

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

Glad Påsk!

Chairman's Message

Spring is here and that means a lot of exciting activities. Many of us have guests from Sweden at this time of the year when people over there are more than happy to leave the cold weather and thaw out under the California sun. A cousin of mine and his wife will arrive when GVL has its April meeting so I won't be able to attend this time. Instead you'll see our vice chairman, Bill Wendt, at the podium. I'm sure he'll take good care of business.

Two weeks ago, I and a few other GVL-members met up with a group of visitors from our Swedish sister Lodge. Six members of that Lodge stopped by in Los Angeles for two or three days of sightseeing after attending a couple of Vasa events in the San Francisco area. In recent years, while visiting Sweden, I have been a guest at their annual America Day event in Höganäs so, for me, it was a special pleasure to meet them again and to catch up on the latest news.

In recent years I've also attended the Scandinavian Festival at the Lutheran College in Thousand Oaks. This year it is scheduled for April 14-15 and, as before, it begins with a colorful parade of flags from all the Nordic countries. It continues with music, folk dancing and lectures. There are

Dates to Remember

- Building Corp. Meeting**..... April 5th, 6:30pm
- Easter**..... Sunday, April 8th
- Golden Valley Lodge Meeting**.. Thursday, April 12
- Scandinavian Days**..... April 14-15 at
Cal Lutheran
Sat. 10am-5pm
Sunday 10am-4pm
Adults \$7, kids
under 12 free
- Nordic Spring Picnic***..... Sunday, May 6
\$5/car 10:00am-
4:00pm
@ Vasa Park
- Midsummer***..... Sunday, June 24
- Autumnfest & Marknad***..... Sunday, Sept. 16

*** Vasa Park will have 2 NEW attractions!**
Check out: www.vasapark.org



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day at our March meeting.

also many activities for children - for instance crafts, drama and storytelling. You will be able to purchase Scandinavian handicrafts and, if you get hungry, you can visit the food court and sample a great smorgasbord of delicacies. Children of age 11 or younger go free. For all others, festival admission is set at \$7.

Another exciting spring event takes place on May 6th at our

Vasa Park. The address is: 2854 Triunfo Canyon Road in Agoura Hills. On that the day, the activities start at 10:00 AM and continue until 4:00 PM. I'm told the swimming pool and the 274 foot water slide will be open. In addition, the children may take part in activities such as the zip line ride, a log rolling contest, climbing the rock wall and riding paddle boats. For more info, please phone Mary Wright at (951) 767-1218 or contact her by e-mail: mary.wright07@yahoo.com

It was great to see so many young people at our March meeting. This time we had reserved a special table for our junior members and their guests. I don't think anyone at that table (except for Ruzenka, the leader of our Youth Group) was older than 19. All together we had 60 people (including four guests) in attendance. During the business meeting we initiated three new members. They are: Eugene Paulin, Evelyn Weare Lindfors and Jason Trowbridge. That brings our total membership to 154 with 16 members aged 24 or younger.

The menu at our April 12 meeting is a closely guarded secret. All I can tell you is that Sonja Andonian, Sylva Pitters and Ruth Eneberg are on the refreshment committee. Actually, with these ladies in the kitchen, I don't need to say more - you all know it's going to be a fabulous dinner.

In truth and unity,
Bertil



Can you identify these two Golden Valley Lodge members? See "Getting to Know You" on page 6.

GVL Happenings



Three New Members!

We had three new members initiated: Evelyn Weare Lindfors, Eugene Paulin, and Jason Trowbridge.

Evelyn is a former pre-school teacher and enjoys singing. Her husband, Robert, is also a member of the Golden Valley Lodge.

Gene is pictured on page 5 with his wife, Terry. Remember the delicious pea soup that Gene Paulin made for our holiday potluck on only his first or second visit to the lodge?

Fourteen year-old Jason Trowbridge, grandson of our treasurer, Delphine Trowbridge, was put to work his first evening selling tickets! Thanks for helping out, Jason!

Welcome to all of you!



Buffet Buzz

Dinner was delicious! A big thank you goes out to our fabulous kitchen crew, Gunvor Sabo, Maria Jacobs, and Laila Jensen.

The centerpieces were so clever! They were decorated shamrock plants and Johnny Jump Ups. Very cute!



Flower March and Lottery Winner\$

I missed Bill Wendt's report for the flower march, capsule, and lottery winners.

His wife, Kirsten, reports that Bill Wendt was hospitalized. We hope that everything is going well for Bill!

Inga Francis reported in the minutes that we made \$49 on the opportunity drawings.



Editor's Note: The newsletter is early because I will be out of town. My wonderful mother, Dorothy Burns, is taking my family to the desert for spring break. Unfortunately, my computer also died this week and I lost some newsletter information. So, if there are any mistakes or omissions, I apologize in advance!

Cultural Corner

Happy Easter - Glad Påsk!



Photo Credit: Fredrik Nyman/imagebank.sweden.se

In Sweden and many parts of Finland, a mini-Halloween event takes place on either the Thursday or Saturday before Easter. Little girls dress up in rags, old clothes, skirts that are too big, and cover their heads with colorful shawls. Even the boys wear these shawls over their heads. These colorful Easter witches or Easter hags (påskkärringar) with painted faces and freckles go door to door carrying a broom and a kettle or basket looking for treats.

The tradition is said to come from an old belief that witches would fly to a to Blåkulla (Blue Hill) in Germany on broomsticks to meet and cavort with the Devil on Skärtorsdagen (Maundy Thursday) the Thursday before Easter. On their way back, Swedes would light up fires to scare them away. Even today, part of the celebration includes bonfires and fireworks in the days leading up to Sunday.

At Easter, Swedes like to get together with their families, decorate eggs and eat a traditional Easter meal. Easter is a big deal to the entire country. Since school is out either the week before or the week after, families might get away to the mountains for a ski trip or head down south to the sun.

Eggs are popular at Easter, they are a symbol of nature after the long winter. Swedes also revere and the edible versions. The Easter egg hunt that children (and adults) also use to find the ceive Easter eggs filled with candy and small go out on the Thursday before dress up on

A traditional Easter meal would include eggs, still on sale in the markets despite the Lenten semlor recipe from Ann and Linnea? We plan to

Easter Day (Påskdagen) is a national flag Day and Easter Monday (Annandag Påsk) Good Friday (Långfredag) is a public holiday commemorates the day Jesus died on the cross, according to the Christian belief. Until not very long ago, all amusement places were closed to mark the occasion, and children were not allowed to play. The young people think that maybe that is why this day is called 'Long Friday' in Swedish!

Another tradition is to place birch branches indoors in a vase a few weeks before Easter. It starts to bud the week of Easter and can be decorated with blown out or small fake eggs, brightly colored feathers, and chickens.

Daffodils are the most popular flower to welcome spring and symbolize Easter. People plant them in pots and their yards for a cheery Easter greeting.

Glad Påsk -- Happy Easter to you and yours.



growth and life that reawakens in their Easter eggs – the decorative sometimes includes elaborate maps eggs. Swedish children also re-toys. Those children that didn't Easter instead to go door to door.

fowl, fish, and lamb. Semlor are fast. (Did any of you prepare the make them on Easter!)

day in Sweden, and both Easter are public holidays.

and



Fredrik Nyman/imagebank.sweden.se



Our hardworking bartenders!



Eugene's wife, Terry Hassman-Paulin, attended his initiation.



Our new guest is Johnny's mother, Lorena Bell. She won a centerpiece.



Inga Francis' festive attire!



The tallest leprechan on record is a GVL member.



Happy April Birthday to You!



Eivor Wester.....1	Erik Karling.....16
Barbro Granath.....5	Britt-Lise Christensen.....18
Nicolette Taylor.....5	Lars Jonasson.....20
Tommy Eneberg.....6	William Wendt.....21
Kristina Thorsen.....11	Marianne Farm-Reinholds.....24
Kirstin Wendt.....13	Gunilla Hamaoui.....29
Mattias Gunnarsson.....13	Bonnie Fornander.....30
Ann-Kristin Karling.....14	
Niklas Thelin.....14	

Getting to Know You

By Dorothy Burns

We have about 154 members at the Golden Valley Lodge. In an effort to get to know each other better, we will be putting a couple of bios in the newsletter each month.

Were you able to correctly identify STEVE and ANDREA TABANELLI from page two? They are active members of the Golden Valley Lodge and live in Granada Hills. Steve was Vice Chairman 2010-2011 and Andrea is presently our Chaplain.

Steve was born in Evanston, Illinois. His mother is half Swedish and half Norwegian. He lived in Tempe, AZ from 1971-1978. Steve graduated from Arizona State University and later came to California where he met Andrea. He's a landlord and investor and speaks some Spanish and Italian.

Andrea's father, Swen Norlin, came to the USA (Nebraska) from Mora, Sweden in 1923 when he was only 18 years old. He married Vera and they moved to California where they had two children - Andrea and Marilyn. Andrea was born in Hollywood, CA and grew up in Burbank. She graduated from Burbank High School. Andrea spent a year in Sweden with relatives and has returned several times to visit her extended family. She is retired from the L.A. Unified School District and has a daughter Christina (43) and a son Erik (39) from a previous marriage.



Steve and Andrea got married in 1983 and in 1988 they moved into the home they built together in Granada Hills. They have two cats: Mookie is an 8 year-old grey and white Calico with a pink nose and Minka is a 10 month-old black and orange mix Calico with soft mink fur, and a long bushy world-class tail.

Andrea is Queen of the Devonshire Divas Red Hat Society. This is a global society of women who support and encourage women in their pursuit of fun, friendship, freedom, fulfillment, and fitness. Andrea enjoys baking Swedish bulla, cookies and bread and has many hobbies: crafts, tole painting, sewing, ceramics, drawing, writing to some 20 pen pals, going to flea markets, and the gym. Both Steve and Andrea enjoy traveling and gardening together.



It's not a red hat - but it is a great picture!

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Spot the Differences: For ages 1-101

There are 20 items in the first picture that do not appear in the second. Can you spot the differences?



Youth Central

New Youth Group Update



Ruzenka di Benedetto reported that she had set up a Facebook group page for our lodge's youth. So, please sign up for future events and news. You can click on the button above to go directly to Facebook.

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Girls Aged 16 -21 Needed!

Midsummer court representatives aged 16 to 21 years old needed for the Midsummer Coronation. We would love to be represented at the celebration!

Maidie Karling can give you all the details! Her email address is: maidiemouse@sbcglobal.net and her telephone number is 818-787-6476.

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Viking Village at Vasa Park

Ann Heinstedt reported that she has fliers on the Viking Village camp for children ages 8 to 14. This year's camp runs from June 24-29.



The 2011 group shot.

If aged 15 and above, she needs you to help as a leader. Leaders that can speak Swedish are especially needed! To learn more, please contact Ann Heinstedt at ann@NordicHeritage.com or telephone number 661-297-3507.

There are lots of pictures and stories about the Viking Village camp at: <http://vasapark.org/vikingvillage.php>

It's a *wonderful* program for our children!
A big THANK YOU to Ann for all her hard work!

New!

Youth Table

The youth table was well stocked! We had Lars Heinsedt, son of Ann Heinstedt and Natalie Taylor, my other daughter, as guests at the last meeting.

With the addition of our new Youth Group, we hope to see more young people at our meetings!



Lars Heinstedt



Natalie Taylor

Favorite recipe? Upcoming event happening?
Send your newsletter submissions to laurietaylor@hotmail.com.

Vasa District Lodge Pacific Southwest #15 Proudly Sponsors

Nordic Spring Picnic 2012

Sunday, May 6th

10am - 4pm

With Special Musical Tribute to Alfon Bergstrom

Things to do:

- Enjoy Swedish Waffles
- Paddle Boats
- Rock Wall (Note: closed-toed shoes *required*)
- Alpine Tube Slide **New!**
- Zip Line
- Log Rolling Contest
- 274 Foot Water Slide

...and **LOTS MORE!**

Food, Entertainment, and Family activities!

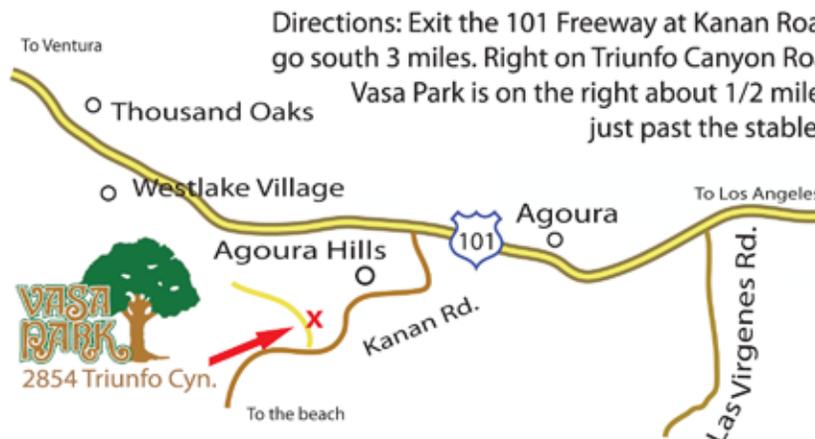
Waffle breakfast starting at 10am

Lunch from noon to 3pm

Price: \$5 per car



No dogs or BBQ allowed



For more information, visit: www.vasadl15.com & www.vasapark.org