



Golden Valley News for April 2011

Chairman's Message

It's a beautiful spring morning and I would rather be outdoors on a hiking trail than be cooped up in front of my computer keyboard. But, after several days of procrastination, this is the price I pay for obeying the old saying of Mark Twain – never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow. Well, he also said – if it's your job to eat a frog, its best to do it first thing in the morning; and if it's your job to eat two frogs, it's best to eat the biggest one first. So here I go.

Actually, most of the time, I enjoy writing these newsletters. The experience is similar to going on a strenuous hike - it always feels good when I'm done. But for the recipients of these ramblings it probably would feel better with a new and more varied reading diet. I hope that someone else among our membership is willing to take over soon – at least come next February when we elect new Lodge officers. It's a matter of putting together 10 issues a year (as you all know, our Lodge is dark during the months of July and August). This is issue # 23 on my part – except for the fact that Kerstin Wendt wrote the *Chairman's Message* the first 10 months of my newsletter career.

Spring is finally here and that means a lot of exciting activities. On April 16-17 there is a Scandinavian Festival at the California Lutheran College in Thousand Oaks. Last year I attended this event and was impressed by the number of family activities. Again this year it will open with a colorful parade of flags and continue with music, folk dancing and lectures. The festival

offers many activities for children including crafts, drama and storytelling. All visitors are invited to explore Viking and Sami villages. Shoppers will be able to choose from a variety of Scandinavian handicrafts and a great smorgasbord of delicacies.

On May 1, the Mayflower Lodge is having an anniversary lunch at their new home in Torrance. To reserve your ticket (\$5/person) you need to call Cheryl Hellberg at (310) 378-2517.

May 15 will be an exciting day at our Vasa Park, located at 2854 Triunfo Canyon Road in Agoura Hills. The activities start at 2:00 PM and continue until 7:00 PM. There will be plenty of games and other activities for children. I'm told that in the evening there will be a bonfire advertized as a Walpurgis Night celebration even though this old tradition normally takes place on April 30th in Sweden. Reservations are required - you may get your tickets by calling (760) 324-0716 or by contacting Maidie Karling at (818) 767-6476 before May 7. The price of admission (including parking and a Swedish hot dog) is \$8 for adults and \$4 for kids under 12.

Of course, we also have our regular Lodge meeting on Thursday, April 14. As usual, following the business portion of the meeting, we sit down for dinner and some entertainment by our cultural leaders of the month. This time the kitchen team consists of Odd & Dorothy Rierson, Gunilla Thelin and Ingela Sorensson. Gunilla and her team are also in charge of the cultural activity.

Now and then we need to remind ourselves that the Golden Valley Lodge and the entire Vasa Order of America exist not only for fun and games. In recent years our Lodge has donated an annual amount of \$12,000 to charities. Continuously throughout the year we also donate food and smaller cash amounts to charities that help low-income senior citizens in our neighborhood. This month we are having another food drive – read *Important Announcements* below and find out how you can contribute.

In Truth and Unity, Bertil

Important Announcements

We need to share our blessings with some less fortunate people. One way to do this is by helping Marie Mickelson bring food, clothing and other donations to charitable groups in our neighborhood. Please, take non-perishable food items or hygiene products to our next meeting. Marie will collect the gifts, pass them on and brighten the lives of some low-income senior citizens.

Last year we deleted eleven names from our roster because of non-payment of membership dues. Don't let that happen to you! If you didn't pay already for this year, please mail your check as soon as possible to our Financial Secretary, Delphine Trowbridge. Her address is: 450 East Olive Avenue #236, Burbank, CA 91501. The dues are the same as last year, \$25/person. Please, make the check payable to the Golden Valley Lodge #616.

The Swedish Church in San Pedro is an important institution for many of our members. I have been told that the programs could be severely curtailed or even that church services could be eliminated altogether unless a solution is found to their financial situation. Lillemor Safai called to inform me about their membership drive – the annual donation to become a member of the church group is \$25 per person. For more information, please contact Lillemor at:

lillemor.safai@sbcglobal.net

Hidden GVL-heroes

Each month I recognize two of our long-time members who quietly go about helping the Lodge year after year without much notice. This time I have chosen Maria Jacobs and Frank Muscarella.

Currently Maria serves as a board member of the Building Corporation. She is also our Lodge Historian – so if you have any old or new photos from our various events, please contact Maria. As you all know, Maria is a very generous person and our Lodge has gained much good will and benefitted in many other ways by her donations.

Frank serves as our Master of Ceremonies. He always arrives early before our meetings to set up all the paraphernalia in the room and does a wonderful job keeping everything orderly in the storage room. In addition, he is our delegate to the Vasa Park Association where he continues to be very active – for a couple of years he served as chairman of that organization. In the past Frank also has served as president of the Building Corporation. Last but not least, he (together with his wife Isabella) works very hard to support our District activities. We are really lucky to have such great members among us.

Flower March and Lottery News

Here is the March report from our Vice Chairman, Steve Tabanelli. The flower march brought in \$44 and lottery tickets were sold for \$85. Birgitta Clark was the lucky winner of \$25 in the capsule drawing. Cash prizes in the lottery raffle went to Delphine Trowbridge (\$25), Ruzenka di Benedetto (\$15) and Dagmar Rydberg (\$10). In addition, center pieces from the dinner tables were raffled out.

Building Corporation News

The directors of the Corporation met yesterday (on April 7) under the leadership of Tommy Eneberg. One important item on the agenda was to act on a recommendation of our attorney. The

recommended action was the result of a meeting held earlier (on March 23) at the attorney's office with Tommy, Hubert and Bertil (yes, that's me) representing the Golden Valley Building Corporation (GVBC). In the discussion with our attorney it had become abundantly clear that the corporation cannot qualify as a public benefit organization and that the best action on our part is to dissolve the corporation and transfer its assets to the Golden Valley Lodge. Subsequently, the attorney prepared a resolution to that effect and before yesterday's meeting I mailed the document to all our GVBC directors. After some discussion, the Board voted 9-1 for the resolution which must be approved by the entire membership before an application is submitted to the State of California. The Board decided to call for a Special Meeting at the Lodge on May 12.

As required by law, a meeting notice will be sent out to all our members.

We also voted on several suggestions for the annual Åke Boschen excursion. As most of you know, this excursion is paid from funds donated by Åke Boschen in his last will. Kerstin Wendt will present the recommendations of the Board at the next Lodge meeting.

Furthermore, the Board discussed four separate ideas for our Anniversary Dinner this fall. After some discussion we decided to recommend this event to be held at the Sportsman's Café in late September or early October. The chairman of the committee, Maidie Karling, will investigate further and present our recommendation for a final vote at the next Lodge meeting on April 14.

Birthdays in April

Eivor Wester	1 st	Britt-Lise Christensen	18 th
Barbro Granath	5 th	Mary Fagerstrom	19 th
Tommy Eneberg	6 th	Bill Wendt	21 st
Gloria Ann Nelson	11 th	Marianne Reinholds	24 th
Britta Eriksson	11 th	Gunilla Hamaoui	29 th
Kristina Thorsen	11 th	Bonnie Fornander	30 th
Kerstin Wendt	13 th		
Mattias Gunnarsson	13 th		
Ann-Kristin Karling	14 th	Happy birthday to you all	
Niklas Thelin	14 th		
Eric Karling	16 th		

Dates to Keep in Mind

April 14 th	Golden Valley Lodge meeting at the Sons of Norway Lodge, 6:30 pm
April 16 th – 17 th	Scandinavian Festival at California Lutheran College in Thousand Oaks
April 18 th	Uncle Sam may want a contribution from you
April 24 th	Easter Sunday
April 30 th	Walpurgis Night
May 1 st	Mayflower Lodge anniversary lunch at their new home in Torrance, 1 – 4 PM.
May 5 th	Cinco de Mayo
May 5 th	Building Corporation meeting at the Wendts' home, 6:30 pm
May 7 th	Reservation deadline for Vasa Park Festival scheduled for May 15



Wishing you all a Happy Easter holiday,
Bertil