

Skandia Nytt

SKANDIA LODGE #247, VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

VOL. 106, No. 9, SEPTEMBER 2018

Chairman:

Beau Stocking

Vice Chairman:

Ernie Mauritson

Past Chairman

Nel Solt

Secretary:

Betsy Cepielik

Financial Sec:

Lori Wennbo

Treasurer:

Bob Solt

Cultural Leader:

Kathleen Demarjian

Trustees:

Ernie Mauritson

Nel Solt

Patrick McGinley

Auditors:

Ernie Mauritson

Kathryn Martin

Birgitta Roodsari

District Deputy:

Peter Lindgren

Chairman's Message

Only four more months and it is New Years!! Just felt like I had to bring that up!

August's meeting came and left. It was fast and easy. Chairman Beau, Vice Chairman Ernie and Secretary Betsy were all no shows. A great big thank you to those who stepped up and filled in. Kathleen McGinley handled our vouchers and Kristen Demarjian who I haven't seen for a couple of years took our minutes. Our brand new members Michael and Sonia Lent had volunteered to feed the gang with Kathleen Demarjian providing the dessert. It was really Sir Bob, Alma Marie and I who were up but since I was absent the month before I guess things got messed up. The members should be pleased since the Lents cooked up a wonderful pork loin dinner, while I would have brought oatmeal. Thank you, Michael, Sonia and Kathleen. Everything was great! I believe we have a couple of very active new members. I am so very happy since Bob and I are starting to retire a bit. Leave? No, not a chance!!

We had company! Our Grand Lodge Deputy Susa Premo, Board member Inga Francis and District Chaplain Maidie Karling attended the meeting. Always a pleasure!

GLD Susan will soon leave her office to make room for our present District Master, Bertil Winther. The change comes every four years with the Grand Lodge

Convention.

We draped the charter for Eira Lindberg and Betty Holm. The Lodge has gone for a couple of years with out loosing any members, but this year we lost Mary Ethel, Eira and Betty. Well, that is not quit right since Eira died in February 2017. She lived in Florida for about 30 years and sometimes it takes time for news to reach all the way here.

Six Skandia members, not counting Betty's own family, attended her funeral on August the 28th. Daughter Jeanne and son-in-law Craig had arranged a very nice service followed by a great Italian lunch in Pasadena. Betty suffered from dementia and a stroke before it was over. It is hard for me to believe. I had so much fun with this Lady. It was shopping sprees (we had our own place) and lunches and many good laughs. We attended many Vasa parties and Conventions together and Vasa Park Association, Swedish American central Association and now extinct Swedish-American National League. Thank you, Betty, for all the good times! .So many Skandia members and other Lodge's members have really enriched my life for the last 35 years.

In the last Skandia Nytt, Chairman Beau seemed to be hoping that I should have some fun news about my trip to Sweden.

(Continued on page 6)

Smiles

First time I heard about paraprosookians, I liked them. Paraprosookians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Winston Churchill loved them).

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt youbut it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of an emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

Sadly this is true!!! Spread the Laughter, Share the Cheer,
Let's be Happy, while we're here!

Get your Skandia Nytt In Color !!!!

If you are still getting your Nytt via US Mail, send your
e-mail address to bobsolt@juno.com
and enjoy color versions and reduce mailing costs!

***September
Happenings******Birthdays:***

17 *Helen Eckfield*
18 *Marilyn Larson*
Klooster
18 *Betsy Cepielik*
18 *Judith Orcutt*
23 *Michael Lent*
24 *Harold Johanson*
25 *Lori Wennbo*

***Business Meeting:
(2 nd Thursday)***

September 13

7 pm Dinner
8 pm Meeting

Hosts:

Betsy Cepielik
Lori Wennbo

From our Cultural Leader

If you missed Skandia's August lodge meeting, then you missed the opportunity to participate in an energetic discussion about Vikings! One topic that deserved more research was Viking helmets. Forget almost every Viking costume you've ever seen. Yes, those fighting Scandinavians probably sported headgear when they marched into battle, but there's no reason to believe it was festooned with horns. In depictions dating from the Viking age—between the eighth and 11th centuries—warriors appear either bareheaded or clad in simple helmets likely made of either iron or leather. And despite years of searching, archaeologists have yet to uncover a Viking-era helmet embellished with horns. In fact, only one complete helmet that can definitively be called "Viking" has turned up. Discovered in 1943 on Gjermundbu farm in Norway, the 10th-century artifact has a rounded iron cap, a guard around the eyes and nose, and no horns to speak of. Parts of helmets have been found in Denmark include "brow ridges" to protect the warrior's face in battle. No horns. The lack of helmet finds in graves may also be partly due to the fact that no tradition existed of placing them with the dead warriors. In addition, helmets were not sacrificed like spears and swords, so we do not come across them in this context either. It is also possible that relatively few Vikings wore helmets and therefore only a small number are found today. So why do we associate horned helmets with Viking warriors? The popular image of the strapping Viking in a horned helmet dates back to the 1800s, when Scandinavian artists like Sweden's Gustav Malmström included the headgear in their portrayals of the raiders. When Wagner staged his "Der Ring des Nibelungen"



opera cycle in the 1870s, costume designer Carl Emil Doepler created horned helmets for the Viking characters, and an enduring stereotype was born.

According to the National Museum of Denmark, at the Oseberg burial from Norway, which dates to the early Viking period, a tapestry was found on which horned helmets are depicted. Does this prove that all Vikings wore the famous helmets with horns? Probably not. However, there is some

evidence to suggest that certain warriors wore such headgear. The horned figures on the Golden Horns are berserkers. These were wild warriors, who threw themselves into battle in a trance-like fury. They are familiar from the Icelandic sagas, in which they are amongst the most feared of all Vikings. It is also possible that such extravagant headgear was worn for display or for cultic purposes. Such helmets would also have caused problems on board the warships, where space was already at a premium. And let's face it, in a battle situation, horns on a helmet would get in the way. Sure, they could help intimidate enemies and maybe even poke out a few eyes, but

they would have been even more likely to get entangled in a tree branch or embedded in a shield.

Copy of a helmet and chain mail from the warrior's grave at Gjermundbu in Norway. Photo: Jacob Nyborg Andreassen.

For more information: <https://www.history.com/news/did-vikings-really-wear-horned-helmets>
<https://en.natmus.dk/historical-knowledge/denmark/prehistoric-period-until-1050-ad/the-viking-age/weapons/helmets/>

Kathleen

From Our Members

Canadian Nationals!

Skandia Lodge's own Patrick McGinley traveled north to represent the United States at the Canadian National Swim meet!

Patrick, and his teammates from the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center's Master Swim Team, traveled north to Calgary, Canada to compete in the Canadian National Masters Swim Championships!

Teams from all across the country of Canada came to compete in the national event. In addition to the United States, there were representative teams from Australia, Great Britain, Ireland, and as far away as China.

The facilities were first class; the competition was held indoors in an Olympic-sized pool with two other support /warm-up pools in a sports complex that is rivaled by few. The meet was run very well from the registration down to the lane timers. Everyone was excited to be there and the Canadian hosts did not fail to impress. The people were friendly and the weather even better.

Three of the national Championships were in the most grueling events, - feared by some - for their difficulty needed to complete. These were the Mile swim, the 400 Individual Medley and the 200 Meter Butterfly. These races are hated by almost all but the most daring (or brain damaged) of swimmers.

The feat was compounded by the fact that for a 4 day meet the Canadians placed the three most difficult events all on the same day!

The stage was set and the competitors were ready!



Patrick McGinley

Skandia's McGinley entered six individual events and two relay events. After all was swam and done, he was crowned 5 time Canadian Masters National Champion.

From Our Members

Meet the Lents

My husband Michael and I are proud to be the newest members of the Skandia Lodge.

We have three children. Willem (14), Sophia (12) and our youngest son, Holden (5). All three have participated in Viking Village and raved about how much fun they had. Please keep in mind that the older children were fighting us initially on NOT wanting to attend camp but after a week of fun and making new friends, they can't wait to go back! A BIG shout out to Ann Heinstedt for running a very organized and eventful program. We can't thank her and all the volunteers enough for the cherished summer camp memories they have given to our children.

Michael and I are college sweethearts. We met on a blind date in the dark ages before social media, graduating together on the same day from the University of Miami in Florida. Michael's work as a writer brought us to Los Angeles. I am a former banker, now an executive for EPCVIP, an online marketing company based in Encino. We live in Glendale.

Michael's heritage can be traced to Sweden and Denmark. I am 1% Scandinavian on my father's side, as well as Northern English and Irish. My mother is Okinawan Japanese. My parents met in Japan. We tell our kids that they are Viking Samurai.

We are so grateful for the welcome we have received and the friendships we have already made with the wonderful people of Skandia. Here's to making more cherished memories!

Tak.

Sonia Lent

Norwegian Sport is a World Class Flop

As kids, most of us learned to dive into a swimming pool without making a painful belly flop, but in Norway it's a sport.

On August 18, 2018 (8/18/18), competitors met in Oslo for the annual Dødsing, or Death Diving competitions.

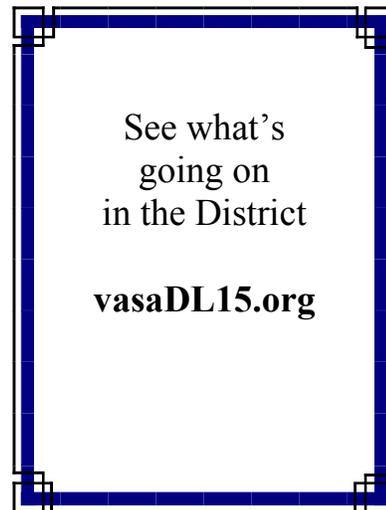
Intrepid competitors leap from a 10-meter high diving board (32.8 feet), flatten and stiffen their bodies, as they prepare to strike the water stomach first.

This year's competition was won by Emil Lybek, who out-flopped last year's champion, teenager Truls Torp. Hundreds attended the event, proving once again, that all's welt that ends welt.

To see a competitor in action, go to this link:

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/belly-flop-norway_us_57b13604e4b069e7e505b132

Michael Lent



Skandia Nytt

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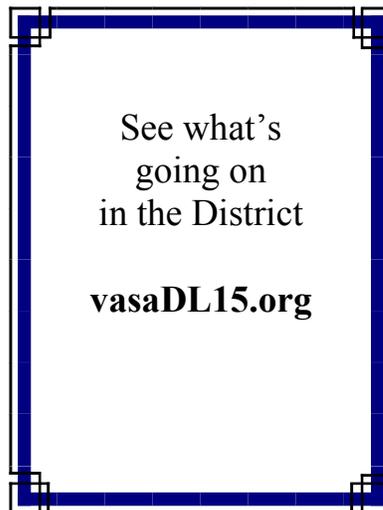
Chairman's Message (con't)

(Continued from page 1)

There were not that many ha ha times but it was wonderful for me to spend so much time with my Swedish family. Everybody seemed to have time of from work or school. Lisa, Scott and miss Malin came along. They were running around a good bit but with temperatures in the 80's I didn't feel much like going along. And while sitting with my family and a glass of wine in Stockholm's archipelago I realized that it was exactly what I wanted to do.

We'll see you on September the 13th!
Dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

Svejsan, Nel



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