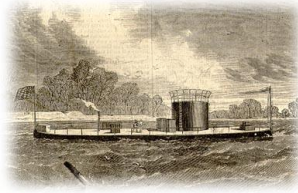


**Monitor Lodge, #218**  
Sacramento, California  
Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave



**December 2021**

**Our ZOOM meeting** in early November was notable in that we closed out the nominations for our 2022 officers and we adopted new bylaws and operating rules for Monitor's Scholarship program.

Our Nominating Committee wrapped up our email/mail balloting just before Thanksgiving and the 2022 officer slate was elected by acclamation.

**Upcoming Monitor events.** With the emergence of the latest COVID-19 variant (Omicron) the next few months will still be a challenge to us all as attending events and social contact are still being restricted. We continue to evaluate all Monitor-related in-person events. To that end, the Executive Committee decided to cancel our annual Julbord but at present we are planning on holding an in-person St. Lucia event on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to the flyer and cover email recently sent to the membership for more information.

Our next regular meeting will be Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. While we currently plan to meet in person with the 2022 officers installation, we will revert to a **ZOOM** meeting and installation ceremony like we did in January 2021.

**Annual Program book updates.** Our 2022 program book/member directory will be mailed in late December. It is a "living" document and we share updates in our monthly newsletters.

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

December 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday –  
**Julbord** (tentative)

December 10<sup>th</sup> – Friday –  
**St. Lucia** celebration  
(tentative)

**2022 Calendar of events**  
**(dates subject to change)**

January 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday - Dinner  
and installation of officers

February 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday - **Pea  
Soup and Pancakes**

March 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday – **TBD**

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday –  
**Scandinavian Festival**  
**(maybe)**

April 9<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday – 110<sup>th</sup>  
**Anniversary** luncheon  
(tentative date)

April 22-24 – Golden Gate  
annual convention in  
Sacramento

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – Sill  
Frukost - **TBD**

June 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday –  
Sweden Day at Micky Grove  
Park

June 10<sup>rd</sup> – Friday –  
Midsommar **TBD**

July – no meeting

## Monitor Lodge, #218

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**How good is your Swedish vocabulary?** If you want to brush up on your Swedish, you will find Swedish vocabulary and lessons in the Swedish edition of **The Local** (<https://www.thelocal.se/>) or **Nordstjernen** (<http://www.nordstjernen.com/>). Recently The Local offered a new resource for helping you with your Swedish vocabulary: **Villa Volvo Vovve** (<https://www.thelocal.se/20210928/sweden-word-by-word-how-much-can-you-learn-about-a-country-from-its-language/>)



There is more to Swedish life than fika and lagom.  
Photo: Alexander Hall/imagebank.sweden.se

**In an extract from The Local’s new book about the Swedish language and lifestyle, editor Catherine Edwards asks how much we can learn about a country from its language alone:**

“Until recently, the Swedish language had had only a modest impact worldwide, with just a few of its words adopted elsewhere, most of them fairly unexciting: *orientteering*, *ombudsman*, *smorgasbord*. For many people overseas, their only interaction with Swedish was laughing at the labels in an Ikea store. When I moved to Stockholm in 2015, I didn’t know much more than *hej*.

But then a trend for Scandinavian culture swept the globe, boosted by surveys showing their populations to be the world’s happiest, most equal, or boasting the best quality of life. Two words in particular were catapulted to linguistic stardom: *fika* and *lagom*, roughly ‘coffee break’ and ‘just the right amount’. Magazine articles and books debate whether the words themselves give us an insight into some ‘Swedish secret’ of how to live. But there is much more to Swedish life than *fika* and *lagom*.

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In 2018, we started [our Word of the Day series](#) to introduce our readers to the Swedish words that help you crack these cultural codes. We delved into a mixture of topical words that were making headlines or could help our readers understand the country they found themselves in.

One thing I've learned at The Local is that you can almost never translate the news word for word. It doesn't work. A word that means something concrete to Swedes – whether it's the name of a political party, national holiday, or a common custom – needs context.

So what about untranslatable words? If you think about it long enough – and I absolutely have – you could argue that most words are untranslatable. *Fika* might have a slightly different definition from 'coffee break', but the exact meaning depends at least as much on who is talking as what language they are speaking.

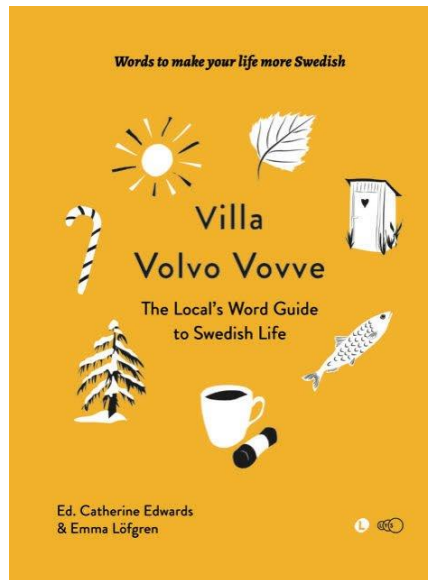
Many concepts don't translate perfectly between people even if they're speaking the same language. I've not seen anyone argue that 'coffee' is untranslatable, yet go to a cafe in three different countries and ask for a coffee, and you're almost guaranteed to be presented with three different drinks: black filter coffee in Sweden, an espresso in Italy, and so on.

If you describe someone as 'punctual', you might be using a different definition than a Swede, even if *punktlig* is in the dictionary as a direct translation. Someone from India or China might laugh at the size of a settlement that is called a 'city' here in Sweden. The list goes on. We all make assumptions based on our personal context every day.

Words like *kanelbullens dag* (Cinnamon Bun Day), *badkruka* (bathing coward), and *tvättstugelapp* (passive-aggressive note left in the communal laundry room) may not have caught on worldwide, but they each help you get a little bit closer to understanding not only Sweden, Swedish and the Swedes but also what it is like being human, anywhere and everywhere.

In [Villa, Volvo, Vovve: The Local's Word Guide to Swedish Life](#), we explore over 100 Swedish words, including how to use them, when to avoid them, and the history of how they came to be. You'll learn about Sweden beyond the headlines, beyond the tourist guides, the good, the bad, and the bizarre. This book will help you if you're travelling to Sweden, or even living there, to understand what's going on around you. But it's also a handbook for anyone who wants to embrace the Nordic way of life. Who knows, maybe you'll even discover the elusive Scandinavian secrets to happiness along the way."

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**This article is adapted from the introduction to Villa, Volvo, Vovve: The Local's Word Guide to Swedish Life, written by The Local's journalists. It is available to order: head to [lysforlag.com/vvv](https://lysforlag.com/vvv) to read more about it. It is also possible to buy your copy from [Amazon US](https://www.amazon.com), [Amazon UK](https://www.amazon.co.uk), [Bokus](https://www.bokus.com) or [Adlibris](https://www.adlibris.com).**

**Important reminder:** Our 2022 dues are due on January 1, 2022. 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.

**A grattis på födelsedagen** to our birthday celebrants for **December 2021**, they are Laila Harris\*, Adam Johnson, Carol Nesevich\* and David Eric Swanson (\* denotes member 75 years of age or older).

**In memorium.** Longtime member Diane Jean Brownell passed away on November 7<sup>th</sup> and a celebration of life was held on Friday, November 19. She is lovingly remembered by her husband, Michael, her children, Christine Brainerd and Eric Brownell, her sister, Judy Netzel, grandchildren Emily and Gavin Brainerd and friends.

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**Sunshine (Friendship) Committee:** We often have members and their families dealing with health issues or unable to 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 2021 income and expenses, we are still very comfortably in the black. Below are our fund balances as November 30, 2021:

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Children's Club</u>	<u>Nal och Trad</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Totals</u>
\$12,348.27	\$402.22	\$6,335.77	\$4,662.26	\$7,685.60	\$31,434.11

The above totals reflect the crediting of CD interest and the payment of monthly IOOF Hall rent through September along website hosting expenses. Excluding the CD interest, November income was three dues payments (\$105) and a contribution to the scholarship fund (\$65).

**For the good of the order** – As the holiday season is fast approaching, here again are some links to videos of St. Lucia celebrations and their history to enjoy:

Swedish Lucia For Dummies (humorous but informative video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW-nKZBDcDI>

Christmas - Santa Lucia Sweden:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2-Q\\_ObdE-4&list=RDi2-Q\\_ObdE-4&start\\_radio=1&t=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2-Q_ObdE-4&list=RDi2-Q_ObdE-4&start_radio=1&t=0)

Lucia 2015 Sweden (about 25 minutes and very good, turn on closed captioning)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vl6o4mG25Ec>

**Bästa önskningar för en säker och glädjande säsong**



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson