

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
SKANDIA LODGE #247

EST **106** 1913

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
WITH FOOD, DRINK, FUN & FRIENDS

MARCH **23** 2019

TWO O'CLOCK
UNTIL FIVE O'CLOCK

UPPER DINING DECK
ORIGINAL FARMERS MARKET
6333 W. 3RD ST.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

RSVP BY MARCH 14

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SKANDIA LODGE NO. 247

MAIL TO:
LORI WENNBO, 5703 PRIMROSE AVE.,
TEMPLE CITY, CA 91780

NAME(S): _____

SKANDIA MEMBERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED 6 MEETINGS IN THE
PAST YEAR (FREE) _____

SKANDIA MEMBERS \$25 _____

GUESTS \$35 _____

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER \$10 _____

TOTAL _____

Skandia Nytt

Skandia Lodge #247, Vasa Order of America

Vol. 108, No. 03, March 2019

Officers Elected for 2019

Chairman
Ernie Mauritson

Vice Chairman
Nel Solt

Past Chairman
Beau Stocking

Secretary
Betsy Cepielik

Financial Secretary
Lori Wennbo

Treasurer
Kathryn Martin

Cultural Leader
Kathleen Demarjian

Chaplain
Kathleen McGinley

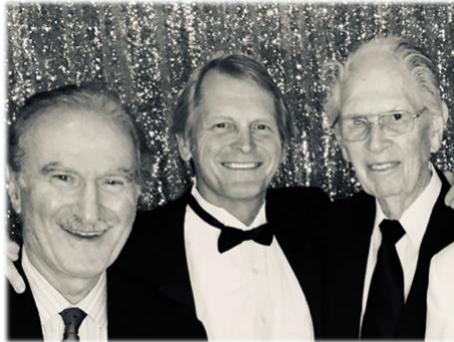
Master of Ceremonies
Peter Lindgren

Assistant Master of
Ceremonies
Sonia Lent

Outer Guard
Michael Lent

Auditors
Lori Wennbo - 1 year
Birgitta Roodsari - 2 year
Beau Stocking - 3 year

Trustees
Nel Solt - 1 year
Patrick McGinley - 2 year
Bob Solt - 3 year



Message from Our Chairman

The 105th District Convention has concluded and, well, I must say, we had a blast. There were wonderful luncheons, dinners and events highlighted by the banquet where more than \$35,000 was given out in scholarships to worthy recipients including two members of our Skandia family. This is the best way we know to deepen our commitment to the future. So, it was truly an honor to emcee the banquet.

As always, there was also business to be conducted and elections to be held. Skandia members continue to show our dedication and talents by serving as officers at the district level.

The event I cherish most is the Sunday Memorial Service where we honor departed members from VASA, including four beloved people from our lodge.

Seeing 104-year old Irma Wendell along with many of our past district masters and senior members participating in the many traditions we hold dear, I was struck by the notion that as we move forward, we continue to stand on the shoulders of giants.

Many of us returned from the convention with a renewed mission to not only honor our heritage but also to redouble our efforts to keep VASA and Skandia safe and strong for many years to come.

To that end, I look forward to discussing ideas for building our membership in 2019. I think that should be a primary goal for this year.

In Truth and Unity,

Ernie Mauritson

Happenings This Month

Birthdays

10 Curtis Hedlund
21 Lisa Solt Shelley

Business Meeting (2nd Thursday)

March 14

7 pm Dinner
8 pm Meeting

Hosts Patrick & Kathleen McGinley are serving a St. Patrick's feast (no snakes allowed)

106th Anniversary Dinner

March 23 2-5 pm

Skandia Nytt

Published monthly
by
Skandia Lodge #247,
Vasa Order of America,
2031 E Villa St.,
Pasadena, CA. 91107

Send news and/or letters
to Michael Lent
at
michaellent1@me.com
or:
1410 Spazier Ave.
Glendale, CA 91201
USA

For District News
Visit: vasaDL15.org

DISTRICT CONVENTION 2019



New District Officers Elected on February 23, 2019 at the District Lodge Southwest Convention

District Master	Elliott Coddling
Vice District Master	Inga Francis
Past District Master	Bertil Winther
District Secretary	Linda Kosvic
Assistant District Secretary	Vacant
District Treasurer	Kathryn Martin *
District Cultural Leader	Tal Ross
Executive Board Member (1)	Valerie Larson
Executive Board Member (1)	Ken Kenyon
Executive Board Member (2)	Ingemar Hulthage
Executive Board Member (2)	Delphine Trowbridge
District Chaplain	Maidie Karling
District Master of Ceremonies	Lilian Cropper
District Assistant Master of Ceremonies	Chase Dodd
District Inner Guard	Lisa Eklund
District Outer Guard	Michael Lent **
District Auditor - 1 yr	Maggie Connelly
District Auditor - 2 yrs	Ernie Mauritsen *
District Auditor - 3 yrs	Lori Wennbo *
District Trustee - 1 yr	Gunlog Spaberg
District Trustee - 2 yrs	Peter Lindgren *
District Trustee - 3 yrs	Hakan Spaberg

* Skandia Lodge Members

** Nominated by Peter Lindgren for the position of Outer Guard, Lent electrified the convention by vowing to "return Norway to Sweden." Now the hard part begins.



2019 Scholarship Recipient Melissa Demarjian (left).

2019 Scholarship Recipients (above) included Skandia Members Melissa Demarjian and Rachel Demarjian (not present).

Fat Tuesday and Semla: A Swedish Tradition

The traditions of semla are rooted in *fettisdag* (Shrove Tuesday, or Fat Tuesday) when the buns were eaten at a last celebratory feast before the Christian fasting period of Lent. At first, a semla was simply a bun, eaten soaked in hot milk (known as *hetvägg*).

At some point Swedes grew tired of the strict observance of Lent, adding in cream and almond paste and eating semla every Tuesday between Shrove Tuesday and Easter. Now the semla – a small, wheat flour bun, flavored with cardamom and filled with almond paste and whipped cream – has become something of a carb-packed icon in Sweden.

Semlor (the plural of semla) usually appear in bakery windows as near after Christmas as is deemed decent – and sometimes even before. This is followed by a collective, nationwide moan about how it gets earlier every year. Shortly thereafter people begin to eat the things like the world will end tomorrow.

But, increasingly, not just any semla will do. Every year, at around the same time that the bakeries fill with semlor, the Swedish newspapers start to fill with semla taste tests. Panels of ‘experts’ dissect and inspect tables full of semlor to find the best in town.

Over the years, bakeries have challenged the traditional semla, hoping to create the next big buzz. In 2015, the *semmelwrap* took the Swedes by storm. Instead of the original semla bun, the dough is rolled out flat, filled with almond paste and whipped cream, then folded and eaten as a wrap. Delicious! The pastry truly went viral in both social media and in several Swedish news feeds and it was not long before a horde of other bakeries around Sweden tried to copy the idea.

One serious semla expert is *semmelmannen* (the semla man): an anonymous Stockholm-based blogger who has become the go-to source for semla tips in the capital of Sweden.

Since 2011, *semmelmannen* has eaten one semla a day from February 1 to Shrove Tuesday at a different bakery across Stockholm, remaining anonymous to retain his integrity and independence. The results are reported in almost fanatical detail; the semla is rated according to the quality of the bun, the cream, the almond paste and the overall appearance.

And as to where you find the perfect semla – *Semmelmannen* isn’t saying: ‘I don’t pick one favorite, because that would be unfair to some really great bakeries. I award my points – then the reader can decide.’

For those newspapers and magazines that do name a favorite (and there are plenty) the effect is nothing short of miraculous. ‘After we were voted Best Semla, our sales were double what they usually are’, Agneta Brolin, head of the bakery *Vettekatten* in Stockholm says.

To the uninitiated, such reverence and hysteria over a cream bun might seem at odds with all things normal. But the annual semla hysteria is just a part of a bigger picture – a social phenomenon that is uniquely Swedish: *fika*.

[Fika](#) has no translation. It means to take a break with colleagues or friends, over coffee and (usually) something sweet to eat. But it means so much more than that. It is ritual, it is tradition; it is the very fabric of Swedishness. It is something, if invited, you should never say no to.

Swedes drink an average of nine kilos of coffee per person, per year – a staggering amount. In a 2011 survey of 8,000 office workers throughout the country, an overwhelming majority agreed that a *fika* break or two at work greatly improved their productivity. In many Swedish workplaces *fika* is a statutory break just like lunch – 15 minutes for workers to down tools and congregate over coffee. But *fika* is not just a habit of the tax-paying masses.

Fat Tuesday cont.

‘Everyone has fika’, café Vetekatten’s Brolin says. ‘We get workers early morning and lunch, pensioners morning and afternoon and then school kids after three o’clock. The old folks drink coffee, the young cappuccino; that’s the only difference. Otherwise, everyone loves to fika.’
In 2019 Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras is March 5th. Make sure to enjoy a tasty pastry and fika in celebration!

Kathleen Demarjian

(Adapted from <https://sweden.se/culture-traditions/the-semmla-more-than-just-a-bun>)



Member Updates

Alma Marie Nordquist welcomes prayers, calls and notes as she continues a treatment of oral chemotherapy for her leukemia. Unfortunately, she is unable to receive visitors at this time. **r**

A Humphrey Bogart-from-Casablanca sighting at the 2019 District Convention dinner turned out to be our own Peter Lindgren looking dashing. Peter shared that Cyndi has had a very good month with her treatments for Carcinomatosis. It was so nice to see Peter smiling and enjoying life a bit. **3**

Happy to report that Bob Solt continues to make progress with his chemotherapy. Bob and Nel hope to join us at the Anniversary Dinner. **t**

Greetings from Your Financial Secretary

I hope you are all ready for the beautiful flowers that will be coming up from all this rain. I would like to remind you, if you have not sent in your annual dues of \$12, please do so. They were past due as of January 31st. Thank you so much for doing this. I really appreciate it.

In Truth and Unity,

Lori Wennbo

Please make check payable to Skandia Lodge No. 247.

Mail to: Lori Wennbo, 5703 Primrose Ave., Temple City, CA 91780

Memorial Service Honors VASA Members



Birgitta Roodsari represented Skandia Lodge at the Memorial Service to honor departed VASA members including our own Mary Ethel Pierson, Eira Lindberg, Betty Holm and Curtis Hedlund.



Irma Wendell of Mayflower Lodge was also in attendance. At 104, she displays the resilience we Scandinavians are known for. Irma and Andrew Wendell entered the VASA Order in 1947.