

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 20, No. 10

December 1996



Friday, December 6, will be very festive indeed. Monitor members with families and guests will be celebrating a *julkalas/smörgåsbord/glöggfest* at the usual meeting place, Wisteria Hall, starting at 7 PM. Prospective members are also invited, but this event is not open to the public.

Every family needs to bring something for the *smorgasbord* to serve at least 12 people. The calling committee is phoning members to let them know what we need. We definitely also need help to set up, decorate, and clean up.

Jultomten will be coming so bring a \$3 gift (marked "man" or "woman") if you want to participate in the gift exchange.

We're also having a very special program. Britt-Marie Pettersson from Sweden will entertain, we'll sing Christmas songs, and we expect that a good time will be had by all.

Chairman's Message

Christmas is just around the corner again. It seems to come sooner and sooner every year. Monitor Lodge has some great holiday activities coming up so mark your calendar and plan to attend all of them.

Please don't forget our members who are shut in and unable

to come to our meetings and other events. We have many members who are really sick at this time, and they all would appreciate hearing from you.

New officers have been elected. You'll notice I finally get to retire and I'm really looking forward to that.

It's been a good year and I thank all of you for supporting the lodge and its officers. *God Jul och Gott Nytt År!*

*In Truth and Unity,
Margaret Carlson*

Great Opportunity!

In addition to all the great food and entertainment at our *julkalas/smörgåsbord/glöggfest* on December 6, you will have rare access to all kinds of Swedish products.

Monitor member Mindy Patterson of Nordic Delight will be selling Swedish candies, drinks (including *julmust*), lingonberries, pearl sugar, ground coffee, and much, much more. Come and stock up!

Deadline

for the January newsletter is **Friday, December 13**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-2317.

IN MEMORIAM

We sadly lost two long-time, valued members in the past month.

Ruth Uffens passed away on November 4 after a lengthy illness.

Jeanne Hagstrom left us November 13. A memorial service was held for her on November 18.

The charter will be draped at our January meeting in memory of Ruth and Jeanne.

Friendship Committee

At this time, our thoughts and prayers go to two of our most active members who are both fighting cancer.

Our president, **Margaret Carlson**, just underwent major surgery and we are wishing her speedy recovery. **Jean Anderson**, who has served Monitor for many years and in numerous capacities, is undergoing difficult treatment.

We hope you both know, Margaret and Jean, that you are constantly in our thoughts. You are definitely thought of as family members.



Nål och Tråd

The December 10 meeting will be held at the home of Louise Sims at 1051 Fulton Avenue. Punch in the digits 099 and Louise will open the gate. You then drive through the gate, ahead to the Club House, and can park either in front or to the left.

The time is 10 AM. Bring your brown bag lunch, and Louise will provide coffee and dessert.

**NÅL OCH TRÅD
WILL HAVE A
CHRISTMAS SALE
AT THE
SMÖRGÅSBORD SOCIAL**

December Dues Anniversaries

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

Eva Allred
Viola Bodelson
Joyce Burns
Kenneth & Peggy Carlson
Ethel Hoffman
Christie & Ronny Kagstrom
Audrey Ohlson-Smith

Dues are \$18 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. If you would 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.



Luciafest

After our big *smörgåsbord* event on December 6, don't forget the *Luciafest*! Annika Eiremo will be our Lucia this year.

This beautiful tradition will be celebrated on **Friday, December 13**, at our usual meeting place, Wisteria Hall. Please note, however, that the time in the program book is wrong: We will be starting at 7 PM.

We will have a great program with the Lucia procession, dancing around the tree, and a visit from *jultomten*. If you have children, bring a gift marked for your child that *tomten* can give him or her. The Children's Club will entertain you and the Valley Viking singers will perform. There will also be refreshments, including *Luciakattor*! We would appreciate it if you can help by bringing cookies or coffee bread.



Christmas Remembrances

Monitor Lodge has a number of members who are unable to attend our meetings and other events and we would like to remember them. Please bring plants or cookies to the December 6 social. There will be a separate table provided for these gifts. *Nål och Tråd* will distribute them.

Nord Lodge Dinner and Lucia

Nord Lodge is having its annual Christmas dinner and *Luciafest* on **Sunday, December 15**. The location is 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton.

The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12. Mail paid reservations by **December 8** to Patti Hogue, 3831 N. Marine, Stockton, CA 95204.



**Happy
Birthday
to**

12/01 Thomas Center
12/03 Marjorie Skicklig
12/03 Ivan Page
12/04 Kerstin Hakansson
12/07 Ellen Harrod
12/12 Margaret Carlson
12/15 Jean Barney
12/18 David Swanson
12/24 Evelyn Anderson
12/24 Sophia Swanson
12/29 Brita Carlsson
12/31 Dorothy Mogford

Loom for Sale

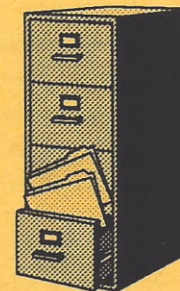
Elizabeth Johnson has a Swedish Glimåkra Tapestry loom for sale. It is 22"x31" (56 cm x 76 cm) and has all the parts. Call Elizabeth 452-2470 or Myrtle 481-4056 for more information.

Library

Bea Dillard has donated the Swedish magazine "*ICA Kuriren*" with interesting articles on people, places, plants, cooking, fashions, and more! It's in Swedish, but you can figure it or ask when you return it. Some of us have copied recipes, and there is a metric conversion chart. Check it out from one meeting to the next.

Condensed Minutes from November 1 Business Meeting

1. Roll was called and minutes from the September 6 meeting were approved as published.
2. Four new members were initiated and several additional applications are on file.
3. The charter was draped in memory of Martha Fredrickson. The chaplain reported that Audrey Fales and Jean Anderson were ailing.
4. Birgitta Ostlund reported on various activities in connection with the Cultural Seminar recently held in Santa Cruz.
5. Richard Westrup has resigned as auditor and is being replaced by Kurt Pfannkuch for the interim period.
6. Anyone interested in ordering 1997 calendars should contact Marianne Ek.
7. Myrtle Widmark spoke about the Scandinavian Heritage Day in Davis. Monitor has been asked to do a Nordic day at CSUS.
8. Correspondence included notification about the Lucia Pageant on December at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in San Francisco.
9. Motion was made and carried to offer a Swedish singer \$100 to perform at Monitor's December social.
10. Lars Ostlund received an advance of \$100 for the *glögg* party.
11. Marianne proposed that past records be stored in the Wisteria Hall storage room with sign-out cards. File boxes will be purchased.
12. Trustees should be tracking property such as file boxes, sound equipment, TV, etc. New trustees will be asked to do an inventory early in 1997.
13. The slate of officers for 1997 was voted in unanimously [for names, see November newsletter, page 2].
14. Chairman Margaret Carlson read the proposed program for 1997. It was accepted.
15. Myrtle Widmark reported on an Elder Hostel trip to Solvang [see separate article on page 4 of this newsletter].
16. Three members have dropped from Monitor.
17. Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were read.



— Brian Stockham,
Assistant Secretary

CSUS Multi-Cultural Center

Leonard Valdez, the director of the Multi-Cultural Center at CSUS, is planning a get-together for students who cannot go home for Christmas. He would like interested people who can provide entertainment (music, dancing, etc.) to contact him at 278-6101. The event will take place on Friday, December 6, from 6 PM to 9 PM in the Redwood of the University Union, which is next to the library.

The center is also planning a Nordic Events Day on April 26 and we are invited to participate.

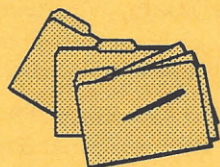
— Myrtle Widmark

Roster Changes

Kjell and Kerstin Hakansson
P.O. Box 7784
So. Lake Tahoe, CA 96158-0784

Erika Lewis
3535 Banbury Dr., Apt 152
Riverside, CA 92505-1850

George Uffens
St. Francis Senior Residence
6254 66th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95823



And here are our new members:

Astrid Broess
8010 Joe Rodgers Court
Granite Bay, CA 95746
791-4463

Monica Eriksson
3600 Data Drive #210
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
852-7412

Ruby A. Hendrickson
2222 Carmelita Drive
San Carlos, CA 94070
591-3113

Joesie B. Henning
1786 Vista Creek Drive
Roseville, CA 95661
773-1915



Solvang Elderhostel October 20-25, 1996

It was with great excitement that the four of us—Ether



Johnson, Jeanette Kruse, Dorothy Scherer, and Myrtle Widmark—set out down Highway 15 to Solvang, a Danish town off Highway 101, north-east of Santa Barbara. We were met at the Royal Scandinavian Inn by coordinators Lucille Wulff and Nikki Sheahan. At the orientation meeting and dinner, we were introduced by another member. Out of 49 people in our class, there was only one person from out of state, a lady from Wisconsin.

The Danish history class started with the Viking period and on through World War II. The life of Hans Christian Andersen was very interesting. Did you know that he wrote all of 156 stories? We visited a nice little museum in town with exhibits of his books and also pictures.

We were able to experience some of the history of the Santa Ynez Valley at a bus tour. The Chumash Indians still live there. Santa Ynez is a western town, now surrounded by many horse ranches, including a miniature horse ranch. We saw two ostrich farms and, yes, you can get ostrich burgers!

The Santa Ynez mission has been restored with many artifacts on display. However, the town of Solvang has Danish architecture for their buildings. There are many bakeries and they have the Danish æbleskiver.

One morning, we walked to a nearby church where we prepared open-face sandwiches and herring salad for our lunch while

Lucille made æbleskiver for dessert. Another morning, the church's music director, Chris Lund (who had been director at St. John Lutheran Church here in Sacramento) told about folk schools and music and played the organ.

The Elverhoj Museum had demonstrations of wood working and bobbin lace. A Solvang dance group came and danced for us and then we all participated. Paper cutting was another activity. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay and then spent three days in Santa Barbara. The weather was nice while we were there—but the day we drove home it rained!

— Myrtle Widmark



Another Christmas Item

Don't forget to visit William Glen's Christmas store to see all the Swedish ornaments, books, tiles, trays, napkins, *tomtar*, and much, much more. It's really quite an experience.

— Louise Sims



Scandinavian Festival

Believe it! April 12 will be here before you know it! That's when the Scandinavian Festival will take place in 1997 and we have to start planning now. Skipping the busy month of December, our next festival meeting will be held on Monday, January 13. As usual, we meet at the Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue. Please come, we need all the help we can get. (We also have a good time at these meetings and refreshments are served.) For more information, call Ethel Johnson at 457-0966.

Christmas Straw Goats

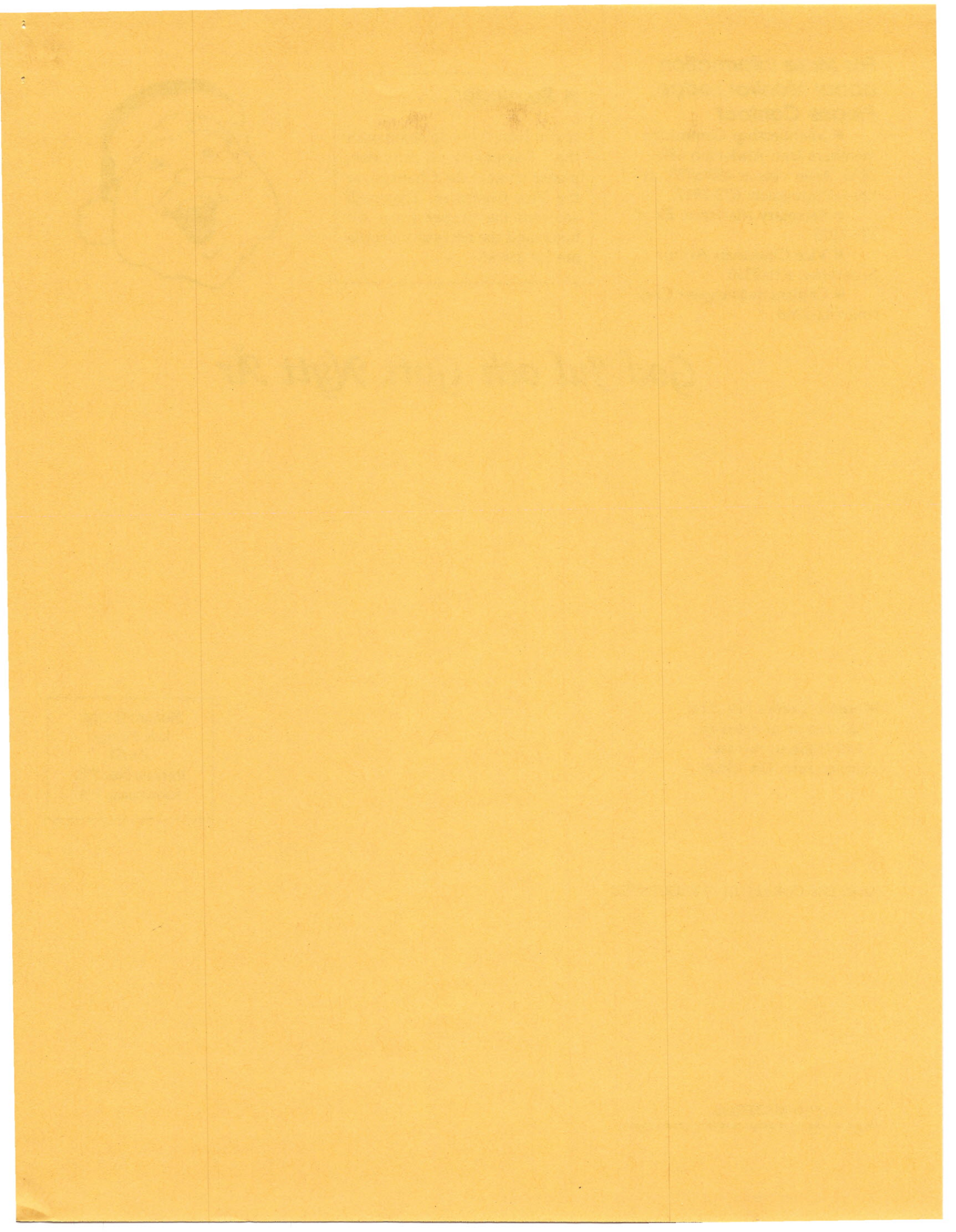
A popular Christmas decoration in many Swedish homes is *julbocken*, or Christmas goat, made of straw and bound in bright red ribbon. This hand-crafted goat lends Christmas spirit to the home, but few people remember what this figure has to do with Christmas.

During the 1800s, children in rural areas of Sweden made goats of straw which they would place anonymously at the homes of friends, usually as the bearer of teasing or needling poems.

Today, however, the Christmas goat has become something of a Swedish Rudolph-the-red-nosed-reindeer in that he is looked upon as *Jultomten's* helper in delivering Christmas gifts.

These straw goats are hand made by Göinge Halmslöjd (strawcrafters) in Osby, Sweden, and are extremely handsome and well made. They come in three sizes: small, medium, and large, priced respectively at \$21.50, \$68.00, and \$84.00 plus shipping. The ASI Museum Shop at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis is the exclusive U.S. distributor of the beautiful Göinge *julbock*. Contact ASI Museum Shop, 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis, MN, 55407. Telephone 612/871-3004.





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

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

■ Secretary Marianne Ek at 372-1015

■ Vice Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330

■ Chairman Margaret Carlson, 742-9346

A Reminder . . .

If you have news to share with the Friendship Committee, please contact the Chaplain or the Vice Chairman. They will see that the proper steps are taken and the necessary people are informed.



God Jul och Gott Nytt År

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

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