I recently traveled to St. Paul, Minnesota, to visit cousins from my Swedish side. The weather was perfect for a short trip to Scandia, Minnesota; the first Swedish settlement in Minnesota. We visited the Gammelgården Immigrant Heritage Museum. In addition to the visitors center, there are several historic, traditional buildings that have been preserved including a church, barn and home. Sadly, the rest of the community is losing its Swedish influence. It reminded me how easy it is to lose our heritage if we don't work to preserve it.

Thanks to our hardworking members, we wrapped up a summer of very successful events - the Starlight Parade, the Oaks Park Midsummer, Ross's Midsummer and 80th birthday party, Kräftskiva, and the Astoria parade. Hopefully, all of our members got to enjoy at least one of these events. Extra recognition goes to Anna and Hans Lundin who worked at four of the five events, and who worked all four days on the Kräftskiva party to make sure the set-up and decorations were perfect, the crayfish were cooked to perfection, and Fogelbo was returned to order after the party.

We're enjoying a period of rest before we launch into our holiday events - our Holiday Craft Party, Scan Fair and our Lucia Fest. The dates are in this newsletter under events so please mark your calendars and plan to not only attend, but also help make them a success.

New Sweden now has its own e-mail address- NewSwedenPDX@gmail.com. You should have received emails from this address and if not, please email that address so your computer recognizes it. We are relying on email communication more frequently to update our members with information that doesn't make the newsletter.

Since the last newsletter, we welcomed two new members to our New Sweden board: Ute Munger and Tanaka Axberg. Ute is already working on member communications and Tanaka is serving as our club secretary taking notes at our monthly board meetings. We greatly appreciate their willingness to take on these positions and look forward to their efforts to make our club stronger.

Kristi Gustafson
President
503-663-2772
kristigus@aol.com
Stockholm City Hall, the center of political power in Stockholm (by Leif Rosqvist)

The Stockholm City Hall is the building of the Municipal Council for the City of Stockholm, a Renaissance Palace for the People. It stands on the eastern tip of Kungsholmen island, next to Riddarfjärden's northern shore and facing the islands of Riddarholmen and Södermalm.

The following description of the district was made in a motion to the city council in 1892.

"Kungsholmen is to some extent still the subject of an old prejudice among the inhabitants of other districts in Stockholm, which will eventually disappear over time".

Over time though the area developed into one of the most well known and beautiful in inner Stockholm.

The City Hall houses offices and conference rooms for the City council members as well as ceremonial halls, and the luxury restaurant Stadshuskällaren. It is the venue of the annual Nobel Prize banquet and is one of Stockholm’s major tourist attractions.

On top of the tower I see the three crowns that is the symbol of Sweden, and is appearing on outfits for various sports, especially ice hockey known here in the USA.

There are two theories about the crowns: one is that the crowns stand for Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Another is that they stand for the three original Swedish counties: Östra Götaland, Västra Götaland and Svealand. I’m standing in the front of the building and it is enormous, to say the least. The construction took twelve years, from 1911 to 1923. Nearly eight million red bricks were used. The dark red bricks, called "munktegel" (monks’s bricks) because of their traditional use in the construction of monasteries and churches, were provided by Lina brick factory near Södertälje. Construction was carried out by craftsmen using traditional techniques. The building was inaugurated on June 23 1923 (exactly 400 years after Gustav Vasa’s arrival in Stockholm) by celebrities Verner von Heidenstam and Hjalmar Branting, who delivered the inauguration speeches.

The tower is the overall dominating feature and is 106 meters high (about 350 ft.) and to reach the top you have to climb the very steep 365 steps. This will be my first effort. From the tower lookout I have a wonderful view of Riddarholmen (Knight Island) and Old Town towards the east by the shimmering water of Lake Mälaren.
Descending from the City Hall Tower I enter into the Blå Hallen (Blue Hall). The Hall is 50 meters (160 ft) long, 30 meters (98 ft) wide and 22 meters (72 ft) high and has a floor space of 1,500 square meters (16,000 sq ft). It contains a monumental staircase and balcony, a bust of the architect of the hall, Ragnar Östberg, is placed on the hall's rooftop terrace.

The Blue Hall has the Monks’s bricks walls which are not plastered. The hall was originally supposed to have been plastered and painted blue, a color scheme that would have resembled the water of the lake Mälaren. But Östberg changed his mind during the construction of the hall after he saw the impact of the red bricks. Though Östberg abandoned his blue design in favor of the unfinished red brick, the name "Blue Hall" was already in general use and stuck.

The Blue Hall is the site of the well-known annual Nobel Banquet, held on December 10 every year. This banquet is "the most sought-after social invitation in Sweden", attended by the Swedish Royal Family, government ministers, parliamentarians, and over 1200 invited guests. Following the banquet, guests retreated to the Golden Hall for dancing. The Nobel Prizes are not handed out in the Blue Hall, but are given out at an earlier held ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall at Hötorget (Haymarket) in the central part of Stockholm.

On this day each year the S:t Eriksmedaljen (St. Erik's Medal) is handed out to awardees at the Blue Hall. The Blue Hall is also used for state visits, student graduations, like mine, balls and other large events.

Banquet dinner for Nobel Prize laureates on December 10 every year, my own Electrical Engineering graduation class and dinner 1967 (Photo: Nobel banquet Jessica Gow/Scanpix via Reuters, and my own pictures).

As a young man I went to Saturday night dances at the Blue Hall with my friends. We danced to “Dixieland” (trad jazz) music, inspired by the British musician Chris Barber, swing inspired bands like Carl Henrik Norin’s orchestra among many other good dance bands at the time. Walking around in the Blue Hall awakens many fun memories from the time when I was a young man. I also recalled the enormous organ in the Blue Hall with its 10,270 pipes, I think the largest in Scandinavia, and I heard it played once and the whole building was vibrating from the music, which was very exciting.
Above the Blue Hall lies the Gyllene Salen (Golden Hall), named after the decorative golden mosaics, using more than 18 million tiles, which represent motifs from Sweden’s glorious ancient history. The Golden Hall really is golden and almost overwhelming. On the opposite wall across the hall is the picture of the most beautiful Mälardrottningen (Queen of Lake Mälaren) representing the beautiful city of Stockholm. Mälardrottningen is a nickname that has existed at least since the late 1800's and refers to the city's dominant location at the eastern part of Lake Mälaren.

From the Golden Hall I proceed to the beautiful City Hall (Rådsalen) were the Municipal assembly, with 101 members, conduct their meetings.

The municipality is subdivided into 14 districts. These districts are sometimes incorrectly referred to as "boroughs" in English. They are, however, no legal entities or juristic persons of their own, but committees of the municipality itself. These districts are administered by stadsdelsnämnder (District councils), which carry responsibility for primary school, social, leisure and cultural services within their respective areas. The members of these councils are not directly elected by the inhabitants of the respective districts, but rather appointed by the kommunfullmäktige (municipal assembly).

The room is very impressive, suited for the most powerful Stockholm assembly. I’m especially impressed by the ceiling with its timber works built like an old wooden ship in an upside down position.

In order to give the timberwork the credit it deserves I’m laying down on the floor to get a good picture, to many tourists’ surprise and alarm as it could be seen as some sort of freaky accident.

After an impressive ascent, as I exit the room when I capture a glance of other tourists imitating my impressive performance.

There is so much more to see, but in saving time I’m exiting the building towards Riddarfjärden into a small park between the building and Lake Mälaren’s shore. The park is adorned with several sculptures, among them Carl Eldh’s ensemble of several famous Swedish authors as well as Eldh’s bronze sculptures “Sången” and “Dansen” (“The Song” and “The Dans”). To the south-east of the City Hall, facing Riddarholmen, is a pillar roughly 20 meters (>65 ft) with a tall statue of Engelbrekt Engelbrektson on top. He was a Swedish rebel leader and later statesman, leading the rebellion against the Kalmar Union in 1434.
On the east side, towards Tegelbacken I will find a well-known “Cenotaph of Birger Jarl” where my grandfather took us children for Sunday walkabouts. We were always jokingly told that Birger Jarl was buried here, but later in life we found out that this is not true. It was originally intended that his remains were to be moved there, but this was never done. Birger died at Jälbolung, which probably is the village of Lagmanstorp, near the town of Vara in Västra Götaland. Previously raised doubts about the site of his grave were dispelled recently by meticulous examination of it at Varnhem Church. Monuments in honor of Duke Birger include his magnificent cenotaph and his fantasy statue, both in Stockholm.

The importance of Birger Jarl (c. 1210 - 21 October 1266) or Birger Magnusson, a Swedish statesman, Jarl of Sweden and a member of the House of Bjelbo, who played a pivotal role in the consolidation of Sweden. Birger also led the Second Swedish Crusade, which established Swedish rule in Finland. Additionally, he is traditionally attributed to have founded the Swedish capital, Stockholm around 1250. Birger used the Latin title of Dux Sweorum which in English equals Duke of Sweden, and the design of his coronet combined those used by continental European and English dukes. Through his crusade to Finland, these eastern areas of the realm were firmly secured and remained a part of Sweden for over 550 years.

There is too much to see and time is running away from me and I have to leave Stadshuset, but have two images staying in my mind forever:

Stockholms Stadshus  Ragnar Östberg architect

More information for the interested:

Wikipedia: Stockholms Stadshus

Wikipedia: Birger Jarl, Engelbrekt Engelbrekt, Varnhem Church

YouTube: Stockholms Stadshus

Stockholmskällan: Stockholms Stadshus
Everybody had a wonderful time at Kräftskiva on August 4th. Great food, company and entertainment led by Gunilla Admund and Anna-Karin Lindbergh-Rednoske. A songbook, with drinking songs both in Swedish and English, were handed out to everybody at the event. The dance floor quickly filled thanks to an excellent song selection, with a great mix of American, German and Swedish classics, including Neil Diamond’s “Sweet Caroline” and Nena’s “99 Luftballoons”. Swedish singer Anni-Frid Lyngstad (Frida) was featured both as one of the singers of ABBA as well as a guest vocalist on “Så länge vi har varann” by 1980’s duo Ratata, featuring beloved singer/songwriter Mauro Scocco.
We should give special thanks to Kristi, Rose and Ute who cut out, folded, taped and added ribbon to all the hats.

Many thanks to all the wonderful guests and volunteers at Kräftskiva! Other than the delicious crayfish, there were many other tasty treats served on the entrée- and dessert tables. All the volunteers made sure the event went smoothly, and although the attendance was a little lower than usual, the dancefloor seemed to be filled by more people than ever!

Finishing touches by Rose.
Astoria Regatta Parade on August 11 (by Ute Munger)

It took many hands to get to the Astoria Regatta parade on Saturday, August 11, 2018, but oh, did we have fun! Thanks to Mike Nelson for generously supplying year round storage to the Viking ship and to Dave Alford for technical expertise to get it hitched and again uncoupled to and from Kristi Gustafson’s ‘tow’ truck and her driving ability to get it to Astoria and back to Swan Island without losing parts or damage to it. Early on the day of the parade more helping hands from The League of Swedish Societies, including the Scandinavian of the Year, Jeff Klein, showed up to decorate the ship, walk the parade route and distribute an immense amount of candy to the spectators (adding to the workload of local dentists). The great weather gods granted us a huge downpour at about 5:30 that morning, then a few more sprinkles, clean air and perfect marching weather for the parade. The Moose lodge had a pancake breakfast waiting and did we take advantage of it.

Over 80 floats, hundreds of participants and thousands of spectators filled the parade route. The Viking ship, with a sparkling escort of Dave’s Indian motorcycling buddies, won the Grand Marshall award - definitely well deserved. Part of the leftover ‘crew’ enjoyed a pizza fest afterwards at the Lindgren cabin on County grounds at Cullaby Lake Park before dispersing back into every day life. If you haven’t seen this over 100 year old hand hewn log cabin make a day of it to visit. Take a picnic, bring your swimming attire, canoe, kayak, or walking shoes and explore.

Thanks again to Dave and Judi Gervais-Perkiomaki who managed to get the ship into shape and shared various other tasks, Kristi, who never stays off her still ‘bad’ leg, and her sweet dog Boo who kept us great company and also walked part of the parade route. Kudos to Linda Hovis for being the detailing decorator on the ship, which proudly flew the new blue and yellow sail, recently tailored by Anna Lundin. Also thanks to Tanaka Axberg, Sandra Webb and Jimmy Granström for pitching in without questioning when needed. The ship was filled with the Petersons and Ms. Anderson who had won seats at the ScanFair or Grieg Lodge raffles, the Lucia court and of course their chaperone Anita Snakke, who is still taking pictures non stop. Lucia Court coordinator Sarah Neilson-Winter’s kids, who were decked out in traditional garb, hitched a ride, as did the the granddaughter of the tow-truck driver Bill Scott. As a good friend of Dave’s he towed the ship with his shiny white rig, a truly generous gesture since he also needed to attend a wedding and a soccer game later that day. Thanks Bill, for fitting us in, all the way from Kent, WA!

Curious enough now? Join us on next year’s trek, stay a night and have a good taste of Scandinavian food and ambiance. Life is as enjoyable as you would want to make it!
Several New Sweden members joined Nordic Northwest’s Annual Meeting, where a delicious hot dog dinner (based on the classic Stockholm dish “tunnbrödsrulle”) was served by Broder Söder. Indeed a very enjoyable event!

Dave Alford (left) and a member of his Indian Riders escort with Ute Munger (right).

Jimmy Granström and Dave Alford with Astoria Mayor Candidate Dulcy Taylor (left) and Oregon Governor Candidate Knute Buehler (right) at the Astoria Regatta Admiral’s Reception on Friday, August 10. Photos by Judy Gervais-Perkiomaki. New Sweden does not support political candidates or parties by publishing pictures with politicians.

Nordic Northwest Annual Meeting at Nordia House on September 16th

Several New Sweden members joined Nordic Northwest’s Annual Meeting, where a delicious hot dog dinner (based on the classic Stockholm dish “tunnbrödsrulle”) was served by Broder Söder. Indeed a very enjoyable event!

Ross home after surgery. The Lundins with Andrew Toth
Craft Day and Holiday Celebration
Sunday, November 11, 3:00pm

Begin the holiday season with our annual celebration. We’ll again dip candles and those experienced dippers may try their hand at making the traditional Christmas branch candle- Grenljus. With more instruction and Swedish persistence, we’ll again attempt the folded strimlers, and maybe another project or two.

For those non-crafty folks, join us for holiday cheer, coffee, traditional cookies, and maybe some glögg at the West Hills Universalist Unitarian Church, 8470 SW Oleson Rd., Portland, 3:00pm.

ScanFair 2018 will mark the 34th year of this wonderful Nordic Christmas Festival. Like recent years, it will be held at the Veteran’s Memorial Coliseum Exhibit Hall on December 1 (10am-5pm) and December 2 (10am-4pm). New Sweden will attend with its own booth at the event where you are able to meet other members and share Swedish experiences. Adults $10, Families $20, Seniors & Students $9, Children under 12 are free.

More information: www.nordicnorthwest.org
Sponsored by Scan|Design Foundation

2018 Events Calendar summary

Sunday November 11 at 3pm: Craft Day and Holiday Celebration, West Hills Universalist Unitarian Church, 8470 SW Oleson Rd., Portland, OR. Members free. 503-663-2772
December 1-2: Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-4, Scan Fair Annual Christmas Market, Portland Veteran's Memorial Coliseum, Adults $10, Seniors/students $9, Families $20
December 8: 3:00pm, New Sweden's traditional Lucia Fest, First Presbyterian Church, 1200 SW Alder St., Portland, OR. Adults: $10, children $5, families $25
December 25 at 7am: Julotta. First Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1816 NW Irving, Portland
New Sweden members will perform at Scanfair and Lucia

The entertainment program for Scanfair on Dec. 1-2 and Lucia on Dec. 8 will include songs co-written by Jimmy Granström, which were performed at Lucia 2016, Scanfair, Lucia 2017 as well as Midsummer 2018. Singers are still TBD for Jimmy's performance, but may include Douglas Webster, Brent Rogers and Gunilla Admund who performed at Midsummer.

Anna-Karin Lindbergh-Rednoske sang “En decemberdrömm” (A December Dream)” at Lucia 2016. Anna-Karin wrote the music with Jimmy, who also wrote the lyrics. An excerpt can be found below.

Minnena lyser som klarast
När en evighet tycks kort
Som tusental stjärnor i natten
Varje ljusår ett stenkast bort
En decemberdrömm, julen stod på glänt
När mitt hjärta hitta hem

Memories are shining the brightest
When an eternity seems brief
Like thousands of stars in the evening sky
Every light year a stone throw away
A December dream, Christmas around the corner
When my heart found its way home

Gunilla Admund and Agneta Massa will sing again at this year’s Scanfair and Lucia. At last year’s events, Gunilla and Agneta performed “The Vagabond”, Jimmy’s co-written English version of Nordman’s “Vandraren”, approved by the million-selling songwriters Mats Wester (music) and Py Bäckman (lyrics), as well as “Julen i Portland (Christmas in Portland)”, featuring Jimmy’s lyrics specifically written for the Portland Swedish community. Jimmy wrote the music together with his former UC Santa Barbara colleague Dave Prine.

Other performances at Scanfair and Lucia will include The Swedish School Lucia Program and the Vasa Youth Group dancers and the Vasa Lucia program.
Scandinavian tradition holds that in Värmland, Sweden, a white-clad maiden wearing a crown of burning candles and a red sash brought food to starving villagers on the shores of Lake Vänern. On the morning of December 13, the strains of “Santa Lucia” are heard everywhere in Sweden as the white-robed maiden comes out of the night with her crown of lighted candles to dispel the darkness, bringing bright light to the Christmas season. While it was originally a Swedish tradition, it has since spread to other Scandinavian countries.

You are invited to enjoy a beautiful traditional pageant and music of the season by:

• The children of the Swedish School in Portland
• Oregon’s 2018 Lucia Court
• Scandinavian Men’s Chorus, Scandia Ladies Chorus
• Vocal Soloists

Following the program there will be customary singing and dancing around the Christmas tree, a visit by Tomten, glögg, coffee and beloved baked goods.

Admission: Adults $10, children 4-12 $5 (maximum price per family, $25) Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Convenient parking.

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society Invites You to

Lucia Fest

3:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018

First Presbyterian Church
1200 SW Alder St., Ptd., OR

Visit New Sweden at www.newsweden.org
Grace Pegnone on the Oregon Lucia Court

This past year has been extra busy for Grace Pegnone as she served on the Oregon Lucia Court. Grace is the daughter of New Sweden member Ann Marie and Chris Pegnone. Grace’s family has long been involved in New Sweden as her grandmother, Leah Stogdsill, and great grandmother, Jean Johnson, were members as is her mother, who was the 1990 Oregon Lucia. The family still has family in Sweden and Norway.

Grace shares both Swedish and Norwegian heritage on her mother's side and still has family in both countries. Grace has been active in the Nordic community dancing with Portland’s Leikarringen and attending the Norwegian Language Camp. Grace would have liked to have attended the Swedish Language Camp but it always conflicted with the final event of the year for 4-H- another organization she's very involved in.

As a court member, Grace attended a variety of events and enjoyed learning about the cultures of all the Nordic countries, doing activities with children, and encouraging the children's excitement about Lucia. One of Grace's fondest memories was meeting with the other court members for the first time, trying on the white dresses and trying to correctly tie the sashes. She said the girls ended up laughing at their efforts and bonded as a group.

A heartfelt thank you to the Lucia Court, their families, and the group of advisors who work with the Lucia Court-Anita Snakke, Sara Winters, Catarina New, and New Sweden member Gunilla Admund, to ensure this tradition continues.

Grace Pegnone

Grace’s mother Ann Marie was the 1990 Oregon Lucia.
Turkish Pepper Licorice Liquor, aka Turkisk Peppar Shots (by Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske)

Ingredients:

- 300 gram of Turkish Pepper candy (either 2 small 150 gram bags or 1 big 300 gram bag, Amazon.com sells them online if you have a hard time finding them at the store).
- 70 centiliter bottle of clear unflavored vodka of your choice, I prefer the brand Svedka vodka, good value and great flavor for this recipe.
- An empty clear bottle, approximately 1 liter in size, I usually buy a 1 liter Svedka bottle, pour 1/3 of the vodka into another container and just use the vodka bottle as my mixing and serving bottle.
- I pour the rest of the vodka into a bowl so I start with an empty bottle, then I pour the vodka back in the bottle through a funnel when the candy is added.

Method:

- Take all of your Turkish Pepper candy and break down into small pieces, either with a strong blender, a mortar and pestle, or in a plastic bag and using a hammer to crush them.
- Using a funnel, pour the small pieces, a little at a time into the empty bottle.
- Pour in the vodka back into the bottle which hold all the Turkish Pepper candy by using a funnel.
- Making sure the lid is well secured, shake the bottle vigorously for 2-3 minutes.
- Store at room temperature for several days preferably, about a week if you can, shake and turn every day for a minute or two until you can see the candy dissolving inside the bottle.
- For a stronger, more intense liquor flavor you can add more crushed Turkish pepper candy into the bottle.
- Put the bottle in the freezer when you are happy with the result, it should have a dark, black, smooth appearance. Store it in the freezer until ready to drink. Serve ice cold for best flavor. You can either drink it as snaps, shots or just sip on it slowly. Just be very careful, it is so good and you can’t even tell it has strong alcohol in it so it is easy to get drunk of it if not paying attention.
- It stays good for a long time, it doesn’t go bad because of the alcohol, the flavor becomes more intense too with time.
- It is always fun to see people’s reaction when they try this drink for the very first time, it is so salty and strong and the reactions are divided between disgust and enjoyment. When I was a young adult, (in the early 90s) they sold this drink as shots for like $5 - per shot glass (30 SEK) at the bars in Sweden, expensive back then too, I really liked the taste and started to make my own later on. Enjoy!
Swedish siblings have a long history of making it big, both in the domestic and international music scene. In 1984, the Swedish band Herreys won the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) with their song “Diggi loo diggi ley”. This marked the first Swedish ESC victory since ABBA in 1974. Herreys consists of the three brothers Per, Richard and Louis, and are often considered to be one of Sweden’s first “boy bands”. In 1990, Sweden’s ESC entry “Som en vind (Like A Wind)” also consisted of brothers, this time Frank and Simon Ådahl together with Bertil and Lasse Edin in the band Edin-Ådahl. Frank Ådahl can also be heard in dubbed Swedish animated movies, for example as Simba in “Lejonkungen (The Lion King)”. By far the most successful Swedish musical constellation featuring siblings is Ace of Base, with original group members Ulf Ekberg and the three siblings Jonas Berggren, Linn Berggren and Jenny Berggren. The group released four studio albums between 1992 and 2002, which have sold more than 30 million copies worldwide, making it the third-most successful Swedish band of all time, after ABBA and Roxette. Ace of Base’s album “Happy Nation” is one of the best-selling debut albums of all time, and it was the first one to produce three No. 1 singles on the Billboard Top 40 chart: “All That She Wants”, “The Sign” and “Don’t Turn Around”.

Sisters Mette and Annika Herlitz have stellar careers in the Swedish music industry. Annika can be heard as the Swedish voice of Elsa, the snow queen, in Disney’s “Frost (Frozen)”. She is also dubbing different series on Swedish Television (SVT), Cartoon Network, Netflix and Nickelodeon and is currently the Swedish speaker voice at Disney Channel. Mette is a prolific composer, whose critically acclaimed musicals include “Orfeus och Eurydike”, “Den allvarsamma leken (The Serious Game)” and “Trollflöjten 2.0”, which is Mette’s and Emma Sandanam’s free musical adaptation of Mozart’s “The Magic Flute”. “Trollflöjten 2.0” was seen by over 60.000 people in Stockholm's parks during Parkteatern’s summer production in 2016. From the ESC and million-selling albums to dubbed Disney movies and new musicals, Swedish siblings have played a significant role in the Swedish music industry, and are likely to continue to do so in years to come.
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.