

MIDSOMMAR FESTIVAL 2007

Midsommar in Scandinavia's northern climate is the biggest coming out celebration of the year and everyone is invited. This year's Portland Festival will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2007, at the German American Cultural Center, 7901 SE Division, in Portland. The festival is a celebration of warmer days, fertile fields and longer days.



Midsommar celebration in the south of Sweden. (photo by *Bo Lind/Image Bank Sweden*)

Festivities begin at 11:00 AM with plenty of music, dancing, games, crafts from local Scandinavian clubs and vendors, and lots of good food from local Scandinavian clubs and vendors. The raising of the midsommarstång will be held at 1:00 PM. The Scandinavian of the Year award will be presented at 2:30 PM.

There will be live music and dancing with a Scandinavian flavor on two stages and a beer garden; this promises continuous entertainment throughout the day. The "Kids Zone" will be available from 11:00 AM until 6:00 PM.

The festival will conclude with folk and traditional dancing from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. *Lingonberry Jam* will perform folk music in traditional Alspel and dance indoors, and the *Polka Beats* will provide music in the beer garden.

This is the 79th annual Scandinavian Midsommar Festival in metropolitan Portland. The League of Swedish Societies

BARRY PETERSON ELECTED TO SCA

——Barry Peterson

One of New Sweden's members, Barry Peterson, was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Swedish Council of America (SCA) at its April meeting in Minneapolis. It is the vision of SCA to be the pre-eminent organization that exists to assist affiliated organizations, such as New Sweden, in preserving and enriching the Swedish heritage in North America through programs, funding, communication and activities in partnership with all Swedish Americans promoting a continued strong relationship between North America and Sweden. SCA has presented a number of conferences – usually every other year – in its effort to strengthen ties among Swedes and Swedish Americans. Barry and Laurel Peterson have attended the last two conferences in St. Paul, Minnesota and Karlstad, Sweden as representatives of New Sweden, at their own expense.

May was the 300th anniversary of the birth of Carolus Linnaeus (Carl von Linné, 1707– 1778). He was a Swedish botanist, physician, and zoologist whose work laid the foundations of modern biological systematics and nomenclature (scientific names of plants and animals). Linnaeus developed a coherent system for describing, classifying and naming organisms. Aspects of the Linnaean system have enabled amateurs and

(cont on page 3)

Midsommar Festival 2007 (continued)

is joined by the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (SHF) with its large membership representing the five Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland) and IKEA in sponsoring this year's event.

The Festival is an important cultural event for the entire Portland community regardless of heritage. It is one of the many ways the regional Scandinavian community demonstrates and preserves their Nordic heritage.

A Message from Your President, Kristi Johnson-James

Today, the paper promises grand weather in Sweden. I am picturing the citizens in the outdoor cafes, with their faces tilted toward the sun, gradually rotating, as if on an axis. We must not miss a minute of this glorious warmth. Summer must recharge our batteries, and propel us into winter. I must be a Swede, as I love the seasons. So, warmth means Midsummer!! I hope you are all marking the calendar for our Portland celebration, which will be held on June 23rd at the German American Cultural Center at 7901 SE Division. Each year, we strive to listen to your suggestions, and improve this most popular event. Entertainment, dancing, food, and tradition all can be enjoyed on this day. It is New Sweden's honor to be a part of this event. The Scandinavian Heritage Society and the League of Swedish Societies have been planning for months. Perhaps you've been one of the loyal volunteers. If you have, I thank you sincerely. Call SHF at (503) 977-0275 if you can help with set up, take down, or be a part of the festivities on that Saturday. I guarantee you'll be in good company.

Oh, and don't forget to come by the New Sweden booth at Midsommar. We'll have some attractive New Sweden embossed items for sale. I'm taking the zippered tote bags to Sweden for gifts. Can you say, "Not a plastic bag." Stop by and let us know what you think. We'll take your suggestions, and fine-tune the order for ScanFest.

New Sweden and Skandia Lodge will again co-host Bengts Kräftskiva this year on Saturday, August 18. It will be a magical evening at Fogelbo lasting from 7:30 pm until midnight. Vicki Cole, the Skandia Lodge Treasurer, is accepting reservations now. Because the kräftor must be ordered a week in advance, and is so expensive to purchase, we ask that you place your reservations as early as possible. The last day we can accept reservations will be August 10 unless the available spaces have been filled before then. Reservations are limited to a maximum of 120 people. This will ensure a lovely evening for all.

So, please call and send your check to Vicki to reserve your space as soon as possible. Maude Eriksson is also encouraging you to indicate the potluck item you wish to bring, along with your telephone number, so that she can help us plan for a good variety of food to complement the kräftor.

For Kraftskiva reservations: Vicki Cole, 14344 SE Main Street, Portland, OR 97233 Phone: (503) 255-6697

Members of New Sweden and Skandia Lodge-\$20. All others-\$25 Make checks out to "New Sweden".

On a personal note, Denver and I are busy planning our trip to Sweden in September. AND... this April, our daughter Margaret was surprised by her boyfriend with a proposal and a ring at sunset on a beach in Maui. Margaret and Steve are planning their wedding for spring. We couldn't be happier! Margaret is an original New Sweden '88 member, and was a Vasa Youth Group dancer with Judy Rust. (Marian Thompson loves to recount how Margaret could keep track of that tee-shirt sales money for New Sweden '88 like an accountant!) She now lives and works in the Washington D.C..area.

March 18 Annual Meeting

New Sweden's president, Kristi Johnson-James, commented that there were not as many in attendance at the annual meeting this year. Members are encouraged to attend the meetings. Suggestions should be re-visited when planning is started for next year's meeting. Kristi commented she was thrilled to be onboard for a second term—she recalled how nervous she was last year at this time coming to her first meeting----now she feels relaxed enjoying the great friendship that exists among the board.

Kristi further commented that Arvis Franks is also an elected board member as the newsletter editor, and everyone is encouraged to submit articles or comments to Arvis@comcast.net. Swedish speakers can also submit articles in Swedish and GunMarie Rosqvist will edit them prior to going to press

Scandinavian or Nordic?

What exactly is "Scandinavia"? And what are the "Nordic countries"? Is there any difference between these two terms? The problem comes when even northern Europeans can't agree themselves on the meaning of "Scandinavian" and "Nordic".

Scandinavica is the Latin word for **Scandinavian**. Norway and Denmark have cultural ties with Greenland, the Faeroes, Shetland and Orkney. Sweden has had a long cultural influence over Finland and the Baltic area. "**Nordic Countries**" has become the most standard term to bring Scandinavia, Iceland and Finland under the same umbrella. In such a state of linguistic and geographic confusion, the French came to help us all and invented the term "Pays Nordiques" or "Nordic Countries", which has become the most standard term.

This information obtained from : info@scandinavica.com

BENGTS KRÄFTSKIVA INVITATION

New Sweden and Skandia Lodge invite you to Bengts Kräftskiva in the garden at Fogelbo, 8740 SW Oleson Road, Portland, Oregon on Saturday, August 18, 2007. Dinner will be served at 7:30 PM and the festivities will conclude at midnight.

This is a traditional fun-filled Swedish crayfish party; with delicious food, singing, dancing and music for all generations.

Vicki Cole of Skandia Lodge is in charge of reservations. Since seating is limited to 120 maximum, it is advisable to make your reservations early.

For more information or questions about reservations, you can call her at (503) 255-6697.

Barry Peterson Elected to SCA (continued)

professionals worldwide to identify, name and describe plants for more than two centuries.

The [Linnaeus Tercentenary](#) celebrations are being publicized by SCA by casting a spotlight on the significance of science in society, and by challenging and inspiring young people to approach science and research with the same passion for discovery and boldness that Linnaeus showed.

SCA also has a series of programs to honor outstanding contributions to Swedish America and the world through a number of awards and grants.

Benefits of New Sweden's membership include:

Discount subscription rate for all members to [Nordic Reach](#). *Nordic Reach* is a Scandinavian lifestyle quarterly - for people who enjoy the Nordic lifestyles, design and perspectives. For people interested in Scandinavia and its culture - Scandinavia in all its natural splendor and the impact of Scandinavia in the world.

Discount subscription rate to [genline - Swedish Church Records Online](#). Genline's archive contains church records from the 16th-20th century for research in Swedish genealogy. Listings, by state, of organizations and activities of Swedish American organizations.

If you wish to learn more about SCA, its programs or awards, contact Barry at barry@epeterson.net.

“Make the least of all that goes and the most of all that comes.” Don't regret what is past. Cherish what you have. Look forward to all that is to come.

—————*Gigi Graham Tchividjian*



The House of Sweden

Denver James

Last month while visiting in Virginia, Kristi Johnson-James and her mother, JoAnn Johnson, visited the new Swedish Embassy in our Nation's capitol. The House of Sweden is a fantastic new building on the Potomac near Georgetown. It is home to the Embassy and representatives of Swedish Commerce, housing a secretariat, 19 apartments, and an event center. Kristi and JoAnn were extremely impressed with the beauty, both of the building and its river-side setting. The building is light and airy, with large glass windows. In fact, light itself is a key architectural element. A belt of light surrounds the building, which after dark gives the impression the building is floating. The architects were guided by the belief that embassies are the face of Sweden to the world, and should reflect Swedish culture, design, traditions and quality.

The House of Sweden held a grand opening last October. The effort to find a permanent location for the Swedish Embassy began in the 1960's, and many possibilities and sites were considered during the last 35 years while the Swedish Embassy occupied a series of rented properties. It wasn't until 2002 that the stars aligned to secure the property near Georgetown. If Kristi and JoAnn's firsthand accounts are to be trusted, the wait was well worth it. The building is said to be the talk of the town in D.C. (and we know how much talk there is in that city!!) If you'd like to see pictures, and read more about the House of Sweden, check out the website www.houseofsweden.com. If you have the chance to go to DC, be sure to visit; you'll be amazed.

There is no pleasure in having nothing to do; the fun is in having lots to do and not doing it.

—————*Mary Little*

“KURBITS” CLASS UPDATE

—GunMarie Rosqvist

We did it!!!! Good job, everyone!

Vicky Barrows, Marilee Borchert-Tillstrom, Ingeborg Dean, Kristi Johnson-James, Renata Smith and Karin Thorin have now completed their first painting class in the traditional style of Swedish “Dalmålmning”. Ross Fogelquist was also part of our group, but he is no beginner at this kind of painting.

The entire group had a lot of fun. There were lively discussions amidst the brush strokes, paint, water and coffee on the side.

I, as their teacher, am happy to report that everybody is proud of their accomplishment and wish to continue to paint.

Remember, anybody interested to join us is most welcome – beginner or not!

What did the students have to say? Ingeborg said, “I was so happy going to class...it was so much fun. It is so wonderful to go to something you don’t have to do, but want to do”. Kristi said, “We all left our cell phones in the car and enjoyed our time being in the class---being together as we painted”. Ross said, “I have taken four classes with another teacher but I feel I learned a lot more in this class---it was fun to get to do our art project all on our own!”.

GunMarie was excited to hear that a classroom is in the master plans of the SHF Cultural Center----and also reported that Mike O’Bryant invited her class to use the SHF for classes in the future.

. . . And now for the Good News!

A tentative date has been set for the Folk Art Class for Saturday, July 28, and the class would start at 9:00 AM. This would be a one-day class and it is planned to paint a wooden project. There is room for only 10 students, so you are encouraged to call GunMarie at (503) 244-2119 if you are interested in participating in the class. The class will be held at the SHF office. A supply list will be sent to all students that register.

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now...for I shall not pass this way again. --William Penn

If anyone has pictures of family or New Sweden events, we will be glad to include them, as room permits; and if they have the proper identification.



GunMarie Rosqvist and Mike O'Briant with the Kurbits painting taught in the beginning class



Marilee and Ingeborg

Karin and Renata



Vicky, Kristi and Ross

New Sweden's Non-profit Status

—Denver James, Membership Chair

At the May 18 Annual Meeting, members approved a board proposal to obtain Oregon State certification of New Sweden as a nonprofit corporation, and to seek tax exempt status from IRS as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. This action became necessary when it was determined that the tax exemption previously assumed by New Sweden as an affiliate of the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (SHF) was found to be invalid. After being advised of this situation by the SHF Executive Director, the New Sweden Board began work to obtain the necessary Oregon State and IRS certifications.

In addition to the resolution approved at the membership meeting, new Bylaws that parallel those of SHF, and conform to the Oregon State and IRS expectations for a nonprofit organization have been completed and approved by the New Sweden Board. Application to Oregon State and IRS will be made shortly. Our objective is to obtain tax exempt status before the end of 2007.

May Garage Sale and Swedish Café

As always, our annual garage and antique sale was very successful, and netted over \$700. The money will be donated to Trollbacken, the Swedish Language and Culture camp as part of our annual \$1,000 Donation. We appreciate all the donations and volunteers who work so hard to make this event successful. Thank you!

The weather was very cooperative, partly cloudy and a little bit on the cool side; just perfect for our kind of event. There was a constant flow of customers both days, even though Oleson Road was under construction.

A special thank you to Margaretha Stanger, who is not a member of our society, but comes every year and makes Swedish Waffelor (waffles) and serves them both days.

Oleson Road Construction

Although Oleson Road will be closed to through traffic June 18 to August 31 you can still reach Fogelbo and the SHF office. Access on the weekends is better as construction ceases, however even on weekdays, you can get through by following the detour signs and flagman/woman instructions.

Just be patient and allow a little more time for your trip. If you have questions, give SHF (503-977-0275) or Ross (503-244-3697) a call.

IKEA Store Opens July 25 in Portland

IKEA, the world's leading home furnishings retailer, today announced that its future Portland, OR store will open at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, July 25. IKEA Portland will be the Swedish company's second store and restaurant destination in the Pacific Northwest. There will be nearly 400 local hires joining the IKEA employee family before the store opens.

The store is located on 19 acres at the southwestern corner of I-205 and Airport Way, at the eastern end of Cascade Station. The store will include 1200 parking spaces and 75 bicycle racks, as well as the light rail station in front of the store, providing convenient access for employees as well as for customers. IKEA will offer home delivery, kitchen installation and in-store consultations.

Prospective employees are welcome to apply for diverse positions in home furnishing sales, interior decoration, customer service, safety and security, cashiers, maintenance, goods flow, receiving, warehouse and stock replenishment. Food service opportunities are also offered in its Restaurant, Swedish Foodmarket, Café Bistro and employee cafeteria. IKEA has been ranked in *FORTUNE's* annual "100 Best Companies to Work For" list (three years in a row), *Working Mother's Training* magazine's annual "Top 100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" (four years in a row) and *Training* magazine's annual "Top 100" ranking of companies that excel at human capital development (four years in a row). IKEA incorporates environmentally friendly and socially responsible efforts into day-to-day business, and continually support initiatives that benefit causes such as children and the environment. For the IKEA Web Site or for information about working at IKEA, please go to www.IKEA-USA.com.

MEETING WITH HARMONI IS A BIG SUCCESS!

--Ross Fogelquist

Our joint meeting with Harmoni Lodge in March was a big success. Over 80 people were in attendance and there was a variety of delicious food for the potluck.

Lars Nordstrom, President of the Swedish Roots in Oregon, (an organization that New Sweden helps support) presented a very interesting and informative talk about recent Swedish immigration to Oregon. Lars has a special way of presenting information in a most interesting and humorous manner.

Swedish Roots has two new publications, recent Swedish immigration and Swedish immigration since 1945. They will be available at the Midsommar Celebration for \$2.00 each. You may also order them through Ross Fogelquist, 8740 SW Oleson Road, Portland, OR 97223. Both of these publications come highly recommended.

MIDSOMMAR

In Sweden, the summer is characterized by the Feast of St. John or Midsommar celebrated on the Saturday closest to the 24 of June. Like the Feast of St. Lucia, that of St. John is an exaltation of light as the opposite to the darkness of

winter. On this occasion, houses, churches, streets, public squares and even cars are decorated with plants and flowers and all the celebrations take place outdoors and in particular around the "Midsommarstång". This is a pole decorated with branches and flowers set up in every city, town and village.

Around the midsommarstång, a symbol of summer and nature's reawakening, dances are performed, games are played and songs are sung all through the night, to celebrate "Midsommar Eve". Tradition holds that the night of St. John has magic powers. It is believed, for example, that the dew that falls during the night is a miraculous drug and that if seven different types of flowers are collected in as many different fields, tied in one bunch

and placed under the pillow, a man or woman will dream of the person they will marry.

Food, too, is important on this occasion. By this time the first new potatoes have appeared. Boil them with a little dill and eat them with a pat of butter. Together with *matjessill* (sweet pickled herring), fermented cream and chopped chives; they belong to a traditional lunch on Midsommar Day. Fresh strawberries are also to be found this time of the year. The season for soft fruit is quite long, as they ripen early in the south of the country and late in the north. Swedes eat soft fruit as often as they can, beginning with strawberries and moving on to raspberries, blueberries and cloudberries. In the summer children go picking *smultron*, wild strawberries that have a wonderfully concentrated taste, not matched anywhere else, because they ripen so slowly. Moreover, like all nations that enjoy company, drinking with friends and having a good time, the Swedish people care about good food and their national dishes are the richest and most varied of all the Scandinavian countries.

And, who have we here?



Ingrid Stina Lann and her mom, Greta . Ingrid is the granddaughter of Swedish Consul Mark Johnson and his wife, Shirley (aka Grandpa and MorMor). She lives in Valentuna, Sweden with Mom and Dad, Jonas and Greta, and her big brother, Oliver.

Strawberry Cake

4 ägg
2 dl socker
1 dl vetemjöl
3/4 dl potatismjöl
1 1/2 tsk bakpulver

Till fyllning och garnering

2 - 3 dl vispgrädde
1 liter jordgubbar
strösocker

Vispa ägg och socker vitt och pösigt. Tillsätt vetemjöl blandat med bakpulver. Lagg i bröad form (1½ l) Grädda genast i ganska varm ugn (175) 40 minuter.

Dela den avsvalnade kakan i tre bottnar. Lagg jordgubbar mosade med socker mellan varje lager. Lagg ihop kakan, låt den gärna stå och safta sig en stund. Täck med vispad grädde och garnera rikligt med hela eller delade över hela ytan och runt kanten på fatet. **OR in English:**

4 eggs

2 decilitres white sugar

1 decilitre of flour

¾ deciliter of potato flour

1 ½ tsps baking powder

For filling and topping

1 cup cream (whipped)

1 litre of strawberries

White sugar

Beat egg and sugar until light and fluffy. Add flour mixed with baking powder. Put in greased and crumb-sprinkled baking pan. Bake in medium hot oven 175 C (350 F) for about 40 minutes.

Cut the cooled cake in three layers. Put strawberries mashed with sugar on each layer. It is good if it sits for a while before covering with whipped cream. Cover with strawberries, whole or divided, over the whole top and around the edge of the plate.

Scandinavian Midsommar Festival 2007

Saturday, June 23, 2007

11:00 AM—9:00 PM

**At the German American Cultural Center — 7901 SE Division, Portland,
OR**

Music, Dancing, Games, Vendors and Scandinavian Food

Kid's Zone— 11:00 AM — 6:00 PM

* Raising the Midsommarstång 1:00 PM *
* Scandinavian of the Year Award 2:30 *
* PM *
* Dance from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM *
* Folk Music by *Lingonberry Jam* indoors *
* Or at the Beer Garden with Traditional *

Admission

\$5.00 Adults

\$3.00 Children 6—12 years

**\$15.00 Family (2 adults, & up to
4 children)**

Calendar of Events

- June 23, 2007** 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM Scandinavian Midsommar Festival at the German American Cultural Center, 7901 SE Division, Portland, OR ---- Sponsored by Scandinavian Heritage Foundation (SHF) and the League of Swedish Societies
- July 28, 2007** Folk Painting with GunMarie Rosqvist at the SHF Office. Class begins at 9:00 AM. This is a one day class. Call GunMarie at 503-244-2119 to reserve a space.
- August 18, 2007** 7:30 PM to midnight -- Kräftskiva with Skandia Lodge Order of Viking at the Fogelbo garden, 8740 SW Oleson Road, Portland, OR
- October 6, 2007** ScanFeast Auction and Dinner, Oregon Zoo, Cascade Crest Banquet Center. Call SHF, 503-947-0275, for reservations.
- November 17, 2007** Lucia Luncheon at St. Mathews Lutheran Church, 10390 SW Canyon Road, Beaverton, OR
- December 1,2 2007** ScanFair, the Nordic holiday festival market at Smith Center, Portland State University
- December 8, 2007** Lucia Dagen (Lucia Day) Celebration — St. Paul Lutheran Church — 3880 SE Brook-
lyn Street Portland, OR

See our website — www.newsweden.org

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New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society

10765 SW Cottonwood St.

New Sweden Membership Renewal

Denver James, New Sweden's Membership Chair would like to give members a gentle reminder — if you haven't already paid your dues for this year, and receive the discount for some of our events, now is the time to do it! If you have already mailed yours, **Tack Så Mycket!**

If you have a question about your membership, please contact our Membership Chair, Denver James at email den-verjms@aol.com, or by phone at 503-454-0135. Thanks so much for your support of New Sweden.

Membership Renewal Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number: (_____) e-mail: _____

☐ Single \$20.00 ☐ Family \$35.00 ☐ Patron \$50.00 ☐ Scholarship Fund

Each membership includes a subscription to *Nordic Reach* magazine. Make checks payable to **New Sweden**.

Send completed form and check to Membership Chair:

Denver James,
10765 SW Cottonwood Street
Tualatin, OR, 97062
Telephone (503) 737-9458