

CA

The Monitor

VASA ORDER OF AMERICA

A Swedish-American Fraternal Organization since 1896

Vol. 24. No. 7

August-September 2000

On Friday, September 1 our first meeting for the Fall season will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Wisteria Hall. As we begin our fall activities, we'll work on getting to know each other better. We will be initiating new members at this meeting. The nominating committee will report and we'll discuss future activities for the program for next year. There will be a suggestion sheet on the bulletin board where you can share your ideas for programs for next year, or mail them to our Secretary, Arlene Ericson.

Following the meeting there will be a cultural program and a nice *kaffekalas*. There will be no dinner but we're asking members to bring a plate of open-face sandwiches or a plate of cookies or coffee bread.

See you there.

Kräftskiva

Our great crayfish party will take place Saturday, August 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Kenneth and Peggy Carlson. The address is 6042 Lincoln Ave., Carmichael. Look for the Dala Horse on the lamp post. Call (916) 944-4990 if you need more information.

A short business meeting will precede the party and will begin at 6:00 p.m. for those interested.

The Lodge furnishes the crayfish, but we must charge \$5.00 per person to help defray part of the cost. The rest is *potluck*, so please bring a dish that will serve at least 12 people and also, a card table and chairs, if you have them.



Come and enjoy a real Swedish *kräftkalas* with special lanterns, aquavit, music and folkdancing. All ages are welcome to come join in the fun. It will be an evening you won't forget. You know how much fun it was last year.

- Margaret Carlson

(Note: We're glad to know that David Benson is up and about again. We were worried about you, David.)

Chairman's Message

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of Monitor Lodge. This message comes with best wishes for an enjoyable "rest of the summer". Dee and I look forward, with keen anticipation, to the opportunity to see all of you who will enjoy another Crayfish Party at the Carlsons'.

First of all, I am sending a salute to the officers and committee members who have served so ably in the first half of 2000. Your chairman looks forward to contributing, again in person, to an exceptional Vasa Lodge and enjoying the fellowship of Monitor's members.

A special thanks to:

Vice Chairman, Don Carlson, for his able leadership.

The Churkins for hosting a very successful *Midsommar*.

Brian Stockham for producing this newsletter.

On a personal note, Dee and I are deeply appreciative for the many cards, phone calls, personal visits, good wishes and prayers in our time of need. What a privilege it has been to experience Monitor in action, carrying out the creed of Vasa.

In Truth and Unity,

-David Benson

June 2 Business meeting

1. A \$500.00 scholarship was awarded to Daniel Canaday.
2. New member Willis Bill Johnson was initiated.
3. Ingegerd Kennedy was recognized for her Newsletter service with a certificate of appreciation.
4. Two corrections to the May 16th minutes for a \$200.00 donation (not \$250.00) to (name correction) Deseret Industries.
5. All correspondence and previous meeting minutes will be posted on the bulletin board during Lodge meetings.
6. Members making donations on behalf of Vasa to WEAVE, Deseret Industries, or other organizations, please forward receipts to Lodge secretary.
7. Chaplain reported that David Benson and Eivor Pfannkuch were recovering from surgery.
8. Margaret Carlson requested a receipt for \$75.00 for making and donation of the altar cloth
9. Members are encouraged to assist with cleanup after Lodge events.

—Arlene Ericson

Planning Meeting

Program planning for the year 2001 will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19. If you have some good ideas, please bring them to the meeting or let Chairman David Benson know what activities you'd like included in next year's program. If you're happy with what we've been doing, we'd appreciate knowing that, too.

Congratulations!

Members David and Dee Benson, and Don and Joyce Johnson recently celebrated 50th wedding anniversaries

Other Upcoming Events

September 22-24 – Scandi-fest in the Stanislaus Country Fairgrounds, Turlock. Call (209) 667-1452 for more information

October 6 - Lodge meeting. *Kåldolmar & rotmos* dinner, business meeting and election of officers for 2001.

Nal Och Trad

Needle and Thread

Everyone is welcome to a meeting **Wednesday, August 16th** at the home of Myrtle Widmark. Bring a brown-bag lunch - beverage and dessert will be provided. We will inventory all supplies and determine what type of box to use for storage. Bring along any ads for storage possibilities that we might purchase. These will be stored at Wisteria Hall. Also, bring articles finished or currently in progress. Direct any questions to Myrtle at 481-4056 or Dorothy Scherer at 967-6809.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, September 5th** at the home of Ethel Johnson, at 10:00 a.m. Bring a brown-bag lunch.

Scandinavian Midsommer Festival, Astoria, Oregon

After hearing about the Astoria Festival for several years, I and a friend, Ethel King, decided to attend this year, June 16th-18th. The drive up, Thursday, June 15th included an

overnight stay in Ashland, Oregon to see the Shakespeare Play, Henry V.

We drove to Astoria, Friday and, that evening, attended the Coronation of Miss Scandinavia, Britta Lyn Blair (Miss Finland) for the coming year. Following the coronation, a hex-burning bonfire was built in the parking lot followed by the Queen's Ball.

Saturday included a breakfast, vendors' booths of foods and handicrafts, Vasa pea soup lunch, Flag Ceremony and Maypole-raising along with music and dancing during the afternoon. A meatball dinner was sponsored by the Swedish Order of Vasa.

Monitor members Len and Millie Sernholt were there, also. Coincidentally, Ethel and Millie had attended the same elementary school - truly, "It's a small world".

The Festival was an enjoyable experience. Anyone going that way in June would have a good time there.

—Myrtle Widmark

Birgitta's Swedish Sentences

A Swedish birth announcement - En Svensk födelse annons

Swedish	Tess Helen föddes den nionde juni år 2000.
Sounds like	Tess Helen <i>föd-des</i> (ö as in <i>für</i> , short vowel; <i>dd</i> as in <i>D</i> avid; <i>es</i> , as in <i>E</i> lsa) <i>den</i> (e as in English "den") <i>nionde</i> (i as in <i>I</i> ndian; <i>o</i> as in <i>o</i> ften; <i>e</i> as in <i>E</i> lsa) <i>juni</i> (j as in <i>y</i> ellow; i as in <i>I</i> ndian) år (<i>å</i> as in <i>r</i> aw) <i>två</i> (<i>tv</i> is a one letter sound; <i>å</i> as in <i>r</i> aw) <i>tusen</i> (<i>u</i> as lips are held for whistling - a long <i>u</i> sound - like "teoo - sen").
English	Tess Helen was born on the ninth of June year 2000.
Swedish	Hon är dotter till Chris Ellis och Jennie Brook-Ellis.
Sounds like	<i>Hon</i> (o as in <i>g</i> ood, short vowel) <i>är</i> (ä as in <i>e</i> as in English "den") <i>till</i> (as in "until") Chris Ellis <i>och</i> (<i>ch</i> as in <i>c</i> ome) Jennie Brook-Ellis.
English	Tess Helen is the daughter of Chris Ellis and Jennie Brook-Ellis.
Swedish	Russ och Birgitta Ellis är Tess farfar och farmor.
Sounds like	Russ <i>och</i> (o as in <i>o</i> ften; <i>ch</i> as in <i>c</i> ome) <i>är</i> (ä as in English "den") <i>farfar</i> (a as in <i>s</i> ome) och <i>farmor</i> (o as in <i>f</i> ood).
English	Russ and Birgitta Ellis are Tess' paternal grandparents (pater in paternal = father' side)
Swedish	Vi är så glada.
Sounds like	Vi (rhymes with English "We") är (ä as in English "den") <i>så</i> (as in English "soar") <i>glada</i> (a as in English "paw").
English	We are so happy.

Note

The preceding Swedish/English sentences are, in actuality, also a birth announcement for the Ellis' new granddaughter!

Deadline

for the October newsletter is **Saturday, September 9**. Items not received by this date stand the risk of not being included in this issue.

Please send input to:

Arlene Ericson
1700 41st Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

Happy Birthday

August

8/01/40 - Carl E. Larson
8/03/68 - Christie Peterson
8/05/08 - Sigrid Thorsen
8/06/29 - David Benson
8/07/31 - Louise Center
8/08/47 - Jeanne Hansen
8/08/43 - Durl Van Alstyne
8/08/43 - Tom M. Anderson
8/14/6? - Sandrine Soderberg
8/15/37 - Lars Ostlund
8/15/42 - Larry M. Hultquist
8/17/33 - Elizabeth Bushnell
8/19/07 - Charles Badgley
8/26/43 - Birgitta Ostlund
8/28/43 - Jillian Stanley
8/29/17 - Dorothy Kingren
8/29/36 - Gail Nemy

8/30/46 - Birgitta Kanna-Coffey

September

9/02/39 - Anne Miller
9/02/48 - Yvonne Magneheim
9/04/36 - Erika Lewis
0/05/79 - Emily Carlson
9/06/33 - Carol Churkin
9/07/30 - Kenneth Olson
9/12/48 - Peggy Carlson
9/16/24 - Arlie Veis
9/18/57 - Lin Anderson
9/20/43 - Joesie Hennig
9/21/13 - Ethel Hubbell
9/23/37 - Britt Marie Anderson
9/23/32 - Gloria Braswell
9/29/16 - Estrid Doscher
9/30/45 - Barbara Anderson
9/30/58 - Helge Lind

August and September Dues Anniversaries

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

In August

Carl E. Larson

In September

Dee Benson

David Benson

Karna Boyer

Richard Boyer

Elsa Cisar

Laurine Coplen

Ingrid Gilchrist

Raymond Griffith

Kerstin Herrmann

Camilla Holm

Gilbert Holm

Larry Hultquist

Don Johnson

Joyce Johnson

Osten, Evy, Yvonne Magneheim

Leah McLann

Maureen O'Shay

Mindy Patterson

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

Scandinavian Dance

There will be a beginning and intermediate dance workshop and party in Shingle Springs on Saturday, August 26th, 2000.

4:30 - 6:00 potluck dinner

6:30 - 8:00 dance instruction

8:00 - 11:00 dance party

Cost: \$6.00

Call (530) 672-2926 for more information or e-mail curzay@directcon.net.

Swedish Classes

Birgitta Ellis' beginning Swedish Language class starts on Tuesday, September 12 from 7:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.. The class will be held at 2224 Beaumont at the corner of Arden. For additional information, call Birgitta at (916) 920-0696.

The date has not yet been set for LaVerne Gullans' advanced Swedish Class. For further details, call LaVerne at (916) 485-2609.

Inventory

The Trustees and Auditors have been taking inventory of Lodge possessions in our storage room at Wisteria Hall.

If anyone has any Lodge material, please bring it to our next meeting to be inventoried.

Members have also started an inventory of the kitchen cupboards. There are some items that are not used, or that belong to members. These will

be out on a table at the September 1st meeting. If you see something that belongs to you, TAKE IT. Anything left unclaimed will be sold and the monies donated. Anything left unsold will be donated. If you can help, please call Ellen Harrod at (916) 362-5273.

In Loving Memory

Sue Bergman on March 27, 2000; Evelyn Anderson on April 16, 2000; Cecil Spencer on April 26, 2000; Marjorie Skicklig on June 11, 2000 and Robert Johnson.

The members of the Lodge extend their deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the members who passed away.

The Very Interesting Tale of Sophie Swanson

Sophie Draga Natalie Morjin Swanson was born in Yokohama, Japan in 1908 to Yugoslav parents. Not much is known about her past, except that she resided in many different countries and was fluent in several languages.

Old correspondence and photos indicate that she lived in Italy, China, Philippines, Japan and the United States. She also traveled to France, Monaco, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Greece, Hong Kong, California, Chicago and New York.

She is remembered by colleges and friends for being a very private person with a heart of gold. Robert Young (brother

to one of Sophie's friends) recalls: "My brother and I were interned in Santo Tomas (a civilian prisoner-of-war camp near Manila). My mother and my other little brother were dying and the commandant had let them live outside the camp. Sophie used her influence with the commandant to release us to be with my mother for the week before she died and, later, did the same thing when my brother died. She helped us and others, and we were very appreciative of her."

(1)

Sophie also found time to work as a bilingual secretary for the Shiro Trading Company, later for the Toho Film Company in Tokyo and wrote short stories and poetry for various foreign and domestic newspapers.

She came to the United States in 1974 and eventually married Harry Swanson in 1979. Harry was a retired PG&E employee. They traveled around Northern California and were active at senior citizens' centers. They were also members of Monitor Lodge. The couple called Sacramento their new home.

In 1988, Harry passed away at the age of 90. Sophie was killed by a veterinary van on 33rd Street in December 1999 at the age of 91.

"...Sophie lived in a small cottage on 33rd Street which was barely habitable. At 91, she lived on the edge of poverty with stray cats and wore old clothing and a decaying wig that often would slide to an angle on her head. Back bent by age, she collected cans and other recyclables..." (1)

said her neighbors. However, as neighbors later found out, Sophie had left more than \$373,000 in her bank accounts to a dozen charities.

"I think it's tragic what happened to her, but at the same time, I'm grateful to have someone who thought about the poor and the suffering around her," said Leroy Chatfield, former director of Loaves and Fishes.

"The most interesting tale is, perhaps, the one in which we live. Some stories we do not tell anyone. Some people say nothing but their lives are easy enough for others to read. And there are people whose lives are wrapped up in mystery," (1) wrote Sophie Swanson in one of her columns for the *Asahi Weekly* back in 1975.

Sophie was a valuable asset to our Lodge and her presence is greatly missed. Ted Bell wrote a full article about her in the June 11, 2000 issue of the *Sacramento Bee*.

(1) Source: Sacramento Bee

—Arlene Ericson

Seminar Cancelled

The District Cultural Seminar scheduled for **October 7** has been cancelled. Please give consideration to attending the Swedish Council of America Conference on **October 14** (brochure included at end of newsletter). The quality of the symposium speakers and their subject matter, the workshops available and the opportunity to interface with other Swedish

groups make this an excellent chance to recharge batteries, pick up ideas and learn. Please put **October 14** on your calendar for this once-in-your-lifetime event.

Omission

The names of Donald and Joyce Johnson were unintentionally omitted from the listing of members receiving membership awards. Both Donald and Joyce have been Vasa members for **twenty-five years**. Congratulations on such a notable record, and apologies for the omission from the earlier news item.

Midsummer at Meridian

On June 24, members of Monitor and Sierra Kronan Lodges enjoyed a highly successful and well-attended Midsummer celebration at Michael and Carol Churkin's *stuga* at Meridian, on the Sacramento River.

An enthusiastic group decorated and raised the *maj stång*. Many members then joined in the traditional dancing around the pole. Music was provided by Dale Ingvarsen, who set up and operated the sound system, and by Tom Anderson, who played the keyboard.

Michael Churkin gave an informative talk describing the geology of the Sacramento Valley. He also talked about local history and the operation of the family ranch. Visitors were given a ranch tour.

The property is located in a

scenic area along a levee and close to a historic bridge.

Later in the day, there was group singing. Everyone enjoyed afternoon coffee, and a bountiful potluck dinner. Many thanks for a wonderful time to the Churkins, who have graciously offered to host another Midsummer event next year.

- Dorothy Scherer

Midsummer Reflections - 2000

Midsummer has passed and memories linger into early Fall. A comparison between the English May celebration and the Swedish Midsummer suggest that maybe each has borrowed a little from the other, as customs in Europe tended to travel by word of mouth.

In May, as you walk in the lush countryside of Southern England before sunset, you will see what is called "club walking" - a large group of young women waking in a circle in their own village. Each girl is wearing a white dress, yet each dress is of a different hue, not like any of the others. A few girls may wear a red ribbon in their hair. In one hand they hold a bouquet of flowers. As they walk, a face is lit up, showing a youthful mouth, an expectant face, a dreamy look, thinking of their future dreams and hopes. Some faces are very young and innocent, some proud, others hesitant.

All in all, Spring is moving into Summer. These young girls on the threshold of womanhood are celebrating youth and

Summer's glory - God's gift to us through nature's wonder. Later, the onlookers, most of them young men, will ask their girl to dance as the music is played. Many passers-by stop and look, taking in the scene.

In Sweden, especially, Midsummer is our ode to the beautiful summer nights when the sun is setting late. This is also a day of expectation, donning folk costumes, collecting leaves and wildflowers to dress the Midsummer pole. All ages participate, yet it is night for the young girls, dreaming and hoping that they will meet a sweetheart. Early this eve they have picked seven wildflowers, which each girl will put under her pillow and they will dream dreams that they hope will come true.

This June, Monitor Lodge celebrated Midsummer's Eve at Mike and Carol Churkin's *liten röd stuga* (little red house) in Meridian. We danced to Swedish music around the Midsummer pole decked with flowers and enjoyed refreshments, food and baked goods. A day of friendship and praising summer's glory in its fullest, walking along, enjoying the view of the Sacramento River bank near the old Meridian bridge, the crabs at the water's edge. We were creating memories of another Midsummer.

- Birgitta Ellis

Congratulations

Michelle Kauffman was tied for 3rd place among District lodges

for having sponsored 9 new members in 1999.

Address Changes

Daniel Backman
3939 Walnut Ave. #146
Carmichael, CA 95608

Joy Carlson (former member)
1296 Gold Pan Drive
Roseville, CA 95661

Linnea Carlson
c/o Azavedo
3 Gregor Lane
Novato, CA 94947-2821

Birgitta Kanna-Coffey
4985 Primrose Drive
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Nani Lofstrom (Framat Lodge)
412 Richmond St., #B
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Brian & Jill Stockham
P.O. Box 2003
Elk Grove, CA 95759
(Mailing address change, only)

Ingrid Kennedy
c/o Morrison
425 Larry Lane
Placentia, CA 92870

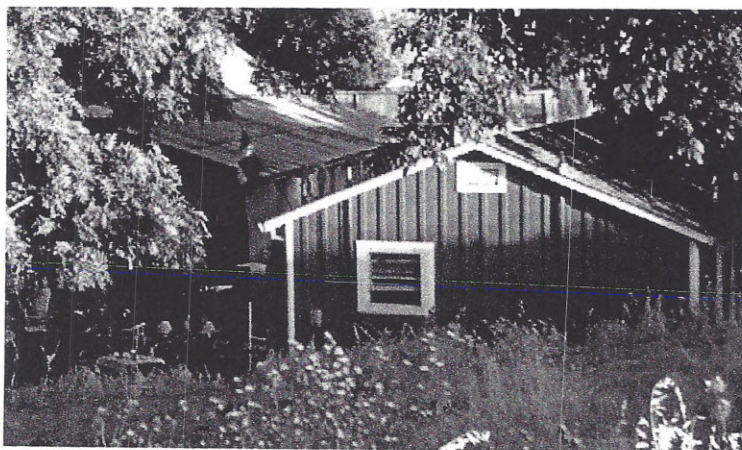
For More Information

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



Our *Midsommar* Host and Hostess, Michael and Carol Churkin.



Liten röd Stuga in Meridian



Monitor's *Midsommar* Melody-makers

(left to right) Tom Anderson, Don Carlson, Birgitta Ostlund, Birgitta Ellis, Lisa Bleasdale and Jill Stockham.