

# Happy Valentine's Day



## Golden Valley News for February 2010

### Chairman's Message

We had a good turn-out at the January meeting – no winter blahs here. Actually, I'm convinced that most residents of Southern California are immune to that seasonal disorder – and especially so if they belong to the Golden Valley Lodge. Speaking of immunity – did you folks get your Swine Flu shot yet? I had mine this afternoon and got an immediate urge to pig out at a restaurant across the street. I hope my reaction to the vaccine doesn't get any worse. 😊

At the next meeting we all have an occasion to pig out. I am told that this month's talented kitchen team (which includes Lillemo Possecker, Gunvor Sabo and Yvonne & Stig Klintare) will whip up a feast consisting of lasagna with garlic bread and salad. Also, I gather we'll get raspberry pie for dessert - this little piggy can hardly wait (oink, oink).

On a more serious note, let's remind ourselves that, as members of the Vasa Order, we have a higher purpose than sitting down for dinner – it is to preserve Swedish culture and to share our values with fellow Americans. To meet this goal, a great number of activities need to be discussed and planned during the business portion of our monthly membership meetings.

At our February 11 meeting, however, and in contrast to the one held in January, there are only a few subjects on the agenda. I am sure we will finish deliberations much sooner this time. One important subject is this year's District Convention in Woodland Hills, scheduled for February 26–28. At the meeting in January, five delegates were elected to represent our Lodge. Of course, all of our members are welcome to attend but only delegates are allowed to vote at the proceedings. The Convention gives you a chance to meet members from many of our sister lodges and, if you attend the sessions, you will get a good feel for what the Vasa Order is all about. Our

Lodge is hosting the Welcome Reception on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> and we need volunteers for this. Please, contact Maria Jacobs to offer your help with the cocktail party. If you plan on coming to the banquet on Saturday evening or to the luncheon on Sunday afternoon, you need to contact Wayne Pierson for tickets at phone number (760) 365-4886 on or before February 10.

You may recall that we discussed the annual Åke Boschen excursion at the January meeting. We chose to go to the Santa Anita Race Track on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Maidie is in charge of reservations and she informs me that a few additional members can be accommodated, even though the reservation deadline has passed. If you wish to go, you need to send her a check for \$56 as soon as possible. If she gets more than a handful of late-comers, there is no guarantee that she can have tickets for them all.

We received five new membership applications at the January meeting. Two of these were for dual members of the Thule Lodge (#467) in Glendale. This Lodge will cease operations soon and I hope that their members then will join our Lodge. We will have an initiation ceremony for new members at our meeting on March 11.

As we gain new members, it is important that we make them feel welcome. I am going to suggest that we create a "Welcoming Committee" with the expressed purpose to greet all newcomers and introduce them to fellow members. I have been told that the Lodge once had a committee like that (it must have been before I joined).

Our next meeting starts at 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 11, three days before Valentine's Day. I look forward to seeing you all again.

In Truth and Unity,

Bertil

#### Flower March and Lottery News

For the entire year of 2009 we received donations of \$500.34 in the flower fund. The cost of flowers and other gifts, sent to members on the sick list, amounted to \$386.85 so we ended up with a 22.7% surplus in that account.

During the year we sold lottery tickets for \$1,034. Our lucky winners collected \$507 from the raffle drawings and \$250 as a result of the capsule drawings. At the Christmas party we took in \$186 on lottery ticket sales and, since the prizes were donated by our generous members, that event alone accounted for a significant portion of the surplus in 2009. During the year, \$250 was transferred to the GVL treasury and a balance of \$402.77 was carried forward to 2010. If you do the math correctly, you'll find that we started 2009 with \$262.28 in the purse and that the Flower March and Lottery accounts together showed a surplus of \$390.49 (25.4% of income). Credit for the great result goes most of all to Emily and Daniel Wendt, both of whom did such a wonderful job selling tickets.

Steve Tabanelli, in his capacity as the newly elected Vice Chairman, took over responsibility for the flower and lottery funds on January 14. During the meeting, he and his helpers sold lottery tickets for \$84. The flower march brought in \$49. In the capsule drawing, Emily Wendt was the lucky winner of \$25. Cash prizes in the raffle went to Bertil Winther (\$25), Delphine Trow-bridge (\$15) and Bertil Winther (\$10). In addition, several center pieces from the dinner tables were raffled out.

#### Building Corporation News

On February 1<sup>st</sup> our Building Corporation (GVBC) held two meetings, first its annual meeting and immediately thereafter the regular monthly meeting. The agenda at the first meeting included election of a new board. All of the incumbent Board members, with the exception of Rikard Siwerson, expressed their willingness to serve another year. We thanked Rikard for his two years of service and welcomed Sonja Andonian to the group. Sonja is guaranteed a

seat on the GVBC Board since she was elected Trustee of the Golden Valley Lodge.

At the regular meeting, Yours Truly (Bertil) was elected for another term as President to ensure continuity in the handling of the Corporation's legal case. Tommy Eneberg was elected Vice President by acclamation. Hubert Pitters and Kerstin Engblom were re-elected as Treasurer and Recording Secretary, respectively. Other directors of the new Board are: Sonja Andonian, Nathan Coddington, Maria Jacobs, Stig Klintare, Marie Mickelson, Bill Wendt and Kerstin Wendt.

Under new business, we discussed a letter that Isabella had received from the District Lodge. The letter was written by Grand Master Rolf Bergman. It explains the potential total loss of funds for the Vasa National Archives and the Grand Lodge Scholarship programs. In the letter, GM Bergman apologized for his role in the decision to invest the money with a firm controlled by Mr. Enrique Villalba who now is being investigated by the FBI for embezzlement or possibly for operating a "Ponzi" scheme to defraud investors. The letter will be published in the next issue of the Vasa Star, according to the information that was sent out by our District Lodge. I wish to emphasize that NO investments of the Golden Valley Lodge or its Building Corporation are affected.

Before adjourning, the Board of Directors appointed a budget committee consisting of Bertil Winther, Hubert Pitters, Tommy Eneberg, Nathan Coddington and Sonja Andonian. Unfortunately, the committee's work won't be completed in time for the next GVL meeting on February 11.

#### Important Announcement

To those who haven't paid their annual dues (\$25), please do so as soon as possible. Make your check out to the Golden Valley Lodge #616 and send it to Emily Wendt, our new Financial Secretary. Her address is: 7754 Texhoma Ave., Northridge, CA 91325.

Birthdays in February

|                  |                  |                 |                  |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sven Lingström   | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | James Thorsen   | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Hanna Diös       | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Maria Grew      | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| Susan Kinhead    | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Justin Winokur  | 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| Olof Wester      | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Melissa Steffen | 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| Mona Steffen     | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Tina DeHart     | 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Viola Kindstrand | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Michel Hamaoui  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
| Stig Klintare    | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Bernice Dreher  | 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| Tyler Holstein   | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Bengt Heinstedt | 26 <sup>th</sup> |
| Rolf Reinholds   | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Lage Engblom    | 27 <sup>th</sup> |
| Göran Eriksson   | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Johan Forslund  | 27 <sup>th</sup> |
| Sonja Nilsson    | 10 <sup>th</sup> |                 |                  |
| Elvy Heinstedt   | 12 <sup>th</sup> |                 |                  |

Happy birthday to you all

Dates to Keep in Mind

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| February 11 <sup>th</sup> | Golden Valley Lodge meeting at the Sons of Norway Lodge, 6:30 pm |
| February 14 <sup>th</sup> | Valentine's Day  |
| February 15 <sup>th</sup> | Holiday, Presidents' Day   |
| March 3 <sup>rd</sup>     | Building Corporation meeting at the Wendts' home, 6:30 pm        |



*Wishing you all a Happy Valentine's Day,  
Bertil*