



## VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896*

Vol. 18, No. 10

December 1994

**B**E SURE TO COME to our **Christmas/Glögg Party Friday, December 2, at 6:30 pm.** Birgitta Ostlund is chairing the event. There will be no business meeting this month (except for a brief executive board meeting).

Our Christmas/Glögg Party is always a lot of fun. We try to keep it as Swedish as possible with music, singing, Christmas tree, *Tomten*, a mini *Smörgåsbord*, and gift exchange. Mark it on your calendar!

If you want to take part in the gift exchange, please bring a small gift for around \$3.00 and mark whether it is for a man or women. We also need everyone to bring a plate of cookies or a pointsetta, so we can remember our shut-in members at Christmas time.

As with all our functions, we need help with preparations and clean-up. Please call Birgitta Ostlund to volunteer your services. Come early to help prepare, stay late to help clean up!

Also, don't miss the the beautiful Lucia program presented by our children on Friday, December 9, at 7:30 pm (a time change from the program book).

### Chairman's Message

Hope you have all recuperated from all the cooking and baking for the *Smörgåsbord*. TACK, TACK! to everyone for all your

help and great support. Now we can all concentrate on the holidays coming up. Hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving.

*- In Truth and Unity,  
Margaret Carlson*

### Smörgåsbord

Our big annual *Smörgåsbord* is over again. I want to thank everyone very much for all the help in making it a success.

It was a real struggle this year to sell all the tickets and to get help. Although the costs were higher for the food, the band, and the rental, our price stayed the same. I know that if we were to up the price, it would be harder still to sell tickets.

Perhaps we should no longer have a *Smörgåsbord*? Any ideas? The old stand-by committees are getting tired and we are having difficulties finding new people to take over. If we don't have a big money-making project, we'll have to raise our dues. Please give this some thought and come up with suggestions.

*- Margaret Carlson,  
Chairman*

### Santa Lucia

The Children's Club has a delightful Lucia program planned for us again this year on **Friday, December 9, at 7:30 pm.** (Please note that this is half an hour later than the time announced in our program book.)

Everyone is invited and please bring the family. *Tomten* will visit the children, so bring a gift for them to receive.

Also once again, the Children's Club is having a raffle for a visit from Lucia. If you win, she will come to your home on December 12 with basket of goodies. Or you may elect to have her visit a shut-in member instead. The tickets are \$1 each and will be for sale at the *Smörgåsbord*, at the December *glögg* party, or the night of the Lucia. Please help to support the Children's Club!

We would also appreciate help with coffee and refreshments at the Lucia event. The parents are so busy with the children that extra help is needed. Thank you very much!

*- Peggy Carlson*

---

★

### Calendars

Our secretary, Marianne Ek, will have Swedish 1995 calendars for sale at the December 2 social. The few left are available on a first-come, first-served basis (unless you ordered one).



## Member of the Month

The December Member of the Month is our chairman, Margaret (Holm) Carlson. Her parents were both born in Vasa, Finland, and came over here in their late teens and early twenties. Margaret was born, raised, and married in Mount Vernon, Washington, the oldest of four children and the only girl.

Margaret grew up on a large farm, where her parents raised registered Jerseys and grew grain and crops, such as peas, broccoli, and spinach for the freezer plants. Margaret often worked in the fields, running a tractor, or driving a big truck, vehicles she learned to drive when she was only 10.

Margaret could only speak Swedish when she started grade school, so you know who was called "teacher's pet." She started going to Vasa meetings at an early age. Her mother was a 50-year member. Her dad died when he was only 63 years old.

Margaret learned to play the accordion and was in an accordion band that played in every parade you can think of in Washington and Canada. She also played at Vasa dances at the time when they danced after every meeting.

Margaret married Roland in 1942. They had four children and eventually moved to Eureka, California, where they lived for 20 years. The whole family

was active in 4-H and won many awards. Margaret was even chosen by the Singer Sewing Machine Co. as one of four top 4-H clothing leaders in the United States and was honored at the National 4-H Congress in Chicago. She was also active in the PTA and was given Honorary Life Membership. To this day, she is active in the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and American Business Women's Association.

Margaret and Roland designed and built a big home while the kids were growing up. When the oldest daughter started college, Margaret went to work full time as a bookkeeper and has worked off and on ever since.

But she always loved to cook and entertained a lot; there was always someone extra for dinner. She started making wedding cakes when friends were having anniversaries and the children got married. One weekend she had three wedding cakes to do besides working full time. She didn't know how to say "No" in those days either! She even had time to do oil painting, crafts, and tole. Margaret wasn't happy unless she was around lots of kids. In addition to their own, they also had foster children. She now has nine grandchildren.

Margaret and Roland moved to Sacramento in 1971 and eventually rejoined Vasa. And you all know the rest of the story . . .

## Friendship

Please remember our shut-in members for the holidays.

Helen Tura needs our thoughts and prayers as she goes through her remaining days.

Lars Ostlund had a heart attack, but it sure was nice to see him looking great at our last meeting. Ruth Volkoff and Sigrid Thorsen are having health problems. Elizabeth Johnson has a painful leg. Eivor Pfannkuch got her hip out of place and now has to wear a brace.

We also think of Alice Swannfeldt, who is with her daughter. And of Karin and Viola Bodelson, who are busy moving into their new quarters.



## A HUGE "THANK YOU" to Margaret Carlson

*who did by far most of the tremendous job involved in preparing for our annual Smörgåsbord—as she has done for several years!*

## Nål och Tråd

In December, we will have one meeting, a Christmas celebration on *Luciadagen*, **Tuesday, December 13, at 7 pm**, at the home of

Louise Sims  
2486 Larkspur Lane, #189  
Sacramento  
Tel.: 489-7331

Entrance is on Fulton Avenue. Call Louise for the entrance code. And please car pool as much as possible.

Besides celebrating Lucia Day, we will be packing cookies for our members who do not get out much. Please remember to bring some of your homemade Swedish cookies for this project.

— Karin Bodelson

## Minutes from the November 4 Business Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Margaret Carlson at 7:10 pm and roll was called.

2. A membership application from Helen Starkey was read. The next business meeting will vote on this and other applications.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

4. It was reported that Eivor Pfannkuch was back in the hospital with a dislocated hip. Elizabeth Johnson had problems with a leg. Martha Fredrickson was at the meeting and feeling well after surgery. Our former District Deputy Darin Freeland has a new job in Coalinga and has moved there with his family. Monitor will send a card.

5. Jewel Wright reported a pancake breakfast profit of \$167.58 and thanked everyone for all the help. Upcoming events include a Christmas Bazaar in San Francisco November 18 and SWEA's annual Swedish Christmas Fair on November 27, also in San Francisco. Jewel told about an interesting Viking ship she had seen visiting the Redwoods.

6. Marianne Ek will be sending an article to The Vasa Star about our Cultural Seminar and the Lucia program.

7. The Children's Club will present a Lucia program on December 9 at 7:30. Members were asked to bring cookies for refreshments and gifts for *Tomten* to give to the children.

8. More help was needed for the *Smörgåsbord*. Tickets were not selling as well as usual. There will be an ad in the paper. Margaret Carlson was voted advanc-

es to pay for food, hall rental, the band, and the bar.

9. Our choir, the Valley Viking Sing will be performing at our Christmas party and the *Luciafest*. Our new member Daniel Backman will be playing the viola.

10. Margaret Carlson, Kurt Pfannkuch, and Leisma Krastins attended the reception for Erik Johnson, the new Grand Master. Margaret will be reimbursed \$64.70 for gift and dinner expenses. She will also be reimbursed \$10 for Monitor's Christmas greeting in The Vasa Star.

11. Lars and Birgitta Ostlund will be in charge of the *Glöggfest* on December 2. We will have a gift exchange again. Members were asked to bring cookies or pointsettas for shut-in members.

12. Myrtle Widmark read a letter from District Deputy Helen Mingram regarding complaints. Our lodge members should discuss any complaints or concerns with Myrtle Widmark or Kurt Pfannkuch who serve as our liaison people with the district.

13. Myrtle told about an interesting International Day event in Davis where she had put up a Swedish information booth.

14. Among correspondence read was a letter from Eivor Pfannkuch thanking everyone who helped with the recent Cultural Seminar. Members present agreed that Eivor should be commended for organizing and conducting such an excellent event.

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

16. The meeting closed at 8:10 and refreshments followed.

— Jean Anderson,  
Assistant Secretary

## Happy December Birthdays!

12/01 - Thomas Center  
12/03 - Marjorie Skicklig  
12/04 - Kerstin Hakansson  
12/07 - Ellen Harrod  
12/11 - John Loken  
12/12 - Margaret Carlson  
12/15 - Jean Barney  
12/15 - Lynn Lundberg  
12/18 - David Swanson  
12/20 - Janice Woodruff  
12/24 - Evelyn Anderson  
12/24 - Sophia Swanson  
12/31 - Dorothy Mogford



## Dues Anniversaries

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

Eva Allred  
Karin Bodelson  
Viola Bodelson  
Joyce Burns  
Camilla Caldwell  
Kenneth & Peggy Carlson  
Martha Fredrikson  
Ethel Hoffman  
Christie & Ronny Kagstrom  
Betty Schoepf  
Audrey Smith

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



### **Pumpkin Cake**

Margaret Carlson made this cake for one of our recent meetings and many people asked for the recipe:

4 eggs

1 large can pumpkin

1½ cup sugar

1 tsp salt

2 tsp cinnamon

¼ tsp allspice

1 tsp ginger

½ cloves

3 ½ cups evaporated milk

• Mix all above ingredients and put in 9x3 pan. Sprinkle 1 pkg yellow cake mix over it all. Put 1½ cubes butter slices on top and sprinkle 1 cup chopped walnuts over the cake.

Bake in 325° for 1½ hour. Whipped cream is good topping.

## *God Jul och Gott Nytt År!*



### **For More Information about Monitor Lodge, Please Contact**

■ Membership Committee members Jean Anderson 682-7438 or Ethel Johnson 457-0966

■ Secretary Marianne Ek at 372-7824

■ Vice Chairman Ingrid Kennedy 638-3212

■ Chairman Margaret Carlson, 742-9346



### **Next Newsletter**

Please send all input for the January newsletter to Ingrid Kennedy by **Friday, December 16.**

**Monitor Lodge No. 218  
Vasa Order of America  
9026 Chantal Way  
Sacramento, CA 95829**

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 771  
Sacramento, CA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED