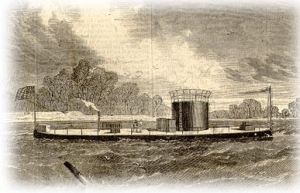


Monitor Lodge, #218
Sacramento, California
Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave



July/August 2022

A great time was had by all at our Midsommar festivities and potluck in mid-June. We again had some 35 people in attendance doing their best to consume the abundance of delicious food dishes. Susan Edelmayer, our outgoing Scholarship Committee chair, presented our 2022 scholarship recipient Micky Wright with a check and a Dalahast momento. We also formally initiated Mary Choy, Catherine Green and Nils Wright into the lodge. We closed out the evening with Ginny Lee leading a number of enthusiastic members and guests in some Scandinavian dances.



Birgitta Ostlund with son Nils and grandson Micky along with Scholarship committee members Joyce Willow and Susan Edelmayer.

Upcoming Monitor events. We will meet again on Saturday, August 6th at Peggy and Ken Carlson's home for our annual **Kräftskiva** celebration. Our next regular (business) meeting will be Friday, September 9th, the Friday **after** the Labor Day

2022 Calendar of events
(dates subject to change)

July – no Monitor meeting

July 1-8 – Grand Lodge quadrennial convention in Philadelphia

August 6th – Saturday – Kraftskiva – **location TBD**

September 9th – Friday – Business meeting – **IOOF Hall**

Sept 30-Oct 2 – Golden Gate annual convention in Sacramento

October 7th – Friday business mtg – **IOOF Hall**

October 15th – Saturday – **Scandinavian Festival**

November 4th – Friday – Business mtg – **IOOF Hall**

December 3rd – Saturday – Julbord – **IOOF Hall**

December 9th – Friday – **St. Lucia** celebration

2023 Calendar of events
(dates subject to change)

January 7th – Friday – Dinner and installation of officers for 2023

February 3rd – Friday – **Pea Soup & Pancakes**

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weekend and will be at IOOF Hall when, along with other business items we will drape the Charter in memory of our most recent departed members and also begin the nomination processes for our 2023 officers.

Meet our other newest member! Nils Wright also initiated at Monitor's Midsommar gathering on June 10th, 2022.



Nils Wright, who runs a publishing business, was born in Stockholm Sweden and his mother is lodge member Birgitta Ostend. He grew up in Sweden and the US, bouncing back and forth countless times. Thanks to living in Sweden all those years and his mom, he has been able to never forget his Swedish and he's still fluent today. During part of his childhood, while living in Sacramento in the 70s, he participated in many Lodge functions, including the annual Swedish Christmas play. He has fond memories of those times.

Nils went to CSU Sacramento and ended up working as a newspaper reporter for the Sacramento Business Journal and later the Portland Oregonian. He eventually started writing for insurance trade publications.

In 2003, he made a giant leap in his life and moved to Thailand, where he ended up living for 17 years, having just returned in 2020. Probably the highlight for him, was when he was working at The Nation newspaper, when the tsunami in the Indian Ocean



killed hundreds of thousands of people, including 600 Swedes vacationing in on the beaches of southern Thailand. Nils wrote a series of articles about the surviving Swedes and the connection so many Swedes have with Thailand. One day the Swedish ambassador called him and asked if he'd like a one-on-one interview with the King and Queen of Sweden. The royal couple were there to thank the Thai people and donate boats to fisherman who lost everything in the tsunami. Of

course Nils had to say yes and he got to spend nearly an hour interviewing them and writing an article about their visit.

Also while living in Bangkok, he was an active member of the Swedish community, including being a member in the Swedish-Thai Chamber of Commerce Nils is half Swedish. His father is American and his mother is Swedish. But he has always felt most

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at home in Sweden and he stays in touch with relatives and friends there. He is thankful that his mom kept all the Swedish traditions alive, especially for the holidays. "I kept those traditions alive with my own kids when I was living in Bangkok. I would cook traditional Swedish Jul middag every year and we would always go to the Swedish-Thai Chamber of Commerce annual Jul and Lucia party," he said.

Nils looks forward to being an active member of the Lodge.

A grattis på födelsedagen to our birthday celebrants for **July**: Meribeth Bean*, Dan Eriksson, Lars-Erik Hammarin*, Andy Hopkins, Linda Mitchell, Eivor Pfannkuch* and Elizabeth Witdoeck* and for **August**: Elizabeth Bushnell*, Mary Choy, Theresa Griffiths, Alex Hopkins, Larry Hultquist*, Craig Johnson*, Linnea Koze* and Lars Ostlund* (* denotes member 75 years of age or older).

Annual Program book updates. Our 2022 program book/member directory was mailed in late December. Please remember. It is a "living" document and we share updates in our monthly newsletters. We have one update for July:

Nils Wright New member
8232 Crestshire Circle
Orangevale, CA 95662
(916) 770-5670
nils.wright@gmail.com

How good is your Swedish vocabulary? As your newsletter editor has been doing a lot of traveling this summer, he is a bit backlogged with paperwork so he is deferring the usual Swedish vocabulary "Word of the Day" until the September issue. But as usual, 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/>).

Current financial report (summary) from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer. While current events have created some unusual impacts on our income and expenses, we are still comfortably in the black. Below are our fund balances as of June 30, 2022:

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Children's Club</u>	<u>Nål och Tråd</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Totals</u>
\$13,086.25	\$402.61	\$6,144.70	\$4,668.889	\$7,861.86	\$32,150.11

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These figures do not include the payments of our monthly IOOF rent as they are late with their invoices so the balances due are being accrued but they do reflect the transfer of \$150 from Nål och Tråd to the Scholarship fund, the payout of our 2022 scholarship and the cashing out of our last CD which has been deposited into our operating fund until we decide if and when to reinvest those monies.

Did you know _____ about Monitor Lodge? This occasional section features interesting factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. This time we are taking another “dive” into some excerpts about Monitor Lodge activities collected by Arlie Veis for inclusion in the lodge’s Centennial Celebration program in 2012. In the last newsletter we featured the Valley Vasa Singers who performed during the 1990s but this time we got a bit further back in time:

"Monitor Singers: The records do not show any organized groups in the early years. The only mention was of the violinist by the name of "Walter". However in 1947 a group of about twenty men formed a glee club called the "Monitor Singers" under the direction of David Olson. They performed at various concerts and community events. In 1948 the Scandinavian Folk Dance Club was organized by Monitor member Adolph Benson and performed in conjunction with the Monitor Singers at the theater on "H" street next to the Music Circus for several years. A number of members of this group later joined Monitor. These performances ended in 1957. Monitor has always had a musical presense. Emil Hallen provided the accordion music for many years at Valley Vasa picnics, lodge dinners, bus trips to Tahoe, herring breakfasts and wherever the occasion might arise and many times Fingal Segerstedt and David Anderson provided the songs. Other musicians, Helen Forsty, Ruth Volkoff, Marianne Ek, Tom Anderson and Gail Nemy have livened up the meetings.

For the good of the order – A reminder that Sacramento’s annual Scandinavian Festival is on *Saturday October 15th* this year (we return to our normal April timeframe next year) and we are in need of many new volunteers to fill Monitor slots left vacant due the loss of several members over the past couple of years. Volunteers do not have to be members of the lodge, they can include family, friends and coworkers. Older children are also welcome. And we encourage everyone to wear Swedish costumes if you have them.....



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson