

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

Welcome Back!

A message from our Chairman, Frank Muscarella

Dear Golden Valley Members,

Hope you all have had a wonderful summer with lots of fun and relaxation. We hope you are ready and looking forward to enjoying the camaraderie of our Lodge.



Photo used with permission from Concordia Language Villages

Some of our Golden Valley youth, instructors, and other villagers at Concordia Language Village's Sjölundén Camp
www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org

First of all, I want to remind our members who are going off to, or applying for, college to be sure to send in your applications for Golden Valley's many - and very generous - Scholarships, on or before October 1st.

Applications postmarked after October 1st will not be considered.

We sent out the forms before summer and if you do not have them, please go to this link to find them:

http://www.goldenvalleylodge.org/pdf/2014_scholarship_package.pdf

Chairman's Message continues on page two

Upcoming Events

HÖSTMARKNAD &
6TH ANNUAL
MEATBALL CONTEST

September 21, 2014

Come to Vasa Park and enjoy our Pool/Waterslide, Petting Zoo, Children's Games, Folk Dancing, Singing, and much more!

For more information, contact Richard Heinstedt at:

661-297-3507

or go to

www.vasapark.org

Next meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2014

GVL Happenings

Chairman's Message continued from page one

Since our last meeting we have lost two members, Dagny Swensson {Maidie's Aunt} and Pär Gallie. Unfortunately, neither was very active in our Lodge due to illness and poor health. They will both be missed.

Hope to see you all at the meeting on September 11th.

In Truth and Unity,

Frank

Buffet Buzz:

We will be greeted back from our summer black-out with a delicious feast from the Tabanelli and Steffen families. So... is your mouth watering yet?!

Getting the Skinny on Scholarships

Bertil Winther from our Golden Valley Scholarship Committee wanted to send out a reminder to our young members that the scholarship applications are due on October 1, 2014.

The application forms are available on our website:

http://www.goldenvalleylodge.org/pdf/2014_scholarship_package.pdf

Information about scholarships to the Sjölundén Camp will come later, probably in the October newsletter.

Y2K Success!

Youth 2 the Kitchen as volunteers is a complete success! They love to help and be a part of things. If you have been afraid to volunteer to prepare the meeting meal, this Youth Group team is ready to assist you!



Happy September Birthday!

Silva Pitters	1st
Dawn Matthews	7th
Frank Muscarella	24th
Birgitta Glad	26th
Bertil Winther	30th



Good Times! Good Friends!

Pictures from our June meeting/dinner before going dark for the summer.





The Swedish American Central Association (SACA) of Southern California's 94th Annual Midsummer Celebration
Midsummer at Vasa Park, Agoura, CA on June 22, 2014



The Midsummer Queen and her Court: (From Left to Right) Princess - Carolina Edit Pall of North Star-Lodge No. 106, Columbia - Melissa Kate Demarjian of Skandi Lodge No. 247, Midsummer Queen - Kjersten Leigh-Ann Kindig of Nordic Lodge No. 660, Svea - Annika Finn Spaberg, Mayflower Lodge No. 445, and Princess Natalie Taylor, Golden Valley Lodge No. 616.

GVL at the Hollywood Bowl

Golden Valley's social outing was held at the Hollywood Bowl on July 3. Those in attendance enjoyed a potluck picnic in the park and then a performance by *Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers*. The evening included patriotic music and a choreographed fireworks display.



The Swedish Crayfish Party



Photo: Cecilia Larsson/imagebank.sweden.se

Story sources: Sweden.Se and Wikipedia

Crayfish have been eaten in Sweden since the 1500s. The tradition originated in Sweden, where a crayfish party is called a kräftskiva. For a long while, only the aristocracy enjoyed these delicacies, as popular suspicion of shellfish was widespread. Originally, crayfish meat was used for sausage, ragout, patties or puddings.

In the mid-1800s, people started eating crayfish as they are eaten today. The crayfish feast or crayfish supper in the month of August spread through the middle classes. In the 1900s, crayfish became a national delicacy and people in all sectors of society began celebrating the occasion. The price of crayfish fell as a result of imports from other countries. In some years, Chinese crayfish are deemed best, in others those imported from the US. But the Swedish crayfish – needless to

say – always win. The only trouble is, they are still very expensive. Whatever their origin, crayfish in Sweden are cooked just as the Swedes like them – “in a brine, with plenty of crown dill” (crown dill means harvested after the plant has flowered) then served cold and eaten with one’s fingers.

The few who have private access, of course, catch their own crayfish. The little creatures are night animals, so fishing has to be done after dark. Some catch them in wire traps and the bait is often rotten or raw fish. My uncle used to put bacon on the end of a string and dangle the pole near the water’s edge. They would come up and grab it without letting go.

Customary party accessories are comical paper hats,

Swedish News and Culture Corner - continued



Carolina Romare/imagebank.sweden.se



Carolina Romare/imagebank.sweden.se

paper tablecloths, paper lanterns (often depicting the Man in the Moon), and bibs. A rowdy atmosphere prevails amid noisy eating and traditional drinking songs (snapsvisa). The alcohol consumption is often high, especially when compared to the

amount of food actually eaten. It is considered customary to suck the juice out of the crayfish before shelling it. The crayfish feast, at which people gather to eat, drink and be merry, marks the end of the summer.



Rodrigo Rivas Ruiz/imagebank.sweden.se

Way Out West

Way Out West is a fairly new festival held in Gothenburg every year in early August. The festival area is situated in the park Slottsskogen but also in different clubs around Gothenburg under the name Stay Out West. Apart from the music, Way Out West is a festival that is very committed to sustainability and human rights. The 2011 Way Out West was nominated as the Most Innovative Festival at the MTV O Music Awards.



Sjölunden 2014

Photos used with permission from Concordia Language Villages



Here are some pictures from the Concordia Language Camp blog. Complete with birch trees and a lake! Doesn't it look like they landed in Sweden, not Minnesota?!



They celebrated several Swedish holidays over a two week period!



Raising of the maypole, dancing, and plenty of good food.



Maidie's grandson, CJ dancing around the maypole.



There were water sports including sailing for the campers.



A Mom's Vote for Sjölundén!!

By Laurie Taylor

My daughter, Natalie, received an incredible scholarship from the district to go to Concordia Language Village's Sjölundén camp this past summer for two weeks. She was so excited and I saw her off at the airport with the mixed feelings that mothers get when they let their teenage children go far away from home.

Sjölundén is a Swedish language and culture immersion program with with one of their requirements

being total immersion. I was very impressed that my daughter gave up her *precious* cell phone without hesitation. My last text from her was, "Don't worry...I won't be texting you. I am giving them my phone Mom. It's a 'trust thing'." Usually it is a 'discipline thing' because the phone seems to be all that she cares about! - but, OK, I was thrilled and proud.

A Mom's Vote for Sjölundén!! continued back page

A Mom's Vote for Sjölundén!! Continued

(Maybe I need to go there myself and find out their secrets with teenagers!)

The family was able to see pictures posted on the camp website regularly. I had a one-way "conversation" by sending e-mail to their website. My daughter received my messages regularly as I was writing it. Her replies came by US mail, but since it is such a small, rural town, it was not in the next day or two as we have grown accustomed to!

Her first letter was sort of sad because it was from the first couple of days as she was settling in. It was as expected... but thankfully the pictures that I saw of her on the website showed another side and were all smiles. I relaxed and let things run their course - but still worried a bit because of how much *I* didn't like going off to camp - though I was a much younger child - and all the horrible post cards that I sent my mother pleading to be brought home. So secretly, I was sort of relieved that my daughter would not be able to text me because I thought *this* is where all the

payback from what I gave my mother was going to hit! As it turned out, all the worry was for nothing! My daughter ABSOLUTELY LOVED Sjölundén. In fact, when she got her phone back at the end of the trip, I got text after text about how she didn't want to come home, she and her friends were crying all night because they had to leave, and it was *so* wonderful! The first message was so nice that I will never forget it: "Best two weeks EVER!"

If you are wondering how to give your children some Swedish language and culture, with a chance to make some new friends from around the world, have new adventures, great experiences, and the 'best two weeks ever,' try Sjölundén!

***Many thanks to Vasa District 15,
the Vasa Park Association, and
Golden Valley Lodge for sponsoring
our youth!***

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