

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

**Happy
Valentine's
Day!**

Chairman's Message

Our Lodge is very fortunate to have many members that volunteer their services. One example is Laurie Taylor who, starting with this issue, takes over as editor. If you have any item that you think should be included in the newsletter, please bring it up with Laurie. I've been told Laila Jensen will continue to distribute hardcopies to those of our members that are listed as having no e-mail address. Last year, we managed to save some money by reducing the number of people on that list. I hope this trend will continue in the year ahead. Please notify Laurie and our Financial Secretary, Delphine Trowbridge, when you get a new e-mail account or when there is a change in your physical address.

Speaking of saving money – the Grand Lodge has decided to publish The Vasa Star only as a PDF-file on the web (that is, you will no longer receive the printed magazine). I think this is a bad decision. Furthermore, with the considerable reduction in Grand Lodge expenses, you would expect the “tax” levied on each member to be reduced. Instead, it is raised to an even \$20 per member, irrespective of what you pay (or don't pay) in dues to your Lodge. In my opinion, this is not the right way to recover

Chairman's Message (continued on page 2)

Love
“If you have it, you don't need to have anything else. If you don't have it, it doesn't matter much what else you have.”

-- Sir James Matthew Barrie



Our chairman, Bertil (Bert) Winther, Ruth Wilkening on guitar, and Dorothy Burns lead the singing during the Christmas tree plundering celebration. (See Cultural Corner)

Dates to Remember

- Golden Valley Lodge Meeting** February 9, 2012
- Building Corp. Annual & Board Meeting** February 6th, 6:30pm at the Sons of Norway
- Valentine's Day** Tuesday, February 14
- President's Day** Monday, February 20
- 2012 District Convention** February 24-26 Hilton, Woodland Hills

Chairman's Message (continued from page 1)

the funds (about \$1.2 million) that were lost by the Grand Lodge two years ago. Will the subject be discussed at the upcoming District Convention? Let's hope so.

It was good to see so many of our members at the first business and dinner meeting of the year. I'm not quite sure what motivated people to turn out in such great numbers – perhaps it was the fantastic dinner prepared by Gunilla Thelin, Inger Sorenson, and Lena Thelin. I think we'll have another occasion to set up a few extra tables at our next meeting, on February 9, when Mona Steffen and her family have kitchen duty. We all know what that means – another fantastic dinner.

At our recent business meetings we have discussed how we best can stimulate the younger generation to become members and then to take part in our various activities. During the last couple of years, we have seen some improvement in the statistics. The number of members at age 24 or younger today stands at fifteen and the age group of 25-34 has ten members. I hope that Ruzenka and her committee can come up

with some good ideas on how to activate the younger members of our Lodge.

By the way, our total membership at the beginning of the year is 150, not 149 as I stated in my January newsletter – one of our young members was inadvertently dropped from the roster. With the corrected information, our average age dropped by 3½ months – isn't that great? I wish we could find more errors like that.

The annual meeting of the Building Corporation is scheduled for Monday, February 6, at 6:30 pm. It will be held in the small backroom at the Sons of Norway Lodge. Since space is limited, please let Tommy Eneberg know if you plan to attend. The annual meeting will be followed by a regular board meeting where the officers of the corporation will be elected.

I look forward to seeing you all during the general membership meeting at the Lodge on Thursday, February 9. As usual, it will be followed by dinner and a cultural program.

In truth and unity,

Bertil

Sweet Thoughts For Valentine's Day
Some touching words from the mouth of babes...

A group of professional people posed the question 'What does love mean?' to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds. The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined.

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.' *Rebecca - age 8*

'Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.' *Mary Ann - age 4*

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.' *Billy - age 4*

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume, and a boy puts on shaving cologne, and they go out and smell each other.' *Karl - age 5*

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your french fries without making them give you any of theirs.' *Chrissy - age 6*

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas -- if you

stop opening presents and listen.' *Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)*

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.' *Terri - age 4*

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.' *Nikka - age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)*

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.' *Noelle - age 7*

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.' *Tommy - age 6*

'My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.' *Clare - age 6*

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.' (what an image) *Karen - age 7*

'You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.' *Jessica - age 8*



Lodge Happenings

Installation of Officers

A BIG **thank you** to our 2011 officers and warm welcome (or welcome back) to our 2012 officers!

Chairman: Bertil Winther
Vice Chairman: Bill Wendt
Recording Secretary: Inga Francis
Asst. Recording Secretary: Mona Steffen
Treasurer: Gertie Lingstrom
Financial Secretary: Delphine Trowbridge
Master of Ceremonies: Frank Muscarella
Asst. Master of Ceremonies: Birgitta Glad
Chaplain: Andrea Tabanelli
Historian: Maria Jacobs
Inner Guard: Linnea Heinstedt
Outer Guard: Nicolette Taylor
Trustee 1 year: Sonja Andonian
Trustee 2 yrs: Kerstin Wendt

Trustee 3 yrs: Hubert Pitters
Auditor 1 yr: Marie Mickelson
Auditor 2 yrs: Bill Wendt
Auditor 3 yrs: Ann Heinstedt
Vasa Park Delegate 1 year: Frank Muscarella
Vasa Park Delegate 2 yrs: Dorothy Burns
Vasa Park Delegate 3 yrs: Delphine Trowbridge
SACA Delegate 1 year: Maidie Karling
SACA Delegate 2 yrs: Gertie Lingstrom
SACA Delegate 3 yrs: Inga Francis
Banner Bearers: John Bell (sheaf) and Nicolette Taylor (cross)



Swedish Church Guests

Pernilla Håkansdotter Olsson from the Church of Sweden Los Angeles in San Pedro joined us at our January meeting. She was accompanied by her daughters, Emma, age 8, and Matilda, age 12, as well as her assistant, Britt-Marie Sixtenson. Olsson announced that their Church of Sweden is celebrating 60 years in San Pedro on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of May.

On the 2nd Tuesday of the month, they present a Swedish movie with subtitles. The next movie is scheduled for February 14, 2012. The telephone number for the church is: (310) 982-7601, or check their website at: www.svenskakyrkan.se/losangeles

Flower March and Lottery Winners

Vice Chairman, Bill Wendt, reports that the Flower March brought in a total of \$47. Ruzenka di Benedetto was the lucky winner of \$25 in the capsule drawing. Raffle prizes went to Dagmar Rydberg (\$30), Hubert Pitters (\$20) and Delphine Trowridge (\$10). This month's centerpieces were pansies which were also raffled off. Congratulations to all the winners!

Buffet Buzz

Chicken Marsala was served at the last meeting. Many thanks to our hard working kitchen staff, Lena Thelin, Gunilla Thelin, and Ingela Sorensson! The next meal on Thursday, February 9th will be presented by Mona Steffen and her daughter, Melissa Steffen.

Health and Wellness

One of our newest members, Janet Bell, has been sick with pneumonia. We hope Janet is feeling better and will be back at our meetings soon!

New Youth Group Forming!

Golden Valley Lodge is excited to announce the the formation of a new youth group. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in getting involved, please contact the chairperson of the group, Ruzenka di Benedetto, at ruzenka28@juno.com.

Skandia Lodge's 99th Anniversary!

Their Anniversary dinner is planned to be held at the Oaks in Pasadena on March 22, 2012. For more information, contact editor BobSolt@juno.com.



Cultural Corner



Many thanks to Ann and Linnea Heinstedt for providing a real tree decorated with homemade candy ornaments for our Julgransplundring.

Golden Valley Lodge members celebrate “Julgransplundring”

January 13th in Sweden is the end of the Christmas season and it is marked with a special “going away” party, Julgransplundring (the plundering of the Christmas tree) which brings Christmas to a close with song, dance, and one last hurrah. Celebrants sing and dance around the Christmas tree, create a party hat to wear, make Swedish Christmas ornaments, and “fish” for goodies. After one last final dance, children “plunder” the tree of its edible decorations and the tree is ceremoniously tossed out.



Happy Birthday to You!

Sven Lingstrom	1st
Olof Wester	4th
Dagny Svensson	5th
Mona Steffen	5th
Viola Kindstrand	6th
Stig Klintare	7th
Elvy Heinstedt	12th
James Thorsen	13th
Maria Grew	14th

Tyler Holstein	17th
Melissa Steffen	19th
Tina DeHart	22nd
Michel Hamaoui	22nd
Bernice Dreher	24th
Bengt Heinstedt	26th
Lage Engblom	27th
Johan Forslund	27th



Getting to Know You By Dorothy Burns

The Golden Valley Lodge has members that range in age from 14-100. Many times we just socialize with the same people and don't get a chance to know each other. This will be an ongoing section focusing on the lives of a couple of people each month. So, it is natural to start with the oldest and the youngest...**you may be next...**

ELVINE LUNDBERG – The oldest member of the Golden Valley Lodge was born 100 years ago. Elvine will be 101 on May 25th. She was born in Graddis,

Norway, above the Arctic Circle and at 23 years of age moved south to Arjeplog, Lapp-land, Sweden, just south of the Arctic Circle, where she met her husband, Ivar. Most of their married life, they lived in Stockholm where her husband was an auto



"I drink a glass of wine and a shot of Grand Marnier every day." I guess I am sort of pickled... haha, and I have a Grand Margarita when we go to El Torito."

mechanic and she was a cleaning lady. They raised four children – two boys and two girls.

In 2000, she moved to California to be with her daughter and son-in-law – Isabella and Frank Muscarella in Santa Rosa Valley. She joined the Golden Valley Lodge and attends many meetings and tries to never miss a party. She only speaks Swedish; but, if you invite her to talk, she is very animated and will tell you stories.

Elvine has trouble seeing now, but she had many hobbies and especially enjoyed crocheting. In the past, she made bedspreads, doilies, and tablecloths for each of her children.

Isabella says her mother has a good sense of humor. In 2008, Elvine's younger son was here for a visit and Isabella and Frank took them all to Las Vegas where they stayed in a suite. In the middle of the night, Elvine got up to go to the bathroom; when she turned on the lights and saw herself in all the mirrors, she was heard to say: "Oh, are you here too?"

Her advice to the young people: "Do your best, work hard and above all be honest."

NICOLETTE TAYLOR – Nikki is the youngest member of the Golden Valley Lodge. She was born 14 years ago and will celebrate her 15th birthday in April. She lives in Encino with her mom and dad, Scott and Laurie Taylor, and her sister Natalie (13), and brother Lucas (11).

She and her siblings attend the Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies (SOCES) in Tarzana, a magnet school for students from 4th-12th grade. Her favorite subjects are English and Science, and she loves to play volleyball. Nikki is learning Spanish now, and would also like to learn Swedish and American Sign Language. After she completes high school, she plans to continue her education and become a pediatric nurse.



Nikki joined the Golden Valley Lodge as soon as she was eligible because she is interested in learning more about the culture and customs of her Scandinavian heritage. Although she never knew them, she has heard a lot about her great grandparents who immigrated here from Sweden and Finland, and met at the Mayflower Lodge in Inglewood.

Nikki was recently installed as Outer Guard for the Golden Valley Lodge and has been in two Golden Valley Lucia programs; has attended the picnics at Vasa Park with her family since she was a baby and helped serve at the last two Autumnfest Meatball Cookoff's; has been a camper at Viking Village and plans to attend Viking Village again this summer in some capacity – either as a camper or counselor.

Newsletter Submissions Welcome!

My name is Laurie Taylor and I have been a member of the GVL for about a year and a half. I work at an elementary school in the Valley, teaching children to use computers. Additionally, I do graphic design work and websites. As your new Golden Valley Lodge Newsletter editor, I want to make sure that you enjoy your newsletter. You are invited to send in submissions.

Email: laurietaylor@hotmail.com
Phone: 818.344.6800
Cell: 818.290.1668

Please try to get your submissions in at least about a week before the meetings!
Thank you!

