

March 2015

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Skandia Lodge No. 2 102nd Anniversary Dinner

Saturday March 21 at Beckham Grill, Pasadena

Reservations due by March 17th.

District Lodge Pacific Southwest No. 15

Swedish Easter Lunch and Program

Reservations due by March 23rd for the March 28th event.

Multi-Lodge Initiation

If a new member has submitted their application and paid dues, they are welcome to go April 11 @ 1pm to the Mayflower Lodge Initiation for all lodges. This complimentary event is hosted by Mayflower. Please RSVP!

Scandinavian Festival 2015 @ CLU

April 18-19 10:00am – 5:00pm

Admission Adults: \$10, Teens: \$5, Kids are free!!!

Both days of the Festival are filled with music, dancing, food, lectures, demonstration, vendors and activities for ALL ages. Check out the Viking Encampment and Sami Village! For information on activities, please go to their Festival Website at -

http://scandinaviancenter.org/scandinavian_festival/

Vasa Park

Scandinavian Spring Picnic - Sunday, May 3rd

Midsummer Festival - Sunday, June 28

Viking Village - June 21 through June 28

Autumnfest and Marknad - Sunday, September 20

Next meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2015

GVL Happenings



The Gourmet Group

They prepared a *delicious* meal for us. A big thank you to all of you!

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Change of Address and Reminder!

Delphine Trowbridge, in charge of membership, has a new change of address:
21308 Jimpson Way, Canyon Country, CA 91351

Another reminder that dues of \$25.00 is due and can be sent to this address!

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Happy March Birthdays!

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

Ha en trevlig födelsedag!



Welcome Back!

It was **wonderful** to see Andrea Tabanelli back and looking healthy and happy!



Bengt Heinstedt's 90th Birthday Celebration!



Bengt's 90 Birthday -- Photos Courtesy of Mona Stefen

Bengt Heinstedt celebrated his 90th Birthday at the Golden Valley Lodge's February meeting. We all enjoyed Princess Cake after singing Happy Birthday in English and Swedish.

50 Year Pin Poem and more!

My 50 Year Pin By Ruth E. Wilkening

It means a lot to me --- my 50 Year Pin,
You just can't imagine, what a joy it's been.
The friends I've made, the jobs I've had,
Thinking back to these times – I'm so extremely
glad!

Glad for the eight years of being “Children's
Club” Leader,
and the ninth year of that, included “District
Club” Leader.
Putting on five programs a year, was a major task,
Not something I could sit back – in the sun –
and bask! (ha!)

Children's Day at Vasa Park came --- in the
month of April.
So right after Christmas, that was a staple!
Then came “Father's Day” in June, at the park in
Golden Valley
There was no time in between, to kick back or
dally!

'Cause then we practiced for the biggest event of
the year,
Raising the maypole in June – with lots of danc-
ing and good cheer.
Yes, and Midsummer at Vasa Park required each
lodge
to put on a program – and not to dodge.

Then there was Christmas, I did not forget,
'cause the Lucia was the next biggest program yet!
At Golden Valley, the beautiful Lucia comes in,
then Starboys – 'n lil' Tomtar – who made us grin!

I was so proud of “Blåsipporna”, which our group
was called.
They performed so well – they did just what they
were told.
Heidi (my youngest out of five) now 53,
Can you guess how many years back that would
be?
That's why I've received my 50-year pin, you see!



Ruth Wilkening

(Heidi was just 3 years old, Kristina 5, Erik 6, Lisa 7,
and Peter 8)

Looking back, I remember special things; like the
Christmas play that we always had (following the Lu-
cia), the children helping to make props and scenery --
like the big oak tree, the “troll skogen” wooden sign, the
big dala hest (that blew off my car and broke on the day
of the performance) but we repaired it, as best we could
before the play, the “live” Tomte-gubbe puppets, and
some very talented children performing on their musical
instruments.

My adult helpers were talented also. Like Marta
Sarnafors, Britt Christiansen, and Harry Jonsson (all ac-
cordion players), Dan Bohlin (piano), me on guitar, and
Elvy Heinstedt (with good ideas and support). We had
a traveling Swedish band with these adults and played
for dances and just entertainment during the 8th year
of being Children's Club leader of Golden Valley. I was
asked to be District Children's Club leader, which con-
sumed lots of time, burning the midnight oil (but I was
younger then!) Ha! I formed a “District Children's Club



RUTH WILKENING & CHILDREN'S CLUB YACCA PARK

Band”, which met at my house for practice once a month, with familiar, easy Swedish songs that I wrote up and photocopied for each child.

Then, I was also Golden Valley Cultural Leader for

three years and chose Elvy Heinstedt to be my helper. So, together we worked hard to have good programs.

Thank you Golden Valley for a great 50 years of fun and fellowship.



Miriam Glans - imagebank.sweden.se

Although not native to the region, the Spring Crocus grows in the wild in Sweden since the 19th century, having been introduced from southern Europe. It is used as an ornamental plant. From as early as February but usually in March and April, this beautiful plant can be seen flowering in meadows and parks in Sweden.



Congratulations to our new 2015 District Officers:

Back row (left to right) Inga Francis, Chuck Pages, Maidie Karling, Ernie Mauritson, Nancy Kingston, Bob Solt, Peter Lindgren, DM Bertil Winther, Russell Almquist, Isabella Muscarella, Nel Solt, Gunlog Spaberg, Delphine Trowbridge, Anita Hedlund

Front Row (left to right) Ann Heinstedt, Lori Wennbo, Kristine Hofve, Linda Kosvic, Elliott Coddling, Valerie Larson, Susan Premo, Ann Hellgren

Photo: Jon Vikander

District Officers for 2015-2016

Members of the Board:

District Master - Bertil Winther
 Vice District Master - Peter Lindgren
 Past District Master - Russell Almquist
 Secretary - Isabella Muscarella
 Treasurer - Bob Solt
 Assistant Secretary - Nel Solt

Executive Board Members:

Elliott Coddling (1 yr)
 Linda Kosvic (1 yr)
 Valerie Larson (2 yr)
 Kristine Hofve (2 yr)

Cultural Leader - Nancy Kingston

Ceremonial Officers:

Chaplain - Maidie Karling
 Master Ceremonies - Inga Francis
 Asst. Mof C - Delphine Trowbridge
 Inner Guard - Anita Hedlund
 Outer Guard - Chuck Pages

Auditors:

Lori Wennbo (1 yr)
 Ann Heinstedt (2 yr)
 Ernie Mauritson (3 yr)

Trustees:

Susan Premo (1 yr)
 Gunlog Spaberg (2 yr)
 Ann Hellgren (3 yr)

101st Annual District Convention February 2015

By Laurie Taylor, Delegate

A very hearty congratulations to our own, Bertil (Bert) Winther, the new District Grand Master!

Your Golden Valley delegates for 2015 were Dorothy Burns, Wenche Ecklund, Nicolette Taylor, and Laurie Taylor. Golden Valley also had some members/dual members that represented our lodge or another who were also in attendance: Inga Francis District Master of Ceremonies, Ann Heinstedt (representing Nordic Heritage) District Auditor 3 years, Maidie Karling District Chaplain, Isabella Muscarella District Secretary, Delphine Trowbridge Inner Guard, and Bertil Winther Vice District Master.

It was a very nice convention! It started with two seminars on Friday afternoon. (I was at work but heard that they were very interesting.) One on the history of the Nobel Peace Prize by Past Grand Master, Ulf Brynjestad, and the second one on Svenska Kyrkan, (the Swedish Church) earlier known as St. Erik's Church, by Pastor Staffan Eklund. In the evening there was a welcoming District Masters Reception of drinks and hors d'oeuvres in a suite at the Hilton, hosted by North Star, Skandia, G.T. Seaborg, Mayflower, Evening Star, and Golden Valley.

That was followed by the convention meeting beginning on Saturday. We enjoyed pianist, Connie-Lou Berg, who kept things upbeat. We sang, enjoyed a flag ceremony, several speeches by district dignitaries, voted on resolutions, and new officers. Resolutions attempting to curtail the conventions to every other year were unsuccessful, even though several lodges are finding it a financial burden. A resolution to revise the wording of specific duties of officers passed. Our members that hold district positions will continue in them, except Delphine Trowbridge who was voted Assistant Master of Ceremonies (previously she held the position of Inner Guard).

One of the highlights of Saturday's meeting was an informative and scenic video of the Vasa Order of America National Archives in Illinois. There were also various tables with interesting lodge presentations and a beautiful and interesting coffee tribute cultural display table by Nel Solt.

Golden Valley Lodge invited members to go to the dinner and dance on Saturday evening. Dinner choices were beef, salmon, or a vegetarian pastry stuffed with mushrooms, eggplant and other seasoned vegetables. (Two thumbs up from this vegetarian!) Although we were full from dinner, dessert was a very light chocolate mousse with candied orange rind, a wafer, and whipped cream. It was truly a delicious treat!

Our MC was Chuck Pages of North Star Lodge. He was very funny and entertaining!

The DJ did an excellent job getting people out of their seats and on the dance floor. There was music for all tastes. He even sang for us and his voice was quite incredible. His companion assured us it was his beautiful voice and he was not lip-syncing. Nice surprise!

Sunday had a very short business meeting which included a speech by our Grand Master, Tore Kellgren. The theme of the convention and his speech were focused on increasing membership *and* maintaining our current members. That was followed up by a beautiful Memorial Service for members who passed away in 2014. Maidie Karling, the District Chaplain, read off the names of members who passed and flowers were presented for each – red for Past District Masters and white carnations for members. The VASA Choir, conducted by Leroy Anderson, performed *The Heavens are Declaring*, *Thy Holy Wings*, *Dear Savior*, and the last one, *How Great Thou Art* was sung in Swedish by the choir and then the attendees also sang along in English. *How Great Thou Art* is a beautiful Swedish traditional melody and poem written by Carl Gustav Boberg (1859–1940) in Sweden in 1885.

Our members were also invited to enjoy the luncheon on Sunday. There were a few short speeches and presentation of Sjölund and several other District Scholarships. The scholarships are aptly named after the people who made generous donations to the district. Bertha Kalm made several, very generous, donations and was not even a Vasa member!

We enjoyed another excellent meal and a dessert of apple pie a la mode in its own flakey tube crust. Maidie Karling's son and his family attended the breakfast.

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Culture Corner: What do all these popular performers have in common?
(Well, ...besides Wikimedia photo credit!?)



Jennifer Lopez

Photo by: PA2 Anastasia Burns



Brittney Spears

Photo by: Glenn Francis



Lady Gaga

By: Daniel Åhs Karlsson



Katy Perry

Wikimedia Photos



Kelly Clarkson

Official U.S. Marine Corps photograph by
Kathy Reese/Released



Carrie Underwood

Photo credit: Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. Brogan (RELEASED)

Answer: Hit Music by Swedish Writers

Excerpted and re-written from Alex Suskind's article:
<http://mic.com/articles/86719/one-country-is-responsible-for-america-s-biggest-pop-songs>

Swedish songwriter, Max Martin, is the standout hit songwriter of this century. He has written almost every single major hit of the last 15 years. In fact, sixteen of Martin's 18 'Number Ones' have been in just the last six years. But, it turns out Martin wasn't the only Swede writing these tracks -- several other fellow countrymen who were also contributing their musical talents to our stateside singers.

"...Baby One More Time," is the track that turned Britney Spears into one of the biggest pop stars in history. It sold more than 14 million records, making it one of the best-selling singles ever. It more or less launched a new era of pop in America — and all from Sweden. Britney Spears remains one of the greatest advocates for Swedish pop songwriters. Her 2007 single, off her studio album *Blackout*, was an all-Swedish affair, with Bloodshy & Avant and Christian Karlsson co-writing with Klas Ahlund.

In the late '90s, American record labels began exporting pop songwriting and production to Sweden. That's because apparently Swedes are extremely good at writing music! :) Martin, whose melodies made stars out of everyone from Britney Spears to the Backstreet Boys, reigned supreme. But there have been many others, too.

Here are 14 hugely successful American pop songs that aren't so American after all:

1. "**...Baby One More Time**" performed by Britney Spears (written/composed by Max Martin).

2. "**Bye Bye Bye**" performed by 'N SYNC (written/composed by Kristian Lundin, Andreas Carlsson)

The band 'N SYNC was already popular by the time "Bye Bye Bye" hit the airwaves (thanks in part to the ubiquitous Martin, who wrote the group's first breakout hit, "Tearin' Up My Heart").

"Bye Bye Bye" was the lead single off the multi-platinum selling *No Strings Attached*. Although the song only hit No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100, it remained in the Top 10 for 12 weeks.

3. "**Starships**" performed by Nicki Minaj (written/composed by Rami Yacoub, Carl Falk)
Co-written by Carl Falk and Rami Yacoub (with help

from Brit Wayne Hector and Minaj herself). "Starships" ended up peaked at No. 5 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 and sold three million copies.

4. "**Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You)**" performed by Kelly Clarkson (written/composed by Jörgen Elofsson)

Jörgen Elofsson was also responsible for Kelly Clarkson's debut single and first post-*Idol* hit, "A Moment Like This." Elofsson and Clarkson found success once again with "Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You)," which would eventually hit No. 1 on the charts and go on to sell five million records worldwide.

5. "**So What**" performed by Pink (written by Shellback and Max Martin)

Shellback a.k.a. Karl Johan Schuster — is another regular Max Martin collaborator. They both co-wrote this Pink track, which has become the pop star's best-selling single to date, with more than four million copies sold.

It was also Pink's first No. 1 hit on the Billboard charts — performing even better than Shellback and Martin's other Pink songs, including the No. 1 hit "Raise Your Glass."

6. "**Toxic**" by Britney Spears (written by Henrik Jonback, Bloodshy & Avant)

Britney returned to Swedish form for "Toxic," a tune written by Henrik Jonback along with the Swedish production duo Bloodshy & Avant (who actually perform as successful indie band Miike Snow).

"Toxic" would go on to become one of the best-selling singles of 2004, with two million copies. Though the track failed to hit No. 1 in the U.S., it did so in six other countries.

7. "**Poker Face**" by Lady Gaga (written by RedOne)

Contrary to popular belief, Lady Gaga has had a co-writer on many of her biggest hits, including her first single "Just Dance," "Love Game" and "Bad Romance." Her co-writer is Nadir Khat, better known as RedOne.



RedOne Photo by RedOne Productions, Inc.

RedOne grew up in Morocco and emigrated to Sweden at the age of 19 to pursue a music career. He eventually met up with Swedish producer Rami Yacoub. “Poker Face,” co-written by RedOne, was the second single off Gaga’s debut album, *The Fame*. It ranks as one of the best-selling singles of all time, having sold 13 million copies and topping the charts in 20 countries.

8. **“On the Floor”** performed by Jennifer Lopez (written/composed by RedOne, Kinnda, AJ Junior and five other co-writers)

The 2011 single has sold over three million copies, and hit No. 3 on the Billboard charts.

9. **“Because of You”** performed by 98 Degrees (written/composed by Arnthor Birgisson, Anders Bagge, Christian Karlsson)

It hit No. 3 on the charts and got certified platinum. It was written by lesser-known Swedes Arnthor Birgisson and Anders Bagge.

10. **“Inside Your Heaven”** performed by Carrie Underwood (written/composed by Andreas Carlsson, Pelle Nylén along with American songwriter Savan Kotecha)

The track ended up winning the Top-Selling Country Single of the Year at the Billboard Awards and also hit No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100.



Max Martin - Photo credit Maratone

11. **“Waking Up in Vegas”** performed by Katy Perry (written/composed by Andreas Carlsson)

Weighing in at No. 9 with more than two million in U.S. sales, “Waking Up in Vegas,” isn’t even close to Perry’s biggest hit. It was written by Swedish producer Andreas Carlsson with help from Desmond Child and Katy Perry herself.

12. **“Piece of Me”** performed by Britney Spears (written/composed by Klas Ahlund, Bloodshy & Avant, Christian Karlsson)

The song sold almost two million copies in the U.S., but only peaked at No. 18 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100.

13. **“Rain Over Me”** performed by Pitbull (written/composed by Bilal Hajji, AJ Junior)

Another track that’s loaded with co-writers. This one got the assist from Swedes Bilal Hajji (aka The Chef) and AJ Junior. This sold more than five million units in Norway.

14. **“Shape of My Heart”** performed by the Backstreet Boys (written/composed by Rami Yacoub, Max Martin, Lisa Miskovsky)

The song hit No. 9 on the Billboard charts and sold more than two million copies worldwide.

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Her grandson, Carter was awarded a Sjölundens scholarship. We saw Birgitta Clark at the memorial service and sang in the choir. Laila Jensen was probably glad she attended on Sunday as she walked away with a huge basket full of treats from the opportunity drawing!

As one of his first duties as District Grand Master, Bertil appointed Susan Premo again as our District Deputy for 2015-2016. The 2015 Vi-King, Jason Trowbridge and Vi-Queen Nicolette (Nikki) Taylor were also introduced at the luncheon. Unfortunately,

Ann Heinstedt took ill the last day and was unable to present them, but Bertil stepped in and handled it. (Ann has recovered! Apparently, Ann was not the only one that battled a stomach flu. A few other members took ill shortly thereafter as well.)

There is a *lot of time and work* that goes into putting on a huge convention like this. I lost count of all of the people and committees that put it together. Many thanks to all of the hard-working people that pulled off the 2015 convention. It was well worth all of your efforts!



**Golden Valley Lodge, #616
Vasa Order of America
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