

December 2021

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



Credits: Carolina Romare / Image Bank Sweden.se

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Our 75th anniversary banquet was a big success thanks to Dorothy and Kerstin. We had about 60 people and many stayed the whole weekend. We initiated 6 new members before the dinner. Joyce Gaynor and Bertil Winther gave interesting talks about our Vasa organization.

For our Dec 9th meeting, Maidie will have our pizza and Princess Torta dinner and on December 18th is our Christmas Dinner and Lucia. Please remember to bring raffle items to the meeting. Wenche Eklund is in charge of the raffle and Andrea Tabanelli is in charge of decorations so if you have something nice to donate, please remember to bring them to the meeting.

Delphine

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

Questions? Ask:
akarling20@yahoo.com

Please send your checks to:
Ann-Kristin Karling
13754 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

If you have some nice pictures from our Anniversary trip to Ventura that you would like to share, please send me your digital pictures I can put them in the next newsletter!
Also, I will be out of town for the next meeting - please send pictures if you take them!

laurietaylor @ hotmail.com

Happy December Birthday!

Laila Jensen	5
Robert Shoemaker	10
Chase Dodd	15
Shannon Traxel	18
Robert Holstein	25
Merry Shepler	25
Hubert Pitters	27
Gunilla Polutanovich	29
Nicholas Storch	31

2021 Golden Valley Lodge Board & Service Positions

Chair: Delphine Trowbridge
Vice Chair: Andrea Tabanelli
Past Chair: Maidie Karling
Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Burns
Assistant Secretary: Mona Steffen
Financial Secretary: Ann-Kristin Karling
Treasurer: Birgitta Clark
Chaplain: Beth Bunnell
Master of Ceremonies: Jason Trowbridge
Assistant MoC: Dylan Olson
Cultural: Laurie Taylor
Chairman of Trustees: Kerstin Wendt
 Trustee 2 years Maria Jacobs
 Trustee 3 years Wenche Eklund
Chairman of Auditors Maidie Karling
 Auditor 2 years Britt Potter
 Auditor 3 years Ann Heinstedt
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 and Hanna Olson
Newsletter: Laurie Taylor
Youth Group: Nicolette Taylor



Culture Corner: Happy December B-day Queen Silvia



Royal family portrait from the summer palace Solliden, taken in the summer of 2016. Since then the family has grown even bigger. – © Anna-Lena Ahlström / The Royal Court, Sweden

Queen Silvia of Sweden (born Silvia Renate Sommerlath on 23 December 1943) is the spouse of King Carl XVI Gustaf they have three children: Crown Princess Victoria (heir apparent to the throne), Prince Carl Philip, and Princess Madeleine. In 2011, Silvia became the longest-serving queen of Sweden, a record previously held by Sophia of Nassau.

She was born the only daughter of Alice (née Soares de Toledo) and Walther Sommerlath. Her father was German and her mother was Brazilian. She speaks her native German, her mother's language of Portuguese, as well as French, Spanish, and English. She has some fluency in Swedish Sign Language, a national sign language used by the deaf community in Sweden. She is a trained interpreter and Swedish is her sixth language.

Marriage to the King

During the 1972 Summer Olympics, Silvia Sommer-

lath met Crown Prince Carl Gustaf. At the time, she was leading a marketing campaign for the city of Munich. Sommerlath and the other Olympic hostesses wore sky-blue dirndls to promote Bavarian cultural identity. After the death of King Gustaf VI Adolf on 15 September 1973, Carl XVI Gustaf succeeded to the throne.

He and Silvia were married on 19 June 1976 in Stockholm Cathedral ("Storkyrkan Cathedral") in Stockholm. It was the first marriage of a reigning Swedish monarch since 1797. The wedding was preceded, the evening before, by a Royal Variety Performance, where the Swedish musical group ABBA performed "Dancing Queen" for the very first time, as a tribute to Sweden's future queen.

Queen Silvia established Mentor International in 1994 in collaboration with the World Health Organization. Her vision was to offer mentoring as inspiration, em-

powerment, and motivation for young people to make healthy life choices and view their futures more positively. Mentor's work has been recognized by the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, the Organization of American States, and the Council of Europe. She is now an honorary board member of Mentor Foundation.



She was also a co-founder of the World Childhood Foundation in 1999, having been inspired by her work as Patron of the first World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Stockholm. She has also been involved in the Global Child Forum, which she helped initiate, as a keynote speaker in several forums.

Her commitment to the work with dementia and the care of the elderly at the end of life is also well known and respected. On her initiative, Silviahemmet was established in Stockholm. It works to educate hospital personnel in how to work with people suffering from dementia, and also initiates research in the area.

She chairs the Royal Wedding Fund, which supports research in sports and athletics for disabled young people and the Queen Silvia Jubilee Fund for research on children and disability.

Queen Silvia holds honorary positions in the Swedish Amateur Athletic Association, the Children's Cancer Foundation of Sweden and Save the Children Sweden.



Credits: Emelie Asplund/imagebank.sweden.se

We have many stories about the 400 year old tradition of Lucia. (see Goldenvallylodge.org/newsletters) but Lucia is anchored in tradition but it keeps evolving. In the past, the crowning of the national – and local – Lucia was an anticipated event, inviting newspaper readers to vote on their favourite, based on a headshot and a short description. Since this had a whiff of beauty contest about it, it has been relegated to the past. These days, schools tend to select their Lucia randomly, lottery-style, and in the younger year-groups it's not unusual to see more than one Lucia. As for other modern updates relating to the must-have baked goods, Lucia often serves up vegan alternatives.

Lucia - Moving with the times and spreading further afield

No longer confined to the borders of Sweden, the custom as it's celebrated here (there's a different Lucia Day variant in Italy, for example) has spread to other countries. In London, for instance, The Swedish Church puts on events that are so popular that they have to be booked months in advance. You'll also find Lucia events in countries including Germany, Latvia, Russia and China. Sometimes Swedes perform and in other cases non-Swedes have gone to the trouble of learning the songs in Swedish as a mark of appreciation. Experience it once and it's likely you'll get smitten, too – it's a celebration like no other.

Source: <https://visitsweden.com/what-to-do/culture-history-and-art/swedish-traditions-new/christmas/lucia/>

GVL Anniversary Celebration in Ventura

Photos by Kerstin Wendt and Laurie Taylor

If you missed our 75th Anniversary trip to Ventura, you missed out on a lot of fun!
We had perfect weather and great times!
Please send me your pictures from the event so I can put them in the next newsletter!



Bertil hosted a cocktail party in his suite on Friday evening.



Delphine Trowbridge

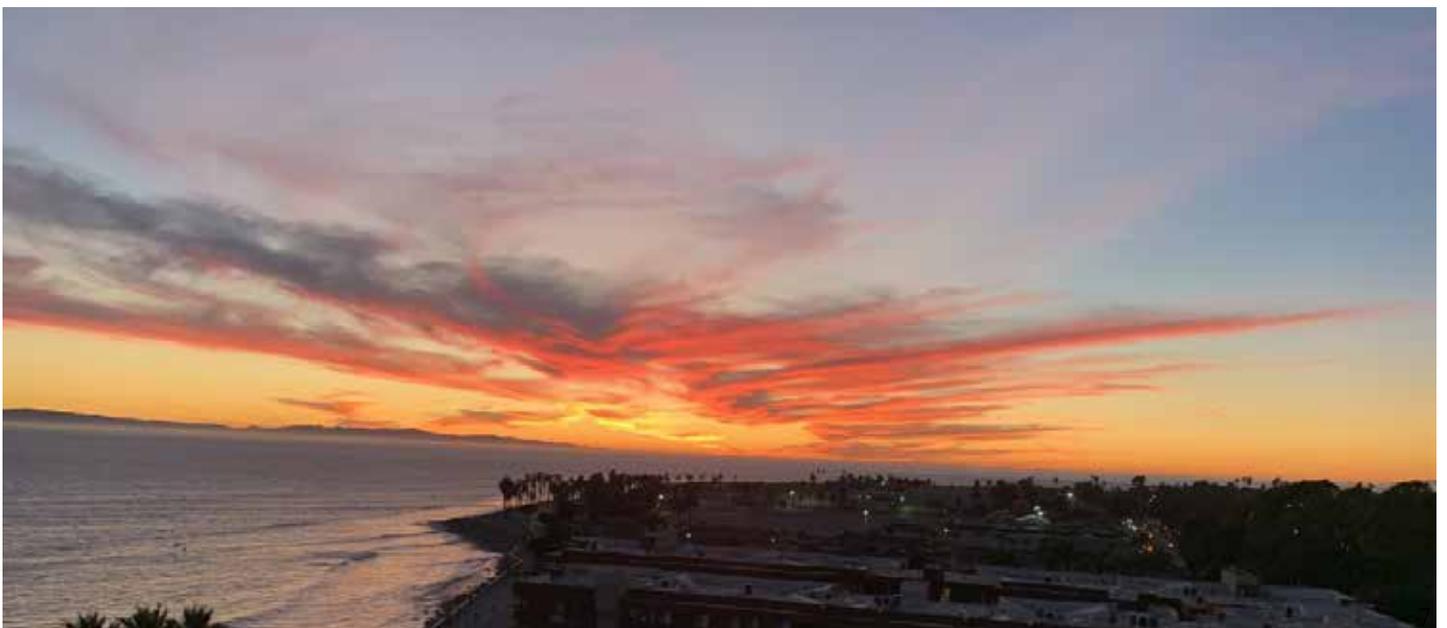


Dorothy Burns and Bertil Winther.
Dorothy presented the pin ceremony.



Sandra was our entertainment for the event.







Sunset view from the hotel



Sand art



Views from the hotel were stunning!