

March 2014

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

Irish Blessing:

May you have warm words on
a cold evening,
a full moon on a dark night,
and a smooth road all the way
to your door.

Happy St Patrick's Day!

Newly elected 2014 District Board



All Convention Photography by Jon and Ashley Vikander, District Photographers

See page 6 for a list of names

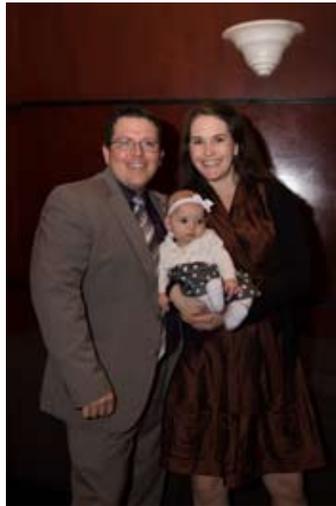
Next meeting: Thursday, March 13, 2014

Golden Valley Lodge #616 • Vasa Order of America • Mailing Address: 14312 Friar St. • Van Nuys • CA 91401
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100th Annual District Convention



More 100th Annual District Convention



GVL Happenings

Wellness reports:

Ruth Wilkening says she's doing well and she tires easy because of her chemo treatments and indicates she's not ready for phone calls or visits yet. *But, I'm sure she would like to hear some news from you!* Her email address is: trueblue.greg@gmail.com. She mentioned that she misses everyone! Get well soon, Ruth!

Maidie Karling was ill and hospitalized recently. She was unable to make it to the district convention due to her illness. We are all sending good wishes to Maidie.

Buffet News:



Last month's delicious Valentine's dinner was provided by Gunvor Sabo, Laila Jensen, and Maria Jacobs.

Our Youth Group will be handling the March dinner and serving food this Thursday. If you are a Golden Valley youth, please plan to arrive early and help out!

Events:

Our Events Coordinator, Delphine Trowbridge, recently asked what people want to do for our annual event. The suggestions were: Horse Races, Riley Farms out in Palm Desert (we could join with our sister group), San Antonio Winery, Kingsburg Swedish Festival, and Glendale Center. An e-mail went out to members for suggestions. We will be discussing this and probably vote on at the March meeting.

Golden Valley Dues are now due!

\$25.00 unless you are a Gold Card member. Please pay at the March meeting or mail to: D. Trowbridge, 430 E. Olive Ave # 236, Burbank, 91501. Make checks out to: Golden Valley.

Happy March Birthday!



Linnea Heinstedt	1st
Joseph Bell	4th
John Bell	8th
Britt-Marie Potter	22nd
Maidie Karling	30th
Kerstin Engblom	30th

Culture Corner: Famous Swedes

Carl Gustav Boberg



Carl Gustav Boberg

of us around her knew it was by a Swede, I decided to look into it. I found out that it began as a poem written by Carl Gustav Boberg (1859–1940) in Sweden in 1885. The melody is a Swedish folk song.

Boberg was a Swedish poet, writer, and elected official. He was born in Mönsterås, Kalmar County in Småland, Boberg was a carpenter's son, worked briefly as a sailor, and served as a lay minister in the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden. He was the editor of a weekly Christian newspaper, Sanningsvittnet (Witness of the Truth), from 1890 until 1916. Boberg served in the Swedish Parliament for 20 years from 1912 to 1931. He published more than 60 poems, hymns and gospel songs, including a collaboration with Swedish hymnist Lina Sandell.

According to Wikipedia, his inspiration came when Boberg was walking home from church near Kronobäck, Sweden, and listening to church bells. By his own account: "It was that time of year when everything seemed to be in its richest colouring; the birds were singing in trees and everywhere. It was very warm; a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon and soon thunder and lightning. We had to hurry to shelter. But the storm was soon over and the clear sky appeared.

When I came home I opened my window toward the sea. There evidently had been a funeral and the bells were playing the tune of 'When eternity's clock calling my saved soul to its Sabbath rest.' That evening, I wrote the song, 'O Store Gud.'"

It has been translated into many languages and has had several new verses added. Boberg's entire poem appears

(with archaic Swedish spellings). Presented below are two of those verses which appear (more or less loosely) translated in English hymnbooks, followed in each case by the English.

*När jag hör dårar i sin dårskaps dimma
Förneka Gud och håna hvad han sagt,
Men ser likväl, att de hans hjälp förnimma
Och uppehållas af hans nåd och makt.*

*O when I see ungrateful man defiling
This bounteous earth, God's gifts so good and great;
In foolish pride, God's holy Name reviling,
And yet, in grace, His wrath and judgment wait.
Swedish hymnals frequently include the following verse:
När jag hör åskans röst och stormar brusa
Och blixstens klingor springa fram ur skyn,
När regnets kalla, friska skurar susa
Och löftets båge glänser för min syn.*

*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.
Refrain:
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

*Verse 2:
When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
(Repeat Refrain.)*

It has been recorded by The Blackwood Brothers Quartet, Dixie Carter, Charlie Daniels, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Burl Ives, Alan Jackson, Martina McBride, Elvis Presley, Roy Rogers, George Beverly Shea, Carrie Underwood, and Connie Smith. The Statler Brothers, The hymn became the de facto theme of New Zealand entertainer Sir Howard Morrison.

It was the title track of Elvis Presley's second gospel LP *How Great Thou Art*, released in March 1967. The song won Presley a Grammy Award for "Best Sacred Performance" in 1967, and another Grammy in 1974 for "Best Inspirational Performance (Non-Classical)" for his live

Continued next page

Culture - Carl Gustav Boberg continued
performance album "Recorded Live on Stage in Memphis".

Carrie Underwood's single reached #1 spot in iTunes Top Gospel Song and Top 40 in iTunes All-Genre Songs. In Billboard Christian Digital songs chart, it debuted at #2 position and #35 in Country Digital Songs chart.

It was ranked second, after "Amazing Grace", on a list of the favorite hymns of all time in a survey by Today's Christian magazine in 2001.

Our New 2014 District Board

District Master - Russell Almquist (Glenn T. Seaborg)
Vice District Master - Bertil Winther * (Golden Valley)
Past District Master - Ann Hellgren (Mayflower)
District Secretary - Isabella Muscarella * (Golden Valley)
Asst. District Secretary - Linda Kosvic (Desert Viking)
District Treasurer - Robert Solt (Skandia)
District Exec. Board - 1 yr. : Jon Vikander (Glenn T Seaborg)
District Exec. Board -- 1 yr - Mary Wright (Baltic)
District Exec. Board -- 2 yr - Elliott Codding (Mayflower)
District Exec. Board -- 2 yr - Peter Lindgren
District Cultural Leader: Nel Solt (Skandia)
District Chaplain: Maidie Karling * (Golden Valley)
District Master of Ceremony - Inga Francis * (Golden Valley)
District Asst. Master of Ceremony - Maggie Connelly
District Inner Guard: Delphine Trowbridge * (Golden Valley)
District Outer Guard: Anita Hedlund
District Auditor - 1 year: Siv Swan-Pierson (Scandinavian)
District Auditor - 2 year: Lori Wennbo (Skandia)
District Auditor - 3 year: Ann Heinstedt (Nordic Heritage)
District Trustee - 1 year: Robert Salk (Evening Star)
District Trustee - 2 year: Susan Premo (Oak Leaf)
District Trustee - 3 year: Gunlog Spaberg (Evening Star)



Photo Credit Mikaela Gustavsson Imagebank.Sweden.se

Waffle Day

In Sweden, people celebrate what is commonly referred to as "waffle day" or "värfrudagen" which means in English "Our Lady's Day". In vernacular Swedish it sounds almost like Våffeldagen (waffle day) and many think it just caught on that way.

"Our Lady's Day" is the traditional name for the Feast of the Annunciation. In some religions such as the Catholics, the New Testament tells the story of when the archangel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she has been chosen to be the mother of Jesus.

Traditionally this day falls on March 25th, exactly nine months before Christmas. March 25 was also considered the first day of Spring, and preparations would be made for the spring planting. The light was returning, giving everybody a much needed reprieve from the winter darkness, and the hens would start laying eggs again, providing much needed vitamin D to sunstarved farmers. Special dishes would be prepared with the eggs, among them waffles, which would have been a treat after the boring winter foods.

They are usually served with whipped cream and some kind of berry jam and make a delicious dessert-when eaten hot off the waffle iron. Many Swedes will still eat waffles on March 25th today. In the United States, National Waffle Day is celebrated August 24, the date of a U.S. patent on a waffle iron.

Scandinavian Festival – April 5-6, 2014

Scanfest Information There are lots of things for the family so check their website:

<http://www.scalscanfest.org/>

It is held at the California Lutheran Campus.

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm

Entrance - Adults \$8.00 | Teens \$4.00 | Kids Free



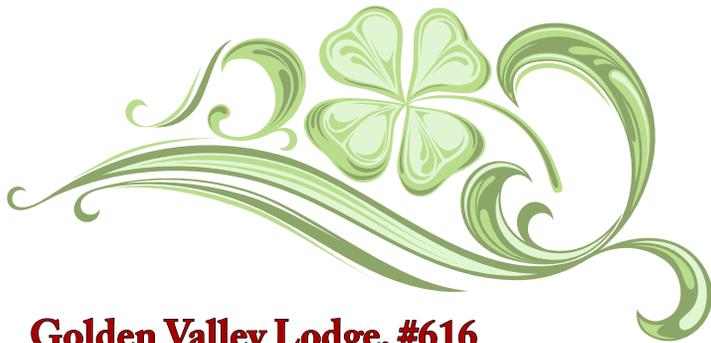
District News

For its Cultural Event, the District will be holding its Second Annual Easter Lunch on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at Skandia Hall, 2031 E. Villa St. in Pasadena starting with a social hour at 12 noon followed by lunch at 1PM. Come dressed as a Påskkärring, or Easter witch. Prizes will be awarded to the three best outfits. Donation: Adults \$17: 12 and under \$12. Prepaid reservations no later than March 25th. There will be no ticket sales at the door, so contact Nel Solt for reservations at 626.355.0111.

SACA News

The Swedish American Central Association (SACA) court selection and coronation ball will be held at Skandia Hall, Pasadena on March 30, 2014. For information and reservations contact Kathryn Martin at 626.914.1622.

Reservations must be in by March 25. They are \$15 per person - ask about children's plates.



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