

# Act one:

## IS ABOUT OUR PREPARATIONS

Navy motto-Our motto: Proper Preparation Prevents Piss Poor Performance

The year preceding our move was filled with changes, expectations, realities, joy & sadness, memories, friendships, gathering of friends, endless lists, world of paper factory, sales, donations, discussions, possibilities, adventures, decisions, planning, saying good-bye and facing reality.

After much discussion we first came the decision how to make life less complicated, where to live with less obligations, and more culture. We know that there would be another place beyond Vikingagården, where we would fit in, come to love & enjoy. We first thought previously of moving up the *US West Coast*, to Washington or even further north into British Columbia, Canada. We loved our summer visits to Whidbey Island, by Seattle, but changed our minds when we learned about the 6 months of grey skies. We found no locations that we could imagine to reward us with a move from our lovely home in Julian.

Then we spoke about living on the *US East Coast* and in Florida in particular. A state without state income tax, warm weather year around, but hot & humid summers did not sound so exiting after all. Then California sounded better, but where? Costs for housing along the coast was increasing rapidly and would not leave enough money to live on.

Then we had another plan after talking with friends Annette & Curt, who lived in Julian for several years, to investigate *Portugal* as destination. We bought travel books, searched the Internet discussed the EU-card (Golden-Visa) that seemed possible and most interesting. (EU-card allows you to obtain legal residence and would offer travel opportunities within EU when you make a serious business

investment). We bought tickets to fly to Lisbon to investigate possibilities a step further. We could expect nice weather year around, interesting history, language challenges, and certainly a major change. Maybe, maybe not! At the House of Sweden we met a visiting Swedish couple, living in large Swedish community in Cascais, Portugal. Could we do it we asked ourselves?

Then in September 2019, came a notice that changed our plans again. A family friend, Karin Carlson, had to be moved to an elder care facility. (Karin's mother Edith was best friend with Calle's mother Delice when they lived in Cleveland, OH additionally Karin's brother & wife always spent Christmas with the Englund family). Her condominium was to be sold. Here came the opportunity we were looking for. Could we adjust to live in the "old country" despite long dark cool winters?

***This is Act one more acts will follow!!!!***