

Happy Mother's Day



Golden Valley News for May 2009

As I sit down to write this newsletter I'm reminded that right now (on the last day of April) they celebrate Walpurgis Night (Valborgsmäss) with bonfires in almost every little town throughout Sweden. Those of us who grew up in the old country remember the glowing heat from the fires and the freezing cold at our backs as we were munching on hot dogs and listening to a choral group performing traditional songs dedicated to the new season. These celebrations were public events but oftentimes people on their own accord brought fuel for the bonfire, such as last year's Christmas tree, discarded kitchen cabinets, an old garden fence, etc. Here in the LA area I think we would run into trouble with the AQMD agency and perhaps the local fire department too if we created an event of that kind and magnitude.

Of course, we in Southern California are never short of excuses to have a party. Next week we celebrate "Cinco de Mayo" which occurs on May 5th (can you believe I figured that out without help from Google). That gives us more than a week to rest up for our next Lodge meeting on May 14th. Notwithstanding the date, the theme of the evening is "Cinco de Mayo" and you are much encouraged to dress for the occasion - time to dust off that old sombrero. The kitchen committee consists of Marie Mickelson, Birgitta Glad, Lage & Kerstin Engblom plus a minor (unskilled) role for Yours Truly (Bertil). It is no secret that we will have Mexican food for dinner and the bar will serve Margaritas. Our cultural leader of the month is Birgitta Glad and she has prepared a Mexican surprise for us. Mark your calendar now so you won't forget to be there on the 14th.

This month (on May 10th) we also celebrate Mother's Day. For us who have their mothers in Sweden, however, it's important to note that "Mors Dag" is on a different day - always on the last Sunday in May which this year happens to fall on the 31st. I remind you that it's nearly impossible to find a Mother's Day card in the stores after May 10th (unless you belong to the American Procrastinator's Club - but please, don't take my word for it).

Chairman's Message

We had such a good time at the 94th Aero Squadron. I would really like to thank Gunilla Thelin for all the preparation and organization. We were in a "Great Room" with plenty of space to mingle before and after dinner. We could even go outside on the patio and watch the airplane traffic. Birgitta Glad brought a keyboard entertainer who filled in perfectly. The buffet was a great idea; we all got to choose what we wanted and the food was great.

For all of us who ventured out to Scandinavian Days at Cal Lutheran College in Thousand Oaks, it was a beautiful day. The food court was filled with various goodies to eat and the vendors had many treasures to sell. Our own PDM, Isabella Muscarella, was there with the DM, Mary Ethel Pierson, manning the Vasa Booth. There was also a very interesting Viking Village Camp on display filled with Vikings. Remember that next Sunday, the 17th is Spring Fest in Vasa Park. It should be a beautiful day for a picnic in the Park, especially with all the activities available there.

Please, if you haven't paid your membership dues for the year, do it now. I hate to see anyone lose their membership. For all of you traveling to Sweden this summer, I hope you have a wonderful time.

In Truth and Unity---Kerstin

Lottery Winners

At our April meeting we sold lottery tickets for \$78 and the flower march brought in \$65. Kerstin Engblom was the lucky winner of \$25 in the capsule drawing. The cash raffle prizes went to Ruth Wilkening (\$20), Birgitta Glad (\$15) and Göran Eriksson (\$12). We also raffled out four CDs and several center pieces. Congratulations to all the winners!

Building Corporation News

At our meeting on May 6 we discussed the tax return for fiscal year 2008. A decision was made to retain the same accountant who prepared our returns in recent years. Our attorney still hasn't resolved all the issues regarding the IRS filing classification. We decided to write a letter asking for a refund of some attorney charges that we believed to be excessive.

Important Announcements

As you all know, our Golden Valley Lodge belongs to the Pacific Southwest District (#15) of the Vasa Order. Every year the District sponsors a Spring Festival at our beautiful Vasa Park on 2854 Triunfo Canyon Road in Augura Hills, CA 91301. This year's event takes place on May 17th (coincidentally the National Day of Norway) between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm. If you haven't been to Vasa Park in recent years you will be surprised by all the great improvements – there is something for everyone in the family. Please, check the flyer that's enclosed with this newsletter! New events this year include "innebandy" classes starting at 10:30 am and at 3 pm. Equipment required for this and other games will be available. The pool and the water slide will be open between the hours of 11 am to 4 pm. I'm sure the younger kids will enjoy the foam cannon and the petting zoo. The latter will be open during two one-hour intervals: from 11 am to noon and from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Also enclosed with this newsletter are the scholarship application forms and the document that defines the award criteria. To be considered for award, an application (including supporting documents) must be completed and postmarked no later than October 1st.

Marie Mickelson continues to create good-will for our Lodge by bringing food, clothing and other donations to charitable groups in our neighborhood. Here is her message of the month: "Golden Valley Lodge is classified as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. As members we have a duty to share our blessings with less fortunate people. Please, bring non-perishable food items or hygiene products to our next meeting so that we may brighten the lives of some low-income senior citizens".

Tidbits from Past Events

At our Lodge meeting on April 9 we welcomed several of our new District Officers. Our Past District Master, Isabella Muscarella, introduced them and the newly elected District Master, Mary Ethel Pierson, made a short speech. Following the business meeting our refreshment team, Sven & Gertie Lingstrom and Gun Olin, served up a delicious dinner consisting of fruit salad, chicken tetrazzini and dessert. While we were finishing our desserts Hubert & Sylva Pitters gave us a brief introduction to a

game involving Easter eggs and balloons. We were all in awe of the Easter eggs that were so artfully painted by Sylva.

Our Social Dinner for the year took place on April 26 at the 94th Aero Squadron restaurant in Van Nuys. We had a good turnout (56 members) and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Credit for the successful arrangements goes to Gunilla Thelin. After dinner Peter Shea, a friend of Birgitta Glad, entertained us on keyboard. He played several of his own compositions and arrangements.

Birthdays in May

Steve Tabanelli	1 st	Lena Osman	17 th
Alf Rydberg	1 st	Maj-Lis Friedman	23 rd
Anders Heinstedt	10 th	Christina Thelin	23 rd
Kerstin Thorsen	11 th	Elvine Lundberg	25 th
Julian Wilson	17 th	Berit Stenhoj	31 st

Happy birthday to you all!

Dates to Keep in Mind

May 5 th	Cinco de Mayo
May 6 th	Building Corporation meeting 6:30 pm at the Wendts' home
May 10 th	Mother's Day in the US
May 14 th	Golden Valley Lodge meeting 6:30 pm at Sons of Norway
May 17 th	Spring Festival at Vasa Park in Augura Hills
May 25 th	Memorial Day
May 30 th	Yard Sale at Maidie's house for the benefit of District #15
May 31 st	Mother's Day in Sweden
June 3 rd	Building Corporation meeting 6:30 pm at the Wendts' home



*Wishing you all the very best,
Bertil*