

April 2026

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



At Easter Swedes get together with their families. They celebrate by painting eggs and eating traditional Easter food like eggs, fowl, fish, and lamb. Children receive cardboard Easter eggs filled with candy and dress up as colorful Easter witches.

Credits: Lena Granefelt/imagebank.sweden.se



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are looking forward to our spring weather. We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter. Our new members, Ron and Margo Lockmann, will be our hosts for our meeting. We will also have initiations for new members.

Our 80th anniversary is November and we will be celebrating at the Queen Mary this fall. More details at our meeting. 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: Ceciliadanhi@hotmail.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

April & May 2026 Birthdays!!

APRIL (4)

Natalie Mikkelsen	1
Eivor Wester	1
Nikki Gomes	5
Sami Salo	5
Tommy Eneberg	6
Kristina Thorsen	11
Kerstin Wendt	13
Ann-Kristin Karling	14
Kate Stermer	4
Erik Karling	16
Jessica Santana	16
Ann-Sofi Holst	17
Clinton Lien Jr.	21
Marianne Farm-Reinholds	24
Gunilla Hamaoui	29
Nuria Lundberg	30

MAY (5)

Roland Gustavsson	1
Rebecca Thorsen	4
Danielle Sommer	8
Anders Heinstedt	10
Kerstin Thorsen	11
Carter Lien	13
Lena Osman	17
Stefan Lundberg	17
Kayla Santana	21
Lacey Dodd Cardenas	22
Elizabeth Wubker	22
Carolyn Manley	23
Taz Luna	24
Roy Olson	24
Ernie Jurgens	27
Ian Cardenas	31
Berit Stenhoj	31
Norma Halvorson	31

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: Birgitta 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

Easter witches

For some Swedish kids, the days leading up to Easter Sunday are similar to Halloween. They get to dress up as Easter 'witches' and go around their neighborhood doors, trading handmade paintings, homemade Easter cards, and drawings for sweet treats!

Cultural Corner - PROVINCE OF SMÅLAND

Submitted by Maidie Karling, District Cultural Leader



Astrid Lindgren's World is a theme park located in Astrid Lindgren's native city Vimmerby. In its 180,000 square metres, visitors meet all the beloved characters from books by Astrid Lindgren. All the environments are built as described in the books.

Credits:

Per Pixel Petersson/imagebank.sweden.se

Småland has a rich Swedish history. It is known for its deep forests and rocky soil. People here used to be skilled farmers, carpenters, and inventors. Wandering or driving through the heart of Småland feels like entering a storybook. With its classic red cottages, lush apple trees, hand-built wooden fences, and timeless rural charm.

If you go back 100 to 150 years, most fences were then made of rocks. You can still find many such along the way. This was due to that Småland land had lots of rocks and when the farmers plowed and came to a rock, they removed it, placed it to the side and on top of each other around the fields.

Småland is the birthplace of IKEA. This name stands for Ingvar Kamprad, Elmtaryd, Agunnaryd. His name and where he came from.

Astrid Lindgren creator of Pippi Långstrump (Pippi Longstocking) and many more famous books was born in Småland. If you are in Småland, drive to Vimmerby and visit "Astrid Lindgren's World" a wonderful amusement park. They have Live Theatre, Character Encounters, Play Areas for children, Immersive Settings and Authentic Experiences.

JÖNKÖPING is sitting on the southern edge of Lake Vättern, the second largest lake in Sweden. The city has a unique collection of museums – such as the Match Museum and Jönköpings Läns Museum where you can visit exhibitions

about the painter John Bauer. Don't miss Husqvarna Museum featuring royal weapons, motorcycles etc. The city of Husqvarna is just next to Jönköping.

KALMAR is located next to the Baltic Sea on the east. This seaside city is awash in history, with its 16th century Kalmar Castle, complete with moat. There are many wonderful restaurants, and cozy cafes. (I can recommend Kalmar as I was there last summer. You should walk through the park to the Castle. It is an experience).

VÄXJÖ is a small metropolitan city in the heart of Småland. Located a little over an hour by train inland from Kalmar. (It took me a little longer by car). In Växjö you will find the House of Emigrants with stories of the great emigration to America. There is a section in this museum about Vasa Order of America. Don't miss it. One other museum you might visit is Sweden's Glass Museum. There are as well numerous Glass Factories in Småland.

GRÄNNA is located on east side of Lake Vättern about an hour car ride from Jönköping. This is where you can find the world famous (Polkagris karameller). These are the red and white striped peppermint candies.

SMÅLAND has soooo much more to offer. If you visit there, make your research in order not to miss anything.

March Meeting

