

Message from your President - Kristi Gustafson

We've had a busy last couple of months with our Walpurgis celebration, yard sale and two Midsummer celebrations behind us. The yard sale was a lot of work but was successful and one of our major fundraisers. At the Oaks Park Midsummer, we more than met our volunteer obligations and helped to fill otherwise empty positions. We are delighted to see new people helping out at our events.



We have two events coming up the first two weekends in August. For those who have not attended our annual Kräftskiva (crayfish) party, this is a tradition in August in Sweden, when neighbors and friends get together for a relaxed evening of visiting and potluck eating on a warm evening. At Fogelbo, we decorate with lights and traditional ornaments. This event involves set-up and take down requiring quite a few volunteers but the party is a favorite and considered well worth the effort.. We expect to sell out of tickets so New Sweden members should not delay ordering tickets.

The second weekend in August, the Viking Ship float, adorned with the Swedish colored sail made by Anna Lundin, is headed for the Astoria Land Regatta Parade, August 11th, in Astoria, Oregon. All New Sweden and Swedish League members are invited to participate with the float in this parade. The less mobile will ride and the rest of us will walk the parade route with the float. Traditional dress, Swedish colors, and other Swedish identifiers are encouraged but not mandatory. Might we have a Pippi Longstockings?

The parade route is about one mile and we will assemble near the aquatic center - exact location will be forthcoming. Arrive by 9:45am as judging begins at 10:00am. The parade begins at noon. After the parade, about 3:00pm, we will meet at the Cullaby Lake County Park, in nearby Warrenton, for a barbeque while enjoying the historical Lindgren cabin (see page 15). There is a \$5 park entry fee per vehicle. Please RSVP if you plan to participate in the parade and/or attend the picnic, to Kristi, 503-807-9808, or kristigus@aol.com.

Kristi Gustafson
President
503-663-2772
kristigus@aol.com



2018 New Sweden Walpurgis Celebration on April 30

Connie and Morgan Pope once again hosted our April 30 Walpurgis celebration in spite of Connie having a broken elbow and Morgan getting over an illness. The weather co-operated and we were able to enjoy the beautiful valley view from their property. We filled up on Swedish korb before Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske led us in traditional songs in front of the fire.

For those who didn't read Swedish, she explained what the songs were about- clearly a recognition and appreciation of nature and the coming of spring. We were joined by members of the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter.



New Sweden 50th Anniversary Antique and Garage sale May 11-12

The annual yard sale was a success and we will be able to once again donate \$1,000 to the Swedish Language camp. Thanks to those who donated items, the volunteers who worked hard to organize and mark the items for sale, and those who worked the sale. New this year was Anna Lundin's Swedish korv served with a scoop of mashed potatoes, a dish familiar to those born in Sweden, but a first time experience for many.

Portland celebrated the League of Swedish Societies' 90th Midsummer Festival (1928-2018). By Leif Rosqvist.

Midsummer (Summer Solstice) is such an important Swedish festivity where families and others get together to raise the Maypole (majstång or midsommarstång) and dance around it, celebrating that the summer begins.

On June 24th, 1928, the most documented Midsummer celebration in Portland was arranged by the *League of Swedish Societies of Portland, Oregon*, at Gladstone Park in eastern part of Portland. The main planning and carrying out of the event fell on the members of the *League*. Many of them are still around. The League of Swedish Societies of Portland was organized November 11, 1927, by the following Swedish organizations:

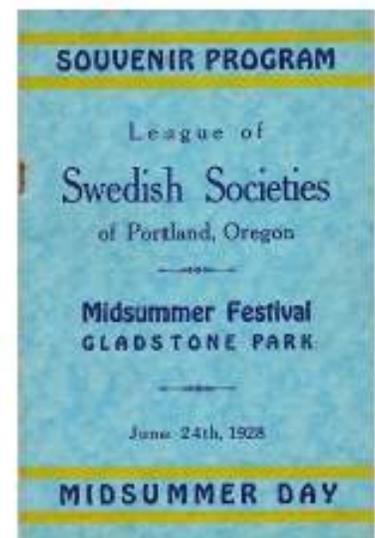
Swedish Society Linnea, Nobel Lodge, Harmoni Lodge, Alberta Lodge, Skandia, Columbia Male Chorus, Swedish Business Men's Club, Runeberg Lodge, and Swedish Dance Club.

The overall purpose of the *League* is to promote friendship among the various Swedish organizations in Portland, co-operation in social doings that would be beyond the financial power of the separate societies, and represent the Swedish-American population in civic affairs.

"Big Picnic Brings out 5000 Swedes", as reported by a local Portland newspaper, when nine organizations of Central Council Hold the Festival at Gladstone Park. The Midsummer Queen, Marie Olson, was coronated surrounded by her six maids and the royal court.

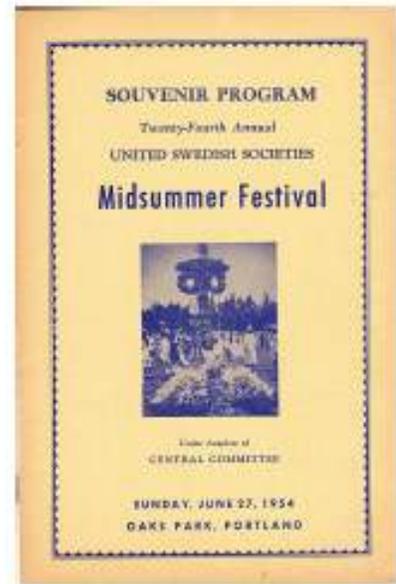


Portland Midsummer Festival
1928 - 2018



1928 Midsummer Program,

For 90 years, Swedes, fellow Scandinavians and their descendants in the greater Portland area, have celebrated summer solstice and "old country" ethnic roots, with a Midsummer Festival which represents their cultural traditions and heritage in their "new country". About 10% of Oregon population are having Swedish roots.



Examples of Several Midsummer Festival Souvenir Programs

Through the years the Swedish Midsummer Festival was held at different locations throughout the area. The location during the last several years have been Oaks Park in the Portland Metropolitan area.



Midsummer Dancers Mid to late 1920's



Midsummer dancing 1946

The league has been providing ethnic food at all Midsummer Festivals, and this is today still one important aspect offered thanks to the commitment and support from various Nordic organizations.

Popular food like Open Face Scrimp Sandwiches, Yellow pea soup, Hot Dogs, and Swedish pancakes are being prepared and served.



Food preparations at the 1944 Midsummer Festival

During many years Ross Fogelquist and many others have been actively involved in establishing several different groups representing Swedish and Scandinavian interests. Inspired to bring all the Scandinavians groups together, SHF (Scandinavian Heritage Foundation), was formed. Their effort resulted in the building of Nordia House in Portland. The Nordia House and the original log cabin, Fogelbo, are the center for many different Nordic events and festivities. SHF is now renamed Nordic Northwest, and is the legal umbrella for Midsummer Celebration in Oaks Park.

Midsummer Festival in Portland



Gathering together



Musicians is coming to entertain



The Maypole is risen and in place and the Midsummer festivities can start, with dancing, music, food and other entertainments.

The pivotal pieces for the continuation of our Scandinavian Culture and Heritage now and in the future, are Nordic Northwest and the following entities:



Traditional log cabin Fogelbo



Our spiritual leader Ross Fogelquist



The new home for Scandinavian Culture and Heritage, the Nordia House



The Oregon Heritage Commission Newsletter recognizes the Portland Midsummer Festival (excerpt from “Oregon Heritage News 2018-05-29”)

The Portland Midsummer Festival marks its upcoming 90th year with an Oregon Heritage Tradition designation by the Oregon Heritage Commission. “The designation recognizes those traditions that have helped define the state,” said Todd Kepple, the commission’s chair. “We are particularly pleased to honor a tradition that has existed for 90 years.”

The Portland Midsummer Festival began in 1928 by the League of Swedish Societies to celebrate the summer solstice and the traditions of Portland’s immigrants from Nordic countries. During WWII gasoline rationing caused the festival to locate at Oaks Park where attendees could access the event by Portland Street car. Today, the event remains at Oaks Park and is coordinated by the League of Swedish Societies and Nordic Northwest.

Elsie Lovgren Norby, a long-time attendee of the festival notes, "It was and still is about family, friends and the traditions brought here from Sweden. I now enjoy seeing the younger generations participating in their heritage as I have done and knowing it will continue on." Elsie was crowned Midsummer Queen in 1941, helped organize the Midsummer Festival in the '80s, received the Scandinavian of the Year award in 2001.



Midsummer at Oaks Park

More than twenty New Sweden volunteers filled many positions to ensure that the event on June 9 was a success. Our newer members, Lisa and Evan Oliver, and Ann-Marie Pagnone's husband Chris, took on the important job of decorating the Midsummer pole. One would not have known they had no prior experience as the finished pole was a work of beauty.



Katarina Braaten supervised the Swedish League's food booth and brought Camilla, her Swedish visitor who had just arrived in the U.S. the night before, to work in the booth all day during the event.





Jeff Klein is Scandinavian Of The Year 2017

New Sweden's nominee Jeff Klein, who was also event M.C., became Scandinavian of the Year 2017. The announcement was made in Oaks Park at 1pm on June 9. The award is one of the most prestigious Nordic awards given to an individual by the Nordic Northwest. It recognizes outstanding achievement and public service in the Nordic community. Being nominated is in itself an honor. The other nominees were Alice Iversen (Swedish), Christina Sallee (Danish), Christine, Dirk and Pirjo Schulback (Finnish).



New Sweden members perform at Midsummer

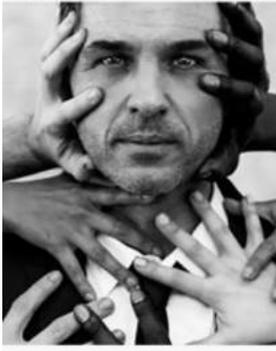
New Sweden members Gunilla Admund and Catarina New performed at Midsummer in Oaks Park. Gunilla and Catarina sang with the Swedish Youth Group and during the Midsummer Pole Ceremony, including everything from an ABBA medley to more traditional folk songs.

Gunilla also joined Brent Rogers and Douglas Webster to sing three songs co-written by Jimmy Granström. Brent is a professional producer/engineer at REX studios in Portland, and Douglas has performed on Broadway. Gunilla and Brent performed "In The Midnight Sun" (written by Jimmy, Brent, Anna-Karin Lindbergh-Rednoske and Jonny Zetterström) and "Bound For Glory". Douglas and Gunilla performed "Cherry Valley", an English version of "Körbsärsdalen" from a very popular musical adaptation of Astrid Lindgren's "The Brothers Lionheart", by Bo Wastesson and Ture Rangström. The act ended with Douglas's stunning rendition of "Anthem" from the musical "Chess" by Tim Rice and the ABBA guys Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson. People applauded in the parking lot after that performance!



Midsummer and Ross's 80th birthday celebration at Fogelbo and Nordia House

New Sweden members enjoyed a terrific Midsummer and celebration for Ross Fogelqvist's 80th birthday at Fogelbo and Nordia House on June 22nd. Everybody had a wonderful time, enjoying a potluck of many delicious dishes and wonderful musical performances by Kim Witcher Majors and her fellow musicians. There were a lot more people than expected, close to 200 rather than 100. After celebrating at Fogelbo, the festivities continued at Nordia House, where Ross could hear the "Happy Birthday song" sung in several different languages. Special thanks to Anna Lundin for coming early to decorate the tables, Pam who was on her feet the whole time, and Ute who had the place pretty much cleaned up by Saturday morning.



Peter Jöback



Alicia Agneson and Bo Wastesson at the concert "Once Upon A Time" in London.



(Group Photo: David Ovenden Photography)

From Norrköping and Eskilstuna to Broadway and a worldwide TV phenomenon – The story of Peter Jöback, Alicia Agneson and Bo Wastesson (By J. Granström)

What do million-selling artist Peter Jöback and “Vikings” TV star Alicia Agneson have in common? They both starred in a Bo Wastesson musical early in their careers and reached wide American audiences via London. Peter Jöback, who recently released his new single “The Mask” and has a new album planned for the fall, played the lead role in “Phantom Of The Opera” in London’s West End in 2012 followed by Broadway in 2013 and again in 2018, when Peter joined the cast and rang the Nasdaq Stock Market Opening Bell in Celebration of the show’s 30th Anniversary (the longest running Broadway show of all time). In 1988, the 17-year old Peter Jöback played his first lead role in the musical “Här och nu (Here And Now)”, by Bo Wastesson (music) and Inger Sjöstrand (lyrics), at Skandiateatern in Norrköping. In 1997, Peter released the album “Personliga val”, which featured the single “En sång om oss” with music by Wastesson and lyrics by Ture Rangström. The song is featured in the upcoming musical “Gösta Berlings saga”, based on the novel by Selma Lagerlöf. Wastesson and Rangström have also written a musical adaptation of Astrid Lindgren’s “Bröderna Lejonhjärta (The Brothers Lionheart)”, which has been staged all over Sweden since its premiere at Skövde Stadsteater and the Gothenburg Opera House in 2007.

In 2010, Wastesson’s song saga “Smedens dotter (The Blacksmith’s Daughter)” premiered in Eskilstuna. The cast included the 14-year old Alicia Agneson, who subsequently moved to London and recently landed a role in the worldwide TV phenomenon “Vikings” seen by an estimated 11 million people. Agneson and Wastesson reunited in London to see the concert “Once Upon A Time – The Lyrics of Robert Gould” which featured English versions of three songs from Wastesson’s and Rangström’s upcoming musical about Ester Lindin, who wrote the book “Tänk om jag gifter mig med prästen (What If I Marry The Priest)?” in 1941. Lyrics for the English versions were written by Bob Gould and myself. From Norrköping and Eskilstuna to Broadway and beyond, Swedish artists and writers mutually benefit from each other’s talents to develop into successes far outside of Sweden’s borders.



Marie Fredriksson in 2003



Peter LeMarc



Alexander Engström (middle) with TV hosts Filip and Fredrik

The Power Of The Human Spirit - Swedish Artists Who Overcame Diseases In Their Careers (By J. Granström)

Many Swedish artists have overcome diseases in their careers. Marie Fredriksson, member of the multi-million selling band Roxette, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2002. She was about to go on tour with Roxette when she lost the vision on her right eye and collapsed in the bathroom on September 11 2002. Since then, Marie Fredriksson has released both solo albums in Swedish as well as English albums and several international world tours with Roxette. Another Swedish artist who's battled cancer is Peter LeMarc, who had to cancel a tour in August 2010 due to his diagnosis. LeMarc is considered one of Sweden's finest singer/songwriters, and has topped the charts for more than 30 years. The first song he wrote after his diagnosis was "Memphis i himlen (Memphis In Heaven)", dedicated to his friend and music journalist Lennart Persson who died of cancer in 2009. The song, with the lines "Is there a Memphis in heaven? Is there a Graceland in the sky? Where you're sitting by his right side, the jukebox is on", was featured on LeMarc's 2012 album "Svag doft av skymning (Mild scent of dusk)", a collection of low key songs with a high key message about the fragility of life and the need to face its inevitable outcome.

A rising star on the Swedish music scene is Alexander Engström. When he was a baby, his head was growing abnormally large, resulting in pressure on the optic nerve which made him almost blind. The doctors told Alexander's family that he only had a 15% chance of survival, but thanks to a bone marrow transplant he's still here today. In late 2016, the 15-year old Alexander released the hauntingly beautiful ballad "The Lake" on YouTube, and within a few months he had performed the song on some of Sweden's major TV shows, including "Breaking News" with Filip Hammar and Fredrik Wikingsson as well as "Efter tio (After ten)" with Malou von Sivers. Alexander's specialty is ballads, for example "The Lake" and "Don't Want To Fight Anymore", but he has also recorded more upbeat songs such as "Where's The Sunshine". He recently released the songs "Sommarhälsning (Summer Greeting)" and "Stilla där jag går (Quietly Where I Walk)", continuing his tradition of mature ballads with descriptions of longing and nostalgia usually heard from older songwriters. Beating all odds, Swedish artists overcome terrible diseases to manifest the power of the human spirit in their art.

Cecilia Tidlund is sharing a recipe from her collection!

Born and raised in Gothenburg and Marstrand on the west coast of Sweden, Cecilia grew up with food all around her with a family that owned a butcher and grocery store. They also enjoyed cooking and celebrating Swedish holidays, birthdays or any good reason to get together for a party. That has always stayed with her. She has lived in the USA for 42 years now, and still loves to cook her Swedish recipes!



Midsummer herring

2 cans (400g) Matjesherring (Matjesherring is marinated differently than pickled herring and has a strong flavor. It can be purchased locally at Edelweiss Sausage, 3119 SE 12 Av., Portland, or Ikea has a softer variety.)

Sauce

1 dl crème fraiche (home made or commercial)

1 dl= almost ½ cup

1 dl sour cream

2 tsp French mustard type Dijon

½ dl fin chopped chives

2 Tbsp grated horseradish (fresh or prepared)

Pour the juice off the herring and pat the excess off with a paper towel.

Cut herring fillets diagonally into 1/2" pieces.

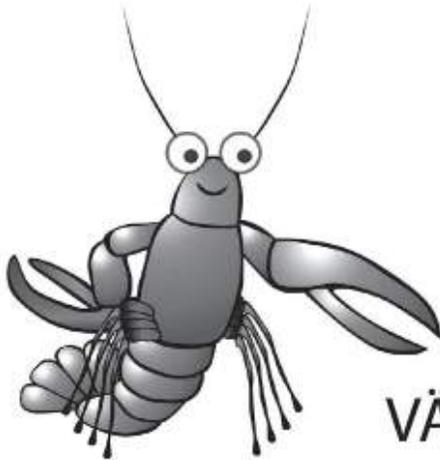
Mix the sauce and gently fold in the herring.

Keep chilled, will hold in refrigerator well for a few days.

Garnish with chopped red onion and chopped dill.

Serve with boiled potatoes.

Enjoy!



Join us in celebrating a wonderful heritage!
 Bengts Kräftskiva in the garden at Fogelbo hosted by New Sweden and Skandia Lodge

VÄLKOMMEN PÅ KRÄFTSKIVA!

A tradition-filled Swedish crayfish party with delicious Scandinavian potluck food, singing, dancing and music for all generations.

Saturday, August 4, 2018, 6 p.m.-midnight.

Reservations required by July 26.

\$20 for New Sweden and Skandia Lodge members, \$25 for guests. Meatballs, herring, bread, lingonberries and crayfish provided. Lemonade, coffee and tea provided, or BYOB. Your Scandinavian potluck food item should serve 6-8 people. For more information and to make reservations, phone or text Pam Martin, 503-984-9683 or email martinp97267@gmail.com. Mail checks to New Sweden, P.O. Box 80141, Ptld. OR 97280.



Please return this Kräftskiva reservation form with your check

Contact Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

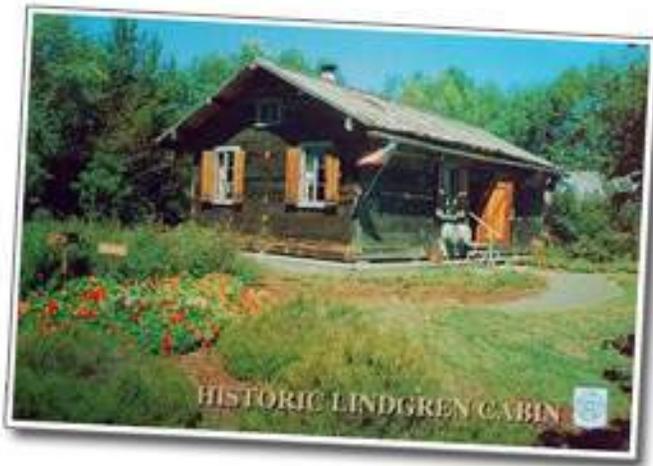
Number of member tickets _____ X \$20 = _____
 (Must be a member of New Sweden or Skandia Lodge)

Number of non-member tickets _____ X \$25 = _____

Check total _____

We would like to have an idea of what everyone is bringing as a potluck dish _____





The Lindgren Cabin in Astoria

The builder of the 40-foot long, 24-foot wide cabin was Erik Lindgren, a Swedish Finn. He was born in 1861, near Tammela in southwest Finland, where he learned the trade of building log houses. At the age of forty he emigrated from Finland to the United States, and by 1907 he found land on Soapstone Creek in the Hamlet area of Clatsop County, in northwest Oregon.

With the help of a neighbor, William Merilä, he finished the construction of the ax-hewn home in the 1920's. No sawmill lumber was used in the construction. Made out of Oregon red cedar, the five-room cabin was put together with scarcely a nail. Erik fishtailed the corner planks, cut each outside wall plank at a cant to keep out the rain, erected 42 foot eave timbers gouged out for rain runoff, and used wooden dowels to hold together the long and wide wall planks. On the grounds were also a plank walled sauna and a barn.

In 1941, the property was foreclosed by Clatsop County as Erik Lindgren hadn't paid property taxes. In 1968, a crew took apart the home and numbered all the boards and planks and stored it for a year before the Astoria Finnish Brotherhood (Lodge #2) reassembled the structure at its current location at Cullaby Lake County Park.

On April 19, 2018 ownership of the Lindgren Cabin passed into the hands of Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter. "It will be FFCCPC's responsibility to maintain this historic cabin and to open the cabin grounds to visitors during the weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day."

The above information was taken from an article by Greg Jacob, President of the Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter. For the full article, please visit the Clatsop County Historical Society website. In addition, the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association is currently raising funds to build a Scandinavian Heritage Park in downtown Astoria.

2018 Events Calendar summary

August 4: New Sweden & Scandia's Kräftskiva Party, advanced ticket sales, Fogelbo.

August 11: Astoria Regatta with the Viking ship float (see "President's Message")

August 20-25: Swedish Language and Culture Camp, children ages 7-13

October 27: Scanfeast gala at Nordia House

December 1-2: Scanfair at Portland Veteran's Memorial Coliseum

December 8: Lucia at First Presbyterian Church in Portland.

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society

PO Box 80141

Portland, OR 97280

Newsletter submissions from New Sweden members

New Sweden welcomes newsletter submissions from members. The newsletter editor generally gives higher priority to submissions from members outside of the board to encourage newsletter submissions from more people.

All articles submitted to the newsletter will be reviewed by the New Sweden board prior to publication. The board has the right to decide if an article will be published or not, or if it will be published with some disclaimer that the views in the article are not the ones of the board.