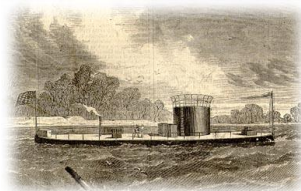


Monitor Lodge #218

Sacramento, California

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



januari (January) 2026

Our December Jul smörgåsbord on Saturday evening, while a bit more informal than in past years, still saw nearly sixty members and guests enjoy lots of delicious Swedish dishes and plenty of good conversation. The only “sad” note was we yet again ran out of Glögg too early in the evening. We followed that holiday event with our annual St. Lucia celebration the following Friday when Athena Eriksson, as St. Lucia, led the Tärnor (attendants) and Stjärngossar (star boys) in song and ceremony.



We wrapped up the evening with a visit from Santa and Ms. Claus who distributed small gifts to the children.



2026 Calendar of events

(dates subject to change)

January 9th – Friday –
Installation of officers

February 6th – Friday – **Pea Soup & Pancakes**

March 6th – Friday - **Corned Beef & Cabbage**

April 11th – Monitor’s **114th Anniversary** luncheon

April 24-26 – **District convention** location TBD

May 9th – **Kraftskiva** at location TBD

June 5th – Friday – **Midsommar** at IOOF Hall

June 6th – Saturday – **District Sweden Day** – location TBD

July – no meeting

August 8th – Saturday – **Kraftskiva**

September 4th - Friday - **Nominations** – 2027 officers

October 2nd – Friday - **Swedish Tacos**

November 6th – Friday – **FIKA**- elections

December 5th – Saturday – **Julbord and Glögg party**

December 11th – Friday – **St. Lucia**

2027 Calendar of events

(dates subject to change)

January 8th – Friday –
Installation of officers

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Upcoming Monitor events. The new year sees the commencement of our monthly activities as listed in our 2026 calendar starting with the installation of our 2026 officers in January, followed by Pea Soup & Pancakes in February and Corned Beef & Cabbage in March.

Important reminder: Our 2026 dues are due on January 1, 2026 and delinquent on March 31st. Remember that the yearly dues are \$50.00 per active member. Please make checks payable to Monitor Lodge #218 and mail your dues to:

Monitor Lodge #218
c/o Johanna Benker, Financial Secretary
6040 Plum Canyon Lane
Roseville, CA 95747

We also ask that you consider making a donation to our scholarship fund when you send in your renewal check “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one or just because.

Meet our newest members – Sarah Ruiz and Susan Youngquist. Sarah Ruiz was born in Minnesota, where she grew up alongside her older sister. She is the proud mother of two adult children and a grandmother to one grandson, all of whom continue to reside in Minnesota.



In 2016, Sarah relocated to California with the intention of returning home the following year. However, her plans changed after she met Robert at a social event. Their connection blossomed, and they married a year later.

Sarah is an artist who thrives on creative projects. She enjoys reading books and spending time with her husky/German Shepherd, Lucain. Yard work is another activity she does not mind, and she has a deep love for traveling and being outdoors in nature. Her appreciation for the outdoors and adventure may be attributed to her heritage, as she is 67.6% Nordic. Despite her love for exploration, Sarah also values quiet moments for herself.

Sarah works as a lead security guard at Sutter Health Park, where she oversees safety during baseball games for the River Cats and currently the A's.

Sarah has visited 26 states and Canada. She enjoys all holidays, with Halloween and Yule standing out as her favorites. Dressing up for these occasions brings her joy.

Sarah's maiden name is Okerstrom, a name that was changed when her grandparents immigrated to America and settled in Minnesota. Her family roots are diverse. On her

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father's side, her great-grandmother Hannah Margreta was born in Bergsjö, Gävleborgs län, Sweden; her second great-grandfather Peter (Aker) Okerstrom and second great-grandmother Margretha Jónsdóttir were both born in Wade, Bergsjö Parish, Gavleborg, Sweden. On her mother's side, her second great-grandfather John Jagen was born in Switzerland and her second great-grandmother Bertha Quale was born in Norway. These relatives represent just a few of the rich ancestral connections Sarah cherishes.



Susan Youngquist was born and raised in Turlock, California. Graduated from San Francisco State in 2000 and after 21 years of living and working in San Francisco, she made the big move back to the Central Valley 8 years ago. She currently works at Downey Brand LLP. Both sides of her family are of Swedish heritage . Her DNA is 85% Swedish.

She has always enjoyed learning about the Swedish culture. She has been lucky enough to travel to Sweden many times, including a trip to the old family farm in Jämtland. She also lived just outside of Stockholm for 3 months back in 1998. She loves to cook and bake and has perfected her Mormor's meatball recipe and during the pandemic lockdown, she finally learned to make delicious kanelbullar. She is looking forward to meeting new people and enjoying future events.

Annual Program book updates. Please contact Brian Horsfield, Yvonne Magneheim and Chuck Johnson whenever any of your information changes so we can publish updates in our newsletter.

A grattis på födelsedagen to our birthday celebrants for **January**: Jenny Cavanaugh, Laila Harris*, Adam Johnson, Carol Nesevich* and Nils Wright. (* denotes member 75 years of age or older).

A reminder that our Scholarship committee is accepting applications for our 2026 scholarship. The annual VASA scholarship deadlines are fast approaching. The Grand Lodge 2026 application is due no later than February 15, 2026 while Monitor Lodge's and Golden Gate District's applications are due no later than **April 1, 2026**. Applicants will find all the necessary information and application forms on our website at:

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

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

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Did you know _____ about Monitor Lodge? This occasional section features factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. This month we have a small selection of events from the late 1980s:



1985-12 Children's Club performing at St. Lucia celebration



1988- Linnea Carlson as St. Lucia



1987 Peggy Carlson (co-chair), Emilie & Camilla (co-chair) Caldwell, Kathleen Lagomarsino, Carly Caldwell and Emily Carlson at Children's Club function.



1988-11-12 DeeDee Dahlberg at Smörgåsbord

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Current financial report (summary) as of December from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer. We continue to be comfortably in the black but with the demise of the Scandinavian Festival we need to explore other opportunities to raise monies to support Monitor's activities and scholarships as our funds have decreased by about \$5,000 since November 2024.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Children's Club</u>	<u>Nål och Tråd</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Totals</u>
\$8,356.17	\$93.77	\$5,189.37	\$9,054.62	\$22,693.93

How good is your Swedish vocabulary? If you want to brush up on your Swedish you have several options. We have Monitor's in-person/ZOOM Swedish language classes led by Will Hanley. In addition to the on-line tutorials utilized by some of Will's students at Innovative Languages (<https://www.innovativelanguage.com/>) you will find Swedish vocabulary and lessons in Nordstjernan (<http://www.nordstjernan.com/>) and in the Swedish edition of The Local (<https://www.thelocal.se/>). You can also get a language fix from bi-weekly podcasts at: <https://shows.acast.com/the-newbie-guide-to-sweden-podcast>.

Today's word of the day, **eller hur**, is provided by the [October 27, 2025](#) edition of *The Local* is a word that is actually a short phrase, and it's a crucial one if you hope to sound like a native.

Eller hur literally means "or how". It's used at the end of a sentence and is roughly equivalent to saying "right?" or "isn't it/doesn't it/don't you think?" – basically you're seeking confirmation from the listener. But when you use *eller hur?* you're almost always expecting agreement, so it's a rhetorical question.

If you're genuinely wondering if what you said is correct, you should add *eller?* to the end of your statement instead, but in this case, you would usually change the word order of your statement, just like in a normal question.

Compare the two sentences: *Tycker alla om kaffe, eller?* (Does everyone like coffee, or...?) and *Alla tycker om kaffe, eller hur?* (Everyone likes coffee, am I right?).

If someone said the first example, it's more of a genuine question, so someone might respond *Nja, jag föredrar te* (Well, I prefer tea); you could simply ask *tycker alla om kaffe?* but adding *eller?* makes it clear you want a response. Someone who said the second example would be intending it as a rhetorical question.

An alternative to *eller hur?* is *inte sant?* (literally "not true", but it actually means "isn't it true?").

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These kinds of phrases, added onto a statement to turn it into a question, are called question tags in linguistics, and in English they are complicated because they change based on the question, for example: "he's Swedish, isn't he?", "you're Swedish, aren't you?", "you aren't Swedish, are you?", "you moved to Sweden, didn't you?".

As you can see, in English tag questions, the subject (in this case, "he" or "you") usually matches the subject of the phrase, and the verb needs to agree with the subject and tense of the verb (aren't/didn't). If the statement is positive, the tag question will be in the negative form (he is Swedish, isn't he), and if the statement is negative, the tag question will be positive (he isn't Swedish, is he?).

It can be a headache for English language learners, many of whom opt to use "yes?" or "right?" as a question tag instead. In fact, you'll often hear Swedish speakers add "or?" to statements, inspired by *eller?*, because it's simply snappier. Stay in Sweden long enough, and even native English speakers might pick up this habit!

In Swedish, *eller?*, *eller hur?* or *inte sant?* can be added to any statement to turn it into a question, without any agreement or conjugation. This is similar to "right?" or "correct?" in English; the two differences are that "right?" can be used both for genuine and rhetorical questions, and that English "right?" is generally informal and "correct?" is formal. You can use *eller?* and *eller hur?* in most contexts in terms of formality, but as described above, *eller?* is mostly used for genuine questions and *eller hur?* for rhetorical ones.

You can also use *eller hur* on its own as an emphatic response, expressing your agreement. For example, if someone says *kanelbullar är så goda!* (cinnamon buns are so tasty), you can reply *eller hur?!* (right?!), as an alternative to another emphatic agreement, like *ja, absolut!* (yes, absolutely!) In this sort of situation, *eller hur* sounds much more colloquial and natural.

Example sentences:

Vi borde åka på semester tillsammans. Kanonidé! Eller hur?! We should go on holiday together. Great idea! Right?!

Det var en jättebra film, eller hur? That was a great film, wasn't it?

For the good of the order: 1. On Saturday, February 7th, there is a free workshop at the Elk Grove History Center where folks can learn how to leverage genealogy to learn more about their family history. In addition to short classes there will be information tables for organizations to provide information about cultural opportunities. To that end, Monitor

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needs 2-3 volunteers to devote a couple of hours manning a membership table. Please consider a pleasant day meeting new people and sharing stories.

2. It is never too late to refresh your memory about some of the less visible history and resources available to members. Just go to Monitor's website (no login required) at <https://www.monitorlodgesacramento.org/> and explore all the different pulldown menus. Njut av!

Editor: Chuck Johnson

