

April 2025

Golden Valley Lodge #616

Newsletter

Glad påsk



Adèle Söderberg (1880-1915) wikimedia commons



Hello Brothers and Sisters,
For the month of April we will be doing new member initiations.
Our cooks for the evening are Mona and Andrea.
Those of you who wish to go on the Zion National Park trip must deliver a check by April 30th.
I look forward to having a great meeting with you all!

Jason

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:

Cecilia Danhi
Email: Ceciliadanhi@hotmail.com

GVL Happenings

Happy April/May Birthday!!!

APRIL (4)	
Connie Sparks	1
Natalie Mikkelsen	1
Eivor Wester	1
Nikki Taylor	5
Tommy Eneberg	6
Kristina Thorsen	11
Kerstin Wendt	13
Kate Stermer	14
Ann-Kristin Karling	14
Erik Karling	16
Jessica Santana	16
Tommy Eneberg	16
Ann-Sofi Holst	17
Rose Nilsson	17
Clinton Lien, Jr.	21
Marianne Farm-Reinholds	24
Gunilla Hamaoui	29
Nuria Lindberg	30

MAY (5)	
Roland Gustavsson	1
Rebecca Thorsen	4
Danielle Sommer	6
Anders Heinstedt	10
Kerstin Thorse	11
Margo Lockmann	11
Monty Lien	13
Lena Osman	17
Stefan Lundberg	17
Ryan Guerra	21
Kayla Santana	21
Lacey Dodd Cardenas	22
Carolyn Manley	23
Roy Olson	24
Taz Luna	24
Ernie Jurgens	27
Berit Stenhoj	31
Norma Halvorson	31
Ian Cardenas	31



2025 Golden Valley Lodge Board & Service Positions

Chair: Jason Trowbridge
 Vice Chair: Cecilia Brady
 Past Chair: Delphine Trowbridge
 Recording Secretary: Cecilia Danhi
 Assistant Secretary: Dorothy Burns
 Membership Secretary: Danielle Sommer
 Financial Secretary: Ann-Kristin Karling
 Treasurer: Bingitta Clark
 Chaplain: Beth Bunnell
 Master of Ceremonies: Stig Eneberg
 Assistant MoC: Anneli Brady
 Cultural: Laurie Taylor
 Trustee Chairman 1 yr: Kerstin Wendt
 Trustee 2 yr: Bertil Winther
 Trustee 3 yr: Delphine Trowbridge
 Auditor chairman 1 yr: Linda Trowbridge
 Auditor 2 yr: Britt Potter
 Auditor 3 yr: Wenche Eklund
 Events Co-Chair: Maggie Connelly
 & Delphine Trowbridge
 Scholarships: Hubert Pitters, Beth Bunnell
 Financial: Hubert Pitters
 Historian & Vasa Star: Laurie Taylor
 Vasa Park: Richard Heinstedt,
 Linnea Heinstedt, Dorothy Burns
 Alternate Ann-Sofi Holst
 Bar: Valerie & Dylan Olson
 Newsletter: Laurie Taylor
 Youth Group: Cecilia Trowbridge

Culture Corner - Johan Eliasch



Madeira River Amazon By Wilson Dias/ABr - Agência Brasil, CC BY 3.0 br; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2379574>

In 2005, Swedish-British multi-millionaire, Johan Eliasch created the Rainforest Trust and purchased for preservation purposes a 400,000-acre (1,600 km²) rainforest area in the heart of the Amazon rainforest near the Madeira River. He gave generous severance packages to the workers that were laid off when he then closed down the rainforest logging operations in that area.

In 2006, he co-founded Cool Earth, a charity he co-chairs, which sponsors local NGOs to conserve endangered rainforest and has over 120,000 registered members.

Under Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Eliasch served as the Prime Minister's special representative for deforestation and clean energy. In 2007 he was commissioned by HM Government to undertake an independent review on the role of international finance mechanisms to preserve the global forests in tackling climate change, The Eliasch Review, which was

launched in October 2008. The Eliasch Review has served as a guideline for REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) as part of the international climate change convention.

Eliasch is currently a director of the Foundation for Renewable Energy and Environment, a non-profit, international organisation, an advisory board member for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Polar Regions, and Brasilinvest. He is an advisory board member of the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative and previously served on the International Advisory Board of the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

He chaired the 2021–22 HM Treasury net zero review technology and innovation advisory group, RUSI's Food, Energy and Water security program, and was a member of the DEFRA Council for Sustainable Business.

The De Hogeweyk



Keeping the doors open, having fresh air and encouraging people to leave their rooms and participate in daily life keeps residents in better physical and mental condition.

De Hogeweyk, operated by nursing home Hogewey, is a gated model village in Weesp, Netherlands. It has been designed specifically as a pioneering care facility for elderly people with dementia. The benefit of using all-day reminiscence therapy at Hogewey, compared to traditional nursing homes, is that the residents with dementia are more active and require less medication.

Facility Layout

The Hogewey complex is set out like a village with a town square, supermarket, hairdressing salon, theatre, pub, café-restaurant—as well as the twenty-three houses themselves. In 2018 four houses were added to The Hogeweyk. Each house reflects a style that is common to, and familiar for, the six or seven people who live in that house. The seven settings provided are:

- Stedelijk*, for those used to living in an urban area
- Goois*, with an aristocratic Dutch feel
- Ambachtelijk* for those used to working as trades people or craftsmen/women
- Indisch* for those with an association with Indonesia and the former Dutch East Indies
- Huiselijk* for homemakers
- Cultureel* for those brought up with theatre and cinema
- Christelijk* for those with a central religious aspect to life, whether Christian or another religion.

The doctors, nurses and carers aim to make the experience as real as possible to the residents. Residents shop at the supermarket and assist with preparing and cooking as they would at home. The carers wear normal daytime clothing rather than clinical clothing and fit into a role that the people living with dementia are likely to be comfortable with; in the working class households the carers are seen to be neighbours or friends, while in the aristocratic/upper class setting, the nurses act akin to servants. The living styles have different types of music playing, significantly varied interior design, food and methods of table setting. Residents in each house have their own large bedroom and meet with other residents to share the living room, kitchen and dining room. The village employs 250 staff.

The institute has made place for normality and highly trained staff support the residents; if residents are confused they have various methods to make them feel at ease. However, the staff will not deceive the patients if directly asked, truthfully stating that the residents are in a place where they can receive required care for their condition. Because of the nature of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, the residents can remember the distant past but not the present, so even truthful answers given by the staff will be forgotten quickly

The first ideas for the village came about in 1992, from the management team (including Yvonne van Amerongen,



The De Hogeweyk dementia village is viewed internationally as a hallmark of innovation in residential care of people living with dementia

Jannette Spiering, e.o) at the traditional nursing home Hogewey after discussing how if their parents became affected by Alzheimer's in the future, they would not want them to endure hospital-like care. After a series of research and brainstorming sessions in 1993, the outcome was that normality should prevail in all kind of aspect of nursing home care. This vision was called "normalized small scale living for people with dementia". One of the aspects was that they decided that people generally prefer to surround and interact with other like-minded people of similar backgrounds and experiences. The arrangement at Hogewey provides this by ensuring that residents with similar backgrounds, norms and values continue to live closely together.

acres of land. It consists of low two-story brick buildings, and amenities such as a supermarket and theatre. Construction of the new Hogeweyk facilities cost €19.3 million and was funded primarily by the Dutch government providing €17.8 million, plus €1.5 million in funding and sponsorship from local organisations.

The café-restaurant is also open to the public and the theater is hired by local businesses, both of which help with running costs. The cost per resident is similar to more traditional nursing homes at around €5,000 per month





New District 15 Board - Pictures provided by Maggie, photo credit: Mindy Borisenko

110th Convention of Vasa District Lodge #15

by Bertil A. Winther

Shortly after the 2024 District Convention at Hilton in Woodland Hills, District Master Jon Vikander asked me to chair the 2025 convention committee. Cost was an important issue - some of our members were opposed to annual conventions because of the steadily increasing expense. I understood that there would be controversy - it would not be an easy job. However, after much trepidation I accepted. The first order of business was to solicit cost proposals from suitable venues. Four hotels located in Los Angeles County and Orange County submitted bids that were more or less in line with our contract from 2023 but too costly in my opinion. I discussed the problem with Birgitta Roodsari, our Grand Lodge Deputy, who advised me to contact Palm Garden Hotel in Thousand Oaks. I had stayed a couple of nights at that hotel six years earlier and appreciated its amenities. Soon I learned that the hotel had undergone a recent remodeling and that Ventura County had a relatively low sales tax, 7.25 %. Palm Garden submitted the lowest and most attractive bid - the service charge was 20 % while my other bidders had 25 %. The cost of a room-night at competing hotels were nearly 50 % higher when parking fees were included. Palm Garden Hotel had free parking and their offer included a free breakfast. It became my recommended choice.

Our District Executive Board met on May 29th 2024 and voted by a narrow margin to go along with my recommendation but insisted on a further reduction in cost. It was decided to limit the duration of our event to two business days and one night at the hotel. The proposed reception party in the evening of February 21st was eliminated – i.e., the convention would open in the morning of February 22nd and finish in the after-

noon of February 23rd 2025. The re-negotiated contract with Palm Garden Hotel was signed by me on June 3rd and a few days later by Jon Vikander and District Treasurer Kathryn Martin. At this juncture, District Auditor Kin Lindgren was appointed Vice Chairman of the committee and Birgitta Roodsari volunteered to serve as advisor/consultant. Later in the process, Sonia Lent from Skandia Lodge became a valued member of the team.

The next order of business was writing letters and visiting local lodges to ask for contributions, i.e., work assignments as well as cash. This campaign eventually resulted in cash donations of nearly \$9,000 from four of our most prosperous Lodges: Golden Valley, Mayflower, Skandia and North Star. These and other local Lodges also accepted various assignments. Skandia, for example, prepared and mailed invitations to all members of our District. Desert Viking managed the Host Raffle. Oak Leaf made table decorations as well as name badges for our conventioners. Flowers for the altar and head table were supplied by North Star and Golden Valley. Our District Youth Leader Ann Heinstedt and Jason Trowbridge (District EBM) provided sound & video system support. District Secretary Linda Kosvic and District MC Maidie Karling organized two fundraising campaigns in Vasa Park. In connection with these two events, I noticed that Jana Gasior (District EBM) had a special talent for making sales and for contacting suppliers. Therefore, I asked her to prepare swag bags that traditionally are handed out to conventioners who pay the registration fee (payment is obligatory for voting members). This year, the value of swag bag and its content exceeded \$100. These gifts became a much-appreciated

(District Convention Continued)

aspect of our convention.

Traditionally we invite some current and past Grand Lodge officers as well as two officers from each of our neighboring Districts. I prepared personal letters and sent them by regular mail to 14 of these invited guests. Six of them (Vice Grand Master Tom Cleveland with his wife Susan from the Chicago area, Western Region Executive John Erickson from Washington State, Past Grand Master Tore Kellgren with his wife Birgitta from the Sacramento area and District Master Sven-Ove Westberg from the Golden Gate District) accepted their invitations and attended our convention. The remaining eight invited guests responded with regrets. In addition, I sent personal letters of invitation to nine members of our own District. They included our District Photographers, Joan Johnson and Melinda Borisenko as well as Honorary Life Member Bob Solt and Scholarship Chairman Jennifer Weisbart-Moreno. All of them except Bob Solt attended our convention. I received a nice letter of regrets from Bob's wife, Nel Solt. Also at this time, I signed a contract with Matt Beaumont to provide dance music at our Saturday evening banquet and hired Sandra Pehrsson to perform at our Memorial Service on February 23rd. District Chaplain Beth Bunell was in charge of organizing the Memorial Service. It became a very sentimental event where we honored members who had passed away since our previous convention. Manilla Nordanstig, Senior Pastor from the Swedish Church in San Pedro, gave us a much-appreciated sermon based on the word "peace" and its corresponding gesture in SSL (Swedish Sign Language). I expected that some of our conventioners, especially those who do not live in California, would arrive early. Therefore, I decided to arrange a pre-convention welcome dinner on Friday evening. It was held at the Original Pizza Cookery in Thousand Oaks. To my surprise, about 30 people came to this no-host event. We had a lot of fun and good food. The restaurant had a full menu, besides pizza of course.

The convention started at 10 am on February 22nd. It was a beautiful Saturday morning. I had the great pleasure of welcoming everyone to our 110th District convention. After a short greeting, I turned the gavel over to Birgitta Roodsari who, assisted by PDM Gunlog Spaberg, conducted the flag ceremony. The national flags of the US, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway were followed by the Vasa banner and posted at the podium. Each flag posting was accompanied by playing of the associated anthem as recorded by the US Navy Marching Band. Following the flag ceremony, I relinquished the podium to District Master Jon Vikander who officially opened the convention and proceeded to

introduce our District Officers. Delegates who hadn't served as District #15 delegates before were sworn in by Vice District Master Michael Lent. The chaplain's message was read by Beth Bunnell. Mary Wright, chairman of Credential Committee, reported that 51 voters were present. New Business was next on the agenda. It included debating and voting on a great number of motions as well as election of new District officers. Because minutes of the business session will appear elsewhere, it is sufficient here to report that Jon Vikander declined re-election. Moreover, prior to the convention, Michael Lent had declined to become a candidate for the highest office. Upon recommendations by the Nominations Committee, Ingemar Hulthage was elected District Master and Michael Lent was re-elected Vice District Master.

In mid-October, I had submitted the initial convention budget to our District Board of Directors. It was based on statistics from earlier District conventions. I expected 20 invited guests, 22 District Officers, 27 delegates and 28 other guests, i.e., a total of 97 conventioners. If all 97 had attended every event (including meals) the total hotel cost would be \$15,983. The actual number of conventioners turned out to be 94 but all were not expected to attend every event. In the budget approved by our District Board, the projected hotel cost was \$14,736. However, the number of attendees at each event turned out to be much less than 94 – only 57 signed up for Saturday lunch, the banquet attracted 77 diners and 69 came to Sunday's luncheon. As a consequence, the final hotel bill landed at \$12,431 – that is \$2,305 below budget.

The hotel charge is by far the greatest expense of our convention. Examples of additional expenses are compensation to our banquet DJ and cost of printing the convention book that was put together by our District Secretary Linda Kosvic. I predict that expenses will total a little over \$15,000. On the other side of the accounting ledger my budget showed an income of \$17,884 but the actual income will most likely exceed \$20,000. Final numbers will appear in the financial report by Kathryn Martin (District Treasurer). Our District Lodge probably will make a nice little profit of \$5,000 from its 110th convention.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all who contributed to the success of our convention. Please, forgive me if names were misspelled or if I forgot to give appropriate credit to deserving person(s).



MARIA JACOBS

1941 - 2025

Born Maria Pettersson in Luliå, Sweden on August 8, 1941. She was very athletic and won several cross-country skiing medals. She immigrated to the United States in 1960, where she met and married her husband, Simmy Jacobs in 1965. (While trying to learn more about Maria, Cecilia Danhi found her husband's online eulogy page. Some of it will be included here.) They were a very loving couple - which probably accounts for some of her kindness.

JACOBS, Simson "Simmy" B June 20, 1913 - Dec. 31, 2006 Simmy was born on Coney Island in 1913 and for some years his father's business took them to California where they lived on the Venice Canal until 1919. Following his move from New York, Simmy worked at various race tracks in California. For 25 years they owned, bred, and raced 33 racehorses and were very involved with the Kentucky Derby, Santa Anita, Del Mar, and Hollywood Park. It was a passion to them both.

Friends were very special to Simmy and Maria -- friendships were made near and far in their travels.

Maria was the Director of Sales Compensation at Blue Cross where she worked for 41 years.

She joined Golden Valley Lodge in October 1997. She held several positions including Trustee and Scholarship Committee.

Maria passed away in February of 2025 - survived by her two younger brothers in Sweden, Lennart and Ulf Pettersson. No one can describe Maria without saying how kind, loving, and generous she was.

