

Message from your President—Kristi Johnson - James

Welcome to New Sweden's busy spring, when we begin planning for our upcoming summer events. Many of you attend Midsummer and this year's event will once again include a beautiful New Sweden booth. Please stop by and enjoy our little corner. You'll think you're in Sweden for sure. Gun Marie Rosqvist and Ingeborg Dean always return us to our Swedish roots. Their artistic abilities make our booth one of the loveliest. But I'm certainly not prejudiced! We will be returning to the German American Cultural Center at 79th and SE Division on Saturday, June 26, 2010 for Midsummer Fest.

Please also know how much your volunteer efforts through the League of Swedish Societies is appreciated. New Sweden and five other Swedish organizations form the League, and thanks to all your efforts the League distributed \$700.00 to each organization from earnings at Midsummer and ScanFair!

Dave Carter, our past president, stepped down last January as his busy family needed his full attention. As a devoted father, he is rightfully turning his attentions to his family duties. Dave left us with a legacy of pursuing more revenue-raising ventures. Please join me, and the board in offering grateful thanks to Dave for his support.

We enhanced the awareness of Swedish Culture through our support of various activities such as Trollbacken, the Swedish Language Camp for Children, the Oregon Lucia Scholarship, and the future Scandinavian Heritage Center but to do so we must continue to raise adequate funds. Following up on an offer by Ross Fogelquist, Gun Marie Rosqvist led New Sweden volunteers hosting a "Swedish Glögg Party" at Fogelbo last December. Over sixty tickets were purchased raising over \$600 for our organization! And thanks also to numerous volunteers who helped dress Fogelbo for Christmas. Many hands made light work, and a hearty meal added to the fun.

The New Sweden Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation office at 8800 SW Oleson Rd., next to Fogelbo. We do not meet in July, August and December as we are already busy with Kräftskiva and Christmas Holiday events. Members are welcome to attend board meetings, just check in with any board member (check your Member's Directory) to confirm the meeting is on schedule.

With each passing year I am blessed with so many friendships, all because of New Sweden. You are my Swedish family!



2009 Fogelbo Glögg Party

Thanks to numerous volunteers, Ross Fogelquist's Fogelbo was as usual dressed to the tee for Christmas. It was the perfect place for our "Swedish Glögg Party" fundraising event. It was a very popular event with over 60 people attending (unfortunately, we could not accommodate all who wanted to come). We raised over \$600 for New Sweden. Many helping hands made preparation easier. The visit by this year Lucia, Kaija Perkiomak, and the festive "smörgås-board" added to the fun.

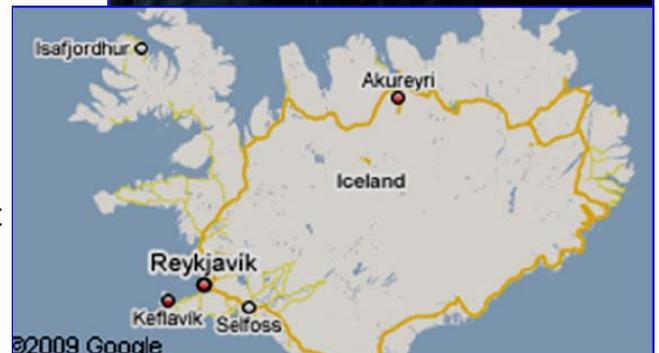


A Walk Across Iceland

Get ready for an exciting and beautiful journey when New Sweden joins with Harmoni Vasa Lodge for a potluck dinner and presentation on Wednesday, March 24th. Jonathon Ley will show images and share stories of his trek with David Cobb across the length of Iceland—north to south. The rugged Icelandic highlands are a striking landscape shaped by massive glaciers, powerful winds, roaring rivers and active volcanic geology. David and Jonathon's route crossed some of the most hostile yet breathtaking scenery Iceland has to offer.



The evening starts with wine and hors d'oeuvres at 6 pm at the Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 NE 40th. Bring a pot luck dish for the meal, hors d'oeuvres or dessert to contribute, and a hearty appetite as well! Wine is provided for a small donation. This is a great opportunity to spend time with our many Swedish friends at Harmoni. If you need more info, call Kristi Johnson-James at 503-454-0135. See you there!





Donations needed!
New Sweden Antique & Garage Sale
Friday and Saturday at Fogelbo,
May 14 and 15, 2010



Your contributions are needed now for this great event. The proceeds help provide our annual donation of \$1,000 to Trollbacken, the local Swedish Language Camp for Children. Donations of antiques, art, furniture, any and all gently used household goods, especially any items related to Sweden and Scandinavia are needed for this sale. We also need your donations of baked goods to sell at the “Stuga Café” during the garage sale.

Call Ross Fogelquist at 503-244-3697 if you’d like to drop off items at Fogelbo in advance. Tables are available for folks who would like to sell their own items for a commission fee to New Sweden.

Please call Ross for details if you would like to reserve a sales table.

Fogelbo, 8740 SW Oleson Road, Portland, OR 97223 near Washington Square.

Celebrate Walpurgis with New Sweden

Join in as we celebrate Walpurgis on April 30th at the home of board member Dave and Melinda Carter home in the Stafford/West Lynn area. There will be a bonfire, singing, snacks and hot drinks.

We’ll gather at 7:00 p.m. and light the bonfire at dusk.



Walpurgis night bonfire

Directions to Dave and Melinda Carter’s farm,

1470 SW Borland Road, West Lynn, OR 97068. From I-205 take the Lake Oswego Stafford exit. Go north on Stafford Road (about 3 city blocks) to the Wanker’s corner round-a-bout. Turn right (east) on Borland Road.

Their place is 1/2 mile east of Wanker’s Corner (on Borland where it meets Ek Road). Turn south onto a gravel road into the farm at the junction of Ek and Borland.

Look for signs. Dave’s phone is 503-890-6458. If it’s raining,

Bring an umbrella!

See you there!



Executive auto on the way to the Walpurgis celebration



Gravlax with a mustard sauce

Gravlax with a mustard sauce (serves 10)

- 2 lb of salmon, midsection of one filet, fresh and of the highest quality
- 2 teaspoons oil
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1 teaspoon crushed white pepper corns
- 1 big chopped bundle of dill

Wipe the salmon clean. Ask the store to filet the salmon or pull the bones out yourself with a plier, remove all surface fat and bones. Leave the skin. Moisten the salmon with oil, mix the herbs with the dill and rub the mix onto the salmon.

Put a good quantity of dill in an appropriate bowl (some actually use a plastic bag instead), place the salmon skin up on top of the dill and put more dill on top. Cover with a chopping board or similar light weight and leave the salmon in the refrigerator for 12 – 24 hours. Flip the salmon a couple of times. Just under 24 hours should be right, leaving the salmon for too long will make it hard and dry.

Scrape off the herbs and cut the salmon in thin slices or 2.5 inch thick straight cuts, free from skin. The skin (which has to be peeled) may be cut into half inch wide strips, dipped in oil, fried and served with the salmon.

Mustard Sauce ‘Gravlax Sauce’

- tablespoon mild Swedish style mustard
- 1 teaspoon dark French mustard
- 1/2 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon red vinegar
- salt and pepper
- lots of chopped dill

Mix mustards with honey and vinegar, spice with salt and pepper. Mix with the oil under constant mixing with a fork. When the sauce is mixed to about the same consistency as mayonnaise, mix in the dill and add salt and pepper to taste.

Recipes and photos are from ICA Bokförlag's book, From the Swedish Kitchen: Fifty Classic Recipes from Sweden, or, in Swedish, Det Svenska köket.

Do you know!

Do you know that you are able to see the newsletter, event calendar, and other information of interest in color on New Sweden web site at:

www.newsweden.org

2010 Annual Meeting

The 21st annual New Sweden Cultural Heritage meeting was held on February 20th at Fogelbo, where we introduced the new board:

President Kristi Johnson-James

Vice President Ross Fogelquist

Treasurer GunMarie Rosqvist

Secretary & membership chair Denver James

Newsletter Editor Leif Rosqvist

Webmaster Margaret Sarro

Board members at large Dave Carter, Ingeborg Dean, Maude Ericksson, Anna Lundin and Anna Olson



New President

Kristi Johnson-James



Ingeborg Dean

We heard a special, personal, and very emotional, presentation about a Swedish immigrant soldier's life, that ended in the battle at Meuse-Argonne, France, in 1918. The presentation was made by Ingeborg Dean about her great uncle, Klas Nygren.. (The full story at page 6)

They have stolen the rose
The rose of Picardy
The flower of Brocéliande
The rose of legend.
They have stolen the rose
Our best friend.



Ingeborgs great-uncle

Klas E. Nygren

Well-known music by Haydn Wood (1882-1959) to the popular song "Roses of Picardie", sung by the allied soldiers in France and Flanders during WWI. And we concluded with the following poem:



At Road's End (Verner von Heidenstam)
Wisdom, oh people, it comes to you first,
when you have time for the evening cool
on a mountain's peak, and there survey the world
King, turn if you will at the road's end,
rest there for a while and look back!
Everything is explained and all is reconciled,
and kingdoms of your youth appears again,
strewn over with light and morning dew.

Translation from French and Swedish by Leif Rosqvist

This is a story in remembrance of a Swedish immigrant soldier's life that ended in the battle at Meuse-Argonne, France.



Immigrants

Prelude...

On a volè la rose,

La rose de Picardie,

La fleur de Brocèliande,

La rose de legende.

On a volè la rose,

Notre meilleure amie.

Music Haydn Wood (1882-1959), popular song "Roses of Picardie", sung by the soldiers in France and Flanders during WWI.

I am Ingeborg Dean of Portland, Oregon and this is the story about my great uncle Klas Edward Nygren from Årby, Dalarna. He was one of the unfortunate 14,000 soldiers that died in the dreadful killing fields at Meuse-Argonne in 1918.

The story...

On November 22, 1918, a telegram was received by my great aunt, Alma (Nygren) Janisch in Portland, Oregon. It informed her that her brother Klas Edward Nygren, had been killed in France on September 29 of that year.

In my family, the life of great uncle Klas was always described in just a sentence or two: "Uncle Klas emigrated to America, was called up (drafted) for WWI and was killed right away." As a child, I would look at his picture, intrigued.

I remember my father telling me that aunt Alma left for America and settled in Portland, Oregon, and that her husband was an immigrant from Bohemia. However I had no record of her last name to help me trace her family here in the USA. Then some months ago I found a copy of a letter that Alma wrote in 1919 to her mother and brother Johan (my paternal grandfather) in Sweden and it was signed Alma Janisch! This meant that I could now begin to look for possible relatives here in Portland. It also enabled me to get a fuller picture of my great uncle Klas Nygren. There was a copy of a letter from him as well, written in Portland on September 1, 1917.

Klas Nygren was born in Årby in Dalarna, Sweden on March 18, 1887, and emigrated to America in 1910. His destination was Worcester, Massachusetts, where he had a brother. In late 1917 he arrived in Portland, Oregon, to visit with his sister, who had left Sweden in 1896. Perhaps for some months Klas went to work in the Janisch family dyeing and cleaning business on NE Knott Street. He writes touchingly about seeing his sister after 21 years, about their tears and joy and sharing news and memories.



Klas E. Nygren

At some point Klas, then 30 years old and unmarried, was called up (drafted) as the U.S. entered WWI. He joined the 361 Infantry Regiment, 91st Division also called the "Wild West" Division as a private from the state of Massachusetts.

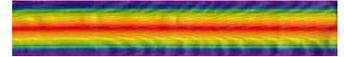
On August 22, 1918, he writes in a letter to his sister of having drills practically day and night. Alma had a feeling that he had not yet gone off to war.



Fort Lewis in 1917



91st Division Arm Insignia



Campaign Streamer

The 91st Division was activated in 1917, under Major General H. A. Greene, mainly by young men from Oregon and Washington. The division was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington State. The 361 Infantry regiment entered into the battle zone in late 1918, and to illustrate the carnage that took place, the 91st Division lost 3,000 soldiers, 8 field and 125 company officers during four (4) days of battle before they regrouped.



Advance in
Meuse -Argonne

Three months later his sister Alma received a telegram from the U.S. Army with the devastating news of Klas' death on the battlefield. Her subsequent letter to Sweden ends: "You ask how Klas felt when he left me for the last time. Well, he came to see me on June 22, in the morning and said", "Alma, I have come to see you one more time. I don't think we will see each other again. I am leaving for France." Alma wrote that she never forgot his words." Klas thought about how this news would affect his mother. "Poor mamma when she finds out where I am!" He knew how difficult it would be for her.

Alma's letter includes a lengthy discussion of how to deal with the expected monetary compensation that Klas had intended for his mother to receive in case of his death. The disbursement by the U.S. Army was \$64.90!

Alma told her family in Sweden that she decided not to have her brother's remains returned for burial in Portland. "People tell me not to do it, since we can't see him and so can't be sure it's really Klas." The French government assured her that his grave would be well taken care of, where it is located and she sent this information to her brother in Worcester.



Nygren, PVT Claus E. 9233793 Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery
b. unknown d. Sep. 29, 1918 (captured from cemetery database over buried soldiers)

91 years later....I am in Beauvais, France, and today I visited my great uncle's grave, the first member of his family to do so and an occasion of great meaning to me! After almost a century Klas Nygren is no longer just a name and date of death on a cross in the vast American cemetery in Romagne, France.



American cemetery in Romagne

His family was there, moved by the unbearable and wasteful loss of his life and of 14,245 others, most of them died in the unimaginable horrific battle of Meuse-Argonne. The grave markers fill some 100 acres near where they fought and died. Now large beech trees and well kept grassy walks separate eight plots, lettered A to H. Uncle Klas lies in plot H, row 34, grave 30.



Nygren, PVT Claus E.

There is a memorial; chapel, a "Wall of Remembrance" with the names of the missing, and a fountain, dignified and serene surroundings for those who perished, among them my uncle Klas, who emigrated to America, no doubt with dreams of a better future. Instead he had to go to war for his chosen country and, tragically, lost his life. As I search for his grave I noticed the names of many other young Swedes, who shared his fate.

Epilogue...

In times like today, when we are living our busy lives, it's very important that we don't forget the lost loved ones, and don't allow their names, like Klas E. Nygren's, to fade into the shadows of lost memories.

Vid vägens slut (Verner von Heidenstam)

*Vis, o människa, det blir du först,
när du hinner till de aftonsvala
höjders topp, där jorden överskådas.
Konung, vänd dig om vid vägens slut,
vila där en stund och se tillbaka!
Allt förklaras där och allt försonas,
och din ungdoms riken hägra åter,
strödda än med ljus och morgondagg.*



Story written by Leif Rosqvist, the editor of New Sweden Heritage Society and SRIO newsletters. The story is based on information provided by the family and by Ingeborg Dean.

More reading:

Use any of the following terms in Google Search to locate more information "American Cemetery Meuse-Argonne in Romagne," "Fort Lewis and 91 Division, 361 Infantry Regiment," "Verner von Heidenstam."

2010 Event Calendar

MARCH

Wednesday, March 24: We meet with Harmoni Vasa Lodge, Hollywood Senior Center, 1820 NE 40th Portland at 6 p.m. There will be a potluck meal followed by a slide presentation of a trek across Iceland taken by two Oregonians.

APRIL

Friday, April 30: Celebrate Walpurgis Eve with a bonfire, snacks and hot drinks. 7 pm at Dave and Melinda Carter's home, 1470 SW Borland Road, West Linn, OR.

MAY

Friday/Saturday May 14, 15: Annual New Sweden Antique and Garage Sale at Fogelbo. (10 a.m. –5 p.m. Fri., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat. Features many Scandinavian antiques and decorative items.) and a huge selection of household items (furniture, small appliances, books, clothing, etc.) contributed by many families.

JUNE

Saturday, June 26: Midsummer Fest. Hosted by the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and the League of Swedish Societies. To be held at the German American Cultural Center at 7901 S.E. Division Street. The Fest will be held from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. For more information, check the Scandinavian Events listings at <http://www.scanheritage.org/NewWebPage/events.html>

AUGUST

Saturday, August 14: Kräftskiva, our Annual Crayfish Party at Fogelbo. Reservations required, Watch future newsletters, email and flyers for a call for reservations.

August 16-21, Trollbacken, Swedish Language and Culture Camp for children ages 7-13 takes place at Menucha Retreat, Corbett Oregon (about 20 miles from Portland) \$370 for the first child and then \$340 per sibling Registration and payment in full are due May 20, 2010. For a brochure with an application form email director@trollbacken.org, or visit the website at www.trollbacken.org.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 16 or 23: ScanFeast Auction and Dinner in support of the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation. Registration required. For more information, go to the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation website at <http://www.scanheritage.org/NewWebPage/scanfeast.html>

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 13: Lucia Luncheon at St. Mathews Lutheran Church, Beaverton.

DECEMBER

Saturday and Sunday, December 4 and 5: ScanFair at Portland State University. A festive celebration of Scandinavian Culture featuring ethnic crafts, food, music and dance. For more information go to: <http://www.scanheritage.org/NewWebPage/scanfair.html>

Saturday, December 11: Lucia Fest. A beautiful musical program introducing Oregon's 2010 Lucia and her court. The program is followed by Swedish baked treats coffee and glögg, ring dances around the Christmas Tree and a visit by the Tomten! St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3880 SE Brooklyn St., at 4:00pm.

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society
10765 SW Cottonwood St.
Tualatin, OR 97062

Membership for 2010

Memberships are renewed each year and run from January through December. TACK SÅ MYCKET! “Check your mailing label on this newsletter for your current membership status.”

Membership Renewal Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Single \$20.00 Family \$35.00 Patron \$50 Scholarship Fund donation (\$_____)

Make checks payable to “New Sweden” and send to

Membership, Attn: Denver James, 10765 SW Cottonwood St., Tualatin, OR 97062

Membership questions, please call: (503) 454-0135 www.NewSweden.org