

Message from your President - Kristi Gustafson



Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and surviving the challenges of Covid 19. Your New Sweden board continues to have meetings using the internet. We have had to cancel several of our events and rescheduled others in the hopes that conditions will improve before those events. As of this writing, the League of Swedish Societies' Midsummer Festival planned in Lake Oswego will be greatly revised, and you'll be notified by email what the new format will be. We are waiting to hear what mandates will be for gatherings like our June 6th Membership Appreciation picnic. For the next year or two, conditions for social gatherings will be fluid and we will need to adapt our events. The health of our membership and our community will be most important.

When this crisis began, I thought of past challenges that people have faced. My parents were born at the beginning of WWI, survived the Spanish flu epidemic, the Great Depression and WWII; my father served four years overseas only communicating by mail. I know these events had a great impact, not only on my parents, but also on how my siblings and I were raised. We reaped the benefits from the knowledge that my parents gained surviving difficult times; one of the most important lessons being that **we will get through this**.

I understand many people are using this time to go through belongings to organize and eliminate unnecessary items. Last week I talked to a friend who has a stash of letters written by his father to his mother when the couple were dating in the 1930's. He is currently transcribing the letters for future generations. I think of a box of letters my father kept for 40 years from when he served overseas. After he passed away, my mother thought us children weren't interested in them and threw them away. Oh how I would have enjoyed reading those letters now as an older adult! Please be careful what you throw out; I'm not sure people appreciate their family histories until they are older.

Take care to stay healthy,

Kristi Gustafson
President

2020 Events Calendar summary

Due to the Covid 19 epidemic restrictions and to keep our members safe, many of our planned events have been cancelled. After postponing the annual membership meeting to June 6, that meeting has been cancelled and we will plan an extra special meeting for 2021.

The NNW Midsummer celebration at Oaks park June 13th has been cancelled but NNW plans a digital event from June 13-20: Oregon Midsummer celebration by Nordic Northwest. This year it is celebrated with a week-long digital experience on Nordic Northwest's website. It will be a unique digital experience with live and on-demand performances. You will learn how to make delicious Nordic cuisine, watch local performers from the Nordic community in the PNW, and sing along with live musicians! More information: <https://www.nordicnorthwest.org/midsummer-festival>.

The League of Swedish Societies Midsummer Festival planned for Lake Oswego June 20th, has been revised. At this time, it may be a simple drive-by to observe the Majstång while maintaining social distancing. More information will be forthcoming via email.

As of this writing, we are unsure about the status of our Kraftskiva celebration scheduled for August 8th.



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.

Nordic Northwest town hall meeting on March 12



Carl Thompson moderated for his group at the Nordic Northwest March 12 town hall meeting. Watching at his table were his wife Marian, Anna and Hans Lundin, Al Baker and Marianne Bratt, and Elizabeth Mendenhall.

Behind Hans was Karin Olson and Ross Fogelquist. New Sweden was well represented at both town halls.

Membership Roster

Listen up Members - It's been close to six years since we published a membership roster and since I too am housebound, except for sunny days when I have a strong pull to dig in the garden, I figured let's get a running start with collecting membership preferences. I am asking you to give me a few details so I can actually proceed. Reply to umbug@icloud.com and thank you in advance for your cooperation. /Ute Munger

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Would you like to be included in the next New Sweden Membership Roster? | Yes | No |
| 2. Include | | |
| first and last name and spouse if family membership | Yes | No |
| complete address | Yes | No |
| phone # | Yes | No |
| e-mail address | Yes | No |

Reminder about dues for 2020

Just a brief reminder about paying your Dues for 2020. New Sweden's bookkeeping is on a calendar schedule, meaning: we would really like to get your dues at the beginning of the year if at all possible. Naturally, these days of COVID19 may have put a crimp into your pocketbook and we are willing to wait another month.

If you are over 80 years of age, congratulations, you have become a Life Time member and may spend your money elsewhere. Please contact the membership chairperson Ute Munger at umbug@iCloud.com to indicate your over 80 status, how would we otherwise know?

Please use the form below to renew your membership. You can also renew your membership on New Sweden's website: <https://www.newsweden.org/membership/>

2020 Membership Renewals and New Memberships!

Memberships are renewed each year and run from January through December. Please use this form to renew now and save the cost of mailing a separate membership renewal request! You may also renew for multiple years by multiplying the annual dues amount by the number of years desired and indicating your intention on the form.

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

Scholarship Fund donation (\$_____)

Make checks payable to "New Sweden" and send to Membership Attn: New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society, PO Box 80141, Portland, OR 97280. For membership questions email the Membership chairperson at umbug@icloud.com or go to New Sweden's website: <https://www.newsweden.org/membership/>

Nordic Northwest, Fogelbo and New Sweden members

Nordia House is closed until further notice

More information can be found on Nordic Northwest's website: <https://www.nordicnorthwest.org/>

Join the Nordic Northwest Forest Trolls who work on the grounds at Fogelbo.

Masks, gloves, and social distance required! Tuesdays are generally the work days here, from 9 to 3. Lunch is generally provided; of course, coffee and cookies will be available. If interested, call Judy Gervais at (503) 706-7457. She coordinates the volunteers and "Forest Trolls" (sponsored by Nordic Northwest).



Photo: Martin Hulth



Anna and Hans Lundin dressed for Easter wearing appropriate COVID-19 Easter masks.



Fogelbo on April 29, 2020. Photo: Martin Hulth
More recent pictures from Fogelbo can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/mhulth>



Fogelbo on April 29, 2020. Photos: Martin Hulth. More photos: <https://www.facebook.com/mhulth>

Recipe from Cecilia Tidlund

KLADDKAKA Goopy chocolate cake

Swedes love baking cakes. According to google.se, eight out of the top ten recipe searches by Swedes are for cakes, and occupying the number one slot is kladdkaka (literal translation smudge cake). Kladdkaka will puff up as it is baking, but it is deliberately undercooked and thus causes the cake to collapse when it cools. The result is a cake with a lightly crisped and cracked top whilst the middle is delightfully gooey, almost runny. It's an easy cake, apart from the timing though. If it is undercooked it is a runny mess and if it is overcooked it ends up as a dry and somewhat stodgy cake.

Tips: If possible, serve it when still warm from the oven, so you can enjoy the gooeyness more. If that is not possible, reheat it lightly in a microwave before serving (about 1 minute per portion on a medium setting [600 W] seems to work well). For a gluten-free kladdkaka, simply substitute ground almonds for the flour. Makes 8 portions.

Moderate preparation:

10 minutes* Cooking: 20 minutes

TOTAL: 30 minutes *Plus 30 minutes to cool

Ingredients:

100 g (7 tbsp) unsalted butter

125 g (1 cup) plain (all-purpose) flour

25 g (4 tbsp) good quality unsweetened cocoa powder

pinch salt

2 eggs

225 g (1 cup) caster (superfine) sugar --
(granulated sugar works fine)

1 tbsp vanilla sugar



Method **1.** Preheat the oven to 175°C (350°F, gas 4, fan 160°C). **2.** Lightly grease a deep loose-bottomed 21 cm (8") round cake tin (pie plate). **3.** Melt the butter and leave to cool slightly. **4.** Sift together the flour, cocoa powder and salt, and mix thoroughly. Set aside. **5.** Whisk the eggs and the sugars together until light, fluffy and pale, at least 3 minutes using an electric whisk. **6.** Carefully fold the flour mixture into the eggs and stir until just combined. **7.** Fold in the melted butter, ensuring that everything is incorporated, and then pour into the prepared cake tin. **8.** Bake on the lower rack of the oven for about 18-22 minutes until the center is lightly set. (As ovens vary a lot be guided by the appearance and feel.) Do not be tempted to overcook it, as it will end up dry and not gooey enough. **9.** Cool in its tin.

Once cooled, it can be stored in an airtight container for up to 4 days. Serving suggestions:

1. Serve with lightly whipped cream and raspberries. **2.** Dust with icing sugar (confectioner's sugar) and serve with lightly whipped cream spiked with some vanilla essence. **3.** For a double dose of chocolate, drizzle some chocolate sauce over the top and serve with lightly whipped cream spiked with a splash of Grand Marnier.

Recipe adapted from SwedishFood.com Swedelicious recipes

History of Nordic Northwest (formerly Scandinavian Heritage Foundation)

By Ross Fogelquist



These are some historical reflections of the Scandinavian community and its relationship to SHF or Nordic Northwest (NNW).

It is probably informative to know the role I have played with this organization. My involvement in the Scandinavian community began in the mid 1970s, when I became a member of Harmoni Lodge, Order of Vasa, and the Scandinavian Club. The Scandinavian Club was founded in the mid-1950s by the noted radio host, Bob Anderson, of the Scandinavian Radio Hour. The Scandinavian Radio Hour started in 1926, and lasted until the late 1990s. This program was basically the glue that held the many Nordic organizations together in the Portland area and throughout Oregon.

The Scandinavian Club, formerly known as the Scandinavian Men's Club, initiated the beginnings of the Oregon Lucia festival and the Scandinavian of the Year award. Harmoni Lodge, Order of Vasa, was one of the many fraternal organizations in the Swedish community. Its roots go back to the mid-1920s.

In the 1970s, there were approximately 30 Nordic organizations in the Portland-Vancouver area. The Nordic Council was an umbrella organization, started in the 1980s, to coordinate our many Scandinavian events.

The American Scandinavian Oregon chapter was organized in the late 1970s. This chapter was part of the national organization of American Scandinavian Foundations, headquartered in New York City. They sponsored many Scandinavian cultural and educational events and programs. The Portland chapter had many interesting cultural events. One particular program was their film festival, called Skol, which was held in city center theaters and the Art Museum.

That organization and its members eventually were absorbed by the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation. I served in many different leadership roles in these organizations, as president, vice president, and board member. Fogelbo, my home, became the center of many cultural events, starting in the mid-1970s. Traveling Scandinavian performing groups often performed in the garden and home. The center of these activities was the Midsommer Fest in the garden, with nearly three hundred attendees. Local folk bands and dancers were part of the programs here. During the Christmas holidays, there were many large gatherings at Fogelbo. Local newspapers, magazines, and television stations featured my home, particularly during the holiday season.

History of Nordic Northwest (formerly SHF) by Ross Fogelqvist (continued)

Scandinavian studies at Portland State started in the late 1950s. Dr. Bernhard Fedde and his wife, Johanna Fedde, were the early organizers and professors. Dr. Bernhard Fedde taught a Scandinavian History class for many years, and his wife Johanna Fedde taught Norwegian for ten years without any financial remuneration. She retired in 1990.



The Feddes became the patriarchs of the Nordic community, providing inspiration and leadership for many of us. They led the battle against “ethnic amnesia.” They emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting our Scandinavian heritage. Swedish, Danish, and Finnish classes were also added to the curriculum at Portland State College extension center. These classes were taught by volunteers, except for Bernhard Fedde’s Scandinavian history class. These classes were known as the Scandinavian Clusters. The instructors felt it necessary to get financial remuneration for all the Scandinavian language teachers. Later, language instructors were paid by PSU, after funding was adequately addressed. It was decided to coordinate fundraising ideas with Carol Niskanen, the then-wife of the Finnish consul, Paul Niskanen. It became apparent in the early 1980s that stabilized funding was necessary for the continuation of these classes. A group of local Nordic leaders met in the winter of 1983 to discuss organizing a festival to raise money for Scandinavian Studies at Portland State. The original five people who met to plan this event were: Bernhard Fedde, Kaja Voldbaek, Dean Anderson (acting president of Portland State,) Carol Niskanen, and Ross Fogelqvist, president of the Scandinavian Club and American Scandinavian Foundation. They decided to have a Scandinavian winter festival that was to be named ScanFest. The main attractions of ScanFest were ScanFair, a proposal made by Ross Fogelqvist. ScanFair involved all the local Scandinavian organizations and some local craftspeople. ScanFest also included a major concert, featuring local orchestras and Scandinavian artists, a fashion show, and an ice-carving contest in Pioneer Square. In this way, the participating Scandinavian organizations would have a much needed way for raising funds for their own purposes.

A large committee of local Scandinavian activists was organized to oversee all these events. The board met at Bernhard Fedde’s law office, and later at Marianne Buchanan’s office. The large committee met almost weekly at one of John Ryan’s restaurants in downtown Portland. Extensive plans were made to promote ScanFest. A major concert with the Swedish pianist, Staffan Scheja, performed with the Oregon Symphony. Considerable effort was necessary to promote this concert in the Scandinavian and Portland community. Carol Niskanen, the president of the festival, owned and operated a major Public Relations firm. Her firm provided great publicity in all the different media forums. Some of the promotional materials were filmed at Fogelbo. Channel 2 (KATU) was one of the key sponsors. A patron’s party was established to promote additional financial support as well as a post-concert celebration in the foyer of the Schnitzer concert hall.



ScanFair was an idea proposed by Ross Fogelqvist. After some convincing of rather skeptical Swedish organizations, the organizing committee was established. The different Scandinavian organizations sent representatives to planning committee meetings. Approximately twenty-five organizations and local Scandinavian businesses and craftspeople participated at the event at Smith Center Ballroom. Entertainment and lectures were part of the festival. At the first festival in 1984, the Scandinavian Men and Women's Choir performed in the evening, followed by a public dance. ScanFair was very successful, with many vendors selling most of their products by noon.

The traditional Lucia festival at the Lloyd Center ice arena, also sponsored by the Scandinavian Club, was incorporated into ScanFest. This major event was attended by 4-5000 people. The Oregon Lucia was crowned at that event. After the crowning, she would light the citywide Christmas tree. A large reception was held afterwards in the Lloyd Center auditorium. This event was held for thirty years at the Lloyd Center, and preceded the event at Pioneer Square.

The financial success of that first ScanFest was rather limited. A number of the members of the planning committee no longer participated. These were mostly the socially prominent Scandinavians. The festival continued but the financing was problematic. We hired Marianne Buchanan and Priscilla Blumel to assist us in planning and promoting the events. This was extremely helpful and provided us with strong leadership.

ScanFest continued with concerts at the Schnitzer concert hall for the next four years. Victor Borge, the famous Danish pianist and comedian, appeared twice during that period. We made about twenty thousand dollars each time Victor Borge performed and broke even on the other concerts. We had the Portland Youth Philharmonic and the Portland Opera perform during the next few years.

This article will be continued in the next newsletter, when New Sweden will also publish the full article on our website.



Victor Borge in 1990



Proud scout, Jordbro, Stockholm, late 1980's



Valborg torchlight procession by Scouts in Sweden



New Sweden's Valborg celebration, West Linn, 2012

Valborg bonfire lighting ceremony by the Swedish scouts (by Jimmy Granstrom)

Valborg öppnar minnenas dörr på glänt	Memories' door opens on Walpurgis night
Till en tid när förvantningarna sjöd	To a time when expectations ran high
En bild, likt en gnista som brinner än	An image, like a spark still burning bright
När majbrasan kröntes av min facklas glöd	When my torch crowned the bonfire lighting the sky

When I grew up in Sweden in the 1980's and early 1990's, I was part of the scouts. In Sweden, there is no separation between boy scouts and girl scouts - we are all part of the same happy organization with a mixture of boys, girls, men and women. There were also no scandals, as far as I can recall, similar to the ones that have given Boy Scouts of America a very bad reputation.

One of the highlights in the scouts was lighting the majbrasa (bonfire) during the Valborg (Walpurgis) celebration every year. A procession of scouts were handed torches, which were lit before the scouts walked through town on the way to the majbrasa. It was a solemn celebration, as hundreds or thousands of people watched you walk with your torch to the bonfire. On one occasion, all the scouts - ages 7-15 - were trying to throw their torch towards the top of the huge pile of wood and branches that made up the foundation of the majbrasa. The smaller scouts were not quite strong enough to throw their torch all the way to the top, while the larger scouts overestimated their strength and missed the top. I was lucky and managed to find just the right strength for the grand prize - reaching the top and crowning the majbrasa. Just like many other things that happen in childhood, the excitement was greater than the actual accomplishment. Nonetheless, crowning the Valborg bonfire is still one of my happiest childhood memories, and it is wonderful that I've been able to continue celebrating Valborg after moving to Portland in 2011.

No large bonfires were lit in Sweden this year, but hopefully they will burn even brighter next year, and with an even greater appreciation of the sense of community that they create.

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



Jill Johnson and Lionel Richie Jill with Rascal Flatts Jill with Tucker and Scocco in Nashville

Excerpt: From Stockholm to Nashville - How Country Queen Jill Johnson and Pop King Mauro Scocco got together in Music City (by Jimmy Granstrom)

Jill Johnson is one of Sweden's most celebrated artists. In addition, she has a strong presence in Nashville and has performed or recorded songs with several American artists and bands such as Lionel Richie and Rascal Flatts. With one leg in Sweden and one leg in Nashville, she created the highly popular TV series "Jill's veranda (Jill's Porch)", where she invites guest artists from Sweden to sing and play with her, as well as explore the history of country music and encounter social issues in the USA like racism, weapons, homophobia and poverty. Since the show started in 2014, she's been joined by major Swedish artists, most recently Mauro Scocco in March 2020. Scocco explored the history of the civil war and got to meet country artist Tanya Tucker, whom Scocco described as "Keith Richards with lipstick".

Read the full article here: <https://www.newsweden.org/culture-heritage/entertainment/>