



Message from your President - Corina Laws

Dear All,

On the last day of April 2022 New Sweden celebrated Valborg at Ek farm and the Oregon motto 'if you don't like the weather wait 20 minutes' did not let us down. We were provided with an abundant rainstorm and some lovely sunshine during the celebration. Fortunately we had clear skies during the setup and the clean up of the event. The heavy downpour came at the midpoint which compelled the Swedes and Finns to huddle under a couple of canopies this obliged the 'gregarious' Scandinavians an opportunity to chat and possibly meet someone new. Consequently due to the tight quarters there was not much of a chance to discover who are the introverts and who are the extroverts in this bunch as you couldn't look at your shoes or your neighbors shoes.



As an appreciation to the Ek Family for allowing new Sweden to host Valborg on the farm we presented them with an engraved wrought iron sign that reads 'Ek Family Farm since 1908'. The sign is hung on the side of the large garage as you drive into the farm. The Ek farm at its height employed over 27,000 chickens and although today they don't employ quite that many chickens they still sell farm fresh eggs. If you are in the neighborhood stop by and pick up a carton or two of eggs and say hi to Glen, Rose, Pauline, Roger and Joey if they are outside working.

A massive rotted tree was cut down in early April and the trunk divided into parts. Some of the wood was burned while other pieces were sawed and shaped into seats by Pauline and Roger and as you drove in from Ek road if you saw the Valborg and Ek signs those were part of the tree and designed by Pauline and myself. The tractor was taken over to Borland road to pick up some fallen birch branches and we used them for decorations and to hang the Swedish flags. I appreciate all the numerous things you can create and recycle with recovered items.

It was a pleasure to listen to the terrific music of Dan Schlesinger and the lovely voice of Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske who led us in the traditional Svenska springtime songs. AK is taking over as the music teacher at the Swedish school in Portland. Congrats AK! Well deserved. Jimmy Granström read his Valborg poem in Swedish and English as well as recounted some memories from celebrations in Sweden.

When you drove into the farm you were probably directed by Eric Goranson to park in a field and you were asked if you were bringing in Norwegians. We do like our Norwegians. Anna Lundin and her boundless energy with the help of Susan Schlesinger served up korv and mashed potatoes. Anna also went on quite a few missions with me as we organized and put this event together. Kristi Gustafson with her truck and the help of Eric brought over the canopies. Oh my goodness with that rain downpour we are so thankful for Kristi, Eric and the truck. This is a village to put on these events and we thank everyone for all of the help. If you brought potluck, thank you as well!

Kristina and Charles Neiman flew in from Hawaii that afternoon to spend the last day of April with us. Kristina is taking over as Lucia chair and we are very excited to see what she's going to do. New Sweden is planning a Santa Lucia ceremony on December 3rd at Moreland Presbyterian Church after 2 years of not being able to put on this in-person event. Please stay tuned for details as they worked out.

I wish you all an enjoyable and healthy summer with the things you like to do.

A thousand thanks,

Corina



Above: Anna Lundin tests out the new seating provided by the felled poplar tree
Right: Jimmy Granstrom and A.K. Linbergh Rednoske lead the chorus
 (Photos: Corina Laws)

Left: The Ek family shows off their new engraved sign
 (Photo: Corina Laws)



Upcoming Events



Historic Fogelbo & Steiner Cabin Celebration

Saturday, June 4, 2022, 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Nordic Northwest, 8800 SW Oleson Rd, Portland, OR 97223

Members of Portland Scandinavian heritage groups and friends are invited to attend an open house on the Nordic Northwest campus, which includes the Fogelbo estate and Nordia House. This special event is sponsored by Nordic Northwest and Ross Fogelquist. The occasion is to recognize the 70th anniversary of the residency of the Fogelquist family at Fogelbo. Guests are to please try to attend at the designated times for various organizations. However, if you are not able to attend at your particular designated time, you are welcome to drop in at any time between 2:30 and 6:30. Cakes and coffee provided by New Sweden!

- ❖ German, Austrian, and Hungarian: 2:30 to 3:30
- ❖ Non-Swedish Nordic: 3:30 to 6:30
- ❖ Swedes and Swedish organizations: 4:30 to 6:30
- ❖ General public and non-affiliated: 5:30 to 7

Parking is available at Nordic Northwest parking lots and West Hills Unitarian Fellowship at 8470 SW Oleson Road, a few blocks west of Fogelbo. Guests not wishing to walk may be delivered at Nordia House entrance. Read about the event and register at <https://www.nordicnorthwest.org/fogelbo-celebration>



Nordic Northwest's Oregon Midsummer Celebration

Saturday, June 11, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Oaks Amusement Park, 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland, OR 97202

Entry to the event costs \$12.00 for adults, \$8.00 for youths, and is free for children under 5 years of age. Enjoy a maypole, flower crowns, Swedish crafts and treats, and come stop by our New Sweden Booth to say hello! Tickets and more information can be found here:

<https://www.oregonmidsummer.com/>

Volunteers are needed to work the New Sweden booth and the League of Swedish Societies food booth at the NNW Midsummer at Oaks Park, June 11. Contact Kristi Gustafson, 503-807-9808, kristigus@aol.com.



Astoria's Midsummer Festival: League of Swedish Societies Bus Trip

June 17, 2022, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Bus departs and returns from West Hills Universal Unitarian Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Rd, Portland, OR 97223 (free parking)

Please note that departure and return location has changed

The League of Swedish Societies has organized a day trip to Astoria on Friday June 17th, 2022, for the members of the Swedish League organizations to attend the dedication of Astoria's Nordic Heritage Park and the Astoria Midsummer Fest at Clatsop Park. The dedication ceremony begins at 10:00am at the Heritage Park, and Midsummer booths are open from 2-6:30. New Sweden received a commemorative flagstone with our 500 dollars donation in support of the Astoria's Nordic Heritage Park construction building fund.

- ❖ Reservations must be made by June 3rd.
- ❖ Cost per person \$50.00
- ❖ The bus is limited to 43 people
- ❖ Round trip bus transportation is on Blue Star Bus Co
- ❖ There is an additional \$10.00 per person admission for the Midsummer Fest collected at the Fest

Contact Wayne Barker of Scandia Order of Vikings at w.barker@comcast.net for reservations. If paying by check please send your bus trip payment with each participant's name, email address, and contact number to:

Treasurer - League of Swedish Societies
P O Box 3401
Portland, OR 97208

If you prefer Venmo, send your payment along with your contact info to the League's Venmo account: League of Swedish Societies, @LeagueofSwedish-Societies
Learn more about Astoria's Scandinavian festival at <https://astoriascanfest.com/>



94th Annual League of Swedish Societies Midsummer

June 19, 2022, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Willamette Park, 1100 12th Street, West Linn, OR 97068

We will celebrate a traditional Swedish Midsummer at Willamette Park! The raising of the *majstang* will take place at 2:00pm. Bring a picnic or enjoy the League's famous varm korv and strawberry shortcake. Bring a chair, sit in the shade and enjoy the music. Games for the whole family- potato sack races, tug-o-war and kubb! Entry is free-donations appreciated.

Volunteers are needed at the League Midsummer, June 19, in the food booth, set up and take down. Contact Kristi Gustafson, 503-807-9808, kristigus@aol.com.



Available Now: *The Life and Times of Ross Fogelquist and Fogelbo His Steiner Log House*, by Ross Fogelbo



You can now order a copy of Ross Fogelquist's new book, *The Life and Times of Ross Fogelquist and Fogelbo His Steiner Log House*, on Amazon, or pick up a copy at this June 7 Celebration! *The Life and Times of Ross Fogelbo* chronicles the story of Ross' family, their Swedish heritage, and the famous and timeless Fogelbo home and the legacy of Steiner cabins in the United States. Our congratulations to Ross and all contributors! This book offers unprecedented detail on the history of Fogelbo, a mainstay of Swedish culture in the United States, and an especially important

space for our New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society. Illustrations and graphics in the book pay homage to the arts and culture of Sweden and showcase Fogelbo's collection of Scandinavian arts and antiques, all woven together with the incredible story of Ross' family, his life, and the cabin's now 70-year history.

If you are reading a print version of this newsletter, please visit the New Sweden Website to access the link: https://www.amazon.com/Times-Fogelquist-Fogelbo-Steiner-House/dp/B09ZCYPB8J/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=ross+fogelquist&qid=1652201276&sr=8-1



Board Members - Old and New

Kristi Gustafson

Three New Sweden board members retired from the board this year. Each had served many years and volunteered many hours. Maritha Rufus, one of the longest serving board members, was also the Lucia Fest Chair for many years. She will continue to manage our New Sweden facebook page. Pam Martin was our Treasurer- balancing our books, demanding accountability and receipts, and using her graphic design skills to do brochures and ads, and proof read. Ute Munger was our Membership Chair who kept our membership records up-to-date, proof read, and continues to serve as New Sweden's representative on the League of Societies Board where she serves as Treasurer. The past two years have been particularly challenging for our organization and we owe these board members a mountain of gratitude for their commitment and service to our organization.

We welcome three new members to the board:

Gail Romero is our new Membership Chair. You may remember Gail from her presentation of the first Scandinavian Stories on Sunday. Gail has been a New Sweden member for nine years.

Stefan Nornholm was born in Arboga, Sweden and moved to the U.S. when he was fifteen. He's one of our regular kubb players and brings a sense of humor to the pitch. He is overseeing New Sweden's Instagram page.

Louise Karnéus was born and raised in Portland, OR. Her father is originally from Eskilstuna, Sweden, and moved to the United States where he met and married her mother. She will be co-editing and eventually editing the New Sweden Newsletter.



Kubb Update

New Sweden member Jacin Harter and his kubb partner, Jake Mottem, traveled to California to play in the 2022 West Coast Kubb Championship, competing against thirty-one other teams from seven states. They are the first team to represent Portland at a national tournament!

Several of our members play Kubb at Nordia House on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, 11:00-1:00pm. Now that the weather is dryer, kubb has again moved outdoors. This is a great opportunity to give the game a try. Walk-ins welcome.



Participating on the New Sweden team, Carina Cassim and Bruce Peterson began the orienteering season at Portland's Mt. Tabor Park, on April 23. They completed the intermediate course and are looking forward to the advanced course at the next event.

The day's participants were diverse- some experienced, skilled in using compass and map, and competitive. Others were grandparents led by enthusiastic children on a sort of treasure hunt looking for the next checkpoint on the route. Crossing the finish line indicated success but for many- disappointment as the fun and challenge were over too soon.

New Sweden participates in Columbia River Orienteering Club events and our next event is May 21st, at Hamilton Island near Bonneville Dam. The route is set in view of the magnificent Columbia Gorge and nature. There are different routes for different skill and ability levels. If you enjoy a walk or run in the great outdoors, give orienteering a try. Contact Kristi Gustafson, 503-807-9808, for information about registering and carpooling.

New Sweden's Orienteering Schedule

June 18, 2022, Champoeg State Park

July, 16, 2022, Lacamas Lake

August 20, 2022, Willamette Mission State Park

October 8th, 2022 Catherine Creek

*New Sweden members Carina Cassim and Bruce Peterson enjoyed the orienteering challenge at Mt Tabor on April 23
(Photos: Kristi Gustafson)*



Daniel Greco is a Minneapolis based singer, actor, voice teacher, music director, worship leader and songwriter. He gave a celebrated concert, with his father on piano, for New Sweden’s members and the general public at West Hills Unitarian Fellowship Church on March 12th. The performance started with a silent minute for the victims in Ukraine, and the ending of the programme was also influenced by the on-going war. Daniel had originally planned to perform the song "Anthem" from the musical "Chess," with music and lyrics by Benny Andersson 'and Björn Ulvåus of ABBA together with Jesus Christ Superstar librettist Tim Rice. "Chess" takes place during the height of the Cold War, and "Anthem" would have been a highly engaging yet appropriate "historical piece" less than a month before the concert. Instead, Daniel finished his concert with the more upbeat "Lost In The Woods" from Frozen 2.



Above: Elisabeth Wahlberg and Gunilla Admund with Daniel (Photo: Elisabeth Wahlberg)

Below: Daniel during his March 12th performance (Photo: Corina Laws)



The concert also featured many songs in Swedish, including a beautiful version of "Vem kan segla förutan vind?" which is featured in a New York City AIDS Memorial (see below). A reception followed after the concert, where people got together for cake and coffee as well as allsång (sing-along) at Fogelbo.



Left: AIDS Memorial in Hudson River Park, New York City. The quote engraved into the black granite bench reads: "I can sail without wind, I can row without oars, but I cannot part from my friend without tears" which is a translation of lines from the Finnish-Swedish song "Vem kan segla förutan vind?".



On Saturday, April 30, members of New Sweden caught the last of our April showers in the annual Walpurgis, or Valborg, celebration. Once again, the Ek family allowed New Sweden to host the event at the beautiful Ek Farm in West Linn. Many thanks to the Ek family for sharing your fields, hills, trees, flowers and goats!

In Sweden, Walpurgis or Valborg is a traditional May Day event to celebrate spring, with deep roots dating back to Viking days. It is still celebrated all throughout Sweden (as well as other parts of Scandinavia) with different local traditions, but mostly commonly, it features a large fire to send off the winter, and always speeches and songs to celebrate fertility and new life. From Stockholm's enormous celebration in Skansen to our own bonfire at Ek Farm in West Linn, Walpurgis connects Scandinavians around the world and begins to build up excitement for their favorite thing: summer!



Anna-karin Linbergh Rednoske and Marita Rufus, part of the choir for spring caroling.
(Photo: Anna-karin Linbergh Rednoske)



Above: The sun came out for our Walpurgis/Valborg celebration at Ek Farm! (Photo: Stefan Normholm)
Below: Anna Lundin and Susan Shlesinge serve varmkorv (Photo: Stefan Normholm)



Ek Farm was bright and green, perfect for springtime. Friends and families and enjoyed delicious treats brought by members of our New Sweden community. Anna Lundin and Susan Schlesinge served *varmkorv* with delicious hand-prepared toppings, and we were excited to see many new and familiar faces. Despite a rainy spell, singing continued under tents, umbrellas, and beautiful trees across the property. There were still ample opportunities to play kubb and enjoy the heat of the fire as well. And of course, as our fellow Scandinavians would say: there is no bad weather, only bad clothing. We sincerely thank all those who joined us with desserts, friends, family and yourself!



A landskap is the closest Swedish equivalent to a State—these are overlapping provincial titles referring to geographic regions—län is a similarly-used word referring to a political or governmental division of the country, and landskap refers to a purely geographic division and is known for a broader cultural identity. Of course, each landskap has distinctive characteristics and cultural and geographical diversity—yet are often boiled down to stereotypes (just like our American states). In each Newsletter, we'll explore a new one.

It wouldn't be right to showcase any region outside of Dalarna with Midsummer on the horizon. Dalarna is known for its traditional art, attire, and dances, a time capsule of pre-industrial Sweden (even to Swedes!). It is known as a picturesque place, dotted with red houses. Dalarna has a distinctive style of *rosmålning*, a distinctive painting style native to Scandinavia. Perhaps its most famous export is the Dala horse, a symbol of Sweden around the world and likely a fixture in many a New Sweden member's home. Folkdrakt, a traditional garment worn in both Sweden and Norway dating back to the 1600s, are now a staple of parties and festivals in Dalarna. One can think of the aesthetic of Dalarna as the Swedish equivalent of American "Americana." *Dalkulla*, the Dalarna girl, is an important motif as well—famous Swedish painters like Anders Zorn made her famous as a carefree and beautiful woman from the Swedish heartland.

Dal in Swedish means "valley"—the name Dalarna translates roughly to "the valleys." Lake Siljan sits at the heart of Dalarna, and in addition to pilgrimages to see traditional houses and lifestyles, many come to the region for hikes and outdoor activities. Low mountains and even glaciers in the north differentiate it from the lowlands around Stockholm, and though it's only about halfway up the country, it may as well be "the North" to Southern Swedes. The *Dalkarlsvägen* is a famous hiking trail over 300 kilometers long that goes all the way from Stockholm to Dalarna for the adventurous distance hiker, but many other trails wind throughout the region.

Located in central Sweden, inland of Stockholm and other large cities, Dalarna is laid back and considered rural, even remote, by some Southern Swedes. Legend has it that Sweden's first king and the founder of modern Sweden, Gustav I, came from modern-day Dalarna. The story goes that he was fleeing the Danes (who, at that time, were in control of most of Scandinavia) almost to modern Norway, and was called back by local leaders, who were ready to follow his call to rise up against Denmark. The *vasaloppet* is a famous ski race in Dalarna, supposedly based on this journey. Though this is mostly a myth, it solidifies Dalarna as a cultural center of Sweden.

So: what do Swedes think about Dalarna? What is the stereotype? It is, indeed, a bit rural and remote, but well loved. The people there love having parties, and throw the best Midsummer shindig. The *folkdrakt*, a traditional Swedish dress worn by peasants in the 1600s, is now a festival staple in Dalarna and a favorite celebratory clothing item. Apparently, they'll take any excuse to throw one on.

Hot Take on Dalarna (from an actual Swede): "Dalarna people love their giant Dala horse, and every year someone sets it on fire. The culprit was caught, and sentenced to five years in prison." I couldn't actually find any news articles about this—it sounds suspiciously similar to the giant straw Julbock (Christmas goat) in Gävle, which is *definitely* set on fire each year, but that is perhaps a story for the next newsletter.





Above: Avesta is home to the largest Dala Horse in the world. It is 13 metres high and 12.8 metres long.



Above: A maypole is raised on Midsummer Eve on the shores of Lake Siljan, at the heart of the Dalarna Region.

Below: Zorngården, the home of famous Swedish artist Anders Zorn, was designed to showcase Dalarna's local craftwork and architecture



Miljonprogrammet - How its "garden suburbs" have influenced residents and creatives from the 1980's until today

J. Granström

Following World War II, Sweden enjoyed several decades of unprecedented growth, largely thanks to intact infrastructure and industry, much like the United States. This provided the country with an economical head start compared with most other European countries. In 1965, the government made a decision to build 100.000 new apartments per year during a 10-year period, in order to address a housing crisis and improve the standard of living for a growing and increasingly wealthy population. From 1965 to 1974, one million apartments were built as part of "Miljonprogrammet" in areas that can be characterized as "garden suburbs". I grew up in a working class area in the garden suburb Jordbro outside of Stockholm in the 1980's and 90's.



*Jimmy and his mom at new swings in Jordbro, July 2019
(Photo: Rayna Flye)*

Although this area has often (and especially recently) been criticized, I could not have asked for a better childhood growing up in a working class area virtually anywhere else in the world during the 1980's and 90's. Thanks to excellent suburban city planning, I could enjoy immediate access to a diversity of activities and experiences within walking distance, without having to bother about traffic or being dependent on rides from relatives or other adults. From the front door of my apartment

Aerial view of the Jordbro garden suburb on the outskirts of Stockholm



complex, my "immediate physical world" spanned across several miles of freedom, independence and open (car-free) space, through forests, meadows, parks, schools, shops, restaurants, sports facilities, tennis courts, a public pool, and many other types of activities and experiences. Although none of these facilities or public spaces may be considered "world-class", the kind of "unrestricted access" that they offered, would be considered a "luxury" (not only in working class areas) in other countries, including many in the rich part of the world. Thousands of residents had access to a "public backyard" that people in a similar socioeconomic group could only dream of in many other parts of the world (continued on website)

This article was originally published in Nordstjernen, a nationwide publication known as the Swedish Newspaper of America. featured on our New Sweden website: <https://www.newsweden.org/culture-heritage/entertainment/>





On Thursday, May 5, Swedish musician Jens Lekman performed in Portland. A few hundred people had gathered at the Aladdin Theater to sing and dance to Lekman's enduring songs about black cabs, anti-war demonstrations and cowboy boots. How many singer/songwriters can start off a song called "Your Arms Around With Me" with the line "I was slicing up an avocado" eventually leading into "What's broken can always be fixed, what's fixed will always be broken" without sounding corny or contrived? Jens Lekman sure can! Lekman was joined by Portland's Bravo Youth Orchestra during the first half of the show. Bravo added beautiful strings to Lekman's four piece band (including himself).

To read more about this event, see photos, and find Lekman's music online, please see our Facebook post on the event: <https://www.facebook.com/jimmy.granstrom.1/posts/10160298747739155>

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society

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