

December 2018

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



**Happy Holidays  
and  
A Happy New Year!**

**Next meeting: Thursday, December 13, 2018**

**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



A big thank you to Jason Blöhm and Delphine Trowbridge for our feast!

## Happy December Birthdays!

Laila Jensen	5	Hubert Pitters	27
Robert Shoemaker	10	Lorena Bell	27
Chase Dodd	15	Gunilla Polutanovich	29
Shannon Traxel	18	Lucas Taylor	29
Terry Sjolander	21		
Eva Brown	25		
Robert Holstein	25		



### Did you know...

Birthday cakes were once only for the rich. Birthday cakes go back to the Roman Empire. Birthday cakes became popular in Europe in the middle of the 19th century. Now birthday cakes and birthdays go together all the time for everyone.

## Ha en trevlig födelsedag!

# Lucia Celebrations



[Lena Granefelt Imagebank.sweden.se](http://Lena.Granefelt.Imagebank.sweden.se)

## Swedish Lucia – the origins

The Lucia tradition can be traced back both to St Lucia of Syracuse, a martyr who died in 304, and to the Swedish legend of Lucia as Adam's first wife. It is said that she consorted with the Devil and that her children were invisible infernals. Thus the name may be associated with both lux (light) and Lucifer (Satan), and its origins are difficult to determine. The present custom appears to be a blend of traditions.

In the old almanac, Lucia Night was the longest of the year. It was a dangerous night when supernatural beings were abroad and all animals could speak. By morning, the livestock needed extra feed. People, too, needed extra nourishment and were urged to eat seven or nine hearty breakfasts. This kind of feasting pre-saged the Christmas fast, which began on Lucia Day.

The last person to rise that morning was nicknamed 'Lusse the Louse' and often given a playful beating round the legs with birch twigs. The slaughtering and

threshing were supposed to be over by Lucia and the sheds to be filled with food in preparation for Christmas. In agrarian Sweden, young people used to dress up as Lucia figures (lussegubbar) that night and wander from house to house singing songs and scrounging for food and schnapps.

The first recorded appearance of a white-clad Lucia in Sweden was in a country house in 1764. The custom did not become universally popular in Swedish society until the 1900s, when schools and local associations in particular began promoting it. The old lussegubbar custom virtually disappeared with urban migration, and white-clad Lucias with their singing processions were considered a more acceptable, controlled form of celebration than the youthful carousals of the past. Stockholm proclaimed its first Lucia in 1927. The custom whereby Lucia serves coffee and buns (lussekatter) dates back to the 1880s, although the buns were around long before that.

Source: [www.sweden.se](http://www.sweden.se)