



VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 19, No. 1

January 1995



OUR JANUARY MEETING IS a business meeting on Friday, January 6, starting at 6:30. It will be a busy one though, initiating new members, electing district delegates for our convention in April, and submitting annual reports. So if you hold an office that requires a report, please work on it now.

Refreshments will be served by the new officers.

Chairman's Message

Thank you for your confidence in electing me chairman for another year. You all know I would rather be in the background or work in the kitchen, but I will do my best to make this a banner year with your help and cooperation. We're certainly starting out right by initiating about ten new members. And we have a lot of fun things coming up this year, so do plan now to get involved.

I wish everyone a **GOTT NYTT ÅR!**

— In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson

IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER

and would like to get involved, please volunteer for our various committees or to help with upcoming events. It's a great way to get to know the other members and to have fun, too.

Christmas Party

I certainly enjoyed our Christmas and Glögg Party! We had a fantastic turnout. Our committee, directed by Birgitta Östlund, did an outstanding job of decorating and preparing the food. The glögg was superb—in fact, we ran out too quickly.

We had a nice musical program: Dan Backman with his violin and our Valley Viking Singers all entertained beautifully. Don Carlson sang "White Christmas" in Swedish and Betty Schoepf did a hilarious number about the 12 days of Christmas. And, of course, *Tomten* came with a bag full of presents.

Karin and Viola Bodelson were honored with a gift of appreciation for mailing our newsletter for so many years. Marianne Ek was remembered for her work with our choir, the Valley Viking Singers. The Kågströms received a gift from the lodge for their new little daughter.

It was wonderful to see our long time members Lennart and Britt-Marie Andersson visiting from Sequim, Washington. The Kingrens came from Napa, and we were glad to see many members who cannot usually make it. Several prospective members joined us also.

Tack, tack for a wonderful evening!

— Margaret Carlson,
Chairman

Luciafest

One of the biggest highlights during the year is our *Luciafest*. Kristina Cataline was our Lucia this year, and the Children's Club presented a wonderful program. They sang most of the songs in Swedish, and these 4-5-6-year-olds are such good actors.

Dan Backlund, our violinist, accompanied on the piano by Marianne Ek, added greatly to the program with their Swedish songs, along with part of our choir. Birgitta Ellis sang along with the children. Betty Schoepf did her very funny rendition of the 12 days of Christmas.

Lucia received the Lucia pendant from the lodge. Dudley and Kristie Overmeyer (friends of Eva Allred) won the Lucia visit. For the children, the biggest attraction of all was *Tomten* (Ernie Skorheim) who handed out gifts and goodie bags to more than 45 children.

The evening ended with delicious refreshments, punch, and coffee. The children had made the traditional Swedish Lucia saffron buns with the help of their mothers.

Tusen tack to our Children's Club leaders, Peggy Carlson and Camilla Caldwell, and to Christy Kågström, Ann Carlson, their pianist, and all the other parents who helped!



Smörgåsbord Report

This year, the *Smörgåsbord* was a real struggle. The tickets did not sell out; we had 41 fewer people than last year. So there went our profit! But it was comfortable not to be so crowded, and we got lots of compliments.

Thanks for all the good help. It was greatly appreciated. Dede Dahlberg and her crew did a super job creating a real Swedish atmosphere. *Nål och Tråd*, under the direction of Ethel Johnson, folded all the napkins and made the beautiful table decorations. Ethel and Jean Anderson also handled the ticket sales.

Many thanks to Ernie Skorheim, Ed Dahlberg, and all the kitchen help and good cooks. Especially to Peggy Carlson who took the day off from work to supervise in the kitchen. Thanks also to Elizabeth Johnson, who got all our hostesses together. And we must not forget our bartenders, Kenneth Carlson and Kenneth Howland (who drove all the way from Pleasanton to help out). Both Kens had to work that day, too. The helpers were too numerous to mention, but believe me, you are all appreciated!

— Margaret Carlson,
Chairman

HERE IS SOMETHING NEW

we will try out this year: All members who have a perfect attendance record at our meetings and functions, and whose dues are paid up, will get a free bus trip. In August or towards fall, we will go on an all-day bus trip to Scandinavian stores in the Bay Area. This will be a good opportunity for gift and early Christmas shopping.



Hjärtliga
Gratulationer
på
Födelsedagen!

1/04 - Elayne Lincecum
1/04 - Cecilia Segerstedt
1/06 - Edna Anderson
1/07 - Robert Anderson
1/07 - Thomas Anderson
1/08 - Don Carlson
1/08 - Gladys Stangl
1/09 - Leisma Krastins
1/10 - Doris Haas
1/12 - Phil Olson
1/16 - Billie Nelson
1/21 - LaVerne Gullans
1/22 - Thelma Badgley
1/24 - Brian Stockham
1/25 - Viola Bodelson
1/25 - Birgitta Ellis
1/27 - Ed Dahlberg
1/29 - Jewel Wright

Swedish Classes

The Swedish language classes had their traditional Christmas party on Thursday, December 8. Families and former teachers and students were also invited. It was fun to see everyone and socialize with our friends. As usual, there were many delicious dishes of Swedish food, ending with a variety of desserts. No one goes home hungry from a meal like that! The evening included singing and dancing around *Julgranen*.

The winter class session for the intermediate and advanced will begin January 12, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Coloma Community Center, 4623 T Street. We learn from worksheets, books, Swedish newspapers, discussions, and

songs. For more information, contact the teacher, LaVerne Gullans, at 485-2609.

The beginning class with Birgitta Ellis is doing nicely. They had an Advent celebration with the students bringing refreshments.

— Myrtle Widmark

Nål och Tråd

At our Lucia Day meeting at Louise Sims' home, which was beautifully decorated with *tomtar* and other Swedish delights, we packaged cookies supplied by Monitor members for delivery to long-time members, some of whom don't get out much any more. Also poinsettia plants were taken to some members.

We hope more of our Monitor members will join us, especially those interested in embroidery and crafts, woodwork, etc. We are not limited to women, of co. Men who like to create Swedish items are also most welcome. We always have a pleasant time and delicious refreshments.

January meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, January 10, 7 p.m.,
at the home of
Myrtle Widmark
3900 Silver Spur Way
Sacramento, phone 481-4056
and

Tuesday, January 24, 7 p.m.,
at the home of
Eleanor Vine
7304 Sunsilver Lane
Sacramento, phone 688-5296
(Call for entrance code)

— Karin Bodelson

Friendship Committee

We have just learned that Hilda Linder, who used to be a very active member of Monitor Lodge, has passed away at the age of 98. Her daughter Doris Linder knows several Monitor members and comes to our *Smörgåsbord*. Her address is 231 F Boardwalk, San Bruno, CA 94066.

Helen Tura had both her feet amputated, a very difficult ordeal indeed. Words cannot express how badly we feel for Helen.

We sympathize with Henry Hjersman who broke his tail bone on a boat trip. This is extremely painful, of course. And, as if this wasn't enough, it turned out he had a bad reaction to the pain pills! Unfortunately, we did not find out about all this until well after the event. We hope Henry is out of his misery by now.

Eivor Pfannkuch has gone through yet another operation. She came home from the hospital a week before Christmas but had to stay flat on her back for four weeks—no easy feat for such an active person. Eivor's daughter from Sweden came over here to help for a few weeks.

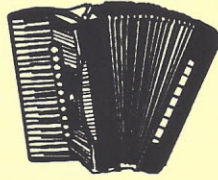


Lost and Found

Are you missing a plate or favorite dish? Please check the cupboards at the hall. We have much too much stuff there and need to clean things out. Someone also left a few Christmas decorations.

We are missing six of our brown thermos coffee servers. Does anyone know where they might be?

Finnish Accordionist



The Finlandia Lodge is having a special concert Sunday, February 26, with the very well known Finnish accordionist, Veikko Ahvenainen. He has given many concerts in the United States and will play on his Russian-made accordion. The concert is from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Rusch Park in Citrus Heights.

From the Editor

We have had very nice comments about our newsletter, both from within and from outside our lodge. The credit should not go to me. We wouldn't have much of a newsletter without all the good input from many people.

For instance, I get THICK envelopes with lots of articles every month from our chairman, Margaret Carlson. That takes a lot of time and thinking and writing on her part. Kudos should go to Marie and Terry Tillman with whom some of the formatting originates. Karin Bodelson is sending *Nål och Tråd* notices. Myrtle Widmark is a regular contributor. The Member of the Month section has received special mention from the district and other lodges; I believe it was Eivor Pfannkuch's idea. Eivor also contributes cultural items from time to time. I get input from lodge officers, committee chairs, and individual members—it would be difficult to mention everyone by name. You get the idea: the newsletter is truly a joint effort! Which certainly makes my part easy and pleasant.

— Ingegerd Kennedy

January Dues Anniversaries

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

Gerda Anderson
 Vera Anderson
 Britt-Marie & Lennart Anderson
 Thelma Badgley
 Birgit Dillard
 Jack and Estrid Doscher
 Kathleen Goldsberry
 Maybelle Gustafson
 Jeanne and Stanley Hagstrom
 Kerstin and Kjell Hakansson
 Viola Hallen
 Mary and Dale Ingvarsen
 Herb and Mildred Johnson
 Karin Johnson
 Charles Linn
 Berthell and Charles Nelson
 Barbara and Wendell Olson
 Birgitta Ostlund
 Cecilia Segerstedt
 Frank and Gladys Stangl
 Joyce Trnka
 George Uffens
 Arlie Veis

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



Please Inform

our secretary, Marianne Ek, of all address and phone changes so that we can keep our roster up to date.

Our Swedish Lesson

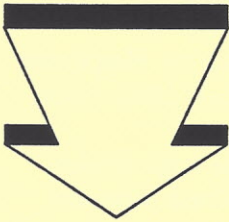
this month is lutfisk. ("Lute-fisk" with an "e" in the middle is the Norwegian word.)

Installation of Officers

Monitor Lodge members have been invited to Sierra Kronan Lodge for joint installation of officers at their meeting on Friday, January 13. The meeting starts at 6:30 with the installation taking place at 7:30. Chairman Don Carlson of Sierra Kronan and Myrtle Widmark of Monitor, their District Deputy, have contacted District Master Phyllis Petersen to conduct the installation.

This is an excellent opportunity for Monitor members to visit another lodge and meet their members as well as our District Master.

Sierra Kronan meets at the Roseville Veterans' Memorial Hall (in the basement), Sutter Avenue & Park Drive by Royer Park in Roseville. We will discuss car pooling at our January meeting.



For More Information about Monitor Lodge, Please Contact

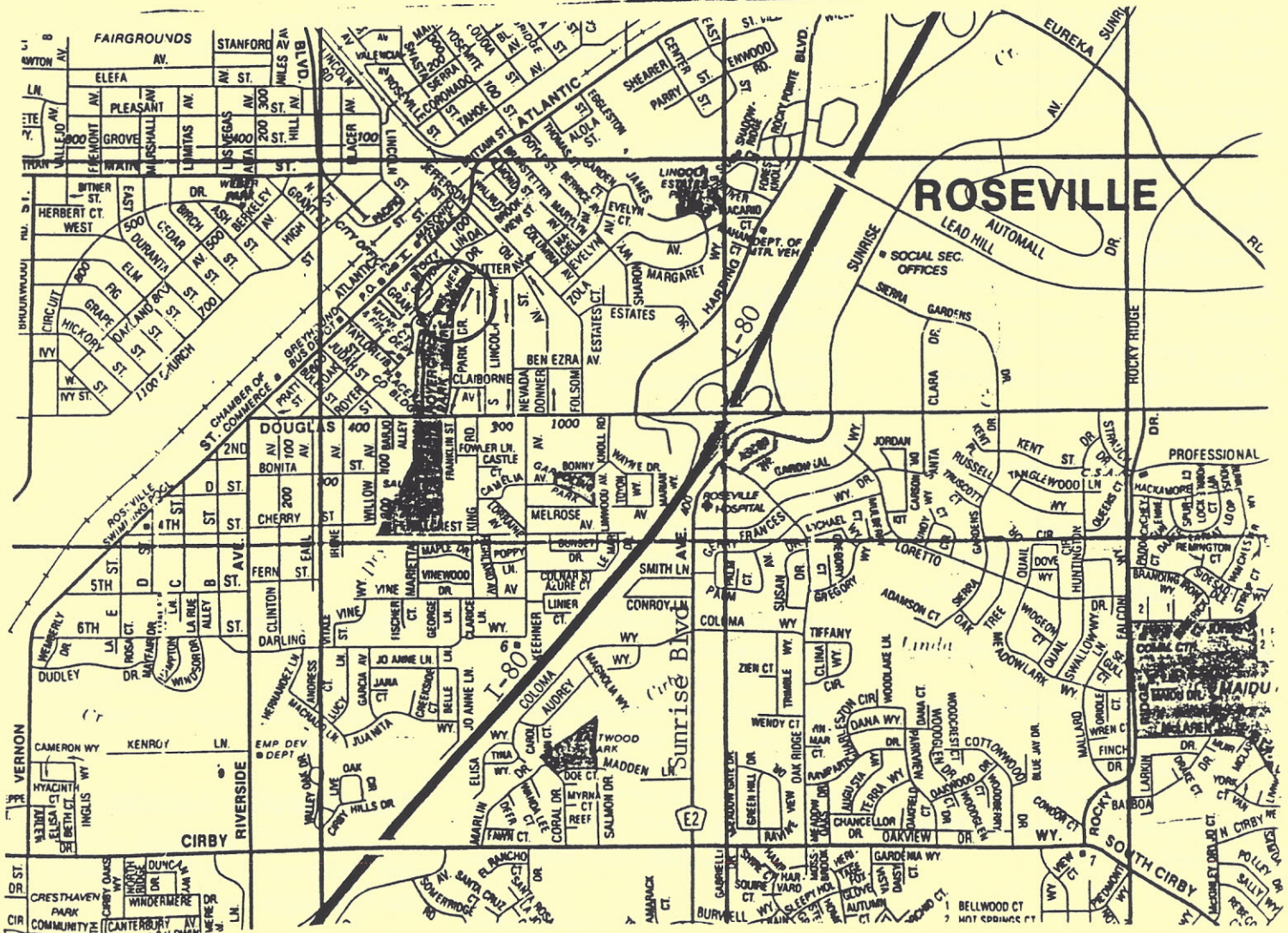
- Membership Committee members Jean Anderson 682-7438 or Ethel Johnson 457-0966
- Secretary Marianne Ek at 372-7824
- Vice Chairman Ingrid Kennedy 638-3212
- Chairman Margaret Carlson, 742-9346

Next Newsletter

Please send all input for the February newsletter to Ingrid Kennedy by Friday, January 13.

Member of the Month

In our February newsletter, we will find out "all we wanted to know but were afraid to ask" about our friendly, long-time glögg maker Herb Johnson.



Carl Larsson: Sweden's Most Popular Painter



We know Carl Larsson (1853-1919) through reproductions of his work on a myriad of products—everything from note cards to cookie tins which also is evidence of his popularity (and the fact that his work is no longer subject to copyright laws). His books also brought him home to the masses and helped make him Sweden's most beloved artist.

Carl Larsson's art, however, was very much a joint venture with his wife Karin, who ceased to paint when they got married but who made their home into a living piece of art. This is how Martina, the cook, described this successful artistic partnership:

"They stood for a long time in front of the painting with their arms around each other, discussing lines and colors in a way I could not comprehend. Then he detached himself from her and looked at the painting from a distance... Then he went back to her again and put his arms around her in the same way. In this way they kept on talking and finally the wife said, 'Don't touch it now Carl—it is good'."

The Artist: Carl Larsson described his tragic childhood in his memoirs published in 1931.

He was born in Stockholm's Old Town, grew up in very poor circumstances, and had to fend for himself from age 11. He spent three years in a charity school which is where his artistic talent was discovered. He attended the Stockholm Academy of Arts and earned his living re-touching and sketching for newspapers. After finishing his education at the Academy, he lived for long periods in Paris where he painted with no success and little money. A fellow Swedish artist discovered the destitute, alcoholic, and depressed Carl Larsson and introduced him to the Scandinavian artist colony in Grez, where the 30-year old Carl Larsson's life changed completely.



The Spouse: In Grez, Carl Larsson met 23-year-old Karin Bergöö and immediately fell in love. He was still mourning his love in Sweden who had died trying to give birth to their second child. The first had died at birth. One year later, Carl and Karin were married and soon the first of their eight children was born. Karin was already an accomplished artist when she met Carl and she had come to Grez with a few Swedish women painters to continue her studies. Her well-to-do family had financed her studies at the Academy, the French School, and the Arts and Crafts School in Stockholm. It was now that Carl's life and art took a successful turn and the Furstenberg Gallery in Gothenburg bought the first of many paintings. This meant that Karin had to abandon her painting career to devote her time to her children and her home which

she designed into one of the world's most-loved homes.

The House: It was a small, unpretentious, rather ugly building, built on waste slag and appropriately named Lilla Hyttnäs (which means smelting house on a spit of land) near the Sunborn river in Dalarna. The cottage was later extended in various stages, and Carl was able to buy the farm next door.

The Home: It was on a rainy day in the summer of 1894, when Carl Larsson was irritated because he could not get out and paint, that Karin suggested he paint indoors instead. This was the foundation of the paintings we love Carl Larsson for—his interiors and scenes of turn-of-the-century middle class family life. In the paintings and watercolors we also meet the artistry of Karin. She designed all the furniture that they did not inherit. Karin's fabric design was strong and clean with asymmetric patterns. Even the children's clothes and the "Carl Larsson aprons" were made from her patterns. Carl Larsson himself painted garlands and patterns on the walls in the spirit of the arts and crafts movement. Karin also arranged the furniture and scenes for Carl Larsson to paint, so even if she did not paint any more after she married Carl, much of her art lives on in his.

The Interiors: When you visit the Larsson home, you are first struck by how small it is. The house is an early example of "compact living" and may be one of the reasons why we and designers are so fascinated by the many practical solutions and ingenious details.

— From *Swedish Press*, Dec 92



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