

February 2022

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

February is the month of Valentine's Day, red hearts and chocolate. Please join us for our meeting, dinner, and raffle. Cecilia Trowbridge will be the hostess.

We are stilling looking for a volunteer to host dinner for our April meeting. Dorothy now

has our name tags, and we request that everyone use them so our new members can get to know us. Reminder, we will have member initiation at our next meeting. Our Yosemite trip is filling up so if you want to attend, please mail in your check.

See you Thursday.

*Delphine*



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

Questions? Ask: [akarling20@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:gladegal2003@yahoo.com)

# GVL Happenings

Happy Valentine's Day!  
Happy February & March Birthday!!!

## FEBRUARY (2)

Kristina Foley	1
Hanna Assad	3
Olof Wester	4
Alice Karling	5
Mona Steffen	5
Stig Klintare	7
Mikael Amador-Stromberg	10
Jason Trowbridge	11
James Thorsen	13
Tyler Holstein	17
Melissa Steffen-Coombes	19
Keri Mikkelsen	21
Tina DeHart	22
Michel Hamaoui	22
Bernice Dreher	24
Lage Engblom	27

## MARCH (3)

Linnea Heinstedt	1
Cecilia Brady	8
Beth Bunnell	16
Morgan Klintare	20
Valerie Olson	21
Britt-Marie Potter	22
Kerstin Engblom	30
Maidie Karling	30

The birthdays at the beginning of the month pass before the newsletter even reaches members. Maria Jacobs had the *great* idea of putting two month's worth of birthday notices in so members would have time to send out a card.

Thanks Maria!

Ha en trevlig födelsedag!

## 2021/2022 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:** Lucas Taylor  
**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: The Decorated Farmhouses of Hälsingland

Learn more at <https://www.regiongavleborg.se/en/Halsingegardar/>  
<http://worldheritagesweden.se/en/world-heritages-in-sweden/halsingegardar/>



The farmhouses of Hälsingland are a cultural heritage and an example of traditional Swedish construction technique in the old farming society in Hälsingland. The magnificent dwelling houses of the farms have become symbols of the term Hälsingland farms, although the farm as a production unit, including out buildings and land, is what constitutes a Hälsingland farm.

The Hälsingland farms reflect the rural construction techniques, using only wood, and are an expression of the popular architecture; the farmer's way of building as it evolved according to the available means. To depict a general idea of the Hälsingland farm is difficult as they vary between parishes and periods of time.

The uniqueness of these farms lie in the farmer's ambition to build big. The farms have large and elaborately decorated dwelling houses, often two or three, sometimes housing several generations, whereas some houses were used only for festivities and others for sleeping, so called "bed-cottages". Most often they were two stories, but there are also examples of one story cottages with room for two families.

The well-constructed dwelling houses, often lavishly designed with profiled roof-bases, elegantly profiled

joinery work around windows and beautifully decorated doorways, mainly represent the construction style of the 19th century, but there are also older farms with low, unpainted houses built in a square shape around the yard, as well as start-of-the-20th-century buildings with rich "carpenters joy" and large porches.

For periods of time, each parish had their own style of constructing, mainly shown in the lavish front porches and otherwise elaborate entrances. Some areas, foremost the coastal parishes, lacked front porches entirely; instead they had more costly doors and door fittings.

Inside the farms houses of Hälsingland are magnificent and well-preserved interiors with art painted on the walls, stencilled wall decorations, and expensive wallpaper. Biblical motifs were transformed into Hälsingland milieu, funny stories and cautionary tales mixed in the artwork with the decorative style of the wandering painters from Dalarna, characterized by religious motifs, ribbons and large flowers. Expensive, imported wallpaper was combined with popular painting into something entirely new, and the stencilled paintings in many places flowed onto walls, ceilings and fireplaces. The amount of well-preserved interiors kept in its original site, is unique in the world.



With the farms in Hälsingland also came a large number of out buildings, freely placed outside the courtyard. Grand barns, large log cabins, smithies, breweries, grain storage houses, stables and liveryies all give a picture of the system of many outhouses, which by the end of the 19th century was replaced by large multifunctional buildings that housed many functions under the same roof.

Often the farms of Hälsingland are connected to other buildings such as mills, water works, and summer farms, providing us with a glimpse into the culture of Hälsingland. The farms are placed in village structures of the olden days, with roots in prehistoric times, only partly changed from the original 19th century sites.

### **Erik-Anders**

Built in the 1820s and decorated in the 1850s, Erik-Anders shows a subtler decorative style than most, with more marbling and somewhat simpler patterns. Some of the walls are painted to look like mahogany. The overall effect of the figurative paintings as well as the stenciled patterns is more elegant than the other houses.

The walls here are light blue, with brown fake marbling across each. The edges have a simple pattern painted on them in a darker blue. A flowery garland in white and blue above the doorway. In the center is a



tiled furnace in a very simple floor-to-ceiling style.

Only two rooms on the ground floor saw daily use, and had clay-plastered walls for insulation. This implies that the families that lived there actually lived quite modestly, only splashing out for celebrations. The garden has been restored to what it looked like in 1920. (below)



## Gästgivars

The paintings represent a fusion of folk art with the styles favoured by the landed gentry of the time, including Baroque and Rococo. Decorated by painters, including known and unknown itinerant artists, the listed properties represent the final flowering of a long cultural tradition.



Detail above a doorway at Gästgivars. Notice the agricultural references in the corners.

## Bortom Åa

This was one of the most affluent farms in the area. When the family that owned it built a new residential house in 1910, they left the old one and its contents untouched, which makes it one of the best-preserved decorated houses of Hälsingland. The last owner gave it to the local municipality, so it is the only one of the UNESCO farmhouses that is in public hands.

Many of these farmhouses are open for tours at different times of the year for a small fee. As with any vacation, careful planning and early reservations will make for a more pleasant adventure.



## Vasa's Gifts - Prince of Peace Church



Having this chapter of VASA meet at our church is a gift in itself. We learned of their history and their many acts of generosity from our former pastor, Charles Bunnell and his wife, Beth. One of their first acts to our church was to string new lights across the patio. We had never thought of this but truly love the effect. They complimented the new benches in the patio and the rose garden.

Then last December (2020) we received an unexpected and very generous cash gift from this chapter. We were amazed! We wondered how best to use it when we had so many areas to consider. The patio fencing was deteriorating; the AC in the Fellowship Hall was completely inadequate in hot weather; the carpet in the sanctuary needed to be replaced. After some discussion we decided that new fencing would complete the patio. The gift from VASA became the cornerstone of our 2021 project. We were so grateful!

Well, my goodness, in December of 2021 another generous cash gift was received from this chapter! Council had already decided that our next property project would have to deal with the AC in the Fellowship Hall. This gift made the 2022 project feasible. Several estimates are in and Council will make a decision shortly.

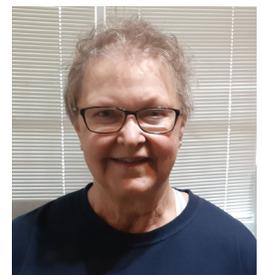
On behalf of Council and the entire church membership, I would like to thank the members of this VASA chapter who have so graciously helped with these projects. Our mission statement is as follows:

*To share with the community the love and peace of Jesus Christ*

*We are not all Lutherans who meet here nor are we all churched people. Many different groups use our property to meet here and assist in the care of their members. Some groups such as independent studios use the property for parking when filming in this area. A transport group is using part of it now to park their trucks, as the owners live nearby. All are part of our community. So whenever we make an improvement to the property everyone who gathers on this hill, benefits.*

Again, thank you and God bless you all.

Judith Lytle, Treasurer  
Prince of Peace Church



January Meeting: Photo thanks to Kerstin Wendt, Lisa and Wenche Eklund!!!



Thank you to our Dinner Hosts:  
Lisa and Weche Eklund, Linda Trowbridge, and Gertie Lindstrom

