

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol 22. No. 9

November 1998

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, IS OUR regular business meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Among other things, we will be taking in new members.

There will be no dinner this time, but we will have coffee and pie after the meeting along with a nice cultural program. So please bring your favorite pie to share. Any pies left over will be up for sale.

Our *Nål och Tråd* group will be selling Christmas items.

We're also asking everyone to bring canned goods which we can give to the needy during the holidays.

-Margaret Carlson

Condolences

Our thoughts and sympathy go to our chairman, Art Niemoller, and his family. Art's father has passed away after a long illness.

We're thinking about

our members who are not feeling well: Lucy Dahlberg, Trudy Kauffman, and Marge Skicklig. Best wishes for speedy recovery!

Thanks

to Christi Kagstrom for a well presented cultural program at our last meeting. With extensive knowledge and first-hand experience, Christi told us about the educational system in Sweden.

Congratulations

to Charlie Linn, who received his 40-year pin at our October meeting. Charlie is a dual member of the Monitor and Sierra Kronan lodges and has a most expressive Vasa Order résumé:

He was chairman of Monitor three times, chairman of Sierra Kronan twice, and even helped organize three lodges. On the district level he has held a long line of positions: Member of the Executive Board, Inner Guard, Outer Guard, Master of Ceremonies, Membership Chairman, Grand Lodge Deputy, District Master, Vice District Master—and probably more that we missed.

Charlie: The Vasa Order of America thanks you!

Heads Up

The *glögg party and smörgåsbord* is coming up on December 4 and you'll want to be sure to put this on your calendar.

We will be taking reservations this year and must limit the number of participants to 100 for reasons of space. This will not be a potluck and there will be a charge. We'll have all the details in our December newsletter.

Nål och Tråd

will meet on **Wednesday, October 28, 10 am**, at the home of Myrtle Widmark, 3900 Silver Spur Way. Her phone number is 481-4056.

Dear Monitor Members:

Tack så mycket for the lovely azalea plant you sent as a memorial gift for my mother. It will be planted in the garden she loved, and although I don't have her green thumb, I hope to keep it growing.

Also, special thanks to those of you who attended the services, brought food, phoned, and sent cards and notes. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated very much.

*In truth and unity,
Ethel Johnson*

Turlock Festival

Monitor Lodge was a big hit at the Turlock Scandinavian Festival.

Ruby Hendrickson and Eivor Pfannkuch did a fantastic job creating a Carl Larsson setting with the help of Margaret Carlson, Myrtle Widmark, Dorothy Scherer, Eva Allred, and Carol Churkin. We made Swedish pancakes, Rosettes, *gravlax*, *tunnbröd*, and home-made cheese. We handed out samples and demonstrated how to make all those things. It was a tiring three days but a lot of fun.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard!

-Margaret Carlson



Scandinavian Festival

The big question is: Are we going to be able to pull off our annual Scandinavian Festival in April without Ellen Harrod as the coordinator for the first time in 10 years?

The first planning meeting will be held on **Monday, November 9, 7 pm**, at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue.

This is a major event which takes lots of volunteer hours, starting NOW. It would be a good opportunity for new members to jump in with both feet—and at the same time meet people from the other Scandinavian lodges in Sacramento.

Please don't leave such a big job to the same few people who step forward—but get overloaded—year after year. COME TO THE NOVEMBER 9 PLANNING MEETING, PLEASE!

Address Change

Betty Schoepf moved to Washington and has resigned active membership. However, some of us would still like to keep in touch with Betty, so here is her new address:

P.O. Box 535
Newport, WA 99156-0535
Her phone number is (509) 447-7961.

Deadline

for the December newsletter is **Thursday, November 12**. Please send input 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.

Birgitta's Swedish Sentences

Hur mår du?
(Hoor maar dew?)
How are you?

Jag mår bra, tack.
(Ya maar bra, tak.)
I'm well, thanks.

Tycker du om köttbullar?
(Ticker dew om shettbullar?)
Do you like meatballs?

Ja, det gör jag.
(Ya, det yer ya.)
Yes, I do.

The Ellis family

has great news. Our son Christoffer has married Jennie Brook in a ceremony in the Danville congregational church. It was a beautiful and meaningful celebration with a reception following in Livermore wine country with special speeches and greetings from Sweden, where Birgitta's immediate Swedish family still lives. Jennie's grandfather on her mother's side—her *Morfar*—is of Swedish descent.

—Russ and Birgitta Ellis

For More Information

about Monitor Lodge, please contact one of the following:

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

Happy Birthday!



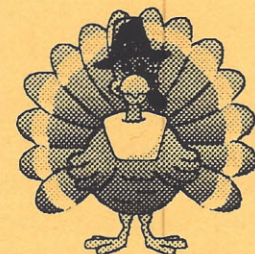
11/01 - Anne Phelan
11/02 - Elizabeth Swenson
11/04 - Viola Hallen
11/05 - Gary Baker
11/06 - Louise Amundsen
11/06 - Kerstin Doze
11/06 - Ingrid Gilchrist
11/07 - Wendy Strand
11/09 - William Dyckman
11/10 - Joyce Trnka
11/11 - Richard Eriksson
11/11 - Launna K. Nelson
11/13 - Donna Niemoller
11/16 - Russell Ellis
11/16 - Jeannine Lokey
11/19 - Alice Axberg
11/19 - Christine Kagstrom
11/23 - Kathy Goldsberry
11/24 - Lillian Stafford
11/25 - Terry Tillman
11/26 - Gloria Eriksson
11/27 - Barbara Olson
11/30 - Thelma Range
11/30 - Janice Sjogren

Seeking Your Roots?

Whether you're interested in genealogy or not, here's a really interesting, dual language Swedish Web site:

www.genealogi.se

People who know Swedish will get the most out of it, but there is also a wealth of information in English.



Have
a nice

Thanksgiving!

November Dues

Anniversaries

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

Barbara and Tom Anderson

Alice Axberg

Lisa Bleasdale

Astrid Broess

Elizabeth Bushnell

Helen and Rod Dyckman

Solveig Eltner

Monica Eriksson

Ruby Hendrickson

Joesie Hennig

Ellen Herting

Gertrud Kauffman

Michelle Kauffman

Erika Lewis

Esther Oleson

Ivan and Patricia Page

Mark and Mary-Beth Roop

Janice and Roy Sjogren

Marjorie Skicklig

Sophia Swanson

Elizabeth Swenson

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the November meeting or by mail to our financial secretary, Karin Dorey, 2434 Stokewood Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. 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.



Voter Turnout

The final results of the general elections held in Sweden in September showed the lowest voter turnout in 40 years: ONLY 79.9% (compared, for instance, to 86.8% in the last election.)

All Saints Day

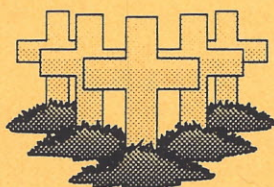
All Saints Day is an official holiday celebrated in Sweden on a Saturday between October 31 and November 6 (this year it falls on October 31). This is the day when Swedes make a pilgrimage to the cemeteries to light a candle in memory of the dead. It is a beautiful scene, with thousands of candles flickering in the dusk.



This holiday is actually a mixture of two very old Roman-Catholic festivals: All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Even further back, there were old heathen customs to beseech the power of the dark and to worship dead ancestors as the days grew shorter and darker.

All Saints Day was celebrated in memory of the Christian martyrs and saints since the 9th century but was discontinued as an official holiday at the time of Gustav III's calendar reform in 1772. All Souls

Day made an appearance in the 11th century as a day in memory of the dead. It disappeared as an official holiday already during the Reformation in the 16th century. But old folk traditions lived on, and in 1954 All Saints Day was once again accepted as an official holiday.



In earlier times, food played a very big role at funerals and there was feasting of some proportions. The name *gravöl*, as the funeral feast was called, suggests that *öl* or ale was an important feature as were stronger drinks. The traditional funeral dress for men was white tie and full dress suit. The women had to wear black dresses with hats and heavy veiling over the face and all accessories had to be in black. No jewelry was allowed, except for black beads. An elegant touch to a mourning dress was the pointed double collar in crisp white. The wearing of the black attire for a mourning period of up to a full year, was common until the 1950s.

Apart from this ceremony of lighting a candle, which is fairly new, current-day Swedes are low-key when it comes to death. Funerals have become a good deal less elaborate in recent years. For some years now, the cross, which used to be obligatory for death announcements in the local papers, has been frequently replaced by a religiously neutral symbol, such as a flower, a bird, or a ship with billowing sails. The big funeral dinner disappeared during World War II and was superseded by a "commemorative moment" with simple refreshments in a parish hall or the home of a relative.



- From: *Swedish Press*, Oct '98

Gift Ideas

You can find some wonderful gift ideas for Christmas in a Swedish gifts and imports catalog called *Hemslöjd*. Call or write for a FREE 40-page full-color catalog to: Hemslöjd Inc., 201 North Main, P.O. Box 152K, Lindsborg, KS 67456. The phone number is 1-800-779-3344. The catalog good to September 30, 1999, just came out.

**Monitor Lodge No. 218
Vasa Order of America
10582 Apple Grove Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 771
Sacramento, CA

DATED MATERIAL

◆ MONITOR LODGE ◆ TENTATIVE 1999 CALENDAR



JANUARY

- 8 6:00 Dinner and joint installation of officers with Sierra Kronan at Monitor Lodge
- 13 7:00 Business meeting, location TBA
Annual report, election of convention delegates

FEBRUARY

- 5 6:30 Pea soup and Swedish pancake social
- 10 7:00 Business meeting, location TBA

MARCH

- 5 6:30 Moose stew dinner, business meeting, initiation
- 14 9 am-1 pm Swedish pancake breakfast, Wisteria Hall

APRIL

- Date TBA 6:30 87th anniversary celebration and dinner
- 10 10 am - 3 pm Scandinavian Festival, St. Ignatius Parish Center, 3235 Arden Way
- 14 7:00 Business meeting, location TBA
- 23-25 District Convention

MAY

- 7 6:30 Mors Dag Dinner
- 12 7:00 Business meeting, location TBA
- 22 10 am Sillfrukost, location TBA

JUNE

- 4 6:30 Fars Dag potluck, initiation, business meeting
- 4-6 Sweden Day Celebration, Sons of Norway Camp, Alta
- 19 Midsummer at Sveadal
- 26-27 Scandinavian Festival, Ferndale

----- No activities in July -----

AUGUST

- 21 6:30 Business meeting
- 7:00 Crayfish party, location TBA

SEPTEMBER

- 3 7:00 Business meeting, initiation, coffee
- 24-26 Turlock ScandiaFest

OCTOBER

- 1 6:30 Swedish meatball dinner, business meeting, election of officers
- 9 District membership seminar, Santa Cruz
- 10 Sweden Day planning meeting, Santa Cruz
- 13 7:00 Business meeting, location TBA

NOVEMBER

- 5 7:00 Business meeting, initiation, coffee

DECEMBER

- 3 7:00 Glögg and smörgåsbord party
- Date TBA Luciafest with Jultomten, Children's Club

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
 LIBRARY OF THE DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Author	Title	Year	Month
...	...	1951	JANUARY
...	...	1951	FEBRUARY
...	...	1951	MARCH
...	...	1951	APRIL
...	...	1951	MAY
...	...	1951	JUNE
...	...	1951	JULY
...	...	1951	AUGUST
...	...	1951	SEPTEMBER
...	...	1951	OCTOBER
...	...	1951	NOVEMBER
...	...	1951	DECEMBER



WELCOME TO A SWEDISH



LUCIA PROGRAM

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13, 1998 - 5:00 P.M.

**Sponsored by Vasa Order of America's Sacramento Monitor Lodge
Children's Group**

Swedish Lucia
with the
children
performing
traditional
songs, dances
and verse.



A Swedish
tomte (santa)
will visit.

Refreshments
served!

Need more
information?
Christi
Kagstrom
641-8770

Swedish
Crafts!

**JOIN US AT THE WINTERSTEIN ADULT SCHOOL
CORNER OF MORSE AND NORTHROP**

Take Hwy. 50 to the Watt Ave. exit. Travel north past
Fair Oaks Blvd. to Northrop. Travel west to Morse.



WELCOME TO A SWEDISH

LUCIA PROGRAM

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19, 1988 - 2:00 P.M.

Sponsored by the Order of America's Secretaries of the Lutheran Church
Children's Group

Phone 402-441-8770
Lutheran Church
Children's Group



Swedish Lucia
with the
children
performing
traditional
songs, dances
and plays.

A Swedish
Lucia (Lucy)
with the

Performance
Lucia

Swedish
Lucia

JOIN US AT THE WINTERSTEIN ADULT SCHOOL
CORNER OF MOORE AND HORTON

Take Hwy. 28 to the Watt Ave. exit. Travel north past
Fair Oaks Blvd. to Hortonway. Travel west to house.