



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

Vol. 19, No. 10

December 1995

BE SURE TO COME to our *Julkalas-Smörgåsbord-Glögg Party* on Friday, December 1, starting at 6:30 PM. This event is not open to the public, only to members and their special guests.

There will be no charge, but we would like you to bring something for our *smörgåsbord*. Please call Birgitta Ostlund at 682-2285 or Margaret Carlson at 742-9346 to find out what is needed. We also need help during the afternoon to set up and decorate and lots of help in the evening and for clean-up. Please volunteer your services.

This will be a busy but fun-filled evening. *Tomten* will be there. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a \$3 gift with the word "woman" or "man" written on the tag. You'd be surprised what you can find or make for \$3 and it's lots of fun. (Louise Simms would probably recommend a Swedish ornament from William Glen's Christmas store.) The program promises to be hilarious!

Chairman's Message

All the holidays will soon be upon us and another year gone by. Be sure to mark all the activities on your calendar. Our *Julkalas* on December 1 promises to be a major event and the *Luciafest* on December 8 is always delight-

ful. Remember our shut-in members with a card or even a visit if possible.

We sincerely welcome all our new members and thank you for volunteering to help at our *Julkalas*.

Wishing you all the very best for the holidays and the new year!

— *In Truth and Unity,*
Margaret Carlson

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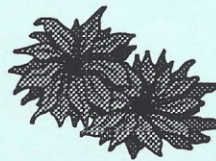
Very Special Thoughts

go to members we lost this past year and their families:

Alice Swanfeldt
Elaine Lincecum
Holger Nordquist
Helen Tura

Gail Johnson, August 28

Also, this time of the year we would like to make a special occasion for members who are not able to attend many meetings. Some do not drive, others are physically unable to come. While you are baking cookies, make a few extra and bring to the *Julkalas*. Or bring a poinsettia plant if you don't have time to bake. There will be a separate table for these items at our December 1 social. *Nål och Tråd* members will deliver these Christmas gifts.



Friendship

We are also thinking of Christine Bodelson who had a heart attack and was in the hospital for a while. Marge Skicklig broke a bone and is in a great deal of pain.

We do have some good news: We were glad to see Jeanne Hagstrom again looking great. Her cancer is in remission.

Kurt and Eivor Pfannkuch will be spending Christmas in Sweden. Going with them are Karin (their daughter) and David Dorey and their grandson.

Audrey Fales just came back from a two-week trip to Italy visiting her grandson.

Camille Caldwell and children have moved to Sweden.

Tusen Tack

to *Nål och Tråd* for the generous \$500 donation to our Scholarship Fund. Although there are only a few women in this group, they work hard all year long, always making something to bring in revenues for our lodge. Your efforts are appreciated!

**God Jul
och
Gott Nytt Ar!**

♪ Julbutik ♪

Do your Christmas shopping at our December 1 Julfest!
We'll have a large table full of wonderful handmade items.
Calendars from all the Scandinavian countries will also be on sale.



Happy Birthday!

12/01 - Thomas Center
12/03 - Marjorie Skicklig
12/04 - Kerstin Hakansson
12/07 - Ellen Harrod
12/11 - John Loken
12/12 - Margaret Carlson
12/15 - Jean Barney
12/15 - Lynn Lundberg
12/18 - David Swanson
12/20 - Janice Woodruff
12/24 - Evelyn Anderson
12/24 - Sophia Swanson
12/29 - Brita Carlsson
12/31 - Dorothy Mogford

December Dues Anniversaries

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

Eva Allred
Karin Bodelson
Viola Bodelson
Joyce Burns
Camilla Caldwell
Kenneth and Peggy Carlson
Martha Fredrikson
Ethel Hoffman
Christi and Ronny Kagstrom
Audrey Ohlson-Smith
Betty Schoepf
Dues are \$18, payable to

Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may
pay them at the December social
or by mail to our financial secre-
tary Gail Nemy, 4239 Daybreak
Lane, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Deadline

for the January newsletter
is **Friday, December 15**. Please
send input to Ingrid Kennedy,
10582 Apple Grove Way,
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

For Children

We have a children's room
at Wisteria Hall ready for use
at meetings. We're hoping
parents will be better able now
to attend business meetings
when there is a place for the
children to enjoy themselves.

For Information about Monitor Lodge

please contact one of the
following members:

- Membership
Committee members Jean
Anderson 682-7438, Ethel
Johnson 457-0966, or Eivor
Pfnankuch 673-5917
- Secretary Marianne Ek,
372-7824
- Vice Chairman Arthur
Niemoller, 631-9330
- Chairman Margaret
Carlson, 742-9346

WELCOME

to the following new mem-
bers who were initiated at our
November meeting (and please
add them in your program
book):

Tom and Barbara Anderson
4944 Helen Way
Sacramento, CA 95822
454-2060

Ivan and Patricia Page
870 55th Street
Sacramento, CA 95819
455-5845

Linda McShane
2616 55th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
455-4710

We also have an address
change:
William and Helen Dyckman
11717 New Albion Way
Gold River, CA 95670
(New phone number??)



Our Choir,

the Valley Viking Singers, is
always looking for new singers
or anyone with a musical talent
who would be willing to help us
entertain at meetings and other
events.

□ Condensed Minutes from the November 3, 1995 Business Meeting □

(As usual, the original and more detailed notes are maintained by the Assistant Secretary and are always open to the membership.)

1. The meeting was opened at 7:15, roll was called, and the October minutes were approved.

2. Five new members were initiated.

3. Kurt Pfannkuch reported from the October 21 Membership Seminar at which all lodges were encouraged to hold membership workshops. We all need to consider ourselves members of the "Membership Committee."

3. Myrtle Widmark told about the Heritage Day in Davis. The UC Davis International House, sponsor of the event, would like to have more participation from Scandinavian organizations. Audrey Fales recommended that we also reach out to the CSUS international club.

5. Margaret Carlson passed around an ad with picture for a 27" TV/VCR combination from Sam's Club for \$588.

6. Correspondence and votes included the following:

– In response to a letter from Vestkusten, the members voted to publish a Christmas greeting at a cost of \$10.

– A letter from a lady trying to find the words to a Swedish poem entitled, "Tack, Min Gud."

– Letter from District Master Kurt Pfannkuch seeking a new district newsletter editor, a replacement for the Assistant District Secretary, and also lodge delegates to the district. Lodges are encouraged to mail their newsletters to all other lodges.

– Request from the Grand Lodge for Vasa Educational Fund stamps donation. The meeting voted to donate \$25.

– A letter from the Grange reminding us to lock doors and windows.

– Thank-you letter from Skandi-Fest 95 in Turlock to our Valley Viking Singers and inviting them back in 1996.

7. The next Sweden Day will be celebrated with a picnic at Sons of Norway's Camp Nordica, about 25 miles east of Auburn. We could consider joining Sierra Kronan to hold a Swedish breakfast or a Saturday night barbecue.

8. Items for sale at upcoming lodge events include *Nål och Tråd* crafts, Scandinavian calendars and magnets, and Grange cookbooks at a drastically reduced price.

9. Robert Anderson brought us up-to-date on the activities of his granddaughter since she won the Monitor scholarship. She is now a freshman at the University of Virginia.

10. Kurt Pfannkuch welcomed Monitor's five new members, described the Vasa Order international network, and urged them to become actively involved in lodge activities.

11. Myrtle Widmark told about an interesting Sami exhibit in San Francisco, open through December.

12. Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were read.

13. The meeting closed at 8:30.

Brian Stockham,
Assistant Secretary

Nål och Tråd

This group will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, December 12, at 7 pm** at the home of Louise Sims. Her address is 2486 Larkspur Lane #189. However, the entrance to the condominiums is at 1051 Fulton Avenue. Dial #099 and she will open the gate for you.



New Melting Pot?

It's been projected that in 15 years, every eighth person in Sweden will be an immigrant (a person born outside Sweden). If immigrant children are included in these statistics, every fourth person in Sweden will have some "foreign" blood.

– Swedish Press, Nov 95



Alfred Nobel - the Man Behind the Prize

It was on November 27, a hundred years ago, that Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) penned his famous will. In it he stipulated that the major part of his estate (31 million Swedish kronor that has grown to more than two billion today) was to be converted into a fund and invested. The income from the investments was to be "distributed annually in the form of prizes to those who during the preceding year have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind." The will identifies five equal prizes in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and peace (awarded in Oslo, as Sweden and Norway were a union then). A prize in economics was added in 1969. Today it is estimated that a third of the world's press write-ups about Sweden can be attributed to the Nobel Prize.



Alfred Nobel was born in Stockholm on October 21, 1833. After a bankruptcy, his father Immanuel, an avid inventor, moved to St. Petersburg and established a successful industry producing mines for the Russian army. The four sons received the best tutor-led education possible. Alfred, who was groomed to take over his father's company, was sent off on a two-year journey around Europe and to the United States when he was seventeen. He was fluent in Swedish, Russian, English, French, and German.

But Immanuel Nobel's company went bankrupt in 1850 and he returned to Sweden with his wife and sons Alfred and Emil. Sons Ludvig and Robert stayed on in Russia, founding their own very successful business ventures. Both businesses were seized by the Red Army in 1917 and the families had to flee to Sweden.



In Stockholm, Immanuel Nobel set up a laboratory to manufacture explosives on a farm in the south of Stockholm with his sons Alfred and Emil. A terrible explosion that could be heard all over the capital killed Emil and four others and led to a stroke for Immanuel. The 31-year-old Alfred

continued the dangerous experiments and eventually found a safe method for blasting called "dy-

namite." It is thanks to this invention that the St. Gothard Tunnel and the Panama Canal became realities. Although 90 percent of the use of dynamite was peaceful, Alfred Nobel was also accused of being the "salesman of death."

After inventing dynamite in 1866, Alfred left Sweden and in a short period of time established factories in the United States and several countries in Europe. He had a wide range of interests in many fields of technology and registered 355 patents. There were experiments with imitation leather, artificial rubber, and synthetic silk. He tried to improve the electrical battery, the electric bulb, and the phonograph. He also photographed from the air using rockets and parachutes. By the time he died, he had 93 factories around the world. Many of the leading industries in the chemical field today emanate from companies established by Nobel.

Described as "the wealthiest vagabond in Europe," Alfred Nobel had homes in six countries complete with laboratories as he was also a workaholic. He said himself that "my home is where I work and I work everywhere."



He was less successful with his personal life. He fell in love with a woman who turned out to be already engaged to someone else and Alfred never got over his unrequited love. Later he set up a beautiful, much younger, Viennese flower girl as a "kept woman," an arrangement that lasted for 18 years until the woman got pregnant by another man. A year before his death, Alfred Nobel published the autobiographical novel "Nemesis" that shows a man who somehow felt cheated of life, even though so many envied him. He was an idealist and a realist who did not really like what he saw around him. It is in this light one should perhaps see his spectacular gift to the world in the form of the Nobel Prize, meant to bring "the greatest benefit to mankind."

— From *Swedish Press*, Nov 95

LUCIAFEST

presented by
the Monitor Lodge
Children's Club



Friday, 8 December 1995, 7:00 pm

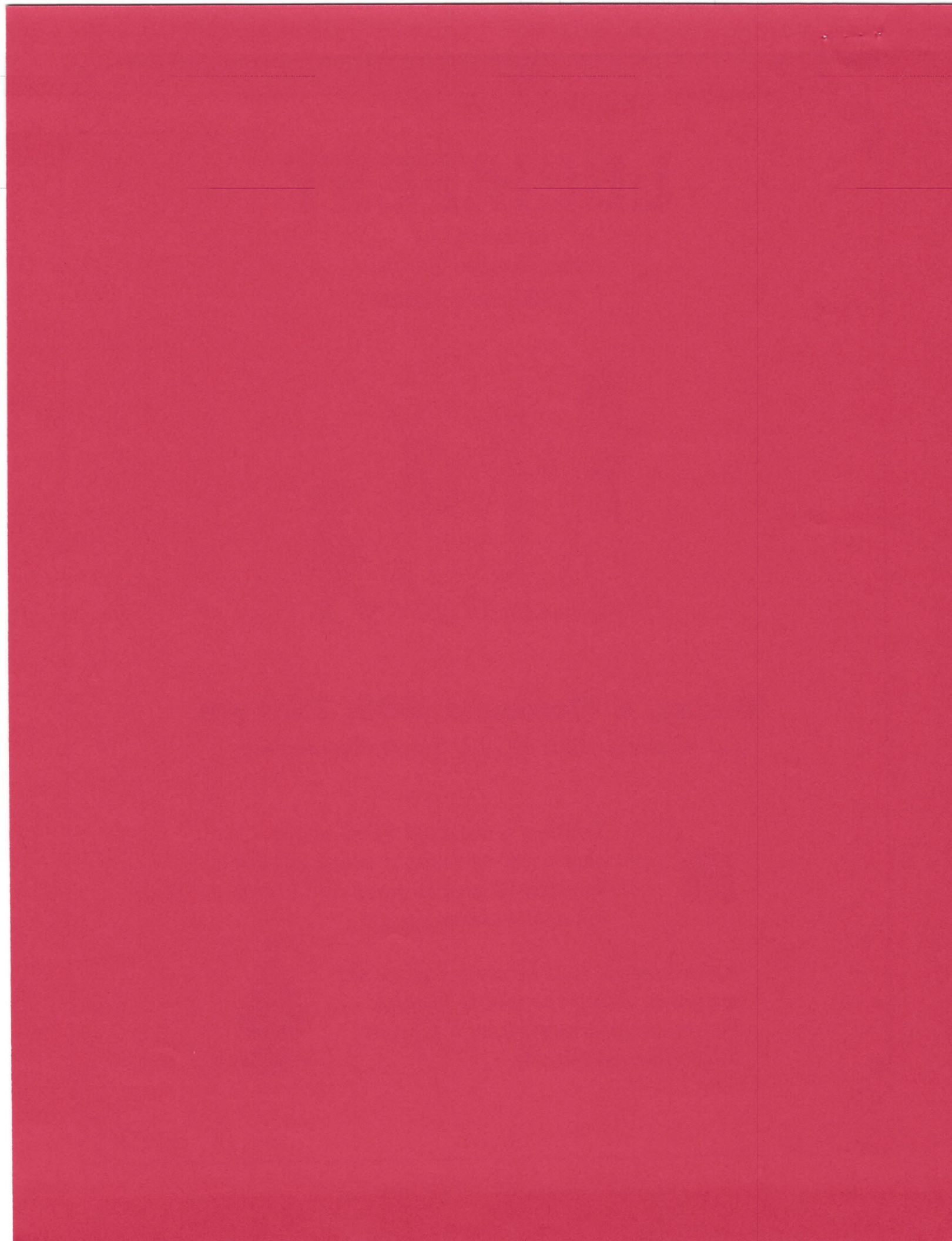
at Wisteria Hall, 3830 U Street, Sacramento



Tomten is coming! (You might also want to bring a small gift for Tomten to give to your child with his or her name on it.)

Refreshments will be served after the program. Bring the whole family. For more information, call Christi Kågström, 641-8770.





★ MONITOR LODGE 1996 CALENDAR ★

*In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Vasa Order of America,
Monitor Lodge will spend the year "remembering when . . ."
Be prepared for surprises, old-fashioned fun, music, and lots of memories!*

JAN	5	7:00 pm	Business meeting - Hosts: New officers
	12	7:30 pm	Joint installation of officers with Sierra Kronan Lodge in Roseville
FEB	2	6:30 pm	Pea soup and Swedish pancake dinner - Host: Membership Committee "I remember when" bingo, poker, and raffle
	14	7:30 pm	Business meeting (place to be announced)
MAR	1	6:30 pm	Corned beef and cabbage dinner - Host: Scholarship Committee Business meeting, initiations, and cultural program
APR	5	6:30 pm	Anniversary celebration, Swedish potluck - Hosts: Trustees Honorees, past chairmen; program, "I remember when..."
	13	10:00 am	13th Annual Scandinavian Festival, St. Ignatius Parish Center, 3235 Arden Way
MAY	3	6:30 pm	<i>Mors Dag</i> dinner prepared by the men - Host: Children's Club Cultural Program
	8	7:30 pm	Business meeting (place to be announced)
	18	10:00 am	<i>Sillfrukost</i> at the home of Kurt and Eivor Pfannkuch, Yuba City
<hr/>			
JUN	7	6:30 pm	<i>Fars Dag</i> potluck - Hosts: The ladies Men's best leg contest; business meeting, cultural program
	22	3:00 pm	Midsummer at the home of Thomas and Annika Anderson, Elk Grove Potluck dinner
JULY IS VACATION TIME - NO MEETINGS WILL BE HELD			
AUG	2	TBA	Picnic and ice cream social at the home of Lars and Birgitta Ostlund By request, a repeat presentation of the Cultural Seminar slide show Presenters: Kurt Pfannkuch and David Dorey
	17	7:00 pm	Crayfish party at the home of Kenneth and Peggy Carlson, Fair Oaks Short business meeting at 6:30
SEP	6	6:30 pm	<i>Kåldolmar</i> and <i>rotmos</i> dinner - Hosts: Past chairmen Business meeting, nomination of 1997 officers; musical program
	20-22		Turlock Scandinavian Festival with Valley Viking Singers
	28	TBA	Swedish pancake breakfast at Farmer Bob's
OCT	4	6:30 pm	Swedish meatball dinner - Host: Auditing Committee <i>Maskerad</i> and prizes for costumes
NOV	1	7:00 pm	Business meeting with election of officers - Host: <i>Nål och Tråd</i> "I remember when" bag walk Entry fee: Donation of a canned grocery item for needy families
DEC	6	6:30 pm	Short business meeting followed by no-host <i>glögg</i> and <i>smörgåsbord</i> party Tomten; \$3.00 gift exchange
	13	7:30	<i>Luciafest</i> at Wisteria Hall, Tomten, dancing around the tree



**Monitor Lodge No. 218
Vasa Order of America
126 Hibiscus Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95828**

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