


February 2020

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



Helena Karlsson/Imagebank.sweden.se

Happy Valentine's Day



Greetings brothers and sisters. February is the month of hearts and flowers and of the 2020 District Convention. This year the convention is being held in Cathedral City and we will enjoy the warmer weather and a new venue. Dinner this month will be served by Ann and Richard Heinstedt and Beth Bunnell.

We have reserved 20 rooms at the Comfort Inn in Oakhurst California for the weekend of October 3-5. We will take the bus from Van Nuys flyaway early Saturday. Spend two days at Yosemite and come home on Monday. We will have Sunday night group dinner at the Wawana Hotel dining room. The event will cost all GV members \$100 unless you don't want to share a room which will then cost another \$100. Children too young to be members will go free. Fee includes bus, motel and Sunday night dinner. Mark your calendars for this special weekend.



In Truth and Unity,

Delphine

Next meeting is Thursday, February 13, 2020

Please remember to RSVP to 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 • www.goldenvalleylodge.org

GVL Happenings



Yellow pea soup and pancake dinner. Our dinner hosts(front to back): Gertie Lindstrom, Annika Bjorkman and Elisabeth Wubker

2020 Golden Valley Lodge
Board & Service Positions

Chair: Delphine Trowbridge
Vice Chair: Chase Dodd
Past Chair: Inga Francis
Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Burns
Assistant Secretary: Mona Steffen
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: Kerstin 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

Happy February Birthday!

Sven-Olof Lingstrom	1	James Thorsen	13
Kristina Foley	1	Tyler Holstein	17
Hanna Claesson-Dios	3	Melissa Steffen-Coombes	19
Olof Wester	4	Keri Mikkelsen	21
Alice Karling	5	Tina DeHart	22
Mona Steffen	5	Michel Hamaoui	22
Viola Kindstrand	6	Bernice Dreher	24
Stig Klintare	7	Lage Engblom	27
Mikael Amador-Stromberg	10		
Jason Trowbridge	11		



Ha en trevlig födelsedag!

CULTURE CORNER: 26 Untranslatable Swedish Words

26 untranslatable Swedish words

From: thelocal.se

Our attempt to translate some of our favourite untranslatable Swedish words.

1. Vobba

This word means “Working, even though you’ve taken a (paid) day off because your child is sick”. An increasing problem in Sweden, in fact. If anyone can put one word to this we’d love to hear it. It’s actually a play on words, mixing the word jobba (to work) with vabba (to stay home with a sick child – and comes from Vård Av Barn). Only in Sweden, huh?

2. Planka

This word describes another worsening problem, especially in Stockholm. It means to sneak behind the turnstiles onto a train by standing as flat as a plank of wood and shuffling through the turnstiles behind someone else. For example: “Haha, Sven, you planked that lady so well that she didn’t even notice.”



3. Vaska

This means “to buy two bottles of champagne at a bar, and then to have one poured down the sink to show how wealthy you are”. Of course, words like “waste” and “spoilt” and “moronic” also spring to mind, but they don’t cover it.

So who does it? Rich kids in Stockholm’s fancy Stureplan area are said to be experts at it.

“Pontus, look at those girls, shall we vaska to get their attention?”

“I don’t know Stefan, we could always just talk to them...”

“No, let’s vaska.”

4. Fika

Swedes pride themselves on the word fika. It means to have a cup of tea or coffee, maybe some cake, and to have a good old chat. Some might say it’s “Elevenes” or even just “coffee”, but if you tell that to a Swede they’ll never invite you to one again.

But it’s not the holy grail of untranslatable Swedish words... that would be....

5. Lagom

If you haven’t tired of the international lagom hype yet, here’s your chance. This word, which means “not too little, not too much... but just right” is the be-all and end-all of Swedish unique words. Think Goldilocks and her final bowl of porridge. Swedes are so proud of this word that it could be the country slogan. You might suggest “optimal”, “adequate”, or “sufficient” are fair translations, but then you’d have to deal with the wrath of the Swedes (the only reason we added it to this list). And they’ll be lagom angry about it, you can bet.

6. Löpsedel

This is “the enlarged front page of the newspaper that hangs outside news agents”. Some call them “billboards” but that’s not a lagom translation. If you search on Wikipedia for “billboard” you get all sorts of things including the name of an episode of Malcolm in the Middle – but nothing on the newspaper signs. Search for löpsedel and you get a whole essay on them. The point is, if you walk up to an English speaker and say “billboard” they’ll be confused, while a Swede simply won’t.

7. Festsnusa

This means “to only use moist snuff while at parties”. It’s kind of like being a casual smoker, but with moist snuff, which is incidentally very popular among Swedes. It’s a brilliant verb, but can be made into a

CULTURE CORNER: 26 Untranslatable Swedish Words continued

noun too –festsnusare. “Can I have one of your snus, Linda? I’m a party snuffer, you know.”

8. **Panta**

To panta something is “to recycle any bottles with the word pant on them”. This is a very common habit in Sweden. Many beer and soft drink bottles have the word pant on them, meaning you can score one or two kronor when returning them to the magic machine at the supermarket. Collect enough and you’ll save a heap on your shopping. And no, it’s not just “Recycle”. It’s recycling bottles... and not just any old bottles... pant bottles. Only in Sweden.

9. **Blåsväder**

This is a favourite word of Swedes in the media industry. It literally means “stormy weather” and is used in any kind of context that can mean trouble. It may be one of the most common headline words in Sweden. “The king in stormy weather” etc. Speaking of storm, you’re in the calm before the storm now. Scroll down and you’ll be in the storm.

Warning, the next word is unsuitable for children.

10. **Olla**

This verb means to dab the end of a penis onto something, a bit like this. And it’s something of a popular word here. In fact, a plumber once making an appearance on *Sweden’s Got Talent* raised a smile when he sang about how he likes to “olla” everything in the home of his customers. And this is a family show. The song was called “I’ve olla-ed everything you own.” It’s all in Swedish, but then again, that’s the point of this article....untranslatable.

11. **Orka**

This verb is a tremendously common word in the Swedish language meaning “to have the energy”, and has nothing to do with Orcs.

For example: “Do you orka to watch The Lord of The Rings trilogy this weekend?”

It can also be used sarcastically. A parent might, for example, ask their teenager to clean their room. The teenager will reply: “Orka!” Meaning, no, they definitely do not orka.

12. **Harkla**

It’s used to describe that little coughing noise one

makes, often before giving a speech or dislodging cinnamon bun pieces from their throat. “Clearing one’s throat,” one would say in English.

13. **Hinna**

This is an enormously common verb in Swedish, meaning “to find the time” or “to be on time”.

Eg: Will you hinna to the cinema? We won’t hinna catch the train if you don’t turn up the heat on those jävla meatballs.

14. **Blunda**

To close your eyes, or to turn a blind eye. “My ex-girlfriend walked into the room and I blundade. I don’t know if she saw me, my eyes were closed. Has she gone?”

15. **Mysa**

We almost have this in English with the word snuggle, but if you’re gonna be mysa-ing in Swedish, you can do it with someone, alone, or even in a café – perhaps “to cosy up” fits the bill. “After my wife left me, I did a lot of solo mysa-ing. It wasn’t the best of times. It wasn’t the worse of times either...”

16. **Duktig**

Anyone who has ever learned Swedish will have heard this one by encouraging Swedes, who I suspect don’t always mean it. Its meaning is a strange mix of being good at something and being hard-working. Utter one half-formed sentence in Swedish and a Swede will say “How duktig you are!” and then probably switch back to English to remind you that they have been fluent since birth.

17. **Jobbig**

In terms of common words, you can’t spend a day in Sweden without coming across this word. It can mean troublesome or trying, annoying or difficult, about people, things, events – almost anything. It’s a real all-encompassing word.

For example: “I thought the train system in Sweden was so jobbigt until I cycled to work, and that, my friend, was even jobbigare.”

Or even: “My parents are so jobbiga. I really don’t orka clean my room.”

18. **Gubbe/Gumma**

Here is a two-for-one package meaning “old man/old lady” and rather endearingly – that is, if you’re saying them in an affectionate voice. In fact, they can be coupled with “lille gubben” to mean “little guy” for a boy, or *lilla gumman* for a girl. However, be careful, because if you don’t know what you’re doing or don’t get your tone of voice right it can be rather rude to call an actual old man or old lady a *gubbe* or *gumma*.

19. **Mormor/farmor/morfar/farfar**

Speaking of *gubbar* and *gummor*. As well as being a tongue twister for the rookie Swedish learner, this combination is a brilliant selection of words we desperately need in English. These are the words for your grandparents – (mothermother, fathermother, motherfather, fatherfather). Incidentally, the word for grandchild is *childchild*, but let’s take this one step at a time.

20. **Badkruka**

Someone who refuses to enter a body of water.
“Get in the lake you *badkruka*, it’s summer!”
“No, the water’s just 16C. I don’t care what the *löpsedel* says, that’s not a heatwave.”

21. **Solkatt**

You know that glimmer that reflects the sunshine off a wristwatch? That’s called a *solkatt* in Swedish, and has nothing to do with cats that sit in the sun. “I’m blind! That evil woman has put a *solkatt* in my eyeball!”

22. **Mambo**

You might have heard of *sambo* before (which means live-in partner) but did you know that *mambo* is the word for an adult who lives at home with their mother? It is unclear whether this is against the mother’s will or not. “I’m going *mambo* for a few months, don’t try to stop me, Mum.”

23. **Hoppilandkalle**

This means “Kalle, the guy who jumps to dry land to moor a boat”. Swedes like to use names like *Kalle* in words, for example *bollkalle* (the child who runs off to get the ball when it’s kicked off the field), *snuskpelle* (a filthy person) or *skrytmåns* (someone who brags a lot). Or indeed *hoppilandkalle*, jump-ashore-kalle.

24. **Linslus**

Someone who always wants to have their face in a photo – literally “lens louse”.

25. **Dygn**

This means literally “day and night”, or 24 hours. Swedes could say “I was stuck outside for three *dygns*” if they were unlucky. The movie “6 days, 7 nights” is called “six-and-a-half *dygns*” in Sweden. (Ok, not really).

26. **Surströmmingspremiär**

The first day of the year when it is acceptable to eat rotten herring (*surströmming* is a foul-smelling and fermented fish considered a delicacy in Sweden). “Where will you be for the *surströmmingpremiär* this year?”
“Very far away, my friend.”

This is an edited and updated version of previous lists written by Oliver Gee / The Local

Hygge

I recently saw the musical *Frozen* at the Pantages. *Frozen* is set in a fictional land based on Norway. The Scandinavian touch to it made it even better and more interesting for me!

One of the cutest scenes included a musical number about *hygge*. Pronounced (/ˈh(j)uːgə/ H(Y)OO-gə; Danish: [ˈhykə]; Norwegian: [ˈhʏggə]) *Hygge* is a Danish and Norwegian word for a mood of coziness and comfortable conviviality with feelings of wellness and contentment. As a cultural category with its sets of associated practices *hygge* has more or less the same meanings in Danish and Norwegian, but the notion is more central in Denmark than in Norway.

The word *Hygge* comes from a Danish word meaning “to give courage, comfort, joy”. *Hygge* stems from *hyggja* which means to think in Old Norse. It is built from the Old Norse word *hugr* which later became the *hug* which means the soul, mind, consciousness.

I highly recommend the musical! It will be playing there partially through February.

January Meeting

Thanks to Dorothy Burns for the pictures



Returning officers: Delphine Trowbridge-Chairman, Chase Dodd-Vice Chairman, Birgitta Clark-Treasurer, Andrea Tabanelli-Chaplain, Luc Taylor-Master of Ceremonies, Dylan Olson, Assistant MOC



Initiation of new member:
Stephanie McDonald



Jason Trowbridge running the opportunity drawing at Golden Valley Lodge



Newly installed officers: Dorothy Burns-Corresponding Secretary, Valerie Olson-Guard, Maidie Karling-Financial Secretary, and Britt-Marie Potter-Auditor