

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol 23. No. 2

February 1999

MONITOR'S FIRST DINNER for 1999 will be held on **Friday, February 5.**

Social time starts at 6 o'clock and our popular pea soup and Swedish pancakes supper will be served at 6:30—all you can eat for only \$5 for adults (no charge for children under 10).

Pea soup with ham and *limpa* and a dessert of Swedish pancakes (similar to crêpe Suzettes) with lingonberries is a traditional Thursday night meal throughout Sweden. Do come out and enjoy a real Swedish meal and a nice program that our new cultural leader, Carol Churkin, will have for us. There will be no business meeting at this get-together.

We hope to have our new program books by this meeting, so be sure to pick yours up.

This event is a perfect occasion to bring family, friends, and prospective members. See you all on the 5th!

—Margaret Carlson

Looking Head

to our March 5 meeting, Gil and Camilla Holm will come all the way from Idaho to prepare our moose stew dinner. Be sure to mark your calendar now!

And don't forget our Swedish Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 14 (see separate flyer)! We will need lots of workers to cook the breakfast and set up the tables. Please ask Margaret Carlson NOW how you can help.

Next Business Meeting

will be held on **Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00.** We'll meet at Ellen Harrod's again. Since the February general meeting is for pleasure only, we'll be tending to more serious, but necessary, business matters at this separate business meeting.

Important decisions are made at the business meetings, so if you want to take part in the running of your lodge, please make sure you don't miss these meetings. New officers, in particular, are encouraged to attend.

Chairman's Message

A few thoughts as we begin the new year and I start my third (and last) year as chairman. I apologize for missing the last few newsletters.

Our annual Christmas party, the Santa Lucia Festival, and our installation of officers were, based on the comments I've received, quite successful and enjoyed by all. We tried a lot of new things at the Christmas party: no Santa or presents, reservations, etc. Please let me know your comments and complaints so we can plan next year's events accordingly. Anyway, many thanks to all you cooks and workers who made these events possible. Your efforts are appreciated.

Once again I had the privilege and good fortune to

participate in one of our lodge's most important and appreciated activities: delivering Christmas poinsettias to our older, less mobile members. This year, Helen Jenson's Friendship Committee delivered 15 plants. The joyful and touching responses we received were well worth the few hours of time spent. Maybe we can do something similar for Easter—or off and on throughout the year? Remember, charity begins at home! If you know a member who could use some cheering up (or a ride to meetings, etc.), let Helen or me know. Think about taking part; it's well worth the effort!

Hope to see you at our February pea soup and pancake dinner and for another successful, happy year.

In Truth and Unity, Art Niemoller

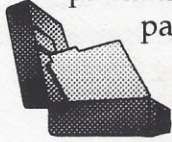
In Memoriam

We were sad to hear that Ed Nelson passed away on January 4. Our sincere condolences to his wife Billye, also a Monitor member. Ed was the father of two daughters and had four grandchildren. Ed was loved by everyone whose life he touched with his generous nature, wonderful sense of humor, and genuine interest in everything and everyone. He will be deeply missed.

Condensed Minutes from Business Meeting, January 13, 1999

(Full minutes available from Secretary David Benson)

1. Motions approved included
 - a. Renewal of lease with the State Grange for Wisteria Hall at \$85 per month.
 - b. Purchase of a grill for making Swedish pancakes (for pea soup and pancakes dinners, pancake breakfasts, etc.)
 - c. Reimbursement of not more than \$10 to members hosting home for refreshments at business meetings.
2. Carol Churkin, new cultural leader, reported on plans for cultural programs which included learning Swedish songs and Scandinavian dancing, and having speakers on subjects such as travel, history, and current issues in Sweden.
3. The Friendship Committee will develop a plan to increase contact with senior and shut-in members not only for holidays but throughout the year.
4. The Scholarship Committee will suggest changes to the scholarship guidelines for lodge approval.
5. The Swedish cook book under preparation promises to be outstanding, but additional recipes are still welcome.
6. The Scandinavian Festival needs significant assistance from all members, both in the current planning stage and on April 10, the day of the festival. Chairman Art Niemoller volunteered to recruit a team to fry Swedish pancakes for the pea soup dinner, the pancake breakfast, and at the festival.



Nål och Tråd

This group will meet twice in February at the following times and locations:

On **Wednesday, February 10, 10 am**, at Ethel Johnson's

On **Tuesday, February 23, 10 am**, at Ellen Harrod's

Please bring a sack lunch to both these meetings.

More Pancakes

Nord Lodge will serve their Swedish pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 14 between 8:30 am and 12 Noon at the Eagles Hall, Bourbon Street, Stockton. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, all you can eat.



Scandinavian Festival

Are you helping to prepare for the Scandinavian Festival on April 10? The next planning meeting will be held on **February**

1, 7 pm, at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue.

You are encouraged to attend and share your ideas. We need help for setup, at the food tables, serving coffee, making pancakes, etc., etc., etc. Please call Myrtle Widmark (481-4056) with your suggestions or to volunteer.

Address Changes

Esther (Beckie) Oleson has informed us that she has a new address: 3220 Watt Avenue, Apt. #44, Sacramento, CA 95821-3604. Her phone number is 482-9182. Thanks for keeping us informed, Beckie, so we can keep our records up-to-date.

Beckie also let us know that Debbie Oleson's new address is 2610 5th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95818-3506

The post office has informed us that the following members also have a new address:

Hans and Anne Fors
6004 Myrtlewood Court
Citrus Heights, CA 95621-0954

(We have no information about the phone number).

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
Lars Ostlund
Anne Phelan
Louise Sims
Cecile Spencer
Brian and Jill Stockham
Ruth Volkoff
Debbie Nickless
Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218.

Birgitta's Swedish Sentences

Swedish: Det är väldigt kallt just nu.
 Sounds like: De-ay veldigt (e as in welding, g sounds like k) kallt yust new.
 English: It is very cold right now.

Swedish: Var försiktig när du kör bil.
 Sounds like: Vaar fursiktig (i as in Indian) nere (as in there) dew shir beal (as in deal)
 English: Be careful when you drive a car.

Swedish: Is är förrädisk.
 Sound like: Ees (as in bees) ay furraidisc.
 English: Ice is treacherous.



Scholarship

We are now taking applications for the annual \$500 Monitor Lodge Scholarship for lodge members or children or grandchildren of lodge members planning to attend a college or vocational school this fall. Those interested can obtain application forms by writing to Daniel Backman, 4025 Hancock Drive, Sacramento, CA 95821 (phone 487-7206).



Applicants will need to fill in the application form, have three letters of recommendation from their present teachers, and prepare a written composition dealing with the applicant's goals for the future and how this scholarship will help achieve those goals.

Application packages must be mailed to the Lodge Secretary, David Benson, by March 15.

Golden Gate District No. 12 also awards scholarships to Vasa members in good standing who are entering or enrolled in an institution of higher learning.

Language Scholarship

The Vasa Order Grand Lodge is offering ten scholarships to a Swedish Language Camp in Minnesota. Tuition will be paid and travel expenses will be reimbursed up to \$300. Applicants must be 13-17 years of age. The applicant, parent/guardian, or a grandparent must have been a Vasa member for the past two years. The application form is in the November-December *Vasa Star*. For more information, call Dorothy Scherer, 967-6809.

Deadline

for the March newsletter is **Thursday, February 11.**

Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-2317. Or you can e-mail it to iken@gvn.net.

New and Old Members

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 attending business meetings, helping to plan and execute events, and

serving on committees. Important events are coming up and—HELP—we need you! So please volunteer or respond when we call . . .



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2/01 - Cecile Spencer
 2/02 - Lucy Dahlberg
 2/03 - Mimi Hjersman
 2/04 - Kevin Bergstrom
 2/04 - Stanley Hagstrom
 2/04 - Leah McLam
 2/05 - Greg Anderson
 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

For More Information

about Monitor Lodge, please contact one of the following:

☐ Membership Committee members Michelle Kaufman, 451-3075, Dee Benson at 933-5502, or Elizabeth Swenson, 739-7637

☐ Secretary David Benson, 933-5502

☐ Vice Chairman Don Carlson, 783-0262

☐ Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330



Note to Nonmembers

We really want to mail out as many newsletters as possible to tell about our activities and share our Swedish heritage. However, Monitor Lodge has found it necessary to limit the number of free issues to six per nonmember. It's all we can afford! We hope that in the meantime, you have decided to join the lodge and keep receiving the newsletter.

If you have received six issues and has decided against joining our lodge, you can still stay on the mailing list for \$10 a year by sending your subscription check to:

Karin Dorey,
Monitor Financial Secretary
2434 Stokewood Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Some thoughts on New Year Resolutions

◆ A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

◆ If you kept every resolution you made last year, you'd probably be skinny, smart, healthy, rich—and bored!

◆ Serious trouble comes when the New Year's resolutions collide with the old year's habits.

◆ May your troubles in the coming year be a short-lived as your New Year's resolutions!

