

May 2015

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

## Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's hold their children's hands for  
a while, but their hearts *forever*.

### Upcoming Events

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015 - MEMORIAL SERVICE for STEVEN TABANELLI** ( Details on last page)

**JUNE 21 -JUNE 28 the 10TH VIKING VILLAGE CAMP** for children and grandchildren, (8 - 14 years old) of the Vasa Order of America members will take place at VASA PARK. Contact Ann Heinstedt at 661 297-3507, or e-mail: [ann@nordicheritage.com](mailto:ann@nordicheritage.com) if you need information.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28 - Swedish American Central Association (SACA) presents the 95th MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION** at VASA PARK 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM. For information, contact LeRoy Anderson at 562 923-5828 or Nel Solt at 626 355-0111.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 - AUTUMNFEST AND MARKNAD** with the annual Meatball Contest.. For information, contact Richard Heinstedt 661 297-3507.

**Next meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2015**

# GVL Happenings



*Our wonderful dinner committee: Anette Richards, Gunilla & Gertie Lingstrom*

## Buffet Buzz:

It was a DELICIOUS dinner provided by Gertie and Gunilla Lingstrom and Anette Richards. From the dinner to the dessert - it was a delight.

The next meeting's dinner committee is Dorothy Burns and Kerstin Wendt. They have something good planned, but I am sworn to secrecy. You will just have to show up to find out!

## Sad News: Last Charter Member Passes



Golden Valley Lodge Member, Joyce Gaynor reported that our last charter member, Barbara Swanson, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 27, 2015. Joyce was Barbara's caretaker.

Barbara's family was involved in starting the Golden Valley Lodge #616. Barbara's member number is on our records as #31 and she joined in December of 1946.

There will be no service. We plan on providing more information about Barbara in an upcoming newsletter.

## More Sad News: Member Janet Bell Passes



GVL Member, Janet Bell passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2015. Her grandson, John Bell, is also a member of our lodge and part of our Youth Group.

Services for Janet will be announced when known.

## Lodge Visitors:

April is the month we invite the District to our lodge. We were visited by a few of our Pacific Southwest District #15 officers, Peter Lindgren and Kristine Hofve, as well as two other guests, Cindy Lindgren and Carol Chudy. It was very nice to have them.

We hope they enjoyed the evening with Golden Valley Lodge!

## New Members that were planning on the Mayflower Lodge Joint Initiation:

- Alexander Olson \*
- Valerie Olson \*
- Mikael Amador-Stromberg
- Alice Karling
- CJ Lien \*

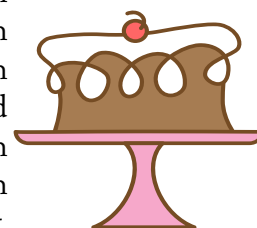
Additionally, there is a new transfer from Evening Star, Lillemor Stromberg, who does not need to be initiated.

Welcome to all of you!!!

We may be initiating at our next meeting, too!

## Happy May Birthday!

Rebecca Thorsen *	4th
Anders Heinstedt	10th
Kerstin Thorsen	11th
Lena Osman	17th
Maj-Lis Friedman	23rd
Roy Olson	24th
Amanda Polutanovich	29th
Berit Stenhoj	31st



\* Denotes this is a Golden Valley Youth



## Sweden Hills.... Japan???



Sweden Hills is a Swedish-style village in Tōbetsu, Hokkaido in Japan. The houses are Swedish red wooden style. A Swedish ambassador visited the nearby town center of Tobetsu and thought that the climate was

quite similar to the Swedish climate. The work with the village started in 1984.

A golf club, Sweden Hills Golf Club, is nearby.

**Suu~ēdenhiruzu, Nihon e yōkoso!**

### Fika Health Report: I'll Drink to That!

Swedish researchers have explained why drinking coffee is thought to lower the risk of contracting breast and other cancers.



*Photo credit: Helena Wahlman, Imagebank.se*

Several scientific studies have shown that coffee has a protective effect against breast cancer and other cancers. A new Swedish research study now sheds

light on why coffee can, at least when it comes to the silent killer cancer, be considered a health drink. “The caffeine turns off the signal paths to breast cancer cells. This results in slower cell proliferation and increased cell death,” said Ann Rosendahl, a researcher at Lund University and co-author of the recent report detailing how coffee protects against breast cancer recurrence.

The report has just been published in the medical journal *Clinical Cancer Research*.

### New License Plate Screening Technology

The Swedish Police have some interesting new equipment that will quickly and automatically scan the license plates of a large number of cars in the area and alert them to any cars with a driving ban. A “ping” will appear on the screen of the device.

The reasons are typically that the vehicle has not had

its mandatory annual inspection, or failed it. Less common reasons may be that the car is untaxed or has some other driving ban.

If the license plate is obscured or dirty and can't be read clearly by the equipment, that is also cause for a fine of 1,500 kronor ( presently about \$178.)



# April Meeting







## Mayflower Initiation

Photos and info by  
Isabella Muscarella

GVL's new members: Alice Karling and her son CJ Lien ( Maidie's daughter-in-law and her son) and Alexander Richards (Sven and Gertie's grandson). It was a lovely event with food and drink and wonderful Vasa members.



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**District Lodge #15 Scandinavian Spring Picnic at Beautiful Vasa Park, Agoura!**



**Viking Encampment**



**View of the park**



**Log Rolling**



**Car Show**





# Tribute to Bertha Kalm

Written by Bertil Winther

(Formerly published in *Vasa Star*)

We were only a week into this year when I got a call from Gunilla Thelin, one of my predecessors as chairperson of our Lodge. Acting as executor of the Bertha E. Kalm estate she was about to distribute four checks for a total of one million dollars to benefit Swedish-American institutions. The size of the bequest came as a surprise to me even though I knew that Ms. Kalm was a generous person and that our Lodge (as well as our District Lodge, the Grand Lodge and a few other parties) was a beneficiary of her trust. Ms. Kalm, I soon learned, was proud of her Swedish heritage and had told Ms. Thelin and another of her friends, Ingela Sörensson, that she wished to honor her ancestors by giving half of her estate to organizations within the Swedish-American community; the other half she had reserved for her alma mater, San Jose State University in California. The funds going to the Vasa Lodges were earmarked for education. According to the trust document, the St. Erik's Church in San Pedro (a California branch of the Church of Sweden) was bequeathed the same amount as each of the three Vasa Lodges.

Unfortunately, I didn't have the opportunity to meet Ms. Kalm - she never applied for membership in the Vasa Order and never attended any meetings at our lodge, the Golden Valley Lodge (GVL) in Van Nuys, California. On several occasions, however, the GVL scholarship program received donations of \$1,000 from a lady who wished to be anonymous. It was only after the death of Ms. Kalm on April 11, 2012 that the name of our benefactor was revealed. Her friends, members of the GVL, have provided me with the following data about her interesting and adventurous life.

Bertha Kalm was born in Riverside, California on October 9, 1914. Her father, Charles Kalm, was an immigrant from Sweden who arrived to New York in 1893 and later settled in California where he became an American citizen in 1901. Bertha's mother, Amanda, was born in Carthage, Missouri, but moved to California with her parents in 1888 when she was a 12-year old child. Bertha's maternal grandparents, the Sodergrens, had left Sweden in the late 1860s. Following Mr. Sodergren's passing in 1907, and soon after marrying Bertha's mother, it is likely that Charles Kalm bought the family's citrus ranch in Colton (near San Bernardino in California). Bertha grew up on the ranch together with a half-brother and a half-sister.

After graduating from high school, Bertha attended San Bernardino Junior College within a few miles of the family ranch. In 1933 she abandoned the comforts of home and moved 400 miles north where she transferred to San Jose State College (today's SJSU). Here Ms. Kalm received her Bachelor of Arts degree and started to work as a teacher at an elementary school located about 50 miles south of San Jose. The following year her father died of a stroke. To be near her mother at their time of sorrow, she went

back home to Colton. After receiving her teaching credentials from USC in 1939 she was employed as a business teacher at Colton High School.

Ms. Kalm moved to Los Angeles during the time when the entire country was busy gearing up for WWII. Initially she worked as a secretary but in the fall of 1942 she started her 30-year career as a business teacher and counselor in the LA school system. Ten years later she took sabbatical leave to travel in Europe with her mother and half-sister. They reserved a stateroom with three beds on the luxurious ocean liner SS America and departed for Bremerhaven (Germany) on June 20, 1952. The return to New York was booked on the same ship sailing from Southampton (England) on September 11. Bertha rented (or purchased) a car in Europe and toured many countries, including Sweden where she researched genealogical archives and took notes on her family history. Before returning to the U.S. she and her travel companions went on a cruise that included stops in Greece, Lebanon, Israel and Egypt as well as excursions to places of interest in the region. It was probably this trip that wetted Bertha's appetite for extensive world travel later in life.

In a personal history document Ms. Kalm described herself (at age 41) as a single woman of slight build (height 5'5" and weight 120 lbs) with blue eyes, brown hair and fair complexion. This document was probably prepared when she applied for a U.S. government job in Washington D.C. in 1956. One of her friends told me that Bertha wrote frequent letters to her 80-year old mother in Los Angeles during the two years she worked for the government. At that time her mother resided in a duplex (or possibly an apartment building) that Bertha had acquired before moving to the nation's capital. Many of the letters concerned rent collection from her tenants.

Ms. Kalm became an accomplished world traveler after her retirement in 1972. In an article published in *Who's Who* her occupation was listed as business educator and adventurer; now we should add philanthropist. The funds she bequeathed to Vasa are needed and will benefit our Order in a multitude of ways. From experience I know that scholarship programs play an important role in recruiting new and young members. At my own Lodge we have placed the money in a separate fund; any future scholarship awards coming from this fund will be named after Bertha E. Kalm. The corresponding program at the Pacific Southwest District Lodge will be augmented this year and more so in coming years. Furthermore, and perhaps even more important, it has now become possible to restore the Grand Lodge scholarship program to its former grandeur.

**Submitted by: Bertil A. Winther**  
**Past Chairman, Golden Valley Lodge 616**  
**Executive Board Member, Pacific Southwest District Lodge #15**

[Editor's Note: Subsequently there was an additional \$175K distribution that also went to the other beneficiaries as well. Golden Valley Lodge would like to thank our own member, Gunilla Thelin, who has been the executor of the estate. A tremendous amount of time and work goes into that position.]

## Other News

The Swedish Church will hold a Mid-summer celebration on June 20th at the Gilmore Adobe. It is located at the Original Farmers Market on the corner of 3rd and Fairfax in Los Angeles.

Check the church's website for further details.

[www.svenskakyrkan.se/ losangeles](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/losangeles)

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### **Congratulations!**

Our own, Silva Pitters, won \$55 on the 50/50 Opportunity Drawing at the Scandinavian Spring picnic at Vasa Park on Sunday, May 3rd!

It was a beautiful day at the park... and a rewarding one for Silva!

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**Golden Valley Lodge, #616**  
**Vasa Order of America**  
**C/O 6373 Balcom Ave.**  
**Encino, CA 91316**

## Memorial Service



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
STEVE TABANELLI

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
12227 BALBOA BLVD.  
GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344  
818.360.4777  
SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015  
11:00 AM  
- RECEPTION FOLLOWING  
AT THE CHURCH -

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