

February 2026

Golden Valley Lodge #616

Newsletter



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

February is the month of Love as in Valentine's Day. We will be having a wonderful dinner presented by Beth and Chuck Bunnell and decoration by Cecilia Trowbridge.

celebration probably in October. Details next month. We also set a date for our Christmas Dinner and Lucia, December 12th so mark your calendars.

Our 2026 event will be a Dinner Cruise, and it will be combined with our 80th Anniversary

See you Thursday.

Jason

If you have not paid your membership dues, they are due. 2026 rate is \$35
Questions? Ask:
akarling20@yahoo.com

Please send your checks to:
Ann-Kristin Karling
as listed in the directory,
or bring to a meeting

Reimbursement for an expense:

Cecilia Danhi
Email: Cecilidadanhi@hotmail.com

GVL Happenings

February and March 2026 Birthdays!!

FEBRUARY (2)

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
Anna Maj Lis Aasa	13
Tyler Holstein	17
Melissa Steffen-Coombes	19
Keri Mikkelsen	21
Michel Hamaoui	22
Annika Cropper	26
Lage Engblom	27



MARCH (3)

Linnea Heinstedt	1
Lois Halvorson	3
Cecilia Brady	8
Jack Storch	11
Beth Bunnell	16
Morgan Klintare	20
Sara Buck	21
Valerie Olson	21
Britt-Marie Potter	22
Stig Eneberg	24
Kerstin Engblom	30
Maidie Karling	30



2026 Golden Valley Lodge Board & Service Positions

Chair: Jason Trowbridge
 Vice Chair: Cecilia Brady
 Past Chair: Delphine Trowbridge
 Recording Secretary: Cecilia Danhi
 Assistant Secretary: Jennifer Norman Lund
 Membership Secretary: Jana Gasior
 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: Bertil Winther
 Trustee 2 yr: Delphine Trowbridge
 Trustee 3 yr: Kerstin Wendt
 Auditor chairman 1 yr: Britt Potter
 Auditor 2 yr: Wenche Eklund
 Auditor 3 yr: Linda Trowbridge
 Events Co-Chair: Maggie Connelly & Delphine Trowbridge
 Scholarships: Hubert Pitters, Beth Bunnell, Gunilla Thelin, Wenche Eklund, Britt-Marie Potter
 Financial: Hubert Pitters
 Newsletter, Historian & Vasa Star: Laurie Taylor
 Vasa Park: Richard Heinstedt, Linnea Heinstedt, Dorothy Burns
 Alternate Ann-Sofi Holst
 Bar: Valerie & Dylan Olson
 Youth Group: Cecilia Trowbridge

Cover Picture - The Border Between Sweden and Finland

Victoria square, finished in 2011, is a shared marketplace of Tornio and Haparanda cities. The square is named after Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden who also inaugurated the square. Victoria square is an extraordinary place even by global standards, for marketplaces located on the border are quite uncommon. In the Nordic countries Victoria square is the only one of its kind and only a couple of counterparts can be found from Europe.

This landmark of co-operation is situated on the Swedish-Finnish border next to rajalla shopping center. The borderline is marked with the stream flowing through the square. Children have helped to design the rest of the square.

<https://haparandatomio.com/service/victoriantori-victoriatorget/>

Cultural Corner – Province of Skåne - Sweden



The Öresunds

Credits: Per Pixel Petersson/imagebank.sweden.se

Submitted by Maidie Karling

Skåne is the most southern of the provinces in Sweden, next to Blekinge on its east side. It borders the Baltic Sea on the East and Kattegatt on the West side.

Skåne once belonged to Denmark, but became Swedish in 1720 after a war against Denmark that was won by the Swedes. The Öresunds bron (bridge) began construction in 1995 and was completed on July 1, 2000. It is being used by both cars and trains as an important connection with Denmark and Sweden.

Skåne features fertile plains and some forest. This province have more Castles than any other province in Sweden. Some of them are privately owned.

Malmö is the main city in Skåne. Other important cities are Helsingborg, Lund and Kristianstad.

Malmö is the third largest city in Sweden. It is famous for its Turning Torso skyscraper. A tall building that looks like a corkscrew. Malmöhus is a famous Castle from the 16th

century. It is a fortress and a museum currently. This is a very bike-friendly city.

Lund is one of the country's oldest cities (founded c. 990). In Lund you have the prestigious Lund University which was founded in 1666. Here many of the streets still have cobblestone. Lund Cathedral is a place to visit which features a 15th-century astronomical clock.

Helsingborg is a scenic coastal city and is located at the narrowest point of the Öresund strait. It takes less than 30 minutes to cross with the ferry over to Helsingör located in Denmark. Sofiero Castle and Gardens is a stunning place to visit with beautiful views. Kärnan is a midieval tower which offer panoramic views of the city and the strait.

Other Castles to visit in Skåne are Skarhult Castle, Hovdala Castle, The Normans Castle, Bosjökloster, Svaneholm Castle, Trolldenäs Castle, Backeskog Castle, and Elilinge Castle. All of these are open for visitation, and some of them have over-night accommodation and restaurants.

Dutch Engineers construct huge vacuum to clean the ocean of plastic



The system was designed to clean the world's largest trash zone.

Dutch engineers have deployed a massive floating cleanup system designed to collect plastic waste from the Pacific Ocean. The project operates inside the Great Pacific Garbage Patch,

where ocean currents trap debris for years.

The system guides floating plastic toward a central collection point where it is removed, sorted, and prepared for recycling. Supporters say removing large debris early helps prevent further breakdown into microplastics.

January Meeting Pictures

Thank you to Kerstin Wendt for the photography!

