



Message from your President - Corina Laws

Hej alla,

The end of summer is upon us, and we have happenings and gatherings to announce for the last half of 2022. After a 2-year hiatus come rain or shine we are throwing a Kraftskiva party on the beautiful Fogelbo grounds! Yep, that's right on the last Saturday of September it's dancing, dining, singing, games, and from what I hear maybe even a little drinking. We have DJ Steven *Swedish* Englund spinning all the best crayfish tunes and A-K Lindbergh-Rednoske singing and leading us in some of the traditional songs.



Next we are very fortunate to host a concert at the Unitarian Church on Saturday October 8th with Jimmy Granström, Brent Rogers and Gunilla Admund where the trio will share their hauntingly peaceful sound of sung and spoken word with us. There will be an intermission with coffee and cookies between the parts of the performance.

On Saturday November 26th New Sweden is holding the Greatest of All Time (GOAT) Christmas market at Norse Hall . If you are a vendor or entertainer of some sort, please reach out to us and let us know you want to participate. If you just like good food and like to shop, come join us at Norse Hall.

In 2019 of which I am grateful I had the opportunity to attend the last in person Lucia event put on by New Sweden. This was the first Lucia performance I attended, and when I left that day, I planned to go back the next year. Well, as you know that did not happen, but this year we are going to make it happen at a church in Moreland. The venue is a bit smaller and we are doing on-line sales so make sure to get your tickets early.

In addition to the book that Ross wrote this year there is another New Sweden author that scripted a fiction (non-fiction) book about Sweden. The book is titled Dark Secrets. Welcome to New Sweden Sher Davidson. Anna Lundin and I attended an in-store reading of the book and we really enjoyed it. At the end of October we hope to put together a online reading of Dark Secrets on New Sweden's Scandinavian Stories on Sundays series. New Sweden may need to start a book club.

The Swedish consulate Petra Hilleberg drove down from Seattle to help in the facilitation of the Swedish parliamentary 2022 election at Nordia house and while she was here, her and Ross organized a gathering of the leaders from the Portland Swedish groups to see how they could collaborate and share information with all of the other organizations. This turned out really well and everyone is excited to see how future partnering and ideas will develop from this meeting.

This is my last president's letter as I will be leaving the board at the end of October. I wish everyone well. See you at the events!

*A thousand thanks
Corina*

Upcoming Events



New Sweden's (Ross Kräftskiva) Picnic: Second Time's the Charm!

Sunday, September 24th, 2022, 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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

Due to high temperatures this August, the return of Ross' kräftskiva has been postponed to late September, when we hope the weather will cooperate. The details are the same: admission to the event includes the rental of the grounds, crayfish, meatballs, potatoes, & lemonade and coffee. For those who want something other than lemonade or coffee, bring your own drinks. Please also bring a salad, cheese & bread platter, side dish or dessert to share.



Gunilla, Jimmy, and Brent

New Sweden concert with Jimmy Granstrom, Brent Rogers and Gunilla Admund

Saturday, October 8th, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

West Hills Unitarian Fellowship Church, 8470 SW Oleson Road, Portland, OR 97223

Granstrom, Rogers & Admund is a trio consisting of Jimmy Granstrom, Brent Rogers and Gunilla Admund. The trio previously performed at Midsummer and Scanfair in 2018 and 2019. Jimmy is a songwriter who has had his songs performed

and recorded in Portland, Sweden, Germany and London's West End. Together with Thomas Karlsson, he's also part of the duo "Project Earthbridge". Their song "2019 Again" was in rotation on radio stations in Portland and Sweden for more than a year since its release in March 2021. Jimmy's songs have also recently been played on radio stations in Brazil and Uganda, as well as received Internet attention through Instagram and YouTube from Mexico to India. Brent is a professional musician, producer, audio engineer and songwriter who has recorded and released songs with the likes of Tim Gorman from "The Who". Gunilla has previously performed with Jimmy and Brent at Midsummer and Scanfair in 2018 and 2019. Jimmy will provide spoken introductions and lyrical excerpts while Brent and Gunilla will sing a variety of original songs co-written by Brent and/or Jimmy, including Jimmy's English translations of Swedish songs by both million-selling songwriters as well as up and coming artists. More info can be found at the following links through a Facebook search, or accessed in the online newsletter: <https://www.facebook.com/Granstrom-Rogers-107722554029294> and <https://soundcloud.com/jimmy-granstrom>

Return of Nordic Coffee House (Recurring Event)

Tuesday, September 13th and Tuesday, September 27th, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Nordia House, 8800 SW Oleson Road, Portland, OR 97223

New Sweden will be the host on September 13th and the Sons of Norway on September 27th. The Nordic Coffee Hour is the 2nd and the 4th Tuesday of the month, 10:00am-11:30am, September, October and November, with a break in December. It resumes in January. All with an interest in Nordic culture are welcome. A wonderful way to start your day!

Mark your calendars early for these upcoming holiday events, and stay tuned for details:



New Sweden's Christmas Goat Market

Saturday, November 26
Norse Hall

Lucia Festival

Saturday, December 3

ScanFair

Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11
Oregon Convention Center



Follow Us!

Did you know New Sweden now has an Instagram account? Find us by searching for New Sweden Portland (@newsweden_portland.or) on the Instagram App or by clicking the following link in your browser: https://instagram.com/newsweden_portland.or?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

Join the Facebook group for photos, videos, and event updates:
<https://www.facebook.com/newswedenportland/>



Welcome, New Members!

This summer saw our New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society grow! Welcome to our new members, and welcome back to some returning friends as well. We hope to see you at an event soon!

Samuel and Kacy Bradshaw
Sharon (Sher) Davidson
Christie Peterson-Hoguelsson



Orienteering

Kristi Gustafson

Several of our New Sweden members participated in orienteering events this summer, some for the first time. On May 21, Pauline Ek and Roger Whitten were first timers at the Hamilton Island event while Carina Cassim and her friends did the advanced route. The route passed through fields of spring flowers while the Cascade Mountains towered in the background next to the Columbia River.

First timers Karen and Jim Bloom did the Lacamas Lake event north of Camas, on July 16th. Along the route they were surprised to pass by a scenic waterfall and cross a small dam. It's apparent the organizers from the Columbia River Orienteering Club are interested in providing participants the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of our area while participating in the events. We hope more New Sweden members will give orienteering a try whether at a leisurely pace or at a faster gait.



Above: Carina Cassim and friends orienteering on Hamilton Island, WA

Below: Kristi Gustafson, Pauline Ek and Roger Whitten on Hamilton Island, WA



Above: Karen and Jim Bloom orienteering at Lacamas Lake, WA



On June 4, over 130 people gathered to celebrate 70 years of life at Fogelbo and the publication of *The Life and Times of Ross Fogelquist and Fogelbo His Steiner Log House*, a story of Ross' life and the house that is both a home to his family, and a symbol of Scandinavian life and culture in the United States. We interviewed Ross Fogelquist about the process of writing and publishing the book.

Louise Karnéus: When did you first get the idea to put this book together?

Ross Fogelquist: Probably a year and a half ago, I got to thinking about how it would be interesting for people to have a recorded history of Fogelbo and the collections here, and the events that have happened here. That was the first. Then I got to thinking and adding more and more ideas, so I thought well: why don't we include a bit about the Fogelquist family history in Sweden, and here in the United States. A bit about my parents, because they were so instrumental in getting all of this going when we bought it in 1952. And I thought I should comment about my involvement in the Scandinavian community and German Community and all the different organizations I was involved in throughout the many years. Also about my teaching as a language teacher, foreign student coordinator, my work with international students and how that would be interesting. One thing led to the next and the next. And I have such a great treasure trove of photographs from all these different events.

LK: A patchwork of your life and your family's lives, and all the different people who have passed through.

RF: Yes, a lot of people have passed through my life with all my various involvement.

LK: How long did it take to write the book?

RF: About 15 months total. I was very fortunate to have a very good friend, Austin Buchholtz, a graphic designer who has published some other books. He gave me some ideas of how to put it together, what would be important, how to organize it. He was extremely helpful in that regard. He did a terrific job!

LK: It's a really visually striking book and matches the aesthetic of the home.

RF: Yes, that was one element. And then I was very fortunate to have two professional Swedish-American photographers who were here (at Fogelbo) on numerous occasions to photograph the book, inside and out, all day. It was kind of by chance that I met these people. Tom Erikson is a Swedish folk art collector, he lives in the midwest, but his son, Nils Erikson is a well-known photographer who volunteered to take pictures here. Ashley Jennings is a local photographer who did really interesting things with old tin-types and took many pictures.

LK: There's also a lot of written content too.

RF: Because of my visual handicap, because I can't do so much on the computer, I had a phenomenal caregiver who was a graduate of Cambridge who did all the typing. There was quite a bit of others' help with spellings of names, and that took quite a bit of research on dates, event programs.

LK: What was the most difficult part to write?

RF: Probably the conclusion. It's tough to wrap it all up and express my philosophy of life, what was important to me and my future vision of how the house and property would be used by the Nordic community.

LK: Would you like to speak more to that?

Another part that was a bit of an overwhelming task, and I felt a bit sad about was that I couldn't have pictures of all my many friends and a bit about them. It was an overwhelming task, so I went ahead and selected three very special people that were involved in my life here at Fogelbo.

LK: So many items were photographed for this book. How did you decide what artifacts to include?

RF: That was a challenge! Artifacts and pictures of events I kept adding and subtracting and analyzing how many pictures per page and how it would look and of course that was the biggest challenge, one of the biggest challenges. Evaluating the pictures and what would tell the story of my life in the best way.

LK: What was the most fun part for you to write?

RF: Probably all the events that were here that were fun events. The parties and the festivals and the concerts.

LK: Is there one party that stands out above them all?

RF: I think my 80th birthday celebration was really very special, and the midsummer fest that followed that, and then the traditional dancing afterwards at Nordia House with the fiddlers. That was really, very special for me. My costume was made by an older lady in Mora, in probably the early 70s. It was all handmade with a hemslöjd, so that has been a part of my identity.

LK: Is that what you are wearing on the cover of the book, and how did you choose?

RF: That is a traditional folk costume from the town in Sweden of Mora where my grandfather was born and his family lived for quite a while. The folk costume is the lure, and [I enjoy] the birch bark horn, which is quite common for that region. Though I never learned to play it, I sound like a lovesick moose when I toot on it. Dalarna is a very special province in Sweden where they have preserved their traditions, heritage and costumes more than other parts of Sweden.

LK: You talk about a lot of the artifacts in your home. Is there one that has a particularly special place in your heart?

RF: I think that the big red cupboard, from 1804, and its companion piece, from 1807. The companion piece was given to me by Marianne Bratt, which came from their summer estate on the West Coast [of Sweden]. Those are probably my prize pieces that I enjoy. And I love all my Dalarna horses, from all sizes and all ages. I think there's over 100 in the house.

LK: In the book, you talk about more than just Sweden. You talk a lot about Germany, Europe, and your friends from around the world. What do you think makes travel and cultural understanding so important?

RF: I think that it's very important that all people, particularly young people, should be exposed to different cultures and ways of thinking and learn to appreciate other lifestyles outside of their own. That's why I spent so much time working with youth exchange, because I've seen the great benefits throughout my adult life of youth exchange programs.

LK: Tell me about the party!

The book signing event was a book signing and a celebration of 70 years of our family at Fogelbo, in the concluding days of the Fogelbo Steiner exhibit. It was organized by friends, many from the New Sweden [Cultural Heritage] Society. We were hoping to have a nice celebration in the garden, but that didn't work out because it rained. So it was in Nordia House. We had entertainment, New Sweden provided refreshments, delicious cake, coffee, and punch, and so there were people from different walks of life and different friends came from different organizations and associations. And it was about 130 people I estimate, a great event! I was very grateful for all the help I had for the celebration.

LK: What's one thing that you would like everyone who reads the book to know about your life? What lesson would you like to share?

To share and contribute as much as you can to society, and to always work towards promoting international understanding and good will.

I'm very grateful to all my wonderful friends throughout my life, who made my existence on this earth very rewarding and pleasurable!



Above: Erik Thorin, Kathy Alvey and Ross (Photo: Jimmy Granstrom)

Below: Katarina Lehtonen and Anna Lundin (Photo: Jimmy Granstrom)



Much love and thanks to everyone who attended Ross' Celebration, June 4 2022, and those who donated their time!

If you are reading a print version of this newsletter, please visit the New Sweden Website to access the link, or search for "Ross Fogelquist" on Amazon!

https://www.amazon.com/Times-Fogelquist-Fogelbo-Steiner-House/dp/B09ZCYPB8J/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=ross+fogelquist&qid=1652201276&sr=8-1



We were delighted to see so many of our members and friends at Nordic Northwest's annual midsummer celebration, held at Oaks' Amusement Park. Nearly 30 vendors, including New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society were featured this year. We had the pleasure of sharing our booth with Ross Fogelquist's sales and signing of his book (see previous article for details). New Sweden President Corina Laws, Stefan Nornholm, and Ross Fogelquist volunteered at the New Sweden booth selling Sweden map posters and raffle tickets. Funds from the raffle were donated to the Swedish School. Congratulations to winner Judy Rust! Eric Gorenson, Jackie and Bob Peterson, Ute Munger, Kristi Gustafson and Hans Lundin (volunteering for Harmoni Lodge) and Leanne Ritchey (volunteering for Nobel Lodge), dished up Swedish meatballs and strawberry shortcake to hungry visitors at the League of Swedish Societies booth.



Procession of scandinavian flags. From left to right: Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland, Sweden, and Estonia (Photo: Jimmy Granstrom)

Fourteen performers across two stages kept the day festive and led traditional dance and celebrations around the maypole. Musicians included New Sweden Board member Jimmy Granstrom and his musical partner Brent Rogers. See our upcoming events section for information on an upcoming concert. Other performers included traditional Norwegian twin fiddlers, Swedish cello and violin duets, and folk dancers who led the Midsummer dancing and processions.



*Left: The midsommarstång has been raised!
Below: Ross Fogelquist and Corina Laws at the New Sweden Booth (Photos: Stefan Nornholm)*



League of Swedish Societies Midsummer

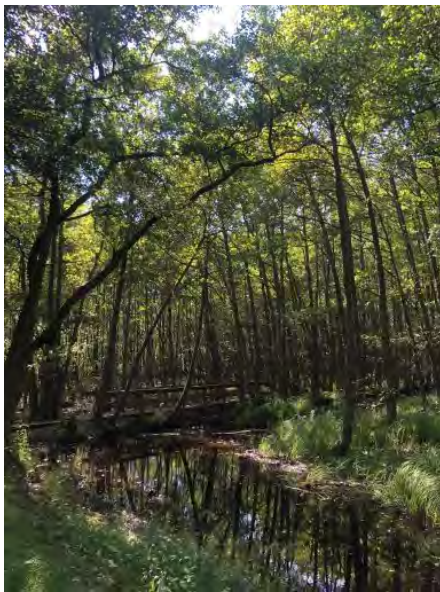
Kristi Gustafson

On June 19th, New Sweden members Ute Munger, Eric Gorenson, Pam Martin, Stefan Nornholm, Kristi Gustafson, and Leanne Ritchey (volunteering for Nobel Lodge) helped produce the League of Swedish Societies 95th Annual Portland Midsummer. This year the Oregon Heritage event was held at Willamette Park in West Linn, overlooking the Willamette River. The Portland Nordic Chorus opened the festivities followed by the Hopsala band. The Portland Vasa Youth Group led the raising of the majstång with traditional singing and dancing.



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 traits 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.

In this month’s spotlight, we’ll explore Södermanland, often abbreviated as Sörmland. This is a *landskap* in South Central Sweden. Lake Mälaren borders Södermanland to the North, and to the east is the Baltic Sea. The terrain is mostly flat, and is dotted with birch groves and rocky terrain as well as ancient churches and viking runestones. Along with Uppland to its north, Södermanland hosts the largest collection of runestones and artifacts in all of Sweden, dating back to the early Stone Age (as long ago as 6000 BCE).



Above: A footbridge trail through a marshy forest just off of Lake Mälaren

As a *landskap*, Södermanland encompasses southern parts of Stockholm, though the city falls into different administrative control (and we’ll focus on it in a later newsletter). Södermanland is culturally distinctive from Stockholm as well, despite urban sprawl. Eskilstuna, 90 minutes east of Stockholm, is the largest city in the *landskap* with a population of just over 100,000 as of the most recent large-scale survey in 2014. Eskilstuna and the surrounding area house many large-scale manufacturing plants including Volvo and the German stainless steel manufacturer Outokumpo. The long coastline with both the Sea and Lake Mälaren have made Sörmland an important hub for farming and industry. Mälaren connects with the complex network of canals and locks throughout Sweden, which have historically allowed for goods to travel to and through Stockholm’s archipelago and in and out of the country. Other attractions include Eskilstuna Parken Zoo, once a sought-after destination due to a reenactor of the American comic book hero The Phantom, popular in Sweden (perhaps more so than he ever was in the United States) and “Fantomen Land,” a theme park dedicated to him. More recently, Parken Zoo was also home to a rare white tiger! Non-fictional, non-animal cultural figures from the area include ABBA’s Anni-Frid (Frida) Lyngstad, who was raised in the Eskilstuna suburb of Torshälla.

In addition to relics from the Stone Age (and mid-century American comic book heroes), many castles and fortified cities are also scattered across the region. Gripsholm, located in the charming town of Mariefred, is among the most famous, as well as Julita Manor and Strågnäs *sloft*. With castles, estates, and old churches, this makes a beautiful spot for a driving trip through Sweden through the ages (including long before “Sweden” as a country even existed). Södermanland is also a sought-after spot for a walking trip. Though Mälaren is by far the largest lake in the region (and the third-largest in all of Sweden), smaller lakes and streams dot the area as well, and many forests as well. Walks and hikes weave throughout the region, including the famous Sörmlandsleden.



As far as the people go: Södermanland is a part of what is known as the *gnällbältet*, or “whining belt.” This means the regional accent is supposedly a bit whiny and the people a bit old-fashioned. Though it borders Stockholm closely, it feels like the countryside. Hot Take on Södermanland, from an actual Swede: “It’s just the best place to be from. Not too stuffy, not too country” (my family has lived here for five generations and my cousins are perhaps a little biased).

Left: Rademachersmedjorna in Eskilstuna is an open-air museum with original houses from the 1600s. Smedjor means “smith,” and the shops still house silversmiths, coppersmiths, weavers and blacksmiths (Photo: Louise Karnéus)





The Nordic Museum in Ballard, WA hosted a beautiful exhibit with art from Sweden's Nationalmuseum until July 17. The exhibit focused on the influence of France, which was viewed as the land of opportunity, on Nordic aspiring artists. Many traveled there in the 1870s and were exposed to Impressionism. However, it was the artists referred to as "Naturalists" that impressed the Scandinavians - in other words, the artists who painted subjects from contemporary everyday surroundings with photographic clarity in bright light. Read more online at <https://www.newsweden.org/culture-heritage/entertainment/>

Left: Emma Toll (Swedish, 1847-1917)
View of Riddarholmen, undated



From nollningen ("The Zerofication") to "The Reception" - How college freshmen get engaged in Swedish student life

Jimmy Granström

From the middle to late August, living near a university town in Sweden can feel a bit like living in a Dr. Seuss cartoon". This description was aptly coined by blogger "megalagom" behind the blog "Something Swedish". Around this time, classes start back up, which means that the "freshman reception" - previously known as "nollningen (The Zerofication)" - takes place. Regardless of its name, it is an "orientation" that takes place during the first few weeks of studies at a new college program in Sweden. In the past, the term "nollningen" could have a bad connotation, as its counterpart in the United States is "hazing". However, "nollning" is done in a very different way than hazing in the United States, where it is associated with physical or sexual harassment, abuse, and humiliation to become an accepted member of a sorority or fraternity. This type of "extreme hazing" is often illegal and not associated with the school, and can range from being kidnapped, beaten, abandoned or forced to commit a crime.

"Extreme hazing" can also occur in Sweden, but more so at high schools than at universities, where the word "nollningen" has gradually been replaced by "reception". The Swedish version of welcoming new students is a lot more open and fun than in the United States, and the intentions are usually not as malicious. There have been times when nollningen has gotten out of hand in Sweden too, for example when new students at KTH...*Article continued online.*

Visit <https://www.newsweden.org/culture-heritage/entertainment/>

Students enjoying "nollningen" (the Freshman Reception) at Halmstad University and in Gävle.





Glen and Rose Ek at Valborg



Dancing at Ross' 70 years at Fogelbo



Ross at Midsummer Oaks Park signing his book



Sher Davidson and the cat at the book reading



Swedish consulate Petra Hilleberg presenting at the Portland Swedish conference



Ross over the years



What do these three “celebrities” have in common? Check out this edition’s Landskap Spotlight to find out!



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