

Holiday message from your President, Kristi Johnson-James

Welcome to our special holiday edition of the New Sweden Newsletter! With all the doom and gloom in the world, we need to focus on the important things. I find spending time with my New Sweden friends is always a great way to feel the spirit of the season. New Sweden would be honored to see you at any and all of our upcoming events. Of course, volunteers are always critically needed to help make our events successful, so consider including us if you have a few hours to spare. Without exception, I hear that this is always an uplifting thing to do.

We kick off the Christmas season with a light luncheon on Saturday, November 15th. The Lucia court will be introduced on this day. Please join us at 2:00 P.M. at Saint Matthews Lutheran Church, located at 10390 S.W. Canyon Road, Beaverton, OR. (If you know of a young lady who is between 16 and 22, please have her call The Scandinavian Heritage Society if she wishes to serve on the Lucia Court.)

Are you like me? I await ScanFair each year with anticipation. This year, the event will be held on the third floor of Portland State University on December 6th and 7th. Arrive hungry, and ready to discover many wonderful Christmas gifts. The entertainment that has been lined up for 2008 will NOT disappoint! The Lucia Court will be present, and the Lucia Bride will be crowned on Sunday. Magical.



DET RÖDASTE PAPPER OM STAKEN VIRAS —
VAD LJUSEN SKA' LYSA I KVÄLL
NÄR ALLA VI SAMLAS OCH JULEN FIRAS.
TILL RIK MANS HUS, TILL FATTIGMANSTJÄLL
JAG ÖNSKAR: **God Jul! Glad Jul!**

A favorite with the Swedish community has always been the LuciaFest at Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 3880 S.E. Brooklyn Street, on Saturday, December 13. If you've been to this program, you will no doubt agree that the music is second to none. I have always marveled at the baked goods that show up on this day!

I want you to know how much we appreciate the effort you all go to. The children especially enjoy the treats. But I await the arrival of SANTA. He always steals the show. I urge you to plan to join all your friends, as this event is the most talked-about of the Christmas season.

Please call me at (503) 516-0656 if you wish to help out. It is because of YOU that we are a strong, vibrant organization.

Merry Christmas!

*The reddest of paper is wrapped around the holder...
Oh, how the candles will shine tonight...
When we all gather to celebrate Christmas...
To rich man's house, to poor man's shelter...
I wish: Merry Christmas! Happy Christmas!*

ScanFeast was a most successful event!

by Kristi Johnson-James



Scandinavian
Heritage Foundation

There was a large room full of silent auction items. The committee worked extra hard this year, as evidence on the high quality of the items.

Bidding picked up as the time came to close the auction. I witnessed many New Sweden members who were quite happy with their winnings! Anna Frida Abrahamsson sang like a Swedish nightingale. The Leikeringen provided a dancing interval.

The dinner was of the highest quality. My Finnish friends commented that they were most pleased with the salmon entrée. The auction was spirited, and the bidding seemed generous. There was loud squeal from the couple who won the trip to the Danish countryside. I must say the event was extremely well-organized.

Of course, the best part of the evening was connecting with all our wonderful, dedicated friends. Visions of a beautiful cultural center were swirling in our heads. It is a much-anticipated event.

The Scandinavian Heritage Foundation Celebrates the 24 years of ScanFair

Celebrate the sight, sounds, tastes and traditions of a Scandinavian Christmas Saturday, December 6 (10 to 5) and Sunday, December 7 (11 to 4), at Portland State University, Smith Memorial Ballroom, 3rd floor, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, OR.



Scandinavians love to celebrate Christmas. It brings joy to the short and dark days of a Scandinavian winter. Those traditions run deep in the hearts and lives of the people of Scandinavian heritage and come alive every year in Portland at ScanFair.

The program includes:

- Event and Entertainment
Scandinavian dance groups, pickled herring eating contest, ScanFair Dance sponsored by SHF and the Nordly's dance group, catch a preview of Portland Christmas Revel's show celebrating the traditions, music and folklore of a Scandinavian Christmas.
- Celebrate the 53rd year in Portland of the crowning of Lucia, Queen of Light on Sunday at 1:00pm.
- Scandinavian Arts & Crafts
- The Pippi Long stocking Room, especially for children
- Film room with videos on Scandinavia
- Eat food on the spot of a variety of Scandinavian delicacies
- Cultural explorations, purchase books, meet authors, research your family's roots with the Scandinavian Genealogical Society and check out Scandinavian language schools.
- And much more....

Cost: \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and students, Children under 12 are free

For more information, contact:

Mike O'Bryant (503) 977—0275

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God Jul, med Jenny Nyström

by Ingeborg Dean

Jenny Eugenia Nyström (1854 - 1946) was born in Kalmar, Sweden and was a painter and illustrator of childrens' books, but is mainly known as the person who created the Swedes' image of the "jultomte" on numerous Christmas cards and magazine covers, thus linking the Swedish version of Santa Claus to the gnomes of Scandinavian folklore, that has been with us for 125 years.



We all know him: dwarf-like in stature, dressed in a green or grey belted tunic, breeches, rib-nit socks, wooden shoes and, of course, a red "tomteluva" (knitted cap). This outfit is that of the 19th century farmer, and it was the farmer who lived with the "tomte", sometimes glimpsed him and who believed that he determined the fortunes of the farm.

In 1874 she was asked to illustrate the Christmas story "Lille Viggs äfventyr på julafton" (Little Vigg's Adventure on Christmas Eve) by Viktor Rydberg, where she and the author associated the Nordic gnome to Christmas for the first time.



However, she made the "tomte" much too ugly for Rydberg's liking, so when she in 1881 was asked to illustrate his Christmas poem Tomten, which tells the story about a gnome walking around the farm on Christmas night, ensuring everything is fine, Rydberg asked her to make the "tomte" more kindly looking ...

Then she designed a "jultomte" to his liking, as well as, it was decided by Jenny Nyström, to be the one delivering the Christmas gifts to the family, which was confirmed in an illustration in the December 20, 1884, issue of Ny Illustrerad Tidning, and the illustrations name was Julafton. This illustration portrayed three "tomtegubbar" coming on the toboggan with Christmas gift for the family, and ever after the "tomte" got to be more and more beautiful and kinder and kinder into what we see as the "tomte" we know of today.

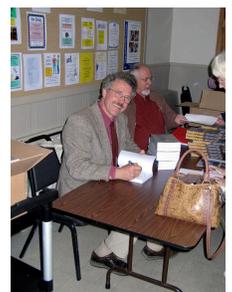


Jenny was able to, as few others to capture the "tomte" being in most particular ways. She had the ability to insert herself into the stories and in a way give the "tomte" a promising image and with an artist's knowledge that was impressive. And that is why all of us remember her exactly for the "tomte", that is a much loved figure to all of us.

SRIO Book Release Party, October 15, 2008

by Leif Rosqvist

The long awaited book "Swedish Oregon", providing an extensive report on immigration from Sweden to Oregon, was released October 15th at the Hollywood Senior Center with an appreciative crowd in attendance. The enthusiasm for the book was high and the books were flying off the table, most of them signed by Lars Nordström, who compiled and edited the book.



The dedication of the book tells the essence of the story:

*To the memory of all those
who had the courage to leave home, family, friends, and culture behind
to make the journey into the unknown.*



The Story of a House, Part II.

by *Lars Nordström*

Early in 2008 GunMarie Rosqvist told the readers of the New Sweden Newsletter the story of an unbelievable coincidence. At the 2007 ScanFair GunMarie and I discovered that her family's old farm in Northern Värmland, where her mother was born, was the same place that had come into my hands in the early 1970s! What are the chances of that? That we—out of the 50,000 Swedes in the United States today—would run into each other in Portland, Oregon, and discover that we have connections to the one and same house in Sweden?



In her article, GunMarie told some interesting stories about her family's life there, but how had I become an owner of the same farm? As soon as I opened my mouth, any Swede knows that I am not a värmlänning—I don't speak värmländska—but stockholmska, which is indeed where I was born and raised. My father came from Gävle and my mother from Västerbotten in the far north, so I don't have any family ties to Värmland. What brought me there was actually the boy scouts. Every few years the group of Stockholm boy scouts to which I belonged would organize a week-long summer camp in Södra Finnskoga. To us city kids it was all very exotic. Supplies had to be rowed in across a lake, and the forests seemed deep and endless. We slept in tents, hiked in the woods, swam, and swatted at mosquitoes and gnats around the camp fire at night. And without knowing it, we fell in love with the place—the woods, the hills, the lakes and streams. This was in the mid 1960s, before the large scale logging of the following decade completely denuded and altered the landscape.

But it was not the boy scouts that brought me and my old boy scout friends back to Värmland ten years later. It was the back-to-the-land movement. In the early 1970s many young people in Sweden were inspired by the notion of leaving the city for a new life in the country. An alternative life style was part of it; music was part of it; organic agriculture was part of it; communal living was part of it. It was all very romantic, and we were all very idealistic and naïve. In northern Värmland many young people had gathered to explore these things, and in 1973, I, together with three friends from Stockholm started looking for a place of our own. After a year of checking out real estate listings all over Södra Finnskoga, we found Nergården, a beautifully located farm in the village of Kindsjön. The large farmhouse had been lived in continuously and was in good repair, sitting on top a small ridge overlooking large, gently sloping meadows that stretch down to the lake. There were many useful outbuildings as well. The four of us immediately bought it, quarter shares each.

The following summer we all moved there, the second farm in the village to be owned by "outsiders." (Prior to us, a German family had bought the old school house and used it for a summer vacation place.) However, it did not take very long before reality began to intrude: the only one who was able to find a job was the girlfriend of Kalle Jansson, my boy scout buddy. She had started working as a grade school teacher in Bograngen, a slightly larger village 10 km north of Kindsjön. Of the original friends, the two of them are the only ones who have managed to live continuously in the old farmhouse since 1975. They have raised four children there, none of which live in the village now. My money ran out after six months, and ever since it has been a place for me to visit, but not to live in. The other friends could not find work there either, and over the years two of the others have sold their shares, so now it is just me and Kalle Jansson and his wife left.



(Con't page 5)

(Con't from page 4)

In the early 1980s, when Cynthia and I lived in Uppsala, we decided that it would be nice to have our own house, so I bought an old log cabin and had it moved to the property. During the next three summers, my father and I, with the help of Kalle Jansson and many friends, rebuilt the old log cabin. Then in 1984, I emigrated to Oregon, and ever since my cabin has waited patiently for my sporadic visits. Like all houses, they are never quite done, and lately I have added a bathroom and remodeled the kitchen. The main house has seen some changes as well. It has been painted twice. The balcony has also been rebuilt twice, and beautiful new floors have been installed in all the downstairs rooms. The kitchen has also recently been entirely remodeled.

During the more than 30 years I have had ownership in this farm, the village has seen many changes. When we came in 1974, there were few outsiders. The locals were all from that area, or from Norway, since the border is only 10 miles away and marrying across the border is very common. Today the village is much more international, with perhaps half of all the houses owned by Germans. In 1974 the population consisted of retirees, locals who had worked in Södra Finnskoga all their lives. Today, fewer and fewer houses are occupied year-round. They have become vacation homes, places people come to in summer or winter.

If you like forests, silence, and peacefulness, and if you ever find yourself traveling in this part of Sweden, do stop by Kindsjön. If it is Thursday, I suggest you stop at Skogsgården for a hearty lunch. Eat on the deck outside, and right across the dam, you will see the farm I have been telling you about. Once you have finished your coffee, walk up to the house for a visit. Chances are that Kalle is home. Tell him hello from me.

“Dalmålning” classes in session

by GunMarie Rosqvist

Our Wednesday and Saturday classes are now in full swing at SHF facility at Oleson Rd, Portland. We are working on the same project in both classes. This time we are painting on canvas instead of wood, which is a new experience for some of the students. We are creating a “Dalmålning” featuring the Crown-Prince Carl riding to the vineyard. The design is based on paintings by Back Erik Andersson (1778-1847). He was a prolific painter from Ullvi in Dalarna, with most of his work done during the 1830-1840th.



Once again we have a great group of enthusiastic people gathering to create a great painting, at the same time as we are having fun and socialize over a cup of coffee and some “goodies”.



Picture Gallery from Dalmålning class



Swedish Holiday Season Dish

Sillsalad—Herring Salad in Sour Cream Sauce

A must on the Holiday Table



| Mått | Ingredienser | Measure | Ingredient |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 8 portioner | | Serves 8 | |
| 2 1/1 dl | Matjesill, finhackad | 1 cup | Herring; finely chopped (salt, matjes, pickled) |
| 225 gram | Tunga eller Kalv, kokt och fin hackad | ½ pounds | Tongue or veal; cooked and finely chopped (opt) |
| 1 1/4 dl | Potatis, kokt och fin hackad | ½ cup | Potatoes; cold boiled, finely chopped |
| 7 1/2 dl | Rödbetor, kokt och fin hackad, färsk eller konserverad | 3 cups | Beets; cold, finely chopped, fresh cooked or canned |
| 1 1/4 dl | Äpple, skalad och utan kärnor, fin hackad | ½ cup | Apple; cored, peeled and finely chopped |
| 3/4 dl | Gul Lök, finhackad | ⅓ cup | Onion; finely chopped |
| 1 1/4 dl | Inlagd gurka, finhackad | ½ cup | Dill pickle; finely chopped |
| 4 msk | Färsk dill, hackad | 4 tablespoons | Dill; fresh, chopped |
| 2 msk | Vitvins vinäger | 2 tablespoons | White wine vinegar |
| | Salt och nymalen Peppar | | Salt & fresh ground pepper |
| 3 | Kalla hårdkokta ägg | 3 | Eggs; hard-cooked, chilled |
| 1 msk | Senap | 1 tablespoon | Prepared mustard |
| 2 msk | Vitvins vinäger | 2 tablespoons | White wine vinegar |
| 1/2 dl | Vegetabilisk olja | ¼ cup | Vegetable oil |
| 2-4 msk | Vispgrädde | 2-4 tablespoons | Heavy cream |
| 2 1/2 dl | Gräddfil | 1 cup | Sour cream |
| 3 msk | Rödbets spad | 3 tablespoons | Beet juice |
| 1/2 tsk | Pressad Citron | ½ teaspoon | Lemon juice |

Blandas väl och serveras kall
 Garnera gärna med hackat hårdkokt ägg

Mix well and serve cold
 Garnish with chopped hardboiled egg

Serveras bäst tillsammans med en god öl och en rejäl snaps!

Served best with a good beer and a large snaps!

Dear New Sweden Members!



During this time of year, we begin to sense a change in the air. The weather begins to change and some of us may even have snow in our yards. One gets the feeling that the Christmas season is in the air and it gives us a sense of expectancy. Seems that, when the cold weather rolls around each year, we just assume Christmas is "right around the corner".



Even before Thanksgiving has come and gone, the malls begin to dress up for Christmas. The Christmas trees are decorated, garland are everywhere and the lights are turned on. The Christmas season has begun, and the turkey isn't even out of the oven. You are invited to share your Christmas story with the rest of the Swedish Community in the next newsletter!

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!
 The Editor

Lucia Wanted....Opportunity for young Scandinavian Girls!

Clock is ticking...Save the date!



Oregon Lucia Court

In this 53rd year, the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (SHF) is accepting applications for the Oregon Lucia Court from young woman of Danish, Färö Islands, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian or Swedish heritage between the ages of 16 and 22 (must be at least a junior in high school, unmarried and a citizen of the US).

An Oregon tradition since 1956, the Lucia, First Light of Christmas, program brings young women of Nordic heritage in touch with this beloved legend of Scandinavia while offering them the opportunity to serve their community and receive a \$500 scholarship.

The Lucia Bride will be crowned December 7th at 1:00pm at ScanFair, SHF's Scandinavian holiday festival and market.

ScanFair celebrates the fun, the food, and traditions of a Scandinavian Christmas on December 6 and 7, at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Center Ballroom.

Applicants must apply and write an essay of no more than 250 words (typed and double-spaced) on *"What being Lucia means to me"*.

Applications must be postmarked no later than November 6, 2008.

Call SHF office (503) 977-0275 or e-mail shf@mindspring.com for application and/or more information.

2008 Lucia Court Schedule, Saturday, November 15th

Come and join us for the "First Light of Christmas" ~ Lucia Court Selection Luncheon at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 10390 SW Canyon Rd, Beaverton, OR

12:00 noon, Lucia candidates begin interviews with judges

2:00pm, High Coffee & Light Lucia Luncheon. Following a light lunch, hear the candidates give a short speech introducing themselves, their activities and briefly tell *"What My Scandinavian Heritage Means to Me"*.

\$15 adults, \$7 children/ with reservations

\$18 at the door



Volunteers sought for New Sweden Board:

New Sweden board members work together to support the many events and activities that New Sweden hosts or participates in to promote and share our Swedish culture and heritage. We have a lot of fun and enjoy the strong bonds of friendship and our shared sense of Swedish identity that results from our work together. New members to the Board are always welcome and are one of our most valuable assets as they bring new ideas and enthusiasm. If you would like to join the Board, please contact Denver James, Membership Chair at (503) 454-0135, or any of the other board members for more information. Välkomna!

