



**VASA ORDER OF AMERICA**  
*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896*



Cultural Leader Jewel Wright has a nice program planned for our **82nd anniversary celebration on April 1, 7 pm.** The theme is "*Påsk i Sverige.*" We will also be honoring our past chairmen and help Inez Norling celebrate her 97th birthday.

Members are asked to bring open face sandwiches or salads for refreshments. The lodge will provide the anniversary cake and coffee. We will need members decorate, serve, and clean up. Please call Myrtle Widmark 481-4056 by March 26 to find out how you can help.

### **Chairman's Message**

Our meeting in March was a very busy, fulfilled one and it was the first formal meeting for our new officers. We enjoyed seeing an extra good turn-out of members. We also added seven new members. It's great to see Monitor Lodge growing. A special welcome to each and every one of our new members!

In our series of honoring the other Scandinavian countries, Norway was the topic of this evening. Jewel Wright had done a terrific job on the program. The men's choir from the Norwegian lodge did several numbers for us. She had also invited a group of dancers showing us "*gammaldans.*" The evening was topped off with lots of refreshments.

A really big THANKS to all the people who helped make the evening such a huge success. Hope to see you all at the April anniversary celebration!

*In Truth and Unity,  
Margaret Carlson*

*Members needing your special thoughts and prayers:*

*Ted and Alice Olson  
Evelyn Anderson  
Cecile Spencer  
Kurt and Alice Swanfeldt*

### **Scandinavian Festival**

Crafts and baked goods to sell are very much needed for the festival on April 16. If you can provide a craft item or some baked goods but are unable to attend the festival, arrangements can be made for early delivery or pick up. Call Myrtle Widmark at 481-4056 or Ethel Johnson 457-0966.

The next meeting of the Scandinavian Festival committee will be held on Monday, April 11, 7 pm, at the Sons of Norway, 770-776 Darina Avenue. We need as many of our members as possible in attendance. We're getting close and it's crucial that we have everyone's duties assigned in advance. For questions, call Ellen Harrod, 362-5273.

### **Welcome to our New Members!**

Please add the following new members to your program books:

John & Ruby Anderson  
P.O. Box 482  
Jackson, CA 95642  
Phone (209)223-1049

Thomas & Louise Center  
4234 Burrell Way  
Sacramento, CA 95864  
Phone 485-1038

Melvin & Ardeth Coster  
11147 Squanan River Court  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
Phone 638-2739

Carol Churkin  
310 Star Bend Road  
Yuba City, CA 95991  
Phone 671-4628

We also have two changes:

Marianne Ek  
814 Todhunter Avenue  
West Sacramento, CA 95605  
Phone 375-1924

Elizabeth Coleman  
218 Selby Ranch Road #8  
Sacramento, CA 95864-5815

## Meeting Minutes

1. The March 4 business meeting was opened at 7:10 pm by chairman Margaret Carlson.

2. Roll call showed all officers present.

3. Seven membership applications were read, voted on and accepted. Initiation ceremonies followed.

4. The charter was draped in memory of Gustav Mattson.

5. The Friendship Committee had sent card to members who were ill.

6. The Children's Club had met again after a two-month break and will be meeting twice a month instead of weekly. Peggy Carlson reported that Camilla Caldwell is resigning as co-chair and asked if anyone would be able to assist her.

7. There is still time to submit scholarship applications.

8. Ellen Harrod reported that lots of help is still needed for the Scandinavian Festival. John and Jewel Wright are in charge of set-up, starting Friday night.

9. The members voted to charter busses for the Sweden Day and Sweden in Bloom events in Palo Alto.

10. The members voted to update Monitor's bank signature cards to four signatures with two signatures for the checking account. A motion that the building fund and part of the Scholarship Fund be transferred from the checking account to a Certificate of Deposit to earn more interest was tabled.

11. At the suggestion of the District Master, meeting minutes will now be published in the newsletter.

12. Correspondence was read.

13. Bills were read and payment approved.

14. Our D.D Darin Freeland addressed the meeting.

15. Eivor Pfannkuch thanked members for get-well wishes following her surgery.

16. Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read.

17. Meeting closed at 8:15 and was followed by a cultural program.

— Jean Anderson,  
Assistant Secretary



## Nål och Tråd

Tisdagen den 12 april, kl.  
19.00, hos:

Myrtle Widmark  
3900 Silver Spur Way  
Sacramento, CA 95841  
Tel.: 481-4056

We'll be preparing for the Scandinavian Festival to be held April 16 at St. Ignatius Parish Center on Arden Way.

Wendy Strand is helping several N&T members with their bobbin lace. Thanks, Wendy!

## Visitors

It was nice to see our member Joyce Burns at the last *Nål och Tråd* meeting. She was on her way home to Colorado after a stay in Arizona.

Lennart and Britt-Marie Andersson, who now live in the state of Washington, were also here for a few days.

**BE SURE TO GET YOUR  
PROGRAM BOOK AT THE  
NEXT MEETING—AND  
ALSO FOR SOMEONE  
KNOW YOU WHO IS UN-  
ABLE TO ATTEND**



4/01 - Robert Barrett  
4/02 - Millie Johnson  
4/03 - Harry Johnson  
4/07 - Inez Norling  
4/05 - Lennart Anderson  
4/05 - Bertil Erickson  
4/16 - Lois Mullen  
4/17 - Robert Titus  
4/20 - Michelle Kauffman  
4/21 - David Dorey  
4/23 - Ronny Kagstrom  
4/28 - Annika Anderson  
4/30 - Annalena Bronson  
4/30 - Holger Nordquist

## Dance Classes

Come and learn Scandinavian dance basics Mondays 7:00-9:30 pm at the Arcade Creek Recreation Center, 4855 Hamilton Street. These fun classes started in January (we had a flyer in the newsletter at the time) but you can still join any time. Sallie Odom and Dick Livingston are the instructors. (They are the same people who led the dance group at our March meeting.)

For those really interested in folk dancing, you can set aside a whole weekend. There will be a Camp Norge Folkedans April 29-May 1 in Alto, California, for both beginners and more advanced dancers. For more information, call 510/638-6454.

— Myrtle Widmark

## The Deadline

for the May newsletter is **Friday, April 15**. Please send your input any time before that date to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

## Member of the Month



This month's member of the month was born in Connecticut in 1939. His heritage is not Scandinavian, but rather a blend of German

and Irish immigrants and some English background dating back to the Mayflower. His father was chairman of a local German club and his childhood memories of Christmas parties and summer picnics are very similar to the European culture and family values offered to the youth of Vasa today.

While on a ski trip to Vermont, our member met a Swedish girl who had recently emigrated to America. Dating during ski season wasn't done because every weekend was dedicated to the long trek to and from Vermont, but the two hit it off really well in the lodge and on the slopes. She decided to go home for a vacation in the summer and asked him to join her. As he had never been to Europe, he agreed and plans were made. Between the time they decided to go and the actual departure, they grew closer together and decided to get married while they were with her family and near her home town church.

The time was 1962 and the South East Asian war had begun to escalate, so our member left his bride in Sweden for a few months and reported to Air Force Officer Training School in Texas. She rejoined him after school and they began a 22-year odyssey of military life. One of their early assignments was to Mather AFB where they first

came into contact with Vasa and Monitor Lodge. They joined the lodge, but after a year were transferred.

Ten years later they were back in the area, assigned to Beale AFB outside of Marysville and rejoined Monitor. He has held several offices in the lodge, from Assistant MC to Chairman, and you'll almost always see him taking an active part in Vasa activities. He and his wife have enjoyed the opportunity to share the Swedish culture through Vasa and for their two daughters to be active in the children's club.

Since retired from the Air Force, this member now works for the California Department of Corrections as a systems analyst. His favorite pastimes include gardening, fishing, and travel, especially when that travel is back to Sweden, which has become the adopted second home of this member.

Have you guessed who we're talking about yet? If you guessed Kurt Pfannkuch, you're right.

## Library Books

The lodge has received three large boxes of adult and children's Swedish books from Eva Harriman. We need suggestions and help both to catalog the books and find a place to keep them. There is no space available at Wisteria hall. There will be a selection of books at the April meeting so members can look them over and check them out.

**IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR LODGE OR LEARN MORE ABOUT IT, CONTACT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS ETHEL JOHNSON, 457-0966, OR JEAN ANDERSON, 682-7438.**

## April Dues Anniversaries

If you have already paid, please ignore this reminder and thank you for your promptness.

Annabel Audet  
Ethel Hubbell  
Arthur Niemoller  
Donna Niemoller  
Dorothy Scherer  
Marie Tillman  
Terry Tillman  
Myrtle Widmark

Dues are \$14 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the April meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.

## Telephone Committee

Our telephone callers have done a super volunteer job this past year, calling members for special events,



emergencies, news, etc. Some would like to be relieved now, so we need new volunteers. You will have a list of names (no toll calls) and the co-captains will give you the calling information. Please contact June Deller 363-7598 or Eva Allred 922-3303 to volunteer your help.

SPECIAL THANKS to our callers for contacting members to volunteer at the Scandinavian Festival. This was a big job! And to our members: there's still time to call Ethel Johnson, 457-0966, if you can help at the festival.

*It would really be nice if we all would remember Inez Norling on her 97th birthday April 7. She surely would appreciate hearing from everyone. Let's all shower her with cards and notes!*

### Raffle Tickets

The Sweden Day raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. The prizes are all cash: 1st prize is \$150, down to 6th through 15th prize \$10. These tickets will be for sale at the April meeting. You can also take several books to sell to friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors, etc.

### Tegnér Lodge Calendar Changes

Tegnér Lodge No. 149 in Oakland has had several changes in their 1994 activities calendar (pages 31-33 in the program book). Here they are, if you would like to update your book:

- ★ Added: January 20, 6:30. Potluck dinner, yearly reports, and election of delegates.
- ★ Deleted: The activity on April 15.
- ★ Added: April 21, 6:30. Potluck, final convention organization and duties.
- ★ Deleted: August 7 crayfish party.
- ★ Added: August 18, 6:30. Short meeting followed by seafood supper.
- ★ December: The date and time for the Christmas celebration is to be announced.
- ★ January 1995: Delete the January 14 activity. Instead, add the following activities: January 19, 7:30. Business meeting and yearly reports; January 20, 7:30. Joint installation with Sveaborg (host), Framåt, and Tegnér.

### Want to Know More about Monitor Lodge?

Chairman Margaret Carlson 742-9346  
Vice Chairman Ingegerd Kennedy 638-3212  
Secretary Marianne Ek 375-1924  
Membership Committee:  
Jean Anderson 682-743  
Ethel Johnson 457-0966

### A Swedish Pastor Wrote "How Great Thou Art"

The words to "How Great Thou Art"—in Swedish, "*O Store Gud*"—were written by Carl Boberg, a preacher, writer, and poet from Mönsterås, Sweden. It was written in 1885 and published in the daily, *Mönsterås-Tidningen*, in 1886.

On a warm summer day in 1885, Carl Boberg and others visited a meeting at Kronobäck south of Mönsterås. As they were on their way home, a storm came up, lightning flashed, and winds swept over the fields. Soon it was over and the rainbow appeared. Boberg arrived home, saw the Mönsterås inlet lying like a mirror before him. From the far side of the waters he heard the song of a thrush in the woods. In the still evening, the tolling of a church bell could be heard in the distance. The beauty of the atmosphere and the nature all around him filled Boberg's spirit and he expressed it in the poem of praise, "*O Store Gud*."

The poem was published in the local paper and a couple of periodicals, after which it was apparently forgotten. Several years later, the author attended a meeting in the province of Värmland and was surprised to hear the congregation sing his poem to the tune of an old Swedish melody. The hymn later went out of use in Sweden, but it was published in German in 1907 and in Russian in 1927. The English version finally came about in 1949 and Sweden has now rediscovered her own hymn. Here are just two of the verses in English:

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed:  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

And when I think that God,  
His Son not sparing  
Sent him to die—I scarce can take it in;  
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died, to take away my sin.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

— Submitted by Eivor Pfannkuch,  
District Cultural Leader