

# The Monitor

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

Vol. 1 No. 1

Januari 2001

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2001 which is the joint installation of officers with Sierra Kronin to be held at Wisteria Hall. The hosts for this meeting are past chairmen. **Reminder:** Host duties are set up, decorations, serving coffee and cleanup.

Tusen! Tusen! Tack to everyone who made the Christmas glögg party a huge success!

Special thanks to the great kitchen help - Ernie Skorheim, Donn Stafford, Margaretha Logus, Ulla and Arty Pomerantz, Dede Dahlberg, Richard Westrup, Dan Backman and John and Ruby Anderson. There are many more - too numerous to mention! I couldn't have done it without you.

We can't forget the decorating crew, setup and especially the clean up crew. You were all appreciated!

This year's glögg was especially good thanks to Lars and Birgitta Ostlund!

- Margaret Carlson



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Our Glögg Party and Smörgasbord was a wonderful way to conclude our fellowship for the year 2000 as Monitor members and friends - great food, best glögg ever, music and entertainment with Don Carlson as MC. The vocal music, including solos, and the accordian music by Dale Ingvarnsen added a great deal to a special evening. Margaret Carlson, special thanks to you and your assistants for an excellent array of fine foods.

Members: We need your help in making corrections to our membership list included in this Newsletter. Please call 933-5502 to report any spelling, address, or telephone corrections. If no one answers, just leave a message.

Thank you.

Also enclosed is the program planned for 2001. Take special note of the hosts established for each meeting of the lodge to share the load of set up, decorations, serving coffee and

cleanup. Be ready to assist these hosts, if you are able to do so.

The Monitor will include a *Member of the Month* in 2001, beginning with the February issue. This is a return of a feature much enjoyed by our membership.

The best of health and contentment to our Vasa family in 2001!

In truth and unity  
- David Benson

## RECENT EVENTS

The Lucia Fest - led by the Children's Club, under the direction of Kristi Kågström put on a wonderful program last Saturday evening! Everyone enjoyed not only the performances, but also the lively folkdancing - it was great to see such participation by all! Congratulations to everyone involved - you did a fantastic job! Many thanks! (see photo page)



## October 17 Business Meeting

1. New members Clay Warren, Shirley Thrasher, Martha Parks, and Margarita Logus were voted on.
2. A Host Committees Schedule was distributed for year 2001 events.
3. The 2001 Schedule of Events and Business Meetings were discussed.
4. Discussion was held regarding an increase in the cost for the Christmas Glögg and Smörgasbord Dinner Party to \$12.50 for adults.
5. Anyone interested in or having suggestions regarding joining the Friendship Committee, please contact Dorothy Scherer.
6. The Cultural Committee was to come up with different themes each year for the events planned.
7. The Newsletter Editor was given a \$170.00 advance (for November) to cover newsletter printing, folding and postage (first class mail was necessitated by the enormous bulk mail generated by election ballot mail outs and delays).
8. A suggestion was made to resume *Member of the Month* in the Newsletter.
9. Total Funds available for the 2002 Convention are \$1,487.83. The tentative place for the event will be at the Holiday Inn - Sacramento. Other sites are also being considered. Lunch preparation and appetizer information should be faxed to Evy Mangeheim.
10. Total profit from the Kaldolmar and Rotmos Dinner on October 6<sup>th</sup> was \$211.85.
11. Lodge bills were read off and paid.

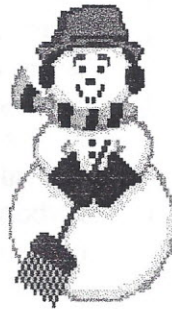
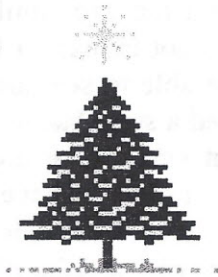


### News from Vestkusten:

- Arvid Carlsson is the first Swedish Nobel Prize winner in 18 years. Carlsson is best known for his discovery of the single substance dopamine's importance, which led to such modern medicine as Prozac.
- IKEA is planning on opening a furniture factory in Russia which they hope will be up and running by next summer. Expansion of future retail stores and a sawmill are also part of IKEA's goal.
- Sweden's Ambassador to the U.S., Jan Eliasson, spoke at the World Affairs Council during a visit to San Francisco on October 13<sup>th</sup>. He stressed the importance of issues such as education, environment and enlargement to serve as a guideline for the Swedish Presidency of the European Union on January 1, 2001. He also discussed the importance of mutual efforts among various countries in mobilizing resources for the resolution of the AIDS crisis; the Trans-Atlantic Agenda of partnership between Europe and the U.S. in the New Economy. He says we must strive to open our countries to the outside world to create an extensive understanding of domestic and foreign policies affecting all of us, each and every day, no matter what country you live in. There is a world outside of Europe!

**LOCAL NEWS**

- There will be a **Planning Meeting** for the **Scandinavian Festival** on **Mon. Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00 p.m.** at the **Sons of Norway Hall**, 770 Darina Way, Sacramento. The festival will be in April 2001 at St. Ignacius Church on Arden Way. We would like as many members as possible to attend the meeting. If you have any questions, please call Myrtle Widmark at: 481-4056.
- The **2001 Convention** will take place **April 27-29**. The Convention is hosted jointly by Fylgia and Lindbergh Lodges. The event will be held at the **South San Francisco Ramada, South San Francisco Conference Center**. The hotel is located north of the San Francisco Airport in South San Francisco. For directions and hotel reservations, please call (650)873-3550, or contact the lodge secretary.



- **MAMMA MIA**, the London record-breaking musical will be playing at the **Orpheum Theatre in San Francisco** through **February 17<sup>th</sup>** (deadline was extended due to its popularity!). Contact ticketmaster, (415) 512-7770, or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).
- The second Annual **Viking Symposium** will take place in **Thousand Oaks, CA** from **February 16 through 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001**. Speakers will be Bjorn Ambrosiani, who led excavations at Birka, a key Viking trading center in Sweden, Thomas Noonan from the University of Minnesota, who is an expert on the coins found in Viking hoards, Erik Axel Wesseberg, a Danish musicologist demonstrating Viking Age instruments. For more information, please contact Howard Rockstad at Viking Millenium at 1227 Tierra Drive in Thousand Oaks, CA 91362, or e-mail him at [howard12@gte.net](mailto:howard12@gte.net), [seeallan@aol.com](mailto:seeallan@aol.com), or contact the lodge secretary. Please include your name, address and e-mail (if possible).



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



## God Jul to you all, and don't forget to leave a bowl of porridge for Jultomten this Christmas Eve!

### The Swedish Tomte

Swedish Christmas brings to mind the Christmas ham, Lutfisk, glögg, julbocken and, of course, Jultomten. Don't mix him up with Santa Claus for he has a personality quite his own. The name tomte means that he is on the tomt, the site of the house. He first appeared in Sweden in the ninth century, but his ancestors came from India about 4,000 years ago. The oldest literary record of the tomte's work is found in Saint Bridget's revelations from the 1360's. She warned against tompta gudhi, the devil's following, and urged people to stop giving food to the gods on the premises.

In the beginning, he only guarded the people and animals of the house and, as payment, he expected to receive a bowl of porridge on New Year's Eve. In former days he only accepted gifts, but today he is distributor of gifts on Christmas. Nowadays he receives his porridge on Christmas, and if his master or mistress fails to appreciate him, he seldom directly punishes anyone. Instead, he simply leaves and, in doing so, takes luck with him.

The tomte is slow-thinking, quick to take offense, impulsive, and sometimes a little melancholy. He often displayed his gratitude, and his loyalty made him dearly loved by all. Originally, he was active throughout the year and worked mainly in the stables, where he helped to clear out the dung. He also helped

with the harvest. Occasionally he went into the living room and found a warm place on the mantelpiece. He watched his mistress' doings and lent her a helping hand now and then.

At first the Swedish tomte was dressed entirely in gray but in the 18th century his master gave him a red cap similar to his own. As the tomte was not entirely a friendly figure, it was safer to be able to see him more clearly. He was considered a stern bachelor who usually lived alone. But since there are stories about newborn tomtar, he must have had a secret communion with the elves. He can be many hundreds of years old, and he dies only if you pour holy water on him, or if you shoot him with a silver bullet. If he is ill or does not feel at home he will simply retreat to distant places.

In 1881 Viktor Rydberg published the poem "The Tomte". It was his wish that the tomte should not be as ugly as in the pictures that had been drawn previously. As a result, the illustrator, Jenny Nystrom, used her father as a model for the tomte's features, while she took the physique from old men from Lapland. For over 70 years she continued to draw tomte pictures and for this reason her interpretation has for most Swedes become equated with the Swedish tomte.



## GENEALOGY

In Swedish Genealogy news groups, you often see Americans asking about census records in Sweden. In Sweden the primary source of genealogy information is in Church records.

The Reformation in 1525 divided the Catholic Church in two parts, the Protestant Church and the Roman Catholic Church. In 1527 the Swedish King, Gustav Vasa, proclaimed that Sweden had become a Protestant nation with the Lutheran Church as the only church. At the same time, the King made himself Head of the Church. The Catholic Church was forbidden, and if you belonged to any other religion than the Lutheran Church, you were subject to the death penalty.

So, from that day Sweden only had one Church. This means that the Church records cover the whole Swedish population.

In 1608, the archbishop asked the ministers/clergy to start recording christenings, marriages and deaths. But most ministers did not comply. In 1622, the bishop of Vasteras instructed the ministers in his diocese to keep records. In 1686, Sweden enacted a law stating that the Church had to keep official Church records. There were, of course, Church records before that but now every minister had to keep records in his parish.

So from the 17<sup>th</sup> century on, Sweden has excellent records of its citizens, which makes it easy for you to trace your Swedish family history.

Before you start, gather what you know about your family and its Swedish roots. Ask your oldest living relatives about names, places and dates, etc.

*Hans Hogman,*  
( from his Genealogy website)



### Birgitta Ellis' Swedish Sentences

Swedish:	Hej så länge = Hej då
Sounds like:	Hey så ( <u>ä</u> as in <u>soar</u> ) lä ( <u>ä</u> as in <u>air</u> ) ng ( <u>ng</u> as in <u>song</u> ) e ( <u>e</u> as in <u>red</u> ). Hey då ( <u>ä</u> as in <u>soar</u> )
English:	Goodbye for a little while = Goodbye!
<hr/>	
Swedish:	Vi ses
Sounds like:	Vi ( <u>i</u> as in <u>Indian</u> ) ses ( <u>e</u> as in <u>café</u> ) (or if easier, as in <u>let</u> ).
English:	See you! I'll see you!
<hr/>	
Swedish:	Hur går det = Hur står det till?
Sounds like:	Hur ( <u>u</u> as in <u>rude</u> ); går ( <u>g</u> is hard as in <u>go</u> ) ( <u>ä</u> as in <u>soar</u> ) de[t] ( <u>e</u> as in <u>red</u> ) (don't pronounce the "t") Hur as above står ( <u>a</u> as in <u>war</u> and <u>soar</u> ) st as in <u>stand till</u> ( <u>i</u> as in <u>until</u> ).
English:	How are you? How does it go for you? How are you? How does everything stand?

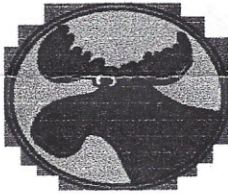
(Att stå till is a prepositional verb.)

God bless you all in the year 2001! (Gud välsigna Er alla år 2001!)

## Souvenirs from Sweden

The range of unusual tourist souvenirs has been blessed with: *paper made of moose droppings*. A researcher at Modo Papers in Örnsköldsvik (in northern Sweden) has found that by grinding four kilos moose poop to a pulp he is able to get 400 letter size sheets of paper. The paper has become a hit in the tourist market.

### Swedish Press



## Swedish Ice Hotel

For a unique winter experience, nothing beats a night at the world's biggest ice hotel about 10 kilometers from Kiruna, at the very top of Sweden. This is a genuine igloo, made of ice blocks, erected for the first time in 1990.

The igloo is big enough to serve as a hotel, gallery, restaurant, jazz club, radio station, exhibition hall, church



and more. Construction each year with 1,500 tons of snow takes about three weeks. The beds are made of hard snow and covered with reindeer hide. Down sleeping bags are provided. Most of the furniture in the Ice Hotel is made of ice, including the magnificent bar.

The hotel generously provides warm clothing that you can use during your visit (for SEK 550 per night including breakfast and sauna). The Ice Hotel stays open from about mid-December to May-June or until it melts.

## Vasa Youth Exchange in Sweden, Summer 2001

Vasa friends! I am planning a Vasa Youth Exchange between youngsters in Sweden and USA/Canada during the summer 2001. It will be an exchange for three summer weeks, an exchange between a Swedish family and a family from USA or Canada. This summer we had an exchange between Candace Kessel from Elgin, Texas and Lena Aberg from Helsingborg, Sweden and between Emily Lawson, Waco, Texas and Louise Wickstrom, Malmo, Sweden. They all had a pleasant time and were very satisfied.

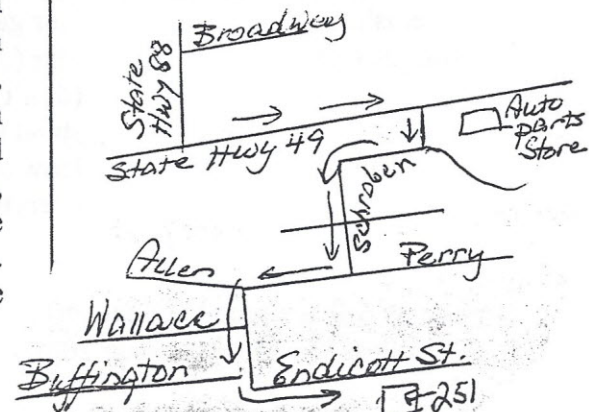
Attached is an application. Please plan to return it by 1 Januari, 2001.

Lena Johansson, GLYD  
Sweden  
Seldonsvägen 19  
252 86 Helsingborg  
Sweden

## Nål Och Tråd

### (Needle and Thread)

The next meetings will be held on **January 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** at the home of Ruby and John Anderson, located at 215 Endicott Street, Jackson, CA. (see map). There will be projects to work on to sell at our craft table. The Scandinavian Festival will be here before we know it! Come and join in the fun! The club invites all members to attend and bring their own brown bag lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided. If you need to reach Ruby, please call: (209) 223-1049.





## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!**

### **January**

1/01 - Brian Anderson  
 1/03 - Evy Magneheim  
 1/04 - Maureen O'Shay  
 1/06 - Michael Churkin  
 1/07 - Robert Anderson  
 1/07 - Thomas Anderson  
 1/08 - Don Carlson  
 1/08 - Gladys Stangl  
 1/09 - Leisma Krastins  
 1/12 - Phil Olson  
 1/12 - Shirley Thrasher  
 1/13 - Darlene Palmer  
 1/16 - Billye Nelson  
 1/21 - LaVerne Gullans  
 1/21 - Nancy Maddox  
 1/22 - Thelma Badgley  
 1/23 - Dee Benson  
 1/24 - Brian Stockham  
 1/30 - Linda Becker  
 1/25 - Birgitta Ellis  
 1/25 - Johanna Benker  
 1/26 - Andrea Kjelstrom  
 1/27 - Ed Dahlberg  
 1/29 - Thelma Gorrell  
 1/31 - Lars Churkin

### **January Dues Anniversaries**

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

Gerda Anderson  
 Britt-Marie Anderson  
 Lennart Anderson  
 Thelma Badgley  
 Charles Badgley

Joy Carlson  
 Linnea Carlson  
 Edwin Cook  
 Birgit Dillard  
 Estrid Doscher  
 Richard Eriksson  
 Gloria Eriksson  
 Stanley Hagstrom  
 Dale Ingvarnsen  
 Herb Johnson  
 Mildren Johnson  
 Karin Johnson  
 Charles Linn  
 Barbara Lutz  
 Berthell Nelson  
 Charles Nelson  
 Barbara Olson  
 Wendell Olson  
 Birgitta Ostlund  
 Frank Stangl  
 Gladys Stangl  
 Helen Starkey  
 Joyce Trnka life member  
 Arlie Veis

Dues are \$18/yr payable to Monitor Lodge No. 218. You may pay them at the meetings or by mail to our financial secretary. If you would like a receipt or a membership card, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Any questions, contact: Johanna Benker at 7881 Charlotte Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688; (707) 446-2718.

### **Changes of Address**

Marti Gehrig  
 8287 Fox Hound Circle  
 Elk Grove, CA 95758  
 (916/684-5088)



### **Deadline**

... for the February newsletter **is Jan. 10, 2001** Please mark your calendars accordingly. Send input via regular mail or email to:

Marti Gehrig  
 email: [mgehrig@email.com](mailto:mgehrig@email.com)

### **For More Information**

about Monitor Lodge, please contact one of the following:

Membership Committee members:

Michelle Kaufman, 451-3075

Dee Benson, 933-5502

Lisa Bleasdale, 366-7313

Secretary Arlene Ericson, 736-3923

Vice Chairman Don

Carlson, 783-0262

Chairman David Benson, 933-5502

*Time to  
remember the  
important  
things in life;  
family*

