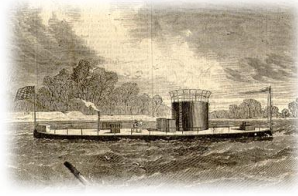


**Monitor Lodge, #218**  
Sacramento, California  
Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave



January 2021

**Happy New Year (in Swedish)**

**Vänligen nå ut (Please reach out).** Check on each other during this holiday season, be it by phone, e-mail or a card until we can gather again in person. It is much appreciated.

**Upcoming Monitor events.** The restrictions regarding public gatherings and health related issues are not abating. After consultation with Monitor's leadership our planned **in-person** meetings and events have been cancelled until further notice. We will do our best to adhere to our 2021 calendar of events by utilizing virtual (ZOOM) meetings to conduct business and to stay in touch.

**Lodge business meetings schedule.** At this time we do not know when we will have our next in-person business meeting. Monitor's officers are in regular contact with each other. If you have any questions regarding the status of our few business activities, please don't hesitate to contact any of the officers. **Our first virtual meeting will be Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 starting at 6:30 PM.** We will conduct an abbreviated installation ceremony of our 2021 elected officers at this meeting. More details about the meeting and how to participate will be forthcoming soon.

**In memorium.** We have lost another dear, long time member. Myrtle Widmark, had been in declining health for a while and passed away on January 5<sup>th</sup>. We will share information regarding memorial services as we receive it.



**2021 Calendar of events**  
**(dates subject to change)**

January 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday -  
VIRTUAL - installation of  
officers

February 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday –  
VIRTUAL – agenda TBD

March 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday – **To Be  
Determined (TBD)**

April – Anniversary **TBD**,  
Scandinavian Festival  
(**cancelled**)

April 23-25 – Friday –  
Sunday – **Golden Gate  
District #12** convention  
(tentative)

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday – tentative -  
**Sill Frukost.** Specifics still  
**TBD**

June 4-5 – Friday – Saturday  
– **Midsommar** and **Sweden  
Day.** Specifics still **TBD**

July – no events normally  
scheduled.

August 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday –  
**Kräftskiva,** Specifics still  
**TBD**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday –  
**Ham Dinner.** Specifics still  
**TBD**

October 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday – **Taco  
Bar.** Specifics still **TBD**

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**How good is your Swedish vocabulary?** If you are experiencing language withdrawal, you might find the Swedish lessons in [Nordstjernan](#) or the Swedish edition of [The Local](#) will help.

Now that the Sacramento rainy season seems to have finally arrived along with the annoying tule fog conditions, how about learning about of a more pleasant Swedish fog condition - *älvdans* - courtesy of The Local's [Word of the Day](#)? This beautiful Swedish word translates as 'elf or fairy dance'.

*Älvdans* is a wonderful word. It is used in Swedish to describe low-lying mist or fog, of the kind that usually appears on grey autumn days.

But *älvdans* makes it sound anything but dreary, transforming a miserable day into something mystical.

Today we know that this kind of mist is caused by moist air condensing and forming droplets that float, typically over meadows or still water.

But in times gone by, people in Scandinavia believed the cause was fairies gathering to dance and casting their spells.



*Early-morning mist... or fairies? Photo: Roger Vikström/FLT-PICA*

In Nordic folklore, elves (*älvar* in Swedish) were associated with fields and meadows. Generally peaceful, they are still capable of mischief. In Swedish art, elves usually appear as women, usually in floaty white dresses.

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## Examples

*Titta! Älvdans över ängen* Look! Beautiful mist over the meadow/The elves are dancing in the meadow.

*Jag såg lite älvdans vid soluppgången* I saw beautiful mist at sunrise.

**Did you know \_\_\_\_\_ about Monitor Lodge?** This occasional section features interesting factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. Did you know that Monitor currently has six members each with over 50 years of VASA membership and service. And we will have our first centenarian's birthday in March of 2021!

**A grattis på födelsedagen** to our birthday celebrants for **January 2021**. They are Katherine Adraktas, Don Baldwin\*, Johanna Benker\*, Birgitta Ellis\*, Liesma Krastins\*, James Netzel, Judy Netzel, Ed Netzel, Charley Rea, Jim Shoemaker, Judy Smith, Brian Stockham\* and Hank Stoffel\*.

**Scholarships.** It is not too early to start thinking about pulling together the paperwork to apply for the Monitor Lodge and Golden Gate District scholarships. The District's and Monitor's deadline will be **April 1st, 2021**. There is also updated information regarding the annual Grand Lodge scholarship (due in mid-January) as well as the Swedish Language Camp scholarships (due in February 2021). Information and application forms can be obtained on our scholarship web page or by contacting the Scholarship committee:

<http://www.monitorlodgesacramento.org/ohana/website/?p=37143391>

**Gentle reminder. 2021 Dues are due on January 1, 2021.** 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 in honor or in memory of a loved one or just because. Donations to the scholarship fund are tax deductible.

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**Annual Program book updates.** Our 2021 program book was mailed in late December and is available on our [website](#) where we also post updates throughout the year. It is a “living” document and we have no changes as of the end of December.

**Memory lane travels.** As we continue to spend time at home, please consider sharing some of your photo album discoveries or news in future issues of Monitor’s newsletter. Just scan and send your labeled photos to Chuck Johnson. Short stories are also welcome.

One topic of current interest to many folks is how is COVID-life in Sweden currently differing (or not) from our lives here in the US. To satisfy one’s curiosity attached at the end of this newsletter is an annual Christmas letter from some of Chuck’s relatives in Lund, Sweden describing how their lives went in 2020 (Anna is 9 and Emma is 7).

**Sunshine (Friendship) Committee:** We often have members and their families dealing with health issues or unable easily travel to Monitor events and they appreciate receiving your cards, phone calls and visits. Please contact Larry Woodward or Will Hanley, our Sunshine committee members, if you know of a member in need of our assistance in some manner. **Tack så mycket**

**Current financial report (summary)** from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer. While current events have created some unusual impacts on our 2020 income and expenses, we are still very comfortably in the black.

**And for the good of the order** – Despite occasional streaming hiccups, you can watch Swedish television news, sports, tv series and children’s/youth programs at:

<https://www.svt.se/>

Sorry, no subtitles 😊 but some news videos will have audio in the speaker’s native language.



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson

## *Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!*

*Christmas is just around the corner! In Swedish: Christmas is standing in front of the door. That is less the reason why we could not leave our house as much as usually. That are mostly the circumstances that the coronavirus (covid-19) causes us. We try to keep up the usual everyday life as much as possible. But Anna and Emma noticed of course the limitations when we are not allowed to storm the shops or libraries as a whole family. Torsten is responsible for the weekly shopping, to go to the library and to get done other necessities.*

*We are more often in forests and on playgrounds at times when there are fewer other people there. In the spring we did many rides by bike and roller skate, skateboard and kick-bike, were several times in the Botanical Garden, where we also met Emma's godfather Anders and his wife Ida for a cup of coffee. In the summer, bathing in the sea was quite limited. To fly a kite in autumn and to build snow lights (it has already snowed) now in winter time – most of the activities are a little more adapted to the seasons than usual.*

*We went for riding several times and had also the chance to take some dogs for a walk in the forests nearby the horse farm. During the Advent season, a skating rink was built in the city center of Lund. There we have been to ice skating a few times – of course always calculating the number of people allowed on the skating rink (covid-19).. Wish lists to Santa Claus were sent by post, as Santa Claus is only holding digital meetings this year and is not standing in the square in front of the town hall in "The Winterlund" as usual.*

*Emma's birthday in March was celebrated before the Corona restrictions. She didn't want to have a children's birthday party, but everything on her birthday had to do with horses – most of the gifts and then a trip to the nearby stud farm Flyinge Kungsgård. We saw many storks and could look at horses in the stables, on the pastures and on the dressage track. Our trip to Germany to Anna and Emma's grandma and grandpa had to be postponed from Easter to summer and now further to the coming Easter. Anna and Britta had cold symptoms in March and had not been without symptoms for 15 weeks. Since one could not get a doctor's appointment, Anna had to be taught at home during the time, although the primary schools in Sweden were still in operation. Emma continued to go to school. We didn't get any special support from Anna's school and then decided to change schools. From May Anna went to Emma's primary school (Lingua Montessorischool) and was able to get used to the new school before the summer holidays and the new school year started.*

*Grandma Elisabet's, Britta's and Anna's birthday parties as well as Easter we had to celebrate outside. Easter eggs were searched in the garden... The school festivities for the ending of the term before the summer holidays were held this year without parents due to Corona restrictions. Normally, the festivities, which mark the end of a school half-year before the Christmas and summer holidays, are a traditional celebration with church attendance and performances by the students (music, singing, speeches, dance), to which the family of the students are also invited. Midsummer celebrations were also cancelled because of corona; we*

celebrated midsummer with a trip to the stud farm Flyinge and with a walk in a forest. We had to cancel our trip to Småland. Anna misses her best friend Ines very much and would have liked to visit her in Småland.

Britta's birthday in July was celebrated (instead of in Germany with her parents) with a family trip to the "Skåne Zoo". Due to the limited number of visitors, we had to book the tickets in advance. We saw the Theme-Amusement park (sheep Shaun), went to a Tree-top-round on suspension bridges in the treetops and had a look at the animals. At the end of July, we "hunted" a hot air balloon to the landing site and could observe the landing and packing and were also allowed to try the basket. Anna and Emma joined several quizzes and Summer book readings in Lund, Lomma and Skanör and received many book gifts. Anna won in a unicorn-Quiz and got a unicorn-writing-set. Emma won a prize in a competition of a library newspaper (theme was children's books by Astrid Lindgren) and was very surprised when she received a letter from Gothenburg.

Anna's birthday in August we celebrated with a coffee drink in the garden together with Aunt Gertrud and grandma Elisabet. In August we made a day trip to Skanör to the sea for bathing. At the end of August, we followed the first test drive of the new tram here in Lund. On 13<sup>th</sup> of December the tram was put into operation.

During the summer holidays Anna and Emma played the recorder in a digital holiday course of the mobile music school Momu/Germany. Emma then continued further on with recorder lessons at the local music school in the autumn. Anna has the opportunity to continue digitally lessons at Momu, but has concentrated on her new school. In October we were in Helsingborg twice, met Britta's friend Birgitta, visited the open-air museum Fredriködal and had fun on some playgrounds.

Since 10<sup>th</sup> of December Emma's and Anna's school has been closed and has switched to distance learning, because in the end only two teachers and a leisure educator were healthy, the other staff stayed at home with corona or cold symptoms. Pupils and parents were also sick in Corona. Emma and Anna each have a video session on the Internet with teaching staff once a day. They received some orders that they must have submitted by the next day. Everything goes seamlessly into the Christmas holidays. We hope that school can start again in January.

The first Lucia breads are baked, ginger bread houses decorated, and the Nikolaus (German tradition on 6<sup>th</sup> of December) has been here with presents, so now we want to wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year 2021!

# GOD JUL



*Anna*

*Emma*

*Britta*

*Torsten*

*Elisabet  
and  
Gestrud*

