

April 2014

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

Happy Easter!
Glad Påsk!

Save the
Date!



VASA Park Scandinavian Spring Picnic May 4th 2014

Second Annual Swedish Car Show
Food, entertainment & family activities!
Waffle breakfast starting 10:00AM
Lunch at noon to 3:00PM - \$5.00 per car
Vasa Park
2854 Triunfo Canyon Rd., Agoura Hills,
CA 91301
More info at www.vasdl15.org &
www.vasapark.org

Midsummer Festival Sunday, June 22, 2014

Raising of the Maypole, Dancing, Singing,
Children's Games, Pool/waterslide Intro-
duction of 2014 Midsummer Queen &
Court -- Vasa Park Agoura Hills, CA

*Maidie Karlinkg and Inga Frances - Easter Witches
for the District's Cultural Event at Skandia Lodge*

Next meeting: Thursday, April 10, 2014

GVL Celebrates St. Patrick's Day



Our Chairman, Frank Muscarella



Hubert Pitters during the Opportunity Drawings



Joyce Gaynor with Barbara Swanson, Charter member



These adorable Dala Horses were part of the centerpiece prizes. They were hand - cut by Bill Wendt and hand-painted by Dorothy Burns and Delphine Trowbridge.



Initiations



Annika Buck and Hanna Olson



Lars Heinstedt



Initiation Ceremony



**Susan Primo, our District Deputy
visited us.**



**Golden Valley welcomed
another visitor**

GVL Happenings



Last month's delicious St. Patrick's dinner was provided by the Golden Valley Youth Group, with much appreciated assistance from adults Ann Heinstedt, Dorothy Burns, and Delphine Trowbirdge.

Buffet Buzz:

Rumor has it that the next meeting will have food prepared by Gertie & Sven's daughter, Annette Richards. If she learned to cook from Gertie, we are in for a treat!

We will need others to sign up at the next meeting for some upcoming dinners. we are missing May, June and September.

*On the right,
Our new bartender, Roy Olson*



Happy April Birthday!



Eivor Wester	1st	Lars Jonasson	20th
Nicolette Taylor	5th	William Wendt	21st
Barbro Granath	5th	Marianne Farm-Reynholds	24th
Tommy Eneberg	6th	Joyce Gaynor	26th
Kristina Thorsen	11th	Gunilla Hamaoui	29th
Kerstin Wendt	13th	Bonnie Fornander	30th
Ann-Kristin Karling	14th		
Erik Karling	16th		

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



Easter Bunny and Easter Eggs in America

The origination of the Easter Bunny all seem to tie into the old Anglo-Saxon festival of Eastre, the spring goddess, whose symbol was a rabbit. A symbol of fertility, the rabbit became associated with the American celebration of Easter when the Germans who settled Pennsylvania in the 1700s brought from the motherland tales of the “osterhase,” the mythical and egg-laying bunny that kids have grown to love.

The egg appears in many ancient traditions as a symbol for life, or life’s beginnings. In medieval Europe, eggs were often one of the first foods — blessed by a priest of course — eaten after the Lenten fast. The practice of dyeing eggs can be traced back to early Greek and Syrian Christians, who exchanged crimson colored eggs “to represent the blood of Christ,” write Priscilla Sawyer and Daniel J. Foley in *Easter Garland*. German and Austrian immigrants later brought the practice to America.



Lena Granefelt, Imagebank Sweden

Sweden’s Easter Witches

In Sweden and parts of Finland, a mini-Halloween takes place on either the Thursday or Saturday before Easter. Little girls dress up in rags and old clothes, too-big skirts and shawls and go door to door with a copper kettle looking for treats.

The tradition is said to come from the old belief that witches would fly to a German mountain the Thursday before Easter to cavort with Satan. On their way back, Swedes would light fires to scare them away, a practice honored today by the bonfires and fireworks across the land in the days leading up to Sunday.

Birch Branches

Swedes’ ties to nature come through in all the holidays. During Lent, they cut birch branches, tie brightly colored feathers on them, and put them in a vase of water. When the branches sprout leaves, it signifies the arrival of spring. The feathers hark to the long-ago Lenten tradition of families beating each other with branches to remind themselves of Christ’s suffering before his death. Today’s feathers are just a remnant and much better than an Easter spanking.

SACA News

The Swedish American Central Association (SACA) court selection and coronation ball was held at Skandia Hall, Pasadena on March 30, 2014. Many of the members of Golden Valley lodge attended. We were represented by Natalie Taylor who will be one of the princesses at the Mid-summer Picnic. The lunch meal and dessert was *extraordinary* but that is no surprise because it was prepared by caterer, Gertie Lingstrom. She even baked all of the delicious bread selections. My favorite could have been a meal itself; one of the bread choices was a parmesan/sun-dried tomato/garlic loaf. It was incredible!



District News

For its Cultural Event, the District held its Second Annual Easter Lunch on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at Skandia Hall, in Pasadena. It began with a social hour at 12 noon followed by lunch at 1PM. Attendees came dressed as a Påskkärring, or Easter witches. Our own Maidie Karling and Inga Francis were among the witches!



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