

## Lodge Main News

On Saturday, December 13, 2025 - Desert Viking will hold their annual Lucia and luncheon at 12 Noon at Hope Lutheran Church. Those bringing food items are no charge or the meal is \$10 per person. You are welcome to participate in the gift exchange with a \$15 valued gift. Our Lucia is Janet Knight's granddaughter, Everly (Evie) Stanford, age 12 and her family will be attending Lucia with her.

From our Lodge to yours and to your family,

**Vi önskar dig en god jul och ett gott nytt år ~~**

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ~~



### Recap October meeting:

Election of Officers 2026

Food Hosts: Chili Fest: Miriam Hendrix – traditional chili, Jennifer Weisbart-Moreno – vegetarian chili.

### **Save the date – Special Events – Sweden Holidays**

**11/30/2025 - Advent – first candle**

**12/6/2025 – Christmas Fair, SWEA Los Angeles**

**12/7/2025 - Advent – second candle**

**12/13/2025 - Lucia**

**12/14/2025 - Advent – third candle**

**12/21/2025 - Advent – fourth candle**

**2/28/2026-3/1/2026** - District Lodge Convention, Palm Garden Hotel, Thousand Oaks, CA

**7/14-18/2026** – Grand Lodge Convention, Chicago Marriott Naperville, 1801 North Naper Blvd., Naperville, IL 60563 – Vasa members are welcome to attend.

**RSVP MEALS:** mary.wright07@yahoo.com

#### **Page 1**

Lodge News

RSVP Refreshments

#### **Page 2**

New Membership/Member Dues

Birthdays

#### **Page 3**

Culture Corner

#### **Page 4**

Cook Nook

#### **Page 5**

Meeting Times / Refreshment Hosts

#### **Page 6**

Hope Pantry Items Needed

#### **Officers 2025**

Chairperson – Jennifer Weisbart Moreno  
jweisbartmoreno@gmail.com

Vice Chairperson – Vacant

Past Chairperson – Linda Kosvic  
Desertviking682@gmail.com

Secretary – Mary Wright  
Mary.wright07@yahoo.com

Asst Secty – Linda Kosvic

Treasurer – Alex Danson

Cultural Leader – Janet Knight

Chaplain – Elsie Danielsson

Trustee – Linda Kosvic

Auditor – Monica Weisbart

Sunshine1 – Dottie Bessares

Sunshine2 – Marie Olsen

Newsletter Editor/PR/Media

- Linda Kosvic

Vasa Park Delegates

- Linda Kosvic

- Monica Weisbart

- Steinar Johansen

*Thank you to Hope Lutheran Church for our meeting place. At Christmas time, we contribute to the church poinsettia display.*

***Hope Lutheran Church Food Pantry appreciates the donated items to assist families during the upcoming holidays and throughout the year.***



## MEMBERSHIP & DUES - Desert Viking 682-15

Dues for 2026 can be paid now or  
If easier in installments, notify Mary.

### New Member \$45

[Membership Application USA Canada 2024.pdf](#)

### Member Dues

Individual \$35 | Couple \$65 | Student \$25

Issue check to: Vasa Desert Viking 682 OR pay by Zelle

Mail dues and/or member application with fee to:

Mary Wright, Secretary

1499 Corte Alamonte, Hemet, CA 92545

[Marywright07@yahoo.com](mailto:Marywright07@yahoo.com)

Zelle payments: 760-880-0641 (Alex Danson, DV Treasurer)

## MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Membership cards are presented to the members joining and the card is updated with current dues paid. Please bring your card to the meeting to get updated by Mary. If you have not paid your dues for 2025 yet, now is the time!

## Member News

### Birthdays

December

05 – Lauren Lunstrum – Skaulo, Sweden

26 – Charlotte Larson

### Sunshine Wishes

Steinar Johansen

Laurel Granger

Charlotte Larson (contact Miriam Hendrix for information)

Marilyn Vik – is recovering at home.



## VASA Park & Vasa Park Association News

### Member Only Private Park

[Vasapark.org](http://Vasapark.org)



**Vasa Park** is a VASA Member only park. Annually the park holds three member picnics and each has a different themed event and activity. **Spring – Vasa Day, June – Midsummer, October - Hostmarknad** (fall market) with vendors and a meatball contest. Alcoholic beverages are served by a professional beer server. **Vasa Park Association** is the management body of the park and District 15 Local Lodges are the members. Delegates are chosen from the member lodges to act on behalf of the lodge and vote accordingly.

**Vasa Park Member Lodge Delegates 2025** - Linda Kosvic, Steinar Johansen, Monica Weisbart

**Vasa Park Meetings** - 7:30 pm monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (Zoom)

December 8 - Recess

January 12, 2026 - Election of Officers

Hostmarknad 2025 - Models, names are unknown.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS!!!

## **Desert Viking No. 682 Officers 2026**

Chairperson, Jennifer Weisbart-Moreno

Vice Chairperson, Steinar Johansen

Past Chairperson, Linda Kosvic

Secretary, Linda Kosvic

Asst Secretary, Mary Wright

Treasurer, Alex Danson

Cultural Leader, Vickie Raines

Chaplain, Janet Knight

Trustee, Linda Kosvic

Auditor, Tim Johnson

## Committees:

Newsletter/Social Media, Linda Kosvic

Sunshine, Dottie Bessares

## Vasa Park Association Delegates

Steinar Johanson

Monica Weisbart

Linda Kosvic

## District Lodge 15 Regular Meeting Convention Delegates 2026

Jennifer Weisbart-Moreno

Tim Johnson

## District Lodge 15 – Officers and Committees from Desert Viking

Linda Kosvic - District Secretary

Jennifer Weisbart-Moreno – District Scholarship Committee Member

District 15 Host Raffle Committee 2026 – Desert Viking 682-15

District Deputy Desert Viking – Mary Wright



## Vasa Park Association

Thank you to the Vasa Park Association and the officers for your continued support of the Vasa Park Association Member Lodges. We appreciate the Vasa Park Association and for your tenacious and enduring energy with maintaining and keeping the park open to the VASA Members. Your annual financial assistance is and has been a great assistance to our lodge. We look forward to many more years of friendship.

What traditions do you like to do and remember during the holiday season?

## Julmarkets throughout Sweden



**Gammelstad Christmas market, Swedish Lapland**  
Set in the historic surroundings of [Gammelstad Church Town](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Luleå, this charming outdoor market offers a festive glimpse into Swedish Christmas traditions of the past. Wander among old wooden buildings, meet the Santa family and their reindeer and enjoy music performances. The market features carefully selected stalls offering seasonal gifts, food, and crafts – all set in a beautifully preserved historical setting.

**Open:** 6-7 December 2025.

[Top Swedish Christmas markets 2025 | Visit Sweden](#)

## Story of the Swedish Christmas Goat

The Gävle Goat of Gävlebocken, is a giant straw figure that has become a symbol of Christmas in Sweden. Its story began in 1966 when advertising consultant Stig Gavién suggested making a giant version of the traditional Swedish Yule goat. The goat was erected in the square of Gävle, and it has been a center part of the Christmas celebration ever since. Despite its popularity, the Gävle Goat has faced challenges, including arson attacks that have destroyed it in many years. The goat's construction and destruction have become part of the Gävle community Christmas tradition, blending old customs with modern holiday cheer.



Wikipedia

## December 24



Maybe you want to start this tradition as well.

Kalle Anka, or Donald Duck, is a central figure in Sweden's Christmas tradition, where every year at 3:00 PM on December 24, the country pauses its celebrations to watch the Disney Christmas Special 'From All of Us to All of You.' This annual broadcast has been a cherished part of Swedish Christmas Eve celebrations since 1960. The show, dubbed in Swedish as a "Kalle Anka och hans vänner önskar God Jul,," translates to "Donald Duck and his friends wish you a Merry Christmas." It features a mix of classic Disney cartoons and iconic scenes from beloved animated films, offering a comforting sense of continuity and continuity of tradition. Despite the advent of streaming platforms and on-demand entertainment, Kalle Anka continues to be a beloved part of Swedish holiday traditions.

Greetings from our dear friend and USA Santa Matthew Beaumont.



Sweden Christmas Santa

## Jultomte: Swedish Father Christmas

The *Jultomte* is one of the most iconic figures in Swedish Christmas traditions. Often described as the Swedish version of Father Christmas, Jultomte has much older roots than the modern Santa Claus. His name combines *Jul* (Christmas) and *Tomte* (gnome). In Nordic folklore, the Tomte is a small, bearded farm guardian who protects the home, cares for the animals and keeps order on the farm. This mythical figure has lived on for centuries in Swedish stories, songs, and regional customs.



Traditionally, Jultomte is depicted as a small, stocky man with a long, white beard. He wears a red, pointed cap, similar to those worn by Scandinavian gnomes rather than a traditional Santa hat, and is usually dressed in grey or red woollen clothing.

A defining feature of the Swedish Jultomte is that he delivers gifts in person. Instead of arriving at night, he knocks on the door on Christmas Eve and hands presents directly to the family. In many homes, a relative dresses up as Jultomte, keeping the tradition playful and alive. It is also customary to offer him something to eat, historically a bowl of *Tomtegröt* (rice pudding). This gesture echoes old beliefs that the Tomte lives on the farm year-round, where people expressed gratitude at Christmas for his protection and hard work.

Blending folklore, family rituals, and festive magic, the Jultomte remains one of the most enduring and beloved Swedish Christmas traditions.

## Saffron Buns – St. Lucia Buns

These saffron-hued sweet buns are a staple of the Swedish tradition of St. Lucia's Day, a winter-solstice celebration. The recipe is from Jennifer Jansch, whose children serve their parents the buns every Dec. 13, when the holiday is observed.

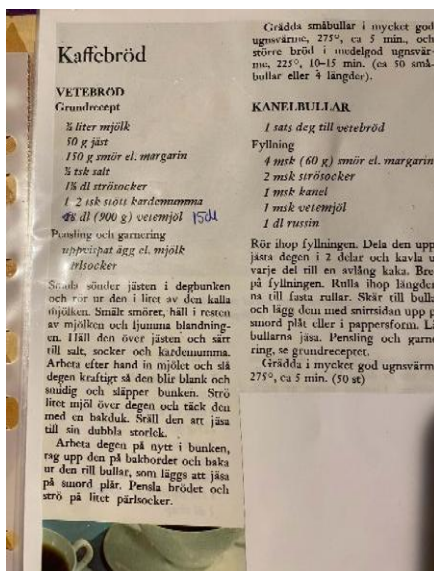
1 ½ hours  
30 buns.

### Ingredients

- 6 ounces butter, melted
- 2 ½ cups lukewarm milk
- ¾ teaspoon saffron
- 1 cup sugar
- 1.7 ounces fresh yeast
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 pounds wheat flour, or as needed
- Beaten egg, for brushing
- Raisins, for garnish.

### Preparation

1. Place the butter and milk in a medium bowl. Using a mortar and pestle, grind the saffron with a pinch of the sugar, and stir into the mixture. In a large bowl, dissolve the yeast in a little of the lukewarm butter mixture, then add the remaining butter mixture, the remaining sugar and the salt.
2. Gradually add enough of the flour (almost all of it) to make a workable dough, kneading for 10 minutes by hand or 5 minutes in a mixer with a dough hook. Shape into a ball, sprinkle with a little flour and cover with a cloth. Allow to rise in a warm spot for 30 to 45 minutes.
3. Transfer the dough to a floured work surface, and knead in additional flour if the dough is sticky. Shape as desired into buns, braids or lengths. Place on lined baking sheets, and allow to rise again for 30 to 45 minutes. Preheat the oven to 400.
4. Brush the buns with beaten egg, and press raisins lightly into the dough. Bake until golden and risen, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of a bun comes out dry. Smaller buns may take 8 to 10 minutes; larger lengths and braids, 15 to 20 minutes. Cool the buns on a rack under a cloth.



Tip: From a dear friend and as close as a family member.

This is the recipe I use. It's a basic recipe for cinnamon buns or cardemon buns. Instead of cardemon or cinnamon, I use 1 bag of saffron. 0,5 g. I always do double of everything, 'cause we love them. If you google a recipe in English, it will not be the same. There are always almond paste and a lot of raisins in it. We just put two raisins on the top for decorations.



This is her daughter Hanna serving the St Lucia Buns that were freshly made.

**VASA Scholarships News 2026**

District Lodge 15  
 Scholarship Applications 2026  
**DEADLINE Due Date - December 6, 2025**  
 Must be a member as of January 1, 2025

Scholarships available for:  
 Academic, Graduate, Medical,  
 Vocational/Trades, Culture Education Elder,  
 Swedish Language Immersion Camp – Youth  
 Sweden Language Camp - Adult

Watch for updates and applications on the websites:  
 District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15  
[www.vasaDL15.org/scholarships](http://www.vasaDL15.org/scholarships)

VASA Grand Lodge Scholarships  
[www.vasaorder.com](http://www.vasaorder.com)



**DESERT VIKING MEETINGS 2026**

**Meeting Schedule**

**Regular Business Meetings once per quarter | Social Meetings are held the other months  
 Dark – July and August**

**Hope Lutheran Church – Music Room (subject to change)  
 45-900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert, CA 92260  
 (Just below the Living Desert)**

**Reservations for Meal Preparation  
 Mary Wright | 951 316-4899 | mary.wright07@yahoo.com**

December 13 - 2025	Hope Lutheran Church-Music Room	12 Noon - Christmas Party
January 10 - 2026	Hope Lutheran Church-Music Room	11 a.m. - Business Meeting
February 14 - 2026	Hope Lutheran Church-Music Room	11 a.m. - Social Meeting
March 14 - 2026	Hope Lutheran Church-Music Room	
April 11 - 2026	Palm Desert Civic Park	Day in the Park Picnic

**Refreshment Hosts**

December - 2025	Christmas Luncheon & Lucia	Lodge and Lodge members
January - 2026	Pizza and salad	Lodge and Lodge members
February - 2026		
March - 2026		
April - 2026	BBQ and fixings, food-members	



## Volunteers

What a Blessing Hope Food Pantry is for many of our unhoused individuals and food insecure families in our community. We serve over 200 people a month. We are truly the hands and feet of Jesus when we feed the disadvantaged. The need has increased over the past year and thanks to generous members we have been able to meet their needs.

Our donations come from YOU! We don't receive corporate donations. For this Volunteer lead Ministry to continue, we need your food donations to continue and if possible, increase. If you are able, could you please donate a few items weekly? (see the list of needs) If we all do a little the burden is light.

As a volunteer, I'm blessed every day as they offer their gratitude and a "God Bless You" as they leave with their full bag of food, and (daily prayer book, Christ in our Home.) Remember our pantry as you shop or clean out your own pantry. Your donations may be dropped the church office or on Sundays before services. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. If you are unable to shop, WE will shop for you!

**Thank you for all your continued support. We are all so proud of our church members.**

## What Needed

### FOOD ITEMS

- Canned Soup, pop tops
- Ramen Cup of Noodles
- Canned Vegetables, pop tops
- Fruit Cups
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Spaghetti/Ravioli/Chili
- Instant Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter
- Crackers
- Fruit Bars
- Juice Boxes

### FROZEN

- Burritos
- Hot Pockets
- Frozen Dinner

### FRESH

- Milk, pint size
- Launch Meat, Packaged
- Sliced Cheese, individually wrapped
- Apples
- Yogurt



**MONEY DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

## Pantry Growing

Two of the volunteers made a major shopping trip to Walmart. As we pushed **TWO FULL** carts to the check out, this Walmart employee offered assistance. She opened a checkout lane just for us, scanned items (took her 20 minutes), bagged, helped us load our carts and pushed them to our car!

While she scanned our items, she asked what this was for. We told her about Hope Food Pantry for the unhoused and food insecure. Quietly she said "May God Bless the people of Hope. I was homeless and know the difference you are making for the people you are serving." With tears in our eyes, we all hugged and went about our day.

With your donations and prayers, you help us continue our ministry.

### May God Bless you.


With gratitude, Hope Food Pantry  
**Volunteers**



Grand Lodge Convention 2026 Nyckelharpa Auction. Send offers through private message or email to [johnhanright@gmail.com](mailto:johnhanright@gmail.com). The auction is anticipated to end 1/1/2026. Bids are open to Vasa Members.

**AUCTION TO SUPPORT LAKE MICHIGAN DISTRICT #8  
GRAND LODGE CONVENTION FUND**

# ***One of a Kind Nyckelharpa***



***Skillfully Hand Crafted by  
Grand Master John Hanright***

**Submit Bids to [johnhanright@gmail.com](mailto:johnhanright@gmail.com)**

**Auction anticipated to end 1/1/2026. Bids open to Vasa Members  
ONLY unless the Reserve is not met.**

**If the Reserve is not met, it will be offered outside of Vasa.**

**DISTRICT AND LODGE SECRETARIES PLEASE READ AT YOUR NEXT MEETING(S)  
AND DISTRIBUTE THIS MEMO AND ATTACHED FLYER TO YOUR MEMBERS:**

Vasa Brothers and Sisters,

Our quadrennial meeting of the Grand Lodge is being hosted by District Lodge Lake Michigan No. 8 and is scheduled for the week of July 14, 2026. The meeting will be in Naperville Illinois, just west of Chicago. It's time to start thinking about submitting constitutional resolutions for consideration. Many delegates have been elected by the various Districts and convention planning is ongoing. This is a huge undertaking, and we applaud District 8 for their dedication. To help District No. 8 with the financial burden I have constructed a Nyckelharpa that will be auctioned and 100% of the proceeds will go to DL-8 to help defer costs. We will accept offers through private message or email to [johnhanright@gmail.com](mailto:johnhanright@gmail.com). The auction is anticipated to end 1/1/2026. Bids open to Vasa Members ONLY unless the Reserve is not met. If the Reserve is not met, it will be offered outside of Vasa.

A little about the harp. It is a 3 row, 37 key chromatic Nyckelharpa. The neck and sides are Alpine spruce from Germany. The top is Sitka spruce from the Pacific Northwest. AAAA grade luthier quality spruce. The back and key box are African mahogany. The bridge and tailpiece are rock maple from the Midwest probably Wisconsin. The saddle is black Indian ebony. The main tuning pegs are black ebony. The fine tuners are Wittner Stable 4/4 cello tuners and the sympathetic string tuners are from a friend who builds Nyckelharpas in Halsingland Sweden. The main strings are Primm Nyckelharpa strings from Sweden, and the sympathetic strings are D Adarrio acoustic guitar. The tailpiece is inlay with white mother of pearl dove. The tone of the various wood was so nice I went with clear shellac finish. It plays very nicely. Please don't make bids in the comments section as it would put you at a disadvantage. The Grand Lodge Convention is our most important meeting and deserves our attention and contributions.

In Truth and Unity.

John Hanright (Jack), Grand Master