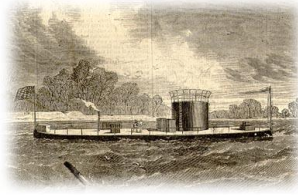


Monitor Lodge, #218
Sacramento, California
Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave



June 2023

May found us dodging raindrops while enjoying a very pleasant gathering for our annual Sillfrukost gathering again



hosting by Lisa and Charley Rea at their home. Many tack så myckets to everyone for bringing an abundance of delicious foods but especially to Peggy and Ken Carlson for doing all the prep work and grilling of the sill.

We had about 35 members in attendance along with several prospective new members.

Upcoming Monitor events. Sadly, due to low registration numbers, Golden Gate District #12 decided to cancel its annual Sweden Day scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd. However, Monitor is holding its annual Midsommar celebration on Friday, June 9th at our regular IOOF Hall meeting place. Then we take a break in July and resume meeting in August when we hold our annual Kraftskiva celebration.

In memorium. Catherine Green passed very unexpectedly in mid-April and we will be draping Monitor's Charter in her member at our June meeting.

Annual Program book updates. Our 2023 program book was mailed to all active members in late December 2022. While we endeavor to ensure the information is correct, it is a living document so please contact Brian Horsfield, Anita Nord and

2023 Calendar of events
(dates subject to change)

June 9th – Friday –
Midsommar celebration

July – no lodge meeting

August 5th - Saturday –
Kraftskiva

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

October 6th – Friday –
FIKA and business meeting

November 3rd – Friday –
2024 elections

December 2nd – Saturday –
Julbord

December 8th – Friday –
St. Lucia celebration

2024 Calendar of events
(dates subject to change)

January 5th – Friday –
installation of officers

February 2nd – Friday – **Pea
Soup & Pancakes**

March 1st – Friday – meeting

April 6th – Saturday – **112th
Anniversary luncheon**

May 4th – Saturday –
Sillfrukost

June 7th – Friday –
Midsommar

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Chuck Johnson whenever your information changes so we can update the Program Book, membership database and newsletters. Tack så mycket.

Page 7 Catherine Green *passed away in April 2023*

Elsa Cisar *reinstated member*

4732 Corona Circle

Rocklin, CA 95677

916-705-5513 (cell)

ettamia@sbcglobal.net

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>
\$9,912.96	\$232.73	\$6,144.70	\$4,668.89	\$8,261.86	\$29,221.15

How good is your Swedish vocabulary? If you want to brush up on your Swedish in addition to Monitor's Swedish language classes led by Will Hanley 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 offer our Swedish word of the day courtesy of The Local on May 17th, 2023. This time the word is: **gökotta**

<https://www.thelocal.se/20220422/swedish-word-of-the-day-gokotta>).

Today's word of the day describes a now uncommon Swedish tradition which is linked to Ascension Day in late May or early June.

The noun *gökotta* describes the Swedish tradition of going birdwatching - or taking a *fågelskådartur* (bird watching tour) - in order to spot a *gök* (cuckoo).

The word is made up of the noun *gök*, the Swedish word for cuckoo, and *otta*, an old Swedish word for the time of day between night and dawn. The word *otta* comes from Old Norse *óttá*. *Óttá* still exists in Icelandic, where it historically referred to 3 o'clock in the morning, under an old system where night and day were split into three-hour chunks (3 o'clock in the afternoon also had a special term in Icelandic: *nón*).

Anyway, back to the *gökotta*. The tradition involves going into the forest early on a spring morning, picnic in hand, to wait in silence in hopes of hearing the cuckoo's song.

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Around a century ago, celebrating the *gökotta* became popular in Sweden - with Ascension Day being a good time to do so, as it coincides with the cuckoo's return from its winter migration in Africa.

Although some churches organise outdoor services featuring a *gökotta* excursion, the tradition has its roots in the Swedish folk movement.

In southern Sweden, you may be able to hear the cuckoo as early as the end of April - in mountainous areas and further north, you may have to wait two or three weeks more before you can hear its cry.

According to Swedish folk belief, the cry of the cuckoo may be a fateful sound, depending on the direction from which the sound is heard: *Södergök är dödergök, östergök är tröstegök. Nordegök är sorgegök, västergök är bästergök.* ("Southern cuckoo is death cuckoo, eastern cuckoo is consolation cuckoo. Northern cuckoo is sorrow cuckoo, western cuckoo is the best cuckoo").

Additionally, a cuckoo's cry heard near your home was considered as warning of an imminent death. Cuckoos may even hold answers to the future: another folk belief suggests that asking the first cuckoo you hear the following question and waiting for the number of calls in response will reveal the life expectancy of the person asking the question: "Lilla gök på kvist, säg mig visst, hur många år jag får? / Little cuckoo on a branch, tell me, how many years will I get?"

On a more cheerful note, folklore also states that the first cuckoo of the season can reveal when you will marry: count one year for each time the cuckoo cries in response to your question.

Example sentences

Vill ni med på gökotta imorgon bitti? Do you want to go looking for cuckoos early tomorrow morning?

Gökottan är en gammal svensk tradition som har sina rötter i den svenska folkrörelsen. The *gökotta* is an old Swedish tradition with its roots in the Swedish folk movement.

A grattis på födelsedagen to our birthday celebrants for June: Karna Boyer*, Elsa Cisar, William Hanley, Jack Larson*, Anita Nord*, Emil Rea, Douglas Schwilk* and Carole Scibienski (* denotes member 75 years of age or older).

Did you know _____ about Monitor Lodge? This occasional section features factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. And what was Monitor doing about 40 years ago? Well, here is an excerpt from the July-August 1992 VASA Star:

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“April and May [1992] has been a busy month for the members of MONITOR LODGE, Sacramento, CA. We not only hosted the District Convention we celebrated our 80th anniversary at the same time. The theme for the convention was a Touch of Sweden. Friday night started out with a costume party, Saturday night the banquet featured prinsess tarta for dessert. Eleanor Vine and her committee decorated the tables with fresh flowers in Swedish colors. Eivor Pfannkuch, cultural leader, presented each person attending a bag featuring Dalarna from Swedish literature, pencil and other goodies from Sweden. Raffle prizes were Swedish, an orange horse, a crystal bowl and a handmade quilt rack. The Valley Viking singers provided the entertainment and then Frank and Delores played for dancing.

In May we had a wonderful Sill Frokost at the home of Ted and Alice Olson. All food was served outside and we were fortunate to have the Kil Dragsell Klubb for entertainment. It was hard to decide if you wanted to visit, to eat the great food or listen to the good Swedish music.

The following day some of our members joined together with Sierra Kronan and went to Sveadal. The bus was fun, Karola brought her accordion and we had a sing-a-long, led by Eivor Pfannkuch. Karola is to be commended for being able to play while doing a balancing act through the Santa Cruz mountains. Following the sing-a-long we played "Swedish Bingo." While we were eating lunch in the picnic area three busloads of Swedes arrived. Here were the actor's and musicians for Varmlanningarna. In spite of the heat this wonderful group performed. There were only happy people and at the end of the performance they received a well deserved standing ovation.

In addition to all of these activities we had a wonderful Mother's Day dinner cooked by our men, all served by our handsome Swedes. With all this activity and our Swedish classes is it any wonder that we all look forward to each new and repeat activity. - Marianne Ek [Monitor VASA Star correspondent]”

For the good of the order: Whether you are a Swede “born and raised”, a Swede by interest (or marriage) or just like to learn more about Swedish life you will find the following bi-weekly podcasts to be entertaining and informative:

<https://shows.acast.com/the-newbie-guide-to-sweden-podcast>

Njut av!



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson