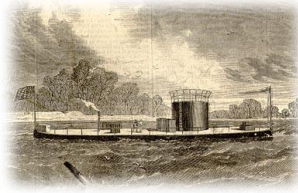


Monitor Lodge, #218
Sacramento, California
Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave



December 2022

We had a very busy October. November was definitely less hectic than October but we did drape the charter in memory of Dick Eriksson at our monthly meeting. We also closed out our elections for our 2023 officers with results at the end of this newsletter and we acknowledged Russ Ellis' **100th** birthday with a yellow and blue floral bouquet delivered to his home by our chairman who reports that both Russ and Birgitta are doing well.



2023 Officers election results. The balloting concluded just before Thanksgiving and the results were that the proposed slate was voted into office by acclamation. The new officers are listed at the end of this newsletter along with the members appointed to our various committees. Tack så mycket to our returning officers as well as our new officers for their willingness to serve with generosity, truth and unity.

Upcoming Monitor events. December brings us two festive events – we will have our annual Julbord on Saturday, December 3rd and the next Friday, December 9th we will hold our annual St. Lucia celebration. January will be a bit more sedate with a regular business meeting which will include the installation of our 2023 officers and initiation of new members. In February we plan to resume our traditional Pea Soup and Pancakes dinner meeting. And a reminder that Sacramento's annual Scandinavian Festival returns to its traditional time and place on April 15th, 2023 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

2022 Calendar of events
(dates subject to change)

December 3rd – Saturday –
Julbord – **IOOF Hall**

December 9th – Friday –
St. Lucia celebration

2023 Calendar of events
(dates subject to change)

January 6th – Friday –
Potluck and installation of
officers for 2023

February 3rd – Friday – **Pea
Soup & Pancakes**

March 3rd – Friday – Fika
and business meeting

April 1st – Saturday –
Anniversary luncheon

April 15th – Saturday –
Scandinavian Festival

May 6th – Saturday –
Sillfrukost.

June 3rd – Saturday –
Sweden Day

June 9th – Friday –
Midsommar celebration

July – no lodge meeting

August 5th - Saturday -
Kraft kiva

September 8th – Friday -
Dinner TBD and
nominations for 2024
officers

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Meet our newest members:



Doug Schwilk – I attended UCD and completed UCSF School of Medicine, later doing residencies in internal medicine and dermatology. I retired from Kaiser Hospital here after working to 30 years as a dermatologist. It was a great career. My maternal grandparents arrived in America in 1902 from Sweden with 2 children, ages one and two. They homesteaded land in Alberta, Canada; They grew wheat and raised farm animals, mostly pigs, on their quarter section of land. Unfortunately, my grandfather died in his early forties, leaving a wife and now 8 children. But they survived. My mother was the only one of the eight who moved to California after

finishing her nurses training at Vancouver General. My father promised my mother that they would visit often, and they did. We spent many happy times with the family on the farm. My interests included travel, hiking, dance and reading. We did performance vintage ballroom dancing and later folk dancing, square dancing, English country dancing and most recently learning Scottish (slowly). We did Scandinavian dancing for several years, but the amount of pivoting involved with this led me to have bilateral hip replacements 6 years ago. We have had visitors from our Swedish family and we visited many relatives in Warmland and Jamtland. My knowledge of the Swedish language is meager. DNA testing shows me to have 70% Scandinavian roots. I have a great deal of information on my Swedish roots.



Stuart Steene-Connolly - Stuart is a lifelong Swedish citizen, born and raised in the US but granted citizenship through my mother who emigrated here in 1979. We keep our Swedish traditions alive by visiting family and friends often in Uppsala and Stockholm. My grandmother resides in the middle of picturesque Uppsala, a dreamlike town centered around a meandering river. My dear family is made up of Jen, my partner in crime since 2008, my showstopping eldest daughter Astrid and the always amusing Stella. We love to travel and have a second home in Paros, Greece that acts as our springboard to see our friends and relatives throughout Europe.

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It's our greatest wish to keep our daughters connected to their heritage and to have some fun while doing so. I remember fondly my first time as a Tomten at a local Swedish church in Kentucky. Nothing better than a proper smorgasbord and glögg to bring our festive spirits out. We hope to make some new acquaintances in our neighborhood and find some hygge-minded folks in Carmichael. We look forward to being an active member of this heritage organization. Thank you for having us.

Please, please review the current program book and let Brian Horsfield, Anita Nord and Yvonne Magneheim know of any needed changes ASAP as we will be publishing the 2023 book in late December. Especially review phone numbers and email addresses.

Annual Program book updates. Our 2022 program book has two updates for December:

Douglas Schwilk 4101 Kenneth Ave Fair Oaks, CA 95628 (916) 967-6157 dermdoug@sbcglobal.net	New member
--	------------

Stuart Steene-Connolly 3004 Parkwood Court Carmichael, CA 95608 (859) 396-1678 cell stuart.steene@gmail.com	New member
--	------------

Important reminder: Our 2023 dues are due on January 1, 2023. The yearly dues are still \$35.00 **per** member 14 years of age and older. Dues are delinquent on March 31st. Please make checks payable to Monitor Lodge #218 and mail your dues to:

Anita Nord, Monitor Financial Secretary
6435 Palm Ave.
Carmichael CA 95608

Tack så mycket in advance for your diligence in getting payment in early. We also ask that you consider making a donation to our scholarship fund when you send in your renewal check in honor or in memory of a loved one or just because.

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How good is your Swedish vocabulary? As usual, if you want to brush up on your Swedish, you will find Swedish vocabulary and lessons in the Swedish edition of **The Local** (<https://www.thelocal.se/>) or **Nordstjernen** (<http://www.nordstjernen.com/>). As many of us will be sampling aquavit this month, the word on the day, **rackabajsare**, provided by The Local on November 24th, 2022 is appropriate (edited for brevity):

A *rackabajsare* is either a shot of a spirit, or a hard shot in a sport. You might also see a type of strongly-flavoured (smoked or spicy) sausage known as a *rackabajsare* in some delis.

Rackabajsare according to the Swedish Academy is a word of unknown origin, despite some claiming its origin to be *rachenbeisser* in German, meaning ‘throat-biter’. Although that might be possible, there are also many other potential origins.

Rackare today is used much in the same way as ‘rascal’ is, but it was not always so, *rackare* used to be much harsher. It used to mean something more like a ‘scoundrel’, and then somewhere in the 1800s this meaning began to shift and become weaker.

Racka could also be another way of writing *rak* meaning ‘straight’, here in the sense as in ‘to the point’ or ‘straight away without thinking about it’, which could then mean something like ‘going straight to the shit’, which could work for both meanings of *rackabajsare*, ‘a shot of a spirit’ and ‘a hard shot in any sport’.

There is however yet another couple of confounding meanings of *racka*. A now archaic meaning of ‘running about’ could give us something like ‘a disorderly hit or shot’. And then there is the perhaps most interesting one. It turns out that *racka* used to be another way of saying ‘arrack’, the Southeast Asian spirit. This would really explain the first meaning of *rackabajsare*, ‘a shot of a spirit,’ but it still leaves us with questions as to the second meaning.

Alas, there is no clear answer to be found! That’s just the way it is sometimes. But though we are unfortunately unable to provide you with the original meaning of *rackabajsare*, we can leave you a few examples of how to use the word in everyday conversation.

Example sentences:

Ska vi ta en liten rackabajsare, eller vad säger du? Should we have a cheeky little shot, what do you say?

Åh jävlar vilken rackabajsare! Bloody hell, what a canon of a shot!

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Current financial report (summary) from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer. We are still comfortably in the black. Below are our fund balances as of November 30, 2022.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Children's Club</u>	<u>Nål och Tråd</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Totals</u>
\$10,468.25	\$402.79	\$6,144.70	\$4,668.89	\$7,861.86	\$29,546.50

These figures include the payments of our monthly IOOF rent through October (finally received an invoice) and reimbursement of our delegates district convention expenses.

Did you know _____ about Monitor Lodge? This occasional section features interesting factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. You see the chest displayed at every meeting at the IOOF Hall but have you examined it closely? It was made by Fingal Segerstedt and decorated by Peggy Beckwith with Scandinavian rosemaling and folk art designs.



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A grattis på födelsedagen to our birthday celebrants for **December**: Laila Harris*, Adam Johnson, Carol Nesevich*, David Eric Swanson and Nils Wright (* denotes member 75 years of age or older).

For the good of the order – Swedish television’s 2022 St. Lucia morning celebration will broadcast from Uppsala Cathedral early in the morning on Dec. 13. Unless you subscribe to [SVT World](https://www.svtplay.se) your best bet to catch the traditional Swedish morning performance on Swedish TV would be through the live broadcast of Gomorron Sverige ("Good Morning Sweden") at www.svtplay.se – 06:25 a.m. Swedish time, 12:25 midnight EST and 09:25 p.m. Pacific time. This year's Lucia for the traditional Lucia celebration on Swedish TV is 14-year-old Astrid Cederlöf from Järlåsa, a small locality in Uppsala county in Sweden.

However, if you are in need of an immediate Lucia “fix” now, here is the YouTube video of the 2021 Lucia celebration in Tällberg, Sweden:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApIKXqeW36Y>

The celebration of Lucia as we know it in Sweden did not begin until 1764, when the first recorded Lucia dressed in white made the rounds at a manor in Västergötland province. The now-famous Lucia celebrations at the Skansen open-air museum in Stockholm were first held in 1893. From there, the custom of Lucia processions began to spread to schools and local organizations. Not until the twentieth century did Lucia celebrations fully take root, greatly aided by the mass media. But the attached **pre-Swedish** history about St. Lucia compiled by Carol Nesevich and attached to this newsletter is a very interesting story in its own right.

How to start off the new year – Swedish language classes. Space is limited but if you are interested, contact Will Hanley at hanley6019@gmail.com or (916) 712-3929.

And if you are looking to brush up on your spoken Swedish, or just want to enjoy light-hearted Swedish movie, check out **Ur spar** (Off Track) on Netflix:

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81580584?source=imdb>

You can watch in dubbed in English with English or Swedish subtitles or in Swedish with Swedish or English subtitles. Sorry, no Swenglish subtitles 😊



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson

Monitor Lodge #218 officers for 2023

Elected positions All officers were re-elected by acclamation on 11-23-2022

Elected positions

Chairman	Chuck Johnson
Vice Chairman	vacant
Recording Secretary	Yvonne Magneheim
Assistant Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Witdoeckt
Financial Secretary	Anita Nord
Assistant Financial Secretary	Joyce Willow
Treasurer	Brian Horsfield
Cultural Leader	Charley Rea
Chaplains	Larry Woodward & Will Hanley
Master of Ceremonies	vacant
Asst. Master of Ceremonies	vacant
Guard	vacant
Trustee – 3 year terms (also the Nominating committee)	Peggy Carlson (3 year) Dan Eriksson (2 year) vacant (1 year)
Auditor – 2 year terms	Mindy Patterson (2 yr) Johanna Benker (1 yr)
Scandinavian Festival delegates	Will Hanley & Larry Woodward

On the reverse side are the appointed positions and committees and proposed members for 2023. If you were serving in 2022 but are unable to serve in 2023, please let Chuck Johnson, Brian Horsfield or Ed Netzel know so we can update the lists before we publish the 2023 Program book. Similarly, if you would like to serve in a position, existing or new, please let us know. If there is a position you don't see on the list but you believe would serve the lodge well, please let us know.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: If you are a currently serving elected officer or a committee leader/coordinator who will be unable to serve in 2023, please make sure you pass on any relevant files to your successor. Tack så mycket

Monitor Lodge #218 officers for 2023

2022 appointed positions

Please let the chairman know if you are no longer able to serve in 2023.

Membership committee

Karin Johnson
Yvonne Magneheim
Ed Netzel
Charley Rea

Cultural committee

Charley Rea - lead
DeeDee Dahlberg
Eivor Pfannkuch
Ginny Lee
Marianne Ek

Scholarship committee

Joyce Willow - lead
Sarah Cuthill
Catherine Green

Meals, set up and clean up committee

Ed Netzel – lead
Linnea Koze
Peggy Carlson

Telephone Callers

Meribeth Bean – lead
Joyce Willow (page 8)
Anita Nord (pages 11-12)
Andy Hopkins (pages 9-10)
Carole Scibienski (pages 6-7)

Bartenders

Theresa Griffiths
Will Hanley
Larry Woodward

Past Lodge Chairman – Mark Delle

Historian/VASA Archives/Picture Directory – **vacant**

Photographers – **vacant**

Webmaster - Andy Hopkins & Chuck Johnson

Newsletter Editor – Chuck Johnson

VASA Star correspondent –Nils Wright

Program Book Editor - Brian Horsfield

Sunshine (Friendship) committee – Larry Woodward, Will Hanley

Julbord committee – coordinator **vacant**

Children’s Club and Lucia program - Lisa Rea (leader), Anita Nord, Christine Brainerd, Ginny Lee, Joyce Willow, Sarah Cuthill

Librarian – Ginny Lee

Coffee committee for meetings - DeeDee Dahlberg, Dan Eriksson, Catherine Green

Other committees and coordinators will be appointed on an “as needed” basis.

Reliquie di Santa Lucia Vergine E Martire

St. Lucy, the patron saint of eyesight, is one of the most venerated saints.

Carol Nesewich vacationed in Europe in 2007 and spent several days in Venice. From the Grand Canal she saw a Latin inscription carved on the outer wall of San Geremia Church. And realized the body or relic of St. Lucy rests in this church. St. Lucy was moved here when the Church of Santa Lucia, designed by Palladio, was torn down in 1860. This was done to make way for the railroad station, which is appropriately named Stazione Santa Lucia *1

The Gothic-style San Geremia Church was originally built in the eleventh century, then rebuilt in the thirteenth century and consecrated in 1292. The present church was rebuilt again in the mid eighteenth century. From the Cannaregio Canal one sees the front of the church which has wide, white marble stairs leading to two huge wooden doors framed on either side by marble columns. The main entrance for worshipers to enter the church is from Campo San Geremia. *2

Lucia's remains lay in Syracuse for centuries. Yet the veneration of the Saint was not confined only to Sicily, but from the century subsequent to her death, spread rapidly, becoming almost universal among the Christians. *4 When Syracuse fell into the hands of the Moslems in the ninth century, the body of the Saint was hidden in a secluded place of the catacombs until the Byzantines came to free Sicily in 1039. Her body, a precious relic, was then transferred to Constantinople. *6

When the Venetian Crusaders conquered Constantinople in 1204, the Saint's body was transferred to Venice, taken first to San Giorgio Maggiore Church. Syracuse was gifted with the remaining precious relics of the Saint: fragments of ribs, her left arm and Holy Vestments. *4 The 'incorruptible' body of Saint Lucy was moved from San Giorgio to the Annunziata in Venice in 1280. Four bishops and the Doge Giovanni Dandolo carried her body (lacking an arm) on their shoulders. The Church of Annunziata was rededicated to Saint Lucy in 1343. Lucy's body was there in 1395 and 1480 as recorded by visiting pilgrims in their journals. Apparently she appeared very young, with a beautiful face, and pleasant to behold. Her body was finally transferred to the nearby parish of San Geremia on July 11, 1860. Her cult flourished in the nineteenth and twentieth century. *6

Her saintly body is displayed and protected in a glass urn above the altar. A donations box is present bearing the prayer "Saint Lucy protect my eyes". She is dressed in purple and gold, her right hand showing from the large sleeve of the tunic. Her head lies on a damask cushion, the body on a mattress of yellow silk. The chapel is adorned with flowers, brocades and drapes. Hundreds of candles burn in a light of gold. *4 Just to the right of her chapel there is a small room with some relics and church vestments and an

eighteenth century painting of Santa Lucia by Palma il Giovane. *3 In 1955 the skull was covered with an artistic silver mask, following the wish of Pope John XXIII. Such measures served the purpose of protecting the body as well as ensuring its presentability. *6

Relics, usually just fragments of bone or fabric, provided the devout with a sense of physical connection to the sanctity of a saint. Less typical in Venice, is the entire body of a saint in full view - the "saint under glass". While most of these saints have their bodies covered in clothing, their hands with gloves, and their faces with death masks, Santa Lucia still has her hand exposed to demonstrate what's believed to be a common sign of saints' bodies, their "incorruptibility" or the fact that they've essentially become mummified. *5

Although very little information has been handed down to us about this Saint from the Grecian and Latin acts, the memories of St. Gregory Magno, a Father of the western church, who lived in the VI century, have left us with ample information about her life and her martyrdom, as well as a poem in verse "De Laudibus Virginum", by Saint Adelmo who lived during the VII century. *4

According to the traditional story, Lucy was born in Syracuse, possibly the year 280, to a wealthy patrician family. Her mother's name was Eutichia. She was five years old, when her father died. She attended Christian religious functions and spent most of her time in prayer, studies of religion, in meditation and helping the poor. A young man asked permission to become Lucy's spouse; and her mother, Eutichia, was willing because she had been suffering from an incurable blood disease and was worried about the future of her daughter. Lucy suggested a pilgrimage to the tomb of Saint Agatha, where they prayed about her mother's health, and as the story goes, Eutichia was healed. *4

Lucy finally revealed to her mother that she had consecrated her life to God and resumed her ideal of perfect poverty. Lucy's suitor saw her with her mother distributing large sums of money to the poor and learned that she was a Christian. When he asked her, Lucy said she could never become his bride. He was very angry and went to the Proconsul Pascasio. The date was the 13th of December 304. Lucy was immediately brought before this official. She was questioned about her Christian religion and she insisted that she would remain faithful to her God. Pascasio threatened torture but she would not change her mind and supposedly offered her throat to the soldier's dagger. Also found in this account is a legend saying that just before her death, having been told that her suitor was touched by the beauty of her eyes, she tore them out, but showed no pain *4

There is no clear information about the account of an attempt at torture by fire. But such an event is depicted in two of the eight scenes painted on the beautiful and elaborate

'Saint Lucy Altarpiece'. This Polyptych altarpiece was created by Paolo Veneziano and is dated at about 1340. The painting originally stood in the Abbey church of St Lucija in Jurandvor on the Island of Krk, which is part of northern Croatia. It now stands in the bishop's chancellery in the town of Krk. *6

It's unclear how St. Lucia became a traditional sensation in Sweden, but the celebration is definitely associated with bringing light into the long dark days of winter.

1. www.panoramio.com/user/29697 (Panoramio has been discontinued)
2. www.invenicetoday.com/art-tour/churches (The resource has been removed)
3. slow travel trip reports – a month in Venice by Ms. Boleskine – Spring 2002
4. Passages from the book: Saint Lucy – written by Ines Belski Lagazzi
5. michellesmentalclutter.blogspot.com/2005/07/culture-shock-and-skeletons-in-closet.htm
6. www.hart.hr/pdf/R30/radovi-IPU-30-81-92-munk.pdf The Art of Relic Cults in Trecento Venice

