



**New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society
and The Finlandia Foundation
Celebrate Walpurgis/Vappu**

April 30, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.

25495 SE Hoffmeister Road
Damascus, OR 97015

Our Walpurgis/Vappu celebration this year will be hosted at Don Leethem's home in Damascus, OR. There will be snacks, simi and punch, varm korv and sweets. The Scandinavian Chorus will join us, so bring your children and grandchildren.

No Dogs Please!

There are two options for driving directions:

Option 1

1. Eastbound on I-84
2. Find your favorite way through Gresham and go onto Highway 26 (generally east bound toward Sandy, OR).
3. Take the Boring exit, turn right (west) and travel about 3.6 miles. (Road is not marked, but is the terminus for Highway 212).
4. Turn right onto 242nd and travel about 0.5 miles.
5. Turn right onto Hoffmeister Road and travel east about 0.6 miles.
6. Turn left into gravel driveway (just before sharp right hand turn sign).
7. Driveway splits, keep left. You are there!

Option 2

1. From I-205 take Exit 12A – (Highway 212 Estacada/Clackamas).
2. Drive east on 212, pass through Damascus and watch for 242nd.
3. Turn left onto 242nd and travel about 0.5 miles.
4. Turn right onto Hoffmeister Road and travel east about 0.6 miles.
5. Turn left into gravel driveway (just before sharp right hand turn sign).
6. Driveway splits, keep left. You are there!

What are Walpurgis and Vappu?

Walpurgis (Valborgsmässoafton) in Sweden: The 30th of April, marks the end of the winter in Sweden and Finland and is the most important festive celebration of the year alongside of Christmas and Midsummer. Walpurgis is celebrated in Sweden in different ways depending on the part of the country. Lighting large bonfires is a popular celebration in eastern parts of Sweden as in Svealand or Uppland, where people gather material for their bonfires for months ahead. Lighting bonfires is an ancient custom related to keeping away evil spirits, demons and witches. Nowadays Walpurgis is seen as a celebration of springtime, but for a feel of the good old Viking days, the Skansen Open-Air museum still celebrates Stockholm's largest and most historical Walpurgis celebration.

For most Swedes though, Walpurgis means the end of the winter season; and there is no better way to celebrate it than singing spring songs. Spring songs and choral singing are very typical of the Swedish celebrations, with many of the traditional songs dating as far back as the 19th century. The most popular and traditional spring festivities are held in the old university towns of Uppsala, Lund and Gothenburg, with its famous carnival parade. Current and graduated students party all day and all night, and even perhaps longer than that, wearing all the time their characteristic white graduation caps. Walpurgis is a double national festivity in Sweden because King Carl XVI Gustaf celebrates his birthday on Walpurgis day, 30th of April. Swedish flags are raised all around the country to salute him and show him respect.

Vappu in Finland*: In Finland Vappu is, along with New Year's Eve and Juhannus, the biggest carnival-style festival held in the streets of Finland's towns and cities. The celebration, which begins on the evening of April 30th and continues to May 1, typically centers on copious consumption of sparkling wine and other alcoholic beverages. Student traditions, particularly those of the engineering students, are one of the main characteristics of Vappu. Since the end of the 19th century, this traditional upper-class feast has been appropriated by university students. Many lukio (university-preparatory high school) alumni (who are thus traditionally assumed to be university bound), wear a cap. Most people think the caps of the engineering students are distinguished by pom-poms hanging from them; however, nurses and some other vocational school graduates also have caps with pom-poms. One tradition is to drink sima, a home-made mead, along with freshly cooked doughnuts.

In the capital Helsinki and its surrounding region, fixtures include the capping (on 6 pm April 30th) of the Havis Amanda, a nude female statue in Helsinki, and the biannually alternating publications of ribald matter called Äpy and Julkku, by engineering students of Aalto University School of Science and Technology. (* excerpted from Wikipedia)