

May 2016

# Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter

## Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's hold their children's hands for  
a while, but their hearts *forever*.

### Upcoming Events

#### 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

#### VIKING VILLAGE

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

For information, contact Ann Heinstedt at e-mail:

[ann@vasapark.org](mailto:ann@vasapark.org) or call 661.297.3507 (Vasa Members only)

#### 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, May 12, 2016**

Designed by  
Lembrik -  
Freepik.com

# GVL Happenings



## Buffet Buzz:

It was a delicious dinner provided by Sonia & Gary Andonian, Rut Eneberg, and Sylva & Hubert Pitters. From the dinner to the dessert - it was a delight.

The next meeting's dinner will be provided by Ruzenka di Benadetto, Delphine and Cecilia Trowbridge. I heard they have something good planned. You will just have to show up to find out what it is!



## Happy May Birthday!

Rebecca Thorsen *	4th
Anders Heinstedt	10th
Kerstin Thorsen	11th
Lena Osman	17th
Roy Olson	24th
Amanda Polutanovich	29th
Berit Stenhoj	31st

\* Denotes this is a Golden Valley Youth

## Some News From Our District Submitted by Bertil

### District #12 Convention in Visalia

This was another great convention. Besides me, the following members from our District attended the Golden Gate convention: Susan Premo, Peter Lindgren, Gary Spaberg and Gunlög Spaberg. All five of us were greeted and introduced on the convention floor by District Master Michael Peterson. Our GLD Susan, DM Peter and I were seated on the podium. During the meeting we learned that planning for the 2018 Grand Lodge convention is in full swing. That convention is scheduled for June 2018 at Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento. In 2017 the Golden Gate District convention also will be held in Sacramento at the same hotel.

On Friday afternoon I attended the District #12 Executive Board meeting as an observer. It wasn't much different from any of our business meetings - equally chaotic. ;) On Friday night all of us from District #15 attended the District Master's reception. I enjoyed very much the hors d'oeuvres as well as an excellent song-and-dance performance by youngsters from District #12. It would be great if we could have a group like that in our District. I wasn't equally impressed, however, by the banquet on Saturday night even though the food was good. The corresponding event at our District convention in February was better - as was last year's District #12 banquet in Stockton.

*(Continued on next page)*

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

Another observation was that our scholarship program is superior to theirs and much better funded.

At the business portion of the convention a lot of attention was paid to last year's membership challenge – more about that in the next section. Dr. Scott Schulkin was elected District Master and gave a speech in which he promised revenge or, at least, that his District will do better next year. His wife was elected District Membership Chairperson. Their son, also named Scott, was elected District Outer Guard.

## District Membership Challenge 2015

Last year, as District Master of Pacific Southwest #15, I challenged our neighboring Vasa-district, Golden Gate #12, to a friendly membership contest. I'm happy to report that we won. The result was certified by Grand Secretary Joanie Graham and announced at the convention by Susan Premo. In accordance with competition rules our District obtained custody of the perpetual trophy which now includes an engraved mini plaque commemorating our win. The cost of engraving was defrayed by the losing District, Golden Gate #12. Our intent is to continue the challenge for another 16 years until the trophy is retired in 2032. At that time it will be awarded permanently to the District with the highest number of winning years.

At the start of 2015 our District had 855 members vs. 883 for District #12. During the year we initiated 113 new Vasa-members while our competitors registered 51. As a consequence we surpassed them in the membership count and ended 2015 with 860 members vs. 852 for Golden Gate District #12.

Our membership gain would have been considerably higher if we hadn't lost two of our Lodges, Baltic and Nordic Heritage, which together represented about 40 people. This loss was ameliorated, however, by the fact that nearly half of the members in the disbanded organizations were transferred to other Lodges within our District. Our result also was helped by the institution of a new Lodge in Bakersfield. At the end of 2015 we had 13 local Lodges in our District vs. 14 (unchanged) for our competitors. Both Districts had nearly the same number of deceased members, 24 in our District vs. 23 in the Golden Gate District.

Among local Lodges in our District the greatest percentage gain was recorded by Oak Leaf with a net increase of 19 people, corresponding to 37 percent. In absolute numbers Golden Valley was the most successful with a net gain of 25 (18 percent). Third place was claimed by Kern River, the new Lodge in Bakersfield, ending up with 15 members. Here the percentage gain couldn't be computed since the Lodge was nonexistent when the year began. Mayflower also had a good gain (9 people or 7 percent).

For the future existence of our Order it is important that we recruit new members, especially younger members who are willing to assume responsibility for governing the organization at various levels. I believe the current competition will benefit our two California districts immensely - it provokes us all to work harder on member retention and recruitment. I can assure you that the Golden Gate delegates uniformly wanted revenge for last year's loss (at least the ones I spoke to). It will not be easy for our District to retain custody of the challenge trophy.



In late April 2016, Draken Harald Hårfagre, the world's largest viking ship built in modern times, left her home port in Haugesund, Norway and sailed off for a challenging voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean.

The aim is to explore and relive one of the most mythological sea voyages – the first transatlantic crossing, and the Viking discovery of the New World, more than a thousand years ago. History tells us about the Viking explorer, Leif Eriksson, who discovered America over 500 years before Christopher Columbus.

The expedition is all about exploring the world, just like the Vikings did.

The project will, like Leif Eriksson, create intercultural meetings and inspire people to go beyond the horizon in a modern Viking saga. Along the traditional route, the ship will pass Viking settlements and new archaeological findings.

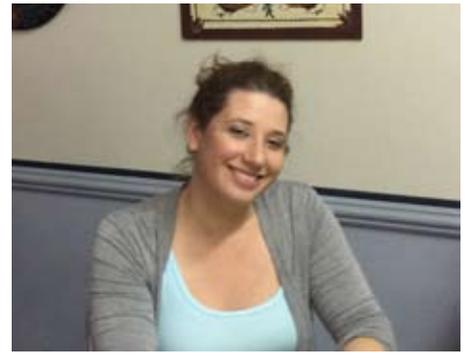
Reaching the American continent, Expedition America 2016 will sail on visiting ports in Canada and USA.

**To follow the journey and get more information, go to**

<http://www.drakenexpeditionamerica.com/about-draken-harald-harfagre/expedition-america-2016/>

<http://www.drakenexpeditionamerica.com/>

# April 2016 Meeting



The Kindig family led us dancing!

