

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



*Happy
Mother's Day!*

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. This tradition has its roots in pre-historic times and today it is still observed with huge bonfires in every city and municipality. In most places, the celebrations include inspiring speeches about the new season, a time for renewal in nature as well as in our personal lives. Actually, the bonfires signify the end (or recycling) of anything old and outdated. This message of renewal is one that we all should take to heart – especially as members of the Vasa Order with its nation-wide decline in numbers.

On another note, this month we also celebrate our mothers. Don't forget Mother's Day on May 13th, but keep in mind that Mors Dag (Mother's Day in Sweden) is on a different day – always on the last Sunday of May which this year falls on the 27th.

In California, as in Sweden, we are never short of excuses to have a party. By the time you receive this message, I hope that you have recovered from Cinco de Mayo and are rested enough to attend our regular Lodge meeting on May 10. As usual, we start with a business meeting which

Dates to Remember

- Nordic Spring Picnic***.....**Sunday, May 6**
\$5/car
10:00am– 4:00pm
at Vasa Park
- Golden Valley Lodge Meeting..****Thursday, May 10**
- Mother's Day**.....**Sunday, May 13**
- Midsummer***.....**Sunday, June 24**
- Viking Village**.....**Sunday, June 24 -**
Friday, June 29
- Autumnfest & Marknad***.....**Sunday, Sept. 16**

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

should be relatively brief this time. It is followed by dinner and a cultural program. We have a fabulous kitchen team in store for you: Gene Paulin, Delphine Trowbridge and Roy Olson. I hear Gene will cook Swedish pea soup. Delphine says she'll serve up pancakes and a spinach salad. For those still hungry after all this, Roy has promised to bring a dessert. Don't miss this event!

I'm happy to see that Ruzenka's work with the Youth Group is making progress - the group is planning an outing on horseback later this month. I urge our general membership to generously support activities like this.

Think about it as a contribution towards the kind of renewal that I mentioned in the first paragraph. It's also a good idea to have a special table for our junior members at the monthly dinners. This seating arrangement provides a good opportunity for them to discuss ideas within their peer group and to get involved in issues affecting all of our members. If our Lodge is to prosper, or even to survive well into the future, we need to inspire new generations to take charge.

In truth and unity,

Bertil

Let's "Get Social!"

Our Building Corporation Request



Tommy Eneberg mentioned at the last two meetings that the Building Corporation wants to plan a social event for our wonderful lodge, but they really need **our input** so they can plan something that we will all enjoy!

What sounds like **fun!**? We really loved the Santa Anita Racetrack and the San Antonio Winery trips, right? It would be *fantastic* if we could come up with an idea that younger people would also enjoy. I work with kids all day and one of the best parts is to experience their excitement in learning or seeing things for the first time. I am still recovering from chaperoning a trip to Disneyland... but it had wonderful moments! Six of the nineteen eleven-year-olds had never been there before and their excitement was contagious! They seemed surprised that I enjoyed

everything we did as much as they did. My hands were even in the air for all the roller coasters! I explained to them that people who "look older" or are "older people" are not really "old", we are just 'more experienced at having fun.' My mother has a plaque in her kitchen that reads: "We're not old, we're just recycled teenagers!"

How about a day-trip to Solvang instead of a weekend? Have you been to Griffith Observatory lately? There is an IMAX at the Natural History Museum that shows *incredible* movies! I hear that Catalina Island is just *beautiful* right now. Or, what about an evening at the Hollywood Bowl in a few months?

I will admit it, in my house, there is always more month than money, and never enough time for everything... so maybe a day trip, or an evening out? That might work out easier and better for more of us? Whatever it is, just let the ideas roll in! Group rates are really a nice way to go!

If you have ideas and/or suggestions for this year or next, please contact Tommy at eneberg@att.net.

Note: Depending upon how your computer is set up, you can just click on Tommy's e-mail address above and compose an e-mail to him. If you run into any problems doing this, you can always copy and paste his e-mail address into your regular e-mail program. I'm trying to make it easier, but if all this sounds like too much trouble, please don't let it stop you from e-mailing him about the social event!

Thanks, and now... let's get social!

GVL Happenings



Our Sister Lodge

We had six visitors to the states from our Swedish Sister Lodge Höganäs Lodge #634. Bertil mentioned in his last Chairman's message that he was a guest at their annual America Day event in Höganäs when he visited Sweden. Bertil and a few of our members were able to spend some time with them during their visit here.

They brought several gifts of books and the beautiful hanging scroll shown on the left. Unfortunately, our meeting did not coincide with their visit. We would have liked to have met them!

Buffet Buzz

Meat and Potatoes... and MUCH more! Wasn't dinner by Tommy Eneberg, Hubert Pitters, and Gary Andonian delicious? We reported last month that it was going to be Sonja Andonian, Sylva Pitters, and Rut Eneberg on the refreshment committee. It isn't the crew I expected to find! I was wondering if the men lost a bet and got kitchen duty? If that's so, **we all won out too** because it was so good.

A big thank you goes out to our wonderful kitchen crew. Not only did it taste good, I *think* they enjoyed themselves too! Don't they look like they are having a good time?

Thanks again for a great meal!

Flower March and Lottery Winner\$

Our flower march brought in \$45 this month. Congratulations to our capsule winner, Inga Francis!

- 1st prize went to: \$44 to Berit Stenhöj
- 2nd prize went to: \$30 to Marie Mickelson
- 3rd prize went to: \$15 to Ruzenka de Bendetto

The rest of the prizes were a cheerful variety of spring centerpieces that included many shades of pink, purple and yellow mums. *Just lovely!*

Health and Wellness

Maidie Karling reported that Olof Wester of Palm Desert was in intensive care. Warm wishes for good health!



As we all know, "behind every great man is a great woman!" This is Tommy's wife, Rut.

History of Mother's Day in the U.S. and Sweden

Mother's Day recognizes mothers, motherhood and maternal bonds in general, as well the positive contributions that they make to society. Although many Mother's Day celebrations around the world have quite different origins and traditions, most have now been influenced by the American traditions, including churchgoing, the distribution of carnations, and family dinners.

Contrary to popular belief, Mother's Day was not conceived in the boardroom of Hallmark. The earliest tributes to mothers date back to the annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to Rhea, the mother of many deities, and to the offerings ancient Romans made to their Great Mother of Gods, Cybele. Christians celebrated this festival on the fourth Sunday in Lent in honor of Mary, mother of Christ. In England this holiday was expanded to include all mothers and was called Mothering Sunday.

In the United States, Mother's Day was first suggested in the year 1872 by Julia Ward Howe (who wrote the words to the Battle hymn of the Republic) as a day dedicated to peace. She held organized Mother's Day meetings in Boston, Massachusetts every year. It never made it past the local level as a celebration.

Later, in 1907, Anna Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Jarvis wanted to accomplish her mother's dream of making a celebration for all mothers Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia to celebrate Mother's Day on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the 2nd Sunday of May. All the church visitors wore white carnations, her mother's favorite flower. Colored carnations are now popular to celebrate mothers that are living and white to commemorate those that have passed.

Jarvis and several of her supporters began to write to ministers, businessman, and politicians in their endeavour to establish a national Mother's Day. The idea did not really take off until she enlisted the services of wealthy Philadelphia merchant named John Wanamaker.

In 1910, the governor of West Virginia proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and a year later every state celebrated it. It was successful as by 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state.

President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day as a national holiday.

Commercialization of the U.S. holiday began very early, and only nine years after the first official Mother's Day had become so rampant that Mother's Day founder Anna Jarvis herself became a major opponent of what the holiday had become. She spent all her inheritance and the rest of her life fighting what she saw as an abuse of the celebration. She decried the practice of purchasing greeting cards, which she saw as a sign of being too lazy to write a personal letter. She was arrested in 1948 for disturbing the peace while protesting against the commercialization of Mother's Day.

Mother's Day is now one of the most commercially successful U.S. occasions - it has become the most popular day of the year to dine out at a restaurant and telephone lines record their highest traffic, as sons and daughters everywhere take advantage of this day to honor and to express appreciation of their mothers.

In Sweden, Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1919, by initiative of the author and poet, Cecilia Bååth-Holmberg.

It took several decades for the day to be widely recognized though. Those born in the early nineteen hundreds typically did not celebrate the day, as the common opinion was that it had been invented strictly for commercial purposes.

In Sweden Mother's Day is celebrated the last Sunday in May. The reason for the late date is said to be because spring lasts longer and then everybody could go outside and pick flowers.

The Swedish Red Cross sells small plastic flowers on the days leading up to Mother's Day. The money raised from the sale of the flowers is used to help needy mothers and their children.

The day is an official flag day in Finland, though not a universal flag day in Sweden, but flags are common.

Commercialized or not, it's still a great time to reflect and celebrate what "Mother", "Mom", "Mummy", "Mommy", "Mum", "Ma", or "Mor" means to us!

On the Guest List



Isabella and Frank Muscarella had some friends that may join our lodge, Anna and Bob LaCarr. We hope you both enjoyed your visit and we'll see you again soon!



Maidie's sister, Anne-Britt Staples was visiting from England. We hope you enjoyed your visit with Maidie and the Golden Valley Lodge!



The guest of Kirstin and Bill Wendt was Karin Coote from San Diego. She is shown here with Birgitta Clark and Kirstin Wendt.



Lage and Kerstin Engbloom brought Swedish visitors, Bo and Margareta KJölvmarkz. Lage was friends with Bo when they were younger.



Russell Almquist, a new executive board member from Seaborg Lodge in Laguna Hills, was also visiting us.

I don't know if you all noticed it, but he went around left a strip of raffle tickets at every table in the room! That was very nice - making sure that everyone was a participant in the drawing!

Thanks Russell!

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 some bios in the newsletter each month. This month features some new lodge members who joined late last year:

- **SOFIE (Hellman) & BRAD THORNTON**
- **EUGENE PAULIN**
- **JANET (Erickson) BELL**

SOFIE & BRAD THORNTON joined the Golden Valley Lodge in the Fall of 2011 and has a very sweet love story.

Sofie came to California from Sweden to attend acting school and rented a room in a house that Brad's film school classmate owned. They met each other at a barbeque party in Pasadena.

Sofie had to return to Sweden, but she and Brad emailed up to 25 times a day and skyped a lot. After 7 months, Sofie decided to come back to California to be with Brad. He is of Irish decent, so he chose St. Patrick's Day to ask her to marry him. Although they had not planned to get married right away, they decided to go to Las Vegas and get married in a little chapel located outside of the busy city called Chapel of the Flowers. Sofie has a PhD in vegetation history, so they felt that the Chapel of the Flowers would be perfect.

Sofie was born in Malmö, Sweden, lived in Kalmar and grew up in Växjö (preschool

EUGENE (Gene) PAULIN is a native Californian. He was born in Los Angeles and currently lives in Burbank with his wife, Theresa (Terry) M. Hassman. He has three stepchildren – Comel, Cory and Larry.

Gene is a self-employed clinical psychologist and

and middle school and university) and in Norrköping (later middle school to high school). Sophie is an actress and Brad is a filmmaker and security officer. She speaks Swedish, English, some French, a little German, and also understands Danish and Norwegian. Her hobbies are oil and water color painting, sewing, crocheting, embroidery, nature, photography, hiking, and home decorating.

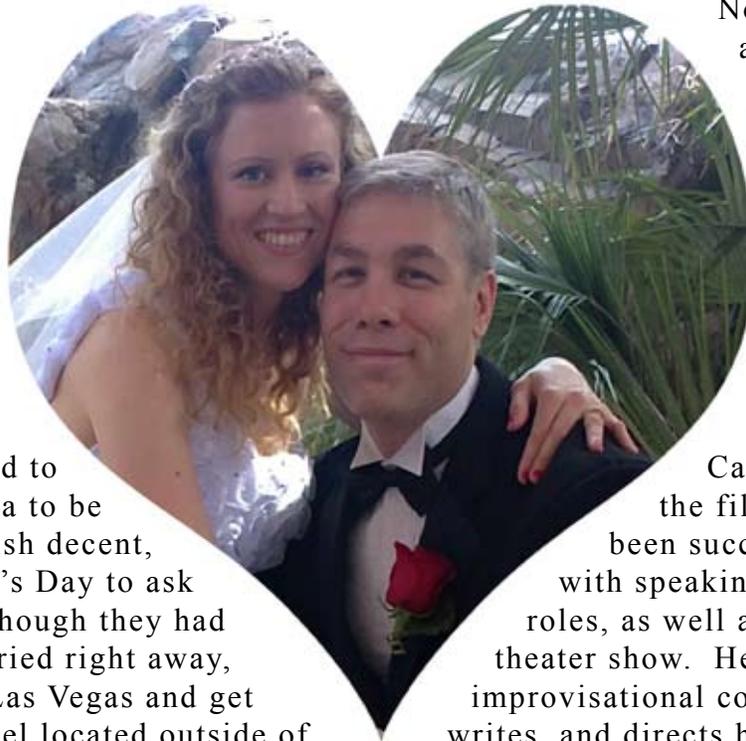
Brad is originally from New York and came to California to get into the film business. He has been successful as an actor with speaking roles and stunt roles, as well as co-starring in a theater show. He does stand-up and improvisational comedy, and produces, writes, and directs his own projects.

Brad says he turned a 26-year career in military and civilian law enforcement into an entertainment career.

Brad is learning Swedish in order to show Sofie he loves her. Eventually they plan to move to Sweden.

his wife, Terry, just retired from Kaiser Permanente as due diligence consultant. Gene enjoys classic movies, cooking (Swedish split-pea soup) and protecting the environment.

Gene's maternal grandparents were from Goteborg, Sweden. He has long been



interested in his roots, particularly when the TV program “Roots” series came out in the 70’s. So, when Delphine Trowbridge told him about Vasa and the Golden Valley Lodge, he figured it was now or never. Gene jumped at the opportunity and became a member last November.

He is now planning a trip to Sweden with his wife. They will be taking a journey on the Göta Canal. Gene said that if he hadn’t joined Vasa, he would never have known about or considered this trip.



JANET BELL joined Golden Valley Lodge last November. Her grandparents came from Sweden – Småland and Östergötland. Janet and her sister were able to visit Sweden and especially enjoyed staying at an old hotel near the locks of the Göta Canal. She has taught Swedish traditions to her family and many holidays have been spent at her home with them.

Earlier last year, her grandson, Johnny, told her he met a girl in school (Nikki Taylor) who was of Swedish heritage and, knowing his Grandmother was Swedish too, invited her to the Midsummer celebration at Vasa Park. She was overjoyed to find out there were Swedish celebrations and lodges so close to her. She got a chance to talk with her childhood friend, LeRoy Anderson, at Vasa Park where he was entertaining. The Ericksons and the Andersons lived in the same neighborhood in Blue Island, Illinois – just south of Chicago where there were Swedish, Polish and Italian communities. The families knew each other well and went to the same Lutheran Church where all the children were confirmed.

Janet moved to California in 1962, married William Bell and has three boys, John, Joe and

Jeff; 13 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Currently, she lives in Sun Valley with her son, Joe. She was a postal carrier for many years in Altadena and also worked with her husband in their company - Bell’s Building Maintenance. The jobs included washing windows in multi-storied office buildings and hotels. Some of her jobs included regularly washing the windows in a 6-story condo by sitting in a swing seat and the 17-story Ramada Inn in L.A., just off the 405 freeway where they had to crawl out the windows on a little ledge and hung from rope. On one job, there was no place to attach the ropes, so her husband wrapped it around his waist and lowered her down. Janet said her knees were shaking but she soon got used to it. I asked her if people were surprised to look out their windows and see a woman-window washer and bet she saw lots of interesting things. Janet laughed and said, “Oh yes – especially when I washed the dorm windows at UCLA!”

Janet has been very active in the Scouts. In her youth, she was a Girl Scout so when she had three boys, naturally they all became Boy Scouts and she was a den mother. She loved to go camping and backpacking. Her father was a wood pattern maker and she also loved working with wood. Janet has led a very active life and although she has a very positive attitude, now finds it quite frustrating to have to deal with her health problems which keep her in a wheelchair. She has been in the hospital a few times this year and has missed some Golden Valley Lodge meetings, but looks forward to coming back again to the meetings and Vasa Park picnics.

Youth Central



Youth Group News

Our Youth Group is planning a horseback riding trip on Saturday, May 19, 2012 - travelling on horses through the Hollywood Hills and up past the Hollywood sign. They will probably follow it with lunch nearby. There is still time to sign up! Click on the facebook icon above to join in and learn more.

2012 Midsummer Court

by Maidie Karling



Columbia Elin Kindig and her father,
Norman Kindig

Photo credit:s Thomas Jahn



The 2012 Midsummer Court from left: Princess Allyson Stacks - Viking Lodge, Columbia Elin Kindig - Golden Valley Lodge, Queen Emaline Mauritsen - Skandia Lodge, Svea Aimee Elder - Mayflower Lodge, Princess Kyra Daily - Nordic Lodge.

Elin Kindig is representing Golden Valley Lodge # 616 in the 2012 Midsummer Court! She is a member of the Glen T. Seaborg Lodge #719, along with her siblings and parents. She is 21 years old and presently attends college. Elin is a member of the Swedish Folkdance Club of Los Angeles and was also a member of Vasa Jr. Folkdancers when she was younger. She has visited Sweden two times and has danced in Järvsö at the Hesinge Hambo Contest. She even placed better than her parents - who have been dancing longer than her.

Hopefully, many of GVL members will be at Vasa Park on June 24 to see Elin as Columbia and watch her performance on the dance floor!

New Bank Notes and Coins: “The Cultural Journey”

In a few years, Sweden will have new banknotes and coins. The General Council of Sveriges Riksbank has decided on the new themes, motifs, sizes, and colors for the banknotes and coins.

Now, there is also an artistic basis for the design of the new banknotes. Sweden’s Riksbank recently released the long-awaited designs of new banknotes featuring the likes of Greta Garbo, Ingmar Bergman, Astrid Lindgren, and other cultural giants of the 20th century.

The notes were designed by Göran Österlund, whose colorful “Journey of Culture” (Kulturresan) design was selected from among eight finalists over the course of the past year. Notes bearing the new design are expected to enter general circulation in 2015, according to the Riksbank.

The face of Swedish film director **Ingmar Bergman** will adorn the new 200 kronor note, while children’s author **Astrid Lindgren**, of *Pippi Longstocking* fame, will be the new face on the 20 kronor note. She will be replacing the popular Selma Lagerlöf. (Lagerlöf. was known for *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*.)

The former United Nations secretary-general, **Dag Hammarskjöld**, will be featured on the 1,000 kronor note. Opera singer, **Birgit Nilsson** will be on the 500 kronor, the film star **Greta Garbo** on the 100 kronor, and musician **Evert Taube** on the 50 kronor note.

“It’s been a difficult, but stimulating task, to pick a winner. All the contestants submitted ambitious and



Greta Garbo, Ingmar Bergman, and Astrid Lindgren, will be the new faces on Swedish money.

Photo Credit: riksbank.se

well- worked suggestions, but in the end we were captivated by ‘The Cultural Journey’,” said Peter Egardt, a member of the Riksbank board of directors and chair of the banknote design selection jury, in a statement.

“The overall impression is a beautiful and user-friendly series of bills which are built on a well-weighted balance between something new and Swedish banknote tradition.”

Österlund explained that his winning design was meant to “let the bills take us on a journey from the Öresund Bridge in the south to the Trekröset in the north,” referencing the “Three Country Cairn” where the borders of Finland, Norway and Sweden meet.



May Your Birthday Be Special!

Steve Tabanelli	May 1	Roy Olson	May 24
Rebecka Thorsen	May 4	Elvine Lundberg	May 25
Anders Heinstedt	May 10	Amanda Polutanovich	May 29
Kerstin Thorsen	May 11	Berit Stenhøj	May 31
Lena Osman	May 17		
Maj-Lis Friedman	May 23		
Christina Thelin Gleason	May 23		

Mother's Day Quotes

I guess by this newsletter you have noticed that I really like good quotes. Here are some more for Mother's Day. If you are fortunate enough to have your mother with you, be sure to give her lots of hugs and kisses. Otherwise, your warm and cherished memories will have to do. *Enjoy!*

A mom's hug lasts long after she lets go. ~Author Unknown
 The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness. ~Honoré de Balzac
 A mother's heart is a patchwork of love. ~Author Unknown
 Mother, the ribbons of your love are woven around my heart. ~Author Unknown
 A mom forgives us all our faults, not to mention one or two we don't even have. ~Robert Brault
 A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. ~Tenneva Jordan
 Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs in my field, since the payment is pure love. ~Mildred B. Vermont
 [A] mother is one to whom you hurry when you are troubled. ~Emily Dickinson
 A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after. ~Peter De Vries
 The phrase "working mother" is redundant. ~Jane Sellman
 When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child. ~Sophia Loren, *Women and Beauty*
 A little girl, asked where her home was, replied, "where mother is." ~Keith L. Brooks
 A man loves his sweetheart the most, his wife the best, but his mother the longest. ~Irish Proverb

Now, as always, the most automated appliance in a household is the mother. ~Beverly Jones
 The only mothers it is safe to forget on Mother's Day are the good ones. ~Mignon McLaughlin, *The Neurotic's Notebook*, 1960
 It's not easy being a mother. If it were easy, fathers would do it. ~From the television show *The Golden Girls*
 A man's work is from sun to sun, but a mother's work is never done. ~Author Unknown
 All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother. ~Abraham Lincoln
 Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, comrades and friends - but only one mother in the whole world. ~Kate Douglas Wiggin
 Men are what their mothers made them. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson
 Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother. ~Lin Yutang, Chinese writer
 Making a decision to have a child--it's momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body. ~Elizabeth Stone
 At 6 years old: "Mommy, I love you."
 At 10 years: "Mom, whatever."
 At 16 years: "My mom is SO annoying."
 At 18 years: "I wanna leave this house."
 At 25 years: "Mom, you were right."
 At 30 years: "I wanna go to Mom's house."
 At 50 years: "I don't want to lose my mom."
 At 70 years: "I would give up EVERYTHING for my mom to be here with me." ~ Author Unknown

Happy Mother's Day... I love you, Mom!
Please send your newsletter submissions to
laurietaylor@hotmail.com

