University, majoring in electrical engineering. After college, he desires to work as an alternative energy engineer, working with solar and wind power. Lars is an Eagle Scout and active in swimming and cross country running. He has participated in Lucia for many years, was a Youth Leader and is the Youth Representative throughout D-15 and Lodge Master of Ceremonies.



Vanessa Jackson
Frihet Lodge No.401
DL Northwest No.13
Vanessa attends Pennsylvania State University, majoring in business management. She possesses integrity, commitment and drive, and received All American Academic Achievement in varsity softball last year. Vanessa has been a volunteer and camp counselor at the Vasa Park summer camp for the last four years, and was St. Lucia for a few years and now reads the Lucia story at the event.



Linnea Ashkar
Harmoni Lodge No. 472
DL Pacific NW No. 13
Linnea is attending University of Portland, majoring in nursing. Linnea belongs to the National Honor Society and was on the University Dean's list. She participated in various lodge events and was Lucia, a dancer and camp counselor.

Sjölunden Language Camp Awards

The Grand Lodge is pleased to announce this year's Sjölunden Language Camp awards. Bertha Kalm Sjölunden Language Camp Awards were awarded to: Anna Benson, DL No. 12; Claire Custer, DL No. 9; Melissa Pearson, DL No. 8; Kristine Pearson, DL No. 8; Anya Hess, DL No. 12; Dmitry Hess, DL No. 12; and Clayton Lekander, DL No. 8. Applications for next year's awards MUST be postmarked February 10, 2018. An application online will be available at www.vasaorder.com in September and in the next issue of the Vasa Star.

Moving?

Be sure to send address changes to:
circulationvasastar@gmail.com

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 \$10 - max. 40-45 words, and \$25 for longer obituaries - 50-120 words. 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.

CALIFORNIA

VERNIS ALLEN, age 99, entered life November 28, 1917 in Illinois and died June 12, 2017 in Long Beach, CA. She joined Evening Star No. 426 in January 1967 with her husband Howard, who died in 2010. She is survived by three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

LOUISE VOGELSBERG, 86, died on June 9, 2017. She was born in San Francisco in 1931 and joined Framåt No. 405 in El Cerrito, CA in 2007. Louise was active

in the Swedish American Patriotic League and Sveadal. She is survived by daughter Linda Beroza.

EDNA WIKLUND PETERSON OLSON was born Dec. 7, 1913 in Clovis, CA, joined Framåt No. 405 in Berkeley, CA in 1984 and died at the age of 103 on April 4, 2017. She was widow of Eddie Johnson and Roy Olson. Edna is survived by many grand- and great-grandchildren.

OREGON

DORIS CONSTANCE (MANSKE) PLAYER died at the age of 90. Born and

raised in Astoria, she joined Astor Lodge No. 215 in June 1973 and received both her 25- and 40-year membership pins. Doris will be missed.

WASHINGTON

ROBERT RANEY, SR died May 30, 2017 at the age of 89. He was a member of Svea Lodge No. 469, Longview. He is survived by his wife Shirley of 65 years. He was preceded in death by a son and a daughter.

DISTRICT LODGE NEWS

DL No. 6 NJ



GLD Kevin DeFeo pinned Helen Johnson Haumacher and gave her the 60 year certificate.

Helen Johnson Haumacher received her 60 year membership pin at our Golden Colony dinner celebration held annually at Vasa Park, Budd Lake, NJ, in June. She was surprised to walk into the room to be greeted by her children, granddaughter and niece and nephew who were there to celebrate her. She joined Lodge Trygve No. 88 in 1957 at the official visit of the District Master who happened to be her father, Carl G. Johnson. After 110 years, Trygve merged with Baltic-Framat No. 360 in 2015, but Helen transferred to Arlington No. 62 because it is closer to her home. Over the years, she has been involved in the Vasa Order of America in several capacities. She was and continues to be involved in lots more.

SUBMITTED BY ARTHUR HAUMACHER

DL No. 12 GOLDEN GATE

In June we had our annual Sweden Day 2017 at the historic Swedish American Hall. The splendiferous day was organized entirely by Roxanne and Junior Past District Master Scott Schulkin who is also the Chairman of Fylgia Lodge No. 119. The social event started with Vice District Master Sven-Ove Westberg—Chairman of Sveaborg Lodge No. 449 and native of Gällivare in the Lappland province of Sweden—presenting Swedish Genealogy 101. Roberth Sundell, from Pläj Scandinavian Restaurant & Bar and native of Stockholm, then made a wonderful presentation on what is today considered Scandinavian cuisine. For lunch he made savory landgång sandwiches with salted Bay Shrimp, Matjes herring, beet cured gravlax, elk terrine, and syltrulle on lamb.



Roberth Sundell's landgång sandwiches with salted Bay Shrimp, Matjes herring, beet cured gravlax, elk terrine and syltrulle on lamb.

Swedish music provided by Fiddlers Toby Blome and Fred Bialy.

SUBMITTED BY JIM MELIN

DL No. 8 SCHOLARS of Vasa

Study diligently the course you have Choose to follow; conscientiously apply all that you Have learned in your scholarly journey this far; Open your minds to the wealth of knowledge that surrounds you; Let this experience live with you as you travel through life; becoming Aware of all the things; and Remembering your heritage, as you pass it along to everyone you meet. Success to you in the future.
Christine Kilstrom, May 6, 2017

DL No. 13 PACIFIC NW



Fall E-Board Meeting District 13 Officers in attendance were (L-R front row) Scholarship Chairman John Erickson, Co-DH Bernice Pearson, Auditor Steve Matthews (back row) Cultural Leader Alana Brandstrom, Trustee Barrett Monsaas, Secretary Michael Berg, GLH/ Co-DH Alice Iverson, District Master Jim McGinley, GLD/Treasurer Judy Rust, EBM #1 Inger Merrick, Membership Chairman Jeri-Gannon Matthews.



Left: District Master Jim McGinley and his wife Carol presented a "onesie" with the design by Jim featuring a Swedish flag with the words, "Ellie, our Svea baby," to Bernice Pearson after the birth of her new granddaughter, Ellie Svea Pearson.

The Chinook's Restaurant, Salmon Bay in Seattle was the start of a fun-filled weekend for the Executive Board member's spring meeting. We are so blessed to have such congenial, fun-loving, yet hard working district officers. Chairman of the District Scholarship Committee John Erickson announced the scholarships for 2017: awarded to Samantha Baker, Nobel Lodge No. 184 and Vanessa Jackson, Frihet Lodge No. 401. Curtis Mahon, North Star Lodge No. 145, was our Vasa Youth Exchange student to Sweden this summer.

Barrett Monsaas, chairman of Frihet Lodge, mentioned various points of interest in the Ballard area including the Leif Erickson statue, Nordic Heritage Museum and Byen Bakeri. We were told of how two Svea members, Olaf and Jennifer Pearson, recently had a baby daughter, named

Eleanor Svea Pearson. Baby Ellie joins big brother Dane Elving and sister Finnley Kaja. They are the grandchildren of Bernice and the late Donald Pearson. Don's parents, Jennie and Elving Pearson, were charter members of Columbia Lodge No. 609, Rosburg, Washington and later transferred their membership to Svea Lodge No. 469 when Columbia Lodge disbanded. Frihet members, Kathy Pratt, Janice Dobbs, Steve and Julie Hanson, all served coffee and treats, and a delicious lunch provided by the lodge. Sincere thanks go to Barrett Monsaas and Alana Brandstrom for hosting a delightful weekend for the District Executive Board Meeting. Ja, sure, Ja betcha, we had a great time!

SUBMITTED BY BERNICE PEARSON

LOCAL LODGE NEWS

Fylgia No. 119

SAN FRANCISCO, CA / Fylgia hosted the district's Sweden Day at the Swedish-American Hall in San Francisco. Sven-Ove Westberg presented genealogy streams in Sweden and Corky Peterson presented a lecture on how to trace your ancestors in the U.S. We enjoyed an account of how Roberth Sandell created Pläj, his restaurant in San Francisco, then were treated to sandwiches that were out of this world and contained shrimp, matjes herring, beet cured gravlax, elk terrine and syltrulle on lamb. In the afternoon Sara Ann Knutson presented a video on "The Image of Viking Women Then and Now," and

we finished the day with traditional Swedish dancing.

In July we visited Timbre, Mark Walstrom's new store and listened to him explain the history of musical instruments in Sweden—the most notable being the nyckelharpa. I became the 101st person in the U.S. to own one and began a new musical journey. In August we hosted our annual crayfish feast at Nordic House in Berkeley.

Fylgia will celebrate its 110th anniversary in October. November's program will be Olander Night – with Scott and Roxanne Schulkin. We look forward to our annual December Julbord.

SUBMITTED BY DIANNE DAHLBERG



Above, Golden Gate Fields Day At The Races in May
Far left: Mark Walstrom and his Shoe Fiddle
Left: Dianne Dahlberg with nyckelharpa



Chairman Karie Iverson Presenting 70 year pin to Ina with her children Cheryl Galipeau, John Swanson and Linnea Kahler

Tegnér No. 224

MISSOULA, MT / Greetings from the Big Sky Country. This year started out bad as meetings were cancelled because of blizzard conditions and slick roads. This meant our officers were installed in February. Our entertainment after this meeting was a movie showing the early days of Missoula. Our members Roy and Jody Anderson had visited Japan and brought several recipes—some members took the recipes home for the next meeting. The result was an excellent dinner enjoyed by everyone and a video showing the Andersons' trip. Usually our meetings start with a potluck dinner before the meeting and entertainment, but in April, a large cake was purchased to



Chairman Karie Iverson with Ina Swanson.

celebrate several birthdays after the meeting. Midsummer was celebrated at the Benson Farm again—the highlight of the year. During the celebration one of our members, Ina Swanson was presented with a 70-year pin by her children.

SUBMITTED BY RICK SWANSON



Three Thule Lodge No. 127 members' birthday were recently recognized: Historian John Sipos, Chairman Tom Eckberg and Past District Master Edwin Sandberg.

Thule No. 127

JAMESTOWN/BEMUS POINT, NY / The summer is a busy time and the weather has been mild this year. Our lodge participated in the annual three-day Scandinavian Folk Festival, which had music, dancing, food, gifts and more. Many thanks for the leadership of Don Sandy throughout this event. Summer birthdays were celebrated

with a special cake of Swedish colors, and in late August we had the annual corn and hot dog roast at the lodge. Thule always welcomes visitors, and if you are in our area, please stop by. God dag to all.

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SIPOS

Tegner No. 149

OAKLAND, CA / Members enjoyed a presentation by Cultural Leader Kitty Hughes about the Swedish painter Gunnar Widforss at our April meeting. She had interesting pictures to share and said some originals could be seen at Alfred Harrison's North Point Gallery in Berkeley (see article on p16 in this issue of Nordstjernen). We had an informal meeting in May, where members shared memories of Midsummer celebrations. Sveaborg Lodge No.449 was host of the an-

nual Tri-Lodge Picnic this year at Redwood Regional Park—at which Tegner members were very happy winners of the Kubb Tournament. Our players were Nani Lofstrom, Jesse Lane and Jan Norberg, and we took home the trophy for the year. We are looking forward to celebrating our 109th Anniversary in November and of course Lucia in December.

SUBMITTED BY ANN TENNIS

Nobel No. 184

PORTLAND, OR / In May we celebrated the lodge's 106th anniversary, attended by DL Pacific Northwest No. 13 District Master Jim McGinley and his wife Carol. After dinner, Lisa Lemke and Jeff Klein received their 50-year membership pins. Lisa and Jeff both started their Vasa experience at early ages, dancing with Portland Vasa Junior Rosebuds. Lisa was one of five representatives to travel to Sweden as part of the Western Vasa Youth Group Tour in 1964. Each of them have served in many offices through the years—

congratulations to Lisa and Jeff for their many contributions to Nobel Lodge and the Vasa Order. The DL No. 13 scholarship winners were announced and includes our member Samantha Baker. Samantha and her sister Alexis, who was a scholarship winner in 2015, have been counselors at the Trollbacken Swedish Language Camp in Oregon. We wish both Samantha and Alexis all the best in their academic pursuits.

SUBMITTED BY ELSIE NORDBY



Samantha Baker (left) is congratulated by Chairman Alice Iverson and her sister Alexis Baker.

Left: 50-year membership honorees Lisa Lemke and Jeff Klein cut the Nobel Lodge anniversary cake.



Astor No. 215

ASTORIA, OR / This year marked 50 years for the Scandinavian Festival in Astoria, Oregon! The Festival honored all present and past princesses. Here are 2017 Miss Sweden, Kara Dowaliby, her mother Dixie Dowaliby (princess in 1983) and her sister Meg Dowaliby (princess and Miss Scandinavia 2012). They are all members of Astor Lodge. We are so proud of them for keeping our Swedish culture alive at the festival and during the year at lodge events.

SUBMITTED BY SUSAN JENSEN & TERRY ARNALL
2017 Miss Sweden, Kara Dowaliby, her mother Dixie Dowaliby (princess in 1983) and her sister Meg Dowaliby (princess and Miss Scandinavia 2012).

Svea No. 253

INDIANAPOLIS, IN / In May we had Robert "Polka-Bob" Klemen play the accordion, while others danced. June found us celebrating Midsommar as usual, and in August we had yummy crayfish from IKEA, and a wonderful smörgåstårta made by Judi Carlstrand.

Our upcoming events are: Sept. 10 (John Bevelhimer presents: The Founding of Svea Lodge #253); Oct. 1 (Glen and Judi Carlstrand present: Summer Culture in Sweden); Nov. 5 (Brenda Miller presents: An Overview from the Viking Spindle to the Early 1800s).

SUBMITTED BY JAMES HOOK



Left: Bob "Polka" Klemen playing the accordion in May.

Below: The June 2017 Midsommar festival procession.

Below, left: Judi Carlstrand and the great smörgåstårta she made for the Kräftskiva 2017.



Brahe No. 245

ROCKFORD, IL / On a warm June day, Brahe members enjoyed a boat ride on the Forest City Queen where we saw our beautiful city on the Rock River and marveled at some of the sites that are only visible from the river. We had a snack at the Prairie Street Brewery, originally the home

of the Rockford Brewery which had been closed since the days of Prohibition and is now restored. Also in June, several members traveled to West Allis, Wisconsin to help celebrate Linde Lodge's 90th birthday party. In July we had a picnic at Rockford's Swedish Heritage Park and a corn boil in August.

SUBMITTED BY GARY JOHNSON



Dave and Char Tollin, Dennis Eksten, Gunnel Stewart, Vivian Anderson, Roy and Karen Yliälo, Gary and Carol Johnson

Nobel No. 288

MOLINE, IL / Nobel Lodge No. 288 of Vasa Order of America was founded with 14 charter members in Moline, Illinois, February 22, 1914. One hundred and three years later, due to a dwindling membership, the lodge held its last meeting July 6, 2017 and will merge with Bishop Hill Lodge No. 683. Of the seven members on record at the time of dissolution, only four attended all the meetings. They were Linda Lootens, chairman, Elayne Hogan, secretary, chaplain, auditor, Karen Heinzl, treasurer, and Lilly Setterdahl, MC, historian and auditor. The other three members were Linnea Thompson, Mitch and Margaret Esken. Recently, we have met most often at restaurants or in a member's home.

We celebrated our 100th anniversary on April 5, 2014 at Community Christian Church, 4330 12th Avenue, Moline with a Smörgåsbord, and about 40 guests, including four district officers and several members of the Bishop Hill lodge. Rollie Kraus and Roger Anderson of Bishop Hill provided the entertainment by portraying Ole and Lena, the much beloved Scandinavian characters.

Our members agreed that it was sad to dissolve our lodge, but our chairman Linda is moving to Ooltewah, Tennessee in August, and we couldn't see a way to continue. Elayne Hogan, our eldest member, is 91 and has been a member of our lodge for 70 years. Through the years, she has faithfully attended meetings. She served as chaplain and auditor for many years and as our secretary from Oct. 4, 1912.

We celebrated our 100th anniversary on April 5, 2014 at Community Christian Church, 4330 12th Avenue, Moline with a Smörgåsbord, and about 40 guests, including four district officers and several members of the Bishop Hill lodge. Rollie Kraus and Roger Anderson of Bishop Hill provided the entertainment by portraying Ole and Lena, the much beloved Scandinavian characters.

Since 2013, we have donated thousands of dollars to the Vasa Archives. The funds were used for a new vacuum cleaner, three display cases, and new toilets. At our last meeting, we finalized our donation of \$5,000

At our anniversary celebration, I related some of the history of our lodge that I had translated from original minutes that were written in Swedish and deposited at the Vasa Archives in Bishop Hill, Illinois. Unfortunately, we are lacking minutes for long periods of time: 1960-1986; May 1990-May 2002; and 2011-2012. If found, they should be deposited at the Vasa Archives. An album with pictures from the convention in Moline in 1984, a list of names of people who have belonged to our lodge, and other material concerning the history of our lodge were on display.

SUBMITTED BY LILLY SETTERDAHL



Elayne Hogan, Lilly Setterdahl, and Karen Heinzl, standing, and Linda Lootens sitting in the front.

Svea No. 348

SAN JOSE, CA / In August we met at the San Jose Odd Fellows Hall for our 101st Anniversary Dinner Celebration. The evening started with Vicki Fedor-Thurman serving her home-grown and farm fresh savory tomatoes as hors d'oeuvres, followed by a scrumptious catered dinner from Buca de Beppo arranged by Keith and Marilyn Crawford. Franz Mayrhofer served Chianti brought from Tuscany, Italy to complement

the dinner that was followed by delicious desserts. Marilyn then made an informative presentation on the history of Svea No. 348 and our founder Edward Anderson. She was assisted by Franz who helped her research Anderson, who was born in Sweden. We then honored our 40- and 50-year members. Art Beddeson, Ann Marie Van Horn, David Carlson, and Ev Olson were awarded 50yr jewels, GM Tore Kellgren, Birgitta Kellgren and Per Sjöman received 40yr pins.

SUBMITTED BY JIM MELIN

lodge switched to using English. With the start of Morning Star in 1967, Evening Star rapidly grew in membership. Morning Star charter member Haakan Spaberg is now the District Master in DL No. 15. Anthony and Johnny Barry were also charter members, and their mother, Anita Barry, holds the longest member-

ship of 62 years in Evening Star. We are also planning our famous crayfish party to be at 5 p.m. on September 16 at Brookfield Manor Club House, 9850 Garfield Ave, Huntington Beach.

SUBMITTED BY GUNLOG SPABERG

Evening Star No. 426

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA / Our May meeting was a potluck with Annika Haghighi in charge. We discussed our upcoming 95th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of Morning Star Children's Club, a celebration that will

take place at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Garden Grove on December 16, 2017 with our Christmas and Lucia party. Evening Star was established with 32 charter members in 1922 in Long Beach, and it wasn't until 1947 that the

Linde No. 492

MILWAUKEE, WI / Our April meeting was held at members Cris and Susanna Rosario's "Paddleboard Specialists" shop, a great store and delightful presentation of the fun water sport. June's highlight was Linde's 90th anniversary party with over 100 guests from all over, including seven visiting lodges, a complete Swedish meal with everything you can think of, wonderful entertainment by Lekspel and the Swedish-American Children's Choir, and much fellowship. We also celebrated the traditional Midsommar at Old World Wisconsin in June. August 26 was our annual kräftskiva at the Ekstrand's home - it's

always a blast with a competitive game of kubb.

A road trip on September 23 will take us to Stoughton, Wisconsin's Norwegian Heritage Center, and save the date for the annual Scandinavian Festival in New Berlin on October 7! We are making plans for November and on Dec. 3 in our Christmas Luncheon; on Dec. 12 is Lucia at Whitnall Park Church.

Contact Liza at 262.366.9152 or email lekstrand@wi.rr.com for more information - we always welcome everyone - and we always have food!

SUBMITTED BY LIZA EKSTRAND

Linde's 90th anniversary party - past and current Linde chairmen - (from left, back row): Mike Kinservik, Lillemor Horngren, Liza Ekstrand - current, Brent Erickson. (from left, front row): Marion Bruce, Les Touve, Marge Gruel, Richard Horngren.



Midsommar celebration at Old World Wisconsin - Majstång procession led by PC Brent Ericson and with music by Mary Stetson.

Linde's 90th anniversary party - with entertainment by the Swedish American Children's Choir from St. Charles, IL. See them again Oct.7 at Scandinavian Festival (see ad in this issue!)



"The Art of Fika" event - Scandinavian sandwiches served.

Left: Midsommar 2017 (l-r): Kris Palo, Mike Bowman, Lorentz Koagedal.

Linnea No. 504

PETALUMA, CA / "The Art of Fika" was the theme of our Spring Scandinavian potluck luncheon in April, with delicious food and an informal presentation by Dianne Provenzano. We celebrated Midsommar at the lovely home of members Lorentz and Bonnie Koagedal—from the delicious food and the making of festive headpieces, to decorating the maypole and dancing around it, everyone's participation made it a wonderful event for young and old alike. We are busy planning for

the rest of year's events: August's BBQ on the patio, a "combo" Oktoberfest and Halloween Party, a luncheon to celebrate our lodge's 90th anniversary in November, and the grand finale of the year is our Lucia Fest, complete with a smörgåsbord, world renown homemade glögg, Lucia pageant and tomtenissarna. Check our website www.linnealodge.wix.com/linnealodge to find out more or search Facebook for "Linnea Lodge 504-Petaluma."

SUBMITTED BY MARY WAHLBERG

Joe Harbor No. 534

BENTON HARBOR-ST JOSEPH, MI / In August, 10 members traveled to Bishop Hill, Illinois to visit the Vasa National Archives and the cultural sights in town. With the assistance of Archivist Kathy Cuff, the group reviewed minutes, pictures and other artifacts related to the Joe Harbor Lodge going back to the lodge's founding in 1929. At the end of the day, Bishop Hill No. 683 hosted a fabulous potluck, and new friendships were made as members from the two lodges enjoyed lively conversation and wonderful food that included Swedish meatballs with lingonberry sauce, limpa bread, Swedish cookies and many other tasty treats. The following day included a visit to Carl Sandburg's birthplace and the Railroad Museum in Galesburg, Illinois.

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS LUNDGREN



Centered are Chairman Judy Anderson of the Bishop Hill Lodge and Chairman Alan Wenstrand of the Joe Harbor Lodge with members of both lodges.

Phoenix No. 677

PHOENIX, AZ / Our long, hot summer is in full swing, and we take a hiatus until September 23. We are looking forward to the program about Jenny Lind, Song-bird of Sweden, on that date; then our



Katarina, Birgitta and Margareta enjoying our lodge's anniversary party!

October 21 meeting features an in-depth look at the always favored Dala horse. Also at that meeting, we will elect leaders for the coming year. November 4 will see us busy putting on our Jul Bazaar, with Scandinavian items for sale, some of the antique variety and some handmade, plus our always welcomed Cookie Walk! Our final, and most loved event, the Lucia Fest, takes place on December 9 in Burns Hall, Shepherd of the Valley

Church from 1-4 p.m. All these events need volunteers and we are always happy to add to our roster. Consider giving your hands for just an hour to make work lighter for all of us. You will meet charming people and enjoy yourself in the bargain. We hope to see you in September!

SUBMITTED BY ROMY SOLOMONSON



Bishop Hill No. 683

BISHOP HILL, IL / In June, Bishop Hill had a great day for midsommar. Ernie Sandquist played music while the flowers were added to decorate the Maypole at 4 p.m. Many people were in the park to help, then Ernie led the procession down to the

Colony School. Patty Christiansen lead the dances, then a light meal was provided. In July the lodge went to Richmond Hills Theater to see a play in the old barn, always an enjoyable activity.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF ANDERSON

Norden No. 684

FRESNO, CA / In August we enjoyed our annual Crayfish and Salmon Potluck at Corky and Mike Peterson's home in Fresno. The afternoon was fun—we celebrated several birthdays and visited with friends we hadn't seen all summer. The food is always delicious and many yummy desserts were brought to the potluck. Carol Niederfrank was initiated and wel-

comed as a new lodge member, and we all signed a card for Helen Fosdick who is in the hospital. Everyone is looking forward to our 49th Annual Anniversary Luncheon on September 2, 2017 at the Cattlemen's restaurant in Selma, 12-3 p.m. The food is always great—welcome!

SUBMITTED BY CLYDA DEHN



Mike Peterson, Cindi and John McGuire, Corky Peterson and Carol Niederfrank.



Vinland No. 703

CAPE COD, MA / Rain on our Midsummerfest in June caused us to dance around a support column inside our church meeting place, rather than our

traditional flower bedecked Maypole! Sonya Westerback and Vinland friend Betty Boothe provided Swedish folk dance music on their accordions. Wonderful and caring fellowship all around! The District Convention is Sept. 16 in Marlboro and our fall

lodge meetings are on Sept. 23, Oct. 21 and Nov. 11. The Luciafest is planned for Dec. 9. All meetings are at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in East Harwich.

SUBMITTED BY DOROTHY ANN ELLNER KEAN

Dalahäst No. 742

TINTON FALLS, NJ / In May 2017 lodge members gathered data on their ancestors and friends and flagged them on a Scandinavian map. How fun to learn two members' fathers were born in the same town, and many families were from the same area. Some members have no blood connections to Scandinavia but we wanted to try to include everyone and offered special criteria for flying the Swedish flag: 1) you were born there; 2) you have family members who live there; 3) you have lived in a place or visited friends there. Our lodge has just over 30 members and we were able to pinpoint nearly 60 different cities or towns.

SUBMITTED BY KATHLEEN EVANS



SWEDISH NEWS

Sweden America Day, John Ericsson celebration, SAY 2017

The celebrations began in Långban, near Filipstad in central Sweden, where many met at Anna Karolinas Kök, the restaurant at the John Ericsson Farm. Several Vasa lodge members from Sweden's Norra and Södra districts were there. Representatives from the U.S. Embassy, Kinship Center and John Eriksson Society were also in place, as were many other guests. Hosting the lunch was the Filipstad municipality represented by Martina Isaksson and Torbjörn Parling. We were served roast beef with potatoes and roasted root vegetables with several side dishes. After coffee and dessert, DL 19 District Master Maggie Ahlin Thelin thanked Filipstad for the luncheon before we moved on to more celebrations in Filipstad.

Ola Hansson gathered his crew with the John Ericsson group to prepare for a reenactment of the naval Battle of Hampton Roads, which was performed on Saturday in the bay near the Mausoleum of John Ericsson, who lived 1803-1889. Many volunteer hours go into preparing the boats, building Fort Monroe, and setting up for the sound effects needed to illustrate the historic Civil War battle that

Ericsson helped the North Americans win in 1862. When we arrived at the mausoleum for the reenactment, a large audience had gathered. Swedish, American, Canadian, Vasa Order of America and Odd Fellows flags and banners were flying, and the program began with music played by the Karlstad marching band. Municipality Chairman Marina Isaksson greeted us and spoke about John Ericsson's inventions and life in Sweden and the U.S., we heard from the U.S. Embassy Head of Public Affairs Mark Cameron, and we sang the American and Swedish national anthems.

Chairman of the Swedish-American of the Year Committee Connie Grön told us about the Vasa Order and about John Ericsson's last trip to the United States to his final rest at the beautiful mausoleum. She also introduced the 2017 Swedish-American of the Year, Jan Eliasson, who received a statue of Nils Ferlin from the municipality of Filipstad. Eliasson then completed the placing of the wreath at the mausoleum, and the celebration ended with "Värmlandsvisan."

Everyone went down the steep hill to experience the historic Battle of Hampton

Roads under the leadership of Erik Gustavsson. The battle between Merrimack and Monitor of 1862 signified the beginning of the end of the Civil War. The smoke from gunpowder and clouds lay heavy over Kyrkviken bay as we left Filipstad for a continued journey toward Karlstad and the celebration of this year's Swedish-American.

2017 SAY Celebration

The celebration of the 2017 Swedish-American Jan Eliasson

Hundreds of party-dressed and happy people gathered in Karlstad and were welcomed by community representative Christian Norlin, District Master DL 19 Maggie Ahlin Thelin and chairman of the Kinship Center Eva Eriksson. The toastmaster P.G. Öberg urged us to head out to the garden where we enjoyed a performance by dancers from the Gundega Ballet; the nice entertainment was an appropriate start of this celebratory night.

We made the short walk across the street to the city's main hotel, Stadshotellet, and we were re-introduced to the 2017 Swedish-American Jan Eliasson. Connie read the motivation and awarded Eliasson the Golden Plaque.



H.E. Jan Eliasson at the John Ericsson monument in Långban.

He received gifts of Orrefors candlesticks with the Vasa emblem, Vasa district honor banners, a beautiful wooden bowl and a Klässbol runner, then offered a very nice acceptance speech and shared episodes from his fascinating life.

The evening proceeded with good food and drink as the toastmaster led us through every procedure. Connie concluded the eve-

ning by giving praise to the musicians, including Boel Johansson, who performed "What a Wonderful World" accompanied by the toastmaster on guitar and thanked with a rose. The night's last thanks went to the celebration's composer and conductor Erik Gustavsson who received a bouquet of flowers and standing ovations.

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE GRÖN

Härnösand No. 673

HÄRNÖSAND, SWEDEN / Logen Härnösand firade Sverige-Amerikadagen. I soligt väder samlades ett trettiotal syskon och gäster på Rö Folkets Hus. Mycket trevligt bemötande från Johannes och Renate Menzel som stod för värdskapet. Vår ordförande Lars-Erik Magnusson, hälsade alla och vår underhållare mycket välkomna. Han berättade om Vasa Orden och relationerna till släktingar i USA och Kanada. Sedan spelades Svenska och Amerikanska nationalsångerna. Vår underhållare Jarmo Nykyri spelade och

sjöng sedan ett antal fina svenska och amerikanska låtar och fick stora applåder. Han avslutade med Den blomstertid nu kommer. Många hade tagit med picknick, som avnjöts i det fina vädret. Vi hade också ett lotteri med många fina vinster som rönne uppskattning. Lars-Erik tackade för en trevlig eftermiddag och sedan begav vi oss hemåt.

SUBMITTED BY BOSSE SELIN

Jarmo Nykyri spelade och sjöng fina svenska och amerikanska låtar



After a long career in Sweden's Foreign Service, Jan Eliasson was the Swedish Ambassador to the U.S. 2000-2005. In June 2005 he was the first Swede to be elected chairman of the UN General Assembly, a mandate that lasted until 2006. In 2006 he was appointed Swedish Foreign minister. He served as Deputy Secretary General of the UN from 2012 until Dec. 31, 2016.

SWEDISH NEWS

Höganäs No. 634

HÖGANÄS, SWEDEN / Årets Sverige-Amerikamöte 1 juli gästades av 3 amerikanska gäster och 11 Vasasyskon från andra loger. VO Inger Bengtsson hälsade alla välkomna, speciellt vår DD Rolf Hansson, som stannar kvar som DD i ytterligare en period. Fanparaden utfördes av Kerstin och Calle Nilsson, Agneta Bergström-Hult och Yngve Hult. Kaplan Bodil Larsson läste prologen till fanorna.

Under Kontakt Amerika berättade Kulturledaren om Årets Svensk Amerikan, Jan Eliasson. Logehistorikern rapporterade från ett logemöte på 80-talet och fortsatte med ett utdrag ur Torbjörn Gerwards bok Gruvminnen. Mötet avslutades med sedvanlig ljussläckningsceremoni.

Salen iordningställdes för bankett, Mats Nilsson spelade pampig ingångsmusik och alla intog sina platser. Efter VO Inger hälsat alla välkomna, utbringade Ove Thornblad med hjälp av Ceremonimästaren kvällens första skål och leve för HM Konungen och Kungssången sjöngs. Traditionellt serverades kokt lax med tillbehör, glass, jordgubbar och vispgräde och allt smakade fantastiskt gott. Hög stämning, och när alla var mätta och glada, tackade DD Rolf för maten. Kaffe och kakor serverades och dansen tog vid. Golvet fylldes snabbt av dansglada Vasasyskon. Till avslutning sjöng Leif Larsson "We'll meet again" vilket blivit en tradition vid våra högtidsmöten. Lo-



gemötet i september blir "Skånsk afton" med besök av Kullabygdens Släktforskare och information till blivande nya medlemmar. I oktober blir det utfärd till Malmö Opera och "Spelman på taket" och veckan därpå blir det logemöte med "Brödernas afton".

SUBMITTED BY BERIT OCH HANS BOGREN

Amerikanska gäster införes. Curtis Mahon och Daga-Karin Lindquist från North Star Lodge nr 145. Bertil Winther Golden Valley Lodge nr 616 / Evy Lindstrand och Curtis Mahon bjuds på lax / Knut Rosenkvist samtalar med de amerikanska gästerna / Samtliga gästande Ordenssyskon

STORMÄSTARENS MEDDELANDE

KÄRA VASASYSKON,
När du läser detta, är mina resor för året nästan slut. Sedan jag senast hade möjlighet att nå er alla på detta sätt har jag varit på två distriktssmöten:



DL Alberta No. 18 i Edmonton, Alberta, Kanada och DL Pacific Northwest No. 13 i Astoria, Oregon.

Planeringen av nästa Storlogemöte är i full gång. Snart kommer din loge att få ett brev med ett erbjudande om att sätta in en hälsning i programboken som vi ger ut till mötet. Fundera gärna på att placera en sådan hälsning. Alla intäkter går till att täcka kostnaderna för mötet. Arrangemang är på gång för utflykter i vår vackra huvudstad Sacramento och det omgivande guldgrävarlandet här i Kalifornien. Du kommer också att ha möjlighet att besöka San Francisco, inklusive det berömda Fisherman's Wharf. Om du inte är en tjänsteman eller delegat på mötet kommer du också att kunna välja mellan flera andra spännande utflykter. En notis

på sidan 5 i denna utgåva av Vasastjärnan ger mer information om tillgängliga aktiviteter.

Det är nu mindre än ett år till mötet, som kommer att hållas mellan 29 juni och 6 juli. Notera datum och tänk på att delta i denna mycket speciella Vasa-händelse som bara händer en gång vart fjärde år. Det här är en stor Vasa-upplevelse, där du får möjlighet att träffa Vasa-medlemmar från Kanada, Sverige och hela USA. Vid ert senaste distriktsmöte valde ni en Storlogedelegat. Kom ihåg att information om delegaten måste vara Storlogesekreterare Joan Graham tillhanda senast den 1 mars 2018.

Inånga tidigare nummer av Vasastjärnan bad jag alla sekreterare att skicka mig information om medlemmar som firar jämna födelsedagar fr.o.m. 75 år (i 5-års steg), inklusive varje år över 100. Tack till alla som har skickat det, och om det inte blivit av ännu så är det inte för sent, men skicka bara information om kommande födelsedagar.

Jag vill betona värdet av dina bidrag till Vasastjärnan med tanke på framtiden:

Skriv om kommande händelser i dina artiklar. Tänk tre till sex månader framåt. Detta skapar reklam för aktiviteter i din loge och ger läsare över hela vårt "Vasa Land" idéer till framtida program, samt möjlighet att besöka andra loger vid deras speciella evenemang. Skicka också in bilder med en bildtext som beskriver händelsen de är från och identifiera personerna i bilden.

Du kommer kanske ihåg att för ungefär ett år sedan skrev jag om att vi har ett avtal med Volvo där Vasa-medlemmar kan köpa en Volvo-bil med en rabatt som i princip motsvarar den rabatt man erbjuder sin egen personal. Volvo har nu utökat och formaliserat detta program. Det gäller alla Vasa-medlemmar i USA. Tyvärr erbjuder Volvo för närvarande inte något liknande program i Kanada eller i Sverige. För mer information kontakta GS Joan Graham eller mig själv.

För att bana väg för nästa paragraf vill jag säga att många loger gör ett utomordentligt bra arbete med medlemskap, har trevliga program och medlemmarna ser fram emot varje möte. Om detta gäller din

loge, fortsatt då göra ett bra jobb.

Jag har sagt det här förut, men det tål att upprepas: Medlemskap fortsätter att vara vår största utmaning. Logen skall ha en medlemsvårdskommitté, men den är inte ensam om ansvaret för medlemsvård och rekrytering – DET ÄR ALLAS JOBB! Genom att behålla logens medlemmar och dessutom få in nya kan din loge växa. För att detta ska hända är ett intressant logemöte viktigt. **Gör det värt att komma till mötet!** Konkurrencen om nuvarande och potentiella medlemmars tid är hård. Det är viktigt att ha mat på alla möten och ha program som medlemmarna inte vill missa. Kulturledare bör arbeta med logens medlemmar. Det är allas jobb att göra mötena attraktiva för nuvarande och framtida medlemmar. **EN ny medlem är allt jag ber om från var och en av er. Behåll alla nuvarande medlemmar!**

Var entusiastiska!

I SANNING OCH ENIGHET,
TORE KELLGREN, GRAND MASTER