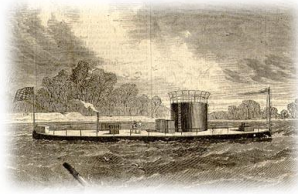


Monitor Lodge #218

Sacramento, California

Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave

<https://www.monitorlodgesacramento.org/>



February 2024

We started the new year with the installation of our 2024 officers and initiation of yet some more new members at our January meeting. We concluded the meeting with yet another delicious potluck followed by a fascinating presentation by Charley Rea with brief history of the founding of Kingsburg, CA and some of its famous sons and daughters (Rafer Johnson, Melissa Price and Slim Pickens among others).



Upcoming Monitor events.! February will see our traditional Pea Soup and Pancakes followed by our annual Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner in March. April will be very busy with our

2024 Calendar of events (dates subject to change)

February 2nd – Friday – Pea Soup & Pancakes

March 1st – Friday – meeting

April 6th – Saturday – 112th Anniversary luncheon

April 20th – Saturday – 40th annual Scandinavian Festival

April 26-28 – Golden Gate District #12 annual convention

May 4th – Saturday – Sillfrukost

June 7th – Friday – Midsommar

July – no meeting

August 3rd – Saturday – Kraft kiva

September 6th – Friday – Officer nominations

October 4th – Friday – Swedish Taco Night

November 1st – Friday – Pie social (tentative)

December 7th – Saturday – Julbord and Glögg Party

December 13th – Friday – St. Lucia program

2025 Calendar of events (dates subject to change)

January 10th – Friday – installation of officers

February 7th – Friday – Pea Soup and Pancakes

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112th anniversary luncheon, 40th annual Scandinavian festival and the Golden Gate District #12 convention in Sacramento.

A grattis på födelsedagen to our birthday celebrants for **February**: Jill Stockham*, Kurt Pfannkuch*, Lisa Rea, Susan Weber*, Chuck Johnson, Orville Voxland*, Ethel Johnson* and Mindy Patterson. (* denotes member 75 years of age or older).

Important reminder: Our 2024 dues are due on January 1, 2024. 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.

Annual Program book updates. Our 2024 Program Book was recently mailed to all active members. 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 the following corrections for February:

Page 5 Calendar corrections: November Friday 1st
January 2025

Meet our some of our newest members: Jeffrey Brodd is a Professor of Humanities &



Religious Studies at Sacramento State, where for the past 24 years he has taught courses on ancient Mediterranean cultures and world religions. He completed the doctorate in Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has taught previously at the College of Wooster in Ohio, and at Winona State University and Saint Mary's University in Minnesota, his home state. He grew up in the countryside near Kenyon, where he attended high school, nearby to St. Olaf College, his alma mater. Jeffrey's wife, Jill, is from Santa Cruz, a frequent weekend destination of theirs for visits with family.

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Jeffrey discovered our Vasa Monitor Lodge when happening upon the Scandinavian Festival this past April and being impressed by those tending our table, and by the Festival in general. He was raised with a strong sense of connection to Swedish heritage, his father Ole having immigrated with his family from Sweden in 1903 at the age of four. Ole was confirmed at Vasa Lutheran Church, where at that time services and confirmation classes were still conducted in Swedish. Jeffrey recalls fondly enjoying his first lutefisk dinner at a Lutheran church in the neighboring town of Cannon Falls. Just before beginning senior year of high school, the family traveled to Sweden, visiting the house and church where Ole had been born and baptized, in Nymö, a village in Skåne not far from Åhus (home of Absolut Vodka), where his father worked in a distillery. His father also served in the Swedish calvary—hence the name “Brodd,” which was Jeffrey’s grandfather’s soldier ‘nickname’.

Jeffrey has been enjoying all of our Vasa activities, especially the people. He looks forward to getting better up to speed on all things Swedish, trying to keep pace with his brother Stefan, who maintains close contact with several relatives in Sweden and who for many years has been involved in music, sacred and secular, in the Swedish community of Washington, DC. Jeffrey and Jill love to travel, with Sweden high on the list of destinations for the near future.

Grace Hedglin is currently a student at Sacramento City College studying biology. She hopes to transfer to UC Davis and get into the veterinary program. She has lived in



Sacramento her whole life and currently volunteers in her free time at Front Street Animal Shelter. She grew up knowing she was Swedish but not really knowing the culture or who in her family was Swedish. She started to get into genealogy in high school and started to find old family photos which got her more interested in her cultural heritage. She learned that her great-grandfather on her dad’s side came from Jämtland, a historical province (landskap) in the center of Sweden, in the 1900s and was drafted in WW I. Her great-grandmother was

born in Chicago but her parents and other siblings were from Sweden. On her mom’s side, she found out that her great-grandfather was half Danish and his father immigrated from Denmark in 1864. Her great-grandmother was half Swedish and her father immigrated to the U.S. in 1880. Her paternal grandmother would take trips with her father to Sweden from time to time and worked in Sweden for a little bit too. Unfortunately, she died a while before Grace was born so she was never able to teach her any of her Swedish recipes or tell her about her Swedish heritage. She is hoping to learn Swedish and maybe one day travel to Sweden too.

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Important reminder: The annual VASA scholarship deadlines are fast approaching. The Grand Lodge 2024 application is due no later than February 15, 2024 while Monitor Lodge's and Golden Gate District's applications are due no later than April 1, 2024.

Additional information and application forms available on Monitor's website at:

<https://www.monitorlodgesacramento.org/membership/scholarship/>

Read the instructions carefully as the requirements are slightly different for each scholarship.

Current financial report (summary) as of the end of January 2024 from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer is not yet available as we complete our annual audit, compile our annual reports for submittal to the District and transition from Brian Horsfield to Dan Eriksson as our new Treasurer. However we continue to be comfortably in the black.

Did you know _____ about Monitor Lodge? This occasional section features factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. This month we are deviating just a bit off topic. Did you know that there is a Swedish-American Bar Association (SABA)?

The membership consists of Swedish speaking attorneys based throughout the U.S. and covers virtually every area of the law, including international commercial transactions, real estate, estate planning and probate, debtor and creditor, patent and trademarks, copyrights, and immigration matters. The SABA (<https://www.saba-advokat.com/>) provides a listing of Swedish speaking attorneys practicing law in the United States. The Association was established in 1993 as an informal networking tool among its members. The Association has since expanded to provide Swedish-American businesses and others with an additional source for accessing Swedish speaking professional legal services in the United States.

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 October 3rd, 2023. This time the word is: **milda makter** (<https://www.thelocal.se/20231003/word-of-the-day-milda-makter>) There are few easier ways of making a Swede laugh than to invoke the heavenly powers, with the phrase milda makter!

Milda is similar to the English word mild, and can be translated here as "gentle", while *makter* is the plural of *makt*, which means "power". The phrase can therefore literally be

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translated as "gentle powers!", and seems to be praising or calling for aid from deities other than, and perhaps subordinate to, the Christian one.

It's roughly equivalent to saying "goodness gracious", "holy moly", or "good heavens" in English, in that it's a little archaic and also slightly coy, as the user is holding back from the more hard-hitting *herregud* (for God's sake!). It always has mild amusement value, but I feel it's funnier coming from someone who barely speaks Swedish.

Other less common variants of the phrase include *milda Matilda* (mild Matilda) and *milda tider* (mild times).

The Swedish Language Council says the history behind *milda makter* is difficult to be certain of the origin of the phrase, or what it refers to, before pointing to an [entry in the Swedish Academy's dictionary](#).

This entry groups *milda makter* together with *himmelska makter* (heavenly powers), and *alla makter* (all the powers), as examples of "playful exclamations expressing great surprise".

If it's your birthday party and your friends have arranged a giant oversized cake, the phrase *milda makter* might be in order. Or you might use it if you're watching Melodifestivalen on TV and a singer who won Eurovision with a brilliant, rousing anthem stages a weird, self-involved interpretive dance piece, instead of giving the audience what it really wants.

You can see an example of the phrase being put to good use [in this sentence](#) by Dagens Nyheter's late great etiquette columnist Magdalena Ribbing, in which she expresses her annoyance at both people who thank others too much, and those who don't thank others at all. *Milda makter, suckar jag, så sorgligt korkade båda dessa ytterlighetsgrupper är*, she writes. "Goodness gracious, I sigh, how depressingly wrong-headed both of these fringe groups are!"

It's also a phrase beloved of Sweden's tabloid newspapers, as in [this story about a giant strawberry](#): *Milda makter, vilken gubbe!* (Holy moly! What a strawb!)

Whatever its origin, it's a phrase that all newcomers to Sweden, and in fact any speaker of Swedish at all, should use at every opportunity.

Example sentences:

Milda makter! Det var en stor fisk du fångade. Holy moly, what a big fish you've caught!

Milda makter, titta på klockan! Good heavens, look at the time!

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For the good of the order: 1 - We are still in need of pictures of both our Julbord and our St. Lucia celebrations. Please email your favorite pictures to Chuck Johnson. *Tack så mycket.*

2 - We still need a few more telephone tree callers as we would like to have one caller per directory page. We generally only “exercise” the phone tree once a month to remind folks about that month’s upcoming meeting. It is a great opportunity to get to better know our members and to keep everyone connected. Please let Meribeth Bean (cell 916-995-4965) or Chuck Johnson (cell 916-501-9256) if you are able to take on this task.

3 - A slightly sad note - Scandinavian Designs furniture store will be closing their Fair Oaks store in late April although for now their stores in [Elk Grove](#) on Bond Road and in [Rocklin](#) on Five Star Boulevard will remain open.

4 - Yet another few items of interest, courtesy of the Framåt Lodge #405 (El Cerrito, California) January newsletter, a couple of fascinating pieces about Sweden’s king Gustavus Adolphus:

- *6 Facts About Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden*
(<https://www.historyhit.com/swedish-king-gustavus-adolphus-killed-battle-lutzen/>)
- *Gustavus Adolphus - Sweden's Greatest King Documentary*, a 52 minute Youtube video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zwo_mQnyUug)

5 – And last but not least: *Don’t forget* that we have Friday, April 19th as setup and Saturday, April 20th for our **40th** annual Sacramento Scandinavian festival at Elks Lodge #6 in the Pocket area off of Riverside Blvd. Monitor still needs volunteers (yourselves, your family members, coworkers and friends) 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 - ***Tack så mycket***



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson