



Newsletter

Volume 141 - Edited by Louise Karnéus

March 2023

Hej, alla!

Plans are well underway for numerous upcoming events for New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society.

First: our annual meeting is on Sunday March 26th. It will be at 3 p.m. and will be an Easter potluck. The theme of the event will be Swedish Easter. Jimmy Granström will present an interesting program following a short business meeting. The location of the event will be in the beautiful surroundings of 5065 Foothills Drive, Lake Oswego OR 97034. This is part of the condominium complex where our members the Lundins live. Please RSVP at ross@fogelbo.com and tell us what you plan to bring. We would like people to bring a hot dish, salad, side dish or hors d'oeuvres. Dessert and drinks will be provided.



Sunday April 30th, starting at noon, will be our Valborg/Vappu celebration with the Finnish-American society and Nordic Northwest. This will be at Fogelbo. More details to follow.

Midsummer celebration will begin at Fogelbo with Nordic Northwest and the League of Swedish Societies on June 23 and 24. More information to follow.

The Swedish consul in Seattle has initiated a new program where the twelve different Swedish organizations and groups meet every two months to discuss how we can more cooperatively work together to support our many Swedish activities and events in the Portland area. Under the guiding leadership of Petra Hillberg, the consul for Sweden in Oregon and Washington, this meeting is hosted over Zoom. It has been extremely successful in helping us coordinate events and sharing ideas and concerns within our Swedish community.

Thank you again to all our members who worked and assisted at our Christmas events. They were all extremely successful, well-attended, and popular. A big TUSEN TACK to all those who gave so much time and effort to these celebrations. A friendly reminder to all to pay your annual dues of \$25. This can be done online or through regular mail.

Sincerely,
Ross Fogelquist
New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society President



Upcoming Events



New Sweden Annual Members' Meeting

Sunday, March 26, 3:00 - 5:00 PM, Potluck

5065 Foothills Drive, Lake Oswego OR 97034

A warm welcome to all our members for our first major New Sweden event of 2023! As Ross mentions in his address to members (previous page), this year's annual meeting will be a special one indeed! Though the meeting falls a couple of weeks before Easter, we will use the meeting to share a bit about the Swedish easter holiday and associated traditions, in addition to introducing our new board members and sharing a bit about New Sweden's plans for the coming year. Bring what you can to the potluck (see Ross' letter again for suggestions), and let us know what you are planning to bring! You can message Ross directly (ross@fogelbo.com).



Vappu/Valborg Celebration with Finlandia

Sunday, April 30, 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Fogelbo Lawn, with parking at Nordia House, 8800 SW Oleson Road, Portland, OR 97223

Register at <https://www.nordicnorthwest.org/vappu>

This year, we are thrilled to share our Valborg celebration with our Finnish counterparts. Called Valborg in Sweden and Vappu (or Vappen) in Finland, this is an approximate celebration of mayday and the commemoration day of St. Walpurgis. As appears to be the case with many Scandinavian celebrations, the event welcomes changes in the seasons with delicious treats and time outside with friends! Vappu in Finland is also a celebration of Labor Day, where students take to the streets wearing graduation caps and adults and children join in the celebration as well. Pre-register at the link above if you are reading a digital version of this newsletter, or by visiting the events page at Nordic Northwest's website. This event is free to enter, though donations are encouraged!



Save these Dates!

June 24 - Midsummer Celebration at Fogelbo

November 25 - Scandinavian Goat Market presented by New Sweden at Norse Hall, Portland

December 9 and 10 - Scan Fair at Portland Convention Center

Message Kristi Gustafson (kristigus@aol.com) if you are interested in volunteering!

As always, check New Sweden's Facebook page and monitor your email for reminders and updates regarding precise time and location details. Another friendly reminder to make sure that, if you have not been receiving emails from New Sweden or Louise Karnéus, you whitelist that email address! We use email for the most up-to-date event communications and reminders.

Find us on Instagram 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/>

Recurring Event - Orienteering

Nearly every month, New Sweden members band together to participate in Orienteering events in the Portland metro area, and we are always looking to get more members involved! You can read more about orienteering on the Columbia River Orienteering Club (<https://www.croc.org/new-to-o>) webpage. From the FAQ page: "Using a highly detailed map, you choose a route between points marked on the map, and return to the finish line in the shortest amount of time. The route between each point is not specified, and the crafty and quick navigation decisions required are the essence of the sport."



LEFT: (Clockwise) Kristi Gustafson, Kathy Wilske, and Tanaka Axberg celebrate after completing a recent Urban orienteering event; RIGHT: The same participants returning to the outdoor roots of orienteering

Contact Kristi Gustafson (kristigus@aol.com) or Tanaka Axberg (tanakaaxberg@gmail.com) about participating with your fellow New Sweden members! Upcoming dates are:

Mt. Tabor on Saturday, April 22

Hamilton Island on Saturday, May 20

Stub Stewart State Park on Saturday, June 17

Catherine Creek on Saturday, September 9



Recurring Event: Swedish Conversation Group (Samtalsgruppen)

Nearly every Friday at 4:00 PM, Ann and Sid Stuller host a Swedish language conversation group. The group has no homework and should be comfortable for anyone with beginning skills in Swedish and a desire to learn more and get comfortable speaking—one of the most difficult parts of learning any language! Email Ann Stuller (sasmac@comcast.net) or Louise Karnéus (louisekarneus@gmail.com) to inquire about joining.

New Sweden has been an active participant in producing the Nordic Coffee Hours, which are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 10:00 to 11:30am at Nordia House (8800 SW Oleson Road, Portland, OR 97223) excluding summer and December. Finlandia Foundation and the NW Danish Association have also been regular co-hosts of the Coffee Hour with Nordic Northwest. Other organizations have co-hosted including the Grieg Lodge, Sons of Norway, and on February 28th, the Norse Runddansere hosted a very fun, lively demonstration and delicious pastries provided by Runddansere member Jamie Stone, owner of Jamie's Kafferep.

New Sweden was the co-host on Valentines Day with delicious homemade cookies and pastries, chocolates and roses! Finlandia Foundation is scheduled to co-host in March and the Nordic Chorus in April. The Coffee Hour is open to everyone and was created to provide an opportunity for all the Nordic community to interact and socialize. Too often it's mostly members from the hosting organizations that attend the Coffee Hour—please join us for treats and good times!

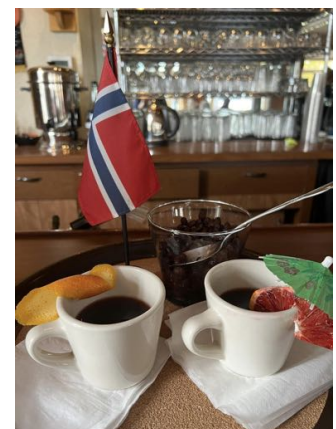
Holiday Cheer - Thank you for celebrating with us!



New Sweden's Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market (by Kristi Gustafson)

This past Christmas holiday season was extremely busy for New Sweden as we had three major events on three weekends in a row—the Christmas Goat Market, Lucia Fest, and Scan Fair. We cannot thank our volunteers enough who made these events a success. It took a team to make each event successful and our volunteers stepped up to the challenge. Two of the events were fundraisers and will provide New Sweden with funds for the coming year. We confidently have the means to support the Swedish Language School and the Swedish Language Camp in addition to being able to budget for activities like Orienteering, Kubb, musical performances and our traditional and special events.

The Christmas Goat Market on November 26th, was a new undertaking for New Sweden. We rented Norse Hall which was decked out with a Christmas tree in addition to the lovely Nordic country flags. The Norse Runddansere livened up the event by



dancing on stage and Mary Jo Franke played Christmas tunes to the enjoyment of visitors and the twenty vendors. The Winter family, Girl Scout Troop 13009, and Scandia Lodge sponsored the entertaining Kids Area. Martin Hulth displayed his Christmas legos creation impressing children young and old. In the basement, the League of Swedish Societies and Harmoni Lodge served hot food, and the Swedish School, Daughters of Norway, and Jamie's Kafferep sold delicious baked goods. Special thanks to Kristin Farber and Sara Corbin Winter for their invaluable help and working with the New Sweden board/Committee Ross Fogelquist, Martin Hulth, Steven Englund, Corina Laws, Louise Karneus, Tanaka Axberg, Stefan Nornholm, Anna Lundin, and Kristi Gustafson for producing the event.



Nordic Northwest's ScanFair (by Louise Karnéus)

Nordic Northwest's annual ScanFair is the largest event of its kind in the Portland area, and New Sweden has always been a proud participant. Held this year on the first weekend of December, ScanFair featured a herring-eating competition, indoor sledding, and children's activities, not to mention an enormous selection of local vendors and holiday cheer. Much appreciation to all those who volunteered, and to all the members who visited us at our booth!



ABOVE: New Sweden members Anna Lundin, Charles Neiman, Kristi Gustafson, and Stefan Nornholm at New Sweden's ScanFair booth



ABOVE: A grand viking ship at ScanFair



Lucia Fest (by Louise Karneus and the Lucia Committee)

Lucia Fest, once again held at the Moreland Presbyterian Church, is a celebration of music and light in the dark of winter. Accordingly, this year's Portland festival was once again a stirring and delightful occasion! The young women of Nordic Northwest's Oregon Lucia Court demonstrate excellence in service and Scandinavian spirit, and it is always a pleasure to share in the holiday season with them. This event is filled with music and holiday spirit. It celebrates the miracle of St. Lucia, and generosity and love throughout the holidays. During the formal program, we heard songs from choirs and solo artists alike, and afterwards everyone headed downstairs for coffee, pastries, glögg, and dancing around a lovely tree! Rumor has it there was an early visit from *jultomten*—but you will have to pay a visit next year to know for sure.

A heartfelt thank you to all the performers who donated their time: the Portland Nordic Choir, the students, families, and teachers of the Swedish School in Portland, Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske, the Swedish School in Portland music director, the Lucia Court and Chair Sara Winters, the Swedish Women's Coffee Group who made and donated the smällkarameller, New Sweden and its members for donating delicious baked goods, the Moreland Presbyterian Church for the rental of their church, and the many New Sweden volunteers who make this event a success.

The New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society organizing committee: Kristina Neiman, Corina Laws, Hon. Vice Consul Emeritus for Sweden - Ross Fogelquist, Jimmy Granström, Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske, Anna Lundin, and Kristi Gustafson.

RIGHT: The chapel of Westmoreland Presbyterian Church, where the performance was staged
BELOW: Dancing around a julgran laden with smällkarameller at the reception after Lucia fest



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.

This edition’s Landskap Spotlight will take us to a new corner of Sweden. Last winter, Jimmy Granström shared a bit about life in Northern Sweden, and in an effort to manifest an early summer, we’ll head down to Sweden’s westernmost landskap—Bohuslän! Bohuslän borders Norway and was, at one point, a part of Norway, and then of a united Denmark-Norway before returning to Swedish control in the late 1600s. The region is dotted with castles and fortresses from this time and before. It combines idyllic and traditional Swedish life with top-tier restaurants, hotels, and facilities.

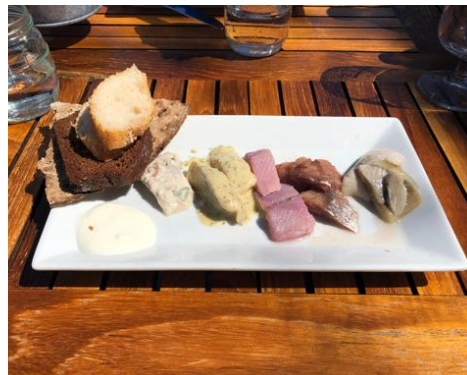
Bohuslän is just north of Göteborg, Sweden’s second-largest city, making it a popular destination for day-trippers and summer houses. Sweden is known for its archipelagoes, or *skärgårdar*, and the islands off the coast of Bohuslän are particularly accessible and beautiful with many interconnected islands and easy access from the mainland, with further-flung options for those seeking out more seclusion. Fishing boat “safaris” and kayak tours will take visitors out further to sea. For those of us who, regrettably, get seasick rather easily, there is much to do on land as well to explore and appreciate the region. Beautiful forests, hikes, and hills inland make for excellent hiking or even just a beautiful drive. The whole region is dotted with small villages, on the coast and inland, where it is easy to forget how close one is to a major Swedish city.

It is on the whole, with many opportunities for young artists and craftspeople. The Nordic Watercolor Museum (Akavarellmuseet) is both a gallery of notable nordic watercolor art, featuring multiple visiting exhibitions each year, as well as an artist residency program. Watercolor artists can stay in beautiful wooden cabins directly over the water on the island of Tjörn, directly across from the museum and in a bustling but cozy village. All you have to do to gain access is get *really* good at watercolor art!

Tjörn also boasts a unique sculpture garden, certifying it as an artistic destination. Of course, this is a relatively recent development (as far as the centuries upon centuries of Swedish history goes)—Tjörn and Klädesholmen are also known for their ancient fishing industries. The ocean shrimp and herring off the coast of this region are particularly famous, along with crab and lobster, and my favorite type of herring that I have encountered, *matjessill*, is one that I first tried in this region but was able to find at Edelweiss in Portland, directly from Klädesholmen! *Matjes* herring is perhaps a little milder than other forms of preserved and pickled herring.

The terrain of a Swedish archipelago is truly a unique landscape. It is redolent of the boundary waters of the Great Lakes, the coast of Nova Scotia, and is perhaps most comparable to the nearby coastlines of neighboring Scandinavian countries like Finland and Denmark. But Bohuslän feels special—due to its location on the West Coast, the sunsets are particularly striking, and the combination of lush forests and sparse rock is a sight to behold.

BELOW: (Left to right) A colorful wharf on the island of Smögen where fishing boats are stored at night, samples of herring at Salt and Sill, a restaurant on Klädesholmen, and the watercolor residences on the island of Tjörn





Eskilstuna is a town with only about 100.000 inhabitants within its municipality limits. Situated within the landskap Sörmland, it is only about an hour away from Stockholm by train but still feels quite different than the capital, as Louise wrote about in her August 2022 newsletter article. In that article, we also learned that Anni-Frid (Frida) Lyngstad of ABBA was raised in the Eskilstuna suburb of Torshälla (she was born in Norway). However, many Eskilstuna-born artists and songwriters have also had very prominent music careers. Douglas Carr is one of the cornerstones of what is often called “the Swedish music wonder”. In 1993, he co-produced the Ace of Base song “The Sign” with the late Denniz Pop. The song became an international hit, topping the U.S. Billboard Chart as well as its Year-End list in 1994. Carr and Pop formed the music studios Cheiron in 1992/1993, which became one of the world’s most famous recording studios by the late 1990’s. Pop and/or later Cheiron songwriters and producers like Max Martin went on to co-write or produce hits for artists such as Britney Spears, Celine Dion and Ed Sheeran.

Joakim Berg formed the rock band “Jones & Giftet” in 1990, which was later renamed Kent in 1993. The band released its self-named debut album Kent in 1995, and would go on to sell around two million albums in Sweden until they were disbanded in 2016. This is roughly equivalent to 63 million albums in the United States, which is on par with the sales for Rolling Stones and Madonna over here. In addition, Kent released 11 albums peaking at the #1 spot on the Swedish sales charts - only their debut album had to settle for the #2 spot - and is often referred to as “Sweden’s greatest rock band”. Kent also toured the United States with the Cardigans in 1999 and had several #1 albums in Norway and Finland. Kent’s 2002 album “Vapen & ammunition” sold over 600.000 copies, mostly in Sweden where it is one of the best-selling albums of all time. The cover of the album features a white tiger, which is a celebration to the white tigers which could be found in Parken Zoo in Kent’s hometown Eskilstuna at the time (also covered by Louise in her article).

Daniel Gildenlöv’s progressive rock band “Pain Of Salvation” may not have enjoyed the same domestic successes as Kent, but has toured the world extensively, from Europe and Australia to the United States and South America. They released their critically acclaimed debut album “Entropia” in 1997, which was described by the American online music database Allbase as “a well-needed breath of fresh air for a genre that was full of self-parody and self-indulgence” as it was “delivered with emotion, intelligence, integrity, passion and poignancy”. At the time of the release, Gildenlöv was writing music reviews for a morning newspaper, and I contacted him after one of his reviews. He surprisingly responded, and soon introduced me to his band “Pain of Salvation” and their debut album “Entropia”. Although I do not listen to a lot of music in the metal genre, and have not done so since a brief Metallica period in the early/mid 1990’s, I was immediately captured by the epic scope and unique song structures on “Entropia”. It is a concept album that takes place in a fictional society that is torn apart by a war. The title is a portmanteau of “Entropy” (disorder) and “Utopia” (the ideal society).

"Entropia" was followed by 10 more albums loved by critics and audiences alike. Pain of Salvation's albums are all ambitious concept albums, covering difficult topics like water pollution, the weapon industry, drugs and sexual exploitation. In 2010, "Pain Of Salvation" competed in Melodifestivalen, which is the Swedish trials for the Eurovision Song Contest. Their entry "Road Salt" was a stark musical and visual contrast compared with most other Melodifestivalen entries, which are often upbeat songs with performers wearing flashy and colorful outfits. "Road Salt", on the other hand, is a slow and somber piece, with Daniel wearing worn out jeans and a white tanktop and the rest of the band dressed in similarly modest attire. In 2015, Daniel returned to Melodifestivalen as a solo artist with "Pappa" about a son missing his father. In the song, Daniel sings "Jag har så många frågor som bränner inom mig, om du bara kunde svara när jag ringer hem till dig....pappa du, vad gör du nu, kommer du hit hem, när det blir jul, pappa du" which can be translated to "I have so many questions that burn inside of me, if only you could answer when I call you, daddy, what do you do now, are you coming home for Christmas, daddy". This song shows a simpler yet still elegant side of Gildenlöw's songwriting. From the people behind joyful pop like ABBA and Ace of Base to edgier music like Kent and Pain of Salvation, Eskilstuna has produced musical successes far greater than what one would expect of a small Swedish town.

To read an expanded version of this article, please visit <https://www.newsweden.org/culture-heritage/entertainment/>

Scandinavian Book Recommendations

Louise Karnéus

My taste in literature skews a bit darker (maybe it is the Swedish lineage?), and luckily for me, the Nordic countries have no shortage of depressing, profound, occasionally absurd books. Many of these struck a chord. Beyond international favorites like Fredrik Backman and Stig Larsson, I thought I would share a collection of Scandinavian books in translation, with this first list all written by women in celebration of Women's History month.

The Summer Book (Tove Jansson) - Translated from Swedish. Jansson is Finno-Swedish. This may be my favorite book of all time and one that I recommend here without reservation. A beautiful rumination on life and nature, set on a small island in a Finnish archipelago.

A Postcard for Annie (Ida Jessen) - Translated from Danish. An exceptional short story collection dealing with motherhood and marriage. Many of the stories also deal with fear and have sinister themes, but in an indirect and relatable way—it's a haunting effect.

The Copenhagen Trilogy (Tove Ditlevsen) - Translated from Danish. A loosely autobiographical novel about the life of a troubled, brilliant Danish writer and poet. The trilogy is split into three parts: Childhood, Youth, and Dependence. "*Gift*" is the name of the third in the original Danish, and I find this and the translation intriguing. In Danish (and Swedish), "*gift*" means both marriage and poison. If you read this installment, you will find it fitting.

Gösta Berlings Saga (Selma Lagerlöf) - Translated from Swedish. This is a Swedish classic—very sad, but with an uplifting ending! Selma Lagerlöf was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature. This book was originally published in 1891 and has been adapted into films and operas, including a 1924 silent film starring then up-and-coming Greta Garbo.

Ronja, the Robber's Daughter (Astrid Lindgrén) - Translated from Swedish. A favorite of me and my sister when we were young. Pippi Långstrump (Lindgrén's most famous heroine) is known worldwide, while this book is lesser known but has similar themes. It is perhaps a little more mature but is suitable for children. I have enjoyed the fun of returning to it as an adult.





Vintage Scandinavian

*buying and selling
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TROLLBACKEN

Trollbacken began in 1997 as a Swedish Language and Culture Camp for children aged 7-13 years old. The summer camp offers a unique opportunity for kids ages 7-13 to learn about Swedish language, culture, people, history and traditions of Sweden. It is held at the Menucha Center in Corbett, OR. This year, the camp will take place from August 14 - 19

Direct any questions to Tina Kreft-Tengblad at director@trollbacken.org

Visit <https://trollbacken.org/registration/> to download the registration form! Registration closes on June 1.

To purchase advertising space in this newsletter for your Scandinavian wares, please contact louisekameus@gmail.com

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society

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