



The Saga of New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society Portland, Oregon

October 2009

Editor: Leif Rosqvist

Newsletter Volume 94

Once upon a time...

The Swedish, Finnish and US governments declared a celebration honoring the 350th anniversary of the establishment in 1638 of the first Swedish colony on American shores. The anniversary year was 1988.

The US Congress passed Public Law 99-304 designating 1988 as the "Year of New Sweden" and authorized President Reagan to issue an official proclamation in observance of the year. President Reagan declared, "Swedish Americans have won a place in the history and heritage of the United States, and they continue their tradition of notable achievements today. Two Swedish Americans associated prominently with the American Revolution were John Morton of Pennsylvania, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and John Hanson of Maryland, who presided over the Continental Congress in 1781 and 1782. More than a million Swedes came to the United States between, 1845 and 1910, and more than four million Americans today have Swedish ancestry.

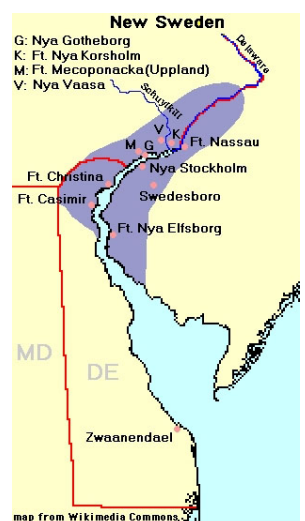
We can all be truly proud of the contributions of Swedish Americans to our beloved land, of the close ties between the United States and Sweden over the years, and the devotion to democracy that our peoples share. Now, therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim 1988 as the Year of New Sweden. I call upon the Governors of the several states, local officials, and the people of the United States to observe this year with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

The celebrations of New Sweden '88 reminded us all of the significance and impact Swedish and Finnish immigration had on the US. In 1638 the Swedish state sent colonists to the wealth laden American shores. They made a dangerous and harrowing trip aboard the Kalmar Nyckel (Key of Kalmar) and Fågel Grip (Griffin Bird). However, they found little wealth and many hardships as they established a Swedish colony on the Delaware River- which now includes parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. Land was purchased from the local Indians, the Lenape and Susquehannok tribes; and Fort Christina was established on the current site of Wilmington, Delaware. These early Swedes and Finns showed courage, conviction and mettle. The Lenape and Susquehannok Indians were so impressed with the Scandinavians that they became friends and never engaged in battle. Truly a fabric of friendship was woven between the Indians and the Scandinavians, a unique relationship.

Through political changes, new government and waves of immigrants from other nations the Swedes and Finns kept their heritage, culture and values.



Kalmar Nyckel



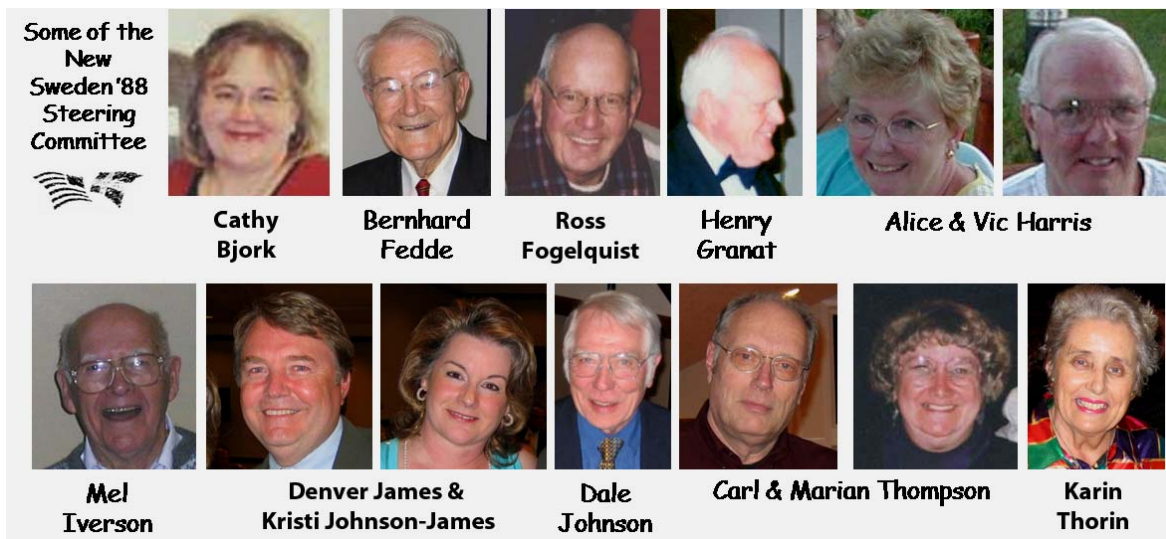
They were known as leaders in their community and recognized for their craftsmanship, honesty and integrity. They answered the call of a nation wanting liberty and fought and died for their freedom in the American Revolutionary War and the establishment of the new American nation.

New Sweden '88 was an international exchange and celebration between Sweden, Finland and the United States honoring this special anniversary and these hardy colonists. Cities that wished to participate could become associated with the international exchange by applying to be designated 'Jubilee Cities.' Portland could be as active in the celebration as it wished to be. Special exhibits and groups from Sweden would be touring the USA and would be available to make our celebration especially significant.

Leonard Forsgren, Honorary Swedish Consul, invited lodges, organizations and individuals to participate in this special international event. The first organizational meeting was held April 14, 1987, at the home of Ross Fogelquist. The meeting was called to order by Dale Johnson. About 30 persons attended. Bernhard Fedde presented a brief historical outline of the events leading up to the establishment of the colony and its significance to our American story. Leonard Forsgren explained what the 'New Sweden '88' celebration could be for us in Oregon.

A "New Sweden '88' Steering Committee was appointed to spearhead plans...

Dale Johnson served as General Chairman; Ross Fogelquist was Coordinating Chair; Karin Thorin was Recording Secretary; and Mel Iverson was Treasurer.



Other steering committee members, not in the picture were; Barry and Laurel Peterson, Stig Anstrand, Rhoda Elliott and Louise Granat.

The Steering Committee was wholeheartedly dedicated to celebrating New Sweden '88 and worked to develop a sense of community and unity within our Scandinavian community. With the variety of talent and dedication within our community the sky was the limit!

The celebrations...

The kick-off event for New Sweden '88 was ScanFair 1987 at Portland State University. We had a room dedicated to New Sweden '88 with a large map of Sweden, displays of pictures and posters, a sales table where New Sweden '88 sweatshirts were a popular item, and a professionally made display shipped from Sweden about Alfred Nobel. Following ScanFair 1987 this Nobel Exhibit was moved to OMSI and on display there for over a month.

April 14, 1988, there was a reception at City Hall following the Portland City Council passing a Resolution designating 1988 as a special year to celebrate 350 years of Swedish-Finnish-American friendship and recognition of Portland as a Jubilee City in New Sweden '88. The Mayor and Commissioners were presented with New Sweden '88 sweatshirts and everyone enjoyed Swedish refreshments and an exhibition of Swedish folk dancing in the lobby of City Hall.

April 30, 1988, New Sweden '88 celebrated at a Jubilee Gala Dinner and Dance at the Marriott Hotel and a Walpurgis Night Bonfire across the street on the banks of the Willamette River. Special guests included Swedish Ambassador to the United States Count Wachtmeister and his wife Countess Wachmeister and several local dignitaries in addition to our enthusiastic local Scandinavians. The Jubilee Gala Dinner menu was typically Swedish.



The Exhibits...

Alfred Nobel Exhibition, sponsored by the Swedish government, told of the colorful life of the great inventor, Alfred Nobel and the establishment in his will of the Nobel Peace Prize and other Nobel prizes for excellence. This was on display at OMSI from ScanFair 1987 until February 8, 1988. We co-hosted a reception with OMSI which included a folk dance recital by the Vasa Youth Dancers that was covered by the *Oregonian* newspaper. Many thousands enjoyed the display at OMSI.



Raoul Wallenberg Exhibit included 23 large panels illustrating the life of Raoul Wallenberg. This event was cosponsored by the Oregon Holocaust Research Center and on display at Portland State University from May through mid June. Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat, saved 100,000 Hungarian Jews from certain death at the hands of Nazi fanatics during World War II.



The exhibit covered his youth, diplomatic career, his illegal arrest and still unexplained disappearance and the decades of trying to locate Wallenberg inside the Soviet Union. In addition we had the honor of hearing Retired Ambassador Per Anger, the Swedish Attaché in Budapest between 1942-1945, speak about his experiences with Raoul in Hungary. A reception followed Ambassador Anger's lecture.

Sweden and America: A History Celebrated was an exhibit put together by the Swedish government and displayed at Washington Square Mall for 4 Days in August. Staff at Washington Square estimated that 190,000 individuals visited the mall during the exhibit, and certainly not all stopped to see it. But the exposure was certainly significant. We had volunteers in national dress at the exhibit handing out literature and answering questions throughout the period of the display.

Ilon Wikland Exhibit was displayed at the Main Branch Multnomah County Library from October 6 until November 8th. Ilon Wikland was the illustrator of the popular Astrid Lindgren, Pippi Longstocking books. Original drawings and paintings by Wikland gave lifelike character- in a whimsical artistic dimension- to Pippi and her friends. In cooperation with the Multnomah County Library, a reception was held at the library and the Scandinavian Male Chorus and Scandia Ladies Chorus gave a Swedish concert. Display cases throughout the library had arrangements of Swedish items; and one Saturday during the exhibit the library dedicated its story hour to Swedish folk tales and asked children to attend in costumes of their favorite Pippi Longstocking character. Bernhard Fedde gave a series of lectures on the history of Scandinavia at the library and Scandinavian folk dancers put on displays of Nordic dancing in their festive national dress.



Pippi Longstocking

Swedish Nature Photography Exhibit featured photographs of nature in Sweden, antique Hasselblad cameras, and Swedish furniture, crystal and artifacts at the World Forestry Center during the month of November. A gala opening reception that included a buffet table, choral and instrumental music and exhibition folk dancing was attended by the Consular Corps, Press Corps and the public.

The music...

The Par Bricole Male Chorus from Stockholm joined in concert with our Scandinavian Male Chorus and the Skandia Ladies Chorus for an entertaining evening at Westminster Presbyterian Church. A reception and social hour followed in the Church Hall.

Anne-Charlotte Harvey, known as the 'Queen of Snoose Boulevard' and Kjell Hansson, one of Sweden's top recording artists gave a performance that included songs, poetry and humorous stories about Swedish immigrants. Following the performance at Portland State's Smith Center Ballroom the audience enjoyed a reception and met the artists.

Our local folk dancers and musicians gave many performances throughout the 1988 year-- always wearing a smile and their beautiful costumes.

Our Scandinavian volunteers supported the many New Sweden '88 official events and local Scandinavian groups also sponsored events of their own which added to the celebration! Our community worked together to showcase our heritage and culture to Portland and its surroundings, and this was the spark that ignited the enthusiasm to organize our New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society.

THE OREGONIAN, MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1988

Male choir from Sweden due Tuesday


The 50-member Par Bricole Male Choir from Stockholm, Sweden, will appear here Tuesday in a joint concert with Portland's Scandinavian Male Chorus and the Scandia Ladies Chorus. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. in Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock St. Tickets available at the door are \$5 for adults, \$1.50 for students 12 to 18.

The Par Bricole choir has entertained for nearly 160 years. It made its debut performance July 26, 1829, at the unveiling of a statue honoring Carl Bellman, a Swedish poet and lutanist and a founder of Par Bricole.

The Par Bricole Society has 5,000 members in Sweden, and King Carl XVI Gustaf is the honorary president.

Conductor Hans Kyle has prepared a program of music by Bellman along with folk songs and sacred music.

The American tour by the Par Bricole choir is part of the joint



HANS KYHLE
Conducts Par Bricole Choir

American and Swedish celebration of the 350th anniversary of the settling of New Sweden, a Swedish colony on the Delaware River founded in 1638. While the colony passed from Swedish control after about 30 years, the colonists remained to become part of the American melting pot.

THE OREGONIAN, FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1988

PORTLAND



Swedish dancers — Alison McLeod (left), John Springer (center) and Glenda Reeves entertain at City Hall Thursday after the City Council designation of Portland as a Jubilee City during the 'New Sweden 350' celebration. The event, which is being celebrated in 70 U.S. cities, recognizes the 350th anniversary of the first Swedish/Euro settlement in America.

The forming of New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society...

After a fantastic, year long New Sweden '88 celebration, the organizers wanted to continue the camaraderie and momentum developed during this year.

Ross Fogelquist, the President said; "To do this we created the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society in 1989, chartered for the purpose of sharing, promoting, strengthening and maintaining our Swedish culture and heritage.

We accomplish this through a variety of activities sponsored by the organization. We offer you lectures and exhibits, music and dance, Swedish picnics and potlucks, publications (including our very own newsletter), language, genealogical and history studies.

We welcome your interest in the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society of Oregon and SW Washington and we look forward to having you join us as a member of our organization."

A web-site will be constructed, to be used as supplement to mailing of newsletter, for effective and timely communication to the group.



Message from the President, No 1 Newsletter , November 1989...

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of our new Swedish organization. We have nearly 70 members, a very good start for such a short time in existence. It is the goal of the officers to have every member play an important role in our organization. We have a number of opportunities for you to actively participate in different working committees. We urge you to contact the committee chairman of the particular group that holds interest for you. Each member does their share of the work, then it will not become an overwhelming task for a few. We encourage you to share any ideas and information that you might have with any of the officers. The officers are very excited about our new organization. We hope you will share in our excitement and enthusiasm by becoming actively involved in the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society of Oregon and SW Washington."



Message from your current President, September 2009...

I've been with New Sweden for about four years now, enthusiastically recruited by Erik Thorin. I was inspired by the New Sweden members, because everyone is open and friendly. I feel comfortable at our meetings, and I like seeing fellow members sharing the work when we set up and put on events.

Krisiti Johnson-James was President before me, and she served three years and did a wonderful job. She started something I want to continue in that each of our events will have a team leader, who will lead and coordinate the event.

With that spirit in mind, I encourage members to volunteer and participate as this is "our" organization.

I would like to thank Ross Fogelquist for hosting many of our events. Fogelbo is a special place, and we should be thankful for having such a wonderful setting to celebrate our New Sweden events. I'm looking forward to the New Sweden fall season including many exciting events; Scan Fair at Portland State University, ScanFeast the Lucia Luncheon and Fest and of course our New Sweden 20th year celebration.



It is my hope to see you all there!

Dave Carter, President



We were *there*, and were part of the Steering Committee of New Sweden '88, during this very special year. We would like to share our views with the readers to provide some perspective for the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society 20th anniversary event.

Carl and Marian Thompson said; “The New Sweden ‘88 Steering Committee coordinated many cultural events in 1988, and many local Scandinavian groups also sponsored special events. To name a few: Alfred Nobel Exhibit at ScanFair 1987 & at OMSI; the Portland City Council named Portland a Jubilee City, the Par Bricole Male Chorus sang at Westminster Presbyterian Church; a formal dinner, dance and Walpurgis Night Bonfire was held April 30th; a Volkmarch (Folk march)—Take a Liking to a Viking occurred with nearly 900 walkers; a Raoul Wallenberg Exhibit was shown at PSU with cooperation of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center; we had a float with costumed dancers in the Rose festival Starlight Parade; Ann Charlotte Harvey presented in concert; a Sweden and America 1938-1988 A History Celebrated display at Washington Square, an Ilon Wikland Exhibit of original drawings at the Main Branch of Multnomah Library; a Swedish Nature Photography Exhibit at the World Forest Center. *The Greatest joy in New Sweden '88 was the working with friends. Old friends became closer and new friends were made. The City of Portland became more aware of the Scandinavian Community, and the Scandinavian community became more aware of the wonderful things it could do while working together*”.



Kristi Johnson-James and Denver James said; It was truly an honor to be approached by Ross Fogelquist in the year 1987. You see, Ross had an idea. He wanted Portland to be a part of honoring the role Swedish-Americans both as our country emerged, and as our history unfolded. My Swedish heritage had been kept alive by my grandparents, and I had a keen interest in the subject. Denver had the technical skills, and he liked the creative challenge this presented. Our group had the will and the collective talent, and we just began. We created New Sweden '88 out of a desire to share the history of Swedes in America from our corner of the world. The list of involvement grew to include many cultural events, but that surely was not enough to inspire. No, it was the marvelous people we worked with that supplied the fuel to launch such an endeavor. Sadly, Denver and I were away on the East Coast from 1990—2003. But when we returned, we discovered a group, even more relevant and vibrant than when we left. It has been our extreme honor to continue the traditions of connecting the past with the future. What is a definition of a family? I think it has become New Sweden. Thank you for all you do for us each and every day.



New Sweden is very active in many events during the year!



Event

Programs

Cultural



Walpurgis celebration
Garage Sales at Fogelbo
Midsummer Event
Lucia Luncheon and Lucia Fest
ScanFeast
ScanFair at Portland State University

Historical



Personal & Travel stories
Immigrant stories

Educational



Trollbacken Language and Culture
Camp
Swedish School support
Art Classes

Culinary



Cooking events
Recipe sharing
Annual Crayfish Party at Fogelbo

Communication



Quarterly Newsletter
Web Site with Event Calendar
Public Board meetings
Participation in outreach events with
other Swedish organization
Web links to other organizations



Come and be active with us!



New Sweden 20th Anniversary Social, Dinner and Program

You're invited to celebrate 20 years of New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009 at 6 p.m. at the Rheinlander restaurant, 5035 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

Socialize with friends, then enjoy dinner and a commemorative program. Reservations and advance purchase are necessary. Tickets are \$37.50 per person.

To reserve your place, please send your name or names and your check (made out to NEW SWEDEN)

to: GunMarie Rosqvist, New Sweden Treasurer
2845 NW Circle A Drive
Portland, OR 97229

Phone: 503-466-2119 email: leif2845@comcast.net

Rheinlander Feast, served family style with sauerbraten, rotisserie pork loin, chicken cordon bleu, and bratwurst. Includes sides, fondue and dessert.

Vegetarian plate available if requested with reservation

There will also be a cash bar.

Deadline to receive reservations is Sept. 23, 2009

Maximum 100 attendees, so get your reservations in early!!

—Reservation Form—

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ \$ amount enclosed: _____

Number (if any) vegetarian plates requested _____