

Message from your President - Kristi Gustafson

Our website has been updated thanks to our wonderful webmaster, Stefan Rosqvist. We once again have the ability to pay membership fees online through our website and also for events such as Kraftskiva.

When Charles Neiman took over the Membership Chair duties, he computerized the records and worked to update the membership information. It's surprising how frequently our members' contact information changes and it's a continual process to keep it up to date. Charles has passed the torch on and we appreciate the many hours he spent serving as Membership Chair and on the New Sweden Board. Thank you, Charles!

Board member Ute Munger has taken on the Membership Chair and is continuing Charles' work. Ute already is busy contacting members past and present. Welcome Ute!

The League of Swedish Societies has put on a traditional Swedish Midsummer celebration in Portland for 80 years. Midsummer has gone through many changes; it began as a simple but popular family event, then over the years attendance dropped. To save its existence, the League and the Scandinavian Heritage Society (now Nordic Northwest) joined energies and began producing it together. The event has grown in popularity and scope requiring much more planning and organization.

Nordic Northwest had the structure to take on more of the organizational role. The consequence was the League felt it had lost its Swedish ownership.

This year, the League and Nordic Northwest agreed to share equally in the organization and planning of Midsummer which means we have responsibilities for half of the organizational committees. Each League organization, including New Sweden, is responsible for its share of committee work in addition to the volunteers we will need at the actual event on June 8.

I am one of the League's representatives on the Midsummer task force as the League accepts this challenge and learns the various components of producing this event. New Sweden has taken on the popular, energetic flower crown and Midsummer pole area which will require many volunteers the day of the event. This is in addition to filling volunteer positions in the League's cafe, admissions and our New Sweden booth. Please plan to not only attend our Midsummer event, but volunteer in some capacity.

Sincerely,

Kristi Gustafson
President



2019 Events Calendar summary

April 11: Thursday at 7.30pm. Concert with the Swedish band Väsen at Nordia House.

April 12-July 8: Swedish Roots In Oregon (SRIO) exhibit at Nordia House.

April 13: Saturday 10am-1pm. Cooking class on Swedish smörgåstårta. Rosqvist residence.

April 28: Sunday at 2pm-5pm, Walpurgis/Vappu Celebration on the Nordia House grounds.

June 8: Saturday 11am-6pm, Scandinavian Midsummer Festival at Oaks Park.

July 2-6: National convention of American Union of Swedish Singers

August 10: Saturday 6pm-11pm, Annual Bengt's Swedish Kräftskiva at Fogelbo.

August 19-24: Trollbacken Swedish language and culture camp.

September 8: Sunday at 4pm. New Sweden 30th Anniversary. Rosqvist residence.

For more information, please visit <https://www.newsweden.org/events/>

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 Swedish store in Portland

In December 2018 Susanna Krizo, a Swedish lady, opened a Swedish shop, NORDIC HOME, in the Hollywood district of Portland. The store is located in the 42nd Street Station at 2000 N.E. 42nd Avenue, and next to Aunt Tillie's Deli.

In the store you find lots of Nordic candy free from GMO and corn syrup, and its tastes like real "lördagsgodis". In addition this store offers many unique Scandinavian and Nordic items you don't find anywhere else in the Portland area. The selections in the store changes with the different seasons like Christmas, Easter and Midsummer, so there will always be something there that you may have been looking for.

Let us support Susanna by utilizing her store to make sure it will be a great success, something we can make use of for many years to come.

NORDIC HOME is open Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Think about visiting the store and then having a delicious lunch at Aunt Tillie's Deli next door.

For additional information you can call 503-752-9812 or visit www.thenordichomestore.com



Review of past event



Lars Berge at the Annual Membership Appreciation Meeting (left) and in Astoria (right).

Annual Membership Appreciation Meeting with best-selling author Lars Berge

The New Sweden annual membership meeting had a good turnout, despite inclement weather in some parts of the Portland area. The meeting offered tasty treats and a very interesting presentation and discussion with best-selling author Lars Berge about his book “Vargattacken (The Wolf Attack)”, covered in great detail in our January newsletter, as well as his upcoming book about Swedish sailors abroad during the windjammer-era. One vessel of particular interest to Berge was in Astoria and Portland in 1914. Her name was Alcides and the captain was I.M. Skaugen. On board was Berge’s great-grandfather Johan Walfrid Granström. According to Berge’s grandfather Lennart, Johan Walfrid was flushed overboard from Alcides by a wave to certain death in the sea, but was flushed back on deck again by the following wave. We are certainly looking forward to hearing more of this captivating story in the near future!

Review of future event

From Sweden to Oregon: The Immigrant Experience 1850-1950

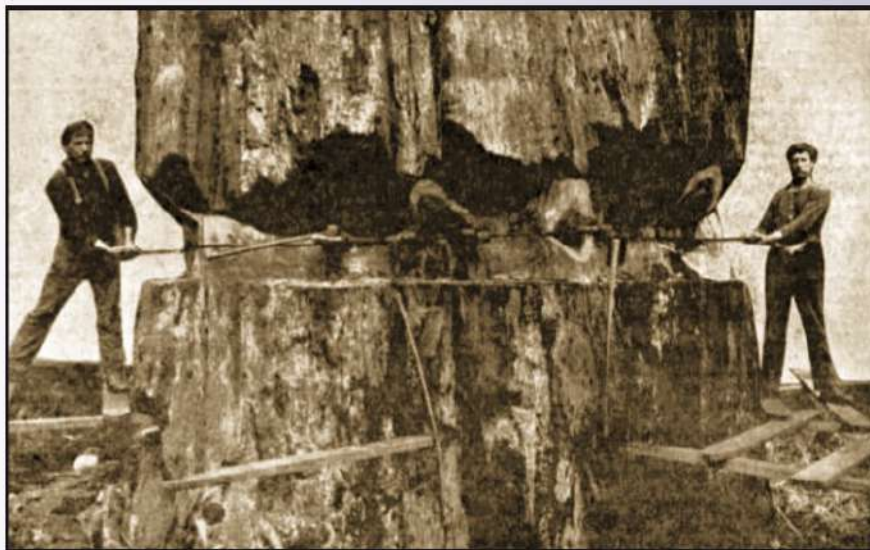
The Icelandic consul Les Swanson will speak on Swedes in Oregon in collaboration with the Swedish Roots in Oregon exhibit, 'From Sweden to Oregon: the Immigrant Experience 1850-1950' which opens on April 12 and runs through July 8 at Nordia House, 8800 S.W. Oleson Rd., Portland, Oregon.



The lecture at Portland State University (Room 171 Cramer Hall) on April 5 at 7.30pm is free and open to the public. More information about the exhibit can be found here: <https://www.nordicnorthwest.org/>

FROM SWEDEN TO OREGON

the immigrant experience
1850 to 1950



April 12 - July 8, 2019 at Nordia House
FROM SWEDEN TO OREGON:
the Immigrant Experience 1850-1950

Swedish Roots in Oregon (SRIO) will have a special three month celebration called “From Sweden to Oregon: The Immigrant Experience 1850 to 1950”.

The exhibit follows the Swedish immigrant experience in Oregon from 1850 to 1950. The celebration follows the Swedish hopes, lives and dreams. There will be a number of events and programs to compliment the exhibit: <https://www.nordicnorthwest.org/exhibits> (listing dates and times).

The celebration opens with the popular Swedish band Väsen on April 11 at Nordia House. April 12th will be the official opening of the exhibit, with a reception and program starting at 6.30pm. The exhibit is funded in part by grants from the Swedish Council of America and the Cultural Coalition of Washington County with funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. **The exhibit runs April 12th to July 12th at Nordia House, 8800 S.W. Oleson Rd., Portland, Oregon.**



www.nordicnorthwest.org/0411191



Review of future events

New Sweden Cooking Class

Join us as we explore traditional Swedish recipes in our New Sweden cooking classes. Register at 503-663-2772, or kristigus@aol.com. The class is at the home of Gun Marie and Leif Rosqvist, Beaverton.

Swedish smörgåstårta (sandwich cake): Saturday April 13, 2019, 10:00am-1:00pm. A popular favorite of Swedes at special occasions, smörgåstårta is festive looking and the layered "sandwich" tastes good - flavors and tastes can be adapted to one's preference. After we make the smörgåstårta, we'll lunch on our creations. Cost is \$15, class size is 8.



Swedish smörgåstårta (sandwich cake)



Sausage making class, March 23 2019

Finnish/Swedish celebration of Vappu/Valborg at Nordia House, Sunday April 28, 1-5pm



**Finlandia Foundation®
Columbia-Pacific Chapter**

This year we will combine our Valborg (Walpurgis Night) celebration with Finnish Vappu on the Nordia House grounds on Sunday, April 28 from 1-5pm. Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter (FFCPC) has invited New Sweden and other interested Nordic groups to join them for food and festivities. FFCPC will provide "Karelian Dogs" (the Swedes call them Korv) and related condiments including potato salad and Sima (traditional carbonated beverage). There will also be some entertainment, including games for the kids and maybe a couple of surprises!



Vappu celebration in Finland

Review of future events



Pictures from Midsummer in Oaks Park on June 9 2018

Midsummer in Oaks Park on Saturday, June 8

As usual, the Midsummer Festival at Oaks Amusement Park will be arranged jointly by Nordic Northwest and the League of Swedish Societies on Saturday June 8 2019 from 11am-6pm.

New Sweden will have our traditional booth at the festival. More information about the celebration can be found on the Nordic Northwest website:

<https://www.nordicnorthwest.org/midsummer-festival>

Musical performances by New Sweden members at Midsummer on June 8

New Sweden members will be featured in the entertainment line-up for this year's Midsummer festival in Oaks Park, including "Songs by Jimmy Granstrom and Friends". New Sweden members will be updated with more information as it becomes available.



National convention of the American Union of Swedish Singers in Vancouver, WA, July 2-6.

More information:

<http://www.auss.org/events.htm>

<http://www.auss.org/conv2019-ConvInfo.pdf>

Review of future events



Picture from Bengt's Kräftskiva at Fogelbo on August 4 2018

Kräftskiva Party, Saturday, August 10, 6pm -11pm.

Our annual Bengt's Swedish Kräftskiva at Fogelbo. Potluck dinner with crayfish and meatballs provided. Traditional decorations, homemade Scandinavian foods, dancing and conviviality under the August moon. More information will be announced as we get closer to the event.

New Sweden 30th Anniversary, September 8 at 4pm

Dear New Sweden Members – It is time to Celebrate!

This year it's 30 years since New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society was established, and welcomed its first members. We are still going strong, and are planning a celebration of this milestone. The date will be Sunday, September 8 at 4pm.

GunMarie and Leif Rosqvist have offered to open their home and backyard for this event. It's a parklike setting, overlooking a small lake, and there is ample parking. We are calculating the cost per person to be between \$25-30.



To make this celebration as good and fun as possible, we are now asking you, our members, for any suggestions you might have in regards to food, program etc. We also want to get a feel for how many people we can expect to attend. This information will greatly facilitate our planning of the event. We would appreciate your reply via email or a note in the mail no later than April 30.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of our members as possible at this event!

**Sincerely on behalf of New Sweden,
GunMarie Rosqvist
2845 NW Circle A Drive
Portland, OR 97229
503-466-2119**



Swedish Easter

by Cecilia Tidlund (a New Sweden member born and raised in Gothenburg, Sweden)

Throughout the forty-two years I have lived in the USA, I am frequently asked about how Swedes traditionally celebrate holidays; why do we eat this? Or decorate with that? This has prompted me to explore many of our Swedish traditions and I have learned a great deal about them. As we approach the Easter holidays, one tradition stands out - Swedes eat and decorate with a lot of eggs! During the Easter week in Sweden, Swedes consume around two thousand tons of eggs a day. On Easter evening it is estimated that six million eggs will be consumed per hour throughout the western world

Why do Swedes eat so many eggs during the Easter holidays? One theory is that long ago, hens did not lay many eggs in the winter. When spring came and fresh eggs were available they were incorporated into the traditional Easter buffet. Early Christians believed eggs were a symbol of life and the resurrection of Jesus on Easter day. Ancient Egyptians filled painted eggs with gifts, and later artists made artificial eggs of glass and porcelain.

Today in Sweden, cardboard eggs are filled with sweets and given away and the tradition of painting and decorating boiled eggs lives on.

Information compiled from various articles on the internet.



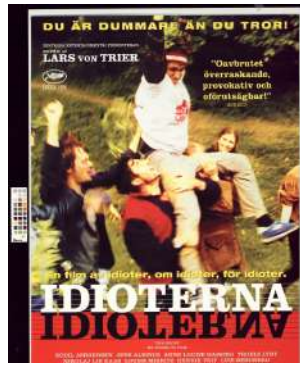
Top: Typical Easter witch card

Left: Parking spots where the witches can park their brooms (not actually in use in Sweden)

Easter witch: The days before Easter, little girls dress up and go door to door looking for treats. The tradition is from an old belief that witches fly to a German mountain and cavort with Satan on the Thursday before Easter. When the witches return, Sweden would light fires to scare them away, practiced today with bonfires and fireworks.



Ola Salo (The Ark)



Idioterna (The Idiots)



Rondo show, Gothenburg, Spring 2019

It Takes A Fool To Remain Sane - The story of Ola Salo (by J. Granstrom)

Ola Salo is one of Sweden's most popular singer/songwriters. It started in 1991, with then 14-year old Salo's formation of the glam rock band The Ark, which wrote and performed songs strongly influenced by the likes of Queen and David Bowie. At the time when The Ark was formed, there was a strong "anti-glam movement" in the music industry, represented by grunge bands such as Nirvana and the British Indie wave led by Blur and Oasis. These bands often had a more "down to Earth" (some would even say cold and cynical) approach to their songs, which were in stark contrast to the "over the top" elements represented by The Ark and their glam rock influences from the 1970's and 80's. The Ark nearly disbanded in 1996 after poor critical reception of their debut EP, but decided to keep going after the addition of the new guitarist Martin Axén, new contacts and a record deal with Virgin.

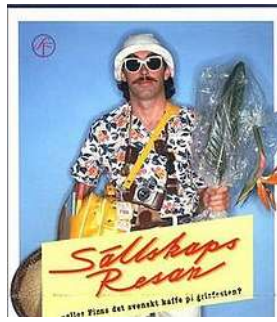
Almost 10 years after the band was formed, "The Ark" reached mainstream success with a song that echoes of both melancholy and "in your face" bravado. "It Takes A Fool To Remain Sane" was born after Salo saw Danish director Lars Von Trier's movie "The Idiots" (released in 1998). The movie focuses on a group of adults spending their time seeking their "inner idiot" to release their inhibitions, which they do by behaving in public as if they were developmentally disabled. After seeing the movie, Salo thought to himself that 'It's like the old saying "It Takes A Fool To Remain Sane"', before realizing that he had come up with his own phrase. The song would become one of The Ark's signature melodies, propelling their full length debut album "We Are The Ark" to reach the #1 spot on the Swedish sales chart in 2000. The debut album would be followed up by three more #1 albums before the release of The Ark's last album "Regalia" in 2010 and compilation album "Arkeology" in 2011. The band disbanded in 2011 after a long string of Top 20 albums and singles in Sweden, Italy, Norway and Finland. In 2015, Salo released his debut album "Wilderness", which peaked at #2 on the Swedish sales chart. The album featured the song "Rip Your Heart", co-written with Salo's brother Jakob Skarin, who's also an accomplished songwriter (see pages 10-11). Salo's solo show "It Takes A Fool To Remain Sane" currently runs at Liseberg amusement park's venue Rondo in Gothenburg until May 4. Highly recommended to see Salo's "over the top" performance live if you are a fan of glam rock or related genres!



Jonas Gardell



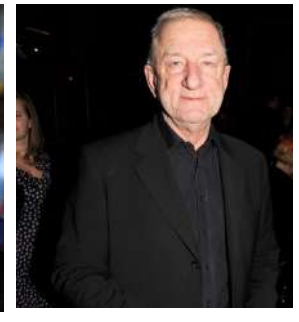
Fredrik Kempe



Sällskapsresan



Jakob Skarin



Bengt Palmers

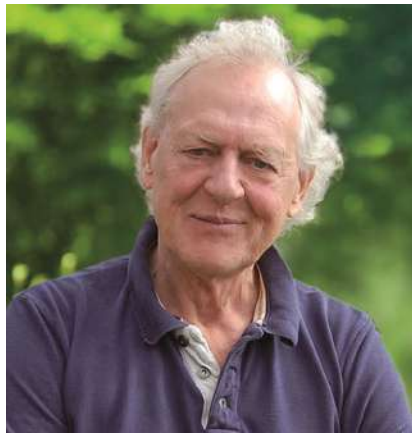
Swedish movies adapted into musicals in recent years (by J. Granstrom)

Several Swedish movies have been successfully adapted into musicals in recent years, ranging from the Jonas Gardell movie “Livet är en schlager (Life Is A Schlager)” to Lasse Åberg’s “Sällskapsresan (The Charter Trip)” and Kay Pollak’s “Såsom i himmelen (As It Is In Heaven)”. The musical adaptations of these movies had (or are having) successful runs at major Swedish theatres between 2014 and now. In Jonas Gardell’s 2000 movie “Livet är en schlager”, the story centers around the life of Mona Berglund, a mother-of-four so obsessed with the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) that she has named her kids after Swedish performers of ESC songs. David, Mona’s employer - who’s also a cerebral palsy-sufferer - is a very talented songwriter, and composes a song which Mona steals and sends a demo of (with her own lyrics) into Melodifestivalen, the Swedish trials for the Eurovision Song Contest. The song qualified for the finals, but throughout the film and musical, Mona is torn as to whether she should reveal that she was not the only writer of the song, despite enjoying the many benefits of her new-found fame. In 2014, the movie was adapted into a musical, with lyrics and book by Gardell and music by Fredrik Kempe, who has written several Swedish songs that have competed in ESC. The musical ran at Cirkus, one of Stockholm’s most prestigious stages, from September 2014 until April 2015.

In 2005, songwriter/entrepreneur/inventor Jakob Skarin came up with the idea to turn Lasse Åberg’s “Sällskapsresan (The Charter Trip)” - which is Sweden’s biggest box office success with more than two million viewers (in a country of 8 million at the time) at cinemas in 1980/1981 - into a musical. Skarin had met up with fellow songwriter Bengt Palmers at a birthday party in 1993, and the duo quickly realized they were a creative match. Palmers produced and arranged Harpo’s international hit “Movie Star” as well as wrote the soundtrack for many of Sweden’s most successful domestic movies. After Skarin came up with the idea of turning “Sällskapsresan” into a musical in 2005, he contacted Palmers regarding a collaboration, without knowing one important detail - Palmers wrote the soundtrack for the movie! After Palmers happily agreed to the collaboration, the duo went down to the Canary Islands, where most of the plot of “Sällskapsresan” takes place. One of the first songs they wrote was “Jag kan flyga (I Can Fly)”, which depicts the main character Stig-Helmer Olsson (portrayed by the movie’s co-writer/co-director Lasse Åberg) and his fear of flying. Stig-Helmer gets help from a psychologist, who cons Stig-Helmer into smuggling money into the Canary Islands. The plot then centers around Stig-Helmer’s fellow travelers - including a couple of hopeless drunks, a new Norwegian acquaintance who will turn into a lifetime friend and a love prospect - through their Charter Trip (mis)adventures.



Chinateatern, Stockholm
“Sällskapsresan”



Director/writer Kay Pollak
“Såsom i himmelen”.



Såsom i himmelen
(As It Is In Heaven)

“Sällskapsresan - The Musical” premiered at Nöjsteatern in Malmö on October 23, 2015 before transferring to Chinateatern in Stockholm for a successful run in the autumn of 2016. The Finnish premiere of “Sällskapsresan” took place at Lurens Summer Theater in Kuggom. This new production was adapted for a Swedish-Finnish audience (about 270,000 people in Finland have Swedish as their mother tongue) and was a roaring success, with ticket sales exceeding the maximum number on sale. The Norwegian premiere of the musical will take place this autumn.

Another Swedish blockbuster movie was recently successfully adapted into a musical on a major Stockholm stage. The musical adaptation Kay Pollak’s movie “Såsom i himmelen (As It Is In Heaven)” - which was seen by over one million people when it opened at cinemas in 2004 and was nominated for an Oscar in the “Best Foreign Language Film” category - opened at Oscarsteatern in Stockholm in September 2018 and is currently scheduled to run until May 12. The story centers around the world renown composer Daniel who returns to his childhood village in northern Sweden for early retirement due to illness. He agrees to help get the town’s church choir under control as their cantor. He falls in love with Lena, who sings in the choir, but who is abused by her husband. The priest in the congregation is not happy about the new cantor’s ideas, and the fact that the priest’s wife sings in the choir results in a number of complications. Daniel is a musical mastermind, but he is tone deaf when it comes to love. The music for “Såsom i himmelen” is once again composed by Fredrik Kempe, who wrote the music for the aforementioned “Livet är en schlager”. The Stockholm production of “Såsom i himmelen” has been a favorite amongst both theater goers and critics, with Aftonbladet’s Jens Peterson giving it five stars (out of five) and declaring that it is “A mighty musical about the power of music” and that “it is a Swedish classic that deserves a long life”. Other major Swedish newspapers, e.g. Expressen and DN, also gave the musical rave reviews.

From comedy to drama and everything in between, musical adaptations of Swedish movies have been great successes in both Sweden and Finland in recent years, and will hopefully one day reach audiences in many other parts of the Nordic countries as well as the rest of the world.

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

2019 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 (\$_____)
 I prefer to receive the newsletter only by email and not U.S. mail.

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. We can be reached at NewSwedenPDX@gmail.com.
