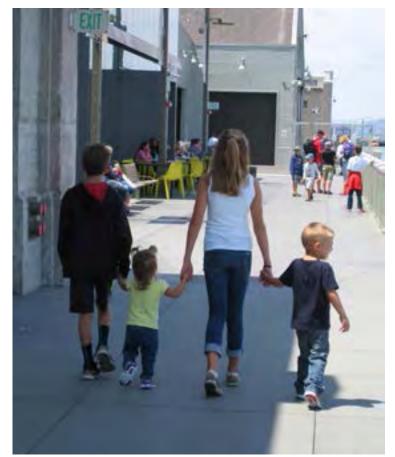
Long Distance Love is Tricky for Grandparents and Grandchildren

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The Boren grandchildren enjoy being together on a recent trip to San Francisco with their grandparents. Photo submitted

er's Day, or Mors Dag, falls on the

f absence makes the heart grow overseas grandchildren are fluent I fonder, some Lamorinda grand- in both English and Swedish so mothers must be developing the language is not a barrier. Her fafondest hearts of all. These women vorite activity is accompanying her are grandmothers with offspring grandchildren to a nearby farm with who live miles, time zones and a playground, or watching them sometimes countries away from the swim in a "wonderful indoor pool" East Bay. They are experts at long or outdoor lake. In Sweden Mothdistance love.

Diana Graham is known as last Sunday in May, so the timing is Grandma to her four grandchildren, but three of them might easily call her "Farmor." Along with a grand-Graham has twin grandsons, age 4, and a granddaughter, 16-monthsold, living in Linköping, Sweden. She catches up with her overseas family during weekly sessions of Skype, the video conferencing protime, when it is breakfast time here. a nine-hour time change, an 11ride to the Swedish city.

fall, early spring, and again in June

"If I could travel once a month watch grandchildren rehearse for to see my mother in Portland, I can a speech or show off a Halloween do this," she said. Graham says her costume, too.

"It's just like being next door," she says. Witalis and her husband travel to Seattle two or three times a year; they'll make their fourth trip to London in July.

Erla Boren's grandchildren are also split near and far. The good news is the younger ones have recently relocated "much to our delight" two time zones closer, from Atlanta to Denver. Boren is "Amma" to her four grandchildren in deference to her Icelandic roots.

"We try to visit [her out of state daughter's family] three or four times a year," Boren said, adding "they also come here." Boren uses FaceTime to connect with her daughter's family, asking what kind of dress her young granddaughter might like to wear. "They are really such a joy," she says, "wanting to talk and show [me] everything. They are just a pure delight!"

Boren says she and her husband and their children work to "keep the family together," in spite of any distance between them. Her grandchildren have seen each other enough in their young lives that they are "crazy about each other," which, she adds is "such a joy for me". It's important to visit and keep in touch, Boren says, even by doing something as simple as mailing them a coloring book.

"I'm just making sure they don't forget me," she says.



LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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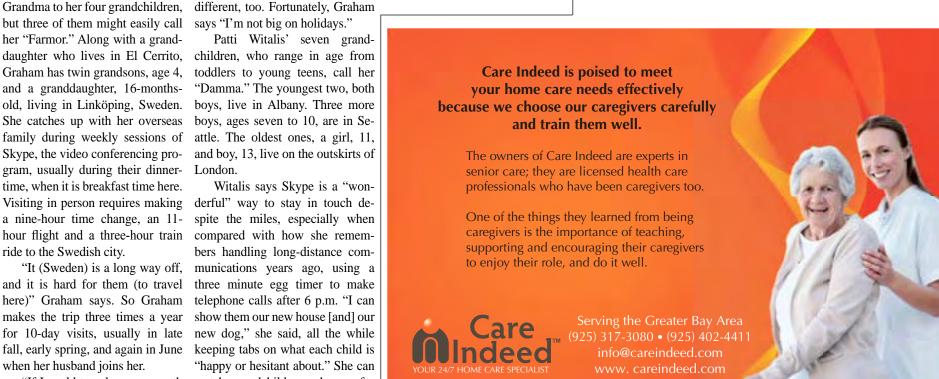
Dr. Robinson's talk will focus on the causes, characteristics, evolution and consequences of Syria's long civil war, including its impacts on the broader Middle East, the prospects for the fragile cease-fire being maintained and whether Syria will remain as a country in the future.

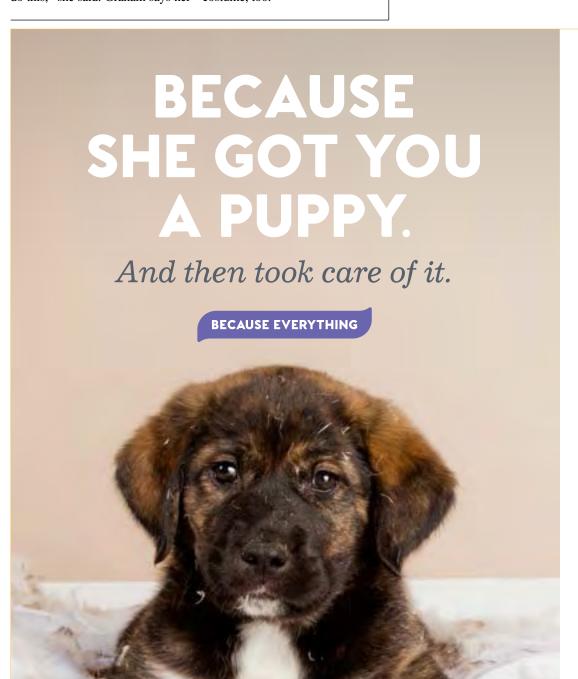
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