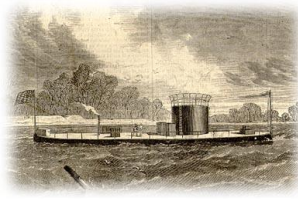


**Monitor Lodge, #218**  
**Sacramento, California**  
**Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave**



**October 2023**

**We resumed our regular meeting format** in September with the initiation of two new members: Cheyenne Bart and Stuart Steene-Connolly. We followed that up a very pleasant potluck meal with lots of conversation. We wrapped up the evening with a fascinating presentation by Ken Johnson, a Elk Grove California FamilySearch Center docent specializing in Swedish genealogy, about how to research ones' Swedish ancestors using the recently established online Swedish genealogical research site **Arkidigital** (<https://www.arkivdigital.net/>) .

**Upcoming Monitor events.** In *October* we are starting a new Monitor tradition of having Swedish Taco Night in addition to a cultural presentation and we also continue the nomination process for our 2024 officers slate. We are contemplating shifting/splitting our meeting schedules to having video conferencing (ZOOM) meetings of the Executive Committee in the week prior to our monthly meetings to conduct any needed business and meet VASA's minimum business meetings requirements so this will be a future meeting discussion item.

**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 Chuck Johnson whenever your information changes so we can update the Program Book, membership database and newsletters. Tack så mycket. We have no updates for September.

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

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday –  
Swedish Tacos 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**

February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday – **Pea  
Soup & Pancakes**

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday – meeting

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – **112<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary luncheon**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday -40<sup>th</sup>  
annual Scandinavian  
Festival**

May 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday –  
**Sillfrukost**

June 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday –  
**Midsommar**

**July** – no meeting

August 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday –  
**Kraft kiva**

September 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday –  
meeting TBD

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**A grattis på födelsedagen** to our birthday celebrants for **October**: Marianne Ek\*, Nicole Hopkins, Brian Horsfield\* and Karin Johnson. (\* denotes member 75 years of age or older).

**Current financial report** (summary) as of the end of September 2023 from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer. The totals reflect payment of July-September rent and transfer of \$100 to scholarship fund. 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>
\$10,691.53	\$ 232.73	\$6,144.70	\$4,668.89	\$7,361.86	\$28,999.71

**Did you know \_\_\_\_\_ about Monitor Lodge?** This occasional section features factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. This time we are focusing on describing of the VASA title abbreviations we occasionally see in our minutes and newsletters:

- PGM – Past Grand Master (of the VASA Grand Lodge)
- PDM – Past District Master (most often referring to PDMs of our VASA district: Goldengate District #12)
- PMC – Past Monitor Chairperson
- HLM – Honorary Life Member (may be bestowed at the lodge, District or Grand Lodge level)

**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/>). You can also get a language fix from bi-weekly podcasts at: <https://shows.acast.com/the-newbie-guide-to-sweden-podcast>.

We again offer our Swedish word of the day courtesy of The Local on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This time the word is: [lillördag](#) the Swedish word for Wednesday (a bit confusing but read on...

*Lillördag* means "little Saturday" and comes from the words *lille* (little) and *lördag* (Saturday). Today, it's an alternative word for... Wednesday.

But why? In times gone by, maids and servants might have to work on Saturdays, and were given one weekday off work instead, usually midweek. So Wednesday (usually *onsdag* in Swedish, getting its name from Nordic God Odin) was given the nickname

*piglördag*, from the word *piga* which means "maid" or "servant": "servant Saturday".

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*Piglördag* was also called *lillördag*, and as it became less and less common to have household staff, *lillördag* was used more and more. Over time the meaning changed too.

*Lillördag* has now become an excuse for midweek drinks and activities, so you might get an invitation from Swedish co-workers to go for an *afterwork* (another word for a future issue) to celebrate, and some bars and restaurants open late or even have special offers.

An appropriate English translation for *lillördag* might be "hump day". So feel free to use the phrase *det är ju lillördag!* (it's Wednesday/hump day, after all!) to justify any midweek treat, or to add *#lillördag* to your Instagram posts while out celebrating on Wednesday night.

By the way, *lördag* itself has an interesting history. The Swedish name for Saturday comes from the Old Norse name *laugardagr* which meant "bathing day". *Laug* meant "pool" or "lake" and *dagr* meant "day".

Vikings are believed to have washed themselves once a week, on a Saturday, washing and combing their hair and beards as well. This was actually much more than many other people at the time, and the Vikings' personal grooming habits were commented on in many writings by foreign monks and scribes. Today, the word for Saturday in all the Scandinavian languages comes from the Old Norse word meaning "bathing/washing day".

### Examples

*Jag ska bara dricka öl på helgen... fast onsdag är ju lillördag* I'm only going to drink beer at the weekends... but Wednesday is of course Little Saturday

*Fira lillördag hos oss!* Celebrate Little Saturday with us! (A slogan you might see at bars and events trying to entice in customers for midweek drinks)

**For the good of the order:**



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson

