



New Sweden Newsletter

January – March 2007

Volume 85

A Wonderful Opportunity to Learn Swedish Folk Art



GunMarie Rosqvist

There has been an interest expressed to offer a painting class in "Traditional Swedish Folk Art"; called "Dalmålning" or "Kurbits".

GunMarie Rosqvist, who is an experienced artist in many areas of painting, has offered to lead such a class.

She suggests a beginners' class,

consisting of four (4) meetings of 3 hours per session, or five (5) meetings of 2 hours per session. We will paint a Kurbits design on canvas-board.

She will teach basic stroke work and how to handle the paint and brushes. If you are interested in this class, please call her at (503) 466-2119, and tell whether you prefer morning or evening classes, and whether you would like to paint with oils or acrylics. There will be a class fee of \$75.00, which includes some materials; e.g., paints, canvas boards, and pattern.

Some materials for students to bring would be brushes (3 or 4 different sizes), palette and palette-knife. A supply list will be sent to all students. These supplies are readily available at Michaels, the Craft Warehouse, or similar outlets.

Possible dates for this class would be March 14, 21, 28 and April 4. However, dates will be determined later. There is room for about 10 students per class, so if you are interested don't delay calling.

April 6 Will be A Memorable Evening

A special concert will feature Finnish-born violinist, Cecilia Zilliacus, and Swedish-born pianist, Per Tengstrand, on April 6, 2007, at 7:30 pm at Lincoln Hall Auditorium, Portland State University. The concert is co-sponsored by the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation, New Sweden and the Finlandia Foundation, Columbia Pacific Chapter.

Admission is \$15.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students and children. Early registration is recommended. Call SHF at (503) 977-0275 for tickets.

The Friday Night lecture previously scheduled at PSU for this date has been postponed until fall, 2007.

Violinist Cecilia Zilliacus lives in Sweden, and studied at the Stockholm Royal College of Music. In 1997 she won both the Nordic Soloist Biennale in Trondheim, Norway and was "Solistpriset" winner of the Stockholm Royal Academy.



Cecilia Zilliacus



Per Tengstrand

Per Tengstrand is one of today's most exciting pianists. He won first prize at the 1997 Cleveland International Piano competition and became the youngest recipient of the Royal Medal "Litteris et Artibus" presented by King Karl XVI

Gustav of Sweden in 2005.

President's Message

February 14, 2007

Kristi Johnson James

As I write you this heartfelt message on Valentine's Day, my first words are "You're a fabulous group of people." Last night's New Sweden Board and Interested Members' Meeting was a busy, positive and productive gathering. We have so much talent in our midst.

And I wish to thank everyone who is sharing these gifts with New Sweden. GunMarie Rosqvist arrived at the meeting with examples of her gorgeous artwork, AND a plan to offer Swedish Folk Painting classes to our members! (See related article in this newsletter). She even had four dates in March and April to propose for the classes. I hope to be the first to sign up, if one of you doesn't beat me to it! How exciting!

Our newest member, Anna-Frida Abrahamsson walked in the door, and the room lit up. She was quickly welcomed and pressed into service. We needed Swedish translation help! Last fall, after meeting me and taking a tour of Fogelbo, Anna-Frida volunteered as a greeter at ScanFair. There she was, dressed in the beautiful Swedish dress she wore at her wedding, proudly representing Sweden, and our New Sweden Society, to the crowds at ScanFair! We all welcome her and her husband to our group.

Please put our annual meeting, Sunday, May 18, at Fogelbo on your "must do" list! We have an exciting year ahead and we really want to hear your voice as we elect our 2007-2008 New Sweden Board members to lead us into our next exciting year. Check this newsletter for more details on the meeting.

It's not too early to begin making plans to attend Skandia Lodge's and New Sweden's Kräftskiva. The event will be the evening of August 18, 2007, at the home of Sir Ross Fogelquist. If you've attended this event in the past, you know how popular it is. Weather has been delightful the last few years. Of course, we cannot guarantee a replay of this, but we hope our luck holds. We have received many suggestions, and we hope to refine the event to further your enjoyment. More tables, more lights, more volunteers has been the theme.

Now, here's how you can do your part. Because the kraftor are very expensive, we have to put our exact order in early. We certainly don't want to exclude anyone, but we need to hear from you at least two weeks in advance. Then, we can order the proper amount of everything. Please let us know if you wish to volunteer. We are going to have committees, so your task would be well defined. In closing, I wish to say this event has afforded me an opportunity to meet and work with some very wonderful members from both Skandia Lodge and New Sweden. You too will enjoy working with some dedicated individuals!

This has been a busy, exiting, learning year for me as your president. There's a lot of O.J.T. (on-the-job-training) involved, but I'm enjoying the experience. As always, let me know your thoughts. Better yet, volunteer. We'd love to tap into your talents, too!

Germany and Austria at Christmas

Ross Fogelquist

I spent a delightful month in Austria and Germany visiting 12 old friends. The first eight days were spent with a former student of mine from Mt. View High School. He rented a new BMW with a guidance system, so we were never lost.

The first days were spent in Marburg where I have taken students for the last 16 years on a short-term exchange program, so I had many friends to visit there. I then met my friend in Frankfurt and drove to Salzburg where we spent three days. The Christmas outdoor markets were very festive and beautiful, all offering a great variety of Christmas decorations and delicious food. We were able to attend a Mozart opera and a few special alpine Christmas concerts. I stayed with friends in the nearby Alps in their beautiful alpine home. Later we traveled to Munich, which was beautiful in its Christmas splendor. I then continued by train to visit more friends in central and north Germany.

Christmas was spent with a former exchange teacher who taught at my school and lived with me during that year. He now has three children and a lovely wife. We celebrated Christmas for three days, as is the custom in Europe. Christmas in Germany is steeped in many

old traditions, including Christmas trees with real candles.

After Christmas I continued visiting old friends and former exchange students in Northern Germany. The weather was mild and everyone was complaining of a lack of a real snowy winter. Train travel is excellent in Germany with fast, clean trains. Everyone was very kind and helpful to me, helping me on and off trains with my heavy suitcases. The whole time there was delightful. I feel blessed to have so many caring friends in Germany. I recommend a trip to Northern Europe during the holidays. You will never forget the experience.

Annual Meeting on March 18

All members are encouraged to attend our 2007 Annual Meeting at Fogelbo, (8740 SW Oleson Rd) on Sunday, March 18 at 2:00 pm. We will be presenting our 2007-2008 Board candidates for election at the meeting. If you would like to nominate yourself, or others as candidates for the Board, please e-mail Barry Peterson at barry@peterson.net, or call Barry at (360) 666-6514. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Beverages will be provided. Bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre to the meeting to share if you would like. Barry and Laurel Peterson will give us a presentation on their recent trip (in part as representatives of New Sweden) to the Swedish Bridge Conference in Karlstad, Sweden. Also, a new member directory will be available at the meeting. The new directory will also be mailed to all members not at the meeting.

Although Oleson Road is undergoing reconstruction, the work stops on weekends so travel to Fogelbo should not pose problems. If possible, however, please consider car pooling to ease pressure on parking spaces.

Garage Sale and Swedish Café

The annual New Sweden Garage Sale is planned at Fogelbo for Saturday, May 5, and Sunday, May 6. We are moving the dates from a Friday/Saturday to a Saturday/Sunday event due to the road construction on weekdays on Oleson

Road. Members are asked to bring their items for this sale to Fogelbo.

The proceeds from the sale help with our annual contribution of \$1,000 to the Trollbacken Children's Swedish Language camp. Last year the sale and Swedish Café were very successful!

New Sweden Smorgasbord

Scandinavian Heritage Foundation asked New Sweden if they would provide a "Swedish Smorgasbord for Eight" as an auction item for the October 2006 ScanFeast Auction. It was agreed to by the New Sweden Board and the dinner was purchased at the auction.

The date for the Smorgasbord has not been set, but it will probably be held in mid to late May. Denver James and Kristi Johnson-James have volunteered their home for the dinner. Maude Eriksson has volunteered to assist with the planning and execution of the Smorgasbord. With other members' help, we hope to make this a fun celebration of Swedish culture by emphasizing traditional dishes and including New Sweden members in traditional dress.

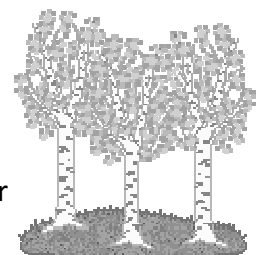
Walpugis (Valborg) Eve

Our generous hosts for the annual Walpugis Eve bonfire, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Leethem, will be away, so we will not hold the event this year. Many thanks to the Leethems and Gorel Kinersley for their support of this popular event each year.

History Committee

History Chair Joel Johnson, Joan Anderson and Ross Fogelquist met at Fogelbo on Saturday, February 10, to continue reviewing and sorting historical materials. The committee needs to purchase additional filing folders and another large plastic container for photo storage.

New Sweden members are urged to be on the lookout for historical records or other materials related to New Sweden, as well as the lives and contributions of the Swedish Americans in the northwest for adding to the New Sweden Historical collection.



Swedish Bridge Conference

by Laurel & Barry Peterson

This conference was sponsored by the Swedish Council of America, September 27-October 1, 2006 in Karlstad, Sweden. The Petersons were jointly sponsored by Swedish Roots in Oregon (SRIO), New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society of Oregon and Southwest Washington and themselves. The Honorable Eva Eriksson, Governor of Värmland (and President of the Kinship Center Board) welcomed all delegates and visitors to Karlstad. The Conference was also sponsored under the patronage of His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf.

We must first report that we were well fed and entertained by värmlänningarna. That was really the first order of business – a banquet with greetings and entertainment on the evening of September 27. The next morning (Thursday), there was a series of workshops began and continued until late afternoon, resuming again on Saturday

One of the more interesting was one entitled, “The Church in Swedish America” with Alf Brorson. He is a high school teacher in Värmland and had lived in Lindsborg, Kansas for several years and made some interesting observations about contemporary American religious habits compared to those in Sweden. It was his view that Americans were much more active Christians than are Swedes. He also traced some of the earlier impacts of the church on life in Sweden, such as bringing the Latin alphabet to Sweden with the advent of it becoming a Christian state, the establishment of the Lutheran church in 1680 and the issuance of the first psalmbok in 1695.

Karin Öman made a presentation on the Local Heritage Federation, which is involved in about 600 parish local heritage sites. There are also other local heritage sites. Those who have traveled to Sweden know the wealth of local information and objects that can be found at such places. One commenter said that all the things our Swedish immigrants didn’t want or left behind are now in these local centers. This probably has some basis in fact, but our experience has been that much cultural and historical work is also accomplished at some of these sites – and whatever they may be used for, they give us an eye on the history of the times and the opportunity to talk to persons interested in the area and usually also in what became of their emigrants. Karin indicated that the Lucia and julotta celebrations were disappearing at these local heritage sites. She indicated that small local heritage sites always exist with people with big hearts who care about the past and what it can offer for the future. This was an excellent presentation.

One long day was devoted to field trips around Värmland. Laurel chose the one that toured areas of iron production, the poet Fröding, the John Ericsson museum and a Wasa bread factory. The highlight was her visit to the Nobel Museum.

Barry chose a trip to northern Värmland into some of the larger iron processing areas in Monkfors (now a museum) and Uddeholm. There were also stops at a local heritage site to view the outdoor museum and at Sunnermo church where, because we had an organist with us, we had a hymn sing.

There was, of course, a closing/honors banquet with a local choir and the meeting closed the next morning with a 10:00 am service at Karlstadsdom (Cathedral) with the readings and sermon in English. The local bishop, Esbjörn Hagberg, preached. We were fortunate to also worship with Laurel’s cousin, Kajsa Kvarned, who is a priest assisting this bishop.

We were honored to represent both the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society and Swedish Roots in Oregon and brought greetings to the organizers from both organizations. A set of publications by SRIO was presented to the lead organizer, Erik Gustavson, of the Emigrantregistrat for that library.



Laurel Peterson (second from right) and friends in front of Gustav Adolf Kryka in Värmland where her great grandfather worshiped.

Introducing Ingrid!

Swedish Consul Mark Johnson and his wife, Shirley, (also known as Grandpa and MorMor) recently returned from Valentuna, Sweden where they met the newest member of their family, Ingrid Stina Lann.

Ingrid arrived on January 23, 2007 and is the daughter of Greta and Jonas Lann and sister of Oliver, who is two.

Our Scandinavian community is familiar with Greta Johnson Lann's wonderful watercolors!

Join New Sweden's "Chat Group"

---Sam Bradshaw

We now have an on-line "Yahoo Chat Group" for New Sweden members! Just go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/newsweden> ..Don't be shy! Post a new message after you join! Even Swedes and "Swedish-like" people can be goofy, fun, and "extraverted" at times. Tell a story, plan a dinner, or talk about your latest Swedish recipe you just cooked up. Even Norwegians are welcome to tell us about their delicious, brown goat cheese! Ross can surely tell us about the latest wooden chest he has purchased??

Do you know someone who is looking for a job, or someone who wants to visit Sweden and doesn't know what to do first? How about a car mechanic for your Volvo? Sharing stories about the "homeland" are also welcome of course.

But..seriously; hopefully this forum will be an excellent way to communicate and network with each other -- as we all lead busy lives. How successful this group will be depends on everyone's contribution. This group can be particularly useful for event planning, brainstorming, and planning "get-togethers" with each other.

Please be aware that you can post files to the "files section". This is very useful! If you just cooked a brand new pot of lutefisk using a new recipe from Mor-Mor; this could be the place where you permanently archive and share this important information.

Any and all suggestions welcome.

If you have any technical questions, email me and I will help out.

Email: Sam@SamAndKacy.com

New Sweden's Webmaster

Kristina Neiman has accepted a new work position, and has asked to be replaced as the New Sweden Webmaster. Kristina has served New Sweden for many years in this position. She developed the website for New Sweden and her dedicated, excellent service is much appreciated.

Sam Bradshaw has generously volunteered as our new Webmaster. Be sure to check our New Sweden Website at www.newsweden.org.

"Taking Mother to Lunch at Stockholm's Grand Hotel"

By Gerda "Karin" Cornelius Thorin

The last time I visited Sweden, I had the great pleasure of accompanying my Mother Astrid on her last journey home to Sweden---a land she had not visited for over six decades. There were many things she hoped the trip would find time for-----a visit with family, a tour of Stockholm, a return to her hometown of Skee in the west coast province of Bohuslan and lunch at Stockholm's Grand Hotel.

We visited Sweden in the middle of September 1996, the year which marked the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the great migration of immigrants to the new world and also the year my Mother celebrated her 87th birthday.

Our day to "do lunch" at the Grand Hotel began with a private tour of Stockholm's National Museum with personal guidance from Erik Cornelius, chief photographer for The National Museum and Astrid's nephew. After our special tour of the museum, we strolled along the water and walked up a flight of stairs to the grand lobby of Stockholm's Grand Hotel where Astrid last visited in 1933. We were seated at a lovely table by the window where we enjoyed a breathtaking view of Stockholm, the water, the castle---we were at a place Mother dreamed of returning to.

For lunch we dined on Sweden's signature meal of gravad lax (salt cured salmon) with potatoes in white sauce-----A memorable glimpse of a trip of a lifetime!! For those of you planning a trip to Stockholm, I highly recommend a visit to the National Museum followed by lunch at The Grand Hotel.

The Ice Hotel, A Night to Remember!

By Anna-Frida Abrahamsson

On a dark, cold morning in the first week of the New Year 2004, we (Anna-Frida Abrahamsson and Christopher Ward) stepped off the train in Jukkasjärvi. A short taxi ride later, opening up behind the pine trees, was a huge, white castle. The taxi driver told us about famous guests he had taken there, but warned us not to be disappointed if the Northern lights did not appear. The forecast had not predicted any for that week. The Ice Hotel lies right by a frozen lake, from which all the building blocks of ice are extracted. The staff also plunges molds in the lake to make frozen vodka glasses for the Absolut Bar inside.

A blue glow from fiber-optic wires frozen into the floor and walls created a misty atmosphere around the whole area. It was enhanced by a black, starry sky above a landscape entirely covered in white. We checked in, and were handed snowsuits, bearskin hats and gloves, extreme weather sleeping bags, and a locker key, for where to store our belongings. We learned that Swedish queen Silvia had stayed there just a few nights before, for her birthday. An ice cello carved for a performance in her honor had been left behind as a reminder of her visit. A wedding couple walked by, trailed by a photographer. The bride wearing white fur and a white silk dress smiled. The couple had just come from the little ice chapel next door, which, in a romantic spirit, would melt into the river at the end of the season, never to be seen again.

We were then invited to tour the facility. Each room had been carved by an artist who had flown to Jukkasjärvi for the unique occasion. There was the Harley room, with sculpted life-size motorcycles. There was the ice fishing room, seen from the perspective of the fish, so you looked up at a hole in the ceiling, and a fishing pole made of ice sticking through. I remember a stylistic living room, a cyber room filled with carved holes and spheres, and a gigantic bed made of ice. By the end of the walk-through, we had reached the time when the rooms closed for public viewing, and it was time to prepare for the night ahead.

We were a bit hungry, and decided to try the restaurant. Christopher felt it was time to celebrate, and ordered the moose steak. After

looking at the humbling prices on the menu, I decided that a soup would probably do just fine. "Are you sure that the soup will be enough?" the waitress asked, and I assured her that it would. She



Anna-Frida Abrahamsson

doubted a bit but took my order, and when the food came, I saw why. It was really just a cup of broth. Fortunately, there was plenty of bread to go with it, so I sponged up every last bit of broth with a mountain of bread, and then Christopher shared his moose steak with me.

The best place for a sauna is north of the Arctic Circle, we found. After wearing heavy snow



Christopher Ward

clothes the whole day, it was a delightful feeling to stretch back in a hot room that was steaming with Nordic herbs. Better yet, we then walked outside and looked up at the stars, and we noticed tails of bright green and pink darting overhead. A couple from Chile stopped beside us, and was thrilled to discover what we had seen. The aurora borealis had appeared after all.

Back inside the Ice Hotel, we found our room. The beds were carved out of ice, and covered by reindeer skins. Armed with socks and hats and gloves, we crept into our sleeping bags, ready to spend the night. In the ceiling of each room, a hole was carved out to make sure that the

heat that warm bodies generate escaped from the rooms and didn't affect the freezing temperatures required to keep the castle from melting. The gigantic igloo was warmer on the inside than on the outside, though I would hardly say it was warm. We were able to lie down and look out at the moon above. That was when Christopher turned around,

found my hand and asked me a very important question. It was a night to remember! When a girl from the hotel woke us the next morning with a cup of hot rosehip soup, we knew we had reached the end of our stay. I hope everyone gets to make the same journey.

2006 Lucia Successful

Our Lucia Fest celebration in December at St. Paul Lutheran Church was a rousing success. The church was nearly packed and the beautiful music and services received rave reviews from many members and attendees. Many thanks to the Lucia Fest Planning Committee, including Joy Greco, Sara Spencer, Kristi Johnson-James, Maritha Rufus and Ross Fogelquist, along with the children of the Swedish School in Portland, musicians, including, Joan Paddock, Scandinavian Men's Chorus, Scandia Ladies Chorus and many volunteers who worked to make this such a success.

A special thanks, too, to Oregon's 2006 Lucia Court (pictured from left standing are Sarah Curl, Emma Kane and Margaret Leonard, kneeling is Annika Tohlen, Oregon's 2006 Lucia.)

Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and line dancing downstairs following the service.



Calendar of events

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|----------------------------|--|
| March 3, 2007 | Elegant Torsk Dinner: The Daughters of Norway Elegant Torsk Dinner is brought to you by the Daughters of Norway, Frida Hansen Lodge #37. Saturday, March 3, 2007, seatings at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm at Norse Hall Dining Room, 111 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232 Tickets are \$20. For reservations call (503) 260-5127. |
| March 14, 2007 | Beginning Dalmålning Class. GunMarie Rosqvist, experienced artist, offers beginning classes. Call her at (503) 466 2119 if you are interested. |
| March 13, 2007 | New Sweden Board Monthly Meeting 7:30 pm at SHF |
| March 17, 2007 | St. Patrick's Day Celebration: At Norse Hall (NE 11 th and Couch) features authentic Irish dancers. |
| March 18, 2007 | Annual meeting at 2:00 pm at Fogelbo |
| April 6, 2007 | Zilliacus and Tengstrand Concert 7:30 pm at the Lincoln Room, Portland State University |
| April 30, 2007 | Walpugis Eve Bonfire Canceled. |
| May 5 and 6, 2007 | New Sweden Garage Sale and Café – at Fogelbo on Oleson Road |
| June 23, 2007 | Midsummer Fest to be held at the German American Cultural Center at 7901 SE Division Street |
| August 18, 2007 | Kräftskiva , Annual Crayfish Festival at Fogelbo sponsored by Skandia Lodge and New Sweden |
| October 6, 2007 | ScanFeast Auction and Dinner at Portland State University, Smith Center Ballroom. |
| November 17, 2007 | Lucia Luncheon at St. Mathews Lutheran Church, Beaverton |
| December 1, 2, 2007 | ScanFair at Portland State University |
| December 8, 2007 | LuciaFest. A beautiful program introducing Oregon's 2007 Lucia and her court. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3880 SE Brooklyn St., at 4:00 pm. |

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society

10765 SW Cottonwood St.

Tualatin, OR 97062

New Sweden Membership Renewal

Dear members,

If you have a question about your membership, please contact the Membership Chair, Denver James, at e-mail denverjms@aol.com, or by phone at 503-454-0135. If you have already mailed your dues, **Tack Så Mycket!** New Sweden has a full schedule of activities on tap for 2007, including a new directory. To ensure your name is included in the directory, it would be helpful to receive your dues prior to the end of the first week in March. Thanks for your support of New Sweden!

Membership Renewal Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number: (_____) e-mail: _____

____ Single \$20.00 ____ Family \$35.00 ____ Patron \$50.00 ____ Scholarship Fund

Each membership includes a subscription to *Nordic Reach* magazine. Make checks payable to **New Sweden**.

Send completed form and check to Membership Chair:

Denver James,
10765 SW Cottonwood Street
Tualatin, OR, 97062
Telephone (503) 454-0135