

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



Treehotel, Sweden - We can't visit it right now, but we can plan for the future! Here's one for the bucket list!

Treehotel is located in Harads, near the Lule river, about 100 kilometers from Luleå airport. The village has a population of about 600 and features a restaurant, shop and guest house. The most striking part of Harads is its magnificent surroundings. From Treehotel's rooms you get a fantastic view of the Lule River valley, miles of forest and the powerful river.

Treehotel has grown like a jigsaw puzzle, framed by resolute goals, hard work, timing, contacts, a sense of trends, an ability to capture the quirky and crazy in life, a penchant for personal service and Britta's motto "it always works out in the end, it does".

It started with a couple named Kent Lindvall, and Britta Jons-son-Lindvall. Kent's company providing international fishing trips
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Chair Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are all okay and have not become the victim of this terrible disease that is lurking worldwide. All our activities have been put on hold until we can finally start our lives again. When will that be? Hopefully, June 11th we can again have our monthly meetings. Dorothy and I will be doing the meal that evening.

Our Yosemite trip is still on track. Please send your check in to reserve. We will also plan to have our Social on August 13th with a BBQ and special entertainment. Details to follow. Please be careful and stay well.

Delphine

ATTENTION: We will not be having a GVL meeting in May, but some checks will still need to be approved and sent out. If you have a request for a reimbursement, please send to the GVL secretary as soon as possible and she will prepare a voucher for the Treasurer. Send requests to:

Dorothy Burns
8201 Glade Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91304

or
gladegal2003@yahoo.com

GVL Happenings

Happy May Birthday!

Roland Gustavsson	1	Stefan Lundberg	17
Rebecca Thorsen	4	Kayla Santana	21
Anders Heinstedt	10	Carolyn Manley	23
Kerstin Thorsen	11	Roy Olson	24
Carter Lien	13	Berit Stenhoj	31
Lena Osman	17		



Grand Lodge News From Bertil Winther

Vice Grand Master John Hanright sent me the certificates that were awarded to students from District #15 in this year's scholarship program. Our youngsters did exceptionally well. The Grand Lodge had a little over 30 highly qualified candidates applying for the awards and students from our District succeeded in landing 11 (eleven !!!) of them. The certificates look very nice and are suitable for framing. They all have the Vasa gold seal and are signed by Grand Master Art Bjorkner.

All recipients have been notified in separate letters from the Grand Lodge. Here is the list, starting with the Grand Lodge **College Awards of \$1,000:**

Kaelin Den Hartog	Evening Star #426
Jeremy Braneke-Hite	Mayflower #445
Emma Rose Chiarelli	Golden Valley #616
Bryan Casado	Nordic #660
Elina Linner	Desert Viking #682
Emily McGowan	Desert Viking #682
Julia Marie McGowan	Desert Viking #682
Keely McMacken	Desert Viking #682
Jon Erik Moyles	Glenn T. Seaborg #719

Students awarded the Grand Lodge **Sjölunden Language Village Scholarship** are:

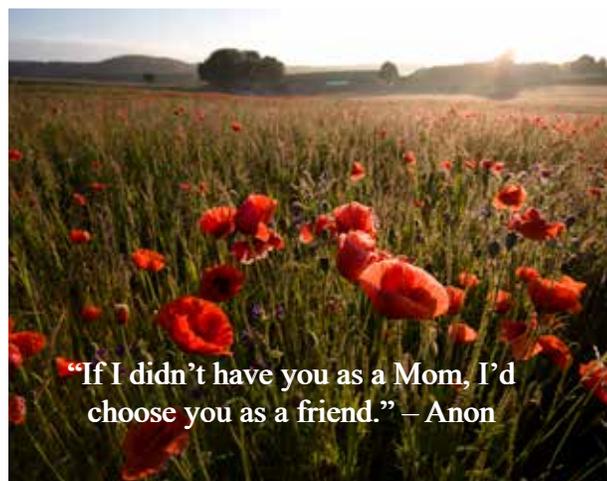
Willem Lent	Skandia #247
Olivia Hope Chiarelli	Evening Star #426

I was asked to extend congratulations from the Grand Lodge Executive Board and hope to add my own in person at a presentation ceremony later this year. The current letter is being sent to chairpersons and secretaries of the Local Lodges listed above so that we can arrange for your ceremony as soon as present meeting restrictions are lifted. A suitable occasion would be your Lodge's anniversary dinner or the autumn festivity at Vasa Park, if possible.

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

Happy Mother's Day!



Credits: Anders Tedeholm/imagebank.sweden.se

From: <https://chatbooks.com/blog/mothers-day-social-distancing-ideas>

While it's so important to stay home and stay safe, that doesn't mean social distancing is easy.

Though you may love to self-quarantine on a typical Friday night with Netflix and a bowl of popcorn, 24/7 social distancing is an entirely different story. It can impact your mental health and it can definitely affect your relationships. Whether you live in a different city, you have a parent who's immunocompromised, or you have a family of your own, not being able to give your mom a hug or have her shoulder to cry on can be really hard.

And so, as Mother's Day approaches, you might be asking yourself: *How do I make mom feel special at a time like this?* We've got you covered with some creative ways to reconnect socially while practicing isolation techniques.

Send a silly video Record a mini clip of you reciting a mini poem about mom, singing her favorite song or just listing all of her best qualities. Grandmothers love seeing fun videos of their grandkids, so don't forget to include them in the script.



Photo: Ted S. Warren, AP

Do Window Visits If you live locally, stop by and say hi. Six feet can feel really far, but it's close enough to say "Happy Mother's Day" in person.

Have A Mini Mother's Day Parade If you and your siblings live near mom or grandma, get everyone to

decorate their cars and schedule a time to drive by her house. Be sure to involve the kids, honk a lot and bring the fun!

Try a Virtual Cooking Class Does mom/grandma love to cook? Set her up on Zoom and learn how to cook a family recipe from the master herself.

Tour Your Memories Teach Grandma how to Face-time and walk her through your fave FAMILY PHOTO BOOK. Then, ask her to share some pages from her most cherished album.

Just Call Sounds simple, but hearing a loved one's voice when you're isolated can do wonders.

Opt for Snail Mail This might seem like an outdated method of communication, but a handwritten letter is both sentimental and heartfelt. You can send it by postage or, if you live near enough to your mom, drop it off on her porch.

Sync up your watchlist If you and your mom have the same taste in movies or TV shows, text each other and start watching at the same time. After the show is over, give her a call and recap all your favorite scenes and characters. If you're binging a season together, plan a time that you will watch episodes, even while you're apart.

Take a virtual workout class together For all the fit mother/daughter duos, we recommend that you do virtual workouts together. There are a lot of subscriptions you can sign up for right now that are cheap. If you FaceTime each other and set up your screens, you can sweat together!

Start a book club This activity is great because you can involve mom, grandma, siblings and friends to gather together (virtually) and indulge in some great literature. As you are reading the book separately, you will feel connected to your group knowing that you will come together via phone call or video call to discuss your thoughts.

Culture Corner - The landscape hotel where nature and imagination run wild (Continued from Front page)



trips and Britta had worked with a number of development projects, local, regional and international after her career as a nurse. One of the development projects led to an old retirement home in their home village, that had been closed for many years, which they carefully restored and turned into a guesthouse, Britta's Pensionat. The guesthouse was run with love and care but wasn't generating much income. Something had to be done. Britta participated in a design training program focused on form and function within the tourism industry. That's where the idea of a design project was born.

A then unknown filmmaker, Jonas Selberg Augustsén, who has roots in the area, came to the guesthouse. Over one summer, he and his film crew worked on the film *Trädälskaren* (The Tree Lover) which became his breakthrough production. The crew spent a lot of time at the guesthouse, whilst the film and the treehouse around which it was centered, grew. When the film had been completed, Britta thought it a shame that such a nice treehouse would just stand there in the forest and go to waste. Maybe it could be rented out? Together, Britta and Jonas made it an integral part of what the guesthouse had to offer and it instantly became popular. However, it was far away and it required a lot of maintenance work. What if design and tree rooms could be combined, closer to the guesthouse?

Around this time, Kent was on a fishing trip in Russia with a group of friends. These friends happened to be three of Sweden's foremost architects - Bertil Harström, Thomas Sandell and Mårten Cyrén. Kent mentioned the idea of designer hotel rooms and this piqued the interest of the architects. Before leaving Russia they agreed to design one room each, as friends working together, even though they were working for competing firms. Their friendly collaboration turned out to be very important for the Treehotel.

It resulted in a UFO, a bird's nest, a cabin, a mirror cube and a blue cone which changed colour to orange. These spectacular creations attracted a lot of attention. There were sceptics here and there but eventually many of them also came to land



in the bird's nest and its neighbouring rooms. International press and designer aficionados from all over the world began coming to the Treehotel in large numbers. Today, the hotel has naturally earned a place on many bucket lists. It has attracted everyone, from international celebrities,

(including Crown Princess Victoria) designers and fashion magazines, to ordinary people wanting to experience something as unusual as staying in a treehouse. A childhood dream with a touch of luxury and flair.

The large Dragonfly conference building and The 7th room has been added to the list of popular rooms. The 7th Room is extraordinary in every sense of the word. Higher up, larger and more luxurious than any of the other rooms.

Today, Britta is happily retired, but she remains a co-owner of Treehotel. Britta's Pensionat has been renamed the Treehotel Guesthouse. The restaurant has been taken to a new level and the range of activities offered is steadily growing. Kent, the other owners and a growing staff are taking Kent's and Britta's dream into the future. Treehotel is a life's work, something you who visit will become a part of, now and in the future. What you see in front of you is proof that dreams may indeed come true. It doesn't always come easy, but "it always works out in the end, it does".

