

Happy Mother's Day



Golden Valley News for May 2011

Chairman's Message

The past couple of weeks have been a busy time for me but today I'm sitting down to catch up on the latest news. A few days ago, on April 30, they celebrated Walpurgis Night in Sweden and, judging by the newspaper reports, the partying got out of hand in some places, especially in the city of Lund where I was born and spent a good portion of my early life. Could it be that too many well-behaved Swedes moved to southern California, thus allowing a few rowdy elements to take temporary control over there? It's a tempting subject for discussion but I better leave it to the local authorities. Instead let's talk about the beautiful weather we are having. Right now, about six weeks before the official start of summer, the thermometer shows 86 °F (30 °C). Aren't we lucky to live in this wonderful place on earth?

We Californians are never short of excuses to have a party. By the time you receive this I hope that you have recovered from Cinco de Mayo and are rested enough to attend our meeting on May 12. We have a fantastic kitchen team recruited from a group of our future leaders, all age 25 or younger. They are: William Osman, the DeHart sisters (Deidra and Kristina) and the Wendt siblings (Joshua, Emily and Daniel). Don't miss this event! Cultural leaders of the month are two of our young and beautiful ladies (age 17), Amanda Holstein and Rebecka Thorsen.

Before sitting down at the dinner table we have our customary business meeting. Actually, we'll have two meetings this time - the regular meeting will be preceded by a Special Meeting of the Building Corporation.

Enclosed with this newsletter you'll find a flyer inviting you to a dinner commemorating our 65th anniversary as a Lodge within the Vasa Order of America. As you may recall, our actual anniversary doesn't occur until December 8 but this year we decided to have the anniversary celebration a couple of months early, in combination with our annual social dinner, so that it won't interfere with the busy schedules of our members during the weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays. The dinner will be held at the Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City on September 25. Please, note that the reservation deadline is August 25. A deposit of \$65 per person is required (see flyer for instructions)

Mother's Day occurs this month, on the 8th of May to be specific. Keep in mind that Mother's Day in Sweden (Mors Dag) is on a different day – always on the last Sunday in May which this year happens to fall on the 29th.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Lodge on May 12.

In Truth and Unity, Bertil

Flower March and Lottery News

Here is the April report from our Vice Chairman, Steve Tabanelli. The flower march brought in \$46 and lottery tickets were sold for \$103. Steve Osman was the lucky winner of \$25 in the capsule drawing. In the lottery raffle Gary Andonian won first prize (\$30) as well as second (\$20). Katarina Holstein got third prize (\$10).

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 Ruth Wilkening and Gunilla Thelin.

Ruth is one of our Gold Card members – she joined the Lodge in 1964 and she has missed only a few of our meetings since then. Of course, we don't have many members that can vouch for the truth in that statement. In the 1960's Ruth

was the leader of "Blåsippan", a children's club within our Lodge that many remember fondly. Today, she continues to stay busy by playing the acoustic guitar in a popular country-music group. A couple of years ago, she and some members of her band gave a memorable performance at our Lodge. As you all know, during our monthly business meetings Ruth accompanies us on guitar in the opening and closing songs.

Gunilla is another dedicated and loyal member that regularly comes to our meetings. She joined the Golden Valley Lodge in 1999 but belonged to the now extinct Woodland Lodge for a dozen years before that. Gunilla served as Chairman of the Woodland Lodge during the years 1983-85 and as Chairman of our Lodge in 2006-07. Over the years Gunilla has volunteered her help on a great number of occasions. I remember especially her dedicated service during the time that she was active on the Scholarship Committee and on the Board of our Building Corporation. Currently she is in charge of our Membership Committee.

Birthdays in May

Steve Tabanelli	1 st	Elvine Lundberg	25 th
Anders Heinstedt	10 th	Amanda Polutanovich	29 th
Kerstin Thorsen	11 th	Berit Stenhoj	31 st
Julian Wilson	17 th		
Lena Osman	17 th		
Maj-Lis Friedman	23 rd	Happy birthday to you all	
Christina Thelin	23 rd		

Dates to Keep in Mind

May 8 th	Mother's Day
May 12 th	Golden Valley Lodge meeting at the Sons of Norway Lodge, 6:30 pm
May 15 th	Spring Festival at Vasa Park, 2-7 pm, reservations required
May 29 th	Mors Dag (Mother's Day in Sweden)
May 30 th	Memorial Day
June 2 nd	Building Corporation meeting at the Wendts' home, 6:30 pm



Wishing you all the very best,
Bertil