

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



Sweden's Arctic Bath and Spa Hotel - More on page 5



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I hope you are all surviving this terrible pandemic both physically and mentally. I miss all of you. It is difficult to plan for a future when we are not sure what the future holds. We are hoping to be able to have a social in August and resume our regular monthly meetings in September. Our Yosemite trip has been postponed to 2021. We are having a zoom management meeting June 11th at 11 am and I should have more information after the meeting.

Please say a prayer for Inga Francis. We will all miss her. May she rest in peace.

In peace and unity,

*Delphine*

Next meeting is TBD

If you have not paid your membership dues, they are past due.

Questions? Ask:  
Maidiemouse@gmail.com

Please send your checks to:

Maidie Karling  
13752 Burbank Blvd.  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401

Reimbursement for an expense:

Dorothy Burns  
8201 Glade Avenue  
Canoga Park, CA 91304

or  
gladegal2003@yahoo.com

# GVL Happenings

## Happy Birthday!!!

### JUNE (6)

Linda Trowbridge	2
Dylan Olson	3
Daniel Buck	5
Lars-Ove Nilsson	6
Thomas Anderson	6
William Osman	7
Hanna Olson	9
Christina Poe	12
Daniel Wendt	13
Robert Linfors	15
Lindsey Wendt	17
Nathan Coddling	18
Gary Andonian	20
Jessica Osman	29
<b>JULY (7)</b>	
Gunilla Thelin	2
David Danhi	2
Anette Richards	4
Jake Durbas	7
Mark Hanson	7

### JULY (7) Continued

Jens Kevin Mikkelsen	9
Dorothy Burns	10
Andrea Tabanelli	14
Tiffany Storch	17
Britt Anderson	18
Joyce Gaynor	26
Ruzenna di Benedetto	30
<b>AUGUST (8)</b>	
Christer Olin	6
Maria Jacobs	8
Gunilla DePaoli	8
Elisabet Perez	10
Evelyn Weare-Linfors	12
Gertie Lindstrom	20
Marie Mickelson	21
William Liljeberg	27
Sayd Birgitta Sidenius	29
Chelsea Rhoades Osman	30

## 2020 Golden Valley Lodge Board & Service Positions

**Chair:** Delphine Trowbridge  
**Vice Chair:** Chase Dodd  
**Past Chair:** Inga Francis  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Dorothy Burns  
**Assistant Secretary:** Mona Steffen  
**Financial Secretary:** Maidie Karling  
**Treasurer:** Birgitta Clark  
**Chaplain:** Andrea Tabanelli  
**Master of Ceremonies:** Lucas Taylor  
**Assistant MoC:** Dylan Olson  
**Cultural:** Laurie Taylor (Temp)  
**Chaplain:** Andrea Tabanelli  
**Chairman of Trustees:** Kerstin Wendt  
**Trustee -3:** Maria Jacobs  
**Trustee -1:** Bertil Winther  
**Chairman of Auditors:** Maidie Karling  
**Auditor #2:** Britt Marie Potter  
**Membership Chair:** Maidie Karling  
**Events Co-Chair:** Maggie Connelly  
& Delphine Trowbridge  
**Scholarship Chair:** Beth Bunnell  
**Financial Chair:** Hubert Pitters  
**Historian:** Laurie Taylor  
**Vasa Park:** Richard Heinstedt  
**Bar:** Roy & Hanna Olson  
**Newsletter:** Laurie Taylor  
**Youth Group:** Nicolette Taylor



Ha en trevlig födelsedag!

If you have any pictures or stories to share, please send them to [laurietaylor@hotmail.com](mailto:laurietaylor@hotmail.com)!

# ...Sad Goodbyes

## INGA FRANCIS 1949 - 2020

ORIGINALLY WRITTEN FOR OUR JUNE 2012 NEWSLETTER  
BY DOROTHY BURNS

INGA VIKING, WALLIN, FRANCIS - Inga was born in Vellinge, Sweden (in Skåne) to a 17-year-old unwed mother whose last name was Viking. Her mother tried to raise her, but at age seven months, she was possibly abandoned in an apartment. No one knows how long she was alone, but neighbors heard her crying and she was hospitalized with malnutrition.

The Wallin's, a couple in their late 30's, adopted her. She was picked up from the hospital on a cold, rainy February day by her new Mom and Dad. Her Dad later told her, "You looked up at me and smiled." Inga said, "I guess I must have known I was home."

The Wallins lived in Lund. Her Dad was a printer for Akerlund & Raussing for 30 years. During the 50s, her Dad was supposed to be transferred to Australia, then Cuba (Castro took over) and then to the U.S. In 1960, when nothing happened, he decided to move the family to the US and they settled in East Los Angeles. Inga was 10 years old then and no one in her family spoke English. Four months after they arrived she had to start the 5th grade. The first year here, she didn't read or write but knew enough English to find her way around. The second year, she learned to read and the third year she was in Junior High and spent all her time studying to keep her grades up. She went to Montebello High School and then received her AA in Business at Rio Hondo College.

Inga's first job was with a finance company and that's where she met her husband, Earl Francis. They were married for 15 years, but he died when he was only 44 years old. She worked for an insurance company for 25-1/2 years and for 12 years she was been working for a Psychiatric Workers' Compensation Company.

For the first three years in the US, she went with her parents and sponsor to Vasa Park in the old portion. In 2010, Inga went to an independence dinner at the Sons of Norway Norrona Lodge. She sat at a table with Wenche Eklund, who told her about the "Swedish" Golden Valley Lodge that meets in the same building. Eklund said it was the right background and they were a lot of fun, so Inga attended the next meeting and joined. Since then she has become very involved. Inga was our Chairman, our Lodge Secretary, SACA delegate, District Assistant Master of Ceremonies, member of the Folk Dance Club of Los Angeles, Vasa Choir, and Viking Athletic Club. She is also a member of the worship team (vocals) for her Sunday school class.

If she has any spare time, she likes to read, do handicrafts, and listen to music. Inga said "The best thing I could have done was to join the Golden Valley Lodge and VASA. I now feel I have a family again. It is a wonderful feeling."



District Convention Pictures  
 Shared by Inga Francis and Dorothy Burns



Golden Valley Lodge attendees: top row - l-r: Steve & Andrea Tabinelli, Daga Karin Lindquist, Bert Winther, Dorothy Burns, Gertie Lingström, Nathan Codding Bottom row - l-r Anne Heinstdedt, Birgetta Clark, Inga Francis, Rigmor Johnsdotter, Maidie Karling, Sven Lingström, Delphine Trowbridge, Isabella Muscarella, Frank Muscarella, and Elvine Lundberg.



I know it is starting to sound like I sell Swedish tours, but these hotels in Sweden are *so* unique! Read on -- and see if you agree?

The idea of a floating sauna first came to Harads resident Per-Anders Eriksson during the opening of Treehotel in 2010. At first, the vision was a glass cube on a raft. Bertil Hagström, who designed Treehotel's The Bird's Nest, took over the idea and in 2013 he and Johan Kauppi designed Arctic Bath's floating, circular building.

### A visual throwback to an old tradition



Located just south of the arctic circle, this natural spa retreat is a reminder of the importance of forests for the entire country's development. The architecture seamlessly integrates with the surrounding nature and is more particularly influenced by the timber floating era. For a long time, Lule River and its tributaries served as transportation routes for timber, an old tradition in the north. The construction of the circular main building, which floats on Lule River, imitates logs getting jammed in rapids, something that wasn't too uncommon for those transporting timber.

### Lule River, the people's road

In Norrbotten, humans have cultivated the earth for 300 generations, with fishing, hunting and trading as important complements to village life. Findings along Lule River suggest settlements dating back to the Stone Age. For the past couple of hundred years, the region has gone through a large structural change. But while some enthusiastic entrepreneurs succeeded moving parts of the region into the modern age, many were left completely broke. However, it led to work opportunities for the people living in along the rivers, with many going into forestry, sawmilling and rafting.

The water, rich in salmon, was for a long time the

people's road. A frozen pathway in winter, and in summer rafts and boats were used to transport people and goods, a need which increased by the mid 1800's. Docks were built along the river, and competing companies soon filled the river and tributaries with vessels. Even the residents ran traffic along the water. But as the automobile industry slowly started taking over transportation of goods and travelers, organized boat trips across Lule River ended by 1924.

### Honoring our legacy

But as humans started favoring traveling by road, the water was still used for transporting timber and tar barrels up until the 1960s, contributing financially to the resident population for a couple of weeks during spring.

Lule River is still considered Sweden's most profitable river, but not much is left of the Golden Age of timber transport. Of industrialization in Norrbotten, we find mere traces. Arctic Bath is proud to carry on the tradition, reminding visitors and residents of the importance the water has had for both their region and the entire country, and the legacy of timber.

### A bit about the hotel

Situated under the northern lights in winter, and the midnight sun during the summer months, Arctic Bath is a unique hotel and spa experience that welcomes guests to immerse themselves in the elements while leaving a minimal environmental footprint behind.

Their restaurant focuses on local, pure and sustainable produce. Prepared set menus by their chefs are served in a Scandinavian designed setting, setting the tone for



*Coldbaths are part of history in this northernmost region. your evening.*

A 62 m<sup>2</sup> cabin for 5 persons, with a spiral staircase leading to a loft. The cabin is elevated on poles and situated on the shore among vegetation connected by walkways. The 8 m<sup>2</sup> deck offers a place for meditation, morning coffee or just relax. Includes: 5 beds, bathroom with bathtub and shower, air-condition, minibar, spa bar, Wi-Fi, floor heat and pellets stove. Some accommodations are available on land as well.

