

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

## Happy Easter! Glad Påsk



Anders Lowers Imagebank, Sweden.se

Chairman's Message    Next **social only** meeting Thursday, April 13 at 6:30



Instead of thinking the dreaded word "taxes," concentrate on "a social only." It should be great with a barbeque along with many great fixings.

As well, get your "dancing shoes" ready. The entire folk dance group will be there to perform as well as lead the participation segment. Hope all of you will get on the dance floor whether you have two left feet or not. It

should be fun as it has been in the past with everyone laughing and having a great time.

Hopefully, some of the District members will appear as well. Hope so.

To all, I wish you a Happy Easter. Hope all the young ones enjoy a great Easter hunt.

In Truth and Unity,

*Inga Francis*, Chairman

## GVL Happenings

### Dinner Hosts



Maria, Gunvor, and Laila were our dinner hosts for the March meeting.

### New Facebook Page

Lisa Ecklund has created a Facebook page for us at <https://www.facebook.com/Vasa-Order-of-America-Golden-Valley-Lodge-616-Van-Nuys-CA-1116233371822122/D>

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### Initiation Ceremony

Mayflower Lodge will be having a luncheon to recognize the new members in the district by having an initiation ceremony. It's advised to RSVP as soon as possible as space is limited. RSVP to Ann Hellberg. This event will take place on Saturday April 22 at 1:00pm at 18815 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA.

## March 2017 Meeting



The initiation ceremony was held for 2 new members. They are Caitlyn Haggerty and Jason's mom, Linda Trowbridge.



Chase Dodd announced Jason Blohm as \$25 capsule membership winner!



Ann Heinstedt brought in paintings by Karl Brink's late wife, Britta Anderson Brink for us to enjoy.

## Easter in Sweden

### Springtime & Easter in Scandinavia!



After the long nights of winter, Easter and the arrival of spring are truly celebrated in Scandinavia. Whether they spend their Easter holidays in the city welcoming the return of the spring flowers or they escape to the mountains taking advantage of the longer spring days to get in the last of the season's skiing, Easter is a time of renewal for Scandinavians, celebrated with good

food and good company.

At Easter Swedes get together with their families. They celebrate by painting eggs and eating traditional Easter food like eggs, fowl, fish and lamb. Children receive Easter eggs filled with candy and dress up as påskkäringar (Easter witches) with bright kerchiefs on their heads and sporting a broomstick. They go from door to door wishing all Glad Påsk - Happy Easter.

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## Happy April Birthday!

Natalie Mikkelsen	1	Erik Karling	16
Eivor Wester	1	Jessica Santana	16
Nikki Taylor	5	Rebecca Mikkelsen	16
Barbro Granath	5	Tommy Eneberg	16
Tommy Eneberg	6	Lars Jonasson	20
Gunhild DePaoli	8	Kent Carleson	21
Kent Carlson	11	Clinton Lien Jr.	21
Kristina Thorsen	11	Marianne Farm-Reinholds	24
Kerstin Wendt	13	Gunilla Hamaoui	29
Ann-Kristin Karling	14		



## Ha en trevlig födelsedag!

# Legend of the Nisse and Tomte (Gnome) and Trolls



*The Swedish Tomte mother Jenny Nyström's representation of an egg-thieving (and very colorful) Tomte.*

A nisse (usually Norwegian) and a tomte (usually Swedish) are similar characters. They are both solitary, mischievous domestic sprites responsible for the protection and welfare of the farmstead and its buildings. Tomte literally means “homestead man” and is derived from the word *tomt* which means homestead or building lot. Nisse is derived from the name Nils which is the Scandinavian form of Nicholas.

A tomte is described as an older, little man about the size of a young child. He wears old often ragged clothes, usually gray or navy, and sports a bright red cap on his head. He resides in the pantry or barn and watches over the household and farm. He is responsible for the care of the farm animals, especially the horses. The tomte or nisse has an enormous capacity for work but will not tolerate anyone's interference. It is believed that a clean and orderly home or farm is an indication that this domestic sprite resides there.

Tomtar and nisser require very little of the humans they work for. They demand only the respect and trust of the farmer and a bowl of *julegrøt* (Christmas porridge) with butter on Christmas Eve. These spirits will not remain in a home where respect is lacking and thus the farm will not thrive and the farmer will be reduced to poverty.

A nisse considers porridge his due and is greedy for butter. The legend *When the Nisse Got No Butter on His Christmas Porridge* illustrates the consequences of tampering with his porridge.

One Christmas Eve a servant girl decided she would play a trick on the nisse. She hid the butter for his *grøt* at the bottom of the bowl. When the nisse saw there was no butter on his Christmas porridge, he went to the shed and killed the best cow. He wanted to show them he did not appreciate them begrudging him a little bit of butter. He returned to the barn to eat the porridge anyway. When he discovered the butter at the bottom of the bowl, he felt so bad that he walked to the neighbor's farm, took their best cow, and led her back to the stall of the cow he had killed.

According to legend, domestic spirits often steal from a neighbor to increase the prosperity of the farm where they make their home. This is demonstrated in the legend *The Nisse Who Stole Fodder*:

There once was a farmer who had no hay left for his farm animals. He sat one day and complained about it when he heard a voice say, “I will help you.” The farmer looked around but couldn't find where the voice came from. After a few days he noticed his animals were thriving although they had no food. One day the farmer decided he would take his chances and cross the ice to a neighboring village to buy some hay. When he was in the middle of the ice a small man appeared and asked where he was going. The farmer replied that he was going to buy hay. The little man said not to worry because he would help him so the farmer returned home. One night the farmer noticed by moonlight a little man leading one of his cows across the ice to a neighbor's farm. When they returned the cow was loaded down with hay. Then the farmer realized the little man was a nisse and he had been fetching hay for the animals.

The present day version of the *julenisse* is very different from the legends of the domestic tomte or nisse. The *julenisse* is portrayed as an older, good natured, adult-sized man (not surprisingly the size of an uncle or father) with a long white beard and a red hat and suit. He carries a sack of toys on his back, visits children in their homes on Christmas Eve and always asks, “Are there any good children here?” (“*Er det noen snille barn her?*”) Many Scandinavian children also believe he lives at the North Pole where he has a workshop.

The Norwegian *julenisse* is very much like the American Santa Claus and is based upon the German legend of St. Nicholas (nisse is a derivative of Nicholas), who was the patron saint of children and seamen. He was known for

(Legend of the Nisse Tomte and Trolls - continued)

his many kind acts toward children.

In Sweden the jultomte is accompanied by the Christmas goat who pulls his sleigh as he delivers gifts to the children's homes. In pagan times, the god Thor was believed to ride across the sky in a chariot pulled by two goats. Christians adopted the goat as a Christmas symbol. The chained figure of a buck is a representation of Lucifer who was conquered by

the good Saint Nicholas and is destined to accompany his master on his journey to distribute gifts to the children. Today the goat is a benign straw figure but still a very well-known Christmas symbol.

Legends of the domestic nisse and tomte meet the modern day version of the julenisse or jultomte in the tradition of leaving a bowl of julegrøt with butter out in the barn or in the house for them on Christmas Eve. This tradition is still practiced in Scandinavian homes.

Get more information at <http://users.skynet.be/fa023784/trollmoon/index.html>

## Trolls

by morion.com

maybe under a big rock, underground or under a up-rooted tree. You can also find them deep inside the mountain. It is almost impossible to get a glimpse of a troll - they absolutely HATE sunlight - it can even kill them!

Human beings who have met a troll tell about their big flat, broad feet with only three or four toes on each foot. It is not likely that you will see a troll - they can make themselves invisible. They use this ability to steal food and to swap a troll-kid for a human child! A Trollmother really want her trollkid to be raised as a human. If a human mother suspects that she has a changeling in the house, she can threaten to put the "child" in the fire - then the trollmother comes running to save her kid - and the human mother gets her own child back. The best thing to do is to baptize your child as soon as possible. Trolls hate everything that has to do with Christianity!

Trolls are very greedy and take all the gold and silver they can get. In Sweden a common saying about a wealthy person is: "Rich as a Troll". But to find the troll treasure is almost impossible, trolls can make the gold look like something completely different. Woe the one that searches for the treasure - Those who have searched have been found as totally gnawed skeletons...

If you ever meet a troll you shall be nice and polite! If you run into an angry troll - run as fast as you can to the nearest church - that is the only thing that will save you!

And oh... did you know that "Troll" is a Swedish word..?



Trolls have always existed in Swedish Folk Tale. Nowhere is there as many of them as in the Dark Woods and Mountains of the province Värmland.

The look of a Troll can vary, from a small "cute" being, to a huge grotesque and unpredictable beast. You can always recognize them by the tail, the pointed ears and the broad nose.

Unlike the Woodnymph that lives alone, trolls like company and they live together in groups. They also like to be around human beings - who they unfortunately abduct when they get the chance!

The Troll family lives deep in the Swedish Woods,

## District and Other News

### Scandinavian Spring Picnic



Scandinavian Spring Picnic is April 30th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Vasa Park 2854 Triunfo Canyon Road, Agoura Hills. There will be a waffle breakfast, lunch, Swedish Car Show, entertainment and family activities including a scavenger hunt for the children to find the trolls and gnomes in the park.

It is the 70th Anniversary of picnics at the park! You should have received your invitation and complimentary tickets for parking, lunch and a beverage via mail by now!!! Be sure and bring them to the park.

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Vasa Order of America  
Golden Valley Lodge  
c/o