

# The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

*A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896*

Vol. 21, No. 2

February 1997

**O**N FEBRUARY 7, WE'RE having our annual pea soup and pancakes supper. Refreshments start at 6 PM and supper is served at 6:30. You get all you can eat for just \$4.50 and children under 12 are free. Pea soup with ham and a dessert of Swedish pancakes with *lingon* is a traditional Thursday night meal throughout Sweden.

This supper takes a lot of work, so please offer your help or please accept if you get called.

There will be no business meeting, but we will have installation of officers jointly with Sierra Kro-nan Lodge. District officers will be with us and we hope you can attend this special occasion.

Our next business meeting will be held on **February 12, 7 PM**, at the home of Karin and David Dorey, 2434 Stokewood Way in Rancho Cordova.

Keep in mind that at our March meeting, we're having a great moose stew supper arranged by Gil and Camilla Holm, who are coming all the way from Idaho. Mark it on your calendar now!

Also, many Scandinavian events are coming up in the next few months. We'll have the details in separate articles in this and subsequent newsletters. These events are always fun and interesting, so please plan to participate.

## Chairman's Message

1997 started out with a vengeance! I know a lot of our members were affected one way or another.

We had to cancel our January meeting, so our February meeting will be a busy one with the postponed installation of officers.

Our program books should be ready to pick up by the February meeting also.

See you all on February 7.

*In Truth and Unity,  
Margaret Carlson*

## IN MEMORIAM

Our member, good friend, and diligent worker **Viola Bodelson** passed away January 10. Viola was a pediatric and allergy RN and instructor in New York City over a 48-year span. She and her husband lived alternately in New York and in Sweden. Viola came to Sacramento in 1986 with her dear friend and sister-in-law Karin Bodelson, also a Monitor Member. Viola will be buried beside her husband in Vinslöv, Sweden. A memorial service will be held at Arden Christian Church, 4300 Las Cruces Way, Sacramento, on Saturday, January 25, at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any charity benefitting children. Our hearts go out to Viola's niece Christine Bodelson and her family who so recently also lost her mother.

## Scandinavian Festival

This annual festival will be held on **Saturday, April 12**. Be sure to mark this on your calendar! This event is a good way to share our Scandinavian heritage with the community.

To make this festival successful, however, takes many hours of planning and hard work. The next planning meeting will be held on **February 10, 7 PM**, at the Norway hall, 770 Darina Avenue.

Monitor Lodge will again be in charge of making the popular open-face sandwiches. Last year we sold 211 sandwiches besides the *smörgåstårta* and the *sillsallad*. We have lots of volunteer job openings (kitchen, craft tables, tickets, information tables, pouring coffee, etc., etc.). What would you like to volunteer for to help make this the best festival ever?

For information or to sign up, come to our next meeting or contact Ethel Johnson, 457-0966.

## Nål och Tråd

Monitor members are working on articles for the Scandinavian Festival in April. Everyone is welcome to our meetings:

Tuesday, February 11, 10 AM, at Dorothy Mogford's, 181 Whispering Pines, Rancho Cordova, 635-4541. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Tuesday, February 25, 7 PM, at Ethel Johnson's, 4344-53rd Street, Sacramento, 457-0966.



## Back to School

■ Beginner Swedish classes resumed on January 6 at 7 PM. These are two-hour classes on Mondays every other week. We are now on Lessons 7 and 8. We learn and have fun. Customs and celebrations are shared in class. Several students have great connections with Sweden. Instructor is Birgitta Ellis, 920-0696.



■ Intermediate and advanced classes resumed on Thursday, Jan 20, taught by LaVerne Gullans, 485-2609.

## Swedish Folk Art

The Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles has been having a Swedish Folk Art Exhibition, "All Tradition is Change," Nov 9-Jan 26. Myrtle Widmark visited this exhibit while in Los Angeles in early December. An article on the front page of the December 15 issue of *Vestkusten* showed one of the exhibits. The Jan-Feb issue of the *Motorland* magazine also covered the exhibit on pages 50-51.

The exhibition included carved and painted furniture, embroidered and woven textiles, costumes, baskets, tableware, and iron sculpture.

Folk art of the indigenous Saami people was exhibited, relating to the eight seasons of the Saami year which revolves around the life cycle of the reindeer herds. The exhibition also contained contemporary artworks by distinguished Swedish artists. A special feature for children was an interactive, hands-on playhouse.

## Now is the time

for high school seniors and college students to work on the Monitor Lodge scholarship applications. Scholarship Committee members are Ronny Kagstrom 641-9770, Erica Lewis 456-1285, and Jewel Wright 682-7268. Please contact one of them for an application and for additional information.

**THE MONITOR  
LIBRARY  
WILL BE OPEN  
AT THE  
FEBRUARY 7 MEETING**

## Nord Lodge Breakfast

• The Stockton Nord Lodge is having a Swedish pancake breakfast with a traditional fizzbar on Sunday, February 16, 8:30 am-1:00 pm. It's being held at the Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street in Stockton. The price is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

## Scandinavian Dancing

Singles and couples are welcome to experience the joy of dancing hambo, schottis, waltz, and more. Classes are now ongoing, held on Mondays at the Hamilton Street Park, 4855 Hamilton Street in Sacramento.

The fees are \$10/month for introductory classes, \$15/month for intermediate, or \$5 per class. Here are the times:

7:30-8:00 pm introductory level  
8:00-9:00 pm intermediate level  
9:00-9:30 pm request dancing for more advanced students.

## Happy Birthday!



2/01 - Cecile Spencer  
2/02 - Lucy Dahlberg  
2/03 - Mimi Hjersem an  
2/04 - Kevin Bergstrom  
2/04 - Stanley Hagstrom  
2/05 - Annabel Audet  
2/05 - Lisa Bleasdale  
2/06 - Charles Johnson  
2/08 - Milo Ahlstrand  
2/08 - Helen J. Starkey  
2/09 - Ethel Johnson  
2/09 - Ruth Volkoff  
2/09 - Mindy Patterson  
2/09 - Ruby Hendrickson  
2/10 - Carol Kwolek  
2/11 - Maude Udvardy  
2/13 - Jill Stockham  
2/18 - Richard Westrup  
2/19 - Kurt Pfannkuch  
2/20 - Audrey Fales  
2/22 - Jone Canady  
2/22 - Marie Tillman  
2/24 - Hans Fors  
2/26 - Vera Anderson  
2/26 - Birgit Dillard

## Nordic Fest

The California State University at Sacramento (CSUS) will be holding a Nordic Fest on Saturday, April 26. The Swedish Monitor Lodge has again been invited to participate along with the other Scandinavian countries. More information will be coming from Leonard Valdez, director of the CSUS Multicultural Center.

## More Information about Monitor Lodge

After the installation of new officers at the February 7 meeting, the following Monitor members can provide information about our lodge:

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

■ Secretary Brian Stockham at 683-3078

■ Vice Chairman Marianne Ek, 372-1015

■ Chairman Art Niemoller, 631-9330

## February Dues Anniversaries

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

Annika & Tom Anderson

Mirjam Auger

Jean Barney

Robert Barrett

Sue Bergman

Keith Bergstrom

Kevin Bergstrom

Russel Ellis

Bertil Erickson

Anne & Hans Fors

Helen Jenson

Ethel Johnson

Debbie Nickless

Lars Ostlund

Anne Phelan

Louise Sims

Cecile Spencer

Jill Stockham

Ruth Volkoff

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the February meeting or by mail to our new financial secretary, Karin Dorey, 2434 Stokewood Way, Rancho Cordova. If you would like a receipt and membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

## Change of Address

Eric Swanson

126 John Henry Circle

Folsom, CA 95630-8126

Also, Dale Ingvarlsen has a new phone number: 852-8553

## Death of Prince Bertil

On 6 January, *The Sacramento Bee* carried a notice of the death of Prince Bertil, uncle of Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and widely popular for his promotion of athletics. He was 84. Prince Bertil was part of the sixth generation of the French Bernadotte family that ascended to the Swedish throne in 1818. He was a great-grandson of Britain's Queen Victoria.

## Late-Breaking News from the Johnsons

We were the only two lodge members present for a roll call at the lodge's regularly scheduled January meeting. Arriving at 6:45 PM, there were no cars in the parking lot. The kitchen light was on in the hall. Checking the entrance door we found it locked. After another 10-minute wait in the car, no one else still had not arrived. Driving home, the discussion centered on "What happened to cancel the installation of officers!?"

This experience reminded us of the time a few years past when we drove to Redding for the Skogen Lodge installation activities. There were no cars in the parking lot, the hall doors were locked, and no sign was posted on the door. We found out later that a snow storm had blocked some roads, so the meeting was canceled.

Most times things work out—and sometimes they don't.

—Don and Joyce Johnson

## Deadline

for the March newsletter is **Friday, February 14, 1997**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 Or you can e-mail it to [iken@gvn.net](mailto:iken@gvn.net).

## Swedes Live Longer

than all other European Union citizens. They also drink least alcohol in the EU and come second in the non-smoking league, after the Portuguese.

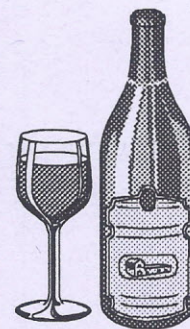
The average Swede drank 6.4 liters alcohol in 1993 compared to, for example, the French and Portuguese who drank 17.7 liters per capita.

The Swedish man has the longest life expectancy in the EU at 75.4 years, compared to 70.7 years for the Portuguese man, EU's lowest. Swedish women come second in the age league at 80.8 years of life expectancy. The French women live longest at 81.5 years.

—Swedish Press, Oct 95

## Skål

In 1928, an American described the Swedish *skål* like this: "Take the schnapps glass in your right hand. Keep your elbow at an 87 degree angle and move it forward half-way between chin and waist. lean forward, and with a facial expression of a bored cow, say 'skål' as you lift the glass and empty the schnapps, counting to 10. Bending your elbow again, lower the glass, nod your head, count to 10 again. It's a charming tradition."



—Swedish Press, Jan 97

**Monitor Lodge No. 218  
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