

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society Newsletter

Volume 144 - Edited by Louise Karnéus

March 2024

Greetings everyone,

My name is Steven Englund and I am your New Sweden President, effective Jan 1 of this year. As a guest, I have attended our events for years, and then I joined the board in 2022; now it's my turn to steer the ship! I've had the pleasure to meet many of you at our events over the years, and I look forward to seeing new faces in the months ahead. Also, I'll be doing 'double duty' while I continue with Treasurer duties as well.

We also have some important board member updates. Ross Fogelquist - Former President, will be stepping into the VP role, Pam Martin re-joins the board after some time off, and Sally Krantz joins us for her first time. Returning consecutive board members are Tanaka Axberg - Secretary, Louise Karnéus - Newsletter Editor, Stefan Nornholm and Kathy Wilske. Lastly we have Gail Romero Hallberg - Membership Coordinator, who is returning until we can find a replacement. As always, please contact us if you would like more information about joining the board.

Sadly we must say "adjö" to Kristi Gustafson and Jimmy Granstrom; two longtime board members who are credited with creating much of the success that our group experiences today! They also are part of the reason that I joined New Sweden in the first place! In their absence, we will need many of you to step up and become committee chairs, event chairs, and/or helpers! It will truly take an army to replace these two board members, and those who left in the past two years, but I am confident in you!

Board updates aside, we have some excellent momentum from last year and I am looking forward to our year ahead! A couple of important items for all members:

- ❖ Please remember to pay your dues for the year 2024, if you have not already done so. Your timely payments are essential to ensure the continued operations and success of our organization. Payment can be made online using a debit or credit card, or a check can be mailed to our PO Box.
- ❖ **Do you want a digital newsletter emailed to you, or a printed newsletter snail-mailed to you? Adjust your preference by emailing newswwedenpdx@gmail.com! This will be your final printed Newsletter if you don't specifically request to receive a printed copy going forward.**
- ❖ Would you like to be listed on the Member Directory? Please tell us your preference by emailing newswwedenpdx@gmail.com - thank you!
- ❖ Please see the following page for a description of board vacancies!

Sincerely,
Steven Englund



Retiring Board Members



Kristi Gustafson



Serving on New Sweden's board for ten years, including as both President (for five years) and Vice President for another three years, Kristi is the daughter of Swedish immigrants and is a prolific figure in the Portland Swedish (and greater Scandinavian) scene. She oversaw a period of tremendous growth in the organization. Anyone who knows Kristi (and that means nearly everyone in New Sweden) has witnessed her exceptional organizational skills, catering skills at events, and, perhaps most of all, her recruiting ability! Kristi is the reason that countless folks have joined New Sweden as an organization and hopped into leadership positions to keep our organization running. Though we'll miss Kristi on the board, she's not going far and will join us once again as the chair of the Christmas Goat market and as an attendant at many other events.

Jimmy Granström

Jimmy was born in the suburbs of Stockholm and has lived in New Jersey, California, Georgia and Umeå in Sweden. He served on the New Sweden Board for 11 years, and was the most recent newsletter editor. He is also very involved in the Lucia Program and countless other New Sweden events, once serving as a representative on the SHF (now Nordic Northwest) board during the construction of Nordia House. Nearly everyone who knows Jimmy knows that he writes songs and records them in both English and Swedish—you may have seen him performing at ScanFair and Midsummer, and will see him there again! In this newsletter and nearly every other for the past 8 years, you can read Jimmy's writing, on music and cultural topics, as well as in the Swedish American publication *Nordstjernen*.



New and Returning Board Members



Pamela Pedersen-Martin

I feel closest to the Swedish side of my family and joined the board of New Sweden at the urging of Kristi Gustafson. I was treasurer for more than six years, when I quit for a much needed break. A couple of years may have gone by and I realized how much I missed seeing everyone and being part of the board. So I'm back as a board member only, not an officer. Two lessons learned: 1) don't do something so long that you're burned out and 2) it's fun doing things with New Sweden, so, try it!

Sally Krantz

My connection to Sweden is through my ex-husband. His mother grew up in Malmo and the entire family would gather every summer in Ljunghusen where we all had houses. We went every July and August so the cousins could play together and the adults could reconnect. Sweden and the Swedish culture will always have a place in my heart and my children and I always get excited when we see Swedish pastries for sale!



Board Vacancies and Volunteer Opportunities



Are you interested in helping with a New Sweden event or in joining our board? We are currently looking to fill the following positions. Note that not all of them represent year-round commitments. The board meets monthly and presence at New Sweden events is strongly encouraged. Other event chair positions are seasonal. Please email newsedenpdx@gmail.com if you are interested or would like more information.

Membership Coordinator

The Membership coordinator is responsible for managing the organization's membership program. This includes recruiting and retaining members, coordinating membership dues and benefits, maintaining member databases, and other tasks as needed. The coordinator also serves as a point of contact for current and prospective members, answering questions and providing support as needed. The candidate should be good with spreadsheets. Training will be provided. This person must join the New Sweden board, meeting once per month via Zoom. 1 year commitment is ideal, but we are open for discussion.

Webmaster

Update the New Sweden website with content provided by the board. In depth website-editing experience is not necessary but you should be familiar with editing documents and be fairly tech-knowledgeable. The candidate will be well-trained for this position and will have assistance when needed. This position does not have to be a board member. We prefer someone who could make a 3 to 6 month commitment.

Event Chair: Midsummer, Scan Fair, and possibly other events!

An “Event Chair” helps with all aspects of a single event, such as budgeting, recruiting volunteers, procuring food and supplies, etc. The candidate should be a good party planner or understand what it takes to put on an event for 10 to 50 people. Lots of support will be provided, since each event has a “sub-committee” of helpers, who collaborate with their Chairperson. This position does not have to be a board member. 1 to 3 month time commitment.



Upcoming Events



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

- ❖ Stub Stewart State Park - March 30, 2024
- ❖ Lacamas Park - April 20, 2024
- ❖ Hamilton Island - May 19, 2024



Recurring Event: Swedish Conversation Group (Samtalsgruppen)

Nearly every Friday at 4:00 PM, Ann and Sid Stuller host a Swedish language conversation group via Zoom. The group has no required 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.



2024 New Sweden Events - Save These Dates!

Valborg - May 5

Swedish League Midsummer - June 15*

Nordic Northwest Midsummer - June 28 & 29

Kräftskriva - August 17

Goat Market - November 30

Scan Fair - December 7 & 8

Lucia Concert - December 14*

*Not yet confirmed, please check the website and subsequent Newsletters!



Another Beautiful Holiday Season with New Sweden!

ScanFair

Sweden's annual participation in ScanFair was once again a great way to connect with the greater Portland Scandinavian community and raise funds for New Sweden. This year, one of our members Rayna Flye joined us at the table to sell her book, *Secrets, Lies, and Sneaky Spies*, a spy story set in Sweden! Many thanks to our volunteers at this event, and everyone who stopped by to say hello.

Left: Members of the Lucia Court visit the New Sweden booth; Right: copies of Rayne's book, as well as trivets, potholders and Scandinavian antiques were available

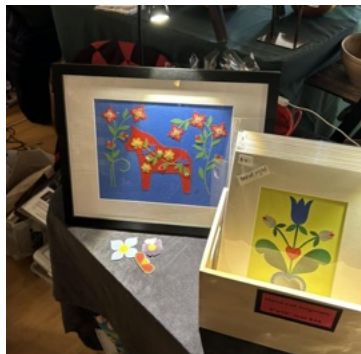


Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market

Louise Karnéus

The Goat Market was a huge success! In its second year, the goat market grew immensely, with vendors upstairs and downstairs in Norse hall and delicious food from Viking Soul Food in the basement. Many Nordic goods and decorations were for sale—*rosmåling*, woodwork, Swedish cut-paper art, and plenty of holiday treats. Kristi Gustafson, Courtnee Riise Averskog, Kristin Farber, Sara Winter, Stefan Nornholm, Judy Gervais, Sue Graham, Eric Goranson, Christie Stillson, Steven Englund, Tanaka Axberg, Martin Hulth, Dirk Schulbach, Kristina Neiman, Ann Grangaard, and countless volunteers on the day of the event! We want to extend a special thank-you to the Daughters of Norway, Harmoni Lodge, the Swedish School and Trollbacken as well who all had booths and helped make the market fun and festive! At the New Sweden booth, pictured below, the *julbockar* were flying off the shelves and nearly sold out. Performances on stage—both music and dancing—also kept the event merry. Seeing the local Scandinavian community (and beyond, with vendors from all over the Pacific Northwest) come together in Norse Hall was the perfect way for us to kick off the holiday season, and we are beyond excited to return in 2024.

The Goat Market has fast become a great source of funds for New Sweden to hold events for our members throughout the year. Your support, as both volunteers and attendees, allows us to keep sharing our culture with the whole city!



Lucia Fest

Jimmy Granström and the Lucia committee

Photos by Kristina Mellgren Neiman.

This was the second year celebrating Lucia in Portland's Moreland Presbyterian Church. The program included great performances by Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske, Agneta and Shumani Massa, Joel Godby, the Scandinavian chorus, the Oregon Lucia court and the Swedish School in Portland. Everybody had a great time dancing (or watching others dance) around the tree. Santa also showed up to hand out candy bags to the kids. 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, The Swedish School in Portland music director Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske, The Lucia Court and Chair Sara Winters, New Sweden Board member Steven Englund, The Swedish Women's Coffee Group who made and donated the smållkarameller, 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, Courtnee Averskog, Christie Hogueisson, Jimmy Granström.



Member Stories of Sweden

Would you like to be featured here? Please send an email to Louise Karnéus, newsletter editor, sharing the name of a place in Sweden that you've visited, and 3-5 sentences about what it means to you.

Sally Krantz: Ljunghusen



We used to visit my husband's family every summer. The kids did swim school and tennis camps, while the adults had crawfish parties and golfed. We could bike to each other's houses, pick wild strawberries and sip *fladdersaft* with *gummelmormor* and *gummelmorfar* while they caught up with what the kids had been up to that year and what was exciting in their lives. The pastries were probably the most memorable food and the crawfish parties were definitely the most fun! So many memories: the kids winning their swim school badges, jumping off the *brygga*, going with *farmor* to see her friend's Icelandic horses, riding bikes into Fästerbo, looking for amber on the beach are just a few. We always learned some Swedish while we were

there as all the lessons were in Swedish and the kids met many friends. And of course just living daily life in Sweden for 2 months meant you needed to know at least some Swedish! The trips are inseparable from my children's childhood, and of family members now gone. [The photo] is of my husband's extended family with *gummelmormor* in the middle.

Ted Anderson: Örnsköldsvik



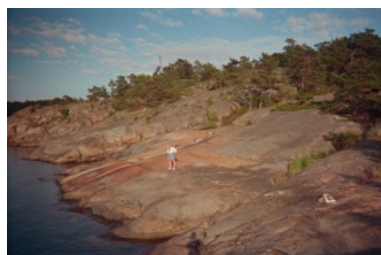
When I lived there for a short time I got to know the surströmming tradition. Since I lived in Northern Sweden where the surströmming fest is celebrated I was obligated to partake. But to my surprise the fest is not appreciated in Malmö. I brought a bulbous can down to Malmö to share with my aunt who puked in front of me when I opened the can at a park near Malmö. I lived a little south of Umeå.

Brita Enflo: Skåne

I moved to the U.S. as a child, and spent my summers in Sweden growing up. Most of my family, including my dad and half of my sisters, still live there. I was born in the Stockholm area, where my dad's side of the family lives, but I have always felt a stronger connection with southern Sweden, where my mom's side of the family is. There's something about the nature and light of Skåne that can't be beat! This photo is the view from my family's summer home, taken July 2023.



Louise Karnéus - Harstena



I thought I would include my story this time because it ties into the *landskap* that I chose to write about (see pg. 8). In summer of 2022, travel restrictions had lessened and my partner and I were able to go to Sweden. We started the trip off right with a rollicking Swedish midsummer—no complaints there. A couple of days later, we weren't feeling so great. We had both finally gotten Covid after dodging it for over two years. The silver lining: we were staying in a cabin on the island of Harstena in the Gryt archipelago. Harstena is completely car-free and only accessible by ferry. The year round population is 11, swelling to a staggering 200 during tourist season. We were about as socially distanced

as could be, and we still credit the local honey and pickles to healing us in time for our return trip home. See photo for an idea of how crowded the stone beaches were!

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.

Östergötland is the *landskap* directly South of Stockholm, yet it is a place where you’re just as likely to spend your time hiking, biking or kayaking as visiting a city or museum. Östergötland stretches from Lake Vättern to the Baltic Sea (*Östersjön*), the two of which are connected by the Göta canal, running through the heart of the *landskap*. Located just south of Stockholm, Östergötland is easy to access from a trip to the city, or to incorporate on a road trip between Malmö and Stockholm. It’s a great capsule of all the southern half of Sweden has to offer—fields, forests, and water.

Linköping and Norrköping are the most populous cities in Östergötland. Linköping, the larger of the two, is the capital of the region. Both are home to business districts and medieval architecture alike, with Linköping Castle dating back to the 12th century and likely the oldest secular building in Sweden. The nearby Ekenäs Castle is beautifully preserved as well. Norrköping is an old industrial city on the Baltic with canals running through it. It’s located near Kolmården, which is the largest wildlife park in all of Scandinavia. Söderköping is a small medieval town also on the Göta Canal. If these names are starting to sound a bit repetitive: *köping* denotes a commercial area and is a common suffix for place names (*-tuna*, meaning town, and *-by*, meaning, roughly, village, are other ones to look out for!). To read more about Söderköping’s medieval history, see page 8-9 of this newsletter for Jimmy Granström’s piece on small but culturally rich Swedish towns. At the westernmost stretch of Östergötland along the shores of Lake Vättern is Vadstena, home to a fortress-turned-castle from the renaissance era with a rich and fascinating history. It sits directly on the lake and is even surrounded by a moat!

Heading all the way East on the Göta canal (perhaps by bike!), you’ll reach the coast. Sweden’s coastline consists of many hundreds of thousands of small rocky islands, reaching nearly all the way around. Östergötland alone is home to nine thousand islands! In previous *landskap* spotlights, we’ve covered coastal regions like Bohuslän and Skåne with similar rocky coastlines. Östergötland’s archipelagos are more wooded with birch trees and others, still with the typical granite shorelines that characterize Swedish islands. The Arkösund, St. Anna and the Gryt archipelagos are known for their natural beauty, and for being a bit quieter and more rugged than the Stockholm archipelago up north.



Sigtuna, Visby, Kalmar, Skara, Söderköping and Karlskrona all have modest populations of less than 40,000 inhabitants each, which means that none of them are currently one of Sweden's 30 most populous cities. Walking around these small towns today, it can be hard to imagine that at one point between the 970's through the 1800's, these were the cities that laid the foundation for what we know as Sweden today, with one of them intended to replace Stockholm as the national capital at one point. However, the first Swedish towns emerged before Stockholm was founded in 1252. These towns were very small, with only about a thousand inhabitants. Nonetheless, a lot of the political and economic power was concentrated in them. Out of the five oldest urban hubs in the medieval Swedish kingdom - these are the cities that existed before Stockholm was founded in 1252 - Sigtuna, Visby and Kalmar are probably the most well-known ones for their historical significance.

Less known is that Söderköping quickly developed to become Eastern Sweden's most densely populated and richest place during the first half of the 13th century. Its prominence can be found in the Church of St. Lawrence, which is one of two remaining medieval churches in Söderköping and the venue for two royal coronations during the Middle Ages. Today, Söderköping is known for its location along Göta Canal, which is often referred to as Sweden's blue ribbon. The 19th century canal connects Lake Vänern in central-west Sweden with Lake Vättern and ends - or begins, depending on how you look at it - on the East Coast. In total, it stretches over 190 kilometers from the town of Sjötorp to Mem. The canal was built by some 58,000 soldiers and is up until today one of the largest construction projects in Sweden. The first part of Göta Canal was inaugurated in 1822, however, it wasn't completed until 1832. Söderköping was also the filming location for the 1981 movie "Göta Kanal", featuring the late Janne "Loffe" Karlsson and Kim Anderzon. In the movie, a boat race between Stockholm and Gothenburg through Göta Canal will decide who gets a massive boat order from a very wealthy Arabian prince. In addition, Söderköping is the filming location for the movies about Astrid Lindgren's character Madicken.

Söderköping is located a 30-minute drive from St. Anna Archipelago, which is also home to Husby Säteri, a beautiful and well-preserved 18th century estate. For almost 100 years, the building was uninhabited. That changed in 1979, when Christer and Gunilla Wastesson started a 20-year long renovation to get the ramshackled building back to its former glory. The owners changed again to Fredrik and Irene Wastesson in 2012 followed by Patrik and Emelie Rappe in 2023. Through its various ownerships and renovations, the estate has continuously expanded its operations to offer a unique and authentic late 18th century experience. You can get a sense of Söderköping and St. Anna Archipelago in these two videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rNN7XMA0tc> and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEvAnSyEQd>.



Church of St. Lawrence, Söderköping



Söderköping along Göta Canal



Husby Säteri in St. Anna Archipelago

Columbia River Orienteering Club
community and fitness since 1990



*Ages 8 to 12, are you looking
for a spring sport?*

We are pleased to announce a new orienteering league for kids, designed to introduce the elements of the sport through group games and activities.

Kids will learn how to read a map and the terrain, and move fast on foot across any ground.

The emphasis is on exploration and play to encourage kids to grow into orienteering, the gateway to adventure.

Program includes:

- Six training sessions from April 17 through May 22, Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:45. Various park locations in the Portland metro area
- 1 coach for 4 kids
- All coaches and planners SafeSport trained



For more information

<https://croc.org/crocodiles-2024>

Registration opens on March 11

Also see our calendar of events in 2024



New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society

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