

June 2019

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



*Credits: Alexander Hall/imagebank.sweden.se*

## Midsummer flower crown

Midsummer is one of the most celebrated holidays in Sweden. People traditionally pick flowers and create their own floral crowns which they wear throughout the day. It is also said that if you place seven types of flowers under your pillow at midsummer, you will dream about your future spouse. Midsummer at Vasa Park is coming up June 23rd!

Happy Father's Day!

*(Fars dag is not celebrated in Sweden until November 10th)*



## Chairman's message

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I think our Social last month was a big success thanks to all the help from everyone. I want to thank Chase and Richard for cooking, Dorothy for the wreaths, Mona for her craft demonstration and Ruzenka for her chocolate fondue.

This will be our last meeting before summer, and we will not meet again until September

12th. Our trip to the Viking Festival is September 21 so everyone needs to send in their reservations. We have 4 rooms left but lots of room on the bus so we could always add an extra room or 2 if more people sign up. Our dinner for June will be hosted by Cecilia and Jason Trowbridge and the refreshments by Hanna and Roy. See you at the meeting.

In Truth and Unity,

*Delphine*

*The next meeting is Thursday, June 13, 2019*

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

# GVL Happenings

## Thank You for a Wonderful May Social

Delphine Trowbridge for the food  
 Chase Dodd and Richard Heinstedt for cooking  
 Ruzenka di Benedetto for her chocolate fondue  
 Dorothy Burns for the floral wreaths  
 Mona Steffen for her craft demonstration  
 Roy and Hannah Olson for handling the bar  
 Mark Landstrom and his wife for the Akvavit tasting  
 The Kindig family for leading the dancing  
 Kirsten Wendt, Lisa Ecklund, and Mona Steffen for taking pictures



.....  
 We will be "dark" for the summer but our members will still be celebrating their birthdays!

## 2019 Golden Valley Lodge Board & Service Positions

**Chair:** Delphine Trowbridge  
**Vice Chair:** Chase Dodd  
**Past Chair:** Inga Francis  
**Secretary:** Lisa Ecklund  
**Assistant Secretary:** Mona Steffen  
**Financial Secretary:** Dorothy Burns  
**Treasurer:** Birgitta Clark  
**Chaplain:** Andrea Tabanelli  
**Master of Ceremonies:** Lucas Taylor  
**Assistant MoC:** Dylan Olson  
**Cultural:** Ruzenna & Ruzenka di Benedetto  
**Guard:** Cecilia Trowbridge  
**Incoming Trustee:** Kerstin Wendt  
**Auditors:** Britt Marie Potter & Maidie Karling  
**Historian:** Laurie Taylor  
**Vasa Park:** Richard Heinstedt  
**Bar:** Roy and Hanna Olson  
**Newsletter:** Laurie Taylor  
**Youth Group:** Nicolette Taylor

## Happy June/July/August Birthdays!

**JUNE (6)**  
 Linda Trowbridge 2  
 Dylan Olson 3  
 Daniel Buck 5  
 Lars-Ove Nilsson 6  
 Thomas Anderson 6  
 William Osman 7  
 Hanna Olson 9  
 Christina Poe 12  
 Daniel Wendt 13  
 Robert Linfors 15  
 Cheryl Haggerty 16  
 Lindsey Wendt 17  
 Nathan Coddling 18  
 Gary Andonian 20  
 Jessica Osman 29

**JULY (7)**  
 Gunilla Thelin 2  
 Anette Richards 4  
 Jake Durbas 7  
 Mark Hanson 7  
 Jens Kevin Mikkelsen 9  
 Dorothy Burns 10  
 Andrea Tabanelli 14  
 Tiffany Storch 17  
 Britt Anderson 18  
 Inga Francis 18  
 Joyce Gaynor 26  
 Ruzenna di Benedetto 30

**AUGUST (8)**  
 Christer Olin 6  
 Maria Jacobs 8  
 Gunilla DePaoli 8  
 Elisabet Perez 10  
 Evelyn Weare-Linfors 12  
 Gertie Lindstrom 20  
 Hailey Carleson 20  
 Marie Mickelson 21  
 William Liljeberg 27  
 Sayd Birgitta Sidenius 29  
 Chelsea Rhoades Osman 30



Ha en trevlig  
 födelsedag!

# CULTURE CORNER: Sweden's National Day (Nationaldagen)



A poster for the first Flag Day in 1916 (Photo from Nordiska Museum)

The Swedish National Day came into being in the early 1890s, with inspiration from Norway and Denmark, which had their national days on May 17 and June 5 respectively. There were several proposals at the time for a Swedish national day, including the Midsummer Day. Other proposals were on 6 and 30th of November. However, Artur Hazelius arranged a spring party, the last day which took place on June 5. He called this day a "national party to celebrate our historic memories tomorrow, Tuesday, June 6". June 6 was also the Gustaf's Day, which had become a common name day. It was later decided that on the Gustaf's day the anniversary of Gustav Vasa's election to Sweden's King in 1523 and the 1809 constitution should be celebrated.



Emilie Asplund / imagebank.sweden.se

In the beginning, flags were a common feature of the National Day celebration, although flags were rather unusual at this time. The land use in Sweden is not so old. For a long time, like most other nations, Swedes used the national flag mainly at sea and then usually treetung. In 1873, for the first time, a Swedish flag was hoisted at the royal castle, something that was met with sharp criticism. Many thought that a flag did not have land at all. The royal example was followed by some stalwarts, and then flags and hoist flags were erected on priestly farms, railway stations, and school yards, and soon the flag was general.

In Sweden you are never far away from a flag. In the UK only public buildings normally have flag poles, but many Swedes have flag poles in their gardens. It is not an indication of any political allegiance, simply a statement of the fact that they are proud to be Swedish.

The day was an unofficial national day until 1916, when it was instituted as the Swedish flag day. Only in 1983 was the day officially Sweden's national day. It was only in 2004 that the Swedish Riksdag (Parliament) voted to make it a röd dag (red day/public holiday) so 2005 was the first.

# A Touch of Sweden: More on National Day



Swedes love strawberries and so nationaldagen provides a good excuse for indulging in a wonderful strawberry cream cake or any other variation of strawberry deliciousness.

Drive around Southern Sweden during strawberry season—which lasts from about the end of May to August—and you'll pass stands selling Swedish strawberries.

Early June is a time of unpredictable weather and so Swedes tend to choose something appropriate for the weather. Most will be hoping to spend the day outdoors and to enjoy a picnic or a barbecue.

If the weather has been good the elderflowers might have been early enough for Swedes to celebrate with some home-made fläderblomssaft (elderflower cordial/syrup) topped-up with some bubbly.

But whatever they serve, most Swedes will pop a yellow and blue flag into it somewhere!



<https://sweden.se/culture-traditions/national-day/>  
<http://www.swedishfood.com/national-day>

## Greeting Ceremony (Left)

Greeting ceremony for new citizens on Swedish National Day in Stockholm City Hall.

Since 1991 Swedish capital Stockholm has been welcoming new Swedish citizens with a ceremony at Stockholm City Hall. On June 6 - Swedish National Day - people from all over the world are welcomed to Sweden. Since 2015 similar ceremonies have been held in all Swedish municipalities.

Photo: Simon Paulin / [www.imagebank.sweden.se](http://www.imagebank.sweden.se)

**May 2019 Social**  
**Photography by Kirsten Wendt, Lisa Eklund, Mona Steffen and Laurie Taylor**



New member, Viveca Hemberg, and her granddaughter at floral crown making table provided by Dorothy Burns



Akvavit tasting provided by Mark & Gayle Landstrom



We tasted several delicious homemade samples of Akvavit





Some samples of Mona Steffen's beautiful rosemalling



Rosemalling table provided by Mona Steffen



The DiBenedetto's provided the desert fondue



Roy and Hannah Olson were our terrific bartenders



Dancing led by the Kindig family



**Vasa Park Spring Picnic**  
**Photos courtesy of Kirsten Wendt, Lisa Ecklund, and Mona Steffen**



*Dorothy Burns put together a floral crown making table that was a big hit*



*Lovely ladies from our lodge wearing their new floral crowns*



*More floral crowns being made*



*Dala Hast Dedication Ceremony*



*Hanna looking beautiful and happy in her floral crown*



*Britt at the Dala Horse*



*The Swedish Car Show*



*Live music by LeRoy Anderson and lots of singing*



*Plenty of activities for everyone*



*The friendly cooking staff*



*The Tombola was very well stocked for all ages*

# Midsummer Coronation

Attended and photographed by Lisa Ecklund

Valerie Olson (GVL member, but representing Nordic) is the 2019 Midsummer Queen and Cecilia Trowbridge (representing GVL) is Columbia. Emma (representing Northstar) is Swea.

Congratulations to all three ladies!! You do us proud!!



Valerie Olson - 2019 Midsummer Queen



Emma, Valerie, and Cecilia



Cecilia and Jason Trowbridge

# Information on Vasa Order of America for new members

The Vasa Order of America is a Swedish-American fraternal, non-profit organization for people interested in Swedish or any other Scandinavian culture. The Order started more than 120 years ago as a benefit society for Swedish immigrants to the United States. It was named for Gustav Vasa who became king of Sweden after liberating the country in the early 1520s, nearly 500 years ago.

There are more than 150 local lodges in the Vasa Order, most of them in the US but many also in Canada and Sweden. The local lodges are governed by 18 District Lodges. The one in southern California is named District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15. A list of the 12 local lodges in our District, including contact information, is available on the following website:

<http://www.vasaDL15.org>

Our local lodges differ in age and number of members. North Star, the oldest in western USA, was instituted on January 15, 1907. The Kern River lodge created in December 2015 is the youngest in our District and also the youngest in the entire Vasa organization. Membership rolls vary from 20 in Bakersfield to 170 in Northridge. Currently we have about 780 members in the District. My aim is to increase that number - it is a challenge in today's world with its many competing activities. However, you don't need to be born in Sweden (or even in Scandinavia) to become a member of our Order. We welcome all nationalities with an interest in Scandinavian culture - all meetings are conducted in English.

You have probably heard of the children's summer camp at our Vasa Park in Agoura Hills. To have your child or grandchild (age 7 thru 14) attend this camp you need to be a member of Vasa. The Vasa Park Association pays most of the cost for this event. When the child reaches

age 14, he or she can apply for membership in Vasa and become eligible for other benefits, such as the popular language camps in Sweden and in Minnesota. In addition, we have several college scholarships for young adults. Students at vocational schools are also eligible for this kind of financial assistance. All these programs are funded by generous bequests made over the years by members and friends of the Vasa Order. We have budgeted \$40,000 for the District scholarship program this year.

Some of the local lodges have their own scholarship programs independent of the ones operated by our District Lodge. I'm aware of the ones at Golden Valley, Skandia, Mayflower and North Star. This year the Golden Valley Lodge, for instance, has budgeted \$22,000 for scholarships. Some of our larger Lodges also make annual contributions to charity.

I encourage prospective members to study the list of local lodges on our website and then decide which one fits you and/or your family. The membership dues are quite reasonable but vary among the various lodges - from \$20 to \$35. Most lodges apply an initiation fee of \$10. To get information about dinner meetings and other activities at the local level, you may call the contact person for each local lodge. The membership application form can be downloaded - it's located near the bottom on left side of our home page.

If I haven't met you already or you have yet to apply for membership, I look forward to seeing you very soon as a fellow member of the Vasa Order of America.

Bertil (Bert) Winther  
Membership chairman, PDM  
and  
Grand Lodge Deputy



Ernie Mauritson (Skandia Lodge Chairman) message regarding

## Vasa Park

The challenge to our beloved Vasa Park continues. As you may know, the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is considering updates to the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan (SMMNAP).

Recently, the Department extended its review period. Changes under consideration would drastically affect our Vasa events and how we use our park. For example, the updated rules could limit the total number of people allowed at events to 300. Changes might also require shuttle services for events of more than 75 people, instead of the current practice of driving and parking onsite. Editor's note: There is much more at stake. If you like to see the proposed SMMNAP document:

[http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/smmnap\\_csd-20181001.pdf](http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/smmnap_csd-20181001.pdf)

Comments are currently being welcomed via email and by mail. The Planning Board hopes to hear from folks like us who would be affected by these changes under consideration. Vasa Park is one of the most treasured parts of our heritage. This is our opportunity to protect it for coming generations. If you haven't done so already, consider adding your voice. Please return your comment form as soon as possible to:

**Email:**  
smmnortharea@planning.lacounty.gov

**Mail:**

Community Studies West Section  
County of Los Angeles  
Department of Regional Planning  
320 W. Temple Street, 13th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**What we need:** comments sent from Vasa members like you who feel strongly about maintaining our current land use rights for Nordic Spring Picnic, Midsummer Celebration, Viking Village Summer Camp and Autumnfest. Perhaps you can mention your enjoyment of the park as a family... traditions, enrichments and cultural experiences that are unique to Vasa Park and our Vasa organization member events... what the continued use of Vasa Park will mean to future generations of your family. If you have a particular fond memory or tradition to share, that would be most welcome.

Time is of the essence. Since this is an all-hands-on-deck situation, please feel free to forward this email to Vasa members outside of our lodge.

In Truth and Unity,  
Ernie Mauritson

