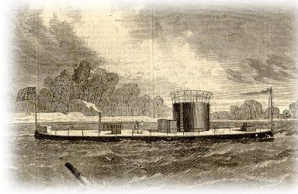


# Monitor Lodge #218

Sacramento, California

Meets at I.O.O.F. Hall, 1831 Howe Ave

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



Juli (July) 2024

**June found us** having our annual Midsommar celebration and smörgåsbord at the IOOF Hall. We enjoyed good food, good company and an interesting presentation by Jeffrey Brodd about Sweden's history of different religious trends. We closed out the evening with some dancing around the majstång led by Ginny Lee and Barry Moore.

**Upcoming Monitor events.** We regroup by not having any Monitor events in July. We will "reconvene" with our annual Kräftskiva gathering at Peggy and Ken Carlson's home in early August followed by our first regular Fall meeting at the IOOF Hall in September. We will be discussing three significant proposals at the September meeting: 1. raising dues, 2. disestablishing the Building Fund and 3. creating written policy for managing our monies. A White Paper about these three proposals can be found at the end of this newsletter.

**Annual Program book updates.** Our 2024 Program Book was 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 whenever your information changes so we can update the Program Book, membership database and newsletters. Tack så mycket. We have no updates for July.

**Grattis till vår stipendiemottagare Lolana Hughs!** Lolana Hughes is the 2024 Monitor Lodge scholarship recipient. Lola, as she likes to be called, is the granddaughter of Monitor Lodge member Johanna Benker. She has learned much about her Scandinavian heritage from family stories that her Mor-mor has told her. In 2017 she traveled with her mother to Sacramento where all three attended the Scandinavian Festival and you can see the three generation photo taken in front of the "Viking ship".

## 2024 Calendar of events (dates subject to change)

July - no meeting

August 10<sup>t</sup> - Saturday -  
**Kraftskiva** at Carlsons

September 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday -  
**Officer nominations**

October 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday -  
**Swedish Taco Night**

November 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday  
**Pie social** (tentative)

December 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday  
**Julbord and Glögg Party**

December 13<sup>th</sup> - Friday  
**St. Lucia program**

## 2025 Calendar of events (dates subject to change)

January 10<sup>th</sup> - Friday  
**installation of officers**

February 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday - **Pea Soup and Pancakes**

March 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday - **Corned Beef & Cabbage**

April 5<sup>th</sup> - Monitor's 113<sup>th</sup>  
**Anniversary**

April 12<sup>th</sup> - **Scandinavian Festival**

April 25-27 - **District Convention** - location to be determined (not Sacramento)

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday -  
**Sillfrukost**

June 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday -  
**Midsommar**

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Lola is an accomplished ballet dancer starting at an early age under the tutelage of her mother. While in high school she was accepted in summer programs at Chicago Ballet and the American Academy of Ballet. Lola continues her love of dance in college. As she says, ballet will always be huge part of her life.

Lola is finishing her sophomore year at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton where she is majoring in communications and public relations. She is an excellent student and has been on the dean's list twice. Lola has held many jobs to help support her college dreams and currently works as a licensed life insurance agent. This award is very meaningful to Lola and she is thankful to Monitor Lodge.

**And an update** from some very proud parents of another recent Monitor scholarship recipient – Nicole Hopkins (2018 HS grad):

Nicole Hopkins graduated on May 10, 2024 from Montana State University with her Master's degree in Adult and Higher Education. She maintained a 4.0 GPA and upon graduation secured a full-time job working in Academic Technology and Outreach at MSU as a Digital Literacy Specialist, a position that the office created for her. She is excited about supporting digital learning technologies in the classroom as developing research on the effects of the application of these tools to develop and support students' digital literacy skills.



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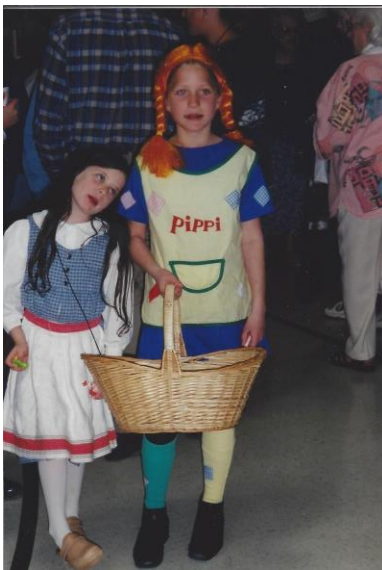
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**A grattis på födelsedagen** to our birthday celebrants for **July**: Meribeth Bean\*, Dan Eriksson, Marie Green\*, Lars-Erik Hammarin\*, Andy Hopkins, Linda Mitchell, Eivor Pfannkuch\*, Stuart Steene-Connolly and Elizabeth Witdoeck\* (\* denotes member 75 years of age or older).

**Did you know \_\_\_\_\_ about Monitor Lodge?** This occasional section features factoids about Monitor Lodge and VASA. This month we have Anna Kagstrom as Pippi Longstocking and friend at the Scandinavian Festival in April 1999 (left) and Monitor's Valley Viking singers performing at the Turlock Scandinavian Festival in the mid-90s.



**Current financial report** (summary) as of May 2024 from our Financial Secretary and Treasurer and we continue to be comfortably in the black.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Children's Club</u>	<u>Nål och Träd</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Totals</u>
\$ 9,380.44	\$156.26	\$5,252.70	\$4,668.90	\$7,640.17	\$27,098.47

**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 Nordstjernen (<http://www.nordstjernen.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>.

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This time we have a Swedish word of the day offerings courtesy of The Local on [October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018](#). This month we explore the word **Swedish word of the day**: grym.

Today's chosen word is one that you're sure to hear a lot in conversation with Swedes. *Grym* is used in two seemingly contradictory ways, one of them negative and the other positive.

The negative sense, translated as "cruel", "heartless" or "mean" is the original: *grym*, like English "grim", has its origins in an Old Norse word which referred to something fierce and savage. You might hear about *grym* treatment of someone or a *grym* tyrant.

But from the 1970s onwards, the word underwent a transformation. Swedes began to use *grym* in a positive sense, meaning something like "cool" and referring to people, objects or experiences. You can also use it to mean "good" or "great", in sentences like *jag är grym på det* (I'm good at that). The change can be compared to the slang use of "wicked" in English.

Generally, the original negative meaning is used in more serious contexts, such as political speeches, academic papers and non-fiction books, with the newer sense popular among younger people in informal contexts, and in newspapers' sports and entertainment sections (but very rarely in news sections).

So, the sentence *han är grym* could refer to a brutal oppressor or to a nice, talented man – you have to rely on other context to figure out which is intended.

Another thing to be aware of is that there's also an adverbial form of *grym*, *grymt*. This can be used as a form of negative *grym*, meaning "cruelly" or "savagely", but can also simply be used as an intensifier meaning "really" or "very", in sentences like *det var grymt kul* (it was really fun).

Examples:

*En grym och brutal död*                      A cruel and brutal death

*Hon är grym på att springa*              She is great at running

**For the good of the order:** The [United Republics of Jamtland, Herjeådalen and Ravund](#) (often shortened to the Republic of Jamtland) is a humorous culture and marketing project or micronation, with regionalist and historical elements based in the Swedish county of Jämtland, located in the middle of Scandinavia. From the 10th to 12th century Jamtland was self-governing and was independent of any crown, hence

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the name "Republic of Jamtland". It was annexed in 1178 to the crown of Norway. It still exercised significant self-rule, and its primary connection to the Norwegian king

was through paying royal taxes. The Orkney Islands were the only other area that enjoyed similar self-rule. The Republic of Jamtland was founded in 1964 (recalling the former 10th-century republic) in reaction to emigration from the county. The event that triggered its foundation was the centralist plan of Swedish officials to merge Jämtland County with Västernorrland County. The founders organized an association, *The Liberation Movement*, and mobilized the people through the "freedom festival" Storsjöyran. TV entertainer Yngve Gamlin was "elected" president, and *Jamtland* was proclaimed a republic in its own right, within the Kingdom of Sweden.

The second president, the comedian Moltas Erikson, described the Liberation Movement as "51% in jest and 49% in earnest". It is largely seen as a humorous hoax, and actual support for an independent state among the local population is low. The movement's main focus is to preserve and promote the Jamtlandic culture, language and way of life,<sup>[1]</sup> but not independence for the three "constituent republics".<sup>[2]</sup> The third president was Ewert Ljusberg, a man again from show business. Once a year he made a popular speech at the city festival Storsjöyran in Östersund where he agitated against and mocked the "Big-Swedes", the Swedish government and the European Union, in a simultaneously serious and joking manner. Actress and television host Eva Röse was elected the Republic's fourth president in 2022.<sup>[3]</sup>

In addition to the flag of the Republic of Jamtland (which unmistakably has the Norwegian Lion in its centre), the republic boasts its own national anthem, entitled "Jämtlandssången". Versions of the song exist in both Swedish and Jamtlandic, the official language of the republic.<sup>[4]</sup>



**"[Jämtlandssången](#)"**  
**Anthem of Jämtland**



Flag and Seal

Information source: [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic\\_of\\_Jamtland](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Jamtland)



Newsletter editor: Chuck Johnson

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## White Paper - Action items for September 2024 meeting

1. **Raise annual dues to \$50 starting in 2025.** Monitor's fixed expenses (VASA annual assessment, IOOF Hall rent and website hosting) have increased over the past decade. In addition, there are additional operating expenses such as newsletters and programs/flyers printing, mailing supplies and postage, St. Lucia lunches and costumes, providing for HLM (Honorary Life Member) and senior dues waivers, subsidizing beverage service at meetings, etc. The VASA annual assessment has been \$35.35 per active member for several years but Monitor has not raised its dues, currently \$35.00 per active member, to compensate. In addition, in recent years it has been lodge's practice to transfer monies from the operating fund to the Scholarship fund in memory of deceased members. It is anticipated the IOOF Hall rent will be raised again in the near future.
2. **Dissolve Building fund – move monies to operating fund.** The segregated Building fund was established decades ago to enable Monitor lodge to purchase its own building but researching Monitor's records held in Sacramento has turned up no written guidance as to how to manage the fund. In addition, interviews with the very few remaining members who were familiar with the original purpose revealed that there are very few records listing to who donated to the Building fund and no records of how much each of these individuals donated. No documents have been found stating that if the fund were to be disestablished that the monies would be refunded to the donors.

The lodge never accumulated enough funds for the intended purpose of the fund. Conditions over the past couple of decades have made it obvious that the original intent will never be fulfilled so Building fund monies have only been used on rare occasion to fund capital improvement projects, e.g., contribute to IOOF Hall for new kitchen stove.

3. **Establish written policy guidance as to how to manage the Operating fund.** This would incorporate existing written Monitor business practice policies and would include guidance for creating and maintaining a general budget for planning purposes to minimize surprises regarding future expenditures beyond the monthly rent and website expenses.