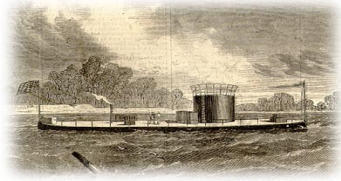


MONITOR LODGE NO. 218 CHARTERED APRIL 8, 1912

THE



MONITOR

Jack Larson, Chairman—**Yvonne Magneheim**, Vice Chairman -**Arlene White**, Secretary—**Charley Rea**, Assistant Recording Secretary,
Kurt Pfannkuch, Financial Secretary—**Gail Nemy**, Assistant Financial Secretary—**Craig Johnson**, Treasurer

JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS

- 1/3 Ed Netzel
- 1/3 Judy Netzel
- 1/3 Charley Rea
- 1/4 Eva Allred
- 1/6 Mike Churkin
- 1/7 Thomas Anderson
- 1/9 Liesma Krastins
- 1/18 Robin Johnson
- 1/23 Dee Benson
- 1/23 James Netzel
- 1/24 Brian Stockham
- 1/25 Johanna Benker
- 1/25 Hank Stoffel
- 1/25 Birgitta Ellis
- 1/27 Ed Dahlberg
- 1/29 Thelma Gorrell



As the lights dimmed and the hall became quiet, the strains of Sancta Lucia began and the procession lead by Alyssa Leaman our Lucia slowly walked down the aisle assisted by her entourage of attendants.



Attending Alyssa were Megan and Ashley Leaman, Jaqueline Royer, Annika Rea, Clara Ellis, Lydia Ellis and Elsa Tjeder, Starboy Christian Royer, Emil Rea, Tomte.

Director, Birgitta Ellis
Soloist, Karin Johnson
Accompanist, Gail Nemy

Monitor Lodge thanks all participants in this year's pageant.

More pictures available on the Website with thanks to Brian Stockham.

**DISTRICT
PROGRAM BOOKS**

The 2012 District Directory and Program Book will soon be available in an online version. Books will be printed for those who want them and can be ordered by calling Arlene White. This should be done ASAP so one order can be made. The cost is something between \$4 and \$5. The lodge will supply books to the officers only. The approximate price above is much less than if you had your own printed at a facility.

If you didn't receive the Monitor Program book, or if you want an extra, please let Arlene know and she will have one for you at the next meeting.

**Monitor Lodge
Website**

WWW.MONITORLODGE.SACRAMENTO

PLACE YOUR CURSER ON THE ABOVE, HOLD DOWN CTRL, CLICK MOUSE!!



A Change at the Vasa Star to be noted!

Hi Jack!

I will no longer be the Editor after this next Christmas issue! I am forwarding all mail to GS Joanie!

**Marie Carlson, Editor
The Vasa Star
From Sweden: 073 831 9743
From US: 011 46 73 831 9743
mariec@swedes-r-us.com**

CORRECTIONS TO 2012 MONITOR MEMBER BOOKLET

Email corrections.

**Jo Alice Nastal - JCN@surewest.net
Bob Johnson – ljonson@citlink.net**

Please contact Gail Nemy for any corrections to the member booklet. gnemy@sbcglobal.net



MONITOR LODGE SINGERS, a rehearsal is "in the hopper," no date yet, to practice our music, and at that time we will get copies of the remaining Country anthems and CD's. Rehearsal will go smoothly if you have been practicing with the CD and music!



If you'd like to say good-bye to the old year in Scandinavian style, you should travel to eastern Sweden, where New Year's Eve can be celebrated twice in one night!

The starting point of this quick trip is the Swedish city of Haparanda and the drive is not far at all - only 5 minutes!

Haparanda, Sweden, lies right by the Swedish-Finnish river dividing the two countries - and the time zones of Sweden and Finland. This provides the unique opportunity to cross the bridge to the Finnish side of the river in just 5 minutes. The Finnish town of Tornio is located there. Tornio, Finland, is ahead in time.

So, go ahead and celebrate New Year's Eve with Finnish fireworks there first. Afterwards, you can simply drive back over the bridge to Sweden and enjoy another display of fireworks an hour later - this time, by the Swedes! Celebrate the Scandinavian new year here a second time in the same night.

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INSTALLATION OF 2012 OFFICERS

With the end of 2011 soon upon us, we at Monitor Lodge look forward to a special celebratory year, 2012. As we celebrate 100 years of existence and look back at the memories and times of fellowship, we as a lodge have a lot to be thankful for. As we grieve the loss of those who have helped to make us strong and have moved on, we welcome with open arms our new members. As Chairman this coming year, I invite and challenge you to be active participants in looking forward to the next hundred years!

The installation on January 6th begins with the Social Hour at 5:30 and a Pot Luck Supper at 6:30. Please bring something to share with the membership and the installing officers, this year led by District Master Victoria Fedor-Thurman.

The Installation begins at 7:15, after the tables have been cleared please, with a short business meeting emphasizing the selection of delegates to the 2012 District Meeting (Convention). Think seriously about participating at the Convention as a delegate, this being an historical convention for Monitor!

Looking forward, next year's installation will be a joint event with Nord Lodge, our officers hosting.

A request: Please look closely at the Program Book for 2012. There are a few changes from what has happened in the past. You don't want to be caught off guard. Oh, yes, special thanks to Gail Nemy for her due diligence and final product, our Program Book!

RECENT "SNIPETS" FROM SWEDEN

(from The Local)

Slippery roads left more than a dozen trucks in the ditch in northern Sweden on Friday and freezing rain prompted warnings from meteorological institute SMHI as Swedes embarked on treacherous holiday travel on the day before Christmas Eve.

Ikea founder Ingvar Kamprad has donated nearly 1 billion kronor (\$146 million) to launch a new foundation to support research at Linneaus University in Kamprad's native region of Småland in south central Sweden.

After months of teetering on the brink, Swedish carmaker Saab Automobile on Monday filed for bankruptcy protection, ending two years of efforts to save the iconic Swedish brand. READ »After months of teetering on the

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**COMING SOON
TO
MONITOR LODGE**

January 6
Installation of
Officers 2012

Social Hour
5:30
Potluck Dinner
6:00
Installation
7:15
Business Meeting

January 22
Annual Audit
Annual Report
7:00
Magneheim Res.

February 3
Swedish Heritage
Night
Social Hour
5:30
Pea Soup and
Pancake Dinner
6:30
Team 2
Initiation
Cultural
Presentation
Karin / DeeDee

Vasa Order of America
A Swedish-American
Fraternal Organization
Since 1876

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Due to a computer problem, I'm a bit behind. Anyway, remember the Philly Cheese Steak Dinner? Here are a few pictures (the rest will be on the Website) along with a special thanks to Team 1.



L-R Meet Kerstin Hermann, Paul Johnson, Barry Moore

Welcome to Monitor Lodge



Darlene Miller, Reinstated into Monitor 218
We're glad you're back!

RETITLED "FOOD FOR THOUGHT"
(In other words, copied from Nordstjernen w/out permission)

Walter Seifert of Haram-Christensen has the following comments on the recent "In-Box" article in Norstjernen of November 15 (Vi vill ha tillbaka maten på IKEA):

*Dear Nordstjernen,
Long before IKEA had all their own branded products (now discontinued) Haram Christensen Corporation has been importing for more than 25 years, and still does, Swedish products, i.e. from Abba (Kalles marinated herring, etc.), lingonberries, Marie biscuits, gingerbread cookies, crispbread, etc....Readers of Nordstjernen, please check your nearest specialty food store or Scandinavian store in the area. P:S.Marabou is very difficult to get)the brand is owned by Kraft Foods which simply does not want to export to the USA)*

Walter Seifert, New Jersey

So, let's face it...

By continuously honoring and supporting our local specialty stores,

- A) they will survive and will needless to say always be loyal to us, their core customers,
- B) By making our trips to them throughout the year rather than just around certain holidays, we will enable them to keep prices lower and stay competitive.

In other words, make the trip to your store more often, be it to pick up a gift or your fill of Kalles, Swedish cheese, chocolate or cookies.

(Continued from page 2)



The location where New Year's can be celebrated twice can be reached by flying in to Tornio, Finland.

Many travelers in the Lapland area decide to spend the nights at the Icehotel which is a hotel that is rebuilt every year. This is quite possibly the most unique hotel in all of Scandinavia and it goes hand in hand with an unusual New Year's Eve celebration. At the Icehotel, even the drink menus are made of ice...so better dress warm!

(Continued from page 3)

Swedish carmaker Saab Automobile on Monday filed for bankruptcy protection, ending two years of efforts to save the iconic Swedish brand.

A Swedish health clinic has been reported after a routine bowel procedure was interrupted by what was described as a "powerful blast" likely caused by a build up of methane gas in the patient's intestines.

Archaeologists have uncovered five shipwrecks dating from the 1500s to the 1700s found in connection with renovation of a quay outside the Grand Hotel in central Stockholm.

GOTT NYTT ÅR TILL ALLA + HAPPY NEW YEAR