

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol 23. No. 4

April 1999

NO ONE SHOULD MISS OUR April meeting! On **Friday, April 16** (note the date change!), Monitor Lodge will celebrate its 87th anniversary, beginning with refreshments at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30 pm.

This time we will have a catered dinner (to give everybody a chance to relax and enjoy), but the price will still be only \$7.50, including tax and tip. Here's the menu:

Basel buttered chicken
Herb rice
Spring vegetables
Mixed green salad
Champaign fruit cup
Rolls and butter
Anniversary cake
Coffee

Now, where can you find a dinner like that for \$7.50!? **BUT we must have reservations.** So please phone David Benson at 933-5502 or Art Niemoller at 631-9330 no later than Wednesday, April 14th.

There will be no business meeting—but we will still have a full, fun evening for you. We will take this opportunity to honor our past chairmen. And we have a member receiving her 60-year pin, a couple of members receiving 40-year pins, and several members receiving 25-year pins.

Carol Churkin, our cultural leader, is doing a great job on wonderful programs. She is planning lots of music and past

history. Come and find out what they really did at our lodge meetings a long time ago.

Don't forget: we must have your reservations and the date is April 16 (the third Friday instead of the usual first Friday).

- Margaret Carlson

Our April Business Meeting

will be held on **Wednesday, April 14, 7 pm**, at Ellen Harrod's, 9546 Mira Del Rio Drive. Please try to make that meeting to give your input on our many upcoming events.

Chairman's Message

Just a short message this month to thank all you volunteers who helped out at our pancake breakfast and to remind all our members of the events coming up this month.

Once again, we owe Margaret Carlson a big round of applause for all her efforts in making this year's pancake breakfast a resounding success. But it couldn't have happened without all you members who helped out. Many thanks to everyone from the batter makers to the cleanup crew for your help (especially our group of pancake flippers and rollers!). It was a delicious meal and all went smoothly.

This month is a busy one for Vasa members. We start off with the Scandinavian Festival on 10

April. Come and partake of good food, arts and crafts, and excellent entertainment. On the weekend of 23-25 April, our District convention will be held in Stockton. This is close enough so that if you ever wondered how things get done at the higher echelons of the Vasa hierarchy or how they spend our money, drive down for a visit.

Our lodge is having a catered supper for our annual Anniversary Celebration Dinner on April 16.

Lastly, our business meeting is on the 14th. And please check your listing in the District Program guide, if you have one, and our Lodge Program Guide, which every member should have. Some errors have crept in. You can report corrections to either me or our secretary, David Benson.

*In Truth and Unity
Art Niemoller*

WE'VE HAD SOME VERY SICK PEOPLE AMONGST OUR MEMBERSHIP. THANK GOODNESS DEE BENSON AND INGRID GILCHRIST ARE DOING BETTER NOW. LOTS OF COLDS AND FLU HAVE BEEN GOING AROUND, TOO. HOPE EVERYONE IS ON THE MEND NOW!



Last Business Meeting

A short business meeting was held following our beef stew dinner in March.

The following members will be Monitor delegates to the district convention in Stockton in April: Carol Churkin, Michael Churkin, Leisma Krastins, and Eivor Pfannkuch. Dee Benson is an alternate. Each delegate will receive \$50 towards expenses.

We also initiated four new members.

New Members

We extend a sincere welcome to our new members. Please add them to your program books.

Violet DeBord
8600 Lodestone Circle
Elk Grove, CA 95624
685-2908

Birgitta Kanna-Coffey
198 Baurer Circle
Folsom, CA 95630
983-4101

Helge Lind
7121 Shayway Court
Rio Linda, CA 95673
992-8672

Darlene Palmer
8641 Golden Sage Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95624
688-9315

Deadline

for the May newsletter, i.e., the very last day, is **Thursday, April 15**. 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 at iken@gvn.net.

Dear Monitor Members:

I would like to thank the members for their concern, prayers, and best wishes during my recent hospital stay. The gorgeous plant, presented by Chaplain Helen Jensen, is still blooming beautifully.

Dee Benson

Dear Monitor:

Thank you so very much for the beautiful plant I received at Christmas. I miss coming to the lodge to see all my friends there. I had my 90th birthday last summer, so I don't go out much. God bless you all.

Sigrid Thorsen

The Cook Books Are Coming!

We will have the cook books by our April meeting. This is one cook book you must



have in your kitchen. There are some great recipes, most of them Swedish cooking at its best. You'll love it, and the cost is only \$10. Plan now to pick up yours at our April meeting!

April Dues Anniversaries

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

Annabel Audet
June Brown
Ethel Hubbell
Arthur and Donne Niemoller
Dorothy Scherer
Marie and Terry Tillman
Myrtle Widmark

Dues are \$18 a year, payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the April 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.



Happy
Birthday!

4/01 - Robert Barrett
4/02 - Millie Johnson
4/02 - Violet DeBord
4/03 - Harry Johnson
4/05 - Lennart Anderson
4/05 - Bertil Erickson
4/05 - Beckie Oleson
4/07 - Jamie Canaday
4/08 - Harold Mattson
4/11 - Sven-Erik Carlsson
4/15 - April Nelson
4/20 - Michelle Kauffman
4/21 - David Dorey
4/23 - Ronny Kagstrom
4/26 - William Kernander
4/28 - Annika Anderson
4/29 - Sharon Anderson
4/29 - Dorothy Woodstrom
4/29 - Mary-Beth Roop
4/30 - Annalena Bronson

Swedish Proverb

Don't throw away the old bucket until you know whether the new one holds water.

Birgitta's Swedish Sentences

Swedish: Vi ska fira Påsk
 Sounds like: Vee ska feera Posk (from Greek pasqua)
 English: We are going to celebrate Easter

Swedish: Jesus lever! GLAD PÅSK!
 Sound like: Yesus lever (like in a lever)
 English: Jesus lives! Happy Easter!

Swedish: Våren är här med vackra blommor
 Sounds like: Vaaren e hair med (as in medival)
 vackra blommer
 English: Spring is here with beautiful flowers



IKEA Update

Construction has started on the first Northern California IKEA store, located at 4400 Shellmound Street in Emeryville. It is expected to open in April 2000 and will be the largest IKEA store on the West Coast with 274,000 square feet and more than 1,000 parking spaces, according to *Vestkusten*, 3/8/99.

Spring in Sweden

The dark nights of the Swedish winter are long, and the approach of spring and light unleashes a spirit of renewal. The supernatural is at work, too. People once believed that spring was a time when evil forces spread mischief across the land. Today the benevolent remnants of this myth can be seen in the tradition of the "Easter witch."

On the Thursday before Easter, children paint their faces, dress like witches and roam from house to house collecting candy. On the hillsides, people light bonfires to scare off the evil spirits, and the blasts of firecrackers can be heard as revelers simulate shooting wiches from the sky.

Intertwined with the supernatural festivities is the traditional Christian holiday. A Swedish symbol of Easter is a

birch twig decorated with colored feathers, and as the holiday approaches these colorful charms fill the markets, along the candy Easter eggs.

Following Easter comes another tradition steeped in ancient belief: Walpurgis Night (Valborgsmässoafton). On this night, April 30th, crowds of Swedish men and women gather around roaring bonfires. Many wear white caps with lyre emblems, the symbol of present and former students, and as the fires blaze they sing songs applauding spring's arrival. Originally, the fires were meant to scare off witches, but today they remind distant watchers of a warmth soon to come. The traditional meal on this evening is *gravlax*—fresh salmon marinated in salt, sugar and fresh dill.

From www.gosweden.org



Glad Påsk!

Stockholm

On the www.miningco.com/lowestfare/Travel Tools web site, based on Frommer's Travel

Guide, you will find the following (at times glowing) description of Stockholm:

Visually, this is one of the most stunning of all cities, on 14 islands surrounded by the waters of Lake Mälaren, the latter covered with sailboats in the warmer months. It is remarkably sophisticated, but a bit solemn, inhabited as it is by one of the world's most serious, soft-spoken and well-educated populations who are proud of their cultural attainments and social advances.

Though the city is a dignified one, its residents pursue innovative and experimental municipal and national policies. Their society seeks to eliminate the extremes of poverty and great wealth, to safeguard every person from what other nations regard as the inescapable misfortunes of life, and to achieve the purest possible form of democracy. Currently those policies include, for example, laws against the use of corporal punishment of children, even by their parents. And when a city in Sweden does not possess an opposition newspaper (of whatever party), the government subsidizes a dissident newspaper in the interest of ensuring that all viewpoints are heard.

Nål och Tråd

Our "needle and thread" group will have a craft table at the Scandinavian Festival on April 10. If you have any items that you have made or want to contribute, you can bring them there. Our March meeting will be to price the items for sale. There will not be a meeting in April, and the May meeting date will be announced in the May newsletter.

- Myrtle Widmark

Scandinavian Festival

April 10, the festival date, is coming up quickly. Your telephone caller should have contacted you to find out when you can help and also if you have a particular job you would like to do. Then we can schedule everyone so you know where to go and what to do when you come. This will be a busy day. **Please bring your baked goods to the baked goods table.**

Unfortunately, the new Swedish Consul General, Barbro Osher, has had to cancel her appearance. We hope she can come some other time so we can meet her.

Festival times:

✓ 8:00 Setup and food preparation

✓ 10:00 Doors open

✓ 12:00 Flag ceremony

✓ 3:00 Closing and cleanup

If your caller has been unable to reach you or you have a new number, call June Delle, 363-7598, if you live in the south area and Thelma Range, 487-1771, if you live in the north area.

- Myrtle Widmark

Scandinavian Dance and Music

On Saturday afternoon, March 13, there were performances and participation dancing with live music in Placerville. This event was sponsored by the El Dorado Scandinavian Dancers. I'm sure you remember that some members of this group performed in our installation program last January.

Ginny Lee's children's group from the Fairfield Sons of Norway performed and Britt O'Grady of Lindbergh Lodge was a teacher for several audience participation dances.

Tim Rued was one of the musicians. Along with dancers Dick Livingston and Sallie Odom, they give lessons every third Sunday afternoon at the Young Ladies Institute Club House, 1400 N Street at 27th Street here in Sacramento.

There will be a dance workshop, featuring Norwegian dances, at 2:30 pm, Saturday, April 3, in Shingle Springs. For more information, contact Marida Martin at 530/672-2926.

During the weekend of April 9-11, there will be a Norwegian *Folkedans Stevne* at Camp Norge at Alta, California. For more information, call Nick Jensen at 933-0671.



- Myrtle Widmark

Roster Changes

Here are a couple of new phone numbers for your program book:

Robert Johnson 683-7030

Elizabeth Swenson 654-6191

Swedish Arts and Culture

No one has depicted Swedish social life, which centers around home and hearth, more invitingly than Carl Larsson did around the last turn of the century. Sweden's most popular and probably best-known painter, Larsson produced scenes far removed from the melancholy images sometimes associated with life in Sweden.

Larsson gained international recognition through the publication of a series of watercolors titled "A Home." These paintings depicted the family life of the artist, his wife, and their eight children at their home in Sundborn. They have often been discounted as a kind of Swedish Norman Rockwell vision of life; however, Larsson grew up impoverished in the poor section of Stockholm, and so was all too well acquainted with the realities of life in Sweden in the latter half of the 19th century. His frequent bouts of depression were probably the result of his early deprivation, and perhaps his work was an attempt to paint life better than he knew it was.

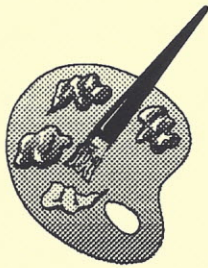
The paintings in "A Home" were important in another way, too, for they were to become a major influence on the changing style of Swedish design. Larsson and his wife Karin, a textile artist,

Con't on page 5

Sweden Arts & Culture, Cont'd from page 4

hated the dark interiors common in 19th-century Swedish houses. Their light-filled house, with its simple furnishings and white walls, were revolutionary in a country accustomed to dark paneling and heavy tapestries. Much of what is thought of as the Scandinavian country look is a direct result of Larsson's work.

Anders Zorn, another well-known Swedish painter, was a large, self-confident man with none of the self-doubt and melancholy that plagued Carl Larsson. Born to a family of substance in Mora in the province of Dalarna in 1860, Zorn enjoyed early success with his portraits. He traveled to Europe and the United States, earning commissions to paint portraits of Presidents Taft,



Cleveland, and Teddy Roosevelt, as well as Andrew Carnegie. However, Zorn remained attached to Sweden and particularly to Dalarna, where he and his wife built a house called Zorngården. The Dalecarlian influence is evident in his paintings of local life, which are endowed with a remarkable sensitivity for light and space. In his glowing, robust paintings of nudes, Zorn rejected the melancholy and sense of moral degradation which seemed to pervade much of the spirit of 19th-century Scandinavia; instead he infused his subjects with what he called a "strong, healthy sensuality."

The works of playwright August Strindberg, on the other hand, corroborate all the preconceptions of the Swedish spirit.

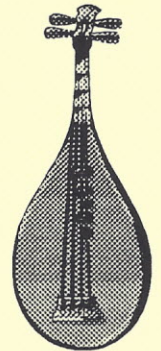
Brooding and pessimistic, his plays and his famous novel "The Red Room," pick at the fabric of upper-class Swedish life. His characters are tormented and degraded, much as he himself was when he finally lapsed into madness.

Another writer, Nobel Prize winner Selma Lagerlöf (the first woman to win the prize), has succeeded in painting a more rounded picture of the Swedish soul, though the settings of her novels are largely confined to her native Värmland. The



"Story of Gösta Berling" has become a modern Swedish epic and has recently been staged as a stunning ballet that epitomizes everything Swedish.

The poet Carl Mikael Bellman, a frequenter of the court of Gustavus III, has become a kind of national institution. Bellman has been called the "Robert Burns of Sweden," perhaps because he set many of his poems to music and sang them to his own accompaniment on the lute. Little is known outside Sweden of Bellman's work, but his is a name the visitor should recognize, mainly because it crops up so frequently, for instance in the names of restaurants and bars.



In science, the name of Anders Celsius is familiar even to those who use the Fahrenheit scale. Karl von Linné (Carolus Linnaeus) was the botanist who came up with the system of classifying plants that is used to this day.

But perhaps Sweden's most significant contribution to intellectual pursuit is the Nobel Prize. In 1895, Alfred Nobel made a will that declared that a prize was to be awarded in each of five disciplines: chemistry, physics, medicine, literature, and peace. In 1968, the Bank of Sweden established an additional prize for economics in honor of its 300th anniversary. With the exception of the Peace Prize, which is given in Oslo, all prizes are awarded in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

- From the travel website www.expedia.com

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

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Vasa Order of America
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