

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

Chairman's Message

I was pleasantly surprised to see so many of our members at the October meeting. We faced stiff competition from the vice-presidential debate on TV but nothing can stop our people from showing up in force - this time the attendance came to 70 including one future member, a four-year old boy. Wouldn't it be great if we could revive "Blåsippan", the children's club from the 1980s? Our Christmas parties are always well attended by families with young children so perhaps there's sufficient interest for a revival in the near future. As things stand today, the little boy will have to wait about ten years before he can take part in any of our programs.

We had seven other newcomers, however, who were old enough to be voted in right then and there. They were: Joseph Bell, Anna La Carr, Jennifer Evans, Mark Hanson, Mary Locke, Stefan Lundberg and Dawn Mathews. Mark Hanson didn't need to repeat the Vasa oath - he had been initiated at the Evening Star Lodge some time ago and our Lodge gladly accepted him as a dual member. All the others went through the full ritual. It gave me great pleasure to welcome every one of our new members. I hope they weren't discouraged by the lengthy business meeting - we had an unusual number of items on the agenda.

One contributing factor for the high attendance at GVL is the great dinners that take place after our business meetings. Last time Ruzenka and Inga served on the refreshment committee. In November we will have the Tabanellis' (Steve & Andrea) plus Birgitta Clark and Britt Potter. Do I need to say more? It's going to be a feast to remember - don't miss it!

Our next meeting takes place on November 15th,



the third Thursday of the month (not the second Thursday as we are used to). The reason is that we wish to make room for the famous Lutefisk dinner that members of the *Sons of Norway* arrange every year. I'm one of those who think that the appetite for Lutefisk is an acquired taste - but if you like it, I'm sure the Norwegians will let you in. Then, if you crave even more of this ...eh, delicacy, you can go to the Nordic Lodge on November 18 for a holiday

dinner with Lutefisk on the menu. Reservations to that event are handled by Arlene Lundquist at (714) 521-3791. While I'm on the subject, let me remind you that information about our sister lodges is available at: <http://www.vasadl15.com/>

Enclosed with this newsletter you'll find a flyer that presents detailed information about our Christmas party on December 15. It's a popular event and we don't have room for more than 96 guests so I recommend that you reserve your tickets as soon as possible. The Lingstrom family was chosen to cater the food as they did last year. Two of our hard-working members, Sonja Andonian and Kerstin Wendt, head up the organizing committee. They wish to remind all

you generous people to bring unwrapped gifts to our November meeting. The gifts will be used as raffle prizes at the Christmas party.

I spoke to Steve Tabanelli a few minutes ago and learned that he has purchased two turkeys for the Thanksgiving dinner that follows our meeting on November 15 (Thursday). The dinner includes all the usual trimmings as well as dessert with an assortment of fruit pies and ice cream. I look forward to seeing you all at the lodge.

In truth and unity,

Bertil



Lucia Holiday Program

The traditional Lucia Program will be held at our December 15th Christmas party. This is a fun and traditional event. If your children or grandchildren would like to participate, please contact Dorothy Burns at 818.340.6465 or Inga Francis 818.894.2836 or talk to them at the meeting. We hope many children and young people will be involved!



Happy November Birthday to Us!

Joshua Wendt	November 2
Ruth Eneberg	November 8
Per Forslund	November 8
Inga Kozell	November 9
Jennifer DeHart	November 9
Ingrid Thomsen	November 10
Sonja Andonian	November 15
Ruth Wilkening	November 25
Laurie Taylor	November 29



GVL Happenings

Cultural Event

Last month's cultural event included skits performed by our own Sofie and Brad Thornton and Maidie Karling. Unfortunately, most of our pictures did not come out well.

Special Note:

At this month's cultural event we will be making Christmas tree decorations. Ann Heinstedt has requested that members should bring one or two empty toilet paper rolls for this project.



Brad Thornton

Buffet Buzz



We enjoyed a *delicious* dinner prepared by Ruzenna and Ruzenka diBenedetto and Inga Francis.

They served lasagne and homemade pumpkin soup that was a big hit with the members.

The adorable Halloween themed table decorations were also knit by Ruzenka.

Thank you all!



October Refreshment Committee: Inga Francis, Ruzenna and Ruzenka diBenedetto.

Getting to Know You

By Dorothy Burns

The *Getting to Know You* article will return next month! I'm sure it will be worth the wait!

District News

Lodge members, Bonnie (Kennis) and Jonas Fornander of Netwood Communications re-designed the District Site. Click below to see the new website:

<http://www.vasad115.com>

Dates to Remember

Fars Dag.....November 11

GLV November Meeting....November 15

Bring your Christmas party raffle donations to this meeting!

Also, one or two empty toilet paper rolls.

Scholarship deadline..... December 1

Christmas Party.....December 15

Cultural Corner

St. Martin's Day or "Martin Goose" Mårten Gås

St. Martin's Day is celebrated on the 11th of November, especially in southern Sweden. Originally in memory of St. Martin of Tours, the festival has also come to be associated with Martin Luther, who is celebrated the day before. For centuries this date was important in farmers' almanacs and in accounting. Traditionally, the day marks the end of the autumn's work and the start of winter activities.

Roast goose is the traditional dish this day, even though most Swedes have long since left the farm and St. Martin's has lost its importance in accounting. Goose banquets are served in both homes and restaurants. Such meals traditionally commence with a bowl of svartsoppa ("blacksoup"), a mellow bisque made of goose-blood and spices.

Skåne, Sweden's southernmost province, is especially noted for its St. Martin's Day traditions.

Source: "Traditional Festivities in Sweden"; Author: Ingemar Liman; Published by: The Swedish Institute, ISBN 91-520-0113-X



Youth Central

Youth Group Update

Tell your kids to check out our facebook page. (You can click on the icon above.) Ruzenka is taking in suggestions for new activities!

If your child is 14, or even *close* to turning 14, have them visit our next meeting with you. We have a special table for our youth to introduce them to the other youth in our lodge!

New Members and Visitors



Congratulations and welcome to some of our newest members:

**Mark Hanson
Mary Locke
Anna La Carr
Dawn Mathews**

**Joseph Bell
Jennifer Evans
Stefan Lundberg**





Andrea Tabanelli met a Scandinavian at her gym and invited him to our lodge meeting.

It's great to see Janet Bell feeling better. She was among the many who enjoyed the centerpieces (on their heads)!