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Karna Olsson

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In Memoriam: *Ulla Sköld*

An important member of the SAG Workshop staff has left us all

Ulla Sköld of Västerås, Sweden, died 2012 Sep. 6 after a long battle with cancer. She was born 1937 July 20, and leaves husband Daniel, sons Ulf and Magnus, and their families.

She was for eleven years a very important member of the staff of the SAG Workshop in Salt Lake City.

Karna Olsson, then organizer of the Workshop writes:

I first met Ulla the summer of 1998. I had spent two weeks driving my Father, Nils William Olsson, on what was to be his last trip to Sweden. For years I had heard him and Mother speak of Ulla and Daniel but had never met them. Because of my parents' ages, I assumed Ulla and Daniel were of their generation. Imagine my surprise when I discovered them to be the same generation as myself.

Ulla and her husband, Daniel and my husband, Phil, and myself hit it off immediately. Both Phil and Daniel enjoyed cars and motorcycles and had good senses of humor. Ulla explained to me from her genealogy research that we were distantly related from a common ancestor in the 1600's, a craftsman who had migrated to Sweden to help the Swedes transform their iron into weaponry. I also soon learned that Ulla's avocation was genealogy and her passion was the genealogy of the soldiers of Västmanland, her home province.

Forward some time and my father asked me to take over the organization of his annual Salt Lake City genealogy weeks in conjunction with the Swenson Center in Rock Island, IL. Father was failing physically and wished the Salt Lake experience to continue...already he had Elisabeth Thorsell of Sweden traveling to be a resource person. Losing Father meant we needed another person for

Salt Lake City. After meeting Ulla and realizing her knowledge, I suggested we ask Ulla to come to SLC and help. Ulla accepted and it was the beginning of a long and rewarding time both in Salt Lake City and in our respective communities.

In turn Daniel invited my husband Phil to travel to Sweden and take up motorcycling, something my husband hadn't done in twenty-five years. This became an annual jaunt for Phil. He would travel to Sweden and stay with Ulla and Daniel before he and Daniel headed north, west, or south on week-long journeys. The two men and a third Swedish friend, Börje, traveled thousands of miles over the next eight years. When in Salt Lake City, the two men, Phil and Daniel, would travel in a rented car all over the west, seeing the different canyons, exploring Las Vegas, and various national parks.

Once the week in Salt Lake City was finished, Ulla and Daniel would travel east and visit us in Maine. Sometimes they ended up at our home at the same time we returned. We ate lobster, visited coastal com-

munities, and enjoyed each other's company. One of Ulla's favorite experiences was to head down to the coast, she and I. She would say as we drove, often in silence, "it is good friendship when you don't have to talk, just be together." Always I would stop on a hill called "Caterpillar hill," an area covered with wild blueberries. By the time Ulla and I would be at this spot, the blueberry barrens would have turned a lovely rust red. Ulla just loved this natural phenomenon. We would sit quietly taking in the beauty of the barrens, dotted with boulders left by glaciers ages ago.

It has been a couple of years since Ulla has visited Maine...and I realize she will not again...but whenever I do drive by a blueberry barren in the late fall, Ulla will be with me...two friends who could visit in silence and appreciate the wonders of the world.

Thank you Ulla for being part of the SAG Workshop world and my world.

Karna Olsson

<karnaolsson125@gmail.com>



Ulla and Daniel in Salt Lake City 2009. (Photo by Judy Olsson Baouab).