

January 2020

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



*New Year's Eve over Stockholm - Hans Strand | imagebank.sweden.se*

Welcome to 2020. We had a wonderful Christmas Party with over 120 people, and we had to turn 6 families away. The success was possible because of all the helpers: Gertie with food, Shannon Taxel for taking care of the raffle tickets, Britt with raffle, Hubert as MC, and Dorothy and Jen who did the Lucia program. We had our usual Santa, Daniel Buck and Maidie provided the goodie bags. Hanna and Roy provided the bar, and Birgitta made popular glogg. I especially want to thank Dylan and Lucas for all their help,

Lucas had to stay past 11 to close because of the tent people. Thank you, Linda, for the set up and Lisa for registrations. I hope I didn't forget anyone who made this event great.

We have a special year ahead starting with Pea Soup by Gertie and Annika. We will have our installation of new officers at the January meeting.

In Truth and Unity,  
*Delphine*

**Next meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2020**

**Please remember to RSVP to [dtrowbridge36@gmail.com](mailto:dtrowbridge36@gmail.com) every month!!!**

Golden Valley Lodge #616 • Vasa Order of America •

Meeting: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church | 9440 Balboa Blvd | Northridge, CA 91325  
[info@goldenvalleylodge.org](mailto:info@goldenvalleylodge.org) • [www.goldenvalleylodge.org](http://www.goldenvalleylodge.org)

# GVL Happenings

## Happy January Birthday!



Isabella Muscarella	3
Birgitta Clark	5
Margit Bennett	6
Tyra Dios	7
Andrea Benitese	9
Rigmor Johnsdotter	9
Mary Locke	11
Jennifer Dewey	13
Ruzenka di Benedetto	28
Lars Heinstedt	29
Mathew Locke	31

Ha en trevlig födelsedag!

## 2020 Golden Valley Lodge Board & Service Positions

**Chair:** Delphine Trowbridge  
**Vice Chair:** Chase Dodd  
**Past Chair:** Inga Francis  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Ann-Sofi Holst  
**Assistant Secretary:** Dorothy Burns  
**Financial Secretary:** Maidie Karling  
**Treasurer:** Birgitta Clark  
**Chaplain:** Andrea Tabanelli  
**Master of Ceremonies:** Lucas Taylor  
**Assistant MoC:** Dylan Olson  
**Cultural:** Kristina & Grace Foley  
**Chaplain:** Andrea Tabanelli  
**Chairman of Trustees:** Kirsten Wendt  
**Trustee -3:** Maria Jacobs  
**Trustee -1:** Bertil Winther  
**Chairman of Auditors:** Maidie Karling  
**Auditor #2:** Britt Marie Potter  
**Membership Chair:** Maidie Karling  
**Events Co-Chair:** Maggie Connelly & Delphine Trowbridge  
**Scholarship Chair:** Beth Bunnell  
**Financial Chair:** Hubert Pitters  
**Historian:** Laurie Taylor  
**Vasa Park:** Richard Heinstedt  
**Bar:** Roy & Hanna Olson  
**Newsletter:** Laurie Taylor  
**Youth Group:** Nicolette Taylor



Left: Sonja Andonian, Gunilla Thelin,  
Gunilla Hamoui and Gunvor Sabo

The Golden Valley ladies working the booth for the Swedish church - Swea Christmas party in Torrance.



Many thanks to  
Linda Trowbridge and Delphine Trowbridge  
for our delicious pizza dinner at the last meeting!

If you have any pictures or stories to share, please send them to [laurietaylor@hotmail.com](mailto:laurietaylor@hotmail.com)!

# CULTURE CORNER: New Year's Eve

In America, we're used to a traditional champagne toast, some fancy finger food and a kiss to ring in New Year's Eve and seal our fate for a lucky year ahead. In many Western cultures, especially North America, kissing someone special at midnight dates back to Medieval superstitions that stated the first person you saw on midnight on the New Year would set the tone for the coming year.

## Sweden

On New Year's Eve, Swedes serve rice pudding with an almond hidden inside. It's believed that whoever finds the almond will receive good fortune all through the New Year.

## Denmark and Norway



Photo by Jonathunder - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4491435>

Denmark and Norway celebrate the New Year with a dessert called kranssekage (in Danish) or kranssekake (in Norwegian), both meaning "wreath cake." It is a tall, cone-shaped cake with many rings layered on top of one another.

The cake is made with marzipan and is often decorated with ornaments of flags and firecrackers and a bottle of wine or aquavit in the center. Another tradition, throwing dishes on a neighbor's doorstep on New Year's Day, is believed to guarantee many friends in the New Year. It's considered good luck to smash plates on New Year's Eve in Denmark. Broken glass is meant to bring good luck, which is why lo-

cal smash their (broken or unused) china and drop it onto a friend's front step, to bring them good fortune in the new year. The bigger the heap of broken glass on your doorstep, the more popular you are.

## Finland:

New Year's Eve (Uudenvuodenaatto).

In Finland they celebrate this in many ways, which most are the same as around the world; fireworks, eating well, having a party, etc. But Finland has a quite unique tradition which dates from the early 19th century and that is the casting of tin.

The casting is usually done during the New Year's Eve before midnight. They use a small scoop made out of metal and place it on electric stove. Then they place the horseshoe shaped tin in the scoop and let it melt. After it has melted, the scoop is emptied quickly in to a bucket filled with water. The secret is that the pouring should be done quickly so it will become a single piece of tin. If the melted metal is not poured continuously it will create several different pieces and that, by old tradition, means bad luck. The metal cools instantly when in the cold water and forms different kind of shapes.

When everyone has casted their tins, it is time to read the New Year's fortune from the shapes and forms of these little tin statues. If the tin has a lot of rough surface, the caster will get lots of money. Instead if the tin has lots of shiny and even surfaces, the caster will have peace and good fortune. The different forms of the tin tells many stories; horse or ship shape means travelling, ring is wedding, broken ring is divorce, and a star is good fortune. The shape of the tin can be interpreted as seen or by the shadow it creates on the wall. In Finland, shops sell ladles and small bullions in the shape of a horseshoe for this express purpose. Originally made from tin, now they are made from cheaper low-melting alloys based on lead. The practice is known as uudenvuodentina. The world's largest uudenvuodentina, 41 kilograms (90 lb), was cast by members of the Valko volunteer fire department in Loviisa, Finland, in New Year 2010.

## Sources:

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# GVL Christmas Party 2019

Thank you to Kerstin Wendt for contributing to the Christmas party photos!







