

November 2020

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



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Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Our next meeting will be this Thursday, November 12th at 6:30pm in the courtyard of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Masks are required and chairs will be set up to socially distance. Be sure to dress warm even though we will have two heaters set up; rain cancels the meeting.

A head count is needed, so please call me to RSVP, 818-482-6146. For the dinner menu, we will order pizza, salad, and dessert. There will be a drink table and prizes. Mona is doing the opportunity drawing and it will be like last month with everyone getting a free raffle ticket.

Our December, January and probably February meetings will be by Zoom unless the virus magically disappears.

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

Golden Valley Lodge #616 • Vasa Order of America •
Meeting: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church | 9440 Balboa Blvd | Northridge, CA 91325
info@goldenvalleylodge.org • www.goldenvalleylodge.org

GVL Happenings

Happy November Birthday!!!

Joshua Wendt	2	Rolf Gustafsson	16
Jennifer Norman-Lund	3	Anna LaCarr	19
Anneli Brady	3	Cecilia Trowbridge	19
Natalie Taylor	7	Mary McMannes	21
Rut Eneberg	8	Laurie Taylor	29
Jennifer DeHart	9	Anne Cegon	29
Richard Heinstedt	9		
Sonja Andonian	15		



Ha en trevlig födelsedag!



Lucia

Jason Blohm shared on Facebook that there is an online **Lucia celebration** hosted by the American Swedish Institute. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanSwedishInstitute> for details. It will take place on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020 AT 11 AM PST.

There is a small fee to connect to the presentation.

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

Michael Lent is the newsletter editor for Skandia #247 in Pasadena. Recently, he had a brilliant idea and asked lodge members to send him two photos of themselves, one as a baby and the other from later/current life. The baby pictures were published first so that readers could try to identify the person.

It sounds like such a fun idea that we are going to try it. So, this week please find a baby picture of yourself and a more recent one and send to me ASAP. Color pictures potentially give away the generation so I will make ALL of the baby pictures black and white. The more that participate, the better!

If you have any pictures or stories to share, please send them to laurietaylor@hotmail.com!

Culture Corner: Kulning or Herding Calls



Hijas de la Tierra <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kulning.ogv>

Kulning or herding calls is a domestic Scandinavian music form, often used to call livestock (cows, goats, etc.) down from high mountain pastures where they have been grazing during the day. It is possible that the sound also serves to scare away predators (wolves, bears, etc.), but this is not the main purpose of the call. Kulning is also called laling, lalning or lälning in Norway and neighboring parts of Sweden, kauking or kaukning in some parts of Norway, in the provinces of Dalarna and Hälsingland in Sweden and the former Norwegian provinces in Sweden, Jämtland and Härjedalen, also kulokk, kulokker, kyrlokker or a lockrop.

The song has a high-pitched vocal technique, i.e. a loud call using head tones, so that it can be heard or be used to communicate over long distances. It has a fascinating and haunting tone, often conveying a feeling of sadness, in large part because the kulokks often include typical half-tones and quarter-tones (also known as “blue tones”) found in the music of the region. It has been used on farms in stock-raising since medieval times. The tradition is still alive today, although waning. Kulning is, however, similar to yodeling, a singing style also developed for long-distance sound propagation. When a call is made in a valley, it rings and echoes against the mountains. The animals, a number of whom wear bells tuned so that the livestock’s location can be heard, begin to respond to the call, answering back and the sound of the bells indicates that they are moving down the mountain towards their home farm. The kulokks can belong to an individual, but are sometimes family-based and are handed down so that a family’s cows know they are being called and thus respond. A number of calls contain names of individual (sometimes the “lead”) animals, as herds are not very large.

The siren song in *Frozen* that beckons Elsa to the mysterious enchanted forest is the sound of Kulning; composer Christophe Beck discovered kulning and used it in the score of the first film. For “*Frozen 2*,” Norwegian singer Aurora performs an enticing, wordless aria throughout the film.

There is another very interesting article on Kulning by Jennie Tiderman-Österberg, entitled *Why Sweden’s Ancient Tradition of Calling Home the Herds Is Women’s Work -- The spellbinding refrains of the kulning call reflect a tradition that offered women freedom and independence*. The author graciously gave me permission to reprint it, but the other permissions from the Smithsonian and Folklife may not be so easy. Therefore, if you are interested, please check this link: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/why-swedens-ancient-tradition-calling-home-herds-womens-work-180975904/>

A video sample of kulning can also be experienced here <https://player.vimeo.com/video/337475978>
or <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kulning.ogv>

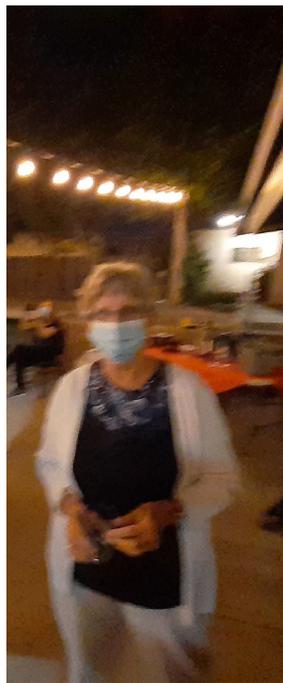
October's Socially Distanced Meeting

Pictures taken by Lisa Eklund and Dorothy Burns



Initiation of Nicolas Storch
Welcome to Golden Valley Lodge!





The Real Nils Holgersson

by Bertil Winther



At age 8 or 9, when I went to elementary school in Sweden, the fictional story about a boy named Nils Holgersson was required reading – perhaps it’s part of the curriculum even today. At that time, very few people knew that the boy’s name wasn’t fictional but the name of the author’s adopted son. My uncle Ernst Winther was one of those who knew because he had been a co-worker of Nils Holgersson in 1920-21 when they were employed as young trainees at Reslöv gård, a large farm in southern Sweden. I didn’t learn about the strange coincidence until several years after the death of uncle Ernst in 1977. My cousin, the youngest son of Ernst, developed an interest in genealogy and collected stories about his family. It was through my cousin that I first heard about the real Nils Holgersson. In 1980, after the death of another of my uncles, I acquired three albums that had belonged to my great-grandparents and later to my grandparents. These albums contained photos and letters from a 70-year period starting in the early 1860s. Because of the current pandemic and the lack of social activities, I have lots of extra time to go through this material and to document notes that I have accumulated over the past 40 years. So far, I have written about 75 pages but I’m working on about 50 more. My plan is to have it all printed in a book. To make it most accessible to my relatives, I write in Swedish but I intend to make an English version later. Perhaps I will include this story about the real Nils Holgersson.

From 1858 through 1865, my great-grandparents were owners of Marieholmsgården, a farm located in the proximity of the above-mentioned Reslöv gård about 6 miles west of Eslöv in the county of Scania (Skåne in Swedish). Some of the farmland, located near a river, was sold to a railroad company. The railroad between Eslöv and Landskrona was completed in the early 1860s and an industrial community grew up next to the train station which was named Marieholm. Soon thereafter, my great-grandfather decided to sell the entire farm to Mr. Sundelius who built a large factory on parts of the property.

My great-grandparents, Peter and Augusta Winther, didn’t move very far away and continued to keep in touch with their former neighbors, the Bellanders, who owned Reslöv gård. In 1888, after Mr. Bellander

passed away, his relatively young widow hired

my grandfather to manage the farm. Augusta, my great-grandmother, was hoping her son would marry Mr. Bellander’s second wife, the widow and owner of Reslöv gård. Augusta’s hopes were dashed – in 1899, my grandfather married a younger woman who 40 years later

became my grandmother. The photo on the left shows my grandparents with their first-born, my uncle Ernst.



Ulla Bellander, my grandfather’s employer, was a cultured lady who arranged literature evenings. She invited young and upcoming authors to give talks about their latest books. At this time, Selma Lagerlöf, worked as a teacher at a girl’s school (Elementarläroverket) in Landskrona but had acquired some fame in 1891 after the release of her first book entitled *The Story of Gösta Berling* (*Gösta Berlings Saga*). Ms. Lagerlöf became a frequent guest at the literature evenings. The train ride from Landskrona to Marieholm was an easy 12-mile ride and my grandfather probably met up with a horse-and-buggy at the station. In 1895 Ms. Lagerlöf decided to become a full-time author and resigned from her teaching position in Landskrona. At the end of the century she travelled with a female friend to the Holy Land. The trip resulted in a novel entitled *Jerusalem* that turned out to be another bestseller. Shortly thereafter she spent some time in Stockholm and Uppsala. It was in the latter city that she was asked to adopt a boy, born in 1901 and named Nils Holgersson. He was the son of a poor shoemaker’s wife or widow.

A couple of years after the adoption, Ms. Lagerlöf accepted an assignment from the Swedish Teacher’s Association and wrote a book that would encourage

Continued The Real Nils Holgersson

children to learn about the geo-graphy of Sweden. She entitled the book *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils* (Nils Holgerssons underbara resa genom Sverige). The book became much more successful than she could have imagined. It was translated into more than 30 languages.

Nils grew up at his adoptive mother's birthplace, a farm named Mårbacka. Ms. Lagerlöf, however, didn't spend much time at home. She was much in demand as speaker at various events and the upbringing of Nils was left to the housemaid at Mårbacka. In 1909, when Selma Lagerlöf received the Nobel Prize in Literature, she was able to purchase the entire farm. She was disappointed, however, that her adopted son didn't wish to pursue higher education. Then she got the bright idea that Nils could manage the farm as soon as he came of age.



Ms. Lagerlöf contacted Ulla Bellander, her old friend at Reslöv gård, to inquire about training opportunities for Nils. Mrs. Bellander had sold her farm but the new owner, Nils-Erik Nilsson, was more than happy to hire the famous author's adopted son as a trainee. Mr. Nilsson can be seen standing up front in the photo to the right. I don't know whether Nils Holgersson was present when the picture was taken.



As I mentioned earlier, my uncle Ernst was employed as a trainee at Reslöv gård when Nils Holgersson was there. Ernst was two years older

than Nils and became assigned to a different work group at the farm. According to my cousin, they didn't get to know each other very well. The photo on the left was taken at a studio in Eslöv during the time when Nils was getting practical experience of farming. After a year of hard work, Nils returned to Mårbacka. He had enjoyed his time in Scania but told his adopted mother that farming wasn't his cup of tea. Ms. Lagerlöf then decided to enroll Nils as a trainee with a local carpenter. Nils also completed his compulsory military service after the return from the south of Sweden.

While Nils was learning the carpenter trade, he became friends with a family that planned to emigrate to America. He was invited to a send-off party and became so drunk that his friends had to take him home in a wheelbarrow. Ms. Lagerlöf, who as a child had experienced her father's problems with alcohol, became very upset at the sight of her adopted son's drunken stupor. According to my cousin, she told Nils that he had her permission to join his friends and leave for the US.

Nils ended up in Chicago where he was hired by Ragnar Benson, who in 1911 had emigrated from Stenbrohult in Sweden and later became a very successful entrepreneur during the building boom in Chicago. The Ragnar Benson Construction Company was formed in 1922 and is alive and well even today. In April of 1928, Nils married a Swedish-American lady named Vera Sund. They had a son and made a few trips back to their home country. On those visits they usually stayed with Vera's relatives. According to my cousin, on one occasion Nils went back to Mårbacka to retrieve a stone axe that he had found in the fields during his childhood. It was said to be the only time he saw his adoptive mother after the move to the US. Ms. Lagerlöf died in 1940 at the age of 81. Nils and Vera became members of the Vasa Lodge in Chicago. The family lived for many years in Evergreen Park, a suburb of Chicago. Nils had a long life. He was 84 when he died at Oak Glen Home in Coal Valley, Illinois, survived by his wife, his son, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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

<https://tinyurl.com/y6l9o5rs>

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. 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:

- Sjölundens 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

72 Hour Glass Cabin The front page picture

Get close to nature at the '72 Hour Cabins' in Dalsland. The cabins are made of glass, allowing you fall asleep watching the stars and wake up to the sunrise, while being comfortable in bed. In fact, staying in Swedish nature has been proved to decrease blood pressure, stress levels and heart rate - and boost your creativity. 'The 72 Hour Cabin' is an initiative from Sweden, where people with some of the world's most stress-

ful jobs were invited to experience Sweden's 'close to nature' lifestyle, to see what effect it had on their well-being. It consisted of living in Sweden's nature for 72 hours, in small cabins made of glass. During their stay, the participants' well-being was monitored in a case study, developed in collaboration with leading researchers.



Happy Father's Day!

Father's Day is celebrated worldwide to recognize the contribution that fathers and father figures make to the lives of their children. This day celebrates fatherhood and male parenting. Although it is celebrated on a variety of dates worldwide, many countries observe this day on the third Sunday in June. In Sweden, it is celebrated on the second Sunday of November. Father's Day is not a public holiday. This year, Father's Day falls on Sunday, November 8, 2020 and most businesses follow regular Sunday opening hours in Sweden.

Photo credit: Susanne Walström / Imagebank.sweden.se