



# Linde Lodge No. 492



## August 2024



Meeting & Socials - Mark your calendars and  
***Please join us - Watch for updates & changes***

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**SUNDAY AUGUST 11, 2024, at 2:00 PM-?  
WHITNALL PARK BEER GARDEN**  
8831 N Root River Pkwy, Greendale, WI  
Linde Picnic and games of Kubb. You can bring your own food and non-alcoholic drinks, or you can purchase food there. Food Trucks; BBQ/snacks, Soda/beer, etc.  
**Please let us know if you can make it.**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2024, 1:00 PM**  
Business mtg/program - Liza's Swedish Trip at Christ the Victor Church  
15700 W Coffee Rd, NB  
Bring something for the Fika/Coffee hour



**SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2024, 1:00 PM**  
Business mtg/program TBD at Christ the Victor Church 15700 W Coffee Rd, NB  
Bring something for the Fika/Coffee hour

**Field Day OCTOBER 20, 2024**  
**FRIENDS of the VIKING SHIP and COTTAGES IN THE WOODS, in Geneva, IL**  
Partially sponsored by Linde. Please let us know if you can join us, carpooling.



**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2024, 1:00 PM**  
Business mtg/program TBD at Christ the Victor Church 15700 W Coffee Rd, NB  
Bring something for the Fika/Coffee hour



**FRI-SUN NOVEMBER 22-24, 2024**  
**MILWAUKEE HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR**  
Looking for volunteers to help with Linde information booth. No sales, No food or serving. Easy job and fun to be at the Fair, so please contact Liza to sign up!



**JUST A REMINDER... if you move, PLEASE let us know.**  
Call Liza Ekstrand at 262.366.9152 to update your new address.  
Also update **email & phone** changes when that happens.

The deadline for the **September issue is August 15, 2024**  
Please submit articles, favorite recipes, share pictures, etc.



Linde Lodge  
No. 492

Usually meets once  
a month on a  
Saturday for lunch  
or Fika/coffee, with  
Programs and  
Social time for 1-2  
hours. Or Events!  
Check the front  
page for details.

**OFFICERS:**

*Chairman*  
Brent Erickson  
414.962.8920

*Vice Chairman*  
Vacant

*Secretary*  
Liza Ekstrand  
262.366.9152

*Treasurer*  
Marianne Ekstrand  
262.893.8112

*Financial Secretary*  
Elaine Johnson  
262.860.9014

*Cultural Leader*  
Vacant

*Newsletter Editor*  
Liza Ekstrand  
262.366.9152

*Sunshine Comm.*  
Vacant

*Address Change to*  
Liza Ekstrand  
262.366.9152  
lekstrand@wi.rr.com

**Check out the  
Vasa website  
Vasaorder.com**



## Message From Liza...

We are through half of the summer by now, Midsommar has happened, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is also behind us. Many of you are enjoying vacations, at home, away, and even abroad. Whatever you do, enjoy it and keep making memories.

Rolf and I spent 4 days getting to and on the beautiful Mackinac Island in June. I spent another 3-days at a golf resort in Door County with my golfing friend Pam, also in June. We're getting ready for Swedish company for a few days. I visited Vasa friends in Sweden last summer. Now Britt & Gert Lantz from Tomelilla Lodge # 631 in Skåne, and their daughter Matilda who has now been an Au Pair

with a family in Cincinnati for a year are visiting us. It will be a quick two-day tour of Milwaukee and surrounding areas. You just never know where your next Vasa connections will take you! Then I'm packing my bags for almost 3 weeks in Sweden. Spending time with my sister and brother-in-law and doing a road trip to Stockholm. Can you believe that they have never been there, so I'm their guide.

As you can see from the pictures, we had a beautiful day for Midsommar at Heidelberg Park, and it was great to see many of you there. Everyone was busy helping with all the decorations, and of course the dancing and singing.



Busy with flower wreaths, the raising of the Maypole and then listening to the music.

## Summer Greetings



*My favorite  
two Midsommar kids,  
George III and Grace Katsekas*

## Happy AUGUST Birthdays!

- 7 Margo Kinservik
- 15 Sonia Hummel
- 19 Fia Hjort
- 26 Sherri Stigler
- 27 Susanna Rosario
- 31 Darlene Backman



2.

## Grattis!

*Ja må du leva! Ja må du leva!  
Ja må du leva uti Hundrade år!  
Javisst ska du leva, javisst ska  
du leva, javisst skall du leva  
uti Hundrade år.*

*Ett Fyrfaldigt Leve, Leve Dig!  
Hurra-Hurra-Hurra-Hurra!!!*

Linde Lodge No. 492  
June 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Meeting place: Christ the Victor Lutheran Church  
Date & time: June 15, 2024, at 1:00 pm  
Officers present: Chairman Brent Erickson, Treasurer Marianne Ekstrand, Secretary Liza Ekstrand, Finance Sec. Elaine Johnson, and Trustee Jan Kamholtz. 10 members attending.

Chairman Brent Erickson opened the meeting at 1:10 pm.

*Sick committee report:* No sick information. Brent reported that long-time Swedish-American Historical Society member and co-founder of this organization Harry Anderson passed away on 5/21/2024 at the age of 93. He served as their president numerous times. Many of our Linde members remembers Harry for all his presentations and books. Our sincere condolences go to Harry's wife Evelyn and family.

*New applications:* None

*Old business:* Updating Linde's By-Laws – Karen Snowberg has provided us with a draft for the new by-laws, and we agreed to submit it to the District Lodge.

*New Business:* We finalized the dates for our upcoming Linde special events. Sunday **August 11 at 2:00 PM at Whitnall Park** Beer Garden for a picnic and games of Kubb. Bring your own food and non-alcoholic drinks, or purchase food/drinks at the various food trucks. Then on Sunday **October 20 a field trip to Friends of the Viking Ship and the Cottages of the Woods in Geneva IL.** Carpooling will take place so contact Liza Ekstrand (262-366-9152) on when to meet and let us know if you are able to have someone ride with you. Also hold the date, Sunday December 1 at 12:00 PM for our Annual Linde Christmas luncheon at the Ale House in New Berlin. A non-Linde event, but worth mentioning is the Scandinavian Days, which is coming up on September 8 in South Elgin, IL. The joint SAHS-WI & Linde Lucia event will take place on December 8 from 4-6 PM at Fox Point Lutheran Church.

A short FIKA break for coffee and pastries took place before we got ready for everyone's contribution of "Show and Tell" items. Always interesting and fun to do, and we all learn something new.

*Good of the Order:* Our Swedish members (Elisabeth Agge) is contributing with an article of the beloved Children's story Pelle Svanslös (Peter no-tail). Read the article in this issue, as well as a submissions by our members Lillemor Horngren Greenbrier TN ("why I came"), and Daniel Schroeder in Waupaca WI and his ode on the phenomena "Gökotta" (by Albert Einstein). Brent mentioned that he would connect with Robert Merrill from Jubileum to see if he would be interested in presenting some of his programs for our lodge. Jan Kamholtz told us that her son Jeremy was born on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's flight in 1977. Which of course also was Linde's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In just 3 years Jeremy will turn 50, and Linde will turn 100 along with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's flight. A good time to plan a party! Brent and Jean talked about a trip option to see a Scandifest in Scandinavia, and the Ice Age winter fest in Iola, with ski jumping, etc. We recognized the member birthdays for June and July .

Next meeting is September 14, 2024, at CTV starting at 1:00 PM, short business & program from the Travels to Sweden by Liza Ekstrand, Bring something to share for the coffee hour.

Rolf Ekstrand made a motion to close the meeting at 1:50 PM, Jean Erickson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the motion carried

In truth and unity

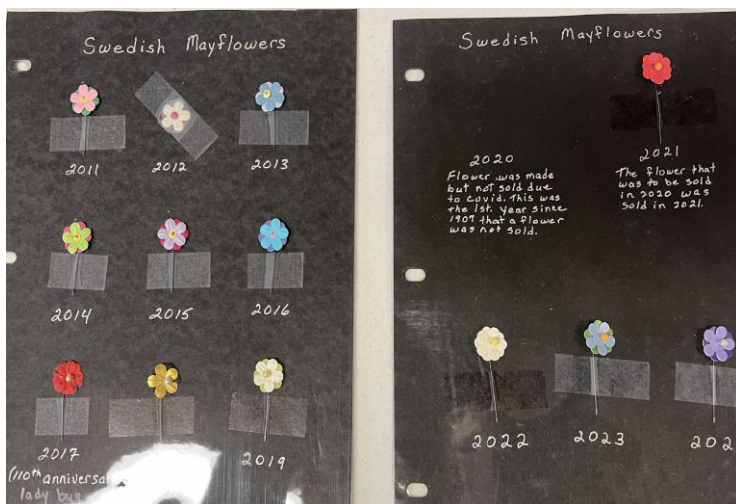
Liza Ekstrand, Recording Secretary  
Linde Lodge No. 492



Members listening to Brent (standing) and his presentation of old songbooks, from left Rolf Ekstrand, (behind him Karen Snowberg), Elaine Johnson, Marianne Ekstrand, Jan Kamholtz, Ron Nelson, Paul Gruber, Jean Erickson (Liza took pic). The display of Brent's books, Karen & Ron's Swedish doll and Dalahorses, and Marianne's Pippi Longstocking with friends.



Rolf's hobby is ham radio, and he showed his "telegraphic" keys, modern ones to the left and an old favorite to his to the right. Liza showed off treasured crystal pieces she got as gifts from her parents.



Elaine showed off her collection of the Swedish Majblomma the annual May flower pin that is sold every year by school children to raise money for charity. And a conductor cap that was given to her by family, and her genealogy records she found while visiting Sweden.

### **Why I came to America and why I stayed...**

The reason I stayed actually started where I had my first job. It was at Åhlen & Åkerlund publishing company in Stockholm. It was responsible for several weekly and monthly magazines. One of those magazines had an international pen pal column. Since I already had pen pals in all three neighboring countries...I thought why not add someone from the US. This was 1954. I had another job by then.

In late 1956 the dailies were full of ads for au pair positions in England and the US. My girlfriend Barbro and I wanted to work in the US. I found an ad about a Mother's helper in New Jersey. My English was not very good, so my brother had to help me write the letter. After an interview and getting all necessary documents such as passport, proof from Stockholm police that I was not a criminal, a chest X-ray that I did not have TB and proof from my future employer that I had a job and a guarantee that I would not be a burden on the US government, I was ready to sail off to America on June 15, 1957!

### **Lillemor Horngren's story**



My mother was not happy...why did I want to give up a good job to this unknown venture. I promised here it was only for a year. At that time I had two sisters and three brothers still at home.

The New Jersey family had four children and I was told they were expecting their fifth. They were very nice, and I soon became like a member of the family.

In April 1958, I had a one-week vacation and flew to Chicago to visit my aunt. While there my US pen pal drove down from Wisconsin. He invited me to visit Wisconsin. My plans were to return to Sweden in early summer 1958.

Those plans changed and I decided to stay one more year in New Jersey. Another week free to travel was offered in October so I flew to Wisconsin. Had a great time with my pen pal, his family and friends. Oh and by the way at the end of that week my pen pal Richard proposed to me!!!!!!

My story to be continued in the next LindeNytt...

Hej, hej, Lillemor

### **Uppsala hemstaden för Pelle Svanslös**



### **Pelle Svanslös är Sveriges mest kända katt.**

Pelle Svanslös föddes på landet och under hans barndom som kattunge blev han av med sin svans då en stor råtta bet av den. Då fick han namnet Pelle Svanslös. Pelle flyttar sedan till Uppsala där hans äventyr börjar. Gösta Knutssons författare till Pelle Svanslös skrev 13 böcker om Pelle Svanslös. Första boken kom 1939. I böckerna får man möta Pelle Svanslös och hans vänner i Uppsala som Maja Gräddnos, Trisse, Gammel-Maja, Gunsan med flera. Även den stolta Måns med sin långa svans och hans kompisar Bill och Bull som ofta hittar på sattyg för Pelle. Alla äventyr utspelar sig i Uppsala med omnejd. Där kan man även idag gå Pelle-turen och upptäcka alla platser som har anknytning till Pelle Svanslös.

2014 fyllde Pelle Svanslös 75 år och han har också fått vara Sveriges julkalender 1997. Två filmer har gjorts med honom av Jan Gissberg.

Gör man ett besök till Uppsala som har mycket att visa får man inte glömma att den kända katten Pelle Svanslös och hans gäng är del av Uppsala. Även i Furuviiks djurpark i norra Uppland kan man få se och höra Pelle Svanslös och hans gäng uppträda.

Pelle Svanslös motto är lika viktig då som idag. Att visa snällhet, civilkurage och allas lika värde samt att våga vara snäll.

**Told by Elisabeth Agge, Enköping – Sweden-Tack så Mycket!  
Practice your Swedish!**

## Gökotta

by Linde member from Central Wisconsin - Dan Schroeder (June 2024)

(Gökotta is the Swedish act of waking early in the morning with the purpose of going outside and listening to the birds sing.)

*Choirs of feathered angels  
welcome fresh morning sun  
heralding holy sameness  
binding us all into One.*

*“Look deeper!” they call to us,  
“Look beneath what you see!  
Your heart and mine as well;  
Are we not lovers set free?”*

*Can your trills and crescendos  
be our precious saving songs?  
What notes ring truth and unity  
that right our sorrowful wrongs?*

*Would your ancient melodies  
sift out the ugliest dross,  
and bring us the holy love  
that hung upon the Cross?*

*Perhaps if we pause to hear t  
hose sweet sounds of early morn,  
and carry them throughout the day  
we might heal this world so torn.*

D.D. Schroeder, June 2024



## Other Thoughts...

“Listening to the birds can be a meditation if you listen with awareness.” - Osho (East Indian Philosopher)

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” – Albert Einstein

## Chairman Message:

Our 2024 midsummer celebration at Old Heidelberg Park was a good one, as you can tell from the pictures in this newsletter. I stored the majstång in my garage (unassembled) this past year. With the help of many people we got it assembled, decorated and erected once again. I hope you enjoyed the summer solstice wherever you were. This summer Jean and I will travel once again to California. Since I retired a few years ago, in most recent years I have been able to spend some time

at my family cabin located in the redwoods of the Santa Cruz mountains south of San Francisco. The cabin is a red “stuga” that was built in 1962 by my Swedish immigrant grandfather Hawkinson (Håkansson in Sweden). We call it Hawksnest, as it is at the crest of a steep hill.

Last year we flew to California and rode the train back to Wisconsin. We’re driving this year, and I’m not looking forward to the long drive. But we’ll be able to stop at Jean’s farm in southwest Iowa. We’ll be back from the west coast in time to attend the Linde picnic in August.

I am happy to welcome new Linde Nytt columnists.—Arne Moxness and Karen Snowberg in the last issue and Elizabeth Agge, Dan Schroeder, and Lillemor Horngren in this issue of our newsletter. Keep your submissions coming, in English or in Swedish.

Happy summer, Brent Erickson

*Translate Gök = Cuckoo bird • Otta= Dawn (CuckooDawn)*

Gökotta is traditionally practiced the first day of Ascension (in May) through midsummer, but there's no reason why it can't inspire us for mornings during other seasons. Ideally, you get up with the birds at the crack of dawn, between 4 and 6am. to experience the stillness of the morning and appreciate the beauty of nature, particularly birdsong. Studies have shown that being around nature can improve our health, reduce feelings of isolation, and increase community cohesion. To experience the benefits of *gökotta* and “nature therapy,” try camping, spending time in a garden, or leaving the city. (This section by Liza)



Brent as a Midsommar bride!

## Non-Linde



## Events

## Swedish-American Historical Society of Wisconsin

Meeting at Martin Luther Church, 9235 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee  
Visit us at [www.sahswi.org](http://www.sahswi.org) or call 414-352-7890 - for additional information

Fika Meeting on October 19 at 1:30 – Program TBD

Genealogy Research Meetings from 1 PM to no later than 4 PM on:  
September 7 and November 2

**SWEDISH ABBA 1974 and 2024**  
**Celebrating 50 YEARS since the MUSIC**  
**started...**

Known for global hits such as 'Mamma Mia' (1975), 'Dancing Queen' (1976) and 'The Winner Takes It All' (1980), the quartet was recognized for their "outstanding contributions to Swedish and international music." On May 31, 2024, they were each rewarded with Royal titles and the Royal Order of Vasa badge. The **Royal Order of Vasa** (Swedish: *Kungliga Vasaorden*) is a Swedish order of chivalry founded on 29 May 1772 by King Gustav III.

**1974 Björn, Agnetha, Anni-Frid, and Benny**



**On May 31, 2024**, Legendary Swedish pop band ABBA (Björn, Agnetha, Anni-Frid, and Benny) received the Royal Order of Vasa (see the badge above) from the Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia as well as Royal titles. This took place at a conferment ceremony, in the banquet hall Vita Havet of The Royal Palace of Stockholm. Each was awarded as **“Artists Benny Andersson, Agnetha Fältskog, Anni-Frid Reuss, and Björn Ulvaeus”**.  
**Commander of First Class of the Royal Order of Vasa**  
**“For very distinguished achievements in Swedish and international music life”**

To comprehend and grasp how distinguished an award this is, it is the equivalent to becoming knighted in the Anglo-Saxon Royal tradition.

It was a rare event to find the group together.

In 1975, Sweden ceased awarding this order to its own citizens, deeming it too dated, although foreign nationals were not affected. The practice was reinstated by Parliament in 2022.

The foursome, known collectively by their initials ABBA, represented the disco years with their unique style and catchy melodies, until their split in 1982. Their prolificacy, with eight albums released in as many active years, and their accessibility – they welcomed journalists into their private lives – secured them a unique place in Swedish music history.

**ABBA - THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC!!!**

## **Krya på Dig Hörna**



**Get Well Corner**

*Thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes  
go out to...*

*Haven't been notified of anyone having  
medical troubles,  
hoping it's a good sign but...*

*...if you are not feeling well,  
we are sorry and wish you a...*

**Speedy and Full Recovery**



## **Happy Summer & BACK to School**



### **Editor:**

Liza Ekstrand  
15070 W Mayflower Dr  
New Berlin WI 53151



## **VASA Order of America**

*(A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization)*



## **Linde Lodge No. 492**

*Milwaukee, WI*

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**COTTAGES IN THE WOODS, in Geneva, IL**  
**Carpooling – contact Liza**

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