

April 2016

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### SCANDINAVIAN SPRING PICNIC & MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

May 1, 2016, 10am-4pm

At our beautiful Vasa Park in Agoura. This event includes the 4th Annual Swedish Car Show.

For information, contact Kristine Hofve at 310-796-6026

### VIKING VILLAGE

June 26th - July 1, 2016: A camp for children and grandchildren of VASA Order of America members ages 8-14 years old.

For information, e-mail: [ann@vasapark.org](mailto:ann@vasapark.org) or call 661.297.3507 (Vasa Members only)

### MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 26, 2016

Raising of the Maypole, Dancing, Singing, Children's Games Pool/Waterslide.

Introduction of the 2016 Midsummer Queen and her Court.

For information, contact LeRoy Anderson at 562-923-5828

### AUTUMNFEST AND MARKNAD

September 18, 2016

Come and enjoy our Pool/Waterslide, Petting Zoo, Children's Games, Folk Dancing, Singing, etc.

For information, contact Linda Kosvic at 951-654-8396

**Next meeting: Thursday, April 14, 2016**

# GVL Happenings

## Buffet Buzz:

Dinner for our April meeting will be served by Sylva Pitters, Rut Eneberg, and Sonja Andonian.



*Dinner hosts from March: Kristina and Chase - and family!*



*You CAN get good help these days!*

*Tastes as good as it looks!*

*Dessert was terrific too!*

## Happy April Birthday!



Natalie Mikkelsen	1st	Jessica Santana	16th
Eivor Wester	1st	Lars Jonasson	20th
Nicolette Taylor *	5th	CJ Lien *	21st
Barbro Granath	5th	Marianne Farm-Reinholds	24th
Tommy Eneberg	6th	Gunilla Hamaoui	29th
Kristina Thorsen	11th	Bonnie Fornander	30th
Kerstin Wendt	13th	* Qualifies for Youth Group	
Erika Bosley	13th		
Ann-Kristin Karling	14th		
Erik Karling	16th		
Rebecca Mikkelsen *	16th		

If you have any pictures or stories to share, please send them to [laurietaylor@hotmail.com](mailto:laurietaylor@hotmail.com)!

# Our Last Meeting



*Four generations of Swedish beauties!*



# Culture Corner: Call A Random Swede

The evening news had an interesting story involving Sweden, so I looked it up online and found this top story from NPR.

## Call A Random Swede? We Tried It Out April 7, 2016 LAURA WAGNER

The Swedish Number project was launched to connect people from different countries and foster a curiosity about Sweden. Sweden got its own phone number and invited the world to call.

As a way to “spark people’s curiosity about Sweden” and foster communication between people from different countries, Sweden’s tourism association launched “The Swedish Number,” a project that connects anyone in the world with a phone to a random Swede. Swedes participate by downloading an app that patches the calls through to them.

The premise is simple: 1) Call Sweden’s phone number — keep in mind it’s international; 2) Chat with a Swede about anything you want — suggested topics include meatballs, darkness and feminism.

Even though it was nearing midnight in Sweden, this blogger gave it a try.

A few rings, and then, “Hello?”

I reached 19-year-old Artur Söderlund, a teacher who lives on the island of Gotland in the middle of the Baltic Sea. If calling up a stranger on the other side of the world at midnight sounds awkward, that’s because it is. I stumbled through introductions before getting down to business.

Swedish meatballs — does everyone love them?

“Yes, of course,” he said earnestly.

Dealing with extra darkness in the winter?

“You have to think of how long Sweden is,” he said. “The darkness during winter is a problem for the people in the north, but in the south we don’t have that really dark extreme.”



The Swedish Number project was launched to connect people from different countries and foster a curiosity about Sweden.  
NPR By Screen Shot: The Swedish Number

Swedish feminism? (The country distributed copies of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s feminist manifesto, “We Should All Be Feminists,” to every 16-year-old student in the country.)

“I think overall it’s quite good,” Söderlund said. “But many of the feminists today are quite radical and say things like, ‘all men are pigs.’ And such comments I disagree with.”

With the suggested basics covered, I ventured a question about my own personal favorite aspect of Swedish life: Fika, which is basically a mandatory snack time when people socialize over coffee and pastries. I knew many foreigners like myself harbored a special fondness for the custom — was it as highly valued by Swedes?

“Yes, fika. It’s a great part of our culture. It keeps us together in a way,” he said, explaining that it’s different from, say, English teatime in that fika breaks are an integral part of the paid workday.

Söderlund told me I was his 10th call of the day and that he’d spoken with people from Turkey, Belgium, Finland and Egypt. According to The Swedish Number website, most of the calls so far have come from Turkey and the U.S., with the U.K., Russia and Germany rounding out the top-five.

Since it was launched on Wednesday, nearly 10,000 calls have been connected to random Swedes.

“I think it’s positive for people to easily get to the

*Culture Corner Call A Random Swede  
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information about this wonderful country,” Söderlund said.

In all, the conversation was lovely, especially compared to a reporter who got someone who didn't speak English, and another reporter who got a foul-mouthed Swede who evidently supports Donald Trump.

Have you called Sweden? Let us know how it went!

## District News

The Spring Picnic is upcoming! May 1, 2016 from 10am-4pm should prove to be another **beautiful** day at Vasa Park. It is also our Member Appreciation Day, so be sure to bring the tickets you will be receiving in the mail.

**Golden Valley Lodge, #616**  
**Vasa Order of America**  
c/o

## Anders Heinstedt is a Fireman!

