

# Skandia Nytt

SKANDIA LODGE #247, VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

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## Chairman's Message

Midsummer has come and gone and now the days will start getting shorter. We had a great turn out for our Midsummer meeting. It was great to see Sue Rose, Emmaline Mauritsen and Kristin Demarjian..... hopefully we will see the three of you a little more. Kristin, Melissa and Katheen Demarjian provided a delicious Midsummer feast.....the bar-b-que chicken and grilled asparagus were especially nice. Ms. Katie McKinley and Elaine helped with the festivities by concocting a special lingonberry beverage....yum-yum, but don't drink too many too quickly. Ernie and his daughter Emmaline decorated the Maypole, and it was beautiful

This meeting was Elaine's last meeting with us. I am sad to see her go---she was always smiling and a great help.....she will be missed. We have a new helper--Scott whom I know will work out great.

More exciting news.....we have two new members--Michael and Sonia Lent. They have three children and their daughter will be attending Viking Village; I hope she will come to a meeting and give us a report.

Enjoy your summer and your many travels.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Beau

See what's going on in the District [vasaDL15.org](http://vasaDL15.org)

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*SACA's Midsummer in the Park*



**JULY Happenings**

**Birthdays:**

- 7 *LeRoy Anderson*
- 9 *Michélene Provo*
- 10 *Rachel Demarjian*
- 11 *Perry Martin*
- 18 *Birgitta Roodsari*
- 20 *Kristen Demarjian*
- 23 *Marie Ibsen*
- 29 *Ernest Mauritsen*

**Business Meeting:**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)

July 11<sup>th</sup>

7 pm Dinner

8 pm Meeting

**Hostess:**

Birgitta & Rudy Roodsari



*Above: The Midsummer pole at Vasa Park*

*Left: LeRoy Anderson, SACA President and Nordic and Skandia member, celebrated his 90th Birthday at the park*

*Photos: Sonia Lent*

The morning started a little cool but by noon the sun was out and everything was perfect. We are so lucky to have our wonderful Vasa Park! There was dancing around the pole accompanied by LeRoy's orchestra, the folk dancers entertained us and tried to teach us a couple of dances. We had three lovely Midsummer girls in the Court, a few vendors and food of course. And friends, the most important thing of all!

The pole, The Pole, THE POLE!!! It gets decorated with donated greens and flowers. Last year there weren't

*(Continued on page 6)*

*Bob's Page***Sweden in Space**

A good starting date for Swedish space activity would be 1964, when ESRO (European Space Research Organization) established ESRO Esrange about 40 kilometers east of Kiruna. At 68 degrees north, the 6600 square kilometers have minimal air traffic and very low population density. The original use was for vertical sounding rocket flights and high altitude balloons for scientific studies of the stratosphere and ionosphere, including the Aurora Borealis. Protective shelters were provided and local residents were advised to use them when launches and recoveries took place. ESRO became ESA (European Space Agency), and finally Esrange was turned over to SSC (Swedish Space Corporation). SSC also operates a network of satellite ground stations and control centers for satellite communication and control. The presence of Esrange has caused nearby Luleå University to develop degree programs in space related areas which include theses and employment at Esrange.

Another Swedish space business is GKN Aerospace, which manufactures rocket engine components for the Ariane space vehicle. The Ariane is used for many of the ESA space activities. RUAG Space is one of the world's best designers and manufacturers of spacecraft computer systems.

An SSC spinoff is OHB, which makes specialized electronics and is prime contractor for many small satellites. An interesting example of their satellites was SMART-1 (Small Missions for Advanced Research in Technology-1), which was designed for lunar studies. It was launched into earth orbit by an Ariane spacecraft in September 2003. It then used solar cell electricity to eject a beam of xenon ions, a highly efficient but low thrust type of rocket engine pioneered by UCSD physics professor Dr. Ralph Lovberg. SMART-1 slowly left earth orbit and arrived at the moon in February 2005, propelled all the way by solar energy and an ion engine. It collected data until September 2006, when it was deliberately crashed on the moon.

In 2004 Sir Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Atlantic Airline, started a company called Virgin Galactic. It proposed to build a number of spaceports including Spaceport Sweden at Kiruna. The initial plans included

training of would-be astronauts, zero gravity flights, suborbital space flights, and supersonic flights to other spaceports. So far, there have been training and zero gravity flights, but delays in spacecraft and launch aircraft construction plus a serious crash of the first spacecraft have deferred anything else.

Sweden's own astronaut is Christer Fuglesang, who was educated as a high energy nuclear physicist at the Royal Institute of Technology. He then went to CERN, the European High Energy Physics Laboratory in Switzerland, as a PhD student from Stockholm University. After getting his degree, he spent a couple of years at CERN doing K meson physics, a field very familiar to me. He then made a career change and was accepted as an ESA astronaut. This involved years of training at ESA schools in Germany, more training with NASA in Texas, and still more in Russia. This led to two space flights to the International Space Station, where he supervised experiments and did Space Station maintenance, some of which required working outside of the Space Station in a space suit.

Sweden has contributed its genes to America's astronauts. One of the more famous was Buzz Aldrin, whose father's ancestors came from Värmland. His mother's ancestry was Scottish/Irish, which must include some Viking contributions. After an outstanding student record at West Point and exceptional performance as a fighter pilot in Korea, he was accepted for astronaut training. He supplemented that with a PhD in aeronautics from MIT. As we all know, he was selected to be pilot of the lander which put Armstrong and Aldrin on the moon. My wife Jamie and I had the pleasure of meeting Buzz Aldrin. We were on a cruise ship on the Mexican coast to see a solar eclipse. Aldrin and a companion were on board to sell and autograph copies of his book, "Men From Earth". It was an opportunity not to be missed.

Much of the May 2018 issue of Swedish Press is devoted to this topic.

In Truth and Unity,

**Bob Swanson**

## *From Skandia's Cultural Leader*

### **SUMMER, A PRIME TIME TO VISIT STOCKHOLM.**

I have received a request for a travel article about summer in Stockholm. Since I love travel research I was more than happy to take on the challenge. In fact, Google “Summer in Stockholm” and so many results pop up! The weather is lovely, the days are long and the city is full of travelers. Here are some ideas to help you have an enjoyable vacation in the capital city of Sweden. (With thanks to the travel blog Wonderful Wanderings <https://wonderfulwanderings.com> and the Swedish tourist board website <https://www.visitstockholm.com> )

First off, I recommend taking a Free Walking Tour. Our experiences with these tours all over the world have always been positive. The guides work for tips only, so they make sure you enjoy the tour! Stockholmfree tour.com offers several routes around the city- “The Free Tour Stockholm City starts at Old Town. This original free walking tour goes deeper than just introducing the sites: we delve into the city’s amazing history, from the darkest hours to the brightest moments.” Tours take 1.5-2 hours.

Explore on your own -1. **Gamla stan**

**Gamla Stan, the Old Town, is one of the largest and best preserved medieval city centers in Europe, and one of the foremost attractions in Stockholm. This is where Stockholm was founded in 1252.**

All of Gamla Stan and the adjacent island of Riddarholmen are like a living pedestrian-friendly museum full of sights, attractions, restaurants, cafés, bars, and places to shop. The narrow, winding, cobblestone streets, with their buildings in so many different shades of gold, give Gamla Stan its unique character. Cellar vaults and frescoes from the Middle Ages can be found behind the visible facades, and the district feels like something from a storybook.

There are several beautiful churches and museums in Gamla Stan, including Sweden’s national cathedral Stockholm Cathedral and the Nobel Museum. The largest of the attractions in the district is the Royal

Palace, one of the largest palaces in the world with over 600 rooms. Don't miss the parade of soldiers and the daily changing of the guard.

If possible it’s best to do Gamla Stan on a weekday in the morning if you don’t want it to be too busy, though the area really comes to life when its many terraces are filled with people. The best way to explore Gamla Stan is by simply walking up and down its little streets. The neighborhood is located on a small island so you really can’t get lost. Mårten Trotzigs gränd (Mårten Trotzigs alley) can be hard to find. It’s the narrowest alley in Gamla Stan, only 90 centimeters wide at its narrowest point. It’s a bit of a grungy street – dark, with graffiti on the wall – but it makes for a fun photo opportunity.

**Järnpojke, the smallest statue in Stockholm**  
Järnpojke or “Iron Boy” is a statue that measures only 15 centimeters (5.9 inches). You can spot it in the garden of the Finnish Church (Finska Kyrkan) where it’s visited daily by tourists.

The story goes that caressing the boy’s head or bringing him gifts brings good luck. It’s also said that tourists who caress him, will return to Stockholm. Every day, the Iron Boy is surrounded by different gifts that mysteriously get cleaned away during the night. It’s probably one of the most quirky things to see in Stockholm.

### **2. DROTTNINGHOLM PALACE AND SÖDERMALM**

Drottningholm Palace is a royal palace built in the 17th century. It’s a Unesco World Heritage site and visiting it by boat is one of the top things to do in Stockholm. Aside from the palace – which is open to the public – visitors can also wander around the palace gardens, visit the Chinese Pavilion and catch a show at the Palace Theater. As so much of the palace grounds is accessible to the public, it may come as a surprise that this is actually the permanent residence of the king and

*(Continued on page 5)*

*From Skandia's Cultural Leader (con;t)**(Continued from page 4)*

queen of Sweden. They live in the southern wing of Drottningholm, the only part that isn't open.

Södermalm is known as the hip neighborhood of the city with its independent boutiques, cute cafes and vintage stores. Södermalm is also where you can find SoFo, a pun on New York and London's SoHo meaning "South of Folkungatan". It's an area full of hip stores, restaurants and cafes located between Fokungatan in the north, Ringvägen in the south, Erstagatan in the east and Götgatan in the west. Taking the short 500-meter walk along Monteliusvägen is one of the best things to do in Stockholm on a sunny day. This walkway on the northern side of Södermalm has cute houses on one side and an amazing view of the rest of the city, including city hall, on the other side.

### 3. CITY HALL AND ÖSTERMALM

Stockholm City Hall, with its spire featuring the golden Three Crowns, is one of the most famous silhouettes in Stockholm. It is one of the country's leading examples of national romanticism in architecture. The 106-meter tall tower has the three crowns, which is the Swedish national coat of arms, at its apex. The great Nobel banquet is held at City Hall. After dinner in Blå Hallen, the Blue Hall, Nobel Prize laureates, royalty and guests dance in Gyllene Salen, the Golden Hall, with its 18 million gold mosaic tiles. The City Hall is open to the public through guided tours only. Guided tours are held daily in Swedish and English at certain hours. The tower is open during the summer months (May to September). You can climb up inside the tower and enjoy a fantastic view over the city.

Historiska Museet. The Swedish History Museum is one of the biggest museums in Stockholm and even in the whole of Sweden. Tens of thousands of people come here every year to see the exhibitions on Sweden's cultural history and archeology from the Mesolithic period until the present day. The large Viking exhibition is especially popular.

There are so many things to do and see in Stockholm that I could take over this entire newsletter and still

not be finished! But as a last fun outing, I want to mention something I did many years ago that stands out as an uncommon adventure, and is great fun in the heat of summer.

### Swimming in the city

The waterways of Stockholm are not only beautiful to look at, they are so clean and clear you can take a dip right in the middle of town! There are not a lot of cities in the world that can make that claim. There are several lovely beaches to bask on and cliffs to jump from around the city. Here are a few examples.

Smedsuddsbadet - A swimming beach at Rålambshov Park Beach that is popular with families. There is a sandy beach and a large lawn for sunbathing, plus amenities such as showers, toilets, and a cafe. Experienced swimmers will enjoy swimming from the rocks with a view of Lake Mälaren. Take the green subway line to Kristineberg and walk along the water's edge to the swimming area. Or Take a trip out to the swim-friendly rocks of Stockholm's nearest archipelago island, only 25 minutes by boat from Slussen or Nybroplan.

Have a fun real or armchair adventure this summer!

### Kathleen Demarjian

# *Skandia Nytt*

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## *SACA's Midsummer in Vasa Park (con't)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

enough greens to cove the whole thing and the flowers could be counted on your fingers. This year we couldn't even use all the greens and there were plenty of flowers. I wish to thank everybody, Vasa members and non Vasa members, who stepped in with flowers and or with personal help. This is a happy event and you made me feel SO GOOD! I had many comments on how lovely it turned out. It would not happen without you!

Tack, glada Nel

### **Noredic Lodge's 57th Anniversary**

July 14, 2018 at  
Marie Callender's Restaurant  
9829 La Senna Drive, Whittier  
Reservations with payment (\$28/ person  
required by July 10  
contact Peter Lindgren  
562-633-4704

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