

Message from your President - Kristi Gustafson

Wishing you a Happy New Year! A reminder that your New Sweden dues are due at the beginning of the year. Thanks to Stefan Rosqvist, our webmaster, we can sign up and pay on our New Sweden website. If you prefer to pay by check, that's still possible by using the form on the last page of the winter and spring newsletters. Please save our membership chair's (Ute Munger) time and effort by paying your dues now. If you are 80 years or older and a member in good standing, you qualify for a lifetime membership. Please write "Lifetime eligible" on the membership form and mail it in.



THANK YOU to all the volunteers who worked on our holiday events to make them a success. Special thanks to our new activities chair Corina Laws, for organizing the Willamette Trolley Ride and the Julgransplundring; to Maritha Rufus for chairing our Lucia Fest; to Eva Moore for leading the singing on both trolley rides, and Ross Fogelquist for hosting a "Christmas at Fogelbo" open house.

There have been significant developments with the League of Swedish Societies (of which New Sweden is one of six members) and the Portland Midsummer Festival. Since 1928, the League has produced a traditional Swedish Midsummer event which was held at different locations throughout its history. More about the history of the Portland Midsummer Festival can be read on page 8 of this newsletter.

After the 2019 Midsummer, the League and NNW representatives met, noting the event had more than doubled, possibly tripled, in size in one year. NNW expressed their desire that Midsummer would continue to grow and become a financial asset. The League said their interest was in maintaining the Swedish authenticity of the event and not have it become a commercial endeavor. The League and NNW agreed to end the partnership of producing one event, and the two organizations will each produce their own Midsummer celebrations.

As of this writing, the League is busy planning a Midsummer celebration on June 20th. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in this traditional event. More information will be forthcoming via emails.

Sincerely,
Kristi Gustafsson
President

2020 Events Calendar summary

Additional info forthcoming via email. You should be receiving email communications from: mungeru@gmail.com. If not, please check your spam folder or call: 503-333-0099.

March 22, Annual Membership Appreciation Meeting, 3:00pm, West Hills United Universalist Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Rd., Portland.

March 28, New Sweden's first group orienteering event, 11:00am, Mt. Tabor, Portland, check out the Columbia River Orienteering Club's website for more info about orienteering.

April date TBA, Cooking class, Prinsesstårta (Princess Cake), West Hills United Universalist Fellowship

April 25, New Sweden's orienteering group, Lacamas Lake Park, Camas, WA

April 26, Walpurgis, 4:00-7:00pm on the grounds of Fogelbo

Spring date TBA, New Sweden Barbeque and Kubb practice

June 14, New Sweden's orienteering group, Champoeg State Park

June 20, League of Swedish Societies Midsummer

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.

Review of past events

Craft Day on November 10th

Photos from A-K Lindbergh Rednoske and Cecilia Tidlund. Text by A-K Lindbergh Rednoske.



New Sweden's members taught attendees how to make paper stars (Kristi Gustafson), decorations out of straw (Pam Martin), dip tapered candles (A-K Lindbergh Rednoske with a great help from her daughters Lola and Hilda who were excellent instructors). Several new people joined us this year, helping us turn it into a wonderful event!



Review of past events

Holiday Trolley Rides on December 1

Text by Kristi Gustafsson. Photos from Corina Laws and Cecilia Tidlund.

Our new board member Corina Laws organized two very spirited holiday trolley rides on December 1, on the Willamette River Trolley. Corina, who also volunteers with the trolley, and Anna Lundin decorated it with Swedish flags and holiday cheer. Pam Martin, Ute Munger, Cecilia Tidlund, and Kristi Gustafson met at the Lundin's beforehand to make an array of delicious open faced sandwiches for the riders. Eva Moore led the singing with her usual energy and the riders were quick to pick up on her enthusiasm and join in.



Scanfair December 7-8

Photos from Cecilia Tidlund and Jimmy Granström.

Scanfair was once again very well attended! New Sweden collaborated with the Sjöblom Winery to sell bottles of traditional Swedish glögg. On Sunday, Amy Håkansson's Varelse and the Scandinavian Chorus performed on the Main Stage before the Official Lucia of Oregon Crowning. The new Oregon Lucia is Grace Pagnone, following in the footsteps of her mother Anne Marie who was Oregon Lucia in 1990. New Sweden wrote about Grace and Anne Marie in our October 2018 newsletter, and we are delighted to see Grace as Oregon's Lucia!



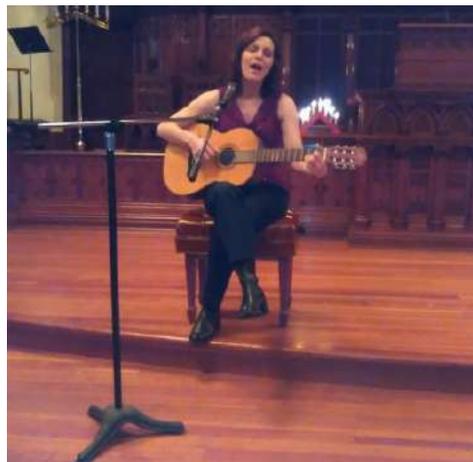
Review of past events

Lucia at First Presbyterian Church on December 14

Photos from Kristina Mellgren Neiman, Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske and Corina Laws



This was the fourth year celebrating Lucia in Portland's First Presbyterian Church. The program included great performances by Douglas Webster, Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske, Agneta and Shumani Massa, Catarina New, the Scandinavian chorus and the Swedish School in Portland. Everybody had a great time dancing (or watching others dance) around the tree. Santa also showed up to hand out candy bags to the kids. Many thanks to all the performers and volunteers for making it a joyous celebration!



Review of past events

Christmas at Fogelbo (by Leif Rosqvist)

When the Christmas season arrives in Portland, we decorate our houses in celebration. The unassuming log home Fogelbo, a Swedish-American treasure, is a significant traditional Swedish heritage center where we come together and celebrate various traditional Swedish events. The Christmas decorated Fogelbo is one of the highlights of the year.

For many Swedish people the Christmas season starts with the arrival of Lucia representing - "the light that glows in the dark".

We are all very familiar with the Swedish Christmas song "Nu tändas tusen juleljus (A Thousand Christmas Lights Are Lit)* which we sang at school and in churches during our childhoods, and which is still sung today:



Ross with Grace Pegnone, Oregon's Lucia 2019

Nu tändas tusen juleljus
på jordens mörka rund
och tusen, tusen strålar ock
på himlens djupblå grund

Och över stad och land i kväll
går julens glada bud
att född är Herren Jesus Krist
vår Frälsare och Gud

Du stjärna över Betlehem
o, låt ditt milda ljus
få lysa in med hopp och frid
i varje hem och hus!

I varje hjärta armt och mörkt
sänd du en stråle blid
en stråle av Guds kärleks ljus
i signad juletid!

A thousand Christmas lights are lit
Across the Earth's dark sphere
A thousand rays will shine upon
Heaven's deep blue bank clear

And through each town and countryside
A joyous Christmas tale
The birth of our lord Jesus Christ
Our savior will prevail

The star seen over Bethlehem
Now let your gentle light
Spread hope and peace in every house
And every home tonight

And send a mild beam of your rays
To all dark hearts deprived
Of God's blessed rays of love divine
When Christmas has arrived

Ross Fogelquist with Oregon's 2019 crowned Lucia, Grace Pegnone, at Ross's home, Fogelbo, on December 13th, 2019 for a reception celebrating St. Lucia Day.

The crowning of Oregon's Lucia took place at the ScanFair event in Portland on December 8th, 2019, including a significant numbers of onlookers, estimated to be almost 1,000.

* English translation/adaptation by Jimmy Granstrom

Review of past event: “Christmas at Fogelbo” by Leif Rosqvist (continued)

Christmas at Fogelbo is a popular time for Holiday tours, parties, concerts and merry making. Ross's collection of holiday decor has been compiled for many decades and features items from Ross's many trips to Scandinavia and the rest of Europe. The historic Steiner cabin has been featured in magazines, commercials and local television news stories. The house can be seen by appointment only; contact Nordic Northwest for details, tickets and information. Fogelbo is part of the Nordic Northwest campus since 2014 when the property was generously gifted to the non profit organization which exists to preserve Nordic heritage in the region.

"A view of the Great Hall and the 18ft Christmas tree from the 2nd floor balcony at historic Fogelbo. Important antiques in this picture include; Rättvik cabinet Circa 1807 from the Bratt Estate, Sweden (center), A reproduction Mora Clock (left), bench seating, wall hangings and hand crafted boxes from the 19th century."

"Ross Fogelquist in the Great Hall of Fogelbo, his family home in Portland Oregon. On display are traditional Swedish straw Christmas ornaments, a painted cabinet and a three legged Monk's Chair from the 19th century. Traditional Swedish wall hangings adorn the walls of the Great Hall." The collection of traditional Scandinavian pieces is almost overwhelming for the visitor.

Ross Fogelquist has been a very active member of the Nordic community for over 50 years and is one of the original founders for Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (now Nordic Northwest) and the founder of four other local Swedish organizations and events.



Review of past events

Julgransplundring on January 12th

Photos from Corina Laws, Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske and Ute Munger



New Sweden arranged its first Julgransplundring (Christmas Tree Looting) on January 12. The event happens 20 days after Christmas in Sweden, and is celebrated with dances around the tree before it is thrown out for the season.



Corina Laws did an excellent job organizing the event, and New Sweden had a great turnout despite a late announcement. Eva Moore played bingo called out in Swedish and English with deeply engaged participants, and Maritha Rufus helped kids of all ages at the fishing pond. Even middle-aged men struggled with the daunting task of getting a catch! New Sweden also had coloring stations, a cuddly moose and a miniature Foosball table with Sweden playing against Denmark. The event ended with the traditional dance around the tree. New Sweden hopes to have "Julgransplundring" at a bigger venue in the future!

Review of future events

Annual Membership Appreciation Meeting on March 22

New Sweden is planning to host its Annual Meeting at West Hills United Universalist Fellowship on 8740 SW Oleson Road near Fogelbo. More information will be forthcoming via emails.

New Sweden orienteering events on March 28th and April 25th

New Sweden will hold its first group orienteering event on March 28 at 11am at Mt Tabor in Portland, and will also meet at the Lacamas Lake Park in Camas on April 25th. Check out Columbia River Orienteering Club's website for more info about orienteering.



Cooking class, Prinsesstårta (Princess Cake), April Date TBA

New Sweden will hold a cooking class on how to make Prinsesstårta (Princess Cake) at the West Hills United Universalist Fellowship. The cake gained its name after being beloved by princesses and queens across Europe. More information will be forthcoming via emails.



Walpurgis, April 26th, 4:00-7:00pm at Fogelbo

New Sweden and Finnlandia Foundation arranged a joint Valborg/Vappu celebration last year. We will have a joint celebration again this year on the grounds of Fogelbo from 4:00-7:00pm on Sunday April 26. More information will be forthcoming via emails.

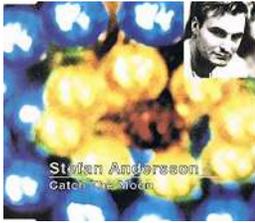


League of Swedish Societies Midsummer Festival on June 20

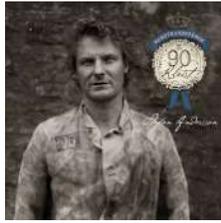
Since 1928, the League of Swedish Societies has produced a traditional Swedish Midsummer event which was held at different locations throughout its history. In 1995, the League invited the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (SHF) to participate. At that time, the Midsummer was held on the grounds of the German Society, but after several years, that property sold and Midsummer moved to Oaks Park. Also about that time, SHF changed its name to Nordic Northwest (NNW) and was able to build Nordia House and enlarge their staff. At the request of NNW, the League agreed to change the name of the event from the Scandinavian Midsummer to Portland Midsummer.



League board members assigned to the Midsummer planning committee began reporting that many decisions about Midsummer were being made by NNW without the League's input. After the 2018 Midsummer, NNW advised the League they owed NNW for expenses incurred by the NNW staff time. This was resolved with the agreement the League and NNW would share equally in the planning and production of the event. **As of this writing, the League is busy planning a Midsummer celebration on June 20th. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in this traditional event. More information will be forthcoming via emails.**



“Catch The Moon”



“No. 90 Kleist”



“Made In China”



“Flygblad över Berlin (Flyers Over Berlin)”

From Carlsten’s Fortress to the Shores of Normandy - The historical concept albums by singer/songwriter Stefan Andersson (By J. Granstrom)

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Stories related to the role of Sweden and individual Swedes in the war have been beautifully compiled and composed by Stefan Andersson, one of the most prominent and celebrated singer/songwriters of historical events involving Sweden or Swedes around the world. His most recent concept album and show “Flygblad över Berlin (Flyers Over Berlin)” received widespread praise from audiences and critics after its premiere at Kajskjul 8 in Gothenburg on January 11 2019, including rave reviews in the national “Dagens nyheter (The Daily News)”, and the show is currently being performed again at Kajskjul 8 with a run through March 21.

Stefan Andersson’s musical career spans almost 30 years, and got off to a great start with the radio hit “Catch The Moon” in 1992. Between 1992 and 2008, Stefan released several albums in Swedish and English and toured extensively throughout Sweden and the rest of Europe. In 2008, while on a boat vacation at Marstrand - a seaside resort about 25 miles northwest of Gothenburg - Stefan experienced a magical minute during a guided tour of Carlsten’s fortress. Following the Treaty of Roskilde in 1658, Carlsten’s fortress was built on the orders of King Carl X of Sweden to protect the newly acquired province of Bohuslän from hostile attacks. Stefan fell in love with the history behind the fortress, and the following year he released the concept album “No. 90 Kleist” on his own label and staged a show based on the album at Carlsten’s Fortress. It has been staged annually since then and is now in its 12th season. Following the success of “No. 90 Kleist”, Stefan has recorded and staged five more historical concept albums, most recently “Made In China” in 2015 and “Flygblad över Berlin (Flyers Over Berlin)” in 2018.

The title song for “Flygblad över Berlin” describes the meeting between the Swedish diplomat Göran von Otter and the SS officer Kurt Gerstein on a night train between Warszawa and Berlin on August 22 1942. A sorrowful Gerstein has just witnessed Jews being gassed to death. He asks von Otter to pass on this info to the Swedish government, requesting the Allied forces drop fliers with info about the concentration camps over Berlin. According to Gerstein, this would lead to the German people overthrowing their own government. Von Otter hands over the information to UD (the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs), but it is not known if it is forwarded to the Allies. “Flygblad över Berlin” is filled with more of such deeply touching stories, with captivating and emotionally poignant lyrics to hauntingly beautiful melodies, from the stirring arrangement for “Hart Blå X” to the somber and fateful “Normandie 13”. My personal favorite is possibly “Sådant går i arv (Such things are inherited)”, which is a story told by Stefan’s grandfather regarding his escape from Norway during World War II, and how he would not pass down the bitter taste those experiences left in his mouth to Stefan. As his grandfather never told Stefan anything about the war before he died, Stefan had to recreate his story with fragments told by relatives and his own research into what his grandfather may have experienced during the war. From Carlsten’s fortress to the shores of Normandy, Stefan Andersson has demonstrated a tremendous ability to capture history in memorable music and deeply thought-provoking lyrics, lending dignity to all the people who lost their lives or had their lives forever shaped by events that define individuals and societies until this day.

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

2020 Membership Renewals and New Memberships!

Memberships are renewed each year and are on a calendar basis from January to December. You can use this form to join or renew, or do it electronically by going to the New Sweden website, as well as using PayPal. You are considered a lifetime member, and do not have to pay dues, at the age of 80.

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 Lifetime eligible (80+ years) Free

Scholarship Fund donation (\$_____)

I prefer to only receive the digital on-line version of the newsletter (I will not receive the printed version)

Make checks payable to "New Sweden" and send to Membership Attn: New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society, PO Box 80141, Portland, OR 97280. Membership questions? E-mail: umbug@icloud.com or www.newsweden.org.