

Message from your President - Kristi Gustafson



Dear Members,

I write this at the end of 2020, a year most of us are more than willing to leave behind. While the year was a challenge and difficult in many ways, I believe there were opportunities for positive growth and change, even if somewhat forced upon us. Like most organizations, we were unsure how to proceed with what we could do that wouldn't endanger our members. As human ingenuity took hold and businesses adapted to a different way of doing things, so did New Sweden. We have had two virtual events and are looking forward to more. While it hasn't been a perfect solution, there were some advantages. There have been no expenses tied to renting a facility where we hold events, and we have involved members who might not have otherwise been able to attend due to health or travel challenges.

One thing has become apparent which is how good it is to see our members, even if only by Zoom. We are continuing to work on ideas to use this format which may include a Swedish-speaking chat group and another needle felting class. If you have ideas for classes, talks, demonstrations, etc., please contact me.

Our New Sweden board continued to meet monthly by Zoom, never losing faith that we would be resuming activities in the near future. New Sweden will have officer and board elections in early 2021 and welcomes individuals who would like to serve on the New Sweden board or as an officer. At our January meeting, we will hope for the success of the U.S.A. vaccination program and tentatively plan to resume our club's in-person events beginning with our annual meeting June 6th.

I would like to recognize and thank our Lucia committee of Maritha Rufus (chair), Catarina New, Kristina Neiman, Ross Fogelquist, Jimmy Granström, Anna Lundin, Gunilla Admund and Ellen Tausch for their diligent work trying to produce a virtual Lucia Fest. Steven Englund joined the team and they were set to record when new restrictions and an increase in COVID-19 cases caused a final cancellation of all efforts. On-board to perform was Anna-Karin Lindbergh-Rednoske.

I end this first message of 2021, wishing you a safe, healthy and happy New Year, and when we resume our contacts and events, we appreciate even more what we have.

Kristi Gustafson
President

New Sweden's first virtual craft day (by Kristi Gustafson)

Board member and activities chair Corina Laws developed and organized our first virtual event -- a holiday wreath and smällkaramell making class available to our members via Zoom. After gathering the supplies, both on-line and foraging her neighborhood, Corina arranged to deliver them to interested members. On production day, Anna Lundin decorated an area of a large garage to make it look like a Hollywood Christmas set. In spite of frigid conditions, Corina and Anna, looking much like Santa's elves, demonstrated their creative skills and taught us how to make the smällkaramell and a simple, modern wreath.

Thanks to Marc Christenson for the use of his garage and extensive video equipment which was a learning experience in itself. It was great to see some of our newer members attend as well as those who are less able to leave their residences. We are already planning another virtual class to use the knowledge gained from this first experience.



New Sweden's first virtual craft day (by Kristi Gustafson) continued



2021 Events Calendar summary

Events in 2021 are TBD. 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.



Wreath by Pam Martin's door



Ross with wreath outside of Fogelbo

Face Mask sales

Thanks to Ute Munger for organizing New Sweden's part in the League of Swedish Societies face mask fundraiser sales. Due to limited supplies and spreading the masks out to several League organizations, New Sweden had more interested buyers than masks. We will notify you via email if the League decides to make more masks.

Entertainment trivia from Eric Goranson

Swedish born, Texas raised actress Gunilla (Wiklund) Hutton acted in Petticoat Junction and was one of the Honeys on the TV show Hee Haw.



Dala Horses made by Eric Göranson

A happy and healthy New Year to you all!

What a year it has been and here we are to talk about it, or maybe better forget about it?

New Sweden welcomed 17 new members for 2020 and sadly lost a few due illness, life changes or financial difficulties.

If you turned 80 years young in 2020 or earlier and have been a member of New Sweden for at least three years, you have been elevated to Life Time status, which means: No more dues to pay, but you still need to fill out the below Membership form every year in January in order for you to stay current in the records. If you have a Family membership and your spouse has not reached that golden level yet, your membership changes to a Single membership.

2021 Membership Renewals and New Memberships

Memberships are renewed at the beginning of each year and valid through the end of that year. You may use the below form and renew now, which saves the cost of mailing a separate membership renewal request. If you would like, you can also renew for multiple years.

It would also be lovely if you could indicate your preference of how to receive the quarterly newsletter: as a paper copy or if the digital issue is sufficient. The latter saves a bunch of paper, ink and postage, but I understand the comfort a paper copy has.

Membership Renewal or New Member Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

☐ Single \$20.00 ♦ 2 years = \$40. Other:

☐ Family \$35.00 ♦ 2 years = \$70. Other:

☐ Patron \$50.00 Other:

☐ 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 chair person at umbug@icloud.com or go to New Sweden's website: <https://www.newsweden.org/membership/>

Membership Directory in Progress

The last New Sweden directory was published in 2013-14 by Denver James, who did an exceptionally fine job and since I am walking on totally new territory, I have great appreciation for the outcome of his professional looking and informative publication.

I am hoping to get help from you, the New Sweden members, by letting me know what you would like published, i.e. your Name(s), address, phone, email.

If any of your information has changed since you joined or since the last Directory, do let me know at your earliest - preferably via email to umbug@icloud.com. If I don't hear from you, I'll be using the info that is currently in my records. Thank you!

Needle felting class by Zoom (by Corina Laws)



Felt and Fika - Scandinavian Tomten

In December New Sweden held its first online felting workshop. Participants assembled wool into their very own 3D felted art sculptures as the instructor guided them through each step. In addition to the class being fun we were able to do a small amount of fundraising for the year and support a local small business. Plans for the next Felt and Fika are being talked about so stay tuned as you will not want to miss it.

Needle felting class by Zoom (by Corina Laws) continued



Lola and Hilda. Photos: Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske

Lucia in Portland 2018 and 2019 (photos by Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske)



Lucia in First Presbyterian Church in Portland, December 14 2019 (photos by Corina Laws)





Astoria fire in 1922
Photo: Frank Woodfield



Misty fog over Astoria
Photo: Jimmy Granstrom

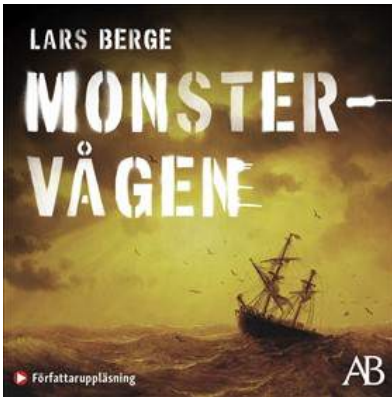


View from the Astoria Column
Photo: Jimmy Granstrom

From sailors and shipwrecks to goonies and ghosts – How the fires and storms rising from The Graveyard of the Pacific still reverberate through Astoria (By Jimmy Granström)

The Oregon seaside town Astoria is no stranger to the supernatural or scary, as stories of drowned sailors and shanghaied fishermen still reverberate through its streets and shoreline. Astoria is part of the Graveyard of the Pacific, which is a somewhat loosely defined stretch of the Pacific Northwest coast stretching from Tillamook Bay in Oregon to Vancouver Island in Canada. Astoria is described by the Travel Channel as “a treacherous nautical region in the Pacific Northwest, where the freshwater of the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean. Here, the ocean has claimed thousands of shipwrecks and countless lives, while unexplained deaths, diseases, fires and murders have impacted areas around the shoreline”. The town is often clad in a misty fog, which can be seen sweeping across the town and surrounding areas from the Astoria column located on the hillside overlooking the river and Pacific Ocean in the distance. From deadly storms to ravaging fires, which have reduced downtown Astoria to cinders on multiple occasions, this Nordic settlement has borne witness to tragedy and despair which still reverberates through its streets and shoreline. When the misty fog sweeps across its mysterious waters, one may still hear the echoes of the forlorn and the blessed ones who escaped the tragic fates that have paved the ground with pain and left a cloak of veiled shadows across the stunning scenery of this tranquil seaside town. From Steven Spielberg’s 1985 movie “The Goonies” and the Travel Channel’s cult show “Ghost Adventures” to the recently released Swedish book “Monstervågen (Rogue Wave)”, Astoria and the Oregon Coast’s fascination with the ocean and the fates of its fishermen and sailors – resting peacefully at the bottom of the sea or still haunting the shoreline where they drew their last breath – is captured both dramatically and comically in the written word and popular culture across many media platforms.

Astoria was formed in 1811 and is the oldest city in the state of Oregon.¹ Located at the south shore of the Columbia estuary, where the river flows into the Pacific Ocean, Astoria has been influenced significantly by the people who immigrated to it over the years.² A large portion came from Scandinavia and their descendants continue to live in the area. By 1910, there were 9599 inhabitants in Astoria and 35% of the population identified as Scandinavians, with Swedes as the third largest immigrant group after the Finns and Norwegians.



“Monstervågen” author Lars Berge in Astoria (middle) and at the Annual Meeting of the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society in Portland in February 2019 (right).

One Swede who passed through Astoria in the early 20th century was Johan Walfrid (J. W.) Granström, the great-great grandfather of Swedish author and journalist Lars Berge whose writing credits include the critically acclaimed best-seller “Vargattacken (The Wolf Attack)”. The adventures of J. W. Granström are covered in Berge’s recent book “Monstervågen (Rogue Wave)”. The book broadly covers Swedish sailors abroad during the windjammer-era. One vessel of particular interest to Berge was in Astoria and Portland in 1914. Her name was Alcides and the captain was I.M. Skaugen. On board was J. W. Granström. According to Lars’s grandfather Lennart, J. W. was washed overboard from Alcides by a wave to certain death in the sea, but flushed back on deck again by the following wave outside of Astoria. In an almost supernatural course of events, waves from the sea provided both sacrifice and mercy for J. W.

While doing research for the book, Lars contacted the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society in Portland, Oregon. New Sweden’s president Kristi Gustafsson connected Lars to the Oregon Scandinavian Historical Society, and within one day they had located J. W. on a ships manifest verifying he had come to Astoria. New Sweden board member Anna Lundin and her husband Hans joined Kristi and Lars on a trip to Astoria so Lars could see the mouth of the Columbia river and also took him to the Clatsop County Historical Society, which is a very interesting place full of info about the Nordic people who had worked in and around Astoria. Lars wasn’t able to find anything specific about J. W., although one of the historians said she remembered reading stories of men being washed overboard and then washed back on board. She couldn’t say when or where it happened, though. In an interview on Swedish Television (SVT) in September 2020, Lars refers to his grandfather Lennart as the reason why he has dedicated his life to telling stories, and that the story about J. W. was the one that had fascinated him the most when he heard it as a child. Lars visited the small town in Sweden where his grandfather had grown up to decide if the story was actually true. It also made Lars think about what a memory is, and according to cognitive scientists researching on memory, people can “remember” things that have never happened. **Please e-mail Jimmy Granström (jimmy.granstrom@gmail.com) if you would like to read the full article. Jimmy is not a close relative of Lars Berge’s great-great grandfather J.W. Granström.**

Sweden in December 2009 - From Stockholm to Umeå (by Jimmy Granström)



Ice sculpture, Umeå



Kungsträdgården, Stockholm



Valhallavägen, Stockholm

Minnena lyser som klarast
När en evighet tycks kort
Som tusentals stjärnor i natten
Varje ljusår ett stenkast bort

Memories shine the brightest
When an eternity seems brief
Like a thousand stars in the evening sky
Every light year a stone's throw away