

September 2016

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

Sunday, September 18, 2016
Marknad/Autumnfest at Vasa Park!



SEPTEMBER 8TH – 6:30pm --- Golden Valley Lodge 'social only' evening: How did you spend your summer vacation?

At the JUNE meeting of the Golden Valley Lodge, Chase Dodd made a motion to have our September meeting be only a social get-together and not a business meeting. Dorothy Burns seconded it and the motion passed. We have 10 business meetings a year now and the bylaws require that we have 9 so we decided to use September 8th for our non-business/social evening. Gertie Lingström will be making dinner so you won't want to miss that! It will be an evening of sharing what we did over the summer. Both Jason Blohm and Ann Heinstedt had some special adventures in Sweden this summer and will tell us about their travels. Anyone else is welcome to share stories about their summer...maybe some of the children who went to Viking Village would like to read their thank you letters?

GVL Happenings

One of our Members Appears on Allt för Sverige!

Jason Blohm entered a contest to be on the Swedish reality television program, **Allt för Sverige** and won!



A nationwide search was conducted to find fun, outgoing and adventurous Americans with Swedish ancestry (even a little bit counts), with a burning desire to find their roots and see their motherland. Jason said he knew he had Swedish ancestry but never met his relatives. Chosen participants competed in extreme cultural challenges to discover their rich and fascinating roots while trying to win the grand prize; **MEETING THEIR SWEDISH RELATIVES.**



Picture of all the contestants.

Allt för Sverige won't air until October in Sweden and Jason is sworn to secrecy and cannot tell us if he was the winner. Check out this website to read about season 6 and the contestants:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allt_f%C3%B6r_Sverige#Season_6_.282016.29

Jason traveled to Sweden and participated in an exciting reality television series which showcased everyday Americans as they journeyed throughout Sweden to discover their land, roots, and cultural heritage.

More pictures on next page!

Marknad/Autumnfest

It is sure to be another beautiful day at Vasa Park! Don't miss the Marknad/Autumnfest with the Annual Meatball Contest on Sunday, September 18, 2016. This year we are featuring an all **new Member's Art Show**. If you would like to be a participant, there is an application form available on the district website at vasad15.org.

Happy September Birthday to:

Sylva Pitters	1st	Birgitta Glad	26th
Dawn C. Matthews	7th	Annika Buck	28th
Jason Blohm	19th	Bertil Winther	30th
Monica Waton	22nd		
Frank Muscarella	24th		

Please let me know if I missed your birthday here.



If you have any pictures or stories to share, please send them to laurietaylor@hotmail.com!



2016 Viking Village Group



Ann Heinstedt went to Sweden to check out a language camp, similar to Sjölund in Minnesota. She hopes one day to take some of the Vasa youth to Sweden. Ann spent three weeks at the camp and two additional weeks with her family traveling.

News from the District

Submitted by Bertil Winther

I attended another meeting of the Sweden House committee. Initially, the project was created to find a new home for the Swedish Church in San Pedro. We reaffirmed that the overriding goal still is to create a center for the entire Swedish community in LA and to involve as many Swedish groups as possible. In addition to representatives from the Swedish Church, participants were invited from organizations such as the Pacific Southwest District of VASA, Swedish Women's Educational Association, Swedish Chamber of Commerce, Swedish School in Santa Monica, etc.

So far, a handful of objects on the real estate market were considered but their size and/or geographical location did not meet requirements. A decision was made to concentrate our future search to the Culver City area. Pastor Staffan Eklund from the Swedish Church expressed the opinion that the project should not be headed by his organization although the Church will remain a major participant.

We estimated that a suitable building could be acquired at a cost of 5-7 million dollars. The required down payment

would then amount to about a million dollars. Hanna Claesson, representing the Swedish Church group and also a member of our Lodge, volunteered to host a fund raising event at her home. Several other initiatives were discussed. I suggested the creation of a non-profit corporation for the purpose of offering shares that could be secured by ownership in the building. A single share could have a nominal value of \$5,000 or \$10,000. Pastor Staffan said he would ask Marcus Anderson, legal counsel at the Church in San Pedro, for his advice on this issue. I promised to investigate how much interest exists within our Vasa District to purchase shares in the planned project.

After returning from vacation in Sweden I plan to raise the question at business meetings on the Local Lodge level but also at meetings of our District Executive Board where I serve as Past District Master. All GVL members are encouraged to support the Sweden House project. You may voice your support by contacting members of the GVL Financial Committee (chaired by Hubert Pitters) or by speaking up at our regular meetings.

Golden Valley Lodge, #616
Vasa Order of America