

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 23. No. 8

October 1999

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, WE ARE having our first dinner meeting for the fall. We start with refreshments at 6:00 pm, and at 6:30, we will serve a salad, meatballs with mashed potatoes, a vegetable and lingonberries, *limpa*, coffee, and dessert—all for only \$5.00 (children under 10 eat free). This is a family affair, so we hope everyone can come.

Our program will be on the ecology in Sweden, presented by Greg Ellis (son of Birgitta and Russ) who works in the field of water purity in Sacramento. As much as 54% of the area of Sweden is covered by forests, 16% mountains, 11% mires, 9% lakes and rivers, 8% cultivated land, and 3% built-up area. "Nature preoccupies much of the heart and mind of every Swede—and is held in high respect." (*Nature and the Swedes*) Greg will share a little of what is happening to the ecology in Sweden today. We also will take a short break at some point during the evening to elect new officers and to vote on our proposed program for next year.

—Margaret Carlson

Swedish Calendars!

We will have samples of year 2000 calendars at our October meeting with Carl Larson art or Swedish scenery. You can sign up to buy some at this meeting or call Myrtle Widmark 481-4056 to make your reservations.

In Memoriam

We were sad to hear that Jack Doscher passed away during our summer break. Our deepest condolences to his wife Estrid and all other family members. Jack was a long-time member, having joined the Vasa Order, along with Estrid, back in 1961.

Thanks again

to Ken and Peggy Carlson for hosting the crayfish party and also to our cultural leader, Carol Churkin, for planning this fun evening. If you missed it, you really missed a great party! Great food, great friends, great dancing and singing!

Heads Up!

Is your garage filled with unwanted stuff, is your closet overflowing with clothes you haven't worn in 6 years, or do you need more cupboard space? If so, please save everything for Monitor Lodge. We are planning a huge rummage sale for **Saturday, November 6**, and we can use anything and everything. Keep in mind that "one man's junk is another man's treasure."
—Margaret Carlson

Chairman's Message

My thanks to everyone involved in making our last meeting a great success. We initiated new, enthusiastic members, were introduced to the candidates nominated for new

officers, then adjourned to a coffee and cake social where we learned lots about Vikings and their runes. From the feedback I've received, everyone had a good time. Special thanks to Kurt and Jillian for their excellent presentations and to our cultural leader for setting it up.

We're trying some new stuff for next year. Because moose (mooses, meese?) are getting scarce, we'll serve *kalops* at the March dinner. I have no idea what *kalops* is, but the cooks say it's very Swedish and tasty and to just trust them! In June, we are substituting a *midsommarfest* for the *sillfrukost*. It will be a day-long picnic/potluck with lots of Swedish culture and atmosphere. Review the enclosed program and let me know how you feel about these changes.

We are sorting our membership list by zip code because we have a growing number of members who cannot drive at night. If you would like to attend our Lodge events but need transportation, call one of your officers. We will provide a list of members in your area or, better yet, try to arrange a ride.

Come to the October meeting. The meatballs are guaranteed to be delicious. You get to vote for your new officers and you will learn more about our common Swedish heritage.

—In Truth and Unity,
Art Niemoller

Condensed Minutes from Business Meeting August 21, 1999 (at the Crayfish Party)

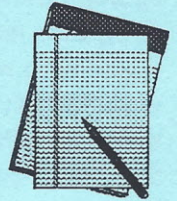
1. June minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.
2. Six applications for membership were approved.
3. A program planning meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 15, 7 pm, at Ellen Harrod's residence.
3. Josie Henning proposed a Midsummer Fest for June of 2000. Josie was invited to attend the planning meeting on September 15 when this item will be discussed and, if included, initial plans will be made.
4. It was suggested that a committee structure be utilized next year for planning and conducting special events. This will also be discussed at the September 15 planning meeting.

Condensed Minutes from Business Meeting September 3, 1999

1. Minutes from the August meeting were read.
2. Seven new members were initiated [listed separately under the heading "Roster Changes."].
3. Chairman Niemoller expressed appreciation to Kenneth and Peggy Carlson for hosting a very successful crayfish party.

4. Margaret Carlson presented the slate of officers for the year 2000 [listed separately].
5. Resumption of Swedish language classes was announced.
6. Margaret Carlson reported that plans are underway for a rummage sale on the first Saturday in November to raise funds for Monitor's hosting the District Convention in 2002.
7. Chaplain Helen Jenson reported that members Ingrid Gilchrist and Ellen Herting are recovering from illnesses.
8. Dale Ingvarsen suggested the lodge consider adding Swedish background music at lodge functions. Chairman Niemoller urged Dale to prepare a plan and present it to the lodge for consideration.
9. Cultural Chairman Carol Churkin stated that the banners, hats, and lanterns at the crayfish party were donated by the Vasa order lodge in Jönköping, Sweden. The cultural program in November will deal with issues in modern Sweden, particularly environmental issues. Carol urged attendance at the Scandiafest in Turlock on 24-26 September.

(As always, full minutes are available to all members from our Secretary David Benson.)



Birgitta's Swedish Sentences

Swedish:	Så säger man
Sounds like:	Sa sayer man (as in some)
English:	This is how you say is (so one says)
Swedish:	Det börjar bli sent
Sounds like:	Det bör (as in learn) yar (as in some)
English:	It is getting late
Different ways of greeting people:	
Swedish:	Hej!
Sound like:	Hay!
English:	Hi!

Swedish:	Hur mår du?
Sounds like:	Hoor maar dew?
English:	How are you?
Swedish:	Hej på dig!
Sounds like:	Hay paa day!
English:	Hi yourself!
Swedish:	Goddag!
Sounds like:	Good (as in school) dag (as in start)
English:	Good day!

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Cultural

Here are short reminders of cultural events that Carol and Myrtle announced in our last newsletter:

September 24-26 ScandiFest, California's premier Scandinavian folk festival, at the Stanislaus County fairgrounds, Turlock, CA.

October 2, a Scandinavian Dance Workshop, 3100 Ponderosa, Shingle Springs (call Marida 530/672-2926, for info)

October 7, Orphei Drängar, a world famous Swedish men's chorus, is giving a concert in San Francisco. (Info from the Swedish Consulate General 415/788-2631)

Heritage Day

The annual Heritage Day will be held in Davis on **Saturday, October 23, 10 am - 2 pm**, in Central Park on Russel Avenue. For more information, call the International House 630/753-5007. The Farmers Market is also held that day.

- Myrtle Widmark

Scandinavian Studies



We have learned from Svea Lodge that the University of Oregon, Eugene, offered its first courses in Scandinavian languages as long ago as in 1899. The university presently has over 18,000 students and a vibrant Scandinavian studies program, located in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature. For undergraduates, the university offers both a Scandinavian studies minor and a German/

Scandinavian studies major. This undergraduate program is rich in language offerings with three years each of Swedish and Norwegian and two years each of Danish and Finnish. They also offer overseas study programs in the Scandinavian countries.

For further information, visit the university's website at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~gerscan> or write to the Department at 1250 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1250.

-Carol Churkin

PS - And don't forget the resumption of our own Swedish classes as announced in our last newsletter.

Scholarship Heads-Up

In the spring of 2000, Monitor Lodge will again offer a \$500 scholarship to an outstanding high school graduate who is a member or whose parents or grantparents are members of our lodge. Applications will be available later this year. Interested candidates can find out about the requirements from the scholarship committee members Jillian Stanley, Donna Niemoller, or Kathy Foley.

The Vasa Order of America is awarding ten scholarships of \$300 annually in June to promising young people entering an institution of higher learning. To be eligible for that scholarship, the candidate must have been a member of the Vasa Order for at least one year prior to application. Candidates shall make application to the Grand Lodge Executive Board (on forms obtained from the Grand Secretary) prior to March 1.

- Daniel Backman

Nål och Tråd

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 6, 10 am**, at Ellen Harrod's house. Please bring a brown bag lunch.

Scandinavian Festival

The first planning meeting for the 17th annual Scandinavian Festival will be held on **Monday, November 8, 7 pm**, at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue.



- 10/01 - June Delle
- 10/02 - Clyde Waldrop
- 10/03 - Lowell Carlson
- 10/04 - Eva Allred
- 10/05 - Karin Johnson
- 10/06 - Dale Ingvarsen
- 10/08 - Barbara Lutz
- 10/10 - Helen Dyckman
- 10/10 - Jean Holmquist
- 10/11 - Keith Bergstrom
- 10/15 - Astrid Broess
- 10/16 - Juanita Skorheim
- 10/17 - Kent Kjelstrom
- 10/17 - Ruby Anderson
- 10/20 - Ethel Hoffman
- 10/24 - Diane Curtis
- 10/24 - Marianne Ek
- 10/30 - John Anderson

Young Professionals Leave Sweden

Recent statistics confirm that Sweden is experiencing a brain drain. Last year, 25,600 Swedes emigrated from Sweden. Many of them only took a short step across the border to Norway. The second choice was Great Britain followed by the USA.

- (Swedish Press 6/9/99)

New Officers

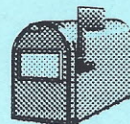


Here is our slate of officers for the year 2000. Please note that we still need a candidate for lodge secretary!

Chairman, David Benson
 Vice Chairman, Don Carlson
 Secretary, NO CANDIDATE!!!!!!!
 Assistant Secretary,
 Laverne Griffith
 Financial Secretary,
 Johanna Benker
 Assistant Financial Secretary,
 Liesma Krastins
 Treasurer, Gail Nemy
 Chaplain, Dorothy Mogford
 Cultural Leader, Carol Churkin
 Master of Ceremonies,
 Astrid Broess
 Assistant Master of Ceremonies,
 Monica Ericksson
 Inner Guard, Michael Churkin
 Outer Guard, Lars Churkin
 Historian, Dorothy Scherer
 Past Chairman, Art Niemoller
 Trustees:
 Ernie Skorheim (1 yr)
 Myrtle Widmark (2 yrs)
 James Woodstrom (3 yrs)
 Auditors:
 Don Johnson (1 yr)
 Ellen Harrod (2 yrs)
 Elizabeth Swenson (3 yrs)
 Membership Committee:
 Michelle Kaufman
 Dee Benson
 Lisa Bleasdale
 Scholarship Committee:
 Jillian Stanley
 Donna Niemoller
 Kathy Foley
 Leader, Children's Club:
 Christi Kagstrom
 Vasa Star correspondent:
 Dorothy Scherer
 Newsletter editor:
 Ingrid Kennedy

Roster Changes

Hjärtligt välkommen to our new members initiated at the September 3 meeting:



Raymond Griffith
 P.O. Box 517
 Citrus Heights, CA 95611
 722-9046

Osten, Evy and Yvonne
 Magneheim
 3813-35 Pasadena Avenue
 Sacramento, CA 95821
 979-9501

(Osten and Evy—both born in Sweden—are also members of Sveaborg Lodge since 1973)

Maureen O'Shay
 602 Elmhurst Circle
 Sacramento, CA 95825
 924-3404

This editor is really falling down on the job, providing addresses but not the all important phone numbers for new members in the last newsletter. Here are the phone numbers now and all have area code 916:

Brian Anderson 978-0696
 Lars Churkin 673-8395
 Kathy Foley 369-0253
 C. Holm-Bittner 344-8421
 Jean Holmquist 774-9834
 Christie Peterson 452-7288
 Frank Peterson 362-9422
 Brenda Spanfelner 646-1649
 Michelle and
 Clyde Waldrop 721-5486
 And according to the Post

Office, four of our members have new addresses. Since we have not heard from the members themselves, we don't know their new phone numbers:

Debbie Oleson
 6844 Gloria Drive
 Sacramento, CA 95631

Linnea Carlson
 1296 Gold Pan Drive
 Roseville, CA 95661-7042

Linda Becker
 16930 SW Ferrelo Place
 Beaverton, OR 97007-7834

Helen and William Dyckman
 2494 Riverview Place
 Fallbrook, CA 92028-1811

We have been informed of two additional address changes:

Estrid Doscher
 641 Feature Drive #242
 Sacramento, CA 95825.
 (Her phone number remains the same.)

Angus MacDonell
 6509 Puerto Drive
 Rancho Murieta, CA 95683
 354-8880
 (And apologies to Angus for spelling his name wrong in the last newsletter)

October Dues Anniversaries

Louise Amundsen
 Robert Anderson
 Jone Canady
 Edward and Lucy Dahlberg
 June Delle
 David and Karin Dorey
 LaVerne Gilbertson
 Paul and LaVerne Gullans
 Robert Johnson
 Carol Kwolek
 Barbara Mecci-Ericson
 Jillian Stanley
 Inger and Lennart Thornros

Updates

■ In our April issue, we had an update (to an October 98 article) on the construction of the first Northern California IKEA store in Emeryville with an estimated completion date in April 2000. According to *Nordstjernan* (9/2/99), this Swedish home decorating and furniture retailer actually have two more stores under way in California for a total of six new stores in the United States in the next few years. IKEA currently has 13 stores in the United States and 7 in Canada.

- Submitted by Carol Churkin

■ Back in March, our newsletter reported on the tunnel/bridge construction between Denmark and Sweden set to open in July 2000. Apparently expectations are mixed: *Nordstjernan* (9/2/99) writes that leaders in Sweden and Denmark "predict that the bridge over the Straits of Öresund will spark economic growth," and make the region as strong a center as Hamburg, Berlin, or Stockholm. The Swedish Minister of Foreign Trade, however, "grumbles" that the fees have been set too high: "I can't see how the bridge can generate any revenues at all if it will cost SEK 550 to make a round-trip to Copenhagen one evening in January to go to a restaurant. Fifty kronor for a round-trip would be more acceptable," he said."

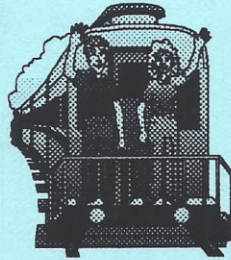
- Submitted by Carol Churkin

High Speed Transportation

Next time you go to Sweden you will be able to take a high-speed train between Arlanda Airport and the Central Station in

Stockholm. (Last we heard, the 21 August 1999 scheduled start was postponed to November.)

Convenience is the name of the game. The trains leave every 15 minutes at each end and the trip takes only 20 minutes as the trains keep a speed of 200 km/hours. Eventually, the trip on



the Arlanda Express will be included in the airfare to Stockholm, allowing passengers to check in at the terminal in Stockholm, take the train to Arlanda, and proceed straight to the departure hall. The huge investment of SEK 4.3 billion has to pay off, so the company hopes that 10,000 passenger will choose to use the train instead of any other means of transport. The cost of the train ride is SEK 120 one way, compared to 60 that the bus costs today.

The bus service has already started listing its advantages: The buses leave every five minutes and there are several points in Stockholm from where you can embark or disembark. Travel time for the bus is 35 minutes.

- From *Swedish Press*, May 1999

Deadline

for the November newsletter, i.e., the very last day for input, is **Friday, October 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 iken@gvn.net.

Swedish Press

is North America's only Swedish monthly magazine and it is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year—started the same year Mickey Mouse made his debut, Safeway opened its doors, and Yellow Pages let your fingers do the walking. It began as a humble publication of four pages entirely in Swedish. Today, *Swedish Press*, written partly in English and partly in Swedish, covers 50 pages of current events as well as history and culture. It is also said to be the Swedish magazine published the farthest away from Sweden. Subscription is \$25 a year. The address is Box 4302, Blaine, WA 98230.

As of June 6, *Swedish Press* has its own web site www.nordicway.com, a gold mine of information about Scandinavia. At this web site, you can subscribe to *Swedish Press* (or to *Scandinavian Press*) and also shop for the magazine's popular "Three Crown" gifts.

For More Information



about Monitor Lodge, please contact one of the following:

- ◆ Membership Committee members Michelle Kaufman at 451-3075, Dee Benson at 933-5502, or Elizabeth Swenson at 739-7637.
- ◆ Secretary David Benson at 933-5502
- ◆ Vice Chairman Don Carlson, 783-0262
- ◆ Chairman Arthur Niemoller, 631-9330



**HAVE A
NICE AND
SCAREY
HALLOWEEN!**



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TENTATIVE
YEAR 2000 PROGRAM



JANUARY

- 4 7:00 Business meeting at Ellen Harrod's house
- 14 6:00 Dinner and joint installation of officers at Sierra Kronan

FEBRUARY

- 1 7:00 Business meeting, Ellen Harrod's house
- 4 6:30 Pea soup and Swedish pancake social

MARCH

- 3 6:30 *Kalops* (beef stew) and initiation of new members
- 12 9 am-1 pm Swedish pancake breakfast, Wisteria Hall

APRIL

- 4 7:00 Business meeting at Ellen Harrod' house
- 8 10 am - 3 pm Scandinavian Festival, St. Ignatiour Parish Center, 3235 Arden Way
- 14 6:30 88th anniversary celebration and dinner
- 21-23 District Convention

MAY

- 2 7:00 Business meeting at Ellen Harrod's residence
- 5 6:30 Mors Dag dinner, Children's Club program

JUNE

- 2 6:30 Fars Dag potluck and initiation of new members
- TBA Sweden Day Celebration at Mickes Grove, Lodi
- 24 11 am Midsummer festivities with potluck at the Churkin Ranch

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

AUGUST

- 19 7:00 Crayfish party at Peggy and Ken Carlson's residence, preceded by a business meeting starting at 6:00 pm

SEPTEMBER

- 1 7:00 *Kaffekalas* and initiation of new members
- 13 7:00 Program planning meeting
- 22-24 ScandiFest, Stanislaus County fairgrounds, Turlock, CA

OCTOBER

- 3 7:00 Business meeting, Ellen Harrod's residence
- 6 6:30 *Kåldolmar* casserole dinner, election of officers
- TBA District membership seminar and Sweden Day planning meeting

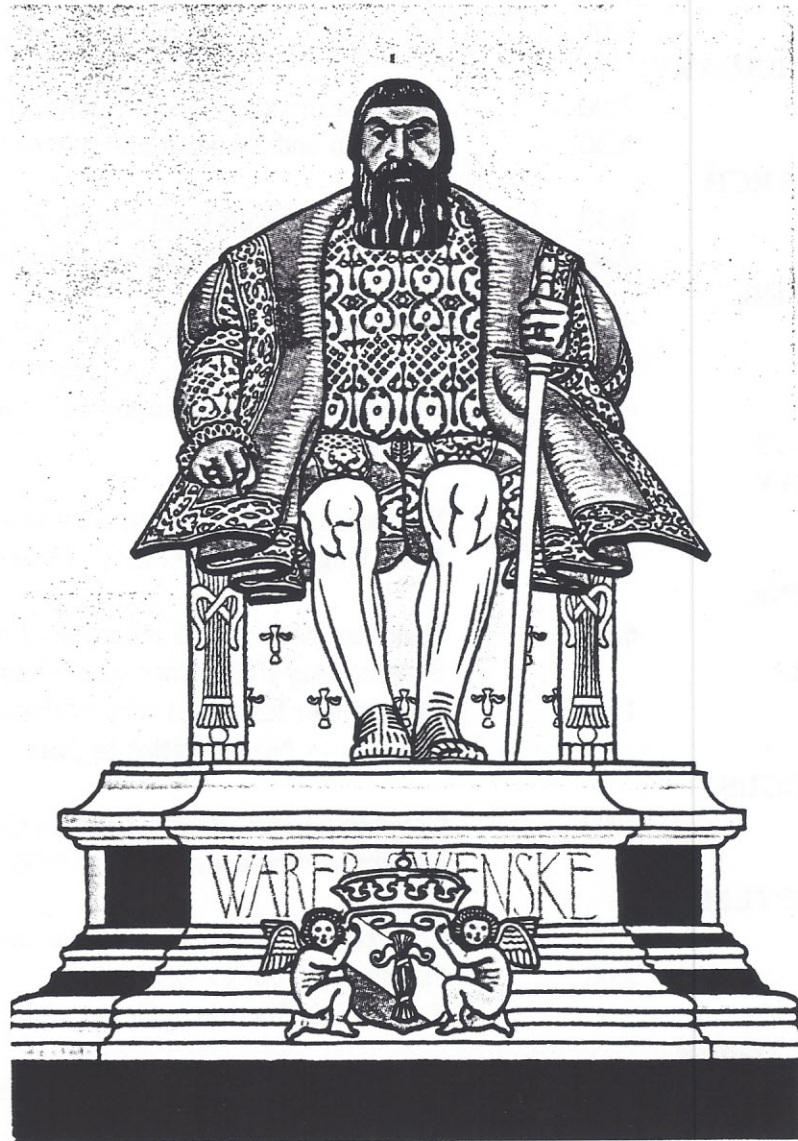
NOVEMBER

- 3 7:00 *Kaffekalas* and initiation of new members

DECEMBER

- 1 7:00 Glögg and smörgåsbord party, \$10, reservations required
- Date TBA Luciafest with *Jultomten*, Children's Club





Our namesake,
Gustav Eriksson Vasa, elected first king of a united Sweden in 1523.
A woodsculpture by Carl Milles
at the Nordic Museum in Stockholm