

Message from your President - Corina Laws

Dear All,

As always, I hope that this note finds everyone happy and healthy and that you find time to relax. New Sweden was able to navigate the second year of COVID's ebbs and flows with some gatherings and events. I must say it is nice to be able to do things that aren't on zoom.



In 2021 the big events we participated in were Valborg at Ek farm, Midsommar at Nordic Northwest and Foothills Park, the filming production of Lucia at Fogelbo and the First Presbyterian church of Portland, ScanFair at Nordia house and the Christmas Pig Market at Norse Hall. We did 3 Scandinavian Stories on Sunday's, many Kubb events and tournaments, a few craft classes and even a couple of orienteering excursions. A thousand thank yous to all of the board members, facilitators and volunteers who help make these events happen! I am hopeful and looking forward to the adventures of 2022.

May your year be filled with the things that bring you joy.

Best,
Corina



Congratulations to the Lundin's who were awarded Forest Trolls of the year!



Aberdeen Stuart, with grandmother Christie Hoguelsson on the left, were 2016 Lucia Fest kitchen crew volunteers. Aberdeen was crowned Oregon Lucia 2021, see page 5.

Membership news and additions (by Ute Munger)

Welcome to this new year of 2022!

Hoping that your holidays were safely and joyously spent with loved ones and people that you enjoy being with.

A warm welcome to Robert & Sandra Bäsel, Roger Carlson, David & Tara Hipps, Louise Karneus, Dan & Susan Schlesinger, and David Starr who all joined New Sweden just before year end.

A hearty 'welcome back' to Kathryn Wilske (formerly Aney).

Farewell to Gunilla Perry who transferred to Florida to live on the water.

I really need your attention now - Dues are still to be paid as always in January of every year. Yes, some things don't change but...the amounts for 2022 dues as well as the categories have changed. Maybe to your advantage? Yeah!!!

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| Basic/Single | \$25.00 |
| Senior couple (both 65+ as of last year) | \$40.00 |
| Household/Family | \$45.00 |

People who have been members for at least 3 years and are now 80 years young, receive the title of Lifetime Member. Therefore, dues for 2022 and forward are no longer expected of them.

If you are currently getting the paper issue of the new Sweden newsletter and prefer just to get the digital one, or the other way around and would prefer the paper issue, do send a word to umbug@icloud.com and we'll get it changed.

Stay healthy, active and hopeful that this will be a year of 'getting to know you'!

KUBB update (by Jacin Harter)

The Portland Kubb Club has been growing its following for over two years. We have dedicated New Sweden members who play at Portland Kubb get-togethers and some have become competitive stand-outs at local tournaments. After all this time and practice, we are now at a competitive level to send teams to play in the 2022 U.S. National Kubb Championship this July in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.



Portland Kubb Club is currently raising funds to help with team travel expenses. Krista Nygaard, owner and designer at Scandinavian Design Studio, www.ScandinavianDesignStudio.com/ is selling PDX Kubb merchandise on her online store; fifteen percent of the proceeds from each purchase will go to sending Portland teams to the U.S. Kubb Nationals. Find out more about the 2022 U.S. National Kubb Championship at: www.USAKubb.org/Championship-info.php

Gingerbread house painting class (by Kristi Gustafson)

We began the holidays with a Gingerbread house painting class in lieu of our traditional larger Craft Day. The very talented and creative Rayna Flye (newsletter editor Jimmy Granström's wife) prepared the houses and taught the class. She introduced New Sweden members and guests to the technique of painting with acrylic paint pens. We spent a fun and productive afternoon decorating our Swedish style metal houses while enjoying a bit of socializing sipping tea and eating cookies provided by New Sweden. Thank you Rayna for this fun class!



Pam Martin, Maritha Rufus, instructor Rayna Flye, Sandra Miller and Kristi Gustafson's house.

Felting class (by Kristi Gustafson)

On November 22nd, Kristi Gustafson taught a quickly organized wet felting class for our members and guests giving them the opportunity to make a felted Christmas stocking. Thanks to Anna and Hans Lundin for hosting the class in their new condo community center.



Judy Sanders, Anna Lundin, and Corina Laws



Susan Schlesinger and her mother Arvis



The Fogelbo stuga with some extra decoration by Eric Goranson. Eric added an extra coat of paint as well as the Swedish flag across the top. Anna made curtains and added a pig sign. Thank you Eric and Anna!

Nordic Coffee Hour Takes off (by Kristi Gustafson)

The idea for a coffee hour was suggested by attendees at Nordic Northwest's Town Hall meetings in 2020/21 and subsequently developed by the NNW Community Collaboration Task Force and committee. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for Nordic community members and people interested in Nordic culture to have an informal opportunity to meet and socialize.

New Sweden volunteered to host the first month of the Nordic Coffee Hour in November at Nordia House. On the 9th, we served Fika in the MLC Room to about forty attendees. Anna Lundin and Ross Fogelquist provided festive Swedish decorations and used Ross's silver service to add a touch of class. In addition to Anna and Ross, Kristina and Charles Neiman, Anne Grangaard, and Kristi Gustafson served as hosts from New Sweden. Many New Sweden members attended and enjoyed the opportunity to socialize "in person". Anna, Kristina and Kristi provided Swedish treats to about forty attendees along with Anna's good "Swedish" coffee.

In part due to concern for the size of attendance, the November 23rd coffee hour was moved to the larger NNW Great Hall. In addition to the above volunteers, Linda Cox joined in to help, several more people brought baked goods, and Mary Jo Franck provided us with live piano music. Approximately fifty people attended.

In December the Nordic Coffee Hours were hosted by the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter also with an enthusiastic attendance. We were introduced to the delicious, traditional Finnish pastry - Joulutortut (Christmas stars).

Due to an increase in covid infections, the Coffee Hour in January has been cancelled but hopefully will resume in February or March, depending on covid rates. The time/date will again likely be the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 10:00 to 11:30am. Watch for updates via email.

While New Sweden and Finlandia have taken the lead, it's hoped the other Nordic organizations will participate in hosting the Nordic Coffee Hour. In the meantime, we would like to identify a group of New Sweden members who can help at the Coffee Hour. It comfortably takes about 8 to 10 volunteers on shifts to set up, monitor and clean-up. Please contact Kristi, 503-807-9808, if you'd like to volunteer. **Please see Kristina and Charles Neiman's pictures below from the Nordic Coffee Hour on November 23rd.**



Nordic Northwest Great Hall

Ross Fogelquist, Anna Lundin, Linda Cox, Kristina and Charles Neiman with Kristi Gustafson.

Lucia crowning ceremony and video (by Kristi Gustafson)

While many were busy at Scan Fair on the evening of December 4th, Ross Fogelquist hosted the Northwest Lucia crowning ceremony at his home - Fogelbo. Present at the ceremony was our member AnnMarie Pagnone who serves as a Lucia advisor and volunteers many hours to ensure the success of this tradition. She watched as her daughter Grace, Oregon Lucia in 2019 and due to covid in 2020, passed the crown to Aberdeen Stuart. The Lucia court was then whisked to the First Presbyterian Church at 7:00PM where our Lucia volunteers waited to record for New Sweden's 2021 Lucia video. Many thanks to Steven Englund who did the recordings at the church and at Fogelbo, and arranged for the editing, to Catarina New who organized the performers and music, to Kristina Neiman, Jimmy Granström, Anna-Karin Lindbergh-Rednoske, Ross Fogelquist, Gunilla Admund, Joel Godby, students from the Swedish School and to Lucia Committee Chair Maritha Rufus.

Watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL1Yq6dw_4Y



Lucia crowning ceremony at Fogelbo



The Lucia court with additional choir



Kristina Mellgren Neiman lights the candles



The Swedish School of Portland



Soloist Joel Godby



Catarina New (piano), Gunilla Admund (vocals)

Screen shots by Jimmy Granstrom

Recording the Lucia video at Fogelbo (photos by Kristina Neiman and Jimmy Granstrom)



Kristina and Ross



Steven recording Ross's remarks



Anna-Karin getting ready to record

Scanfair reimagined at Nordic Northwest (by Kristi Gustafson)

In spite of changing covid conditions and restrictions, Nordic Northwest continued the tradition of Scan Fair holding it at Nordia House, December 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Tickets were sold in advance to avoid crowded conditions and attendees were checked for vaccination or proof of a negative covid test. Tickets sold out very quickly.

New Sweden sold a variety of items including baked goods and do it yourself gingerbread houses, as well as handed out our newly revamped New Sweden brochure to perspective members (a big thank you to Corina for the creative redo). Our booth looked extra sharp with a brand new banner (a huge thank you to Pam Martin for the creative work!) and thanks to our new member Robert Basel for helping us get this printed.

Thanks to the team of volunteers: Anna Lundin, Jimmy Granström, Stefan Nornholm, Corina Laws, Pam Martin, Kristina and Charles Neiman, Karen Bloom, Ted Anderson, Tanika Axberg, Ute Munger, Karen Bloom, Judy Sanders, Jacin Harter, Rachel Anderson Bernstein and Kristi Gustafson, AND to the cookie contributors: Tanika Axberg, Anna-Karin Lindbergh-Rednoske, Ute Munger, Linda Cox, Ross Fogelquist and Kristi Gustafson.



Ross wearing his costume from Mora, Sweden



Pam & Kristi with Aberdeen Stuart (Oregon Lucia 2021).



Tanaka, Kristi and Rachel Anderson Bernstein.



Charles and Kristina with Carina Cassim.



Stefan and Anna

The Christmas Pig Market at Norse Hall on December 11 (By Kristi Gustafson)

New Sweden President Corina Laws approached the board in November of 2021 to ask if New Sweden was interested in sponsoring a Christmas market to be held at Norse Hall on December 11th. This market was to be called 'The Christmas Pig Market'. The Board agreed and Corina, Courtnee Averskog and Jane Addams organized the Christmas Pig Market with very little lead time. On Market Day, Norse Hall was decorated and resembled a European holiday market. New Sweden had a vendor booth, sold baked goods, miscellaneous items and passed out membership information. A big thanks to the creators/organizers Jane Addams, Courtnee Riise Averskog and Corina Laws for their many hours of work and asking New Sweden to join in to this venture which will hopefully be a yearly event at Norse Hall. Thanks to volunteers Karen Bloom, Pauline Ek, Pam Martin, Ute Munger, Anna Lundin, Kristi Gustafson, Mark Averskog, Steven and Sara Englund as well as Lucia advisor AnnMarie Pegnone for coordinating and bringing some of the Lucia court.



The Christmas Pig Market (By Courtnee Riise Averskog)

Jane Adams, Corina Laws and I just accomplished what many thought was not possible. We threw a successful community Nordic inspired Christmas Market in under six weeks. Thank you to New Sweden for sponsoring us, Norse Hall for supporting us, all the volunteers who just showed up and worked with minimal direction, all the generous donors, all the vendors - so creative and talented - thank you for taking a chance on us! And the public, wondering what the heck a "Christmas Pig" is but came anyway. We hope you had a cozy afternoon shopping, eating, listening to the performances, taking a unique photo, making a craft, and enjoying a drink with friends in The Oslo Lounge. Thank you, thank you one and all! May the Christmas Pig spirit continue throughout your holiday season!



Photos by Courtnee Riise Averskog and Corina

Fogelbo and Steiner exhibit (by Ross Fogelquist)

From January 15 to June 5, Nordia House exhibit hall will feature pictures and items from historic Fogelbo and the Steiner log cabins. The director of the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum, Lloyd Musser, will be the featured guest in the Friday night lecture series on Friday February 4th. An opening reception will be announced shortly. Other featured events will be part of the exhibit. Steiner was one of the chief craftsmen who helped construct Timberline Lodge in the mid-1930s. Henry and his son John Steiner built over one hundred log cabins and houses in the Mt. Hood area. Fogelbo was the only Steiner House in the Portland area, and was built for Swedish immigrants, the Oscar Olson family. The Fogelquist family bought the house in 1952. In celebration of this 70th anniversary, there are a number of events planned. Stay tuned for more information and keep an eye on Nordic Northwest's exhibits page: <https://www.nordicnorthwest.org/exhibits>.



Daniel Greco concert on March 12th (by Ross Fogelquist and Corina Laws)

New Sweden will sponsor an enchanting early evening concert of Swedish and American music by a Swedish vocal artist, Daniel Greco at the Unitarian Sanctuary on Oleson road. Baritone Daniel Greco is a Minneapolis based singer, actor, voice teacher, music director, worship leader, and songwriter. He comes from a talented musical family. His mother, Joy Greco was a music instructor at a local Portland college and even orchestrated New Sweden's Lucia Program for a number of years. Daniel has an extensive repertoire of Swedish and American tunes, although the concert will be sung mostly in Swedish.



Daniel Greco

The concert recital will be held at the West Hills Unitarian Fellowship Church in the Sanctuary at 8470 SW Oleson Road, Portland on Saturday March 12th, at 5 p.m.

Come and enjoy Daniel and his father on the piano and their extensive song collection, covering many forms of music: classical, jazz, folk, and popular tunes.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission and are available through this link: <https://checkout.square.site/buy/34SMT3YRNT6TKICUMFT2CU2A>

Covid restrictions in effect at the time of the concert will be observed. You can hear Daniel Greco sing here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-VhfNm8HI0>

Walpurgis celebration at Ek Farm on April 30th

It is official that Ek Farm is happy to host and have us back at their fabulous farm where Walpurgis was celebrated last year. Please stay tuned for more details.

Tidbit from Eric Goranson

The 1979 British comedy film Monty Python's Life of Brian was banned in Italy for decades and also by Ireland and Norway. The filmmakers promoted the film in Sweden using the line "So funny, it was banned in Norway."

Excerpt:

Jens Lekman - From Hammarkullen to Rocky Dennis and Drive-in Bingo (by J. Granström)



Jens Lekman



Kirsten Dunst



Hammarkullen, Gothenburg



Rocky Dennis

Jens Lekman is a Swedish singer-songwriter who has covered a wide range of topics in his songs, from stalking U.S. Hollywood actress Kirsten Dunst (whose acting credits include Mary Jane Watson in the Spider-Man movies with Tobey Maguire) and the Gothenburg suburb Hammarkullen he grew up in to the facially disfigured Rocky Dennis in the Cher movie "Mask" and drive-in bingos in Sweden. Lekman has topped the Swedish sales charts, toured the United States extensively since 2004 (his canceled Spring 2020 tour with youth orchestras across the country is likely to be re-scheduled one day), been interviewed in the New York Times and performed on National Public Radio (NPR) Tiny Music Desk Concerts. In the latter, he was described as someone "...whose banter falls somewhere between the effortless delivery of a seasoned comic and the nervous rambling of an indie-rock frontman". Lekman's NPR performance included "Waiting On Kirsten" about almost meeting Kirsten Dunst during her visit in Gothenburg. As Lekman told the NPR crew prior to his performance, there was an interview with Kirsten in a Swedish paper where she mentioned that she liked his music. He was trying really hard to not be impressed by that. Lekman and a friend of his ended up at a club where she was supposed to show up and found out later that she had tried to get in but couldn't because there was a long line outside. Lekman finished his story by telling the NPR crew that "There aren't any VIP lines in Gothenburg, and you won't get into the club faster because you have the right name, or because you've got money or because you made out with Spider-Man. And I love that, I think that's great, and wish that these basic principles of solidarity would be applied to the rest of society". This story perfectly captures the Swedish perspective in Lekman's songwriting.

A big part of Lekman's world view is related to growing up in Hammarkullen ("Hammer Hill"), a multi-cultural suburb outside of Gothenburg. Many of Lekman's lyrics refer to his background in this type of multi-cultural area, for example "Shirin" about an Iraqi hair-dresser trying to make a living in Sweden. In the song, Lekman sings "When Shirin cuts my hair her mama's sitting in the rocking chair, she tells me stories from the war in Iraq cause they were there, Shirin pulls my head to the side, But in the mirror I can see a tear in her eye". This kind of empathy is common in Lekman's work, which often sympathizes with the outcasts in society. Lekman's rise to fame in Sweden started with the EP "Rocky Dennis" in 2004, about the main character in the movie "Mask". Lekman's EP contains the hauntingly beautiful ballad "Farewell Song To The Blind Girl", about how the facially disfigured Rocky Dennis falls in love with a blind girl at a summer camp for blind children. **Full article: <https://www.newsweden.org/lib/doc/article/Jens-Lekman-From-Hammarkullen-to-Rocky-Dennis-Drive-In-Bingo-JG.pdf>**

Meat Loaf & Steinman - From "Bat Out Of Hell" to musicals in Scandinavia (by J. Granström)

On January 20, legendary rock singer Meat Loaf passed away. A week after his death, Meat Loaf's 1977 debut album "Bat Out Of Hell" - one of the five best-selling albums of all time - topped the album charts in Ireland and Australia, and reached its highest ever chart positions in the U.K. at #3 and the U.S. at #13. All the songs on the album were written by Jim Steinman, who passed away on April 19 2021. Meat Loaf and Steinman both started their careers in theater, and met when Meat Loaf auditioned for Steinman's musical "More Than You Deserve" in New York in 1973. Spin Magazine called that meeting "One of the Top 10 most important moments in the history of rock n' roll". Nearly every record label rejected "Bat Out Of Hell" but it went on to sell an incredible 43 million copies, staying in the Top 100 UK Album chart for an astonishing 522 weeks and continued to sell 200.000+ copies yearly even before Meat Loaf's death. After going separate ways in the early 1980's, Meat Loaf and Steinman re-united for the sequel "Bat Out Of Hell 2" released in 1993. The album became Meat Loaf's first (and only) #1 in the U.S., and spawned the monster hit "I'd Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That)" which reached #1 in 28 countries.



Meat Loaf & Steinman Bat Out Of Hell

Following the success of "Bat Out Of Hell 2", Steinman started a successful career as an international musical theater writer. He wrote the lyrics to Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Whistle Down The Wind" as well as the music for "Dance Of The Vampires". The musical has been seen by over 10 million people in a dozen European countries - where it is considered one of the most successful musicals of all time - as well as four cities in Japan. The show features new versions of Bonnie Tyler's "Total Eclipse Of The Heart", Meat Loaf's "Objects In The Rearview Mirror (May Appear Closer Than They Are)" and Fire Inc.'s "Tonight Is What It Means To Be Young" from the 1984 cult movie "Streets Of Fire". In 2020, the musical received its Scandinavian premiere at Det Ny Teater in Copenhagen. Attending the premiere was Steen Elm Sørensen, who had previously seen the show in 11 countries and created the first Jim Steinman website "Neverland Hotel". Sørensen was very pleased with the production, which he thought held up well against the previous ones he had seen. Steinman also wrote some of the music for "Garbo The Musical", which was staged in Stockholm in the autumn of 2002 and followed Greta Garbo's journey from a young girl in Sweden to international fame. Finally, he wrote the book, music and lyrics to "Bat Out Of Hell The Musical"



Vampires (Denmark) & Garbo (Sweden)

which premiered in Manchester in 2017 before successful runs in London, Toronto, New York and Oberhausen, Germany. The musical includes songs from Meat Loaf's "Bat Out of Hell" albums, as well as Air Supply's "Making Love Out of Nothing At All" and Celine Dion's "It's All Coming Back To Me Now". From "Bat Out Of Hell" to musicals about Greta Garbo and Vampires in Sweden and Denmark, the works of Meat Loaf and Steinman have left a lasting legacy on rock n' roll and musical theater around the world. Listen to some songs from Steinman's Scandinavian musicals here: [Garbo The Musical: www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2JtPRjhNwU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2JtPRjhNwU) [Vampires: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR05uudTra8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR05uudTra8), www.youtube.com/watch?v=P80tMiDhXIs

Veronica Maggio - A decade at #1 with playful pop and reflective ballads (by J. Granström)



Four #1 albums from Veronica Maggio released in 2011, 2013, 2016 and 2019 (left to right)

Veronica Maggio is one of Sweden's most beloved artists, and all her four albums released during the 2010's reached #1 on the Swedish sales chart. Her first #1 album "Satan i gatan" ("Satan in the Street", an idiomatic expression of mild surprise) stayed in the Top 10 of the Swedish sales chart from May 6 to October 28 2011. The first single from the album was "Jag kommer (I'm Coming)", an intentionally double entendre title, though the lyrics are clearly describing being physically on your way to your loved one through different modes of transport. The single also reached #1 on the Swedish sales charts and received rave reviews, with Per Bjurman of Aftonbladet calling it "Fun, smart, original and, in general, irresistible as well". The whole album is characterized by a delightful playfulness, with catchy lyrics and elegant synth pop. Maggio's next #1 album, "Handen i fickan fast jag bryr mig (The Hand In My Pocket Although I Care)" released in 2013, contains more songs with darker and more brooding themes than "Satan i gatan". The first single "Sergels torg", named after one of the main town squares in central Stockholm, certainly carries a darker tone, describing a sky filled with sorrow hanging over the town square as Maggio reminisces a former loved one. In the video for the reflective ballad "Låtsas som det regnar", which means "Pretend like it's raining" - an idiomatic expression implying that someone is pretending like nothing is happening or that everything is OK when it really isn't - Maggio walks across barren cityscapes with empty parks and sleeping swans, sharing her innermost feelings with a friend who stays silent and "pretend like it's raining", as if Maggio's sadness is less profound than it really is.

In 2016, Veronica released her third #1 album "Den första är alltid gratis (The First One Is Always Free)", about how things in life that come for free at one point but will be expensive later in life, as expressed with the lines "Första gången, första kyssen, första drömmen är så lätt att fånga (The first time, the first kiss, the first dream is so easy to catch)". The darkness of Maggio's songwriting may have peaked with "Förlorad för alltid (Lost Forever)", where Maggio sings "Förut såg jag allt som poesi, jag såg det som andra gick förbi, nu är hela världen bara blek, ord är bara ord och ingen lek (I used to see everything as poetry, I saw things that other people just walked by, now the whole world is just pale, words are only words and no play)". Maggio's two most recent releases, the 2019 #1 album "Fiender är tråkigt (Enemies Are Boring)" and the upcoming 2022 release "Och som vanligt händer det något hemskt (And As Usual Something Terrible Happens)", with the first six songs released with space themed song covers in 2021, contained more upbeat songs and possibly a return back to Maggio's more cheerful 2011 sound. Regardless of her future direction, Maggio is likely to remain one of the most influential Swedish artists for years to come.

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Pictures from New Sweden events in December 2021



Jimmy Granström reading "Tomten" during the Lucia video recording.



Ross Fogelquist, Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske and Steven Englund at the Lucia video recording.



Courtnee Riise Averskog's craft, posters and cards at the Christmas Pig Market on Dec. 11th