

## Message from your President - Kristi Gustafson

New Sweden is gearing up for a busy holiday season filled with tradition and fun. To avoid the holiday rush of events, we scheduled our Craft Day and Holiday Celebration on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We'll be dipping candles and felting tree ornaments, or for those who just want to catch some holiday spirit, we'll have holiday cookies, coffee and glögg. The first weekend of December is the Nordic Scan Fair, a great family event that has grown exponentially since its inception in 1984. New Sweden will have our own booth again to promote our club and sell items to fundraise. We'll also help at the Swedish League booth selling foods like rice pudding. The following Saturday is our Lucia Fest at the stunningly beautiful First Presbyterian Church in Portland. The Fest is a lovely respite from the commercialism of the season. Not only do I hope you'll attend these events, but plan on volunteering to ensure they are successful.



Many of our members aren't aware of New Sweden's connection to the League of Swedish Societies i.e. "the Swedish League". When many emigrants came to this country, they organized groups to support each other, provide insurance, and celebrate their traditional customs. In Portland in the early 1900's, about eight groups joined together to create the League of Swedish Societies combining resources to put on large annual events like a Swedish Midsummer, a fall festival, a smörgåsbord, a brunch, and hosted events when dignitaries visited Portland.

Today, New Sweden is one of nine organizations that make up the Swedish League. Each organization has two representatives who serve on the board. New Sweden's representatives are Ross Fogelquist, serving as the president, and myself serving as vice-president. The League works with Nordic Northwest to put on the Midsummer event at Oaks Park and also has a food booth at Scan Fair. The League board is looking into other events we can jointly work on in the future.

Sincerely,  
Kristi Gustafson  
President



Gavel made of wood from the Admiral ship "Unity" (Enigheden in Danish) which was sunk by the Swedes in a battle in 1679.



Three ultra-modern rescue ships that Marianne donated to SSRS: Marianne Bratt (after her mom), Yvonne Bratt and Cecilia Bratt.

## **Marianne Bratt review, May 21, Part 2/2**

New Sweden members received a warm welcome from Harmoni Lodge at our joint meeting on May 21 for Marianne Bratt's presentation of her family's shipping business. The first part of the presentation was covered in our July newsletter.

Marianne made clear it wasn't just her father who assisted the Allies but also the ships' crewmembers, many who lost their lives when the ships sank. In 1940, two ships were torpedoed within two hours of each other and thirty-five crew members died. Marianne said her father lived until 1985, but never talked about the war.

Marianne moved to the U.S. in 1970. After she began receiving her inheritance, she decided her inheritance should stay in Sweden as it existed because of the people who had worked for her family's shipping company. In 2012, she began donating rescue boats to the Swedish Sea Rescue Society (SSRS), and has donated three ultra modern, hi-tech rescue boats. The three boats were all named after family members; Yvonne Bratt, Cecilia Bratt and her mother - Marianne Bratt. She said in their official name only, they have "Rescue" in front of the name.

The CEO of the Swedish Sea Rescue Society said that half of the "Marianne Bratt" must be Marianne's as it has the same name as her. At first, Marianne said, "No, no, it's my mother's boats." When she thought about it for a long time, she said, "Okay, the propeller is mine since I was the driving force to make this boat a reality." The CEO told her, "It has no propeller, it has a jet engine." Marianne said it is 100% her mother's boat.

Marianne displayed a wooden gavel that friends from the shipping business had given to her father on his 50th birthday. The gavel was made from wood from the Admiral ship that the Swedes sunk in 1679.

Thank you Marianne for such an informative presentation, and thanks to her husband Al Baker and to Carl Thompson for their technical assistance. If you missed the presentation, it was recorded earlier and is available on DVD from Nordic Northwest.



## Swedish school (by Anna Segerstad)

The Swedish School in NE Portland has been bringing Swedish speaking families together since 1997. We are a parent-run non-profit co-op where the parents volunteer in different school related tasks such as assisting our native Swedish teachers in class. The goal of the school is to develop the students' ability to comprehend, speak, read, and write Swedish in a stimulating and encouraging context. In addition, the students learn about their cultural heritage through songs, art, geography, history, and literature.

The age range of the students is between 3 and 12 years, and there are three different levels depending on age and previous knowledge. We meet three Saturday mornings per month and participate in fun events such as ScanFair and Swedish St Lucia festival that are arranged by our fellow local Scandinavian organizations. Apart from learning the Swedish language and traditions, the students at the Swedish School build self-confidence and make friends with other Swedish-speaking children. More information can be found at our website [www.swedishschool.org](http://www.swedishschool.org).



The Swedish/American author Lars Nordström introducing his new book “Telegrammet till New York” telling the story of a family tragedy.



In November, 1910 a family in the southern part of Sweden fell apart. A recent widow abandoned her seven children and disappeared to America. When this occurred, the only boy amongst the siblings is six years old. The boy is the future author Harry Martinsson. His longing for his mother is boundless. From time to time, he escapes from his foster home to search for “mother Betty”, but every time he is forced to return. At sixteen years of age, he is declared a grown up and is free to rule over his own life. He immediately seeks work as a seaman to work his way over the Atlantic. In August 1922, after two years of a life as a drifter, privation and shorter periods between European ports, he is hired on a ship that finally takes him to America. He knows that in Portland, far away in remote Oregon, his mother runs a popular restaurant, Betty’s Lunch. He had an address. The unwritten telegram to her, which he has carried within himself since childhood, will now be sent. The telegram was sent



from New York with the text “Mor, det är Harry, stop, and *Har drömt att åter se Er, stop. Får jag komma?”. Väntar på svar*”. (“*Mother it’s Harry stop, Have dreamt of seeing you again, stop. Can I come and visit. Waiting for your answer*”). During his short layover Harry stayed in “Svenska Sjömanshemmet” (Swedish seaman hotel) located at 5 Water Street. At the end of his layover, his ship weigh anchor began the next leg of the voyage without Harry receiving answer. Harry was looking back and wondered “var det till detta land min moder rymde” (Was it this country what my mother run away to”). Later, a telegram arrived in New York addressed to Mr. Harry Martinsson, from Mrs. Betty Johnsson in Portland, Oregon. The telegram will never be read.

Harry Martinsson’s fate is shared with many Swedish immigrants, leaving memories and love behind resulting in a long period of fog of tears. However, fantasy and rebuilding could very well exceed all possible pain and setbacks.

Harry Marinsson received the Noble price in literature in 1974, in Stockholm.

The book is written in Swedish and is addressing the traveling community going overseas. More information about the book at: [www.opulens.se/](http://www.opulens.se/)

Visit to the NW by Nordstjernan Editor and Publisher Ulf Mårtensson in September.

Nowhere have I been made to feel more welcome and pampered than I did on my recent travels in the Pacific Northwest. The reception and hospitality by new and old friends was truly mind-blowing—Broder, Fogelbo, New Sweden, Nordic Museum, Nordic Northwest, Scandinavian Heritage Foundation, SRIO, Svenska Skolan, SWEA, Universities ... teachers, bankers, spouses, fans, thanks for the enthusiastic welcome! Fogelbo and Nordic Northwest in Portland, Oregon are an excellent complement to the impressive new Nordic Museum facility in “neighboring” Seattle and after having seen the dynamics and beauty of some of the area, I have no doubts why the region is considered the fastest growing urban area in the U.S.

Much of my first ever experience of the Beaver State - sightseeing, Powell's, pleasant dinners and relaxed winery visits - was arranged and graciously hosted by the Portlanders GunMarie and Leif Rosqvist, who also opened their house towards the end of my trip for a lovely dinner reception with representatives from several local organizations. It's not on every trip I get to meet every single organization as was the case here: I'm at a loss for words of thanks for organizing my first visit to the state, now unquestionably and forever strong on the map for Nordstjernan, the Swedish newspaper of America.

Nordstjernan, which turned 145 years old in September, offers a way to keep up with Swedish culture, with what's going on in Sweden today and is a way to meet the greater Scandinavian community of America. “In the last six years, we have grown consistently as the platform of choice for anyone and everyone in Scandinavian America, and our loyal readers are very much a part of keeping the newspaper relevant and engaging.. It includes news summaries, trends and columnists from Sweden but also covers traditions, travel and trivia, seasonal recipes and reports on Swedish community activities all over the USA.

Several organizations appear in the newspaper on a regular basis as well. Among the local groups, the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society and Nordic Northwest are often featured with cultural events, travel and immigrant stories.

While keeping up the Swedish language tradition is still part of the newspaper's vision, content has increasingly been presented in English, expanding this unique trait present since its first issue in September, 1872. The newspaper, now published biweekly, is 80 percent English, a contemporary newspaper with digital and social media platforms, and 100 percent relevance for us all with an interest in our Swedish background.

For more information go to: [www.nordstjernan.com](http://www.nordstjernan.com)



Nordstjernan 145 Years Celebration!



## Kräftskiva at Fogelbo on Saturday August 19

New Sweden along with SWEA and Skandia arranged a wonderful Kräftskiva at Fogelbo on August 19. The evening started off with the Swedish participants singing traditional songs, and quickly proceeded to a delightful feast of kräftor and other delicacies. The music that was played during the event featured everything from Gemini's theme song from the movie "Mio min mio" (based on the book by Astrid Lindgren) to more upbeat songs by ABBA and other crowd-pleasers on the dance floor. A wonderful evening indeed!



## Sofia Talvik concert at Fogelbo on Friday September 22

In September, New Sweden and Nordic Northwest jointly hosted Swedish born singer Sofia Talvik. The concert was planned well in advance but an informal barbeque was added after the last newsletter was published, so that information was communicated by email. Luckily, the weather held and we enjoyed the barbeque on the new deck at Fogelbo before heading next door to Nordia House.

Sofia entertained us with her lovely, clear voice playing her guitar and sometimes using cymbals on her ankles for percussion. Besides being a talented singer, Sofia wrote all the songs she performed with the exception of one. She explained that song was old and frequently sung by Swedes as they said goodbye to their family and friends before moving away. As she walked through the audience singing the song, many of us wondered if our relatives had sung that song before leaving Sweden.

For more info about her, visit:  
<http://music.sofiatalvik.com>.







Bobby Ljunggren and his wife Maria



Jill Johnson

## **From a foster home to the center stage of Sweden's music scene - The story behind the glittering success of songwriter Bobby Ljunggren (By J. Granström)**

Many famous Swedes have lived in foster homes, for example the current prime minister Stefan Löfven, singer Kicki Danielsson and songwriter Bobby Ljunggren. Bobby and the other foster children in his home mainly constituted a cash cow for the grown-ups that took care of them, which was a common situation during the 1960's and 70's. His loveless foster mother locked Bobby up in a dark basement room, forced him and the other kids to eat substandard food (once one of the other kids had to eat Bobby's thrown-up food) and take embarrassing naked baths in the backyard.

Despite Bobby's icicle cold childhood, he has become one of Sweden's most successful songwriters. Nobody has had more songs competing in Melodifestivalen (the Swedish trials for the Eurovision Song Contest) and his songs have won the competition five times. Bobby and his wife Maria have worked together in the music industry since 1990, and their joint efforts eventually resulted in Lionheart Music Group. In addition to successful submissions to Melodifestivalen, Lionheart also played a vital role in promoting country music in Sweden (Maria is currently a board member at CMA Country Music Association), including Jill Johnson who's worked with some of America's most successful country songwriters. Bobby and Jill worked together as early as 1990, but their first collaboration - a disco album with covers of rock classics such as "Smoke On The Water" by Deep Purple - was a massive failure. Nonetheless, Bobby and Jill would later re-unite for Jill's Melodifestivalen winner "Kärleken är (Love is)" in 1998.

Bobby's successes and struggles (both as a child and later in life) are extensively covered in his autobiography "I skuggan av ramplyuset (In the shadow of the limelight)", revealing how a deep darkness can be hidden for years behind a glittering success.



### **Scanfeast on October 21**

This years annual Scanfeast was a huge success. The event was held at Nordia House on a very stormy day. However, despite the weather, it was a very festive atmosphere with many people staying well after the bidding had concluded. The great hall was filled with nearly 200 happy guests. This years paddle race raised over \$90,000 with SHF president Mike Nelson offering a \$40,000 matching grant. All totaled the evening raised over \$225,000 thanks to the great efforts of the Scanfeast committee and all those who participated on the auction.



### **November 19 - Craft Day and Holiday Celebration**

Start the holiday season with a bit of hands on fun. Dip a candle, fold a star or felt a heart. If creating your own holiday decorations doesn't appeal to you, then come for the cookies, coffee and glögg, encourage the crafters, and visit with other members.

3:00 - 6:00pm, Sunday, November 19, West Hills Unitarian Church, 8470 SW Oleson Rd., Portland. No charge to members.

Call 503-663-2772 for more info.





**2017 ScanFair will mark the 33rd year of this wonderful Nordic Christmas Festival.**

New Sweden will attend with its own booth at the event where you are able to meet other members and share Swedish experiences.

**Hope to see you there!**

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**Christmas Revels, "Nordic Lights, the Celebration of the Winter Solstice"  
Saturday, December 16, 2017, 1:00pm.**

After two of our busy holiday weekends, what better way to relax than by being entertained by the Christmas Revels, December 16. The 2017 production, "Nordic Lights, the Celebration of the Winter Solstice," is a mythical journey into the music, dance and traditions of Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland.

New Sweden has reserved 30 seats for our members to attend the performance on Saturday, December 16, 1:00pm, after which we'll venture to a nearby restaurant for refreshments and socializing. By purchasing tickets as a group, we'll save 10% and the processing fee, but we need to make reservations by November 14 to get the discount.

Discounted ticket prices for the seats we have reserved are:

Adults \$40.50, Students (13-17yrs) \$32.40, Children (4-12yrs) \$18.00.

The performance will be held at St. Mary's Academy Theater, 1615 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201. Please call Kristi at: 503-807-9808, to reserve your New Sweden group rate seat by November 14.

**For more info about Portland Revels visit their website at:**

<http://portlandrevels.org/calendar/christmasrevels/>

# NEW SWEDEN CULTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY

INVITES YOU TO  
LUCIA FEST  
SATURDAY  
DEC. 9, 2017  
3:00 P.M.

**First Presbyterian Church  
1200 S.W. Alder St.  
Portland, Oregon**



*Scandinavian tradition holds that in Värmland, Sweden, a white-clad maiden wearing a crown of burning candles and a red sash brought food to starving villagers on the shores of Lake Vänern. On the morning of December 13, the strains of "Santa Lucia" are heard everywhere in Sweden as the white-robed maiden comes out of the night with her crown of lighted candles to dispel the darkness, bringing bright light to the Christmas season. While it was originally a Swedish tradition, it has since spread to other Scandinavian countries.*

You are invited to enjoy a beautiful traditional pageant and music of the season by:

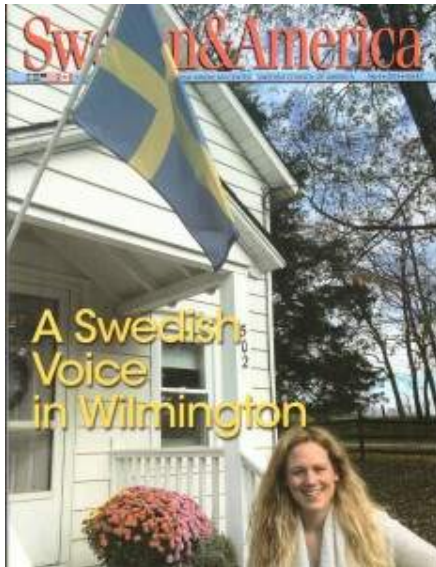
- The children of the Swedish School in Portland
  - Oregon's 2017 Lucia Court
- Scandinavian Men's Chorus, Scandia Ladies Chorus
  - Soloists Joel Godby and Douglas Webster
  - Duet — Gunilla Admund, Agneta Massa
- Jimmy Granström reading "Tomten," by Viktor Rydberg

Following the program there will be traditional singing and dancing around the Christmas tree, a visit by Tomten, glögg, coffee and traditional baked goods.



**Admission: Adults \$10, children 4-12 \$5  
(maximum price per family, \$25)  
Doors open at 2:30 p.m. for people with  
disabilities, 2:45 p.m. for general seating  
Visit New Sweden at [www.newsweden.org](http://www.newsweden.org)**





New Sweden members who paid their membership by February of this year, received a subscription to the Sweden & America magazine. Sadly, after the first 2017 issue, the publisher in Sweden filed bankruptcy and will no longer produce the magazine. The Swedish Council of America who worked with the Swedish publisher, has agreed to substitute their quarterly newsletter - SCA Today. They have said this will be done automatically with no action required of our members. Additionally, SCA negotiated with the magazine, Swedish Press, to offer three additional months if a New Sweden member wants to purchase a \$50 annual subscription to Swedish Press. The Swedish Press was founded in 1929, and has been a nation-wide magazine focused on all things Swedish. To learn more about the magazine visit: [www.swedishpress.com](http://www.swedishpress.com).

## 2018 Events Calendar summary

**February 15th - March 1st:** Portland International Film Festival.

**March 11:** Sunday at 3pm, New Sweden Member Appreciation Day, West Hills Unitarian Church, 3:00pm, 8470 SW Oleson Rd., Portland.

**April 30th:** Sunday at 7pm, Walpurgis Celebration. Location TBD.

**May 11-12:** Annual Antique and Garage sale at Fogelbo.

**June 9:** Saturday 11am-6pm, Scandinavian Midsummer Festival at Oaks Park.

**August 4:** Saturday, annual Kräftskiva Crayfish Party, reservations required.

**August (dates TBD):** Trollbacken, Swedish Language and Culture Camp for children ages 7-13

## COMMUNICATIONS

We are relying more on emails to update our members with information that develops after the last newsletter was printed, but would be outdated before the next newsletter.



New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society  
PO Box 80141  
Portland, OR 97280

### 2018 Membership Renewals and New Memberships!

Memberships are renewed each year and run from January through December. Please use this form to renew now and save the cost of mailing a separate membership renewal request! You may also renew for multiple years by multiplying the annual dues amount by the number of years desired and indicating your intention on the form.

Thanks for supporting New Sweden with your dues!

Membership Renewal or New Member 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: New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society, PO Box 80141, Portland, OR 97280. Membership questions, please call: (503) 644-0787, or at [www.NewSweden.org](http://www.NewSweden.org)