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Bits & Pieces

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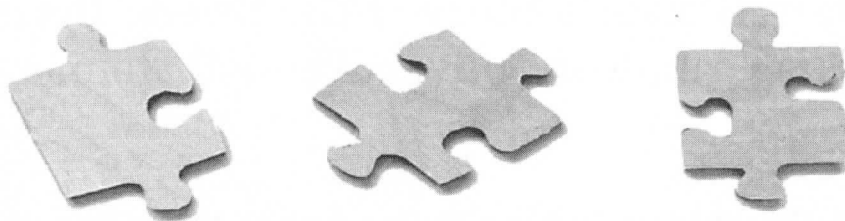
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Bits & Pieces



Mega donation to the Swedish Historical Society in Rockford

Conrad Johnson lived to the age of 110, becoming the oldest man living the United States (see SAG 2014/4).

Although he died this past December, that did not stop him from leaving \$1.5 million to an organization close to his heart.

Johnson's estate left the check for the Swedish Historical Society to make improvements to what they offer to the community.

The organization says these new funds will allow them to add new programs to the future Nordic Cultural Center, increase their business and student exchanges.

The donation will also allow the society to staff both the Nordic Cultural Center and the Erlander Home Museum with a site manager for the first time.

Link on p. 30

A Swedish-American astronaut

Kjell N. Lindgren, born 23 Jan. 1973, is a current NASA astronaut. Lindgren was selected in June 2009 as a member of the NASA Astronaut Group 20.

He did launch to the International Space Station (ISS) as part of Expedition 44/45 on July 22, 2015. He is a Doctor of Medicine, and has been working for NASA since 2007.

His Swedish roots go back to his great-great-grandfather, the rural dean Samuel Dahl, and his wife Katarina Pettersson. In 1902 they lived at Osby (Skån.), from where their son Kjell Gustaf William Dahl left from Malmö for Massachusetts, who in due time became Kjell's great-grandfather. (*Svenska Dagbladet* 19 July 2015).

Old lodge records in Brooklyn

The *Brooklyn Historical Society* has many records from extinct lodges of the Independent Order of Svithiod, Independent Order of V kings, and the Vasa Order of America. The records cover the period of 1906 to 1982.

Thanks to Jeanne Norton Rollberg for the information!

See link on page 30.

Swedish-American of the Year 2015

The two Swedish district lodges of the Vasa Order of America have elected *Emily Samson Tepe*, with the artist name of IVA, to be the 2015 Swedish-America of the year 2015. She has by now taken part in the celebrations in Karlstad and Filipstad arranged by the Vasa Order.

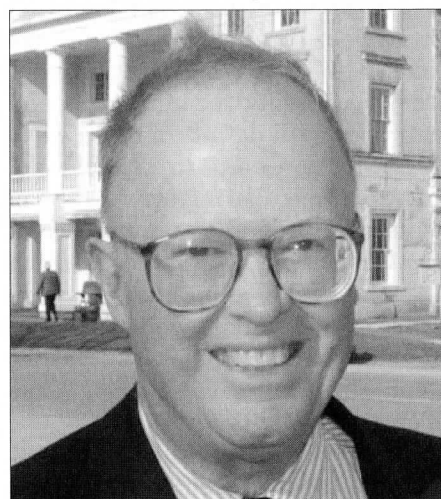
Emily Tepe is an accomplished singer-songwriter, and also has an education as an opera singer. She has studied opera during a year in Stockholm, Sweden.

Emily Tepe lives in Wilmington, DE, and is a 12th generation descendant of Peter Larsson Cock and Margaret Månsdotter Lom, who both arrived in 1641 to New Sweden and married in 1643.



A new knight of the Polar Star

Well-known immigration historian especially researching Bishop Hill, John E. Norton, of Moline, IL, has been awarded the distinction of *Knight 1st Class of the Order of the Polar Star*, by a decision of King Carl XIV Gustaf on 3 July 2015.



John Norton in front of the Steeple Building in Bishop Hill, Ill.

The Order of the Polar Star (*Nordstjärneorden*) was instituted in 1748 by King Fredrik I for valuable contributions to society.

Since 1974 it is now only awarded to members of the royal family and to citizens of foreign countries.

