

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol 22. No. 2

February 1998

MONITOR'S FIRST SOCIAL for 1998 will take place on **Friday, February 6.** Social time starts at 6 pm and our popular Swedish pea soup and pancakes supper will be served at 6:30—all you can eat for only \$5.00 for adults with children under 10 free.

Pea soup with ham and a dessert of Swedish pancakes (similar to crêpes suzettes) with lingonberries is a traditional Thursday night meal throughout Sweden (see separate article on page 2). Do come out and enjoy a real Swedish meal and a nice program that our new cultural leaders LaVerne Gullans and Dorothy Scherer have planned for us. There will be no business to transact at this get-together.

We will also be raffling off two beautiful pictures cross stitched by long-time member Eleanor Vine (who passed away just recently) and with lace made by our vice chairman Marianne Ek. One picture shows an old Swedish school house and the other has a Lapland motif. These are rare finds, indeed, and by themselves reason enough to come to our social!

This event is a perfect occasion for bringing family, friends, and prospective members. See you on the 6th!

Looking ahead

to our March 6 meeting: Gil and Camilla Holm will be coming all the way from Idaho to prepare our **moose stew dinner**. Be sure to mark your calendars now!

February Business Meeting

Since the February general meeting is for pleasure only, we'll be tending to more serious but necessary business matters at a separate business meeting on **Tuesday, February 10, at 7 pm.** We'll be at the home of Karin and David Dorey again (thank you both!), 2434 Stokewood Way in Rancho Cordova. Important decisions are made at these business meetings, so if you want to take a part in the running of your lodge, please make sure you don't miss the business meetings.

Chairman's Message

And so begins a new year and a new term in office. I thank all of you for your support and assistance in producing a program last year that, in my view, was successful and had some very enjoyable moments. I also want to thank you for your show of confidence by electing me to another term in office. I hope we can make this year equally successful.

Our January initiation of officers at the Sierra Kronan Lodge in Roseville included an excellent spaghetti and meatball dinner followed by an impressive initiation ceremony. I would like to thank our hosts for a very enjoyable evening and suggest we have more joint activities.

Now, down to business. We have a very impressive calendar of events planned for this year and we need everyone's help! Myrtle Widmark and Dorothy Scherer have probably called to ask you to sign up and commit to

helping at one of our functions. The response has been good, but my goal is to have **EVERY MEMBER HELP AT AT LEAST ONE ACTIVITY** each year. So, please, when you get that call, make a commitment! Remember, this is a great way to get to know your fellow lodge members, people who have the same interests and questions that brought you into our lodge in the first place.

Plan to attend our pea soup and pancake dinner in February. This is one of our specialties and is guaranteed to be good!

*In truth and unity,
Art Niemoller*

For More Information

about Monitor Lodge, please contact one of the following:

- Membership Committee members Eivor Pfannkuch, 673-5917, Astrid Broess, 791-4463, or Michelle Kaufman, 451-3075
- Secretary David Benson at 933-5502
- Vice Chairman Marianne Ek at 372-1015
- Chairman Arthur Niemoller at 631-9330

Read About Monitor

lodge on the world wide web, including our past and current newsletters. Our URL is:
www.mother.com/~terry2ts/vasa218/vasindx1.html



Punch and Pea Soup and Why on Thursdays?

The special Swedish punch dates back to the 18th century when the Swedish transoceanic trade went to China and the East Indies, where they loaded the arrack to make punch. Swedish punch, therefore, developed into something quite different from the "punch" people are accustomed to drink in Western Europe and America, where this mixed beverage of Indian origin is made instead from rum, which has a completely different aroma. For those who could afford it, punch also became a drink to accompany food, in which case it was always taken hot. It was not until the mid-19th century that it made the move to the coffee table. Then people began to drink it ice-cold instead, and at the end of the last century a kind of "punch custom" grew up in Sweden, flourishing particularly on the "punch verandahs" of the bourgeoisie summer villas out in the archipelago.

Pea soup and pork became something of a Swedish "national dish" and is consumed in almost ritualistic form, always and exclusively on Thursdays. If a Swedish restaurant were to serve pea soup with pork on a Tuesday, for example, any right-minded Swede would clutch his brow and conclude that the owner must either be a foreigner or have taken leave of his senses. Pea soup with pork just can't be eaten except on a Thursday.

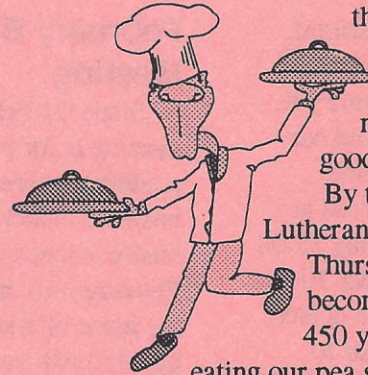
This fixation undoubtedly arose in the Middle Ages when Swedes were still Catholics. Friday was a fast-day, and it was natural to lay in supplies against the deprivations of the fast. So the habit developed of eating your everyday salt

pork on Thursday, along with the best they had available in those days, namely, neither the fibrous root vegetables nor the watery cabbage, but good boiled dried peas.

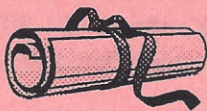
By the time Swedes turned Lutheran in the 16th century, Thursdays and pea soup had become so wedded together that, 450 years later, we still sit there

eating our pea soup on Thursdays. Could anything better illustrate the persistent nature of eating traditions, particularly with a bit of ritual tacked on? There are many workplaces where a group of friends sally forth regularly on Thursdays to eat their pea soup together, accompanied by the obligatory glass of warm punch, itself a relic of an earlier age.

Professor Jan-Öjvind Swahn, Sweden Now, Spring 1997



Scholarship



The Scholarship Committee is now taking applications for the annual Monitor Lodge Scholarship. Applicants must be lodge members or children or grand-children of members. Those interested can obtain the needed forms by writing to

Eva Allred
188 Johnson Road
Sacramento, CA 95815

The application package will include 1) the student's completed application form; 2) three letters of recommendations; and 3) a written composition.

The composition theme should deal with the applicant's goals for the

future and how the scholarship will help him or her toward these goals.

Please mail the completed application package to the lodge secretary. The due date is **March 15, 1998.**

— Ronny Kagstrom,
Scholarship Committee



Congratulations!

Sincere congratulations from all of us to Monitor member Mindy Patterson and her husband Rick (and Mormor Birgitta Ostlund) on the birth of their first child, Kristin Anna, on



November 26, 1997.

Nål och Tråd

This crafts group will meet twice in February as follow:

◆ On Tuesday, February 10, 7 pm at Ethel Johnson's, 4344 53rd Street (457-0966)

◆ On Tuesday, February 24, 11:30 am at Christine Bodelson's, 2644 La Mesa Way (482-9762). Bring a brown bag lunch.

Stockton Breakfast

The Vasa Order lodge in Stockton, Nord Lodge No. 392, will hold its 30th annual Swedish pancake breakfast on **Sunday, February 22, 8:30 am-1:00 pm** at the Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under age 12.

✓ Condensed Minutes from January 14, 1998, Business Meeting ✓

(David Benson has the complete minutes which are available to all Monitor members)

1. The meeting stressed that all Monitor members are members-at-large of the Membership Committee. Membership applications are available from our new secretary, David Benson. It is important that they are filled out completely. No applications will be received at initiation meetings.
2. Marianne Ek will be the chairman's liaison to the various committees.
3. The secretary will relay a request to the auditors that at least one of them will be available at all business meetings to expedite the paying of bills.
4. In response to a request for contribution from the Vasa Order's national archives it was noted that the lodge is already paying an assessment on all members which in 1997 amounted to \$308.
5. Financial reports show that lodge expenditures in 1997 exceeded income by \$979.27. It is hoped that fund raisers—such as the March pancake breakfast—will help erase the deficit in 1998. More on this at the next business meeting.
6. Discussion continued on the need for all members to help at various events so that a small group of members does not always end up doing all the work.
7. Correspondence included a letter from the national archivist regarding available computer CDs on immigration data on the Swedish cities of Göteborg, Norrköping, Helsingborg, and Kalmar covering the years 1859-1930. [See David Benson for further details if you are interested in this subject.] Correspondence also included a letter from the Grand Lodge Convention Committee regarding a Souvenir Booklet. [See separate announcement in this newsletter.]
8. The chairman recommended that the Masters of Ceremony and other involved individuals practice the initiation ritual prior to each initiation to ensure it will be performed smoothly and correctly.
9. The meeting discussed establishing a higher dinner price for nonmembers than for members, but both prices will remain \$5 for now.
10. Prices for and advertising of the March Swedish pancake breakfast were discussed. [See enclosed flyer.]
11. Monitor will make a \$100 charitable district contribution this year. The Sacramento Salvation Army will be specified at the recipient.

— David Benson, Secretary

Souvenir Book

At the time of its convention in July, and in line with its theme "The 2nd 100 Years," the Grand Lodge of the Vasa Order will be publishing a Souvenir Program Book to recognize achievements and look to future endeavors. These books will be a cherished keepsake to members in the United States, Sweden, and Canada.

Individual members and lodges can include greetings. There will also be a listing of convention boosters and a separate section entitled *In Memoriam* for those wishing to have the memory of departed members recorded.

Our secretary David Benson has more information, greeting sizes, prices, and order sheets. We're already late on this, so call David as soon as possible.



Gratulationer på födelsedagen till

2/01 - Cecile Spencer
2/02 - Lucy Dahlberg
2/03 - Mimi Hjerzman
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
2/08 - Christina Fletcher
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
2/22 - Jone Canaday
2/22 - Marie Tillman
2/24 - Hans Fors
2/26 - Birgit Dillard

Good Web Site

You can find a wealth of information on Sweden and things Swedish, if you go to the American Swedish Institute's web site www.americanswedishinst.org and then click on **Related Sites**. Numerous additional links, such as **The Swedish Page** and on to **Sweden Information**, bring exhausting information on every possible aspect of Sweden. (Good site for cultural leaders in any lodge.)



February Dues Anniversaries

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

Evelyn Anderson
Annika and Thomas Anderson
Mirjam Auger
Jean Barney
Robert Barrett
Sue Bergman
Keith Bergstrom
Kevin Bergstrom
Russel Ellis
Bertil Erickson
Anne and Hans Fors
Helen Jenson
Ethel Johnson
Debbie Nickless
Lars Ostlund
Anne Phelan
Louise Sims
Cecile Spencer
Brian and 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 financial secretary, Karin Dorey, 2434

Stokewood Way, Rancho Cordova, CA. If you would like a receipt and membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Please call Karin (858-8568) if you have questions or there are errors on this list.

Remember

to bring in your past issues of *The Vasa Star*, *Vestkusten*, and other Swedish information papers to be used at our Scandinavian Festival information table.

Cellist Performance

Finnish cellist Jan-Erik Gustafsson will be performing at UC Davis, Kleiber Hall, on Friday, February 13, 8 pm. Mr. Gustafsson won the 1994 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and has been awarded many other prizes. He is in great demand throughout Europe and has performed as a soloist with orchestras all over the United States as well as in Hong Kong and Japan.



— From an article submitted by Liesma Krastins

Convention Delegates

At our next meeting, we must elect delegates to the District Convention to be held in April at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa, hosted by Linnea Lodge. We need four delegates and two alternates.

Members who have been delegates in the past agree that attending a district convention, meeting other Vasa Order members and taking part in the ceremonies established 101 years ago, is a truly heart-warming experience. These delegates would love to go back year after year, but we should give as many members as possible the opportunity to represent Monitor Lodge at this kind of very special event.

If you want to take your turn, call our chairman Art Niemoller as soon as possible.

Deadline

for the March newsletter is **Friday, February 13**. Please send input no later than that day, and preferably even sooner, to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-2317. Or you can send it to my e-mail address iken@gvn.net.

Save Our Festival!

The next meeting to plan for this year's Scandinavian Festival will be held on **Monday, February 9, at 7 pm** at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue.

Please note that these meetings are not held by a special committee of certain elected, selected, or designated individuals. These are open meetings to any and all (and as many as possible) members of the various Scandinavian organizations in the Sacramento area. We need more people and new people with fresh ideas to be able to handle this great undertaking. Please don't leave it to the same few people!

Most important of all, **WE NEED A PROGRAM CHAIRMAN**. After all, without a program, we won't have a festival. It would be a shame to have to cancel the festival after putting it on so successfully for 14 consecutive years. Arlie Veis of Monitor Lodge has been Program Chairman for the past several years and he has done a super job. Thank you, Arlie! But the torch has to be passed eventually. Now we need a new person to step forward and rescue the festival. (Hopefully, Arlie wouldn't mind providing some guidance the new Program Chairman.) Call the festival coordinator, Ellen Harrod, 362-5273, if you can help or if you need more information.



Membership

Some members keep their organization strong,
while others join and just belong.
Some dig right in, some serve with pride,
some go along just for the ride.
Some volunteer to do their share,
while some sit back and just don't care.

On meeting days some always show,
but then there are those who never go.
Some always pay their dues ahead,
some get behind for months instead.
Some do their best, some build, some make.
Some never give but always take

Some lag behind, some let things go.
Some never help their organization grow.
Some drag, some pull, some don't do.
Which of these are you?

— Author unknown.

Submitted by Margaret Carlson

To Our Members, New and Old

A wonderful way to meet and get to know other members, to experience good fellowship, to **become a very much appreciated person**, and to basically keep our lodge going is to be an active member. This means helping to plan and execute events and serving on committees. We don't want to drop any more traditions and special events simply because we can't find members willing to make the effort and spare the time! Important events are coming up and—HELP—we need you! So please volunteer or respond when we call . . .



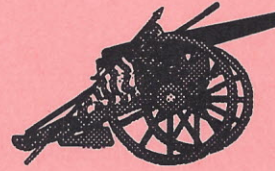
Smoke-Free Restaurants

If you're going to Sweden and don't smoke, you might want to know that the Swedish Environmental Agency has published a guide with 45 smoke-free restaurants and cafés in Stockholm. There are also 28 restaurants with separate smoking areas. A 1993 law requires restaurants with more than 50 seats to have smoke-free tables. The guide can be picked up at The Sweden House (*Sverigehuset*) at Kungsträdgården opposite the NK department store in central Stockholm.

— Swedish Press, June 1997

Swedes in the Civil War

For Swedish immigrants in America, the Civil War meant that they had to become involved in the affairs of their new homeland in a way most of them probably had never anticipated when they decided to emigrate. In 1860, the great majority of Swedish immigrants lived in the north, primarily in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and many Swedes volunteered for the Union army. Several rose to high ranks. A number of Swedish officers on leave from the Swedish army also served in the Union army.



Most Swedish immigrants served in non-ethnic military organizations. However, five company-level units with a Swedish ethnic profile were mobilized, seeing active duty in the Western theater of operations.

One of the long-lasting legacies of the Civil War for the Swedish-American community was the strong Swedish support for the Republican Party. Lincoln's party continued to exercise great influence on the hundreds of thousands of Swedes who arrived during the decades following the Civil War. It was not until the turn of the century that the Republican lock on the Swedes was seriously and successfully challenged.

— Swedish Press, Oct. 97

Facts About Sweden

After you have read every guide book on Sweden, you may still find yourself looking for information about the country's economic picture. Where do you, for instance, find out that Sweden has the most liberal market for telecommunications in the world? Or that the electricity prices are the lowest in Europe? Or that Sweden is the most deregulated country in the European Union with the exception of Great Britain?

For years, the SE-Bank provided its "Sweden in Fact" pocket guide with lots of useful information. Now the Invest in Sweden Agency USA (ISA), One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, New York, NY 10017-2201 (phone 212-702-8780 or fax 212-702-8783) publishes the same guide. In addition, ISA now provides the much more comprehensive "Invest in Sweden Report." Finalized in April, the 1997 report gives you the best and most up-to-date overview of Sweden's economy. Designed to lure investors to Sweden, the guide highlights the country's competitive edge, financial incentives, and advice on how to start a business in Sweden.

— Swedish Press, May 1997

**Monitor Lodge No. 218
Vasa Order of America
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