

October 2020

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

*Credits: Alexander Hall/imagebank.sweden.se*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We will have our first actual meeting October 8 at the church on the patio. We have limited the numbers to not be a large gathering. Hubert will do a Zoom for those who are not attending. We have taken all the reservations and you must have a reservation. We will not enter the building, but the women's bathroom will be open for men and women. Chairs will be distanced but family groups can group together. We will have trays but no tables. We have box lunches, beverage table and Princess Torta and coffee for dessert. EVERYONE must wear a mask except when they are eating and drinking. We will have sprays everywhere and everyone will leave healthy.



I am looking forward to seeing all of you once again.

*Delphine*

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 October Birthday!!!

Monica Carabas	2
Gun Marianne Olin	2
Annili Anderson	5
Yvonne Klintare	5
Laila Weitz	7
Delphine Trowbridge	7
Larry Pulatanovich	7
Wenche Eklund	8
Lillemo Possecker	10
Heidi Klintare	12
Conny Klintare	13
Maggie Connelly	14
Daga-Karin Lindquist	15
Ingela Sorensson	15
Caitlyn Haggerty	16
Stephen Osmond	16
Ann Heinstedt	16
Alex Klintare	19
Alexander Richards	21
Emma Rose Chiarelli	21
Lisa Eklund	23
Katarina Holstein	24
Bradley Richards	25
Gunvor Sabo	25
Rikard Siwerson	26

Ha en trevlig födelsedag!



## 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

## Connecting Through Covid

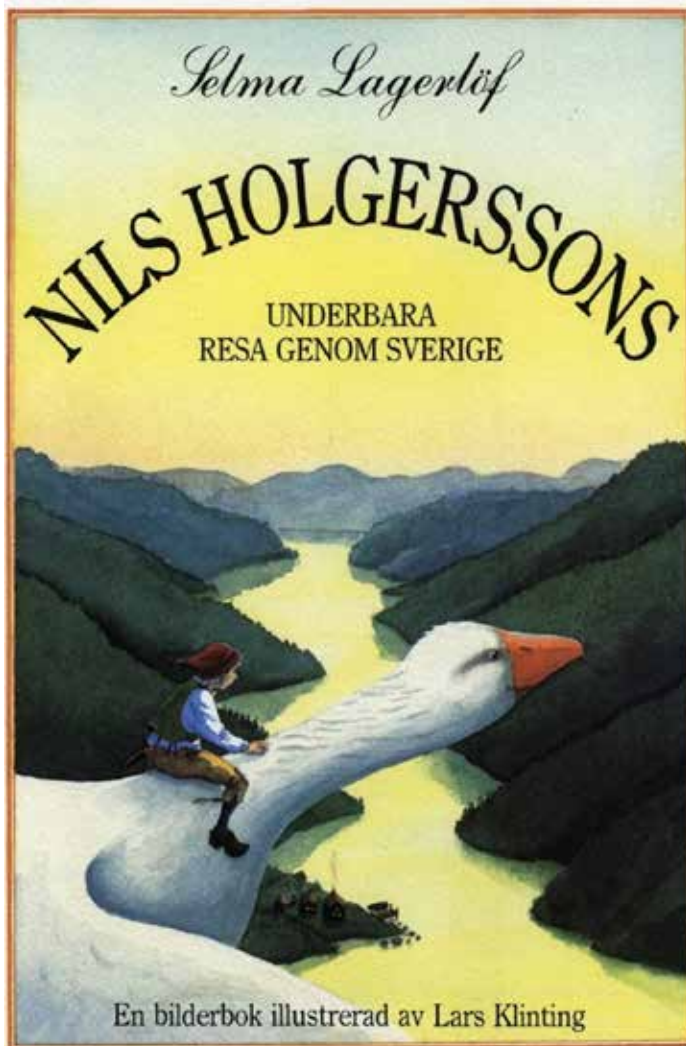
In an effort to keep feeling connected, please send me a picture of you and your family or extended family. If you name everyone, from left to right, top row, bottom row, etc., I will too! You are welcome to email it or send it by postal mail. Maybe you are all seeing each other during the pandemic or the picture was from before. I will send a reminder a few days before they are due!

Still accepting notes on what you are doing during the pandemic to keep your sanity or enjoy your insanity! Our members really enjoyed reading about each other!

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

# Culture Corner: The Wonderful Adventures of Nils

**The Wonderful Adventures of Nils (orig. Nils Holgerssons underbara resa genom Sverige; literally Nils Holgersson's wonderful journey across Sweden) is a work of fiction by the Swedish writer Selma Lagerlöf, the first woman to receive Nobel Prize in literature to make the study Sweden geography fun for children.**



In 1902, Selma Lagerlöf was asked by the National Teacher's Association to write a geography book for children. She wrote *Nils Holgerssons underbara resa genom Sverige* (The Wonderful Adventures of Nils), a novel about a boy from the southernmost part of Sweden, who had been shrunk to the size of a thumb and who travelled on the back of a goose across the country. Lagerlöf mixed historical and geographical facts about the provinces of Sweden with the tale of the boy's adventures until he managed to return home and was restored to his normal size. The novel is one of Lagerlöf's most well-known books, and it has been translated into more than 30 languages.

On 10 December 1909, Selma Lagerlöf won the Nobel Prize "in appreciation of the lofty idealism, vivid imagination, and spiritual perception that characterize

her writings", but the decision was preceded by harsh internal power struggle within the Swedish Academy, the body that awards the Nobel Prize in literature. During her acceptance speech, she remained humble and told a fantastic story of her father, as she visited him in heaven. In the story, she asks her father for help with the debt she owes and her father explains the debt is from all the people who supported her throughout her career. In 1904, the Academy had awarded her its great gold medal, and in 1914, she also became a member of the academy. For both the academy membership and her Nobel literature prize, she was the first woman to be so honored. In 1991, she became the first woman to be depicted on a Swedish banknote, when the first 20-kronor note was released.

In 1907, she received the degree of doctor of letters from Uppsala University. In 1928, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Greifswald's Faculty of Arts. At the start of World War II, she sent her Nobel Prize medal and gold medal from the Swedish Academy to the government of Finland to help raise money to fight the Soviet Union. The Finnish government was so touched that it raised the necessary money by other means and returned her medal to her.

Two hotels are named after her in Östra Ämtervik in Sunne, and her home, Mårbacka, is preserved as a museum.







## Nils was a Real Person!

Most Swedes know the story of Nils Holgersson, the little boy who flew over Sweden on a goose in Selma Lagerlöf's books.

What many do not know, however, is that Nils Holgersson really existed in the famous author's life. He was born in 1901 in the area around Enköping and later became a foster child with Selma at Mårbacka manor in Värmland.

In the 1920s, he emigrated to the United States where he started a family and (among other things) worked on building the world's first skyscrapers. He kept in touch with his foster mother all his life and also got to take part in her inheritance.

Until her death, they had contact by letter, he wrote to her over 200 times and she wrote back at least as much. "Beware of the alligators," she writes to Nils, when he was 24 and visited Florida.

Today he is resting in Coal Valley Cemetery in Rock Island County, Illinois with him riding on his famous goose Akka, on his headstone.

The Wonderful Adventures of Nils is so well known in Swedish culture that a picture of Nils Holgersson, on the back of a goose flying over the plains of Scania, was printed on the reverse side of the Swedish 20 krona banknote until new bills came in use in 2015.

Nils is also depicted in the logo of the digital map company Tele Atlas.

The sights Nils sees as he and his goose roam the provinces of Sweden are depicted in a series of Christmas plates produced by Rörstrand Pottery. The series began in 1970 and continued until 1999, the plates illustrate the topography, architecture, industry, and wildlife of Sweden.

**You can read *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* online for free here:**

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Wonderful\\_Adventures\\_of\\_Nils/QNJNAQAAMAA-J?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Wonderful_Adventures_of_Nils/QNJNAQAAMAA-J?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover)





Hello, We rented a summerhouse so I could have my family around me. First my partner Göran. Saga and Tyra (they live in LA with my daughter Hanna) their father, that moved to Uppsala. Simon, my oldest grandson and his girlfriend Olga, Me, Simon's younger brother Leo, mother Helene, my oldest daughter. My niece's daughters Paulina and Ofelia, her boyfriend Max, my niece Martina and her boyfriend, Per. Missing: my daughter Hanna in LA, her husband Jade and my last grandchild Bond, 5 years, Martinas son Charles.

That's my fortune.

All the best,

Rigmor Johnsdotter



Delphine Trowbridge and part of her family





Storch Family ❤️ Wes, Nick, Jack, Tiffany



Bertil Winther: It seems like a long time ago, but less than a year ago I celebrated my birthday in Sweden. I invited friends and relatives to a restaurant near my vacation home and 36 of them showed up, including my daughter, her husband and all four of my grandkids. We had three tables at a secluded part of the restaurant.

The photo shows daughter Sophia on my right side and my youngest grandson, William, on her right. The lady sitting on my left is my sister Gunnel. Next to her, nearest the camera, is our cousin Nils-Erik.





Wenke and Lisa in the front visiting with Lisa's brother, Leif and nieces Ianna (behind Lisa) and Nessa.



Andrea Tabanelli



Front row left to right: Nicolette, Natalie    Back Row: Laurie & Lucas Taylor, Dorothy Burns



# Time to Rewrite the History Books!



**HISTORY BOOKS TYPICALLY DEPICT VIKINGS** as blue-eyed, blonde-haired, burly men sailing the North Atlantic coast to pillage wherever they set foot on land. While some of that may be true, a new genetic study of Viking DNA is flipping much of this history on its head.

In the largest genetic study of Viking DNA ever, scientists have found that Vikings — and their diaspora — are actually much more genetically diverse than we may have thought and were not necessarily all part of a homogenous background.

Sequencing the genomes of over 400 Viking men, women, and children from ancient burial sites, re-

searchers found evidence of genetic influence from Southern Europe and Asia in Viking DNA dating back to before the Viking Age (750 - 1050 A.D.).

The authors also note that individuals not related to Vikings genetically, such as native Pictish people of Scotland and Ireland, sometimes received traditional Viking burials — suggesting that being a Viking was not so much about specific family roots but about a sense of internal identity.

In the study, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, an international team of researchers reports findings from their six-year-long study of 442 human remains from burial sites that date back between the Bronze Age (2400 B.C.) to the Early Modern period (1600 A.D.)

When comparing the genetic material of these ancient samples with 3,855 present-day individuals from regions like the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Sweden, and data from 1,118 ancient individuals, they discovered more intermixing of genetic material than they'd originally imagined, lead author and director of The Lundbeck Foundation GeoGenetics Centre at the University of Copenhagen, Eske Willerslev, said in a statement.

“We have this image of well-connected Vikings mixing with each other, trading and going on raiding parties to fight Kings across Europe because this is what we see on television and read in books — but genetically we have shown for the first time that it wasn't that kind of world,” explains Willerslev.

“This study changes the perception of who a Viking actually was — no one could have predicted these significant gene flows into Scandinavia from Southern Europe and Asia happened before and during the Viking Age.”

Southern European genes in Vikings may have actu-



ally made them brunette instead of classically blonde and blue-eyed. Based on these results, Willerslev says that even well-known imagery of Vikings being blonde and blue-eyed (like Chris Hemsworth's depiction of Thor) may not be totally true, especially for Vikings with Southern European roots. The authors write that their analysis also confirmed some long-held theories and hunches about the movement of Vikings during this time.

**WHAT'D THEY FIND** — One of the first hunches that the study was able to confirm was the final destination of different threads of Viking migration from modern-day Scandinavia.

The DNA of ancient Danish Vikings cropped up in England while Norwegian Viking DNA was found in Ireland, Iceland, and Greenland. Unexpectedly though, they also found evidence of DNA similar to present-day Swedish populations in the western edge of Europe and DNA similar to modern Danish populations further east.

### **“THIS STUDY CHANGES THE PERCEPTION OF WHO A VIKING ACTUALLY WAS.”**

The researchers write that this unexpected discovery suggests that complex settling, trading, and raiding networks during these times resulted in communities of mixed ancestry.

Even more, the study's analysis shows that this mixed ancestry was taking place even before the so-called Viking Age, explains Martin Sikora, a lead author on the study and associate professor at the Centre for GeoGenetics, University of Copenhagen.

“We found that Vikings weren't just Scandinavians in their genetic ancestry, as we analyzed genetic influences in their DNA from Southern Europe and Asia which has never been contemplated before,” said Sikora. “Many Vikings have high levels of non-Scandinavian ancestry, both within and outside Scandinavia, which suggest ongoing gene flow across Europe.”

DNA from a female skeleton named Kata found at a Viking burial site in Varnhem, Sweden, was sequenced as part of the study Västergötlands Museum. And some “Vikings” weren't of genetic Viking descent at all, researchers found when analyzing a Viking burial site in Orkney, Scotland. Despite being put to rest in traditional Viking style (including swords and other Viking memorabilia,) when sequencing the DNA of these remains the authors found that the two individuals buried at this site were in fact of Pictish (or, early-Irish and early-Scottish) descent.

The researchers write that this discovery suggests that being a Viking was not necessarily about how far back your Nordic roots reached but instead had more to do with one's lived identity.

“The results change the perception of who a Viking actually was,” said Willerlev. “The history books will need to be updated.”

In addition to providing a more nuanced look at this transformational period of history, this new genetic insight can also help scientists better understand how different traits, like immunity, pigmentation, and metabolism, are selected for across genetic groups.

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## The Future Of Viking Research May Reside In Canada



*Photo: Chris Wimbush / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY-SA 2.0*

Where will researchers uncover the next Viking discovery? Archaeologist Douglas Bolender puts his money on Canada. “For a long time, serious North Atlantic archaeologists have largely ignored the idea of looking for Norse sites in coastal Canada because there was no real method for doing so,” he explained. But new techniques that rely on satellite imagery have already uncovered a likely Viking settlement in Point Rosee, Newfoundland.

It's only the second known Viking site in North America, but Bolender believes the new method may soon uncover even more Viking settlements: “If Point Rosee is Norse, it may open up coastal Canada to a whole new era of research.”



## District Master's Corner,

Since our District Convention in February 28, 29 & March 1, 2020 in Cathedral City, we have been hit with all manner of life changes. Coronavirus entered our world here in Los Angeles in March 2020 or even before. Basics like toilet paper, paper towels, Clorox, and other staples were out of supply. Some of us were going to markets early in the morning. For those of us who are seniors, we were pleased when certain essential stores had special hours for us. We have had protests, heat waves, forest fires, poor air quality and stressors in our lives like nothing before. This leap year has brought more changes than we would like. Children are doing their course-work on-line. Most schools are not yet open. Our Lodges and VASA Park are all closed due to city and State restrictions. We all have learned to go with the 'flow of life'. Fortunately, only a very few of our members have had the coronavirus.

### Future Plans

The 2021 DL PSW15 Convention has been cancelled. Our convention is held the last week of February annually. Birgitta Roodsari and Susan Premo, our convention committee members, researched this. They visited the Pasadena Doubletree Hilton as well as the Woodland Hills Doubletree Hilton. From their site visits, they said that the Woodland Hills Doubletree Hilton offered better prices and extras. However, the contract that was offered us had a COVID-19 clause in it. If the virus was still active, either party – our DL PSW15 or the Hilton – could cancel 10 days prior to the event. If the hotel cancelled, we could have lost much money as many things are ordered in advance, airfare would not be refunded, etc. All of the planning and work would be for naught. Many events such as the Rose Parade on 1/1/2021 have been cancelled. The Academy Awards has been moved to April 2021. Since many events are canceled, the board voted NOT to have the convention at the Hilton in February 2021.

When cities, counties and the State begin to ease up on requirements for social gatherings, Lodges and VASA Park will be able to make decisions on moving forward in reopening. VASA Park will be making their own decisions as restrictions ease. As it looks now, when social gatherings are allowed, there may be requirements on the number of members who can meet inside at a Lodge event based on social distancing, etc. Time will tell what this means for our Lodge reopenings.

### Stay safe. Stay well.

Today, more than ever, we are being asked to do more to protect ourselves. Wear masks. Get your flu shot. Exercise. Go outdoors. Take a walk but follow the guidelines. As navigate these times, we wish that you do all that you can to protect yourselves, your family and friends. We all miss our Lodge gatherings, our meetings, luncheons, dinners, our friends, VASA Park events, everything that is near and dear

to us. Until we can return to our former, more enjoyable life, stay safe and stay healthy.

In Truth and Unity,

Maggie Connelly  
District Master  
ARTICLE #2

### Congratulations Scholars!

In the midst of this pandemic, our DL PSW15 next generation has shown us that commitment and dedication to our school studies can bring rewards. I speak on behalf of our district to say CONGRATULATIONS to our scholars who have been awarded Grand Lodge scholarships. These scholarship recipients include: Jeremy Braneke-Hite from Mayflower Lodge No. 445 who was awarded a Grand Lodge scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.; Bryan Casado from Nordic Lodge No. 660 who was awarded a Grand Lodge scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.; **Emma Rose Chiarelli from Golden Valley Lodge No. 616 who was awarded a Grand Lodge scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.;** Kaelin Den Hartog from Evening Star Lodge No. 426 who was awarded a Grand Lodge scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Kaelin's Grand Lodge Scholarship Essay, "How has traditional Swedish music and folk dance influenced your involvement with the Vasa Order" is featured on page 29 of the September 2020 NORDSTJERNAN Swedish newspaper.

DL PSW15 recipients include four students from Desert Viking No. 682 who were each awarded a Grand Lodge scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. These recipients from Desert Viking No. 682 include Elina Linner, Keely McMack-en, Emily McGowan and Julia McGowan. Congratulations to Desert Viking No. 682 and their four scholarship recipients. Jon Erik Moyles from Glen T. Seaborg Lodge No. 719 also a recipient, was awarded a Grand Lodge scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. District 15 members send a big congratulations to each one of you, your parents, lodge members and all who encouraged you to apply and assisted you in this process.

To Willem Lent. Congratulations on receiving a scholarship to attend the Sjolunden Virtual Swedish Language Camp this summer. Thank you for your informative essay on page 37 in the September 2020 NORDSTJERNAN Swedish newspaper. Your experience in studying and learning the Swedish language at Sjolunden tells us that many of our members both young and older should consider applying to attend this camp.

To Kin Lindgren, our DL PSW15 scholarship committee chairperson, we give you a big thank you and congratulations for your guidance and leadership in making these awards happen!



## District 15 Scholarship News

Fall is here, and it is once again season to let everyone know about the various District 15 Scholarships available for 2021. All important documents are posted on the website at [www.vasaDL15.org](http://www.vasaDL15.org). The District Lodge offers scholarships for all ages and for different objectives. Swedish culture, of course, are scholarships we want to promote! The following is a list of the Scholarships available:

- Sjölund language camp in MN for youth ages 14-18
- Language & cultural camp in Sweden for anyone 18 and older
- Vocational/Trade School scholarship
- Elderhostel/Cultural scholarship for members 55 and older
- Undergraduate
- Graduate

There is also a Medical scholarship, but it will not be open until next year.

The procedure of submitting applications electronically seems to work really well (and some schools only submit records electronically these days), but of course we welcome hard copies too. Just remember, the deadline for all required documents is December 31, 2020.

Feel free to contact the scholarship committee with any questions you may have.

Kin Lindgren

Scholarship Committee Chair | [scholarships@vasaDL15.org](mailto:scholarships@vasaDL15.org)

## Vasa Park News

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NORTH AREA  
PLAN AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT  
UPDATE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER 7, 2020**

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) has prepared the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Update Project (Project). The Final EIR, including the response to comments on the Draft EIR and associated revisions to the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan and Community Standards District, is available on the project website: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/smmnap>.

### **YOU'RE INVITED!**

DRP will hold a public hearing at the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 for their consideration of the Project. This meeting will be conducted virtually. Meeting details are provided below. Public comments on the Final EIR to be considered by the RPC can be submitted to [SMMNorthArea@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:SMMNorthArea@planning.lacounty.gov) prior to 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2020.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Wednesday, October 7, 2020  
9:00 AM

### **Public Hearing Notice**

**To view the public hearing and/or testify on October 7, 2020, please visit <http://planning.lacounty.gov/rpc>, select the "October 7, 2020" meeting, and follow the instructions provided.**

Los Angeles County

Department of Regional Planning

213-974-6422

[www.planning.lacounty.gov/smmnap](http://www.planning.lacounty.gov/smmnap)

In response to the evolving coronavirus emergency, Los Angeles County facilities are closed to the public at this time. For the most current information about available services, public meeting schedules, and planning projects, please visit [planning.lacounty.gov](http://planning.lacounty.gov).