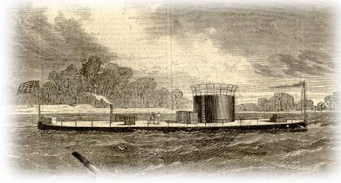


MONITOR LODGE NO. 218 CHARTERED APRIL 8, 1912

THE



MONITOR

James Netzel, Chairman—Jack Larson, Vice Chairman—Arlene White, Secretary—Charley Rea, Assistant Recording Secretary, Yvonne Magneheim, Financial Secretary—Kurt Pfannkuch, Assistant Financial Secretary—Karin Johnson, Treasurer

**CALENDAR
DECEMBER 2011**

12/2

5:30

Glögg Party
Smörgåsbord

With Lucia Presentation



JANUARY 2012

1/6

5:30

Potluck
Installation of Officers

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/4 Adam Johnson

12/19 Ruth Brown

12/22 Carol Nesevich

12/24 Ann Kantar

12/25 Karl-Heintz Hennig

JULKALENDERN—A MUCH LOVED TRADITION

The windows are trimmed, the first candle is lit and the countdown to Christmas can begin! But the real countdown officially kicks off on the first of December, when all the kids can open the first window in the Advent calendar and – if you're living in Scandinavia – watch the first episode of a much beloved Swedish tradition,

Julkalendern is an Advent calendar in the form of a television show starting on the first of December, and ending on Christmas Eve. Every episode is 15 minutes long and is shown either early in the morning, around 7 am, or in the evening, at 6 pm. All kids watch this, and to be fair, lots of adults do too. It's a much loved and old tradition; the first Julkalender was first on Swedish TV in 1960 and has been going every year since and the tradition has spread to the other Scandinavian countries as well. There's a new show every year, but the show is normally set somewhere in a wintry Sweden and contains lots of Christmas spirit and cosiness. The show comes with an Advent calendar and after every show, you open a new window. Ah, just writing about this brings back so many childhood memories and I can promise you, every Swede has their favourite/worst ever julkalender. I remember crying my eyes out on Christmas Eve 1986 when the last episode of "Julpussar och Stjärnsmällar" was broadcast, and how terrified I was back in 1987, when Swedish television decided to educate instead of entertain, and gave us the story about Jesus' life and death in a quite traumatic way for a seven year old...

Swedish television made a big Julkalender poll a few years ago to crown the nation's favourite. The winner was "Mysteriet på Greveholm" (The Greveholm Mystery) from 1996, a classic ghost/Christmas story, loved by both kids and adults.

(Continued from page 1)

This year, the Julkalender is called "Hotel Gyllene Knorren" and takes place in a hotell, which of course hosts one or two ghosts.

Have you ever seen a Swedish Julkalender? Any favourites? Any thumbs down? Just to get us all into the proper Christmas spirit, let's watch an episode of my – and most of Swedes in my age - all time favourite, "Sunes Jul". It was broadcasted back in 1991 and has become a true classic since then. It's about 10 year old Sune and his annoying little brother Håkan, their bored teen sister Anna, their stressed out mother Karin and stupidly clumsy father Rudolf. Let's put it this way; nothing goes according to plan in that family. And the Christmas spirit and peace are nowhere to be seen. (copied from Swedish Blog—ed.)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU3_pFvL8Lw

POTLUCK AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 2012

District Master Victoria Fedor-Thurman and her team of PDMs will install our 2012 officers.

Bring a potluck dish to share

5:30 Social Time

Responding to my inquiry regarding Bud Mogford, his daughter Linda wrote:

THANKS SO VERY MUCH FOR ASKING. DAD IS DOING FINE. HEALTH , SO FAR, IS OK AND HE ATTENDS ALL ACTIVITIES AT THE RETIREMENT HOME. FAMILY IS COMING HERE FOR THANKSGIVING AND WE ARE GOING TO ARIZONA FOR CHRISTMAS. HOPE ALL IS FINE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON AND MOM IS WITH YOU AND THE CLUB MEMBERS IS SPIRIT. SINCERELY, LINDA

MERRY CHRISTMAS

"Borta bra, men hemma bäst" Being away from home is nice but home is best. People often say this after being out and about for a slightly longer period of time.

"Bättre tiga än illa tala" Better to be silent than speak ill.

"Bättre fly än illa fäkta" Better back off (flea) than fight badly.

"Bättre än fågel i handen än tio i skogen" Better one bird in your hand than ten in the woods.

"Den enes bröd är den andres död". One mans bread is another's death.

"Den som ger sig in i leken, får leken tåla" If you play the game you accept the rules.

MONITOR LODGE #218
November 4, 2011

Social hour began at 5:30 PM followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. Meeting started at approximately 7:30 PM and opened with the pledge of allegiance and the singing of "America the Beautiful" and meeting was called to order by Chairman James Netzel and the chaplains message given by Birgitta Ellis.

QUORUM

Chair James Netzel
Vice Chair Jack Larson
Secretary Arlene White
Asst. Rec. Sec. Charley Rea
Financial Sec. Yvonne Magneheim (absent)
Asst. Fin. Sec. Kurt Pfannkuch
Treasurer Karin Johnson
Cultural Comm. Myrtle Widmark (absent)
Melissa Netzel
Chaplain Birgitta Ellis

ACTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

- A brief biography was given regarding Kerstin Hermann and Barry Moore.
- Membership voted on accepting Kerstin Hermann, Barry Moore and Paul Johnson into the Monitor Lodge and was followed by initiation.
- Darlene Miller was reinstated as a member of Monitor.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

* Scholarship information is in the newsletter.

* Gail Nemy noted that a 2012 Convention Meeting will be held at the Double Tree on November 6 at 2:00 PM

- Yvonne Magnehim will be making the name tags in the future.
- Reservations need to be made immediately for the Julbord as there are only 17 reservations remaining.
- The motion was made and seconded and approved that we hold a joint installation in 2013 with Nord.
- Scandanavian Festival will be held on October 6, 2012.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Hank Stoffel made mention of “good deeds” that have been done by some Swedish people that he knew.
- Dale Ingvarlsen brought up a Crab Feed being held in January by the Kiwanis to raise money for a home near Davis for family members of patients at UCD Medical Center. The cost is \$30 per person as Dale will be offsetting the original cost of \$40 per person.
- Elizabeth Swenson thanked everybody that helped at the Scandinavian Festival. Gail noted that attendance was less than last year.
- Meeting was held at James and Melissa’s home the end of October to try and

Reactivate the Vasa Recreation Club.

* Karin Johnson presented the bills to be paid and it was voted to pay. She also needs to take care of signature cards on the accounts and also wanted authority to pay any Julbord bills up to \$500 so that individuals would not have to wait for payment. This motion was made and seconded and passed.

CULTURAL MEETING:

- Melissa Netzel gave the cultural portion of the meeting.

CLOSING:

- Chaplain Birgitta Ellis closed and Chair James Netzel adjourned the meeting.

Submitted In Truth and Unity Arlene White, Secretary



Meet Noah, grandson of Tom and Annika Anderson. And, check out the fancy carved pumpkins as Noah gets ready for his first Halloween!



Different countries have different standards for when their students get time off from their studies to take a drive to the beach, go hiking in the mountains, or simply take it easy and veg out for a week. Sweden's school vacation schedule looks like this:

First, you go to school for about two months, and it's all hard work until the week-long **höstlovet** (autumn vacation) that begins around Halloween time (which, by the way, is not an important holiday in Sweden), or 31 October for those of you who don't know. This year's autumn vacation in Uppsala, for example, began today.

After that, you go to school for about a month and a half, and then it's **jullov** (Christmas vacation). Most schools get out several days before Christmas Eve and start again around 10-12 January. (Keep in mind that Christmas Eve is the big day in most of Europe, not Christmas Day.)

After that long, relaxing (if you can call it that) Christmas vacation, school starts again and you have to keep your thinking cap on until the end of February, when you're expected to tire yourself even more (except this time physically) during **sportlovet** (sport vacation). Actually you're not expected to do anything in particular, but many Swedes head to the mountains at this time for a full week of skiing (and much less commonly snowboarding).

As if you're not already tired enough after skiing the whole week, school starts up again for another two months, all the way until Easter. This vacation is called **påsklovet**, or Easter vacation. It traditionally falls on whatever week Easter happens to be on.

And finally, the home stretch! School gets out for the summer about two months later, usually after the first full week in June. Now you have about a month and a half to spend doing summery things until school starts again around 20 August. Everyone loves **sommarlovet** (summer vacation)!

In proofing this newsletter several things were repeated. Therefore, this is less than what I like to offer you in the way of a newsletter. It is also late in its sending. That is because I have had many problems putting it together, mostly computer glitches. It's perfectly alright to fire me. In fact, I'd welcome it!

Jack L.

BOOK REVIEW: 'April Harvest' by Lillian Budd

The third volume of a trilogy which includes *April Snow* and *Land of Strangers*, this novel tells the story of Sigrid Christianson, daughter of Carl and Ellen around whom Lillian Budd's previous books revolve. Sigrid, orphaned and alone at seventeen and forced to fend for herself, is determined to be self-sufficient. A less courageous person might have given up, but Sigrid attacks poverty, illness, and hard times with resourcefulness and soon turns her misfortunes into assets. She figures out a plan to keep her family's house and establishes contact with her long-lost grandmother in Sweden. Sigrid submits one of Carl's manuscripts to a contest and in a stroke of good fortune wins. The work is published and the proceeds enable her to make a trip to Sweden to visit Farmor Sigrid, as well as her own mother Ellen's relatives. Young Sigrid had learned enough Swedish to handle conversation in Sweden quite well. She is received royally as Karl's daughter. There she discovers a surprising fact concerning her treasured blue wool shawl and unravels some family history. But despite the warm reception, the many interesting contacts and tours of old sites, and a marriage proposal by a handsome young Swede, Sigrid casts her lot with America, deciding to marry a non-Swede.

The author of these books knows the Swedish landscape, ways, holidays, foods. And she knows the American scene and geography well, especially the Chicago area. But of most significance is the picture of immigrants becoming part of American society. Newcomers established close communities where they could give support to each other, as shown in the way that Sigrid's neighbors rallied around her when her father died. *April Harvest* is a happy sentimental novel of a first generation Swedish-American filled with the same optimism and love of life that drew her immigrant parents and thousands like them to America during the nineteenth century.

I Hope you enjoyed these reviews of the 'April Snow' trilogy. Carol Nesewich