

# Swedish American Patriotic League

est. 1895 - Celebrating 125 years!

## What's going on around the League? October 2020

**Wow!** We're celebrating our 125<sup>th</sup> year of amazing culture & history in quite an unusual fashion this year... **Virtually!** But we're still celebrating the many 'good' things going on around the League. It has been our goal to reach out to our Clubs & Lodges to find out how their inquire about all the ways they are unusual times...Swedes find some busy! **In lieu of our usual September newsletter is chock-full of members. It summarizes reports for Scandinavian Culture, and Sveadal.** and we extend our heartfelt wishes to to the Swedish American Patriotic ones have remained sane and healthy, as we know it has NOT been easy with the pandemic, prolific fires, and everything in between! The League also sends a huge thank you to all our Committee Chairs & Members who have worked through these tough times to keep things going.

Your Board of Directors hard at work!



members are doing, as well as to staying connected during these very creative activities to keep **League meeting this year, this information to pass on to your League Events, Swedish &** We love our members immensely ALL in the community that belong League. Hoping you & your loved

**Together we will find ways to adapt & come back better than ever! "Till Din Hälsa – To Your Health!"**

Kirsten Baughman President, & your SAPL Board of Directors





# League Events:

## **Sveadal is Good for the Soul!**

Join us for a **"SOUL - SKOL"** Non-Event-Virtual-Raffle-Fundraiser:

We'd love for you & your members to join in! We have all missed our usual shenanigans in Sveadal this year...please join us this Fall to

**"Raise Some Funds & Your Glasses"** and let us know what you and your



families have missed most this year. There will be fun raffle prizes to get us back to the place we love! Without our Summer & Rental program, we have not had income this year so your participation will be much appreciated! Stay tuned for information which will go out shortly and will be posted on our website. If you have raffle items you'd like to donate, please contact Kirsten Baughman or Rob Green.



# **126<sup>th</sup> Swedish Midsummer Festival**

(Linnea Chapman & Marta Ryan, Chairs)

It was fabulous to see everyone's pictures on Facebook from Midsummers past...there are so many years of wonderful memories and it is important, now more than ever, to make sure we carry this historic tradition forward! Please see the Nordstjernen article by Ted Olsson describing the collective spirit we were all able to emulate for this year's SAPL Midsummer. Thank you for celebrating with us virtually. Excited to start planning our 127<sup>th</sup> celebration for next year.



# SVEADAL'S 2020 BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY: HAPPY 94<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY SVEADAL!



*Crown Prince and Crown Princess with Dedication Plaque, 1926.*

In 1926, Sveadal was dedicated by the Crown Prince & Princess of Sweden, and again in 1988 by Princess Christina. Sveadal is the League's Cultural Heritage Center and continues to bring the Swedish/American community together in the most beautiful & majestic setting. Organizations from around the League

participate in many cultural & social events and create the amazing memories that shape our history. As an added bonus, we are all

volunteers who have had a hand in maintaining Sveadal for our future generations. Stay tuned for what we have planned for 2021! And we will start preparing for Sveadal's 100<sup>th</sup> in 2026, hoping for another Royal event! (Carol Madigan, Chair)



## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



### Swedish American Patriotic League

125 years of amazing Swedish tradition & history - Celebrating our momentous occasion virtually in 2020! We were looking forward to a great event this fall at the beautiful Swedish Hall, but have postponed an event until next year...stay tuned for a fabulous celebratory event of Swedish & Scandinavian fun to continue the celebration of 125+ years while looking ahead to a vibrant future of this next generation! [MARK YOUR CALENDAR for October 2021 - details & locale TBD](#)

(Karen Van Horn & Twinkle Peterson Chairs)



### Missing Labor Day Weekend Swim Races & Aquacade in Sveadal this year





## News – Events – Special Messages from All (12) Organizations of the SAPL

*Each of our Clubs & Lodges host cultural & social events, and we encourage all of our members to inquire and participate! The more we do together (virtually), the more we will stay connected. Thank you for continuing to bring Scandinavian traditions...to your own backyards this year!*

- **Framåt Lodge (est. 1921 - 35 members):** President Diane Maynard:  
Framåt Lodge has not met since spring in order to make sure members stay healthy, as many are high risk. The group missed the League's Midsummer celebration this year and seeing all the folks in Sveadal. Not planning to resume until it is safe and trying to stay connected by phone. Some of our members have joined in on virtual activities from other clubs around the League.
- **Fylgia Lodge (est. 1907 – 38 members)** Chair and Cultural Leader, Scott Schulkin, PhD  
Well, this has certainly been a unique year! When our families arrived in this country, typically, they banded together to meet the challenges in this new and unfamiliar place and to provide mutual support.  
Interesting, then, that on the 125th anniversary of the Swedish American Patriotic League, we find ourselves in a similar position, in an unfamiliar landscape. We are not unlike our immigrant relatives - searching for safety, a sense of community, and connection with others familiar with our ways. As Chair of Fylgia, I moved quickly to be sure to keep our members safe. I canceled a cooking class at the last minute, just a few days before the lockdown was announced. I put the rest of our calendar on hold, effective immediately.  
Fylgia Lodge, and the family-like connections we have made, have been really important to my family and me. I have also seen that amongst our members. Bringing the past into the present, the realization that we could have Zoom meetings has allowed us to meet, connect, and move forward, albeit in a modified form.  
While we have moved solely to zoom meetings, I have seen the great joy members and friends have had in the simple act of connecting. Particularly in these unusual times. Our Zoom meetings have been a great source of connection.  
We have held several meetings (a couple of fikas, an infusion, a couple of cooking classes, midsummer, and Crayfest). They have all been a lot of fun.  
For Midsummer, I sent out links to videos showing how to make flower crowns and links for kits from Amazon. A week or two before, we held a cooking class to talk about the foods and showing a few that we made in preparation (a couple of kinds of sil, a couple of different types of gravlax). On the day of midsummer, about two dozen members and friends gathered via zoom. We shared our decorations, flower crowns, prepared foods, and played Swedish music in the background. Several people had miniature maypoles they showed off as well. Sure, no one danced to små grodorna, but we had a great time!  
Most recently, we held Crayfest. This was our ninth year! Unlike past years, with live music and dancing - this year, we "Zoomed." Like our relatives, we collaborated to make this happen. A few of us distributed specially prepared food from Nordic House. On a Saturday in August, thirty-four of us gathered in small groups, shared stories, ate crayfish, checked in, and sang snapsvisor. Sven Chilton (from Sveaborg Lodge) led us. We quickly realized he needed to sing the song the first time. Then we could read the lyrics from the screen and APPROXIMATE what the song MIGHT sound like, as we all sang together the second time. No matter what, it was super fun.

Looking forward:

-Unfortunately, our Leif Eriksson Day and International Aquavit Competition are on hold. Luckily, that gives people time to perfect recipes, and prepare fun presentations. Let's see what next time brings!

-This year Fylgia Lodge was honored to have the ability to choose the Midsummer Queen. Since we had this unusual year, we are excited to be represented next year and hopefully have our wonderful Sveadal midsummer celebration

-I was on the Vasa District 12 executive board for several years. At that time, I noticed that the lodges were atrophying. I emphasized the need to reinforce the inter-connectedness of our lodges in order to survive and thrive. For a number of years on the executive board, I created multi-lodge events. During the year I was District Master, a major focus for me was to develop multi-lodge events and to try to support and emphasize the interconnectedness of our lodges.

-This year, I have seen the Swedish American Patriotic League President Kirsten Baughman on a similar mission. She has worked to emphasize the uniqueness of SAPL, Sveadal, and the umbrella of the League. Her focus on the inter-connectedness of the constituent organizations, forming a LEAGUE has been really important and refreshing for me. As I noted above, this year has highlighted the issues of isolation and connection. Knowing for myself, and witnessing for our family, Fylgia Lodge, and friends, the importance of connection - I really want to commend the League on its timely and crucial message of connection and inter-dependency. This message rings out now more important than ever. I am excited to be able to return to a time when we can jointly celebrate our heritage and our connections with each other!

- **Charles Lindbergh Lodge (est. 1927 – 105 members):** President Dave Jansson  
Message from T.J. Naim, Secretary of Lindbergh Lodge #494 and SAPL Delegate:  
Our regular March 2020 meeting was set for Friday the 13th. The Covid19 rumblings of the preceding days were heavy on us. Chairman Dave Jansson gave it some thought and consultation and then decided to cancel our meeting. The following Monday the county announced its shelter-in-place order. Six months on and we've not been able to meet and share our fellowship. It looks very much like this will be the status quo through 2020 and into 2021. Members do check on each other. Our oldest member, Chuck Wallin, is with us and has allowed some of us to shop for him. They got through a similar crisis in 1918 (into 1919), we'll get through this in 2020 (and 2021). In Truth & Unity T. J. Naim.
- **Svea Lodge (est. 1916 – 120 members)** President Vicki Fedor-Thurman:  
Svea Lodge continues to meet each month using Zoom! Svea's usual meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, and September's meeting will be a cultural program given by a member that lives in Sweden. The Lodge continues to distribute, via email, the excellent SveaBladet newsletter to keep everyone informed. *(Glad to hear joyful singing as part of the lodge meetings to celebrate fellowship! – kb)*
- **Sveaborg Lodge (est 1924 – 120 members)** President Sven-Ove Westberg:  
The name "Sveaborg" is also the name of an island-fortress located in Finland, and home to the oldest, operational "dry-dock" in Europe. This year the Sveaborg Lodge is in their own "dry-dock"- waiting out the pandemic! Members would like to be able to get together and have meaningful meetings, but know that not everyone should be out. Much of the group is not online, so each is doing what they can to stay busy at home. Some have been researching genealogy, but ALL are eager and waiting to fill their Swedish social calendars once again.

- **SveadalCLUB (est 1949 – 320 members)** President, Sonya Ramsey:  
Well, we all miss seeing each other this year, but the SveadalCLUB has continued on with activities that we were able to! This has been a very hard summer but we did enjoy the times we could connect and enjoy each other's company, whether it was virtually or socially distanced!  
This summer we were able to go forward with our annual Golf Tournament! We all had a fabulous time in the hot, hot sun! We had our first and second ever Virtual Bingo games. It was nice to be able to join in on a simple summer staple. Sometimes it is the little things that we miss most.  
In May, we decided to cancel our CLUB meeting thinking we would just be missing 1. Now we are planning our next one where we will hold our first ever Virtual Zoom meeting. Hopefully we will get a good turn out and everything goes smooth. We never guessed we would have to look to technology to even conduct our meetings but here we are.  
We are disappointed that we will not be together this year for our usual Lucia celebration. Lucia, Star Boys, Santa, Presents, Gingerbread Houses, Pepperkakor and Glogg will all have to be enjoyed at home this year, but we will find a way to keep our tradition alive, even if it is virtual.  
The SveadalCLUB and all of its members are looking forward to times where we can all be together again and engage in our regular routines. Until then, we will continue to find ways to connect even when we are all apart. Skal!

- **Sveadal Cabin Owners (est 1974 – 150 members)** President Mark Hanley:  
Cabin Owners will be having their Closing meeting 10/4 at 10:00 am over Zoom.

***\*\*Special Message to Cabin Owners from League President Kirsten Baughman\*\****

*(Acknowledging that Mark has worked tirelessly with the League's Grounds, Water, & Fire Committees this summer!)*  
*For all of us, this year has been full of many sacrifices & inconveniences! But we understand the importance of this community, and that many of you took the opportunity to visit your cabins as a safe respite from all of the chaos. And for those of you holding off on travel, we're looking forward to seeing you when you get here! But there were many projects being accomplished around individual cabins and we are very appreciative of all that defensible space clearing! We're hoping that you and your families were able to find new adventures, or appreciate Sveadal's natural wonders just a bit more this summer- away from it all.*  
*The League thanks our Cabin Owners, as always, for being the eyes, ears, & muscle in Sveadal, and glad you were able to enjoy some serenity. Celebrating everyone's continued diligence & kindness as we all heal and rebound to get back to the place we love. - kb*

- **Swedish Club Bay Area (est 1913 – 180 members)** President Marita Leth:  
Congratulations to SAPL *(on 125 years)* & Sveadal *(on the 94th Anniversary)*!  
We appreciate all you do and have done for so many years to keep the Swedish culture alive here in the Bay Area. The Swedish Club had our first Zoom Board meeting for the season. Normally we are busy planning for the annual Crayfish party and Christmas celebration by now, but this year everything is different. With all the State and County restrictions we are putting all social activities on hold. We are considering adding a virtual book club instead. It is a challenge to maintain interest in a social club with the current limitations. Hälsningar!

- **Swedish Ladies Society of San Francisco (est 1896 – 50 members)** President Karen Van Horn  
 Greetings from the Swedish Ladies Society of San Francisco, hoping you & your family are staying healthy and safe during this challenging time. It is so difficult to see so many suffering in our communities. We all are doing as well as can be expected and healthy. The Swedish Ladies had not been meeting due to COVID19 restrictions and then went to our standard “dark” mode during summer months. Our Sunshine Lady, Karen Healey and Secretary Sandy Armstrong have stayed in touch throughout this time with our membership and reported out. We had our first Zoom Happy Hour last week which was super fun and we voted in 4 new members! This brings our membership to a total of 50. We are working on fun virtual activities for the near future and super excited about plans to celebrate our 125th anniversary in 2021. Wishing you & yours all the best.
- **Swedish Men’s Society – Oakland (est 1901 – 4 members):** President Bob Homer:  
 The group usually gathers at a restaurant for their meetings, but has not been able to get together. These are very hard times, and they understand that it is better for everyone to be safe. Bob expresses that they miss going to Sveadal and connecting with the other clubs at the dinners. They may be a small group, but they are members of several other Swedish organizations as well. Hoping there is a solution soon so they can continue.
- **Swedish Society – San Francisco (est 1873 – 68 members)** President Peggy Bley:  
 The Swedish Society has not met since their annual meeting in February and members have been following the pandemic orders. San Francisco has had some of the most stringent rules in the region, and the master tenants of the Swedish Hall are experiencing those strict regulations, having to cancel all events & activities. During these extraordinary times, there is concern for the health of members, as well as the health of others around the League. However, with this unexpected break, there is hope that members will come back healthy and more energized than ever to continue promoting our very important Swedish heritage here in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Looking forward to better times.
- **Tegnér Lodge (est 1908 – 35 members)** Chair Ken Weissenborn:  
 Tegner Lodge #149 has been having regular zoom meetings on our regular meeting night, the third Thursday of each month. Our meetings usually consist of a check-in period when all members present get to talk and say how they are doing during the Covid19 pandemic. This is followed by celebrating any birthdays and then our program. The following programs have been held during the past few months: Susan Weissenborn talked about the differences in raising children in the United States and Sweden, Richard Orlando gave a presentation on Swedish wildflowers, and another on the history of the lawn game, Kubb. During our June meeting we all shared Midsummer memories from the past, as well as updates on Sveadal. During our last meeting, Kitty Hughes did a presentation on Hilma af Klint, whose paintings were the first western abstract art. At the last meeting we also initiated two new members and plan on initiating one more in October.



# Swedish & Scandinavian Cultural Connections:

- **Nordic Dancers – Sacramento Area:** [www.folkdance.com/scandi/](http://www.folkdance.com/scandi/)

This fun & energetic group graciously entertained all those who attended Leif Erickson Day in Sveadal last year, hosted by our very own Fylgia Lodge. Their costumes, history, music, and of course folk dancing bring our heritage to life. Scott Schulkin & Mimi Holtermann are working on finding ways to integrate the dance group into our League’s cultural activities, and this will be a great addition for adults & kids alike!

- **Zaida Singers:** <http://www.zaidasingers.org/index.html>

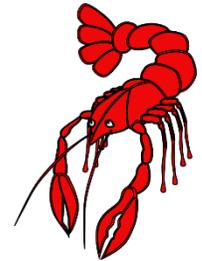
The Zaida Singers are dedicated to the preservation of Scandinavian vocal music, they love to sing, and create such a fun & wonderful traditional atmosphere. They are a group of folks we know well! You’ve heard them singing as showstoppers at our annual Midsummer celebrations.



- **The Swedish-American Central Association in Southern California** is celebrating their 100th year! Their momentous Midsummer program at Vasa Park, was unfortunately canceled this year as well due to the covid-19 pandemic. SAPL has extended a congratulatory note to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> year, as an outreach to celebrate our common missions & Swedish fellowship.

- **Nordic House – Berkeley:** <https://www.nordichouse.com/?v=f24485ae434a>

Once again, open for business! Offering imported Scandinavian foods and a plethora of imported goods.



- **Nordstjernen Swedish Publication:**

<http://www.nordstjernen.com/>

A great resource for all things Swedish...in America.

**Visit the website today & subscribe!** Our very own Ted Olsson has contributed many articles showcasing the Swedish American Patriotic League to help perpetuate our history & future.



- **“Award Winning” Swedish American Hall - Library & Archives:**

In Documents Past – History Revealed!

Honoring 125+ years of Swedish American History in the Bay Area. Documents, pictures, ledgers, publications, plaques, official letters, Royal connections, digital media, etc., all preserved, showcased, and accessible at the Swedish Hall, through the Swedish Society of San Francisco.



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We know there are more cultural connections! If your Organization would like to highlight any Scandinavian Cultural group or affiliate, please let us know!

# Sveadal – Morgan Hill

## (The League's Cultural Heritage Center & Recreation Grounds):

- **Covid19 Orders:** These have truly been strange times. As responsible property & facility owners, we've had the difficult task of researching, reviewing, and posting ALL official Orders, Directives, and Updates given to the League during this global pandemic. We have distributed these Orders to each of our Organizations, giving them every opportunity to educate their members on the rules while using Sveadal's facilities. If you have questions or concerns about our Covid19 Sveadal Facility Chart, please contact us. Orders continue to be modified by the State & County, and we will update & post all official links on our website. It is our obligation to stay in compliance with these Orders to keep our community safe, and we thank all Organizations for their cooperation! **-We Will Get Through This!**
- **Sveadal Facilities:** Sveadal grounds & pool have been available for use by ALL members and their families this summer! Please remember that our pool is regulated by the County and we have been given separate directives for this facility. Registration has been required for Contact Tracing compliance, and all official orders, rules, registration, and contact info have been accessible via our website. Your members have been able to take a dip in the pool, play basketball or tennis, take a hike around Sveadal's historical trail, and enjoy a picnic.....all while social distancing safely in the fresh air!
- **Events & Rentals:** We have been celebrating our events virtually, enjoying everyone's Facebook posts and pictures! We are looking forward to gathering again in the future even if it's in modified form because we miss everyone! As we have not been able to rent out facilities for members or events, we have not been able to bring in any income so will be finding "fun-ways to fund-raise" this next year.
- **Grounds, Infrastructure & Upkeep:** Sveadal remains beautiful, but maintained by our 'skeleton-crew' of Committees and Volunteers this summer - our Grounds Committee members have been priceless! The unexpected storms in August brought some major damage to our trees and a couple of cabins. We remain on high alert during this intense fire season, have been continuously clearing for defensible space, and are in communication with CalFire. The League was also awarded a grant for \$50k of defensible space clearing by the SCC Fire Safe Council, which will hopefully take place this fall! Water systems & pipes continue to be upgraded, and all hydrant standpipes are in working order. (Thank you to our Grounds, Tree, Water, & Fire Committees). Our Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) has been hard at work overseeing the repair, maintenance and replacement of the infrastructure of Sveadal. With the 4 new custom doors to the apartment bathrooms, that redo has been completed. The pool bathhouse roof has been replaced along with the extensive dry rot repairs, another project off the list! All the wood structures at the lower dance floor area (except the kitchen/bar building) have been sanded, stained and sealed to maintain and prolong the durability of our investment. Next up are plans to rebuild the rotting deck at



cabin 3 and install a generator to keep our water flowing when power goes out, along with a slew of other misc. repairs around the grounds. (Thank you to our CIC Committee for organizing, overseeing and prioritizing these much-needed projects). We were unable to corral our clubs this year for any Work-Weekends, but we do want to recognize that the SveadalCLUB has donated \$25,000 this year towards approved projects. WE ALL THANK YOU!!

- **Sveadal CABIN FOR SALE!!!:** A lovely cabin along Alec Creek is available for purchase by any SAPL Organization or their Members. Having active members with a cabin in Sveadal is such a great boost and is imperative to the community. If you are interested, please contact us via the website.



- **Legal/Road Update:** (Conor Massey, Zander Olsson, Laura Carlson)  
The lawsuit has been filed. Upon receipt, Santa Clara County requested, and we granted them, additional time to consider the claims and possible negotiated solutions before proceeding with the lawsuit, because the County had to divert its resources to deal with the Covid19 outbreak. We subsequently restarted discussions with the County to determine if a negotiated solution is possible instead of the lawsuit. Among other factors, there is a new Director of the Parks Department and he wanted the opportunity to review and learn about the situation. Our counsel has responded to their inquiries and provided the County with additional information and photographs illustrating our concerns. Since filing the lawsuit, we have had several meetings with the County, in person and by phone conference, about the underlying situation and possible solutions (including the possibility of physical limits to control traffic on the road). At our last meeting, the County was not prepared to pursue a negotiated settlement (including updated/gated points of entry to Sveadal). Accordingly, we are moving forward with the lawsuit and the County has been formally served. We are now awaiting an update from our attorney as to the initial court dates for the litigation. We will be in constant contact with our counsel about any developments, and will relay those as promptly as possible, under the circumstances.

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If you have questions at any time about any **League Reports**, please contact us at [www.sveadal.org/contact](http://www.sveadal.org/contact)  
If your Organization has ideas they'd like to share, please let us know so we can post on our website for all to access, and we look forward to seeing you on the League's very first Zoom meeting in November.

## **“Tack Sa Mycket”**

**Please continue doing everything you can to connect with our fellow members virtually, as there are still many ways to enjoy & perpetuate our Swedish traditions!**

**NEXT SAPL League Meeting: Monday, November 23, 2020 7pm Zoom**

**(Agenda & Zoom info will go out prior to the meeting)**

**Please remember to assign Delegates as needed.**

# Connect with us!

[www.sveadal.org](http://www.sveadal.org)

[SAPL FaceBook](#)

Your  
Swedish American Patriotic League  
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