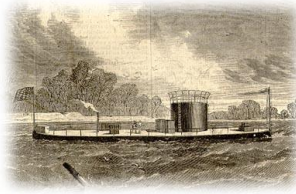


Monitor Lodge #218

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Mars (March) 2024

February found us having a wonderful repast of pea soup and pancakes followed by a fascinating presentation on Swedish twisted knitting by Mary Choy. This was definitely a social meeting with virtually no business needing to be conducted.

Upcoming Monitor events.! March will find us resuming our traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner. April will be very busy with our **112th** anniversary luncheon, **40th** annual Sacramento Scandinavian festival and the Golden Gate District #12 annual convention.

A grattis på födelsedagen to our birthday celebrants for **March:** Susanne Smith, Jan Volkoff, Kenneth Carlson* and Paul Koze* (* 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

2024 Calendar of events (dates subject to change)

March 1st - Friday - **Corned Beef & Cabbage**

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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whenever your information changes so we can update the Program Book, membership database and newsletters. Tack så mycket. We have the following updates for March:

Page 5: Scholarship Committee - *replace Sarah Cuthill with Susan Edelmayer*

Page 8: Nils Hedglin *new member*

1461 Potrero Way

Sacramento, CA 95822

916-303-0327 cell

nils.hedglin@gmail.com

Andy Hopkins

all other info is correct

(916) 835-4619 cell

Meet our some of our newest members: Marie Green - My parents, Ed and Billye

Nelson, were members of Monitor Lodge for many years and I met several members



through the years. They are/were so nice. I am impressed by the kindness and generosity of those members I have met so far. When I wanted to go to Sweden, I had many questions about planning my trip, and Eivor and Kurt Pfannkuch, as well as others, helped me a lot. I wanted to learn to speak Swedish, too. That was my motivation for joining the lodge. I am a retired speech pathologist. I worked at the CYA, Grant Union High School District, as well as Santa Clara Rehabilitation Hospital and Kaiser. I am a singer, dancer, ukulele player, and now working on art projects. I have two children, three grandchildren and a husband who is a retired helicopter pilot

and Placer County IT supervisor. I like to hike when I can, travel, go to Hawaii and I play ukulele in two groups in Auburn. I look forward to getting to know the other members.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.



Nils Hedglin - Nils Hedglin has mostly lived in Sacramento since he was 3, although he was born in Nigeria. His Swedish ancestry may sound familiar from his daughter Grace's bio who joined the Order in January. His maternal grandfather was born in the Rönneförs area of Jämtland and immigrated to the US in 1909. His maternal grandmother was born in Chicago, but her parents were from Kalmar County in southeastern Sweden. Through Ancestry.com, he was able to trace one branch of his grandfather's family back to the 1500s and amazingly they never left Jämtland in all those 400 years.

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Nils always was aware of his Swedish ancestry. His grandfather built a family cabin near Mt. Lassen and the cabin always had souvenirs brought back from his mother's and grandfather's trips to Sweden: small flags, runestones, tomte, Jämtland coat of arms. Also, his mother always made many Swedish foods around Christmas including potatiskorv, split pea soup, spritz and pepparkakor. Nils still insists Christmas presents should be opened Swedish style on Christmas Eve like his family did growing up. During college, he visited family friends in Strängnäs, Sweden and worked in their truck stop there for a few weeks.

Nils enjoys tabletop gaming, in particular miniature wargaming, painting small soldiers and recreating historical, fantasy and sci-fi battles. He frequently gravitates to armies of a Swedish nature, including a large Viking army, an army for the Swedish War of Liberation (Vasa's Rebellion) in the 1520s, and armies for a fictitious Russian invasion of Sweden during World War 2. In his younger days, he portrayed a Swedish Viking persona in a historical reenactment group.



For non-Swedish interests, Nils enjoys history in general, military history in particular, horror movies and heavy metal bands. He is a big fan of Pulp era writers from the 1930s and publishes a monthly newsletter about one of the writers who lived in Auburn. He has also been a serial hobbyist including homebrewing, astronomy, letterboxing and rubber stamp making, and making small wooden clothespin toys.

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.

Did you know _____ about Monitor Lodge? This occasional section features factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. This month we are exploring a bit of Monitor's and Golden Gate District #12's history. Many years ago someone in the District compiled a list of the District lodges and a suggested list of Swedish flowers and provinces that could be affiliated (read the proposal in the image text). Sadly, there is no date on the document and we have not found any indication the recommendation was implemented.

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How we found your Swedish province, or what SKÅNE and NORDEN have in common.

From the southern-most landscape or province in Sweden, SKÅNE, to northern-most NORRBOTTEN, we matched the VASA Lodges of Northern California, from NORDEN in the South, to BALDER in the North, giving them a Swedish landscape flower of their own.

This could be your emblem or symbol and give you the chance to find your sister-lodge in Sweden. It is only a beginning of what could be done in research of history. Each province also have their crest or coat-of-arms, their national costume and their dialect, the list can go on

<u>VASA LODGE</u>	<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>SWEDISH FLOWER</u>	<u>ENGLISH translation.</u>
. NORDEN Fresno	. SKÅNE	. Prästkrage	. Ox-eye daisy ...
. SVEA San Jose	. SMÅLAND	. Linnea	. Linnea (twinflor)...
. LINDBERG Palo Alto	. ÖLAND	. Solvända	. Rockrose ...
. JENNY LIND Turlock	. HALLAND	. Ginst	. Heiry broom ...
. LINNÉ San Mateo	. VÄSTERGÖTLAND	. Ljung	. Heather ...
. VIKING Modesto	. ÖSTERGÖTLAND	. Blåklint	. Cornflower ...
. TRE KRONOR Castro Valley	. BOHUSLÄN	. Kaprifol	. Honeysuckle ...
. FYLGIA San Francisco	. DALSLAND	. Förgätmigej	. Forgetmenot ...
. PEGNER Oakland	. SÖDERMANLAND	. Näckros	. Waterlillie ...
. TOR San Francisco	. NÄRKE	. Gullviva	. Cowslip ...
. NORD Stockton	. UPPLAND	. Kungsängslilja	. Guinea flower ...
. FRAMÅT Albany-Berkeley	. VÄRMLAND	. Skogsstjärna	. Chickweed wintergreen.
. SVEABORG Concord	. DALARNA	. Ängsklocka	. Meadow bell ...
. LINNEA Petaluma	. GÄSTRIKLAND	. Liljekonvalj	. Lily of the valley ...
* MONITOR Sacramento	. HÄLSINGLAND	. Lin	. Flax ...
. SCANDIA Yuba C.-Marysville	. HÄRJEDALEN	. Mosippa	. Sand anemone ...
. RENO 711 Reno, Nevada	. JÄMTLAND	. Brunkulla	. Narrow-leaved ... Nigritella.
. FEATHER RIVER Oroville	. ÄNGERMANLAND	. Styvmorsviol	. Wild pansy ...
. GOLD NUGGET Paradise	. VÄSTERBOTTEN	. Kung Karls spira	. King Charles sceptre..
. SKOGEN Bedding	. LAPPLAND	. Fjällsippa	. Rock anemone ...
. BALDER Eureka	. NORRBOTTEN	. Åkerbär	. 'Arctic' raspberry ...

SWEDISH PROVINCIAL FLOWERS.

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Current financial report (summary) as of the end of January 2024 from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer and we continue to be comfortably in the black. The annual report to the District not only shows we are financially in good shape, it also shows that we had a net gain of 6 members and we already have 4 more new members for the first quarter of 2024.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Children's Club</u>	<u>Nål och Träd</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Totals</u>
\$13,346.26	\$156.26	\$6,144.70	\$4,668.990	\$7,436.86	\$31,754.98

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>.

This time we have a variation on our traditional Swedish word of the day offerings. Courtesy of The Local on February 7th, 2024 is an [article](#) on **“Four aspects of learning Swedish that baffle English speakers (and one easy one)”**



Why do you say 'mer kaffe', but 'flera kakor'?
Photo: Martina Holmberg/TT

Learning a language is a minefield of embarrassment, frustration and potential rudeness. From struggling to get the gender right to wrestling with inverted word order, here are some of the perils of learning Swedish.

Every language has its snares that certain nationalities are destined to get caught in at some point on their journey to fluency. Here are just some of the ones that any of us who have had a punt at learning Swedish will have experienced, and if you haven't yet, the points below may save you from making the same mistakes we did – *varsågod*. Let's start with the most obvious, and frankly irritating, subject of...

Gender

Many languages apply gender to inanimate objects, but if your first language is English – where this isn't the case – it can be hard to get a grip on.

Monitor Lodge #218

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The version of noun gendering in Swedish is not the straightforward 'masculine' and 'feminine' familiar from romance languages such as French or Spanish, but the even less logical 'common' and 'neuter' genders: *neutrum* and *utrum*.

For the uninitiated, gendered or common nouns use the article *en* (for example, *en bil/bilen* = a car/the car), while ungendered or neutral nouns have the article *ett* (for example, *ett hus/huset* = a house/the house).

Why is a car gendered, but a house not? Why is an animal ungendered (*ett djur*), but a bird (*en fågel*) gendered? It's a total mystery and can only really be mastered by memorisation - although as around 75 percent of nouns are common gender, it's sometimes easier to just learn the exceptions.

Frustratingly, the essentially irrelevant mistake of saying something like *en hus* can earn you a frown of confusion from a native speaker when trying to converse in Swedish.

Inverted verb/subject order

Like English, most Swedish sentences are structured subject-verb-object (*hon kör bilen* = she drives/is driving the car).

However, the introduction of an adverb gives an inverted verb-subject order (with the verb being placed in front of the subject), something that doesn't happen in English. For example, with *nu kör hon bilen* = 'now she is driving the car', you'll notice the *hon* ('she') and *kör* ('driving') have swapped positions in the Swedish version.

Note this also applies when the adverb comes later in the sentence, such as in *det gör jag aldrig* (meaning 'I never do that' but words ordered as that-do-I-never).

This can easily catch out a native English speaker who is learning Swedish, who would find it natural to say something like *jag städar, sen jag lagar mat*, instead of the grammatically correct *jag städar, sen lagar jag mat* ('I'll clean and then I'll make dinner'). The former, incorrect version sounds jarring to Swedes but is a very easy mistake to make, and one that has tripped me up on countless occasions.

More or more?

There are two words for 'more' in Swedish, *mer(a)* and *fler(a)*.

It's relatively straightforward to explain the difference. *Mer(a)* applies to something that can't be counted, like liquids or more abstract concepts, like money:

Har vi mer mjölk? Do we have (any) more milk?

Jag behöver mer pengar. I need more money

Monitor Lodge #218

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Fler(a), on the other hand, is used when the item is countable:

Har vi flera potatisar? Do we have (any) more potatoes?

Some items - like chocolate - are uncountable, meaning you'd use *mer*, but can be spoken about in a way that makes them countable - like pieces of chocolate.

You would for example say *mer choklad* (more chocolate), but *fler chokladbitar* (more pieces of chocolate).

Generally, if you're not sure which one to use, ask whether what you're talking about can be counted, and you'll pick the right word.

Even more confusingly, you'll need to know when to add the 'a' to *mer* or *fler*. You can usually use *mer* or *mera* interchangeably, apart from in certain set phrases like *med mera* ('and others') and *mer och mer* (more and more).

In the case of *fler/flera*, these are also usually interchangeable, with the exception of the word 'many' where you need to use *flera*.

Here's an example: *du har inga kakor, men jag har flera* (you have no cakes, but I have many).

However, if you're comparing something and using *flera* to mean 'more', then you can use either version of the word. Both *jag har fler kakor än honom* and *jag har flera kakor än honom* (I have more cakes than him) are grammatically correct.

When to say *jo*

Jo, like the word *ja*, means yes – but knowing which of the two to use is often tricky for Swedish learners.

A reasonably simple rule to remember is that *ja* is used for affirmative answers to positive questions...

Pratar du svenska? Ja ('Do you speak Swedish?' 'Yes')

... and *jo* is used when answering negated questions in the affirmative:

Pratar du inte svenska? Jo ('Don't you speak Swedish?' 'Yes [I do]')

It is also used to contradict a previous negation, like in an argument: *Nej! Jo! Nej! Jo!* (No! Yes! No! Yes!).

In other words, *jo* is used to mark that the answer to a negative question is not what might have been expected, or to express an opinion which is different from what someone else just said.

Monitor Lodge #218

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It also has a bunch of other nuances that we won't go into here, other than to say: it's a lot harder than just saying 'yes'.

It's not all bad... the verb 'to be'

An area of Swedish that is far easier than English is the verb 'to be'. The infinitive form in Swedish is *att vara*, but then things get simple as it conjugates to *är* for first, second and third person present tense forms, in both plural and singular:

I am = *jag är*

We are = *vi är*

You are = *du är*

You (plural) are = *ni är*

He is = *han är*

She is = *hon är*

They are = *de är*

This makes the verb 'to be', often an obstacle course in foreign languages, incredibly simple to learn in Swedish.

On the flip side, it means Swedes often struggle to choose the right version of 'to be' when speaking English. Mistakes like 'he are' or 'they is' are not uncommon when Swedes speak English.

For the good of the order: 1 - If you are a reality show junkie and want to simultaneously practice your Swedish, check out the new reality show on Netflix:

Love is Blind – Sweden <https://www.netflix.com/title/81626839>

The audio is in Swedish but you can view it with English subtitles as well. And for those folks who are curious - No, this newsletter editor never watches reality TV, he only learned of this show from a Netflix email. 😊

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.



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson