

# THE VASA STAR



## *Vasastjärnan*

JULY-AUGUST 2008



Official publication of  
THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA  
*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization*  
Organized September 18, 1896



# Message from the Grand Master



Rolf Bergman

## Vasa brothers and sisters!

100th anniversary celebrations for DL Minnesota No. 7, DL Lake Michigan No. 8, and my own lodge, Nobel-Monitor No. 130, along with preparation for the GL Executive Board meeting, kept me rather busy in April and May. We also attended the DL New Jersey No. 6 convention in Cape May, NJ, and enjoyed renewing friendships there. One sad note in all the celebrations was hearing of the passing of DM Jim Nystedt, DL Lake Michigan No. 8, on the day his convention was to begin. Marty and I did have the honor of sharing a meal with him and his wife about a month earlier during the DL Minnesota convention, which they also attended. We appreciated the time together.

The Grand Lodge Executive Board made an important decision during its three-day meeting in Frankenmuth MI, **not to print and mail** the July/August issue of the Vasa Star in both 2008 and 2009. The other five issues per year will be printed and distributed as normal. Instead Editor Marie Carlson and Zimmermann Printing will produce an electronic version to be posted on the Vasa Order web site. So if you are reading this message you must have access to the internet or have had someone print a copy for you from the website.

The reason for the decision is budgetary. For the first two years of my term as Grand Master the Vasa Star costs are over budget by about \$25,000, due almost solely to increased mail costs, particularly to Sweden and Canada. By not printing and distributing two issues the Grand Lodge will save about \$24,000.

I understand that the Vasa Star is a very important part of the communication link between members of the Order and that many of you will be upset with this decision, particularly those who sent in articles and pictures. But the board also has an obligation to the Order to keep costs within that budgeted; thus the decision. The Grand Secretary notified each local and district lodge secretary of the decision not to print so I hope that the word has spread. Please let editor Marie or me know what you think of the web-only issue.

The increased postage costs, while perplexing, led to a creative solution for distribution of the Vasa Stars in Sweden. Instead of the current process of shipping Vasa Stars from Zimmermann to Sweden, we will use the Zimmermann prepared layout to print enough Vasa Stars in Sweden to satisfy the needs of our Swedish members, and then mail these from the Swedish printer to the individual homes in Sweden. Based on current quotes this process will cost about the same as the current shipping cost but will greatly improve service for our Swedish members. They now will get the magazine in the mail rather than waiting for the next lodge meeting. Thanks to Tore Tellberg, MGLEB, Sweden, for arranging for a printer in Sweden as well as arranging for special postal permits.

The drawing for the three monetary raffle prizes from the raffle tickets printed in the March/April issue occurred on July 3. Winners were drawn and have been notified. We hope to have their names and pictures in the next issue of the Vasa Star. Thanks you for your contribution to DL Pennsylvania No. 9's hosting of the Grand Lodge convention in 2010.

Finally thanks to VGM Bill Lunquist for his handling of the scholarships and his message in the last issue.

## Vasa Syskon!

100-års jubileer i DL Minnesota Nr. 7, DL Lake Michigan Nr. 8 och min egen loge, Nobel-Monitor Nr. 130, samt förberedelse inför Storlogens Exekutiva Råds möte, har tagit mycket av min tid i april och maj månad. Jag och Marty deltog också vid DL New Jersey Nr. 6:s möte i Cape May, NJ, där vi åter träffade många vänner. En sorglig händelse i allt firande var att höra att DM Jim Nystedt, Lake Michigan Nr. 8, dog samma dag, som hans distriktsmöte skulle börja. Marty och jag hade äran att intaga gemensam middag med honom och hans hustru ungefär en månad tidigare, när vi var tillsammans för att fira DL Minnesotas jubileum.

Jag vill meddela ett viktigt beslut, som Storlogens Exekutive Råd tog under de tre dagarnas möte i Frankenmuth, MI. Storlogens Exekutiva Råd beslutade att inte trycka eller distribuera juli/augusti numret av Vasa Star, både år 2008 och år 2009. De andra fem numren under året ska tryckas och distribueras som vanligt. I stället ska redaktören Marie Carlsson och Zimmermanns Tryckeri producera en elektronisk version av Vasa Star, som ska införas på Vasa Ordens webbsida. Om ni läser min skrivelse, vet jag att ni har åtkomst till Internet och webbsidan eller att någon tryckt en kopia till er av webbsidan.

Anledningen till ER:s beslut är budgeten. Under de första två åren av min period som Stormästare, har kostnaden för Vasa Star ökat med \$25 000 över budget, på grund av ökad portokostnad, skärskilt till Sverige och Kanada. Om vi inte trycker och distribuerar dessa två nummer, kommer Storlogen att spara runt \$24 000.

...

De ökande postkostnaderna medför funderingar kring en kreativ lösning, för hur vi skall distribuera Vasa Star till och inom Sverige. I stället för att skicka Vasa Star från Zimmermanns Tryckeri till Sverige, har vi beslutat att trycka det antal Vasa Star som behövs i Sverige och posta en Vasa Star till varje medlems hemadress. Priset för att göra detta är inte mer än kostnaden för frakten från tryckeriet i USA till varje loge i Sverige. Detta blir mycket bättre för svenska Vasamedlemmar, som då inte behöver vänta så länge eller delta i logemöte för att få Vasa Star i sin hand. Tack till Tore Tellberg, MSLER Sverige, för hans arrangemang av tryck i Sverige och posttillstånd.

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*Letter from the Editor*

This will be our first electronic issue of *The Vasa Star* accessed only through our *Vasa Web site* where it can be viewed and printed. Our 2nd such issue will be the Jul/Aug Vasa Star of 2009. The reason for making this change is due to higher printing and mailing costs and we have to respect that decision. My hope is that each Lodge makes hardcopies available at your next Lodge Meeting for those who do not have access to a computer or a printer.

The word respect is a very "big" word, and can relate to many things, for example why certain decision has to be made, why it is important to respect people/each person as an individual, and our environment. *Desert Viking Lodge #682* went on a trip to *Joshua Tree National Park*, and learned the importance of why it is essential that we respect "the fragile balance in the ecosystem". Look at page 12.

*Allemansrätten (Right of Public Access)* is something very unique that the country of Sweden has to offer, a privilege that is available to the Swedes but also something to regard and respect, something Mother Nature has to offer. Find out more under *Culture*.

**AN IMPORTANT REMINDER:** *Obituaries* received after July 1st, 2008, the cost structure will be changed. The cost for up to one column inch will be \$8.00; longer obituaries will be charged at the flat rate of \$25.00.

*Brev från Redaktören*

Det här är vår första elektroniska upplaga av *Vasastjärnan* endast tillgänglig på vår *Vasa Web site* där man kan läsa och ev trycka ut ett exemplar. Vår andra elektroniska upplaga av *Vasastjärnan* kommer i Jul/Aug 2009. Orsaken till denna förändring är på grund av höjda tryck- och postavgifter, ett beslut vi måste respektera. Min förhoppning är att varje loge trycker ut kopior tillgängliga för dem som inte har tillgång till en dator eller skrivare.

Ordet respekt är ett "stort" ord, och som kan relateras till en hel del, t ex varför vissa beslut måste tas, varför det är så viktigt att respektera andra människor/varje person som individ och vår omgivning. *Desert Viking Lodge #682* gjorde en utflykt till *Joshua Tree National Park* och lärde sig varför det är så viktigt att vi förstår och respekterar "den sköra balansen i vårt ekosystem". Se sidan 12.

*Allemansrätten* är något unikt i Sverige har att erbjuda, ett privilegium som är tillgängligt till svenskarna men också något vi måste vara aktsamma om och respektera, något vår natur har att erbjuda. Läs med under *Culture*.

**EN VIKTIG PÅMINNELSE:** Från och med den 1:a juli är avgiften för Dödsannonser förändrad. Kostnaden för en spalt inch (ca 3 cm) kommer att kosta \$8.00 dollar, längre dödsannonser kommer att kosta \$25.00

**Deadlines for The Vasa Star:**

Jan./Feb. is Dec. 1st  
March/April is Feb. 1st  
May/June is April 1st

July/Aug. is June 1st  
Sept./Oct. is Aug. 1st  
Nov./Dec. is Oct. 1st

*Deadline for Christmas ads: October 15<sup>th</sup>*  
*Deadline for Lucia articles is Dec. 24 – picture and article, 200 words or less.*

**Cover:**

**Svanar i Sankt Anna**

Sankt Anna ligger i *Östgötaskärgården* den största skärgården i Sverige med mängder av Öar. Den östgötska skärgården är betydligt mer beväxten än den i Göteborg som har mera kala klippor.

En av öarna är Sankt Anna som numera har en broförbindelse, ca 700 är fast boende och sommardid blir det dubbelt så många.

Andra kända öar är bl.a Harstena och Arkösund som nu skall byggas till ett semesterparadis med hamnar och bostäder vid Piren.

*Gryts skärgård* tillhör samma område och kallas Blå Kusten och sträcker sig från Oxelösund till Västervik. Många kända har ägt öar i området bl a Björn Borg.

Till Sankt Anna åker man genom Söderköping söder ut och tar väg #210 så hamnar man på just Sankt Anna. Om har ett rikt fågelliv. Under båtbyggen har svalan sitt bo med ungar, "Svalan har fått ungar och flyger i sin vik", skrev Taube.

Bilden är tagen från Lagnöströmmen, Sankt Anna. Det är stor segeltrafik där hela sommaren eftersom många har seglat *Göta Kanal* och tar av för att segla nedåt landet vartefter förbi Arkösund, Gryt och Harstena och sedan följa kusten ned mot Västervik och Öland.

Omslaget på svanarna tog Inge här i viken.

**Swans in St Anna**

St Anna is located in the *Östgöta archipelago* and is the largest archipelago in Sweden with lots of islands. This archipelago has more vegetation compared to Gothenburg's that consists mostly of rocks.

One of these islands is Saint Anna that now has a bridge; it has about 700 permanent residents and doubles during the summer months.

Some other famous islands are Harstena and Arkösund that is now being transformed in to a "vacation paradise" that is going to offer docks and housing right off the pier.

*Gryts Archipelago* is located along the same area and is called Blå Kusten, (The Blue Coast), and stretches from Oxelösund to Västervik. Many famous people have owned islands in this area, for example, Björn Borg.

You can get to St Anna by driving south through Söderköping and take Rt 210; it will take you directly into St Anna. The island has a rich bird population. The swallows build their nests under the docks where they raise their hatchlings, "Svalan har fått ungar och flyger i sin vik" wrote Evert Taube, (The famous Swedish poet and songwriter).

This picture is taken from Lagnöströmmen, St Anna. There are many sailboats passing through this area during the summer since many has sailed down the *Göta Canal* and continue to sail down south passed Arkösund, Gryt and Harstena to be able to follow the coastline towards Västervik and Öland. The picture of these swans on the cover, are taken near Lisbeth's and Inge's summer home.

Submitted by: **Lisbeth Qvarfordt-Hallberg**  
Picture by: **Inge Hallberg**



Marie

Marie

# ARCHIVES NEWS



Karen Snowberg

For three days in late May, the Archives had the pleasure of welcoming and making records available to Karen Snowberg who came to do research for the 100th anniversary of her local lodge, Freja #100 in White Plains, NY. She is a very active member in the Order, since joining just ten years ago. She is currently Chairman of Freja #100 in White Plains, NY, Cultural Leader of Göta Lejon #84 in Yorktown Heights, NY and the newly elected District Master of New York District #4.

Ms. Snowberg's itinerary, besides the stopover in Bishop Hill, included visiting with her sister in McFarland, WI, spending time with friends from her teen years in Sterling, IL, and teaching an early music seminar in Whitewater, WI. Though she has lived in New York for thirty years, she still counts the Midwest as her true home and probably will return to Wisconsin when she retires. In addition to being a professional musician, she is also a successful businesswoman who works for a market research firm in Pleasantville, NY.

The majority of Ms. Snowberg's work came from reading lodge minutes. She gained a treasure of information from the first of these large bound volumes, beginning September 12, 1908, when Freja #100 was initiated into the Order, through 1913. Beyond the normal listing of charter members and early motions to choose a name for the lodge and get the business concerns in good working order, she began to pick up on different strains of information about the lodge. She noted, for instance, that Freja had often received requests from neighboring lodges, like Göta Lejon, to take part in various social events and participate in raffles. A network of unity among lodges immediately came into effect, where acts of support among members in good and bad times were not only encouraged but expected.

Keep in mind that these minutes are all in Swedish. Yes, Ms. Snowberg reads Swedish quite well with occasional assistance from a dictionary. Her ancestors through her grandmother came from the southern section of Öland in Degerhamn where she has visited on numerous family trips. Exposure to the language in her travels and by taking Swedish classes back home has given her a very functional command of the language. She says that she reads the language a good deal better than she speaks it, but even in speaking she can get her message across when necessary.

Some of the highlights of her research included seeing in the first several decades of the lodge the compassionate care people extended Vasa members in need. They would frequently take extra collections beyond the regular sick fund to help the healing process of an ailing member. Freja Lodge even lent money across state lines, for example to help a person in a Connecticut lodge get sorely needed benefits.

Ms. Snowberg found it heartening to follow the health of members, who received benefits and moral support while sick until they at last returned to lodge meetings *frisk igen* (healthy again). In one humorous case (not so much at the time), a woman had applied for sick benefit but the committee sent out to greet her found the woman not at home but out enjoying herself at Rye Beach! The woman bitterly complained later in a letter about not receiving benefits, but the committee stood firm on its assessment of the situation.

During the 1920s the lodge held many formal balls, including even masked balls, but by the 1950s entertainment had switched to card games and square dances. During World War II, her lodge participated in fund drives to support the American troops in Europe. Interestingly, Swedes in the U.S. arranged to send coffee to Sweden, apparently during particularly austere times in Sweden when rationing did not allow enough of this essential drink back in the homeland. She also noted with interest that there used to be the custom on Memorial Day to decorate all the graves of past members with a small Vasa flag.

It was also interesting to see *Swenglish* in full force when the lodge switched to English in the middle 1940s. "Kaffe" for "coffee," "the" for "they" (think "de"), and "mayflour" for "mayflower" (majblomma) are a few examples.

There are many more details that came out of her research, but I wanted to share just a few as a celebration of Ms. Snowberg's effective use of the Vasa National Archives as a research center. The meeting minutes are records that clearly have enduring historical value. I want to thank Karen Snowberg for demonstrating this value with such flare and focus. Lodge Freja #100 in White Plains will receive an excellent perspective on its history come September 12, 2008. We congratulate Freja on its hundred-year anniversary and welcome members from other lodges to research its history at the Vasa Archives.

## Sammanfattning på svenska

Under tre dagar sent i maj, kom Karen Snowberg till Arkivet för att forska i sin loges långa historia. Hennes loge, Freja #100 i White Plains, NY, firar nämligen sitt hundraårsjubileum nu i höst och Karen håller på att samla information till en historisk överblick. Hon är en mycket aktiv medlem i Vasa Orden: Ordförande vid Freja #100, Kulturledare vid Göta Lejon #84 i Yorktown Heights, NY, och nyvald Distriktsmästare av New York Distriktloge #4.

Medan hon var i USAs mellanvästern passade hon på att besöka sin syster i Wisconsin och vänner i Illinois. Hon kommer ursprungligen ifrån Wisconsin, men har bott i New York i trettio år. Som professionell musiker håller hon seminarier i renässansmusik varje år i Wisconsin och som hon också gjorde under denna resa. Förutom musiker är hon affärskvinna och arbetar på en marknadsföringsfirma i Pleasantville, NY.

Eftersom Karen kan läsa svenska kunde hon använda sig av Frejalogens gamla protokollböcker. Genom att läsa protokollen, som började när Freja #100 grundades den 12:e September 1908, kunde Karen hitta många intressanta fakta. Hon upptäckte till exempel att närbelägna loger hade tidigt kontakt med Frejalogen och formade ett gemenskapsnätverk. Hon spårade vissa fall där medlemmar som blivit sjuka fick sjukpenning. Hon märkte också hur svenska språket överlevde protokollskrivandet när engelskan blev det officiella språket på 1940-talet.

Karens forskning på arkivet bevisar hur värdefulla logens gamla papper kan vara. Frejalogen kommer att få mycket information över sin historia när de har sitt jubileum i September. Vi gratulerar Frejalogen på sitt hundraårsjubileum och välkomnar andra Vasa medlemmar att forska sin loge-historia här på arkivet.

Submitted by: Lars Jenner

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# Swedish Language Lessons

by Lillemor and Richard Horngren

## LEARNING SWEDISH – LESSON 13

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As we are writing this, July is here already, where has the summer gone? Summer means many outdoor activities. However there will be times when you will sit and enjoy the nature around you, either by yourself or with family and friends. This will be your chance to really look at things around you. Since you are willing to learn Swedish we will devote this lesson listing things you may see from your lawn chair or front porch in the language of your forefathers.

Just a reminder that we are listing these words using these forms:

tree                      the tree                      trees

You will know if a word is common or neuter by using – en for the common form and –et for the neuter form.

träd, -et, ---	tree	solstol, -en, -ar	lawn chair
löv, -et, ---	leaf	balkong, -en, -er	balcony
gran, -en, -ar	fir, spruce	garage, -t, ---	garage
barr, -et, ---	pine needle	utegrill, -en, -ar	barbecue
buske, -n, -ar	bush	gunga, -n, -or	swing
gren, -en, -ar	branch	gungbräda, -n, -or	seesaw
kvist, -en, -ar	twig	gungstol, -en, -ar	rocking chair
gräs	grass	sandlåda, -n, -or	sandbox
gräsmatta, -n, gräsmattor	lawn	kopp, -en, -ar	cup
gräsklippare, -n, ---	lawnmower	tillbringare, -n, ---	pitcher
staket, -et, -en	fence	glas, -et, ---	glass
grind, -en, -ar	gate	duk, -en, -ar	tablecloth
trädgård, -en, -ar	garden	servett, -en, -er	napkin
blomma, -n, blommor	flower	tallrik, -en, -ar	plate
köksträdgård	vegetable garden	gaffel, -n, gafflar	fork
tomat, -en, -er	tomato	kniv, -en, -ar	knife
potatis, -en, -ar	potato	sked, -en, -ar	spoon
gurka, -n, gurkor	cucumber	stol, -en, -ar	chair
morot, -en, morötter	carrot	bord, -et, ---	table
sallad	lettuce	parasoll, -en, -er	garden umbrella
rädisa, -n, rädisor	radish	bok, -en, böcker	book
majs, -en, ---	corn	spel, -et, ---	game
sparris, -en, ---	asparagus	gäst, -en, -er	guest
brytböna, -n, brytböner	green beans	vän, -nen, -ner	friend
ärta, -n, ärtor	peas	välkommen	welcome

How about that!!!

We think you will be able to make some interesting sentences out of these words. Or at least you can learn the words and connect them to things you see outside your home. If you are entertaining your Swedish friends you can have a contest. Give your guests a pen and paper and ask them to write down in Swedish the things they see. Perhaps a prize could be awarded to the winner. Learning should always be fun and this would be one way. Good Luck!

# DL NEWS

## DL New Jersey #6

District Master Eric Johansson opened the 101st Convention of NJ District #6 at 9:05 a.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2008, at the Grand Hotel in beautiful Cape May, NJ.

Grand Lodge Officers and PDMs were introduced by PDM Palmer Hval. Grand Lodge Officers in attendance were: Grand Master, Rolf Bergman, and wife Marty; Vice Grand Master, William Lundquist, and wife Sheila, Vice District Master District Michigan #8; Grand Lodge Treasurer, Richard Overberg, and wife Dorothy; Grand Lodge Executive Board Member, Eastern Region, Pamela Genelli, and husband Jim; Grand Lodge Deputy District #6, John Larsson, PDM and wife Debbie; Grand Lodge Cultural Director-USA and Canada, Inger Hanright and husband Jack; and Grand Lodge Webmaster, Robert Anderson, PDM, and wife Carol.

Other Districts represented were: District Lodge PA #9, District Master, Linda Smith, and husband Dale.

NJ District #6 PDMs in attendance were: 1973 A. Leslie Swenson; 1982 Harry Sterner; 1984 Robert Anderson; 1985 Arthur Haumacher; 1989 Errol Ernstrom, 1990; Kenneth Saam, 1991; Paul Thenstedt, 1993; John Radel, 1994; Jerry Meloskie, 1996; Ingrid Casella, 1997; Howard Corneilson, 1998; Helen Haumacher, 2000; John Larsson; 2001 Richard Apgar, Jr.; 2002 David Carlson; 2003 Walter Emihl; 2004 Susan Knutson; 2005 Palmer Hval; and 2006 Arthur Bjorkner.

All District Officers were in attendance.

Installation of new Delegates was conducted.

The Delegation consisted of 32 Delegates, 21 District Officers, 18 PDMs, and 2 Emeritus members, making a total of 73 votes.

Helen Haumacher, Past Grand Lodge Deputy and PDM served as Parliamentarian. Appointed Tellers were Kenneth Saam, Harry Sterner, and A. Leslie Swenson. Carol Boyle served as Correspondent to the Vasa Home Family and Vasa Star.

The minutes of the 100th Convention were approved as corrected. It was suggested that, in future, corrected minutes be distributed as "Corrected Minutes" to



*Elected District Officers for the 2008-2009 term.*

Lodges instead of noting corrections in current Convention year minutes.

District Master Eric Johansson opened a discussion about submission of candidates' names for the Board of Trustees, NJ Vasa Park. The Delegation voted to waive the Bylaws dead-line for the 2008 Convention and additional nominations were accepted from the floor. The following were elected to 3-year terms as Trustees of NJ Vasa Park: Carol Boyle-Linne #429, Chad Peterson-Draken #731, Thomas Blake-Arlington #62, Mark Armstrong-Arlington #62, and Harry Swanson-Arlington #62. DM Eric Johansson congratulated the Delegation for their concern for the good of NJ Vasa Park by allowing the election of the Board of Trustees to move forward.

Jerry Meloskie was elected as Editor and David Carlson as Treasurer for the NJ Vasa Home Family, each for a 1-year term.

The District Master's report was read and accepted. DM Eric Johansson, being single, extended his heartfelt thanks to the ladies who supported him throughout the year.

PDM Walter Emihl conducted the Executive Board Minutes review and posed questions, which were satisfactorily answered. Executive Board member Fred Signor conducted the Vasa Park Trustees Minutes Review. Board President, Arthur Bjorkner, with assistance from Board Asst. Treasurer, Kevin DeFeo, answered all questions satisfactorily.

All other Annual Reports were reviewed. The District #6 newspaper, NJ Vasa Home Family, is investigating ways to increase revenue and cut spiraling costs, perhaps by hiring an Advertising

Manager and renewing the "Booster" program. It was suggested that a method to include "home-schooled" students in the NJ District #6 Scholarship Program be addressed. The Membership Committee has been very active this past year at the behest of our District Master, and is exploring "out-of-the-box" ways to attract new members to the Order. IRS requirements as mentioned in the Vasa Star were noted. Our Webmaster stressed the importance for Local Lodge Websites to be kept current. All reports were accepted.

During the break Delegates enjoyed the opportunity to visit with Vasa friends and family over a tasty Mexican-style luncheon buffet.

The Convention reconvened at 2 p.m. Credentials were reviewed and attendance was taken. Draken #731 Alternate Candace Peterson replaced Delegate Cathy Peterson.

Unfinished Business was discussed. A Pool Committee has been formed to oversee and conduct fundraising. The Vasa Park pool is being repaired and managerial staff is in place. If all goes according to plan, the pool will be open for abbreviated daily hours from July 4 through August 24.

The NJ Vasa Home Bylaws were approved as presented and corrected. Board of Trustees President Arthur Bjorkner congratulated the Bylaws Committee for a job well done.

New Business was addressed. The District Master's recommendation that the position of District Historian be a 1-year term was defeated, and the recommendation to hold a minimum of one membership seminar per year was approved.

*Continued on next page*

## DL New Jersey #6

*Continued from previous page*

The Delegation voted to raise the Per Capita Assessment by \$3.00 for the purpose of additional funding of the NJ Vasa Home Family effective January 2009. An additional vote approved a transfer of \$5,000.00 from the District Organizational Fund as a donation to NJ Vasa Home Family to enable publication of this vital information source to continue.

A motion was made and passed to put a hold on the Grand Hotel for 2010.

Several presentations were made. PDM Palmer Hval read a Resolution bestowing District Honorary Life Membership to Eric Johansson who satisfactorily completed his term as District Master. PDM Arthur Haumacher proposed a Resolution of Honorary Life Membership bestowing voice and vote on Terry O. Meloskie who has completed 11 years as District Historian. Both Resolutions were approved.

Donations presented included: \$1,000 to the Pool Fund from Jean Eriksson Widman and the Walter Eriksson Memorial Fund conveyed by Jerry Meloskie; \$6,000 donation to the Pool Fund from Arthur Haumacher and Family; \$1,900 from the Barn Dance to the Vasa Park Board of Trustees from Lou Casella, who extended thanks to all of his helpers at 1st Viking fundraisers over the years; and \$2,200 to the District #6 Scholarship Fund from Lodge Linne #429's Import Sale conveyed by Chairman Larry Pedersen.

GL Executive Board Member Pamela Genelli thanked District #6 for inviting her to the Convention, and reflected on why GL Officer attends: Vasa members are their extended family, and they come away with new, sometimes unexpected ideas. She also brought greetings from GL Deputy Ivar Anderson and wife Linda who were unable to attend this year.

The Saturday evening banquet began with a wonderful cocktail party which was followed by a delicious meal. Formal dress and native costumes added to the festive atmosphere. DM Eric Johansson was presented with the PDM Jewel by GL Deputy John Larsson who then asked Grand Master Rolf Bergman to pin it on Eric. Vasastjarnen Junior Club gave a lively performance, and later presented a donation to the Vasa Park Board of Trustees for the free use of Viking Hall for their practice sessions.

Our Sunday morning began with a Worship and Memorial Service lead by District Chaplain Jeanette Baker and

District Cultural Leader Carol McDermott. The Vasa Choir, accompanied by District Master Eric Johansson and Sister Jeanette, offered several beautiful anthems to enhance the service.

When Convention reconvened on Sunday, election of District Officers was held. Elected were: District Master - William "BJ" Peterson, Draken #731; Vice District Master - Deborah Larsson, Lyckan #507; District Secretary - Carol Anderson, Frithiof #63; Asst. District Secretary - Delores Christenson, Frithiof #63; District Treasurer - Kevin DeFeo, Tryggve #88, District Executive Board: Jack Hanright, Frithiof #63, Randy Pierson, Gothiod #486, and Fred Signor, Sveaborg #446; District Trustee - Helen Smith, Baltic-Framat #360; District Auditors - Inger Hanright, Frithiof #63 (3-year term) and Mark Bernabei, Gothiod #486 (2-year term); District Chaplain - Jeanette Baker, Three Crowns #704; District Cultural Leader - Carol McDermott, Viking #735, District Master of Ceremonies - Ken Christenson, Frithiof #63; Asst. Master of Ceremonies - Chad Peterson, Draken #731; District Inner Guard - Leonard Kudlack, Tryggve #88; District Outer Guard - Edwin O. Peterson, Dalahäst #742.

GM Rolf Bergman offered congratulations to the new officers and thanks to those completing their service, especially our outgoing BUSY DM, Eric Johansson, who lent his musical talents to Vasastjarnen dancers at the banquet and the earlier Worship Service. He and wife, Marty, were pleased to join District #6 again, and invited us to the Grand Lodge Convention in Washington, DC, in 2010. He offered one note of constructive criticism: "Please use correct Swedish spelling and pronunciation of Lodge names."

GL Treasurer Richard Overberg thanked District #6 for inviting him and wife, Dorothy, who was selling "Nordic" sweatshirts and Dala Horse pins as fundraisers for the Grand Lodge Convention. He expressed thanks to those involved in the morning's Worship Service. He offered thanks to Eric Johansson for a job well done, and wished good luck to "BJ" for the upcoming year. He admonished the new Delegates to "stay active," and repeated the call to recruit new members into the Order. Finally, he encouraged members of District #6 to attend the Grand Lodge Convention to support our Vasastjarnen Junior Dance Club which will be invited to perform. He reminded us we need to elect a Grand Lodge Deputy in 2009.

District Master, Linda Smith, District Lodge Pennsylvania #9, thanked us for the hospitality extended to her and husband, Dale. Their District will host the Grand Lodge Convention in 2010 and their own District Convention September 2008 both in Washington, DC. An invitation was extended to NJ District #6 members.

Cherstin Peterson, Dalahäst #742, gave an update on the health of PDM Roy Lindquist and his wife. PDM Palmer Hval, Viking #735, gave an update on the health of PDM George Nord and his wife, Marge.

DM Eric Johansson declared the Sunday afternoon session an Open Meeting. He expressed his great thanks to all Officers and Lodges for their support throughout his term. It has been a pleasurable, fun, and hopefully productive year. He thanked the Delegation for the Honor of being chosen to serve as our District Master.

New Delegates were presented with District Lodge membership pins.

GLD John Larsson lead the installation team: Arthur Haumacher as GL Master of Ceremonies; Jerry Meloskie as GL Secretary; Palmer Hval as GL Guard; Walter Emihl as Vice Grand Master and GL Chaplain; and Arthur Bjorkner as GL Treasurer and Trustee. Flag bearers were Jeremy Peterson (USA) and Brittany Offerding (Sweden).

GL Deputy John Larsson invested Eric Johansson with the emblem of Past District Master. All new District Officers were installed.

Announcements of upcoming events were made for the Good of the Order. Most importantly, Lodge Draken #731's Send Off for DM "BJ" Peterson will be on May 18 in Viking Hall at Vasa Park. All are invited.

DM "BJ" Peterson, dressed in a traditional Swedish costume, was escorted to the altar, at which time a number of gifts were presented to him by his family and Vasa friends. Most notably a gavel in the shape of a Wide Mouth Bass was presented by his daughter and Chairperson of Draken #731 Candace Peterson. "BJ" expressed thanks to GLD John Larsson and his team for a fine installation. He exclaimed, "Wow! Who would have thought I would be standing up here?" He thanked his family for their complete support, especially wife Cathy. Flower arrangements were presented to Marie Demboski and Marge Pierson in appreciation of their hands-on support over the past year. He also thanked Inger Hanright

*Continued on next page*

## DL New Jersey #6

Continued from previous page

for making his Swedish costume. He appointed Carol Hendrickson as District Photographer. Finally, DM "BJ" stated that his theme for the coming year will be "Tradition" and the return of some Vasa Park events remembered from his youth.

An invitation was extended to all to attend an informal reception for the new Officers following close of Convention. The Convention closed at 3:05 pm.

Submitted by: Jerry Meloskie

## DL Lake Michigan #8

Pictured is Howard E. Weaver in an "Immigrant" costume, having just landed at Ellis Island. This was part of Lake Michigan District #8's Centennial Celebration Convention at Frankenmuth, MI, May 16-18, sponsored by Viking Lodge #730, Flint, MI.

A highlight of the convention was District Historian Iva Linn and District Cultural Leader Vera Littlejohn's exhibits of Scandinavian immigrant's hardships coming to America via Ellis Island, and reenactment complete with "passports, boarding passes, health inspections, etc."

Our lodge members were delighted to see Sheila Lundquist installed as District Master. Her husband, Bill, is Vice Grand Master of the Vasa Order of America.

Our Fish Boil will be at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Fenton Rd., Flint, MI, on September 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Howard E. Weaver



Howard E. Weaver

## DL Arizona #21

The 15th Biennial Convention was held April 4-5-6, 2008 at Dobson Ranch Inn in Mesa, AZ. The host lodge was Phoenix Lodge #677.

The flag ceremony started with Junior Girl Scouts Troop 2139 carrying in the flag of our Scandinavian countries. District Master Vito Panteleo called the meeting to order. Dignitaries were brought to the altar and introduced. VGM William Lundquist and GLEBM Tore Kellgren were among those present. The business meeting successfully ended in the afternoon with new and returning board members.



Vice Grand Master William Lundquist and District 21 Master Vito Panteleo.

DM Vito Panteleo	VDM Maureen Anderson	DS Pat Flippen
ADS Jenny Rudberg	DT Robert Anderson	DH Kristin Boyes
DCL Debbie Helmer	DMC Louise Panteleo	EBM Loretta Olson LL 691
EBM Anne Levig LL 709		DC Joan Swenson-Hitz
DT1 Loretta Olson	DT2 Gisela Liden	DT3 Sam Liden
DA1 Emmet Anderson	DA2 Anne Levig	DA3 Charles Elston
DIG Tom Levig	DOG Ruth Gregory	ADMC Ann-Marie Kinnison

Saturday evening was dinner, raffles and dancing to the music of Sylvia and Fjordsong. The scholarship winner was announced and Roxanne Ross accepted her award.

Sunday concluded with breakfast and an outdoor memorial service. DCL Debbie Helmer presented a roundtable discussion.

Submitted by: Kristin Boyes, District Historian

# LODGE NEWS

## Thule Lodge #127

### Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY

Hello from the Thule Lodge #127 in Jamestown/Bemus Point, NY. Our weather conditions in late spring have brought frost two times in late May. This is the time of the year when we go from using the furnace to the air conditioner in the same day! However, Thule Lodge began its busy season with many activities.

The Friday night dinners began for the season, along with a pancake breakfast, and our famous Swedish meatball dinner in May. At lodge meetings, we held the "egg sexa" luncheon with a variety of foods. This was served by the executive committee. Cultural leader Fanchon Fuller always has a Swedish moment to share with others about holidays and events happening in Sweden, along with keeping members informed about future events. Substitute cultural leader Allie

Nelson Withers presented the special program for *Mother's Day* showing a variety of family photographs and talking about their journey from Sweden. At the same meeting, Dan Larson showed his Swedish family photograph album made into a calendar. *Walpurgis Night* was recognized at the end of April. In May, the annual Memorial service was conducted by the Degree Team, remembering the members who had passed away in the last year. During the spring and summer months, the monthly meetings are held on the fourth Thursday evening of each month.

Lodge chairman Eugene Johnson welcomes all to upcoming lodge events. These events include the Father's Day Herring Breakfast, the June Smorgasbord dinner, the herring breakfast and the Swiss steak dinner. The annual *Scandinavian Folk Festival* will be held in Jamestown on July 18-20, and Thule

Continued on next page

## Thule Lodge #127

*Continued from previous page*



*Shown in the middle of the photograph is long-time member Allie Nelson Withers. With her is her brother Nels John Nelson, who also serves as lodge trustee, and sister-in-law Alberta Nelson, who also serves as lodge treasurer. At this event, Mrs. Withers showed some of her many Swedish items she has received from Sweden over the many years. Nels and Allie arrived in the United States more than 80 years ago with their family.*

Lodge will be serving one of their famous Swedish meatball dinners. The Scandinavian festival is always well attended and preserves the Swedish heritage.

As Thule Lodge continues well into its 101st year, we look forward to visitors and if you are in our area, we welcome you. "God dag" to all!

**Submitted by: John Sipos**

## North Star Lodge #145

**Spokane, WA**



*Fern Hultman, Betty Ann Hunter and Marian Murray.*

North Star Lodge #145, Spokane, WA, is the oldest Vasa Lodge in the Pacific Northwest. On April 26, 2008, they celebrated their 100th Anniversary with a

catered luncheon and program at The Sons of Norway Hall.

The lodge had displays of pictures from 1908 to 2008. These showed our early and

current Vasa families and their many activities, annual picnics, dance groups, choral, "Midsommar" Festivities, Santa Lucia pageants, tours in the Northwest, Minot, ND, and Big Trees in Montana. A huge Scandinavian map depicted the genealogical roots of our members and families. Additional display tables held many Swedish family heirlooms, books, and souvenirs. It was a very impressive occasion.

Chairman, Steve Matthews, had lost his voice so Daga-Karin Lindquist, a newly-transferred member from Golden Valley #616, in California and Past Master of Pacific Southwest District #15, took over as MC. Her Swedish accent added glamour to the event while her dancing skills helped to lead some Swedish dances.

Our own Lundin Family entertained with violin, accordion, piano, guitar and other instruments. They are the sons and grandchildren of charter member Fred Lundin, and have brought musical enjoyment to our lodge for 100 years.

The District #13 Lodge Spring Board Meeting was also held that same morning at Riverview Retirement Center. Afterwards, Alice Iverson, District #13 Master PNW and her Executive Board members and guests from Oregon, Washington, and Montana joined our celebration. They brought us their lodge's congratulations and presented gifts to our Spokane lodge. A plaque was also received from the Grand Master, Rolf Bergman and his wife, bringing us their congratulations and best wishes on our 100th Anniversary.

Longevity jewels were given to three Vasa members: Fern Hultman for 75 years and Betty Ann Hunter and Marian Murray each for 60 years. One other member, Rodger Olin, had received his 70-year jewel in 2007. We do keep our members.

Individual and group pictures were taken throughout the day. Awards were given to our six active Past Chairman, as follows: Steve Matthews 2006 to present; Florence Loreen 1994-96; Gladys Tellesen 2000-01; Ralph Oscarson 2002-03; Art Oquist 2005; and Tressia Anderson 1997-98 and 2004.

The hall was decorated in blue and yellow with centerpieces of flowers. Our 93 guests were served herring, cheese tray, bread and crackers, Baked salmon or fruit stuffed pork loin, boiled potatoes, creamed spinach, carrots, lingonberries, salmon mousse, and pickled cucumber salad. The traditional Princess Cake was served for dessert.

**Submitted by: Etta Tiederman**

## Tegnér Lodge #149 Oakland, CA

At its April meeting, Tegnér Lodge #149, Oakland, CA, enjoyed a pasta entree prepared by the Nordendahls. Other Italian dishes rounded out the meal. At our business meeting plans for our anniversary dinner in the fall and resolutions of the district convention the end of April were discussed. Cultural leader Laura Nordendahl told us more about the history of our lodge.

At the May meeting, our Swedish chief Stig Björk prepared a delicious salmon entree. We were pleased to have our 99-year-old 51-year member, Ruby Nichelini, present to celebrate her birthday with us and with May birthday member, Diane Eatherly. Three princess birthday cakes were cut and served. After the birthday songs were sung, the Tegnér singers led us in a sing-a-long of several old favorites. Ruby was presented the 50-year membership jewel from national by Chairman Marie Anne Hill. Three guests were present: Nani Lofstrom of Framåt Lodge and René Morton and her daughter, Kristi, friends of member Rhoda Gilbertson. During our cultural program, we talked about our memories of former members who are no longer with us.

Delegates Laura Nordendahl and Ann Tennis and alternate, Marie Anne Hill, gave reports about the district convention in Redding. Marie Anne and Ann were both lucky winners of gift baskets raffled during the convention's Saturday night banquet. All three members thought Skogen Lodge conducted a very successful and enjoyable convention.

Submitted by: Ann Tennis

## Linné Lodge #153 South Bend, IN



At our April 6, 2008, meeting, Thelma Nelson received her 55-year pin and Helge Swanson received his 60-year pin for membership years in Vasa.

Submitted by: Lorraine Cooper

## Tegnér Lodge #224 Missoula, MT

Due to blizzard conditions in January, the meeting was cancelled, so we installed our officers in February. Bruce Swanson, a third generation member, was installed as President and his mother installed as Vice President. During March we made lots of meatballs, various kinds of cookies and breads for the International Day Food Fair that is held every year at the University of Montana. Foreign students attending the university create specialties from their own countries to sell. Our lodge has been asked to participate in this event for many years. This helps us to pay for our scholarships that we give out every spring. One \$500 scholarship goes to a senior student of a Vasa member and the other one goes to a senior student from one of the seven high schools around the Missoula area. We also donate to the annual "All Night Senior Party," a party for all graduates which has continued for over 20 years. In May, we had an Egyptian dinner, along with slides and videos that were taken by Jodi and Leroy Anderson on their trip to Egypt. June was our annual Midsummer celebration at the Otto Benson farm, which will be 110 years old this year, an event that everyone looks forward to attending.

Submitted by: Rick Swanson



Left to right: Bruce Swanson and Pat Swanson.



From far left to right: Bruce Swanson, Alice Comstock, Erling Gustafson, Cy Lindstead, John Swanson, Pat Swanson, and Betty Gustafson at the International Food Fair.

## Svea Lodge #253 Indianapolis, IN

Members of Svea Lodge #253 have had a good spring enjoying many interesting and fun cultural programs spearheaded by our Cultural Leader, Iva Lynn. In March we had a re-enactment of Scandinavian Immigrants landing at Ellis Islands. All our members were encouraged to dress in costume of their ancestors and went through the check-in process of Ellis Island.

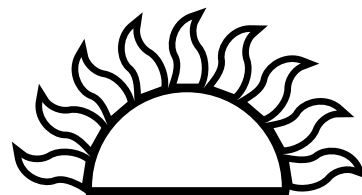
April brought an interesting presentation by Wesley Hanson teaching us about the Swenson Granite Company of Concord, NH, which was founded in 1880. In May we had an overview of Iceland and Greenland presented by members, Ed and Joelle Hultgren, Iva Lynn, and Susan Swanson.

April 12th we celebrated our 95th Anniversary, with a special dinner, silent auction, raffle, and a delightful singing program by classically trained soprano, Ann Margaret Lewis. Mrs. Lewis sang professionally in the New York City area for 15 years before she moved to Indianapolis. She sang several songs in Swedish and English including "Vem Kan Segla Förutan Vind," and "O Store Gud"- How Great Thou Art.

Submitted by: Michelle Escalante



Ann Margeret Lewis



## Svea Lodge #296

Erie, PA

We have remained active through the very bad weather – only once was a meeting cancelled, on a Sunday, when church services also were not held.

There was an interesting excursion to the Maritime Museum which houses such excellent naval exhibits and is the “home” of our Flagship Niagara from the Battle of Lake Erie.

Locally our Mercyhurst College provides dinners for the public as a requirement of the Restaurant Management program. They are the responsibility of individual students who choose ethnic meals. Some of us attended the Swedish Midsommar event, and our host, named Leif, was a young man from Visby, Sweden, who was very grateful to be able to speak to us in his native tongue. We all tried to dress with something Scandinavian.

Another activity is attending weekly Swedish lessons taught by one of our members – Lisa Owen – students meet in the homes of class members every Tuesday.

Many of us also enjoy our monthly breakfasts at a local restaurant. Usually about 25 (who are retired or not currently employed) can attend.

Rosemaling painting, taught by talented member Berit Benacci, provided us with lovely “over the doorway” wood plaques.

As the summer nears we are making plans for our annual banquet. Also important is Midsommar at our local amusement park. We will set up our maypole for dances, and enjoy food and fun all day!



Merryhurst College Swedish midsummer dinner: Lisa Owen, Mary Kolb and student host Leif Pagani.

Our lodge celebrated our 94th anniversary at the Bel-Aire Hotel. We had a lovely dinner, Chinese auction, and were entertained by the local Erie Playhouse “Show Stoppers,” a very talented group of students, aged 10 to 15. They sang and danced to the musicals of Broadway – a very high-energy group.

Submitted by: Linda Collin



Lisa Owen and Kay Lynne Picheco won floral prizes.

## Linde Lodge #492

Milwaukee, WI



Rolf Ekstrand “The Swedish Chef” in charge of the pancakes and meatballs at Scandinavian Festival.

With a long, snowy and cold winter in Wisconsin, we were struggling with sunshine stories. Of course they were there, but the 100 plus inches of snow made it hard to find.

Linde had its usual fundraisers in the spring: the *Pea Soup and Pancake Dinner* in March, and the *Scandinavian Festival* in May.

The pea soup dinner was a lot of work for a small profit (I’m sure everyone is aware of the high grocery prices today),

while the Scandinavian Festival was less work and a huge profit. Both, however, are important.

*Valborg* was held at Ray Shoberg’s place, and thanks to his foresight of arranging for indoor eating – his mechanical shop - and lots of hot coffee, we had a great time. The winds were dangerously high that day, so the bon fire had to wait until next year.

We had good friends/dual members from Sweden’s Mälardrottningen (Sjöberg’s) and Enköping Lodge (Agge/Axelsson) visit us and the *District Convention* in May. Now we are looking forward to “Midsommar” in June and “Kräftskiva” in August. Maybe it’ll warm up by then.

Submitted by: Liza Ekstrand, Secretary

## Phoenix Lodge #677

Phoenix, AZ

Phoenix Lodge #677 hosted the 15th biennial convention of District #21 on April 4-6, 2008, at the Dobson Ranch Best Western Inn, Mesa, AZ. We were honored to have three Grand Lodge Officers and spouses attending plus 6 Officers from District #15, as well as many Officers and members from our five lodges. The convention began Friday evening in our hospitality room and ended with a Memorial Service on Sunday morning, remembering 20 of our members who died since the last convention. In between were the business meetings where new Officers were elected and installed. And the Saturday night banquet, attended by 84 members. The District Scholarship was awarded to Roxanne Ross, followed by dancing to waltz, polka and shottis music. The Flag Ceremony opening the business meetings Saturday morning was impressive. The Swedish flag led the procession carried by our own Katarina Ivarsson wearing her Swedish costume. Following her, carrying the other flags, was Barbara and Leo Langland’s granddaughter’s Junior Girl Scout Troop.

On April 19th we celebrated our 44th Anniversary with a brunch prepared by Sara Nilsson and Carol Blackwell. The Charter was draped in memory of Harry Lavine and Hilding Westberg. For the program some members brought items for “show and tell” that had been brought over from Sweden by parents or grandparents. Also on display were items, and an explanation, from the touring Immigrant Trunk.

Submitted by: Elna Lidman

## Desert Viking Lodge #682

Cathedral City, CA

What do you get when you load 30 Vasa members and guests into a huge bright red bus and send them to one of the most renowned National Parks in Southern California to search for wild-flowers and scenic discoveries? Well, for Desert Viking Lodge # 682, the outcome was a great day of sightseeing, singing and quite a number of professional quality photographs for the club's photo contest at the next meeting.

The club's outing on March 29th proved to be a wonderful way to enjoy nature and explore our nearby *Joshua Tree National Park*, which has long been known for its majestic monolithically stone formations, great climbing opportunities and uniquely formed Joshua Trees, some of which are estimated to be up to 900 years old. The 550,000 acre park was also filled with tiny bursts of beauty from yellow, white, violet and pink flowers due to recent rains. As our bus wound its way through the park from the *Mojave highlands* in the West to the more arid *Colorado Desert* and *Pinto Basin* there seemed to be something wonderful to see in every direction, so several stops were made to take pictures and stroll around.

At noon, a picnic of sliced, roasted chicken and homemade potato and green salads made by Viola Wyler and a dessert of delightful chocolate chip cookies made by Tanya Woods, kept our traveling Vikings in good spirits.

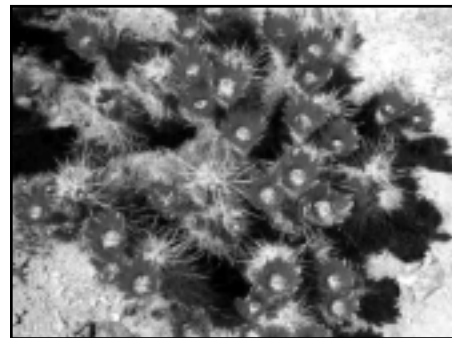
Along with the sightseeing, off-key singing and camaraderie fun that was had by lodge members, several facts were also learned about *The Joshua Tree National Park*. We learned that it lies astride the Pacific flyway of migratory birds and acts as a secure rest stop for many of them. There is also a fragile balance of life in this ecosystem that depends on each species to help in the survival of another, from the jack rabbit, to coyote and the desert tortoise, even the beetles and moths that help pollinate the shrubs, there is a chain linking them together that we must appreciate and understand.

I think all our venturing members gained a greater impression of the need to support our national parks and wild lands and had a general wish to get out into nature whenever possible in the future.

Oh, and there was one other important lesson learned by an enthusiastic photo-



grapher during the trip; when exploring the abundance of beauty that the high desert has to offer, and particularly if you want to take a picture of a backlit Cholla cactus, try not to bend over in the middle



of the garden, otherwise memories might not be the only thing you take home." Bottoms up, Donna!

Submitted by: Beatrice Wyler

## Norden Lodge #684

Fresno, CA

Hello again from Norden Lodge in Fresno, cannot believe a whole year has come and gone since we had our very famous "Valborgsmässoafton" last year. The Swedish tradition on this particular day is to have a bon-fire (big one) and as the picture shows, our Vice Chairman Mike Peterson is preparing ours (small) but it all gives us a flair how the Swedes do it.

The May meeting is always popular, everybody enjoys going to the Johanssons' in the Sierra foothills, eating and visiting and listening to accordion players entertain us with a good old Swedish sing-a-long.

Another treat was to hear James Johansson (86 years old) singing "Flickan fran Backafall" - he knows the whole song by heart and has a very nice voice to go with it.

At our June meeting Anders Lindhe taught us a little about Carl von Linne, Sweden's botanist born 300 years ago last year. I remember myself in school in Sweden when we all had to learn the Latin names of flowers and we were usually pretty good!

Submitted by: Inger Lindhe



Vice Chairman Mike Peterson.

## Vinland of Cape Cod #703

Cape Cod, MA

April 19th was a great day for members of Vinland Lodge, on that date eight new members were initiated and enthusiastically welcomed by Chairman Judith Peterson, officers, and members of our lodge. This was Judith's maiden voyage into the initiation ceremony which was flawlessly conducted.

Our new members are Barbara Cormier and her sister Sophia Lombard, Trapin Hughes, Wallace and Betty Lornel, Eivind and Marilyn Sohøel and their daughter, Deborah Sohøel-Coldberg. Although not initiated into the Lodge, Deborah's young daughter, Grace, has become the official raffle-ticket "puller-outer" and calls out the numbers with great aplomb. She also is the one who took the picture of the accompanying photograph for this article. Thank you for your good work, Grace. You're a big help to Vinland Lodge.

Our May meeting was followed by an ethnic supper that had been suggested by our Financial Secretary, Enid Makris. What a big success that was! Typical meals from about fifteen different countries were on the table: Swedish, Italian, French, Greek, Czech, Canadian, Danish, Icelandic, and Norwegian. You name it--it was there, and although most of the women held back after one refill, I noticed the male members were going around the table like whirling dervishes; they just didn't stop. It spoke well of the distaff's talents in culinary arts. One outstanding fish dish was prepared by Johan Christiansen who, prior to retirement,

Continued on next page

## Vinland of Cape Cod #703

Continued from previous page



New members: Back row: Debbie Sohøel-Goldberg, Eivind Sohøel, Trapin Hughes, Marilyn Sohøel. Front row: Sophia Lombard, Barbara Cormier, and Wallace and Betty Lornell.

excelled as a cook in the merchant marine. We sure are lucky to have you as a member, Johan.

Our best wishes to all of you from

Cape Cod. We hope you're all enjoying a happy, fun-filled summer.

Submitted by: Marion S. Borgman  
Picture by: Debbie Sohøel-Goldberg

## Nordic Lodge #708

Atlanta, GA

Vasa Hike on the Appalachian Trail near Hiawassee Ga. On April 12, 2008, a beautifully clear spring day in N. Georgia, a group of 13 Nordic Lodge members traveled to Hiawassee GA and enjoyed a short walk north of Duke's Creek Gap on the Appalachian Trail. We walked over ridges where spring was about to show itself. The temperature hovered around 60 degrees with intermittent sun. After the walk, we enjoyed a great lunch at Pia Johansson's Clydesdale Horse Farm. Pia breeds Clydesdale horses and has chickens, goats, cats and dogs. Thank you Pia for hosting us and for a great time.

Submitted by: Dale P. Nordin



The Hikers, L-R: Margaret Breuer, Connie Ericsson, Monica Eklund, Margareta Hammarström, Guye Dupcak, Joe Dupcak, Björn Blombeck, Eva Meyer, Lilian Nordin, Dale Nordin. Not Shown Jan Eklund.

## Solstad Lodge #709

Sun City West, AZ

Vito Pantaleo, District Master of Arizona District #21, installed the new officers of Solstad Lodge #709 on March 13 at the Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West, AZ. Grand Lodge Deputy Gisela Lidén was also present to assist with the ceremony.

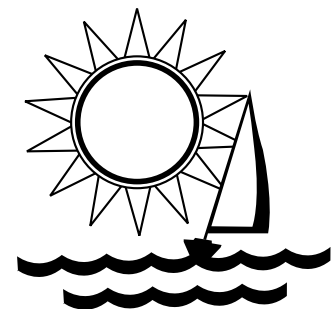
Solstad Lodge has had an interesting variety of programs during the 2007-2008 season. October's meeting featured the sharing of summer experiences, especially focusing on those who had visited Nordic countries during the summer. A tasty luncheon of open-faced sandwiches and salads followed. In November, Cultural Leader Gunilla Hill presented "Famous Swedes." A Lucia celebration and "smörgåsbord" was the highlight on December 13.

In January, Anne Levig gave a slide presentation on "The World of Astrid Lingren." "Swedish Lenten Customs" was the topic for February, along with a Pea Soup and Pancake Luncheon. An early Midsummer Celebration planned for the April meeting.

Submitted by: Thomas Levig



Newly installed officers of Solstad Lodge #709 are depicted with District Lodge Arizona #21 District Master Vito Pantaleo (seated) and Grand Lodge Deputy Gisela Lidén (second from left, standing). Officers include Allan Wreigard and Margit Wreigard (seated) and standing (l-r) Tom Levig, Irene Majava, Jerry Anderson, Pat Anderson, Gunilla Hill, and Anne Levig.



## Stenland Lodge #727

Sparkill, NY

On April 13, 2008 Stenland Lodge #727, located in Rockland County, New York celebrated its 28th Anniversary at the *Old '76 House Restaurant* in Tappan, New York. For the past eight years Stenland Lodge has celebrated its Anniversary at this historic restaurant.

*The Old '76 House* was built in 1668 and is America's third oldest Public House. However, it has the distinction of being the Hudson Valley's oldest restaurant. During the *Revolutionary War* it was used as a meeting place for patriots, thus establishing it as a safe place for Americans when the air was full of revolution. *Major John Andre*, the *Revolutionary War's* most notorious spy, was held there for questioning. *Commander-in-Chief General George Washington* and other famous Generals of the *Continental Army* dined in this wonderful Public House. Visitors dining at this restaurant can view historical documents, clothes from the *Revolutionary War* period, and interesting antiques. It is not only a culinary delight to visit *The Old '76 House* but an educational one as well.

The afternoon began with an open bar and passed hors d'oeuvres. At this time we were able to meet and talk with our fellow Stenland members plus greet and reacquaint ourselves with visitors from other Vasa lodges in the New York area. Dinner was served in a private room where the tables were decorated with festive center pieces of beautiful yellow and blue flowers arranged in baskets. The Swedish inspired floral arrangements were created for the occasion by Stenland member June Sundvik. Stenland's Anniversary Committee consisted of Ingrid Allison, Beatrice Rasmussen and Inger Terzakis.

Dinner formally began when Sister Ingrid Allison read the invocation. This was followed with a toast by Brother Robert Rasmussen, Chairman of Stenland Lodge and New York District #4 Scholarship Chairman. Visitors were then introduced. Ken Olson, Chairman of Lindbergh Lodge and dual member of Stenland, his wife Susan, Miriam Emerson, District Cultural Leader, Ed Emerson, District Auditor, Bill Olson and Mary Booton were all from Lodge Lindbergh. Lodge Freja was represented by Barbara and Art Peterson, Don Jacobsen and Mary Norden. Svea Lodge members who attended included Alice



*This is the Old 76 House, the oldest restaurant in the Hudson Valley. It is currently undergoing some renovations.*

Schmutz, District Secretary, Gail Olson, Vice District Secretary and dual member of Stenland, Earl Kihlstrom, Chairman of Svea and his wife Dorothy. We were delighted to have so many Vasa dignitaries and visitors attending our anniversary celebration.

Thank you to all our members and guests for attending this event. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and good fellowship. Karen Snowberg, District Master, sent her best wishes since she was unable to attend due to an important prior commitment.

Anyone interested in learning more about our Lodge and its activities, please contact our Chairman Robert Rasmussen at 845-359-5188.

**Submitted by: Ingrid Allison**



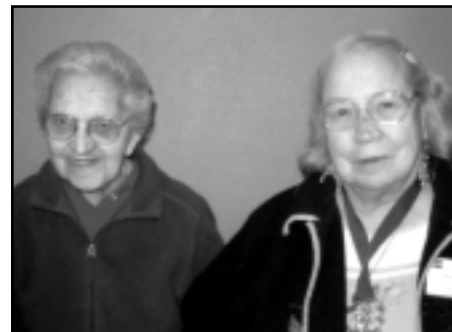
*Bob and Beatrice Rasmussen, Bob is Stenland's Chairman and the New York District Scholarship Chairman.*



*Ingrid Allison, Ken and Susan Olson are enjoying the afternoon. Ken is Chairman of Lindbergh Lodge and a dual member of Stenland Lodge.*

## Birka Lodge #732

Hamilton, MA



*Linnea Christianson and Ellen Sandberg.*

Long-time officers, Linnea Christianson, Ellen Sandberg and Karl Seaburg have retired after serving Birka Lodge #732 for a total of 25 years as Financial and Corresponding Secretaries and Treasurer.

**Linnea Christianson**, a 55-year member of Vasa and Charter member of Birka Lodge #732 served as Corresponding Secretary for 8 years. She was formerly a member of Filgi Lodge of Somerville, which later dissolved.

Linnea has served the lodge as a District Auditor and served as a delegate at conventions many times. Her late husband, Richard, was a charter member and served as a Guard, Trustee, and Auditor.

**Ellen Sandberg** joined Vasa in 1994 and has been a member of Birka Lodge for 10 years and served as Financial Secretary for the past 7 years. Her husband, Ron, is also a Birka Lodge member and has served as a Guard.

Ellen is an accomplished artist in both oil and watercolor. She hand-makes Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls and also crochets afghans. She loves to read, especially mystery novels by Lilian Jackson-Braun.

**Karl Seaburg** has been a member of Vasa and Birka Lodge since 1985 and has served the lodge as Treasurer for more than 10 years, serving under different chairmen.

Karl has been making a yearly drive to Crown Bakery in Worcester to pick up the annual Jul Fair baked goods for the past 20 years. He served the District as an Outer Guard. he is an active athlete going to the GE gym almost daily. He is also an avid big band fan. His wife, Marilyn, has been very active with both lodge and District positions.

We will miss the expertise of Ellen, Linnea and Karl. Thank you for your services!

**Submitted by: Lois Johnson**

# SWEDISH NEWS

## Logen Christian Nr 617

Kristianstad

Lördagen den 27 oktober 2007 firade Logen Christian sina 60 år med en mycket värdig och stämningsfull högtidsloge. 120 vasasyskon samlades i Frimurarelogens lokaler vid det anrika Stora Torg i Kristianstad. Under samlingen visade Sy Lisa Fajersson sin vackra applikation av Carl von Linné.

Till högtidslogen hälsade O Br Gösta Löfstedt 56 gästande syskon från nio loger välkomna. Fyra nya medlemmar receperade i en vacker ceremoni. PS Sy Kristina Karlsson läste upp ett stort antal telegram som anlänt till logen med anledning av jubiléet. En mycket stilfull fanparad framfördes av bröderna Åke Mellnert, Bengt Lindner, Conny Häll och Erik Karlsson. KP Sy Birgit Persson var prologläsare.

Under Kontakt Amerika utgick KL Sy Elsie Ohlsson från vårt jubileum och berättade om en som firar 70 år. Det är Golden Gate bron i San Francisco som invigdes den 28 maj 1937.

LH Sy Birgitta Vallgren lämnade en kort historik över vad som hänt i logen under 60 år. Br Gösta tackade logens avgående DD-par Br Jan-Åke Ferborn och Sy Inga-Britt med att överlämna logens standar, logens förtjänstecken och en mindre statyett av kung Christian IV.

10-årsmärke tilldelades Sy Inger Carrborg, Sy Ester Ekström, Sy Elly Granqvist samt Sy Birgitta och Br Kjell Erik Olsson. FDO-värdighet erhöll Sy Birgitta Vallgren. Logen uppvaktades med penninggåvor från MSLER at Large Br Bertil och Sy Ann-Margreth Ericson, från DL Södra Sverige Nr 20, från logerna i DL 20 samt från Logens tidigare DD Sy Winette Forssander, Br Lars Saxbo, Sy Inger Hammarlund, Br Jan-Åke Ferborn samt Sy Greta Franzén.

Hälsningar och gratulationer framfördes från SM Rolf S Bergman och SL exekutiva råd, från SLD Knut Rosenkvist, SLKL Gun Lith, DHLM Lars Helgeson samt DM DL 19 Gunnar Gustavsson. O Br Gösta tackade Br Bertil Ericson för hjälp med den fina fanparaden.

Efter ljussläckningen avslutade MM Br Ronny Ragnarsson till stjärnhimlen med pianokonsert Nr 21 ur Elvira Madigan.

Efter välkomstdrink och mingel öpp-

nades dörrarna till en vackert dukad festsal där stadens grundare kung Cristian IV hälsade välkommen. En utsökt måltid intogs med skål för kung Carl XVI Gustav, recepienderna, Logen Christian Nr 617 och Vasa Orden av Amerika.

Recepiendernas tal hölls av Rosa Mathiason. Fröknegårdens Musikklass underhöll med svenska och amerikanska sånger. Efter måltiden serverades kaffe i salongerna och dansen till Färms orkester vidtog. Det minglades och dansades och stämningen var hög och hjärtlig. Vi som var med kan nu se tillbaka på en mycket fin och minnesrik jubileumskväll.

Jubileumsåret avslutades traditionsenligt då logesyskonen samlades till kyrksöndagen på Första advent. I år var vi i Lyngsjö kyrka där adventsgudtjänsten hölls vid levande ljus. Vid efterföljande kaffe berättade Sy Gertud Rietz med hjälp av kyrkoherde Kaj Wessberg om den gamla anrika kyrkan med en kyrkklocka som skickats över från Amerika till Lyngsjö kyrka.

Submitted by: Karin Holmkvist



MSLER at Large Bertil Ericson, O Gösta Löfstedt och DD Greta Franzén.



Logens DD, Lars Saxbo, Winette Forssander, Greta Franzén, Inger Hammarlund och Jan-Åke Ferborn.

## Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633

Under logen Eskilstuna Nr 633:s möte den 12 april fick 50 ordensyskon från bl a Mälardrottningen Nr 563, Stockholm 589, Engelbrekt Nr 619, Enköping Nr 646 och gäster glädjen att lyssna till Mia Poppe, dotter till den välkända svenska skådespelaren Nils Poppe, sjunga och berätta om sin far med ackompanjemang av pianist Jan Erik Sandvik.

Innan uppträdandet började, passade logens FDO Elsa Arvidsson samt ordförande Hans Lundvall att tacka fd DD för logen Eskilstuna Nr 633 Jon Haugsrud med fru Birgit Ryding för deras tid i logen och deras varma gemenskap under tiden som de varit på besök i logen under br. Jons DD tid. Blommor överlämnades och alla ordensyskonen framförde varma applåder.

På scenen steg sedan kvällens höjdpunkt upp, det var Mia Poppe. Hon framförde välkända sånger från sin fars reportoarer, bland filmer och teateruppsättningarna kan nämnas "Gränden i Gamla stan" "Saltaste bönan i stan." På reportoaren fanns också Charlie Chaplins välkända sång "Smile."

Mellan sångerna berättade Mia om sin fars liv. Nils Poppe, (Nils Einar Jansson) föddes i Malmö 1908, han var ett hittebarn som vid 2-års ålder fick ett arbetande par som sina fosterföräldrar. De levde fattigt men fosterföräldrarna höll väl av honom. Denna uppväxt var sedan med honom under hans levnadstid och han gestaltade gärna "den lilla människan."

Hans dröm var alltid att bli skådespelare och 1941 fick han sin första stora premiär i Stockholm på *Oscars* med "Blå jackor" tillsammans med Anna-lisa Ericsson. Den uppsättning han mest älskade av alla dem han gjorde var "Lorden från gränden." Han var en stor beundrare av Charlie Chaplin och hade honom som en förebild i sitt arbete. Även Charlie Chaplin kände till Nils Poppe. När Charlie Chaplin dog hittade man bland hans kvarlåtenskaper Nils Poppes fars "Pengar."

Nils Poppe fick två anbud från

Continued on next page

## Logen Eskilstuna Nr 633

*Continued from previous page*

Hollywood men tackade nej, han ansåg att hans plats var i Sverige.

Nils Poppe var också en stor beundrare av Evert Taube och under 35 år bodde Nils Poppe i Stockholm. Han köpte ett hus vid namn "Danderyds krog" och Mia Poppe berättade om en lustig episod där Nils Poppe hade hållt på i trädgården då ett par kom spatserande och slog sig ner i hans trädgård och frågade om man fick beställa. "Självklart" sa Nils Poppe. När dem sedan hade fikat klart bad dem att få betala, då svarade Nils Poppe "det bjuder huset på." Paret trodde att "Danderyds krog" var en krog och visste inte att det var den välkända Nils Poppes hem.

När sedan Nils Poppe ville dra ner på takten 1966 började han på *Fredriksdahls teatern* i Helsingborg. Man började med en liten uppsättning av "en enkel man." Under 17 år framfördes "Vita hästen" och det var där som Mia Poppe gjorde sin debut. 1975 framfördes "Fars lilla påg" som fick enorm framgång. Mia Poppe berättade att Nils Poppe själv gärna satt sig i biljettluckan och sålde biljetter bara för att njuta och glädjas av att alla biljetter blev slutsålda.

Nils Poppe arbetade på scen i 86 år. Han var gift två gånger, först med Inga Langdré och med henne fick han två barn och sedan med Gunilla Sundberg som han fick ytterligare två barn med och Mia var en av de barnen.

Nils Poppe avled år 2000 då var han 92 år gammal och hans *Fredriksdahls teater* fortsatte sina föreställningar till publikens förtjusning genom den i Sverige populära Eva Rydberg

Stora applåder uppstod efter Mia Poppes framträdande med pianist Jan-Erik Sandvik och ordförande för logen Eskilstuna Nr 633 överlämmande blommor och passade även på att tacka br Bo och sy Marianne Hjulström i logen Eskilstuna Nr 633 för att de hade ordnat med att logen gästades av Mia Poppe.

Kvällen fortsatte sedan med att alla bröderna denna kväll ställde sig på scen och sjöng för kvinnorna. De avslutade sedan med att överlämna varsin blomma till alla kvinnorna i publiken.

Varmt tack logen Eskilstuna Nr 633 och bröderna som gjorde denna kväll extra trevlig för oss kvinnor.

**Submitted by: Elisabeth Agge,  
L. Enköping Nr 646**



*Bröderna sjunger för oss kvinnor*



*Ordf Hans Lundvall, Mia Poppe oh Jan-Erik Sandvik.*

## Logen Höganäs Nr 634

On April 12th, 70 members and guests from other lodges were gathering to a cultural evening with a very interesting program.

A member of the Westervik Lodge Nr 679, Gunilla Öst, told us about the Öst family, a famous musician family with a very affecting story.

From the same lodge came Walle Johansson who played his accordion and told us "The truth of Hemsöborna."

Once a year, our lodge makes a trip to an interesting place for a day or two. This year our destination was Åhus and a visit at *Folkestorp's Brewery* where the well-known *Absolut Vodka* was produced many years ago. Today this brewery is a museum and *Absolut* is produced in another factory at Åhus.

The bus took us to *Hotel Åhus Strand* where we got a cheerful information about the Vodka and afterward we had a

delicious dinner before we went back home again.

**Submitted by: Berit and Hans Bogren**



*Walle Johansson*

## Logen Bråviken Nr 751



Bråviken besökte Nynäs Slott i Södermanland, ett slott från 1600-talet fylld med vackra saker och fantastiska strukturer i taket. Vi fick även beskåda en vacker säng som bl a en tjej till Gustav den tredje sovit i!!!

Submitted by: Lisbeth Qvarfordt-Hallberg och Inge Hallberg  
Photo by: Inge Hallberg

## Logen Vadstena Nr 762



Birgitta och Stig Carlsson t.h. med några gäster under Birgittahelgen. Från v blivande medlem Sonia Delsby, Motala, Jan Andersson logen Engelbrekt Västerås. Daga Karin Lundqvist Logen Golden Valley #615 DL15, USA Ordf Stig Carlsson med Fru Markita.

Ett alldeles underbart intryck gjorde logen Vadstena som tog *Birgittahelgen* till sig och lade in egna arrangemang. Den heliga Birgittas helg firas varje år, och man kan hoppas på att logen Vadstena gör det till sin helg också.

Ordf. Stig Carlsson, med medhjälpare, såg till att *Birgittahelgen* blev ett Vasarrangemang. Nog kunde man se att Br Stig vet hur man skall visa upp Vadstenalogen. Det visades inte minst på det stora antalet inbjudna gäster som deltog.

På alla platser där Vasa Orden hade någon aktivitet under helgen, fanns också Vasa Ordens "flaggspeel" uppsatt. Den

svenska-, amerikanska-, kanadensiska- och Vasaflaggan, vajade vackert i sommarvärmen, och i mitten en skylt med Vadstena Logen Nr 762, av Vasa Orden av Amerika. Det blev mycket flyttande, men tillfället att synas utnyttjades under denna helg.

Kunde det börja bättre! En strålande sol och härlig värme under denna sista dagen i maj månad 2008. Att sedan en handfull vasasyskon från USA anslöt sig till att fira och vara tillsammans med den nystartade Vadstenalogen blev naturligtvis extra trevligt. Vasamedlemmar dök också upp från Sverige, Västerås logen Engelbrekt, Logen

Filbyter och Logen Bråviken och så klart Logen Vadstenas DD Einar Grön Savolainen med fru från Logen Lidköping.

Styrelsen i Logen Vadstena hade också inbjudet många andra gäster för att få presentera sin loge. Efter styrkande förmiddagskaffe, begav man sig till stora torget och lyssnade till den officiella uppstarten på *Birgittahelgen*. Med tal av "Gustav Vasa" i spetsen, och med nuvarande biståndsministern Gunilla Karlsson.

Efter lunchen i *Munklotstret* blev det en föreläsning av Claes Westling, i Vadstenalogen egna möteslokal, som handlade om Vadstenas som handelsstad under medeltiden. och därefter beskådades den utställning som finns om vårt stora författargeni Werner Von Heidenstam.

På eftermiddagen kunde man spela golf, eller göra en stadsvandring bland Vadstenas pittoreska bebyggelse och affärer.

Före middagen berättade Sy Lisbeth H Qvarfordt om Vasa Orden och dess historia och varför ett medlemskap i Vasa Orden av Amerika är en livskvalité. I samma veva överlämnade två personer sina ansökningsformulär till Ordern. Vadstenalogen kommer att växa inte minst med hjälp av Ordf. Stig Carlsson och hans medhjälpare i Styrelsen.

Kvällens middag avnjöts i Folkhögskolans matsal, som är belägen längs med sjön. *Vätterns strand* erbjöd en otroligt vacker solnedgång i dess bråddjupa vatten.

Alla hade lagt ned ett stort arbete med att arrangera aktiviteter denna *Birgittahelg*, som avslutades på söndagen med Högmässa i *Klosterkyrkan* med efterföljande guidning, innan vi tillsammans intog en lunch på *Valvet*, som är en medeltida byggnad i centrala Vadstena.

En extra eloge till Br. Stig som vandrade omkring och spred glädje under hela arrangemanget med sin värmande personlighet. Stig har nu också en bra kontakt med företagarna i Vadstenabygden och hans yrkesskicklighet som tidigare Storbond på Sveriges kornbod, mäklare och revisor, vilket nu kommer logen till nytta!

Ja det var en härlig Vadstenahelg. Det var stort att se Vadstenalogen glädje i sitt arrangemang, en nybildad loge, med värme och full av skapar-idéer, vilket jag känner igen och upplevde under logen Bråvikens utveckling.

Submitted by: Lisbeth H Qvarfordt  
Picture by: Inge Hallberg

## En resa bland Vasavänner

Under några dagar i maj passade vasamedlemmarna Karl-Erik Axelsson och Elisabeth Agge, medlemmar i logen Enköping Nr 646 samt Linde loge Nr 492 tillsammans med Lars-Åke Sjöberg och Hillivi Sjöberg, medlemmar från logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563 samt Linde Loge Nr 492 att resa till USA och besöka sina logevänner Lisa och Rolf Ekstrand i Milwaukee.

Vi umgicks i några dagar där innan vi åkte vidare, med Frankenmuth i Michigan som mål, där Distrikts Logen Michigan Nr 8 hade sitt distriktsmöte och firade 100-års jubileum. Innan vi kom dit stannade vi till i Detroit och Greenfield Village vilket är mycket intressant historiskt sett. Där kan man bl a åka gamla Fordbilar, lära sig om Edisons glödlampor m m.

Väl framme i Frankenmuth hade många vasavänner samlats. Även Storlogens ExB var närvarande under dessa dagar. Dagen innan mötet passade vi fyra från Sverige på att lära oss litet om staden Frankenmuth, samt återta vår bekanskap med Lisa Ekstrand och Marion Bruce som vi hade haft bil-sällskap med till Detroit. Vännerna Nancy och Sten Hulth tog dessutom emot oss med öppna armar. Elisabeth hade av logen Linde Nr 492 samt Skansen Nr 113 blivit utnämnd till att vara delegat för Skansen Nr 113 vilket var en trevlig och intressant upplevelse. Vid mötets första dag fick vi information om att DM J. Nystedt ej kunde närvara på grund av sjukdom och att VDM Sheila Lundquist under dessa dagar skulle komma att få leda mötet, vilket hon gjorde mycket värdigt.

Under mötesdagarna fick vi tråkiga nyheter, DM J Nystedt avled på grund av sin sjukdom. Tankarna går ut till honom och hans familj.

Mötet fortlöpte trots den sorgliga nyheten på ett positivt sätt och på kvällen genomfördes en bankett med gratulationer till logen Michigan Nr 8 på deras 100-års jubileum. Vi fick då möjlighet att umgås och sitta tillsammans med våra vänner Jake och Marge Gruel, Lisa Ekstrand, Lars Jenner (Vasa arkivet) samt Dave och Charlott Tollin.

Under denna kväll överlämnade även DL Michigan Nr 8 den nya utmärkelsen som var en specialtillverkad Vasaring till Dave Tollin för allt arbete han utfört för Vasa Orden av Amerika i Distrikt Nr 8 och i Vasa Arkivet.

När Distriktsmötet började nå sitt slut framförde Elisabeth Agge ett tack till DL Michigan Nr 8 för deras gästfrihet från de vasamedlemmar som kom från Sverige och närvarade under dessa dagar. Det var Bertil Ericsson och Tore Tellberg från Storlogens ExB, Margaretha Tellberg, Logen Sundsvall Nr 705, Lars-Åke och Hillivi Sjöberg logen Mälardrottningen Nr 563 samt Karl-Erik Axelsson och Elisabeth själv från Logen Enköping Nr 646.

Varmt tack till logen Viking Nr 730 och DL Michigan Nr 8 för ett mycket

trevliga mottagande av oss svenskar under det fina distriktsmötet. Vi önskar de nya ExB med DM Sheila Lundquist lycka till i deras arbete.

Vi fyra svenskar, Sjöbergs, Axelsson och Agge begav oss vidare till *Amish Country* vilket gav oss en blick in i Amishfolkets kultur. Naturen var dessutom mycket vacker.

Resan gick sedan sakta vidare upp till Chicago och med fyllda resväskor reste vi hem till Sverige.

Submitted by:  
Elisabeth Agge, LL 646/492



Hillivi Sjöberg och Elisabeth Agge tar en paus i resandet.



Rolf Ekstrand LL Nr 492, Lars-Åke Sjöberg LL Nr 563, Karl-Erik Axelsson LL Nr 646 försöker få ner packningen i bilen.

# YOUTH NEWS

## Sjölunden Winners

Dear Members of the Vasa Order of America,

My brother Zachary and I would like to offer you our deepest gratitude for the privileges that have been granted to us. This summer you have been kind enough to award Zachary with a scholarship to Sjolunden. I was awarded that same scholarship in 2005 so I know how much fun he will have. We have had continuous support from our Miami Lodge #554, with Sister Secretary Jean Dahlgren and Sr. Chairman Sonia Farrow. These leading ladies helped make it possible. Zachary and I are incredibly grateful for our wonderful opportunities from these giving women. Without their patience, together with the Vasa Order of America's generosity, Zachary and I would never of been able to experience the greatness and life lessons all packed in to two weeks of camp. Thank you again so much for everything.

Sincerely,  
Natasha and Zachary Henderson



Natasha and Zachary Henderson

## Allemansrätten



Bocksippor vid Djursdala, utanför Vimmerby, Småland, i maj 2008.

Photo: Bocksippan, *Pulsatilla vulgaris* in Djursdala, outside of Vimmerby (Småland) in May of 2008.

Picture by: Gunnar Lith.

Den svenska *Allemansrätten* är unik. Den har i många århundraden funnits bara som en sedvanerätt, men sedan 1994 är den en del av den svenska konstitutionen. *Allemansrätten* ger folk möjlighet att vara ute i naturen för rekreation, något många svenskar tycker om.

Enligt *Allemansrätten* får man vistas nästan överallt i naturen; promenera, cykla, rida och åka skidor, bara man respekterar andra människors privatliv.

Man får plocka vilda bär, blommor och svamp, liksom nedfallna kvistar och grenar.

Det finns emellertid vissa blommor som är så sällsynta att det är risk för att de ska bli utrotade. De är därför skyddade enligt lag (fridlysta) och får inte plockas, så är t.ex. fallet med alla orkidéer i hela landet.

*Bocksippan, Pulsatilla vulgaris*, är en annan fridlyst, sällsynt blomma, som bara går att hitta på några få ställen i södra Sverige. I april eller början av maj blommar hundratals av dem på en kulle utanför Vimmerby. Då kommer massor av människor dit för att se på de stora, klocklika, blå-violetta blommorna.

Man får fritt fiska med spö utefter hela Sveriges kust och i våra fem största insjöar. För att fiska i andra vatten fordras ett speciellt fiskekort.

Hundar får inte springa lösa i skog och mark mellan den 1 mars och 20 augusti.

Speciella, lagskyddade naturområden är Sveriges 28 nationalparker. Den näst minsta ligger i *Norra Kvill*, en välbevarad urskog, där några av tallarna är över 350 år.

Det är förbjudet att skräpa ned i naturen. Glas, burkar och kapsyler kan skada både människor och djur. Ett nytt, stort problem är den stora användningen av plastpåsar, som kan orsaka mycket lidande om djuren får dem i sig.

Det finns flera regler att tänka på, då man vistas i naturen, men sunt förnuft och huvudregeln för *Allemansrätten* borde kunna räcka: ”Inte störa – inte förstöra”.

### Right of Public Access

Sweden's *Right of Public Access* is unique. For many centuries it has existed as a customary law only, but since 1994 it is part of the *Swedish constitution*. It gives you many opportunities for outdoor recreation something many Swedes enjoy very much.

The *Right of Public Access* (*allemansrätten*) gives you the right to access, walk, and cycle, ride and ski almost everywhere in the countryside, as long as you respect other people's privacy.

You are allowed to pick wild berries, flowers and mushrooms, as well as twigs and branches that have fallen to the ground.

There are, however, certain flower species that are so rare that they run the risk of being extinct. They are therefore protected by law and must not be picked, so are (for example) orchids throughout all of Sweden. *Bocksippan, Pulsatilla vulgaris*, is one of the protected rare flowers, which can be seen only in few places of southern Sweden. In April, or at the beginning of May, there are hundreds

of them blooming on a hill outside of Vimmerby. Lots of people come to see the large, bell-shaped, blue-violet flowers during this time.

You may fish freely with a fishing pole along the coastline and in Sweden's five largest lakes. Fishing in other lakes requires a fishing licence.

Dogs are not allowed to run loose in the countryside from March 1st until August 20th.

Special protected natural areas are Sweden's 28 national parks. The second smallest park is *Norra (North) Kvill*, a well preserved primeval forest outside of Vimmerby. Some of the pine trees in this area are more than 350 years old.

All sorts of littering are absolutely forbidden in the countryside. Glass, tins and bottle caps can harm both people and animals. Today a major problem is the frequent use of plastic bags which can cause much suffering to animals.

There are more regulations to follow but common sense and the basic principle of *The Right of Public Access* should be enough: "Don't disturb, don't destroy."

Submitted by: Gun Lith, GLCD, SLKC

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# The Man Who Made the Monitor

A biography of John Ericsson, Naval Engineer

by

OLAV THULESIUS

(McFarland, 2007)

*His inventions was not the result of waking dream.*

The Swedish-American inventor, John Ericsson (1803-1889) is best remembered for his *Monitor*, the turreted ironclad warship during the Civil War. He was a very private man who shunned publicity. After the battle at Hampton Roads he could have been in the limelight if he had visited the *Monitor* like President Lincoln, Nathaniel Hawthorne and newspaper reporters, but he preferred solitude and continued designing at his house on Manhattan. After his death people began to look back at the life of a great man and tried to commemorate his achievements both in Europe and the United States. He became a symbol of national pride and an interesting part of the history of the industrial revolution. My biography is based on experience from the time I went to School in Filipstad near John's place of birth and burial, and twenty years in the US.

During his lifetime John Ericsson had to fight much opposition but his collaborator Charles W. MacCord expressed the view: "It is safe to say that the memory of John Ericsson will be great in the minds of men and even in England he was not forgotten. John M. Kenworthy, Lt. Commander of the Royal Navy and member of Parliament said in 1930: "John Ericsson was one of the greatest marine engineers and architects the world has known. He was the pioneer of the screw propeller." Even Winston Churchill in 1939 praised Ericsson's *Monitor* a ship that finally leads to a reconstruction of the British Navy.

It is understandable that particularly Swedish-Americans were proud of their countryman. One of them was Carl Sandburg, who in his memoirs *Always the Young Strangers* gives us a funny glimpse of what happened when he as a boy became interested in small biographies found in cigarette boxes.

"In the list I noticed John Ericsson, the inventor of the *Monitor*, the Swede who helped the North win the war. I tried but couldn't scare up a copy of the John Ericsson. A Swede boy pulled one out of his vest pocket one day and grinned at

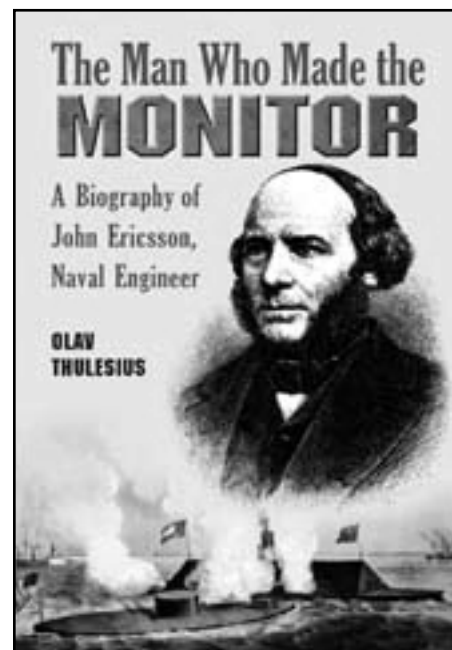
me. He knew I wanted it. I offered him a penny for it and went as high as a nickel and he shook his head."

We should, however, not forget that the *Monitor Man* did much more than build warships, he also designed many practical things such as small energy saving hot-air engines and above all he was the visionary pioneer of solar energy and predicted that we would one day run out of fuel. The remains of these inventions attracted public attention much later and a few remaining constructions and models now are on display at the American Swedish Museum in Philadelphia and the Technical Museum in Stockholm.

In 1889 New York decided to commemorate John Ericsson with a monument. The Legislature of New York City by an unusual act appropriated ten thousand dollars to erect it to the memory of the great inventor. It was to be the first statue ever erected at the expense of the municipality. It took a long time to choose the proper place, but in 1893 a bronze statue showing the inventor standing on a granite pedestal was erected in Battery Park.

In the Swedish settlements of America people were justly proud of their famous fellow countryman and they took every opportunity to celebrate not his birthday, but the anniversary of the battle of Hampton Roads, on March 9 when the *Monitor* met the "*Merrimack*" in history's first battle of armored warships.

In 1926 another monument honoring John Ericsson was erected in Washington's Potomac Park, near the huge Lincoln Memorial. The unveiling ceremony was performed by President Calvin Coolidge and Crown Prince Gustav Adolf of Sweden. The event was also commemorated by the issue of a 5-cent U.S. postage stamp showing the statue and the shields of the United States and Sweden. In 1907 the *John Ericsson Society of New York* was founded with the aim "To perpetuate the memory of Captain John Ericsson and to disseminate information concerning the life and works



of him." In the Swedish American Museum in Philadelphia have a valuable collection of Ericsson memorabilia and an archive of his correspondence.

In the US three warships were named after Ericsson, the first in 1890, the second in 1912 and finally in 1941 the destroyer *Ericsson* which actively participated in combat in the second World War.

## *Ericsson in Sweden*

In his homeland there are two statues of John Ericsson, one in Stockholm and the other in Gothenburg. - Värmland, the birthplace is particularly proud of their famous son and there are yearly birthday celebrations in Filipstad on July 31st with a colorful re-enactment of the battle of the ironclads on Lake Daglösén. It takes place close to the Ericsson mausoleum overlooking the water near two big cannons from a Swedish monitor.

Dr. Mark D. Hirsch of New York in 1954 wrote: "John Ericsson's stage was the world. To associate him alone with our city, or State, or even the nation, is to demean him, to make parochial his boundless mental endowment and indomitable spirit. He was a selfless, devoted servant of mankind." Mark Twain once said: "I think we never become really and genuinely our entire and honest selves until we have been dead years and years. People ought to start dead and then they would be honest so much earlier."

The most recent important memorial of the great inventor after the *Monitor* discovery and rescue operations is the *USS Monitor Center* at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News.

# HAPPENINGS

## Swedish Language Class



The Swedish Language Class in Los Gatos, CA, is pictured at the lovely home of Sandra Rains. The students are very enthusiastic about learning the Swedish language. This picture was taken during the coffee break and relaxation.

Submitted by: Gerd Salmonson

# THANK YOU

## Grand Lodge Elderhostel

To The Vasa Order of America - Grand Lodge

I express my appreciation for the *Grand Lodge Elderhostel Award* for the experiences acquired while attending the *John C. Campbell Folk School Scandinavian Week* of March 23-29, 2008.

While attending *The Cooking of Scandinavia* session, it was very enlightening to individually experience the traditions of preparing and presentation of typical Scandinavian cuisine. Beside the preparation, the cultural experiences learned were many as the theme was *Scandinavian Heritage Week* for this session.

Each day was started with a community gathering for traditions and singing, followed by breakfast in family style (for all meals). The food preparation was with an accent on Scandinavian specialties for all attendees in a common dining area. The morning continued with each specific class. Lunch was followed by videos or performances of Scandinavian culture. Continuing the afternoon class creations and learning was followed by dinner. The evening was filled with various programs of local cultural and Scandinavian themes that included music and/or dancing.

We were fortunate in preparing the foods to provide a complete dinner for our class mates, spouses and invited guests, plus we could treat other classes to our creations throughout the week. The classes helped us share the cakes and desserts so we too did not over indulge.

During the last evening was a "show and tell" for all the crafts, where we provided a porridge and dessert, while others classes included weaving, rosemary, knitting, wood carving turning and bending, music, stained glass, clay molding and painting, basketry and blacksmithing.

As my wife attended the same class, we are looking forward to sharing with the youth in our *Viking Village Camp* of over 30 youths this year. Gunlog was especially helpful in providing more in depth Swedish culture to the class as well as the daily and evening programs. We established a number of new friendships while enjoying the setting of southern North Carolina and the Appalachian hill country.

Fraternally,  
Gary Spaberg

## To Whom It May Concern

I am writing on behalf of a good friend and member named Martin Johnson of West Hartford, CT. His partner is my mother, Ethel Saaf, who I believed was the treasurer or collected dues for 40 years at Norden Lodge #1.

I am also a member since a young kid but live in New York City now and am not really able to attend meetings.

I just wanted to let someone know that Martin (Bud) Johnson was in the UConn Medical Dempsey Hospital in Farmington after having a stroke.

I'm hoping to find people that may know him as we are trying to get people to try to visit or contact him. And I don't know where to start.

Thanks for any help you can give me with this.

Sincerely,  
Robert Saaf, Norden Lodge #1,  
Hartford, Conneticut  
917-733-6144 cell  
[rkarsav@earthlink.net](mailto:rkarsav@earthlink.net)

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