



Golden Valley News for March 2009

Have you noticed that spring is in the air? On Sunday (March 8th) we turn the clock forward and start Daylight Saving Time – remember fall back and spring forward. As I write this I'm sitting on the patio with a glass of ice tea on the side. It's about 75°F, the skies are blue and there is a light breeze - aren't we lucky to live in Southern California. Yes, I know the forecast is for rain tomorrow but we need that too sometimes and it will make all the flowers come out.

We had a good turnout at our February meeting. The business portion of the meeting took more time than usual but we got our reward later at the dinner table. Karin Coleman had joined our kitchen crew of the month - the two mother-daughter teams of Steffen and DeHart that I mentioned in the January newsletter. They served up “pyttipanna” with beets and a fried egg on top, a tasty Swedish favorite many of us remember from the old country. Our cultural leader of the month, Bonnie Fornander, introduced three of her friends who offered to entertain us during the evening. They played a variety of their songs in the folk music and gospel genre, each met by enthusiastic applause from the audience. During intermission the elder statesman of the band, Peter Kosenko, donated a CD recording that he and Alex Hebert made a few years ago. It was raffled off as part of our regular lottery. Later, at the end of the evening, Alex and his girl friend Jennifer Grace (they are getting married in May) donated four copies of their recently recorded songs. These CDs will be raffled off at our next meeting on March 12th.

This month's refreshment host and hostesses are Olle & Eivor Wester and their beautiful daughters Kerstin Thorsen and Katarina Holstein. I hear they have a nice dinner in store for us. Birgitta Clark and Viola Kindstrand have volunteered to be our cultural leaders. It promises to be a great evening so mark the calendar now.

Chairman's Message

The biggest event of the year for the local Lodges, the District 15 convention, is now behind us. It was very nice to see so many of our members there, seventeen in all. Some of them served on the board or as delegates. Birgitta Clark and Karin Altankov sang in the District choir. It was a beautiful performance at the Memorial Service in honor of members who had passed away since our 2008 convention. Sonja and Gary served up a great reception on Saturday before the banquet. Ann-Kristin did a beautiful job on the centerpieces for the Memorial Luncheon. Everyone wanted to win one of those. Our own Isabella is now the Past District Master and there were many glowing reports about how great it was to work with her during her time as District Master. Thank you each and every one for your work and attendance. Now, of course, what's a Vasa get-together without raffles? We have some very lucky people in our Lodge. Gertie was the big winner by claiming the \$1000 prize. This prize was won by Bertil last year. Daga-Karin won the \$500 prize (that paid for her plane ride). Bill Wendt won some framed pictures that he was coveting, and Ann-Kristin won a wonderful movie package. There were other

winners also - it seems that Lady Luck is always in our corner. Now we are all back home and ready to tackle our Lodge business for another year. See you all at the next meeting. In Truth and Unity, Kerstin Wendt

Lottery Winners

At our February meeting we sold lottery tickets for \$87 and the flower march brought in \$70. Karin Coleman was the lucky winner of \$25 in the capsule drawing. The raffle prizes went to Britt Potter (\$22), Maria Jacobs (\$17) and Dagmar Rydberg (\$13). Congratulations to all the winners!

Future Events

Enclosed with this newsletter mailing is an invitation to our social dinner on Sunday, April 26 at the *94th Aero Squadron* restaurant in Van Nuys. Please, fill out and mail the reservation form to Gunilla Thelin, 9950 Topanga Canyon Blvd #34, Chatsworth, CA 91311 before April 14th. A deposit of \$40 per person is required with your reservation. The deposit will be returned when you arrive at the restaurant, provided that you have paid your membership dues for 2009. Please note that the deposit is not refundable for non-members or for “no-show” members. Members or their guests, who come without reservations, pay \$60 at the door (non-refundable).

It is time to plan the trip in memory of Åke Boshen. Usually we have one in October or November. The committee needs to find out where the majority of our members want to go this year. Lunch will be provided during the trip. Fill in the form below and mail it to Maidie Karling (13752 Burbank Blvd. Sherman Oak, CA 91401) or hand it to her at the next meeting. Here are some suggested options:

Griffith Observatory: _____, Petersen’s Automotive Museum: _____
Mission San Fernando: _____, Getty Museum on the hill: _____
Fill in any other suggestion: _____.

District News

Our 2009 District Convention was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Irvine on the 20th thru the 22nd of February. As you all know, our own Isabella was elected District Master in 2008 and she presided at the convention until the end when she passed the gavel to Mary Ethel Pierson from North Star. As the Past District Master, Isabella will continue to be active in District affairs. Bob Salk from Evening Star was elected Vice District Master. Arlene Lundquist (Nordic), Nel Solt (Skandia) and Bob Solt (Skandia) were all reelected to the following positions: District Secretary, Assistant District Secretary and District Treasurer, respectively. Our own Maidie stays on to serve on the executive board for another year. Also continuing to serve the District is our chairman, Kerstin Wendt, who was reelected Assistant Master of Ceremonies. Kevin Luft (G.T. Seaborg Lodge) was reelected Master of Ceremonies. One of the resolutions that were voted upon at the convention, proposed to include the District Cultural Leader on the executive board – it

passed and Carolyn Salk (Evening Star) was reelected to that position. Jean Peckfelder from the Northern Light Lodge served as the 2008 District Chaplain - she too was reelected. Jean led a beautiful memorial service on the last day of the convention.

Several members from our lodge attended the convention. In addition to the three that I mentioned above (Isabella, Maidie and Kerstin), the following five delegates were there to represent GVL: Sonja Andonian, Karin Coleman, Marie Mickelson, Bill Wendt and yours truly (Bertil). Gertie Lingstrom served as an alternate delegate and she was also the lucky winner of \$1000, the top prize in the Opportunity Drawing. Gary Andonian and Frank Muscarella accompanied their wives to the convention and both of them were very helpful in making everything run smoothly. Ann-Kristin Karling also contributed to our great team effort, for example by preparing the beautiful flower arrangements on display at the luncheon on Sunday. Other GVL members with various important functions at the convention were: Birgitta Clark, Karin Altankov, Maj-Lis Friedman, Ann Heinstedt and Daga-Karin Lindquist. Maj-Lis now lives in Sweden and brought her close friend, Knut Rosenkvist, with her. Both of them are very active in their Vasa District Lodge in Sweden. Ann Heinstedt joined our lodge as a dual member more than a year ago and represented the Nordic Heritage Lodge at the convention. Daga-Karin, a Past District Master who now resides in Spokane, had travelled from the state of Washington to take part in the proceedings. She too was a winner (\$500) in the Opportunity Drawing – so all in all, it was a lucky and a successful convention for the Golden Valley folks.

Important Announcements

It is my sad duty to report that our friend and long-term member, Harv Jensen, passed away on March 3rd after a long and courageous battle with brain tumors. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife Laila. There will be a memorial service 11:00 am on Saturday March 14th at Our Savior's First Lutheran Church, 16603 San Fernando Mission Boulevard, Granada Hills, CA 91344. Members who wish to attend the luncheon following the service should notify Kerstin Engblom on or before March 10th by e-mail: kengblom@aol.com or by telephone: (805) 582-1645. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation, in memory of Harv Jensen, to SPOHNC (Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer), PO Box 53, Locust Valley, NY 11560-0053.

We need more volunteers to serve as dinner hosts & hostesses at our monthly business meetings in 2009-2010. Please, contact any of our elected officers to place your name on the list. Recently, we got a cancellation for the April meeting so it's important that we fill that opening soon.

Here is another reminder for those who haven't paid their 2009 dues - please mail your check (\$20) as soon as possible to our financial secretary, Ann-Kristin Karling. Her address is: 1157 Justin Ave #6, Glendale, CA 91201. Thanks!

Building Corporation News

Our attorney is drafting a set of revised Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. The revisions are necessary to comply with the Internal Revenue Code for charitable (and tax-exempt) organizations like ours. We hope to have an explanatory letter available next month for all GVL members. It's a slow process but eventually the membership will get to vote on the package.

We are also investigating bonding for the three board members who have signature authority for the corporation. According to Isabella the Vasa Grand Lodge offers bonding at a reasonable fee for officers within the organization. No decision has been made yet on how best to protect our lodge against malfeasance.

On a lighter note, the board has decided to back-track on the lottery tickets. By popular demand the price goes back to six tickets for \$1.

Birthdays in March

Linnea Heinstedt	1 st	Kristoffer Diös	14 th
Britt-Marie Potter	22 nd	Kerstin Engblom	30 th
Maidie Karling	30 th	Frank Grew	???

Happy birthday to you all!

Dates to Keep in Mind

March 8 th	Daylight Saving Time begins
March 12 th	Golden Valley Lodge meeting 6:30 pm at Sons of Norway
March 17 th	Saint Patrick's Day
April 1 st	April Fools' Day – watch out
April 1 st	Building Corporation meets 6:30 pm at the Wendts' house
April 14 th	Due date for Social Dinner reservation



Wishing you all a Happy Saint Patrick's Day,
Bertil (Bert)