

February 2024

Golden Valley Lodge #616

Newsletter

Happy Valentine's Day



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Our February meeting will start on a sad note. We will drape the Altar for our dear departed sister, Laila Jensen who passed away from cancer. She and her family have been activemembers of our lodge for many years, and we will miss her.

As we stated at our January meeting, we will be voting on our 2024 event at this meeting. Several of our lodge members have been working hard on gathering information and will give more details for you to consider. The choices are Las Vegas in September

(Marie Jacobs and Maggie Connelly), Laguna Art Festival in July-August (Tiffany Storch), wine tasting in Santa Ynez valley (Kerstin Wendt), Kingsburg Swedish Festival May 16,17, and 18 (Delphine) and Abba Festival April 15 (Hubert). Our Christmas Dinner and Lucia will be on December 14th.

We will welcome our new board for their first full meeting and celebrate Valentine's Day with dinner served by Linda, Jason and Cecilia. We will have the initiation of new members at our March meeting so all applications must be in at this meeting.

Delphine

If you have not paid your membership dues, they are 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

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 February/March Birthday!!!

FEBRUARY (2)

Hanna Claesson-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
Tina DeHart	22
Michel Hamaoui	22
Bernice Dreher	24
Annika Cropper	26
Lage Engblom	27
Annika Cropper	26
Lage Engblom	27

MARCH (3)

Linnea Heinstedt	1
Cecilia Brady	8
Beth Bunnell	16
Morgan Klintare	20
Valerie Olson	21
Britt-Marie Potter	22
Stig Eneberg	24
Kerstin Engblom	30
Maidie Karling	30

2024 Golden Valley Lodge Board & Service Positions

Chair: Delphine Trowbridge
Vice Chair: Jason Trowbridge
Past Chair: Maidie Karling
Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Burns
Financial Secretary: Ann-Kristin Karling
Treasurer: Birgitta Clark
Chaplain: Beth Bunnell
Master of Ceremonies: Wenche Eklund
Assistant MoC: Lucas Taylor
Cultural: Laurie Taylor
Trustee Chairman 1 yr: Kerstin Wendt
Trustee 2 yr: Maria Jacobs
Trustee 3 yr: Andrea Tabanelli
Auditor chairman 1 yr: Britt Potter
Auditor 2 yr: Ann Heinstedt
Auditor 3 yr: Linda Trowbridge
Events Co-Chair: Maggie Connelly
& Delphine Trowbridge
Scholarships: Beth Bunnell, Hubert Pitters
Financial: Hubert Pitters
Historian: Laurie Taylor
Vasa Park: Dorothy Burns, Richard Heinstedt, Linnea Heinstedt Alternative Ann-Sofi Holst
Bar: Valerie & Dylan Olson
Newsletter: Laurie Taylor
Youth Group: Cecilia Trowbridge
Vasa Star: Laurie Taylor

Ha en trevlig födelsedag!



** REMINDERS **

February 23 and 24
is our
District Convention

Culture Corner: Laponian Area, Sweden



The delta of Rapadalen, Lapland (Sweden), Sareks Nationalpark. View from Skierffe
Photo Credit: M. Klüber Fotografie Photographer: Mg-k.

A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the UNESCO. World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of significance. The sites are judged to contain “cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity”.

The Laponian Area is a vast mountainous wilderness in northern Sweden. Covering 9,400 square kilometres (3,600 sq mi), it

is the world’s largest unmodified nature area to be still cultured by the indigenous population, namely the Saami people who herd reindeer and follow annual migration paths. There are four national parks and two nature reserves in the area, which is also important for its glacial landforms and biodiversity. The adjacent area in Norway, Tysfjord, the fjord of Hellemobotn and Rago, is currently being considered for addition to the site.

The Sami National Day is an ethnic national day for the Sami people that falls on February 6.

Sweden in February

Gothenburg Film Festival, Gothenburg. The biggest film festival in the Nordic nations enlivens Gothenburg at the end of January and the beginning of February.

Jokkmokk Winter Market, Jokkmokk. In the 17th century, the Swedish crown granted the right for winter markets to be held near the indigenous Sami people’s winter settlements across Lapland. From this, Jokkmokk Market has grown to offer an array of stalls and wares, with many handicrafts produced by today’s Sami population. The market occurs at the beginning of February.

Sami National Day, Lapland. Sami communities in Arctic Sweden celebrate their national day on February 6 by singing their national anthem and raising the Sami National flag. The first time Sami National Day was celebrated was in 1993,[1] when the International Year of Indigenous People was proclaimed open in Jokkmokk, Sweden by the United Nations.

Since then, celebrating the day has become increasingly popular. In Norway it is compulsory for municipal administrative buildings to fly the Norwegian flag, and optionally also the Sami flag, on February 6. Particularly notable is the celebration in Norway’s capital Oslo, where the bells in the highest tower of Oslo City Hall play the Sami national anthem as the flags go up.[2] Some larger places have taken to arranging festivities also in the week around the Sami National Day. The National Day has been included in the almanacs published by the University of Helsinki since 2004.[3] The Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish authorities recommend general flagging on the day.[3]

Fettisdagen, nationwide. The arrival of Fat Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday) sees semlor (cardamom flavored buns stuffed with almond paste and whipped cream) filling up bakeries before Lent begins. It is delicious!

District Deputy Report, Golden Valley Lodge #616
Maggie Connelly, District Deputy GVL

One of the duties of the District Deputy is to report annually on the lodge that they represent. Following, is Maggie's report on GVL that you might only see if you were a delegate.

Golden Valley Lodge (GVL) is an active VASA Lodge with 190+ members. It awards scholarships to qualified members who meet the requirements. GVL supports worthy local charities. I have served as the GVL District Deputy (DD) since 2019. In 2023–24, I attended all of the GVL general meetings and dinners held at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Northridge, California on the 2nd Thursday of the Month. I attended the following meetings & dinners: 1/12/2023; 2/9; 3/9; 4/13; 5/11; 6/8; 9/14; 10/12; 11/9; In 2024 – 1/11/2024 & 2/8/24. And, the Christmas Julbord and Lucia on 12/16. On 7/3/2023, 30 GVL members enjoyed the Hollywood Bowl which included a Beach Boy's Concert and a member picnic.

GVL members who have served either through election or appointment to the 2023 DLPSW 15 include: Beth Bunnell, District Chaplain; Linda Trowbridge, DL15 Master of Ceremonies; Maidie Karling, DL15 Ast. Master of Ceremonies; Laurie Taylor, Webmaster; and Maggie Connelly, PDM #1. A special thanks to Laurie Taylor for providing GVL with a newsletter that infuses Swedish history & current events with local GVL news & events. At the 10/12 meeting, five delegates and two alternates were elected to the 2/24/2024, DL15 Convention at the Woodland Hills Hilton hotel.

Six scholarships were awarded at the 12/16/2023 Lucia. Most of GVL's scholarship recipients attend monthly meetings and dinners as part of their Lodge/community service. The Youth Group meets regularly. There are 20+ youth members. This summer the GVL Youth Group, chaired by Cecelia Trowbridge, spent a weekend at Catalina Island.

Golden Valley Lodge members have been active with VASA Park for many years. Many GVL youth have attended the Viking Village Children's summer camp which was held in summer 2023. Twenty-five campers participated in the program. At the park, there have been games and scavenger hunts planned by GVL members. Activities for adults and children included painting gnomes, cooking for the meatball contest and other creative activities.

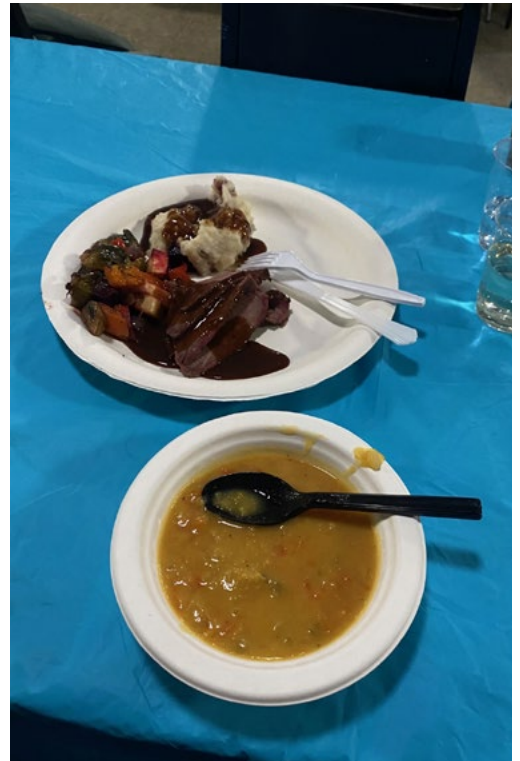
Respectfully submitted by,

Maggie Connelly, PDM #1
District Deputy to Golden Valley Lodge #616

January Meeting

Thanks to Kerstin Wendt for taking pictures!





Larry's chef and team prepared a delicious meal for us!



**There is nothing on this
earth more prized than
friendship.
Happy Valentine's Day,
my friend.**