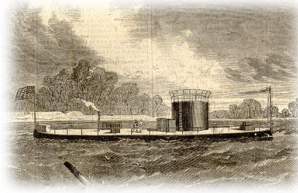


**Monitor Lodge, #218**  
Sacramento, California  
Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave



April 2023

**March saw everyone enjoying** a delightful evening which started with a traditional Pea Soup & Pancakes coordinated by Ed Netzel. Brigitta Ostlund then introduced her son Nils Wright. Nils gave the evening's cultural presentation, speaking about the longtime ties between Thailand and Sweden. This alliance began in the late 1800s when the King of Thailand visited Sweden and spoke with King Oscar to learn about the forest industry. The relationship continues to this day with exchanges of military training opportunities, tourism and disaster assistance. After the devastating Christmas 2004 tsunami Sweden provided financial assistance and new fishing boats to Thailand. Nils was a journalist in Thailand in 2004-2005 and had the opportunity to personally interview King Carl Gustav and Queen Silvia about the Swedish-Thai relationship. The relationship is still going strong ranging from the close ties between the royal families to people-to-people connections, including the Royal Thai Pavilion at the end of the King Chulalongkorn Road, the only royal Thai building outside of Thailand located in the Ragunda municipality in Sweden. Nils' presentation included a number of slides of Thai- Swedish activities, including his meeting with the Swedish monarch. It was a very memorable evening.



**2023 Calendar of events**  
(dates subject to change)

April 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday –  
**Anniversary luncheon**

April 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday –  
**Scandinavian Festival**

May 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday –  
**Sillfrukost**.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday –  
**Sweden Day** at Roberts  
Park in Oakland.

June 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday –  
**Midsommar** celebration

July – no lodge meeting

August 5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday -  
**Kraftskiva**

September 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday -  
Dinner TBD and  
nominations for 2024  
officers

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday –  
FIKA and business meeting

November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday –  
2024 elections

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday –  
**Julbord**

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday –  
**St. Lucia** celebration

**2024 Calendar of events**  
(dates subject to change)

January 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday –  
**installation of officers**

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**Upcoming Monitor events.** April 1<sup>st</sup> has Monitor celebrating its **111th** anniversary with a luncheon followed two weeks later with Sacramento's annual Scandinavian Festival returning to its traditional time and place on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center. Lisa & Charley Rea will then host our annual Sillfrukost at their home on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Annual Program book updates.** Our 2023 program book got mailed to all active members in late December. While we endeavor to ensure the information is correct, it is a living document so please contact Brian Horsfield, Anita Nord and Chuck Johnson whenever your information changes so we can update the Program Book, membership database and newsletters. Tack så mycket.

And here are updates as of the end of March:

Page 6 - Annika Anderson *address unchanged*  
[annika1947@yahoo.com](mailto:annika1947@yahoo.com)

Page 12 – Nils Wright *address unchanged*  
916-770-5670 cell (corrected typo)

**Current financial report** (summary) from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer and we continue to be comfortably in the black.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Children's Club</u>	<u>Nål och Träd</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Totals</u>
\$11,644.58	\$232.73	\$6,144.70	\$4,668.89	\$8,261.86	\$30,952.77

**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/>). We again have our Swedish word of the day courtesy of The Local on March 6, 2023. This time the word is: **födelsedag**

Today's word of the day, *födelsedag*, is, like the English word 'birthday', a compound word consisting of the word *födelse* (birth) and *dag* (day). So far, so simple.

In Sweden, the person whose birthday it is (*födelsedagsbarnet* or 'birthday child' if it's a child), will be woken up by the rest of the family, who will sing them a birthday song, after which they will be given their presents, as well as breakfast in bed.

Swedes have a number of different birthday songs, including *ja må du leva, vi gratulerar*, and the English song Happy Birthday. *Ja må du leva* and *vi gratulerar* are sung to the same tune, and the lyrics are as follows.

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**Ja må du leva**

(Note: swap 'du' with the correct pronoun for the whoever you're singing to)

Ja, må du leva!	Yes, may he live!
Ja, må du leva!	Yes, may he live!
Ja, må du leva uti hundra år!	Yes, may he live for a hundred years!
Javisst ska du leva!	Of course he will live!
Javisst ska du leva!	Of course he will live!
Javisst ska du leva uti hundra år!	Of course he will live for a hundred years!

You'll often hear just the first verse sung, but there are a few other verses which you might hear, especially at children's birthday parties. Here's one of them:

Och när han har levat!	And when he has lived
Och när han har levat!	And when he has lived
Och när han har levat uti hundra år!	And when he has lived for a hundred years!
Ja, då ska han skjutas!	Yes, then he will be wheeled
Ja, då ska han skjutas!	Yes, then he will be wheeled
Ja, då ska han skjutas på en skottkärra fram!	Yes, then he will be wheeled away in a wheelbarrow!

The joke in Swedish is that 'skjutas' can mean either 'pushed' as in pushing a wheelbarrow or 'shot' as in, well, being shot. So until you get to the context in the third line, it sounds like you want to kill off the birthday child. Charming!

If this wasn't weird enough, there are even versions where the the birthday boy or girl is hung upside-down and drowned in champagne, which doesn't feel like a particularly fun way to celebrate your birthday.

The next birthday song, *vi gratulerar*, is a slightly more generic version of *ja må du leva*, which you're more likely to hear sung for adults or in more professional environments.

**Vi gratulerar**

Vi gratulerar!	We congratulate!
Vi gratulerar!	We congratulate!
Vi gratulerar på din födelsedag!	We congratulate you on your birthday!
Med blommor och blader!	With flowers and leaves
Vi firar denna dagen	We celebrate this day
Vi gratulerar på din födelsedag!	We congratulate you on your birthday!

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Birthdays haven't always been celebrated in Sweden, with name days more popular for much of Swedish history. This is partly due to the fact that many people in rural agricultural societies – particularly pre-1600s – didn't necessarily know exactly which day they were born on, and partly due to the fact that celebrating a birthday was seen as pagan or heathen in Catholic Sweden, before Lutheranism became more popular.

In the 1600s, churches started keeping records of births, deaths, marriages and christenings in their parishes, although it only became common for normal Swedes to celebrate their birthdays around the end of the 1800s. In some rural areas, children's birthdays weren't regularly celebrated until after the second world war.

Nowadays, it's very unusual for a Swede not to celebrate their birthday, although some religious groups, such as Jehovah's witnesses, don't celebrate birthdays.

Young children will often celebrate at school or at preschool, with their parents organising a *födelsedagskalas* or *födelsedagsfest* (birthday party), usually the weekend before or after their birthday.

Celebrating a round number birthday, such as your 30th, 40th or 50th birthday, is sometimes referred to as *fylla jämt* (literally: 'fill evenly', but essentially 'turning a round number'), with a slightly bigger celebration more common. Similarly, turning 18, 25 or reaching pension age is often celebrated with a bigger party.

You're also likely to see young just-turned-20-year-olds in Sweden's alcohol monopoly Systembolaget on their birthdays, as the minimum age for buying alcohol in a Systembolaget is 20 ( you can buy alcohol in bars and low-alcohol beer in supermarkets at 18).

Those who are lucky enough to actually *leva uti hundra år* (live a hundred years) receive a telegram from the King wishing them a happy birthday.

Finally, if you want to wish someone a happy birthday, you can say *grattis på födelsedagen!*

**Example sentences:**

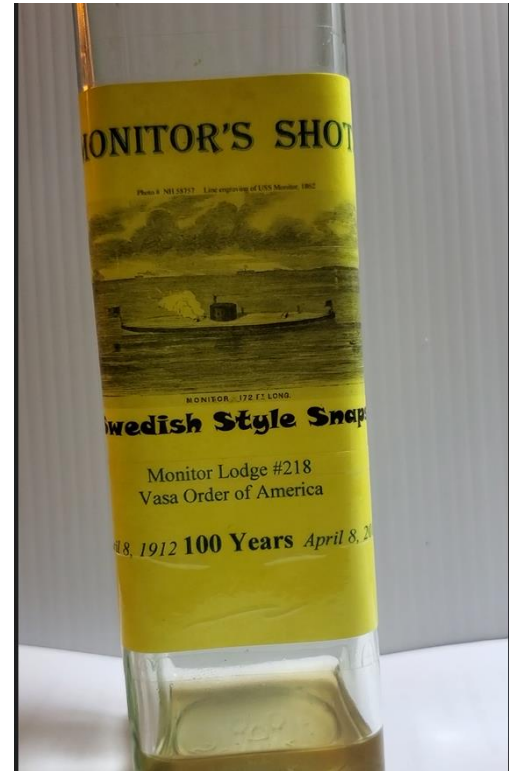
*Min dotter har födelsedag i dag. Hon fyller tre.* It's my daughter's birthday today. She's turning three.

*Vad önskar du dig i födelsedagspresent?* What do you want for your birthday?

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**Did you know \_\_\_\_ about Monitor Lodge?** This occasional section features factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. As Monitor Lodge approaches its 111<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April here is some more history of an earlier day when some of Monitor's members collaborated to make both the snaps and the custom label to celebrate the lodge's centennial in 2012. To my knowledge, I have the only remaining bottle in my possession and, no, I have not sampled the dregs still in the bottle 😊

**A grattis på födelsedagen** to our birthday celebrants for April: Annika Anderson\*, Dick Baldwin\*, Bob Barrett\*, Michelle Kauffman\*, Sandra Kesler, Margaretha Logus\*, Barry Moore, Melissa Netzel and Lisa Widmark. (\* denotes member 75 years of age or older).



**For the good of the order:**

*Don't forget* that we have Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> as setup and Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> for our 39<sup>th</sup> annual Sacramento Scandinavian festival. Monitor still needs volunteers to work our Swedish pancakes and smörgåsar sales, help with ticket sales and bring baked goods donations for the Baked Goods table and help with the sales. Contact Chuck Johnson (festival chairman), Peggy Carlson (smörgåsar), DeeDee Dahlberg (pancake coordinator) or Will Hanley & Larry Woodward (floor managers) if you have questions on how you can help. And for those of you who have already volunteered yourselves, your family members, coworkers and friends - ***Tack så mycket***



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson