

Message from your President - Kristi Gustafson



Dear Members,

Spring has arrived with signs of new life everywhere. No wonder Swedes celebrate spring -- a time of new beginnings. This is also true of New Sweden as we welcome a new president and changes of officers in accordance with our bylaws.

I am so proud of the New Sweden board members and their dedication to this organization. Thanks to Vice President, Ross Fogelquist for his sage advice; Tanaka Axberg and Anna-Karin Lindbergh-Rednoske, our Co-Secretaries; Treasurer, Pam Martin who also assisted with graphic design; Newsletter Editor, Jimmy Granström; Membership Chair, Ute Munger; Lucia Chair, Maritha Rufus; Events Chair Corina Laws, and endless volunteer, Anna Lundin. Thanks to past President Carol Tripp for her support, to Karin Olson, our past Volunteer Coordinator who organized volunteers to ensure the success of our events, and to our webmaster Stefan Rosqvist who maintains our presence on the internet.

It has been an honor to serve as your president. I am pleased to introduce Corina Laws as the incoming New Sweden President and excited with what she brings to the role. Corina created the 2019 Midsummer program and since then has served as our Events Chair organizing our successful Holiday Trolley event, Julgransplundring, the virtual wreath making and Tomten felting classes, and created the Scandinavian Stories on Sunday presentations. Corina's fresh ideas and enthusiasm will bring new energy to our organization. I will move to the position of Vice President and Ross Fogelquist will continue to serve on the Board.

Thanks to the vaccination program it appears we are slowly able to resume planning our traditional events as well as develop new ideas. As of this writing, the League of Swedish Societies is planning a Midsummer celebration at Foothills Park in Lake Oswego on June 19th. The scope of the celebration is fluid and will be determined by the Covid-19 statistics as the date approaches. New Sweden has volunteered to organize the Kubb tournament at Midsummer, so please mark your calendars to attend and also volunteer.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served as your president,

Kristi Gustafson

Happy Spring! Happy Easter past!

New Sweden welcomes

Janet Anderson, Jenny Annala, Lindsay Drace, Jacin Harter, Aaron Hinkley and

Emma Snodgrass with family as new members this quarter!

Ready for more good news? The 2021-22 New Sweden Membership Directory is on its way. Look for it in your mailbox soon. Hopefully you will not find any discrepancies but should there be any serious mistakes, changes or omissions, do contact me preferably via email at umbug@icloud.com (or at 503-333-0099).

Also, just a brief reminder that memberships are renewed at the beginning of each year since our accounting is from January to December. Thank you for your kind and timely support.

Membership Renewal or New Member Form

Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Single \$20.00 ♦ 2 years = \$40. Other:
☐ Family \$35.00 ♦ 2 years = \$70. Other:
☐ Patron \$50.00 Other:
☐ 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. For membership questions email the membership chair person at umbug@icloud.com or go to New Sweden's website: <https://www.newsweden.org/membership/>

Member Profile: Eric Göranson

Eric is in his third year as a member of New Sweden. He found New Sweden while searching for a few Swedes or interested persons whom he wanted to share a gift of several cans of Surströmming with. Those cans had come a lengthy and convoluted way from Sweden, via Germany and several stops in the U.S. before they reached him in Portland. He has a long tale to tell about the final outcome of the arranged tasting.

Eric's grandfather Joseph Emanuel Göranson (1891-1957) was a Swedish immigrant from Kåramåla in Småland and raised his family on a Montana farm. Eric's father Russill was in the U.S. military deployed to Germany where he made connections with a young Hildegard, a Swabian maiden (Swabia is a region in southern Germany). Not until many years later did they reconnect in Portland, Oregon to eventually wed and have four children.

Some of Eric's hobbies include German cooking and baking, go figure. He also rides his bike all over town for fun and health reasons, and currently keeps up his German language skills via zoom with people from all corners of the world.

He is now retired from his active life of selling and implementing telephone systems. He is quite handy with tools, has an incredible collection of such and has already produced several Kubb sets which have been a magnet for practicing Kubbsters.

Eric has become an active and valued member of New Sweden and you can find him at most gatherings, always willing to lend a hand or tell you a story.

Fogelbo before the snow storm on January 26



The Trolls were pruning, hauling brush & wood chips and adding to the huge brush pile before the snow fell on January 26 (not the “big one” a few weeks later).

New Sweden members Bob Peterson and Robert Basel closed the gable on the rear of the Swedish shed before the snow arrived. Some trim is still needed before the storage locker becomes “activated” but, all in all, looking good.



The Dala Horse (by Eric Göranson)

New Sweden has a Dala horse project in the works.

In Sweden, the Dala horse has come to symbolize Sweden and the province of Dalarna, which lies in the middle of the country. Dalarna in Swedish (Dalecarlia in English) is the name of the region where the stout little Dalahaest (Dala horse) originated. These working horses were used in the forests and fields becoming a natural subject for woodcarvers making simple children’s toys. The earliest known sale of these wooden horses is about four hundred years ago. Originally they weren’t painted but by the early 1800’s they began to be finished in red or white. Later they were decorated in the kurbits (long gourd) and ripple painting style that was being used on furniture.

The dala horse began to be used as a symbol of Sweden when two architects chose it for the 1939 World’s Fair in New York. Several cities in the United States have dala horse statues, and tourists bring plenty of small ones back from Sweden as souvenirs.

Swedish trivia (by Eric Göranson)

Last year’s attendance at the Göteborg Film Festival was 160,000. This year, after selecting from 12,000 applicants from 45 countries, it is one. The nurse that was chosen watched 60 movies alone and by herself on the little lighthouse island of Hamneskar. A psychiatrist was available if needed.

Scandinavian Stories on Sunday



Sunday

Mons Hallberg and his travels around the globe



By Corina Laws

Scandinavian stories on Sunday gives us an opportunity to share and document the lives, history and the artistry of the Nordic people. New Sweden produced its first in the story time series along with New Sweden member Gail Hallberg Romero as she recounted the adventures of her father Mons Hallberg. Mons was a charismatic Swede who arrived in North America in 1920. He would spend the next six decades living across four continents, working for the Swedish Match company, meeting dignitaries, negotiating with warlords and being recognized by Swedish Royal Family and awarded the Vasa medal. Mons also appeared in a 1950's documentary that followed the Swedish football team Djurgården IF as they traveled to the Far East. Amazing.

Please stay tuned for information on the next Scandinavian stories on Sunday which will air on zoom Sunday April 25th at 6:30.



Photos of New Sweden members



Our newest member Lindsay Drace after a game of Kubb, see info on pages 7 and 12.



Hans Lundin and Pam Martin with the winning throws during a game of Kubb.



New Sweden members working on canopy inventory at Fogelbo on March 27th.



2021 Events Calendar summary

Nordic Northwest will hold its Midsummer Fest this year at Fogelbo and Nordia House.

It will be a scaled down version due to the pandemic. There will be two similar events held on Saturday June 12th. The first event will start at 11:00 AM and the second event will start at 3:00 PM. The cost is adults \$10, seniors \$8 and children \$5. Reservations are a must. Call or order tickets online at Nordic Northwest. Folk costumes are encouraged. Those wearing folk costumes will receive a free professional flower crown. Parking will be at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall parking lot on Oleson Rd. Food and drinks will be sold. Games for children plus Kubb and entertainment. **Check www.oregonmidsummer.com for additional information.**

New Sweden is thrilled to announce that we will be celebrating Walpurgis Night on a Swedish owned farm in West Linn from 6:30pm until 8:30pm Friday April 30th.

Walpurgis night is a holiday in Sweden that takes place on the eve of Mayday. This is the night of the bonfire, traditionally believed to ward off evil spirits, but now a festive way of getting rid of excess gardening odds and ends. Following this year's winter ice storm there will be plenty to burn. We will be singing traditional Swedish spring folk songs and feasting upon korv (hotdogs) and mashed potatoes.

Ticket sales are free but to comply with Clackamas county Covid guidelines, they will be **LIMITED**. The address will be shared on Monday the 26th prior to the event

If you would like to join us for Walpurgis please **RSVP** from the link below. We need responses as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. <http://new-sweden.ticketleap.com/NewSwedenWalpurgisNightCelebration>

Friday April 30th from 6:30 until 8:30. If you have any questions send an email to Corina27@gmail.com



Walpurgis Night celebration across from Stockholm City Hall.



Swedish owned Farm in West Linn where New Sweden will celebrate Walpurgis Night on April 30.

Come learn and play the classic game of Kubb!

**Saturdays, 11:00am
at Peninsula Park**

**1st and 3rd Sundays, 11:00am
at Nordic Northwest**

**Safe outdoor fun for Everyone,
all Ages and Abilities.**



Follow for more info:

@PDXKubb



Great practice for the upcoming League Midsummer tournament.

For more information or questions contact Kristi Gustafson:

kristigus@aol.com. See also more info on page 12.

Kubb (pronounced [keb:] in Swedish or [kub:] in Gutnish) is a lawn game where the objective is to knock over wooden blocks (*kubbar*) by throwing wooden batons (*kastpinnar*) at them. Kubb can be described as a combination of bowling and horseshoes. Play takes place on a small rectangular playing field, known as a "pitch". "Kubbs" are placed at both ends of the pitch, and the "king", a larger wooden block, is placed in the middle of the pitch. Some rules vary from country to country and from region to region, but the ultimate objective of the game is to knock over the "kubbs" on the opposing side of the pitch, and then to knock over the "king", before the opponent does. Games can last from five minutes to well over an hour. The game can be played on a variety of surfaces such as grass, sand, concrete, snow, or even ice.





Proposed Astoria Nordic Heritage Park looking northwest from Marine Drive

New Sweden Donates to Heritage Park (By Pam Martin)

In support of the planned Astoria Nordic Heritage Park, the New Sweden board voted to donate \$500 to have our group's name inscribed on a bronze stone plate. These plates will outline the main plaza and a path through the park.

The park will honor the thousands of Scandinavian immigrants who arrived at Oregon's North Coast in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It will honor families who said their last goodbyes and moved to Astoria to become Americans. A large portion of their descendants continue to live in the area. Since its founding in 1811, Astoria has been a trading outpost, a booming fishing and logging area, and is currently a thriving tourist industry.

Planned features will be a large Midsummer Pole in the middle of the plaza. Five granite pillars will represent Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden along with a flag for each country. Interpretative panels will explain the significance of the Scandinavian immigrants along with images of traditional Scandinavian neighborhoods.

Completion is proposed for June 2022.

You can see more and learn how to contribute at <https://astorianordicpark.org/index.html>.



Easter cake (by Cecilia Tidlund)

16 pieces

2 cans of peaches in light syrup (each 15 oz)

4 dl / 1.6 cups sugar

5 dl / 2 cups all purpose flour

2 tsp baking soda

1 tbsp vanilla sugar or 1 ½ tsp vanilla extract

2 eggs

50 gram/ 1.8 oz chopped almonds

2-3 Tbsp brown sugar

50 gram/ 1.8 oz dark chocolate

2-3 dl/ 1½ c whipping cream

Oven 400° F 30-35 minutes

Put parchment paper in a pan 15"X11", for easy lifting

Drain peaches and save juice

Mix sugar, flour, baking soda, vanilla and peaches.

Mix eggs and peach juice and fold it all together.

Pour it into the prepared pan, sprinkle the chopped almonds and brown sugar on top.

It should be a little sticky/runny/lose in consistency, when you take it out.

Grate the dark chocolate directly over, so it melts into the cake.

Let it cool down.

Cut into pieces and decorate.

Decorate with whipped cream

I use canned apricot halves to make them look like eggs!



From Kalmar to Halmstad – How artists and songwriters originating from Halland and Småland took Sweden and the United States by storm (by Jimmy Granström)

The Swedish provinces of Småland and Halland only have a population of about 1,000,000 people, but songwriters and artists from these provinces have still recorded vocals or produced songs on albums which have sold more than 500 million copies around the world.

Starting in Kalmar, on the Swedish East Coast, we find singer/actress Alice Babs (Kalmar), who starred in more than 20 music movies, including the 1940 movie “Swing it, magistern (Swing it, Mr. Teacher)”, which became a symbol for jazz music, considered quite controversial by the older generations at the time. Moving a little bit west, we find US Billboard #1 Producer Andreas Carlsson, who’s co-written or co-produced songs for global mega artists, including Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, Celine Dion and Bon Jovi. Carlsson was born in Danderyd, Stockholm, but was raised in Tingsryd, where he found his interest in music. Further up north are Lars Brundin and Ola Salo originating from Växjö and Rottne, respectively. Lars Brundin is a critically acclaimed singer/songwriter whose songs have been compared with both Swedish and American classic rock giants, from Ulf Lundell and Mats Ronander to Bruce Springsteen. Brundin’s music is both a homage and a legacy extension of his musical heroes. About 20 minutes north of Växjö is Rottne, where Ola Salo - frontman and singer of the celebrated rock band “The Ark” - spent most of his childhood. The Ark was formed in 1991, but it would take 10 years after the band was formed for the band to reach mainstream success with “It Takes A Fool To Remain Sane”, a song that echoes of both melancholy and “in your face” bravado and was the first single from their #1 debut album “We Are The Ark” in 2000. The band disbanded in 2011 after a long string of Top 20 albums and singles in Sweden, Italy, Norway and Finland. The Ark is currently planning a reunion tour for the summer of 2022.



ABBA (1974)



The Cardigans (1997)



Roxette (2020)



Jeanette Bengtsson

The most famous music celebrities originating from Småland are probably Agnetha Fältskog and Nina Persson, former members of the bands ABBA and The Cardigans originating from Jönköping and nearby Bankeryd. Fältskog's ABBA does not need any further introduction, and many readers are probably also familiar with Persson's "The Cardigans". The band had an international hit with "Lovefool", featured in the Leonardo DiCaprio movie "Romeo + Juliet", which hit #2 on charts in the United States and United Kingdom. The Cardigans has sold more than 15 million copies worldwide and Nina Persson continues to be active in Malmö's cultural life, including receipt of the big culture price from the city of Malmö in 2020.

Moving southwest of Jönköping, we find the province Halland and the West Coast town Halmstad. With a population of only around 60.000 people, it has still produced more than its fair share of songwriters and composers that have gained immense commercial music success in the United States. It started in the 1980's with the duo Roxette, consisting of singer Marie Fredriksson and Halmstad-born singer/songwriter Per Gessle. Formed in 1986, Roxette gained international fame in 1988, when an American exchange student returned from Sweden and urged radio station KDWB in Minneapolis to play Roxette's "The Look". Roxette has sold an estimated 75 million copies to date, and is Sweden's second-best selling musical act of all time (after ABBA, of course). Roxette continued to tour around the world until 2016, when Fredriksson's doctor advised her to stop touring due to the brain tumor that she was diagnosed with in 2002, and which was the cause of her death on December 9th 2019 at the age of 61. A compilation album of unreleased Roxette recordings, "Bag Of Trix", was also released in 2020.

Former Roxette members are also still active in Sweden, including their former guitarist Jonas Isacsson who recently worked with Michael Stolt and Laholm-based singer Jeanette Bengtsson on their duet "Vi är äldre nu (We Are Older Now)". Stolt was the singer/songwriter of the band "Desperados" in the early 1990's and Bengtsson's recording credits include an English version of Lisa Nilsson's "Långsamt farväl" with music and lyrics by Mauro Scocco. The English version, "Silent Goodbye", has lyrics co-written by Robert Gould, including the verse lines "I am so tired and indifferent, I'm your crownless queen, a sad figurine, regretting what might have been, and when I look back on those years now, have they put us to the test, I see sacrifices we made, but also how we were so blessed". A recording of a different song with co-written English lyrics by Gould is currently planned. From vintage jazz to contemporary pop, music from Småland and Halland have proven over the decades that big talent can come from small provinces, significantly contributing to making Sweden the third greatest music export nation in the world.

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



Mini Kubb Tournament

Open to Everyone
All Ages and Abilities

**April 25th
11am - 3pm
Peninsula
Park**

**Prizes for
1st Place &
Best Team
Costume**

Follow for more info:



@PDXKubb

