

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA
A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 24. No. 4

April 2000

MONITOR'S APRIL SOCIAL will be held on **Saturday, April 15** (NOT on Friday the 14th as listed in our program book). Since it's a Saturday, we'll be able to start a little earlier than usual with refreshments at 4:30 and dinner at 5:30.

Celebrating the 88th anniversary of our lodge, this will be a nice, catered dinner but still for only \$8.00 per person (\$3 for children age 5-10). **We do need reservations**, however, so we know how many people to plan for. Please phone Ellen Harrod, 362-5273, as soon as possible. Until **1 April**, we'll take reservations for members only to make sure that members have first priority. After that date, and depending on space availability, we can take reservations also for friends and prospective members up until **12 April**.

A special program is planned and we will honor past chairmen and long-time members. There will be no business meeting.

Next Business Meeting

We will have important business matters to discuss on **Tuesday, April 18, 7 pm**, at Ellen Harrod's house. These are matters that affect all members, so it's important to have as much participation as possible. Please make an effort to come.

Chairman's Message

We have come to expect good food at Monitor Lodge. Margaret Carlson and cooks Kent Kjellstrom, Larry Hultquist, and Donn Stafford did not disappoint us at the March meeting with salad, delicious *limpa*, and a tasty beef stew. Not only did Larry and Donn work in the kitchen, but they also did the setup of tables and chairs. The tables were decorated festively in Saint Patrick's green by Darlene Palmer, Lillian Stafford, and Dorothy Woodstrom.

An exceptional evening of Scandinavian music was presented by lodge member Henrik Jul Hansen, Musical Director of the Gold Country Chamber Orchestra and conductor of several other orchestras. Henrik utilized his extensive training and experience with performing both internationally and in the United States to highlight the contributions of Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish composers and to perform selections at the piano. The members of the Lodge gave him a standing ovation for an exceptional performance.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 15, call in your reservation, and come prepared to celebrate Monitor's 88th Anniversary!

— In Truth and Unity,
David Benson

Scandinavian Festival

The annual Scandinavian Festival, held jointly with Sierra Kronan Lodge and the Norwegian, Danish, and Finish clubs, will be held this year on **Saturday, April 8**. It's a major project that requires the helping hands of all our members. We need to know in advance that all the chores are covered so, please, sign up now with Myrtle Widmark. The festival starts at 10 am, but we need all workers to arrive at least an hour earlier.

Here are some responsibilities that our lodge has taken on:

→ We need people to bring pancake batter and to help in the kitchen during the morning to prepare the open face sandwiches and to roll and serve pancakes.

→ Baked goods for sale are always needed.

→ Call Ingrid Kennedy if you can pour coffee for an hour some time during the day.

→ Bring all the back issues of The Vasa Star, Vestkusten, Swedish Press, or any other Swedish magazine that you're willing to donate for our information table. Myrtle Widmark is in charge of this table.

The last planning meeting for this festival will be held on **Monday, 3 April, 7 pm**, at the Sons of Norway Hall, 770 Darina Avenue in Sacramento. We really need participants.

Condensed Minutes

(See Lodge Secretary Arlene Ericson for full minutes)



Business Meeting, February 15, 2000



1. Date and time changes: Our April meeting, which is our 88th anniversary dinner, has been changed to Saturday, April 15. We will start at 4:30 with refreshments and dinner will be served at 5:30. The price will be \$8 per person. Past chairmen will receive special recognition.
2. Another rummage sale will be held on Saturday, May 6. Members can bring items when they come for the Mors Dag dinner on Friday, May 5, and also help start setting up at that time. Volunteers will be needed both Friday night and Saturday. We made about \$500 on the November sale.
3. To avoid entry hall congestion, name tags will be placed in the meeting hall and ticket purchases will be reorganized to ease traffic.
4. A bulletin board for announcements will be placed in the meeting hall to save time during the meeting.
5. Chairman Dave Benson suggested that involved members be trained on initiation procedures and that new officers be briefed on their respective duties.
6. The meeting participants voted to approve membership applications from ten people.
7. An effort will be made to clean up the back room in order to use it for storage of lodge items and documents, thereby saving the \$45 per month we now pay for public storage. Any member who keeps items in that room needs to contact David Benson.
8. Monitor's charity contribution of \$150 will go to the Yolo Hospice.
9. A computer disk will be purchased for \$125 to make the Vasa Order logo embroidery on a new altar cloth. This disk can be used also for other purposes.
10. Volunteers are needed to form a subcommittee to plan the midsummer celebration.
11. Monitor members, who are not able to attend the meetings, very much appreciate the plants, flowers, and other items we take to them. Donations are needed in order to continue these important visits. Therefore, a suggestion was made to place a collection basket at each meeting.
12. No scholarship applications have been received

as of this date. A request was made that all members encourage students to apply.

13. Volunteers are needed to help plan the annual Scandinavian Festival in April.
14. A suggestion was made to create an Events Coordinator to plan group trips to places, stores, movies, etc. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

Business Meeting, March 3, 2000

1. Six new members were initiated. Jewel and John Wright were welcomed back into the lodge.
2. The 88th anniversary dinner on Saturday, April 15, starting at 4:30 pm, will be catered to give the faithful kitchen crew a chance to sit down as guests. Reservations will be required.
3. A Swedish pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 18, from 9 am to 1 pm. Signup sheets were circulated for volunteers. Members not able to volunteer are urged to at least stop by and to bring a friend.
4. The Scandinavian Festival on Saturday, April 8, is important culturally and also Monitor's largest fund raiser. Lots of workers will be needed.
5. Another rummage sale is planned for Saturday, May 6. Volunteers will be needed to sort and display merchandise. There will also be a bake sale. Members are urged to bring items to the Mors Dag dinner the night before or early Saturday morning.
6. Violet DeBord reported that the second film installment of the famous Swedish book series The Immigrants will be shown at her home on March 17.
7. The chaplain reported card and/or visits to Ellen Herting, Estrid Doscher, Thelma Badgley, Evelyn Anderson, Eva Allred, Birgitta Ellis, Ethel Hoffman, and Cecile Spencer.
8. The Children's Club will perform at the Mors Dag dinner. Their current project is Swedish lace making.
9. Four students have requested application packages for Monitor's scholarship.
10. Margaret Carlson was granted a \$250 draw for the pancake breakfast.
11. All members are invited to attend the next business meeting on April 18, 7 pm, at Ellen Harrod's residence.

Rummage Sale

Heads up, all you pack rats! Is there no room for the car in your garage, are your cupboards too full, or did you gain weight and nothing fits anymore? To help



you out, Monitor has decided to have another rummage sale.

It'll be on **Saturday, May 6, from 9 am to 3 pm.** Our Mother's Day dinner is the night before, so you can bring your stuff at that time. We take anything, including furniture. Please help set up on Friday night and come early on Saturday to help out and to shop.

IMPORTANT: We need a publicity person for this event!

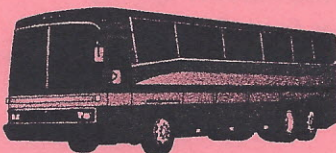
Let's Take A Trip!

After you get rid of all the old stuff at our rummage sale, we know just where to go to bring your home into the new millennium. IKEA, the Swedish chain of home furnishings—from pottery to furniture—is finally opening a store in Northern California. The occasion merited an article in the Business Section of The Sacramento Bee (3/5/00) that took up most of both the front page and the second page. With stores in 29 countries, this new one at Emeryville covers 274,000 square feet crammed with furniture and household items for every room in your house plus the home office. This opening is good news for us in Northern California, but even better news is that the company is considering Sacramento for a future site, possibly around 2005.

The founder and now a

consultant, Ingvar Kamprad, began in 1943 at age 17 by selling ballpoint pens and pencils. He eventually registered the name IKEA, using his initials plus the first letter of Elmtaryd and Agunnaryd, the farm and village in the province of Småland where he grew up.

And now to the really good news: If there is enough interest, Monitor Lodge is hoping to put together a busload for a trip to the new IKEA store. This newspaper article said only that the store is opening in April. Another source tells us that the store will open on Wednesday, April 12, for the public but that the Grand Opening will be held the following weekend. We very much would like to know if there is enough interest in a trip to the Emeryville store. All IKEA stores have a restaurant (where they usually have Swedish meatballs) and you can also purchase various Swedish food, bakery, and candy products.



More information about the IKEA stores is available on www.ikea.com. The store's address is 4400 Shellmound Street in Emeryville. If you'd like to go there on your own some time in the future, here are the directions: Take 80/850 to the Ashley Ave/Shellmound St exit. Go east on Ashley Avenue and turn south on Shellmound Street.

New Addresses

Bill and Ester Johnson
6177 Greenhaven Dr, Apt C
Sacramento, CA 95831
393-3762

Harry and Elizabeth Johnson
697 Halidan Way
Folsom CA 95630
984-7563

Faye Powell
Town Park Towers
60 No. 3rd St., Rm 801
San Jose, CA 95112
408/288-8750

HELP! The March newsletter to Estrid Doscher was returned to the editor with the postal notation "MOVED LEFT NO ADDRESS." Her last address was 641 Feature Drive. Does anyone have a new address for Estrid?

In Our Thoughts

Monitor members with health problems are always in our thoughts. Among others, Tom Center and Mike Churkin have had to go through surgery. Thelma Badgley fell and Lucy Dahlberg and Juanita Skorheim also have had health problems. We wish them all speedy recovery — and also a

Glad Påsk!



Congratulations!

We have members in our Monitor Lodge who definitely need to be congratulated for pure stamina, i.e., fortitude, mettle, persistence, diligence, etc.



Anyone who has stuck it out for more than 15 years richly deserve recognition—and if our records are not up to date, please let us know so we can give credit where credit is due:

40 YEARS

Britt-Marie Andersson
Lennart Andersson

25 YEARS

Evelyn Anderson
Astrid Horyza
Don Johnson
Joyce Johnson
Ethel Johnson
Cecile Spencer

24 YEARS

Ellen Herting

22 YEARS

Faye Powell

21 YEARS

Thelma Range

20 YEARS

Margaret Carlson
Stanley Hagstrom
Camilla Holm
Gilbert Holm

19 YEARS

Kenneth Carlson
Peggy Carlson
Deidre Dahlberg
Edward Dahlberg
Ethel Hoffman
Leo Krastins
Liesma Krastins
Birgitta Ostlund
Richard Westrup

18 YEARS

Elizabeth Johnson
Harry Johnson
Frances Misenti
Nancy Misenti
Billey Nelson
Maud Udvardy

15 YEARS

Dale Ingvarlsen

If there are corrections to these lists, please contact David Benson, 933-5502 (preferably prior to our April meeting).

Going to the Movies

We're rather busy in April, but here's a heads up that we will continue our monthly movie gatherings in May.

On Friday, May 19, 7 pm, we'll be seeing the first installment of a movie about Ellis Island, a place that was probably familiar to many of our ancestors. Again, we will meet at the home of Violet DeBord. Call her at 685-2908 if you need directions.



And humble apologies to Violet for referring to her as Karin (!?) several times in our last newsletter.

Did You Know

that Sweden is the world's third largest exporter of pop music, behind the United States and Great Britain?

Church-State Separation

The separation between the Swedish church and the state became effective as of 1 January. This is a historical event, because the Swedish church has been a

state church since the days of Gustav Vasa, i.e., the 16th century. The separation involves privatizing church property valued at about SEK 30 billion, including buildings and cemeteries. Until now, all Swedish citizens became members of the Lutheran state church automatically upon birth.

— From Vestkusten, 1/15/00

District 12 Convention

The 2000 district convention is coming up on April 28-30. Delegates from Monitor Lodge will be Elizabeth Swenson, Michael Churkin and Ray and LaVerne Griffith. David and Dee Benson are alternates. In addition, Carol Churkin, our lodge cultural leader, will attend in her capacity as District Cultural Leader. Also attending are Myrtle Widmark as a member of the Executive Board and Margaret Carlson as District Historian.

Deadline

for the May newsletter is **Monday, April 10**. Please send input to Ingrid Kennedy, 10582 Apple Grove Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-2317. Or you can send it to e-mail address iken@gvn.net.

New Editor

After this issue, I'll be able to do only two more before getting out of town. Although I am both putting the newsletter together and doing the mailing, these jobs used to be split on two people in the past. They can be split up again, so you can volunteer for both jobs or for either one.

"Med en enkel tulipan

uppå bemärkelseda'n,
vi har den äran,
vi har den äran att gratulera"

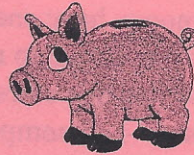


4/01 - Robert Barrett
4/02 - Millie Johnson
4/02 - Violet DeBord
4/03 - Harry Johnson
4/05 - Lennart Anderson
4/05 - Bertil Erickson
4/05 - Beckie Oleson
4/07 - Jamie Canaday
4/08 - Harold Mattson
4/11 - Sven-Erik Carlsson
4/20 - Michelle Kauffman
4/21 - David Dorey
4/23 - Ronny Kagstrom
4/23 - Christina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

Swedes Own Lots of Stocks

Anybody who thinks Sweden is a socialist country might be surprised to know that the real national movement in Sweden today seems to be stock ownership. Two out of three Swedes over age 16 own stocks and that makes Sweden a world leader, when it comes to the number of citizens putting their savings into stocks.

An industrial magazine (Dagens Industri) makes the observation that in the present situation in Sweden, the old contrast between work and capital looks completely different: a majority of the people, rich and poor, urban and rural, and of all political stripes, are indeed capitalists today. (From Vestkusten, 2/15/00)



April Dues Anniversaries

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

Annabel Audet
June Brown
Ethel Hubbell
Art and Donna 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, Johanna Benker, 7881 Charlotte Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688. If you would like a receipt or membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

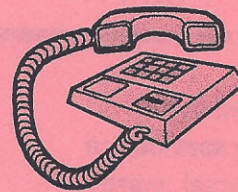
Please call Johanna (707/446-2718) if you have questions or if there are errors on this list.

Birgitta's Swedish Sentences

Swedish: Ge (giv) mig ditt telefonnummer
Sounds like: Ye may ditt (as in ditto) tellefawn nummer (u as in between the oo in good and the u in hut)
English: Give me your telephone number

Swedish: I morgon bitti
Sounds like: I (as in Indian) morron bittj (both i's as in Indian)
English: Tomorrow morning [usually early]

Swedish: Jag önskar att du får mycket roligt både idag och hela nästa år
Sound like: Ya önskar (ö as in shaping lips into a square; d a as in some) att (a as in some) dew fawr roolit bawde (as in fawn; e as in get) ee da ock hela (e as in get; a as in some) nesta (e as in nest; a as in some) aar (as in fawn)
English: I wish you a lot of fun both today and the whole next year [a birthday wish]



Swedish News

You can find news from Sweden on International Channel #82, Sacramento, at 2:00 pm Mondays through Fridays.

Sweden in the News

"Shining Stockholm" is the headline of a much talked-about article in Newsweek (February International Edition) also prominently featured on the first page of Vestkusten (1 Mar 00). The article (by Newsweek correspondent Stryker Mcguire) can be found on Web site www.newsweek.com, if you'd would like to read it in its entirety.

Among other things, this very long article describes the Swedish company Framfab (short for *Framtidsfabrik*, or Future Factory). Founded in 1995 and owned by 29-year old Jonas Birgersson, it is now the largest Internet consultancy in Europe and the third largest in the world. Just as Bill Gates years ago saw a world in which a PC graced every desktop, Birgersson sees one in which there is universal, warp-speed access to the Internet via mobile phones as well as computers.

A cadre of young entrepreneurs and researchers has put Sweden at the very forefront of two key information technologies: wireless communication and what is called true broadband, the connections or "pipes" that carry

data at up to 20 times the speed of the cable-TV modems now spreading across the United States. This has enormous significance for Sweden, which is simultaneously the most wired and most wireless country in the world, and for newly hip Stockholm, which has become the European capital of the Internet. The Swedish economy, a "wreck" less than 10 years ago according to this article, has bounced back. Prosperity and creativity have turned Stockholm into a Scandinavian Seattle—a place where a new mood and new money have energized everything from design to music. Sweden is, writes this correspondent, "young, hot—and competitive."

Communication has long been crucial in Sweden, with a small population of 8.9 million people (barely more than greater

... simultaneously the most wired and most wireless country in the world ...

London) spread across an often inhospitable land mass only a little larger than California. Swedes loved the telephone when it was new (Stockholm in 1900 had more phones than London or Berlin) and they took to wireless phones and the Internet with equal enthusiasm. For generations they have learned English, now the language of the Internet, and they've done so in a lavishly funded state education system that also places a high value on science and engineering.

In the fields of wireless and broadband, Sweden is "the most

advanced consumer test-bed on the planet—far ahead of the rest of Europe and the United States," says the American technology forecaster Paul Saffo.

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 Lisa Bleasdale, 366-7313
- Secretary Arlene Ericson, 736-3923
- Vice Chairman Don Carlson, 783-0262
- Chairman David Benson, 933-5502

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. Unfortunately, it's all we can afford. We hope that in the meantime, you have decided to join the lodge and keep receiving the newsletter.

When someone has received six issues and has decided against joining, it will still be possible to stay on the mailing list for \$10 a year. If you have received six free issues and do not plan to join Monitor, please send your subscription check to:

Johanna Benker
Monitor Financial Secretary
7881 Charlotte Lane
Vacaville, CA 95688

The Vikings Are Coming!



About 15 Viking ships are expected to gather at L'Anse Aux Meadows, Newfoundland, this summer for the 1000-year anniversary of Leif Erikson's landing

in North America. Ships are coming from many countries. For example, Sweden will send seven ships, Iceland one, Denmark two, Norway two, and even Poland and the Netherlands will send one ship each.

Most of the Viking ships will be transported to North America by merchant vessels, but one ship from Stockholm intends to sail the whole way from Europe to "Vinland," starting in early May and following the Viking routes with many stops on the way. A large Icelandic ship will be sailing from Reykjavik to Greenland and Newfoundland at about the same time.

By August 6, most of the ships are expected to be ready to sail from Newfoundland,

following the east coast to celebrate the millennium event with weekend visits to Halifax, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore and with overnight stops in port cities in between. The chance to see the largest fleet of Viking ships ever to visit North America will probably not happen again in a lifetime.

For further information, check www.vikingtrail.org and www.leif2000.org. (From Vestkusten, 2/15/00)

Immigrants to Sweden

Every fourth child in Sweden has a foreign background. According to new information from the Swedish Central Bureau of Statistics, about 465,000 children in Sweden, almost 25 percent of all children, today have a foreign background. Either the children themselves or at least one of their parents were born in a country other than Sweden.

- Vestkusten, 3/1/00



Highest Skyscraper in Europe

The Swedish government last month approved plans for Sweden's and Europe's highest building. The controversial 85-stories high skyscraper will be built close to where the new Öresund Bridge lands on the Swedish side.

The glass tower will house a shopping center, a multitude of restaurants, night clubs, ten stories of offices, a hotel with 700 rooms, a fitness center with elaborate swimming facilities and an eventual casino.

- Vestkusten 3/1/00

Old Swedes

According to Vestkusten (2/15/00), Sweden, together with Italy, has the oldest population in the world: 17 percent of the population are age 65 or over. Sweden has a very low birthrate but, on the other hand, is among the top three countries in the world when it comes to longevity. Actually, the birth rate is so low that only the large number of immigrants saved the country from negative growth in 1999.

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Rummage Sale and Swedish Bake Sale

❖ **Saturday, May 6, 2000, 9 AM - 3 PM** ❖

at Wisteria Hall, 3830 U Street, Sacramento

Presented by the Monitor Lodge of the Vasa Order of America
a Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

❖ *Enjoy coffee with Swedish
coffee bread or lunch for a
very good price*



❖ *Contribute your unwanted items
and then come to do some great
shopping and eating*

❖ **Remember, one man's junk is another man's treasure** ❖

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

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