



## VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896*

Vol. 20, No. 7

August-September 1996



WE WILL HAVE OUR FIRST meeting for the fall season on **Friday, September 6** (the date in the program book is wrong!), starting with refreshments at 6:00 PM. At 6:30 we will serve a *kåldolmar och rotmos* dinner.

Do bring your friends or prospective members. The price is only \$5 and children under 10 are free. We want this to be a family affair. Our past chairmen are hosts for the evening. New members will be initiated at the business meeting that follows.

### **Chairman's Message**

Hope you all had a wonderful summer. I know quite a few of you went to Sweden, so I'm sure you had a great vacation. We also had several big events right here in River City, and we're grateful

to all those who helped make the arrangements. [See separate articles.]

Now it's time to look forward to all our fun fall activities. Please plan to attend and to help in any way you can. Our annual Swedish pancake breakfast is coming up on **Saturday, 28 September**. A separate flyer is enclosed with this newsletter. This is a work-intensive event and we need all hands.

In September, we will also be working on next year's program. All lodge officers need to attend this planning session. The date will be announced at our September 6 meeting.

The Nominating Committee has worked hard to get a slate of new officers together. Our thanks to all of you who agreed to serve.

*In Truth and Unity,  
Margaret Carlson*

### **We're thinking of**

★ **Jeanne Hagstrom** who is taking chemotherapy,

★ **Audrey Fales** who is confined to home with a multitude of health problems,

★ **Sophie Swanson** who had a lump removed,

★ **Millie Johnson** who is having a hard time recovering from her fall,

★ **Viola Hallen** who is recovering from a stroke,

★ **Marge Skicklig** who is recovering very slowly,

★ **Viola Bodelson** who stays about the same.

### **Dear Monitor Members,**

*I'd like to thank you all for the visits and cards and for the plant from Monitor Lodge. I really appreciate everything.*

*I feel I am blessed with my improvement and getting the use of my left side and hand. Hopefully I'll gradually get all my strength back.*

*Hope to see you all soon.*

*In Truth and Unity,  
Viola Hallen*

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

■ Membership committee members Jean Anderson 682-7438, Arlie Veis at 489-5729, or Eivor Pfannkuch at 673-5917.

■ Secretary Marianne Ek at 372-1015

■ Vice Chairman Arthur Niemoller at 631-9330

■ Chairman Margaret Carlson at 742-9346



## ♪ Highly Successful Summer Socials ♪

♪ *Tusen tack* to Tom and Annika Andersson for hosting our **MIDSOMMARFEST AND POTLUCK on June 22!** It gets better and better every year. This year we had a lot of visitors from Sweden who happened to be in the area. The weather was hot as usual, so the swimming pool was really popular. And, as usual, the food was outstanding.

♪ **THE BAY AREA BUS TRIP on July 13** was a tremendous success. We were about 43 persons participating and traveled in a huge, very nice bus with all the conveniences of home, leaving at 8:30 in the morning and returning about 5:30. We visited **Nordisk Butik** (where they served a lavish *kaffebord* with many kinds of bread and cookies), **ScanTrends** at Ghirardelli Square, **Nordic House**, and **Scandia Imports** in Albany. Between stops we were treated to extensive sightseeing. We're all very grateful to Marianne Ek who devoted so much time and effort to all the arrangements. Our thanks also to Margaret Carlson for the coffee bread, to Dorothy Scherer for the brownies, and to Lars and Birgitta Ostlund

for the Swedish music—all of which made the bus ride thoroughly enjoyable. We also enjoyed the sing-along. However, we didn't exactly sing along: the back of the bus couldn't hear the front of the bus and vice versa, so we weren't always at the same place in the text.

♪ We had a wonderful **PICNIC AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL on August 2** at the home of Lars and Birgitta Ostlund. Thank you very much for having us! We had a great turnout, the weather was perfect, and we thank Kurt Pfannkuch for an excellent slide presentation on Sweden. The general comments were, "We must do this again next year!"

♪ The annual **CRAYFISH PARTY on August 17** was another summer highlight. Our thanks to Peggy and Kenneth Carlson who hosted this event again. As usual, this Swedish August tradition offered a good time with wonderful food and great fellowship—as we struggled to scrape something edible out of the little freshwater crustaceans. **TACK, TACK** to all who made it happen!

### New Officers

Here are the nominations for Monitor officers in 1997:

Chairman - Art Niemoller  
 Vice Chairman - Marianne Ek  
 Secretary - Brian Stockham  
 Asst Secretary - Jillian Stanley  
 Financial Secretary - Karin Dorey  
 Asst Fin.Sec. - Ingegerd Kennedy  
 Treasurer - Betty Schoepf  
 Cultural leaders -  
     Annika Andersson  
     Birgitta Ostlund  
 Chaplain - Carol Churkin  
 Master of Ceremonies -  
     Liesma Krastins  
 Asst Master of Ceremonies -  
     Michael Churkin  
 Inner Guard - Jill Stockham  
 Outer Guard - Dorothy Mogford  
 Historian - Gail Nemy  
 Trustee (3 yrs) - Paul Gullans  
 Auditor (3 yrs) - Russ Ellis

### Roster Changes

Please add the following phone numbers to your roster:  
 Michael Churkin 671-4628  
 Gary/Helen Baker 967-6721



We're getting ready to submit our input for next year's program book. So if your address or phone number has changed or if the current information in our program book is not correct, please make sure you notify our secretary, Marianne Ek. We want to get it right for next year.

### Phone Books in Sweden

will be extra thick in 1997. They will contain not only telephone numbers and addresses but for the first time also e-mail addresses.

### World Wide Web

You can now read all about Monitor Lodge on the Internet. Our address is:

■ <http://member.aol.com/vasa218/vasindx1.htm>

Information about the Swedish royal family, the history of Swedish monarchy, and the 10 royal castles (with pictures) is available on

■ <http://www.royalcourt.se>



### Did You Know?

Sweden is the West European country that, in the past few years, has received most refugees in relation to its population. Over a million of the 8.8 million inhabitants are immigrants of the first or second generation.

*From: Images of Sweden, published by the Swedish Institute and the Swedish Trade Council, 1995*

## Condensed Minutes from May 8 Business Meeting

1. April minutes were approved.
2. Four membership applications had been received.
3. General concern was expressed about members with health problems: Audrey Fales, Elizabeth Johnson, and Viola Hallen.
4. Everyone was impressed with the program on Swedish trolls, presented by Britt O'Grady at the Mors Dag social. An article with pictures will be sent to *The Vasa Star*. A motion was made and passed to send a thank-you letter and \$25 to Britt for expenses. The Children's Club did an excellent job hosting that meeting.
5. The only scholarship application sent out had not been returned. Members interested in scholarships for their children or grandchildren must have been members in good standing for at least one year.
6. Letters had been received with thanks and compliments to our Valley Viking Singers on their recent performances.
7. The Scandinavian Festival planning committee's post-festival potluck was announced.
8. Arrangements for the Bay Area shopping trip were discussed.
9. Discussion on donation to the local Salvation Army was tabled until the next general meeting.
10. Cabinet doors and tables at the meeting hall need repairs.
11. Myrtle Widmark reported on nominations for 1997 officers. [See list of names on page 2.]
12. The lodge finally has a copy of the master insurance policy with Aetna.
13. The lodge needs to establish procedures for the orderly passing of keys to new officers and a key sign-out list.
14. Marianne Ek will send a letter to Donn Stafford requesting inventories at Wisteria Hall in case of burglary, fire, etc.
15. Art Niemoller apologized to Margaret Carlson on behalf of the entire lodge for the fact that she had to return to clean Wisteria Hall by herself the day after the Mors Dag social.
16. Art Niemoller suggested that a point of contact be designated for each lodge event. As an incentive, this person could receive a free dinner, dues for a year, or something similar.
17. Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were read. One of our certificates of deposit matures on May 9, 1996.

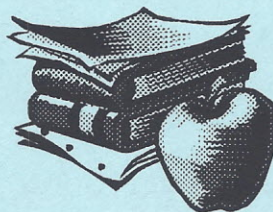
— Brian Stockham,  
Assistant Secretary

## Condensed Minutes from June 7 Business Meeting

1. The Friendship Committee gave an update on members suffering health problems.
2. Old business included reports on Sweden Day, the work of the Nominating Committee, and the language camps attended by Monitor members [see separate articles on page 4].
3. Correspondence received included questionnaire from the Golden Gate Recreation Club, letter about \$500 scholarship received by two Jenny Lind members, and a thank-you note from Elizabeth and Harry Johnson.
4. Future events: Midsummer fest, the Bay Area shopping trip, ice cream social, and the crayfish party.
5. Jewel Wright told about an article on Maj Loken and her craft articles.
6. Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read.

— Brian Stockham,  
Assistant Secretary

## Back to School



"Morgonstund har guld i mun." — "Läsa, plugga, skriva: det gör alla visa." It's time to go back to Swedish classes, an excellent opportunity to learn and keep up your knowledge of the Swedish language.

The beginner and low intermediate classes will meet with Birgitta Ellis alternately every other week. The beginners' classes start Monday evening, September 16. Low intermediate classes will meet for the first time on Tuesday, September 24. Call Birgitta Ellis 920-0696 for more information.

The high intermediate and advanced class will meet at the Coloma Community Center, 46th & T Streets, every Thursday evening beginning September 19. On the first Thursday, we will be in the Sonora Room. LaVerne Gullans will be your teacher and you can call her at 485-2609 if you have any questions.

Alla ar välkomna!

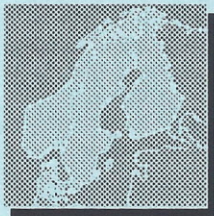
— Birgitta Ellis and LaVerne Gullans

## "Scandinavian Week" for Elderhostelers

We were welcomed to the Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) at Takoma, Washington (just south of Seattle), in mid-June for an educational and fellowship adventure for older adults.

The elderhostel organization offers one-week general learning programs in colleges across the United States and even around the world.

Our week was on the PLU campus where we lived in a college dormitory and took the three daily classes at the Student Center Building. Our special class room was in the Scandinavian Cultural Center on the lower floor. Upstairs was the cafeteria where three daily meals were served, and they were great. You could eat as little or as much as you wanted. The meal times also offered an opportunity for meeting new people and having a good time of fellowship. Sometimes, a person would be from the town you went to school in.



Our classes involved the five Scandinavian countries. "Songs of Norway" was the history of

Norwegian music and some composers. We even did a little singing, both in Norwegian and English. A college music student sang for us in one class period.

Another class was on Scandinavian stories with the class leader reading parts of books written by different Scandinavian authors.

The history of Iceland was presented by another instructor.

For Denmark, we heard lectures on the history, government, and other facets of life in that country. One day, we were served real Danish refreshments.

A special time was in the class about Norwegian national costumes (bunader) and their history. A costume display was shown on the platform.

The class on Sweden surveyed the Kingdom of Sweden, past and present. The lectures were also directed to the landscape, climate, and geography and how they affected Swedish culture and society.

The topic on Finland was given by a local Finnish minister (with a Finnish accent) and he talked about the country's culture, activities, and the Lutheran church.

We also took a bus tour to Mt. Rainer and the Tacoma area.

The last night was a special dinner banquet, and many elderhostel students were part of the program.

It was a good week.

— Joyce and Don Johnson

## More Elderhostelers

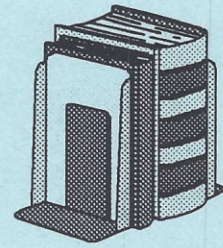
In May, Myrtle Widmark and I attended an elderhostel session on Sweden at Bemidji, Minnesota.

The group was housed in log cabins in a beautiful, wooded area on a lake. Classes in Swedish, with lectures, films and videos on Sweden, were offered. Activities included a Christmas celebration with a Lucia procession, *smörgåsbord*, and *jultomten*. A musical group, a historian, and a naturalist brought information and entertainment.

We learned a lot and had a lot of fun. It really was "the next best thing to being in Sweden."

— Dorothy Scherer

## Library Books



Louise Sims and Myrtle Widmark have been sorting out some of the library books and will have them ready

for check-out at the September 6 meeting. They will be open at 6:00 PM, so come early and see what's available. We have cookbooks, mysteries, histories, children's books, dictionaries, etc. How about reading Cannery Road or Call of the Wild in Swedish? We also have the beautiful photo book Sweden and our new Swedish-American Landmarks.

If anyone checked out a book earlier and has not returned it, please do so now so that cards can be made out for those books.



## Nål och Tråd

Two meetings are planned for September:

■ **Tuesday, September 10, at 10 AM.** We'll

meet at Dorothy Mogford's home at 181 Whispering Pines, Rancho Cordova. Bring a brown bag lunch.

■ **Tuesday, September 24, 7 PM,** at Jean Anderson's, 126 Hibiscus Avenue, Sacramento.



## Did You Know

that the sale of tobacco products in Sweden has gone down by 25 percent in the last five years?

—Swedish Press, Jul 96

## Dues Anniversaries

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

Jean Anderson

Audrey Fales

In addition, the following members are late, some by several months:

Jack and Linda Becker

Christine Bodelson

Don Carlson

Kjell Hakansson

Mimi Hjersman

Julius Holmquist

Astrid Horyza

Charles Johnson

Lou Johnson

Frank Lindahl

Bernie and Lynn Lundberg

April and Carl Nelson

Sigrid Thorsen

Durl Van Alstyne

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the September meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Gail



Nemy, 4239 Daybreak Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821. If you'd like a receipt and membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Please call Gail (481-0373) if you have questions or there are errors on this list.

### Swedish Daycare

ANKI'S LITTLE ANGELS welcomes new children 16 months-5 years to our warm, fun, safe, and playful environment Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM-6:00 PM. Bilingual Swedish/English. I-80 Norwood, North Natomas area. Freeway close. Please call Anki at 641-6209. (License #Sac54,085FPCH)

## Midsummer in Davis



Midsummer celebration at the International House in Davis on June 23 was very well attended. It was nice to see some of our Monitor members there, including Eric Swanson helping with the maypole. Louise Sims and I helped with the food. (Sorry about the time change!)

The weather was perfect, and we could set the tables out on the lawn by the terrace. The *smörgåsbord* was delicious! The students who were servers and helped with the preparations were very much appreciated.

As they will be starting construction on a new wing to the house, there may not be a program next year. We will certainly stay in contact with Patrick Widner, however.

- Myrtle Widmark



## Corruption

In a recent report comparing 54 countries all over the world on the issue of corruption, the Nordic countries came out looking very good.

After top-rater New Zealand, you find Denmark in second place followed by Sweden and Finland. Then comes Canada in fifth place just ahead of Norway.

The report was prepared by the lobby group Transparency International which asked businessmen all over the world to rank the countries.

- Scandinavian Press, Jul-Sep 96, p. 8

## Happy Birthday!

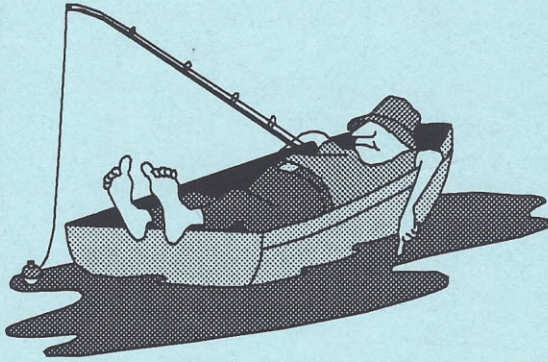


8/01 - Carl E. Larson  
 8/05 - Sigrid Thorsen  
 8/07 - Louise Center  
 8/08 - Jeanne Hanson  
 8/08 - Durl Van Alstyne  
 8/08 - Tom M. Anderson  
 8/09 - Paul Gullans  
 8/11 - Sue Bergman  
 8/15 - Lars Ostlund  
 8/17 - Elizabeth Bushnell  
 8/19 - Charles Badgley  
 8/20 - Helen Baker  
 8/26 - Birgitta Ostlund  
 8/28 - Jillian Stanley  
 8/29 - Dorothy Kingren  
 8/29 - Gail Nemy  
 9/04 - Erika Lewis  
 9/06 - Carol Churkin  
 9/08 - Jean Anderson  
 9/08 - Jack Becker  
 9/12 - Peggy Carlson  
 9/13 - Anne Fors  
 9/16 - Arlie Veis  
 9/19 - Carl A. Larson  
 9/21 - Ethel Hubbell  
 9/21 - Eleanor Vine  
 9/23 - Britt Marie Anderson  
 9/23 - Gloria Braswell  
 9/24 - Jeanne Hagstrom  
 9/27 - Julius Holmquist  
 9/29 - Estrid Doscher  
 9/30 - Barbara Anderson

### Deadline

for the October newsletter is **Friday, September 13**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

# *Have A Nice Labor Day!*



**Monitor Lodge No. 218  
Vasa Order of America  
126 Hibiscus Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95828**

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