

Upcoming Events



MIDSOMMAR
JUNE 14



ORIENTEERING
MAY 18, JULY 12



**KRÄFTSKIVA
(CRAYFISH PARTY)**
AUGUST 9



New Sweden
Cultural Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

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Other People

You Need to Know

Membership Coordinator

Ute Munger

Copywriter for Newsletter

Paula Inglett

President's Message

Dear New Sweden Members,

The last smolders of the Valborg fire have now burned out, which means one thing - summertime is here! With the new season comes good weather and fantastic Swedish events.

Midsummer will soon be upon us, and we'll be dancing around the Midsommarstång before we know it. Volunteering at one of our many events is a great way to not only gain free admission to the event, but you'll also be immersed in the camaraderie of our members and supporters. It truly is a special group of people. We have a lot of fun together, all the while sharing Swedish culture in the PNW.



Summer in Stockholm, 2024

I wish you health and happiness as we leave the colder weather behind. Sun will bring warmth, light, longer days, and good times!

Tack och solsken!

Steven Englund, President

Swedish Cabins: The Legacy of Henry Steiner

Swedish Cabins: The Legacy of Henry Steiner

Open through Sunday, May 4
Raoul Wallenberg Gallery



Chicago's Swedish American Museum recently hosted the exhibit *Swedish Cabins: The Legacy of Henry Steiner*. Ross Fogelquist and Martin Hulth, New Sweden members, were invited to travel to Chicago in late February 2025 to speak at a reception hosted by the Swedish Consul for the State of Illinois and the Museum's Executive Director, Karin Moen Abercrombie.

The exhibit explored the story behind the log cabin and its role in Swedish immigration and innovation in the United States. It explained how the Swedish log cabin was disseminated

throughout early colonial settlement and beyond in North America.

When the first colony of Swedish settlers arrived in North America in 1638, they brought their skills in log house construction which became a standard design for pioneer dwellings in America.



The story of the Swedish log cabin lives on through the legacy of craftsman Henry Steiner, whose family built around one hundred cabins and other structures in the Mount Hood area. Some artifacts related to the construction of log cabins were also on display within the exhibit and were from the Swedish American Museum's own collection.

The next time you are in the Chicago area consider a visit to the Swedish American Museum. The museum has something for everyone—an art gallery, immigration exhibit, children's museum, genealogy center, and a gift shop featuring a beautiful selection of handcrafted Scandinavian gifts. A full schedule of exhibits, programs, and events keeps the building humming with activity seven days a week. Established in 1976, the Swedish American Museum is a bustling center of Swedish art, history, and culture. The museum is located in Chicago's historically Swedish neighborhood of Andersonville, which now hosts a mosaic of multiethnic shops and restaurants.

(Information for this article came from swedishamericanmuseum.org/special-exhibits)

Hamilton Island Orienteering Event and Hosted Picnic

Come out to Hamilton Island on Sunday, May 18th and enjoy a day of orienteering with other New Sweden members. After your hard work navigating the courses, you can enjoy a picnic provided by New Sweden and the Swedish School. If you prefer not to participate in the orienteering event, please come by to join in the picnic and post event festivities.



The trailhead is located on the Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge near Bonneville Dam. It is a stunning location with the Cascade Mountains towering over the mighty Columbia. Driving directions are below and restrooms are available at the trailhead.

The Hamilton Island event offers a classic point-to-point orienteering format. There will be different courses for all skill levels. Online pre-registration is required, there will be no event-day registration. The start window runs from 11 am - 1 pm. Individuals and groups are welcome.

If you would like to sign up, please contact Tanaka Axberg at tanakaaxberg@gmail.com or (714) 656-7837. Registration closes in the evening on Friday, May 16th.

Following the orienteering event, around 2 pm, folks will gather at a nearby picnic area to enjoy a hosted BBQ picnic by New Sweden and the Swedish School. If you want to attend the picnic and enjoy an afternoon in the gorge, but not participate in the orienteering, please let Kristi Gustafson know at kristigus@aol.com, so she get an accurate headcount for food. As a New Sweden member you are welcome to join the event. If you'd like to attend the orienteering and/or picnic, but need a ride, or can give someone a ride, let Kristi know and she'll work to arrange carpooling.

Driving Directions from Portland for Event and Picnic - (Allow about One Hour)

Drive I 84 east to Exit 44 for Cascade Locks and Stevenson

After 0.4 miles, bear right for the Bridge of the Gods and Stevenson

Cross the Bridge of the Gods into Washington (Toll \$2)

Turn left (west) onto Hwy 14 and go approx. 4 miles

Turn left at the Chevron station in the town of North Bonneville

In 200 feet, take a right onto Cascade Dr., follow the blue signs to the ball field

In 0.4 miles, take a left onto Portage Drive, proceed to the end of Portage Drive



League of Swedish Societies Portland Midsummer Festival

The League of Swedish Societies 98th Annual Portland Midsummer Festival takes place at Oaks Amusement Park on Saturday, June 14th, 11am - 4pm. The park is located at 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland. Admission is a \$2 donation and parking is \$5 per car.

Swedish Midsummer is a significant cultural celebration marking the start of the summer season. It's a time for community gatherings, outdoor activities, and an opportunity to enjoy traditional food and drink. Midsummer celebrations typically happen between June 19th - 25th, and is a way to welcome the long days of summer and connect with nature, family, and friends.

So join with us as we celebrate the 98th annual raising of the Majstång, an official Oregon Heritage Tradition. Enjoy live music, games, flower crown making, dancing, singing, and of course, the raising the majstång. Hope to see you June 14th!

Vi ses vid Midsommar!



Volunteers Needed for Midsummer Food Booth

New Sweden volunteers help staff the food booth during the League of Swedish Societies Midsummer Celebration at Oaks Park. It is a fun way to participate in the day and meet some additional volunteers like yourself. The two-hour shifts begin at 10 am. If you can help out, contact Bruce Tolonen at (503) 255-8018 to get signed up and receive further details.

Membership Coordinator

The New Sweden Board of Directors is pleased to announce the Membership Coordinator position has been filled by Ute Munger. Ute previously served on the New Sweden Board. Members will periodically hear from her as the Coordinator's duties include updating and maintaining the database, assisting with volunteer requests, reaching out to new members, and inviting past members to rejoin. If you have a question regarding the status of your membership, please reach out to Ute at the following email address: <newswedenpdx@gmail.com> and type "Membership" in the subject line.

Each January all members need to pay their annual New Sweden dues and update their Membership form. If a member is 80+ years old and has Lifetime status only, the Membership form needs to be annually updated in January.

Mount Tabor Classic Orienteering

Some New Sweden members were spotted at the Mount Tabor Classic orienteering course on April 19th. The first timers said they wanted to try out the sport as a family. Nice work Sam, Sara, Madeline, and Sebastian!

2025 Upcoming Orienteering Events 10:30 am - 3:00 pm

Sunday, May 18th - Hamilton Island Classic, New Sweden & the Swedish School

Saturday, July 12th - Willamette Mission State Park Classic

Saturday, September 27th - Champoeg State Park Classic



No matter your skill level, mark your calendar for these events and join us! If you are interested in learning more about Orienteering, helpful information can be found on the Columbia River Orienteering Club's website <https://www.croc.org/>. Be sure to check it out!



Migration to QuickBooks Online!

The New Sweden organization is migrating its accounting system to QuickBooks Online! If you see changes in the receipts or workflow, please be patient as we move all of our accounting data and methods to the new system. The Board is excited about this updated change, but we're taking our time to make sure everything is moved correctly. We will continue to use "Square" to sell event tickets. Thank you for your patience.

Portland Nordic Chorus Spring Concert



Enjoy an evening of springtime choral music performed by the Portland Nordic Chorus. The concert will take place on Saturday, May 10, from 7 - 8:30 pm at Nordia House, 8800 SW Oleson Road. Tickets can be purchased through portlandnordicchorus.org/concerts/ or at the door. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Beer, wine and light refreshments will be available for purchase.

The Chorus is a mixed community chorus that shares a common interest in Nordic culture and music. The group sings in Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish and English and are coached by native speakers. Consider becoming a member of the Nordic Chorus as all are welcome, Nordic heritage is not required, only a willingness to explore Nordic languages and choral music. Further information can be found at info@portlandnordicchorus.org.

Valborg Celebration

The traditional Swedish spring festivity of Valborg was celebrated on Wednesday, April 30th by New Sweden members and guests. The evening was delightful. Nearly 40 people attended and enjoyed tasty hot dogs with mashed potatoes sprinkled with crispy fried onion bits, singing, live music, and a cozy bonfire. The folks in attendance reveled in the camaraderie that warmer weather is coming soon! The event was held at West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Oleson Road. If you missed it, plan for next year. It was a fun evening!



New Sweden Annual Members Meeting & Swedish Easter Celebration

Thank you to New Sweden members who were able to join the New Sweden Board of Directors in making the annual meeting a huge success! The wonderful aromas of baking ham and scallop potatoes wafted out to the reception area as guests arrived. Over 70 members were warmly greeted and the smörgåsbord was soon overflowing with a wide assortment of delicacies. Socializing and eating was the main order of business. There was plenty of coffee to go with desserts of all types while folks listened to a short business meeting, a few brief speeches, and readings. The dining area was festooned with fresh flowers along with Easter decor. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making the event a success!



August Means Kräftskiva Party!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 9th to enjoy a festive evening at New Sweden's Kräftskiva Party. It is a fun summertime celebration featuring outdoor dining, colorful paper lanterns, and the wearing of bibs and funny hats. Traditionally the crayfish party takes place in August. This year's event will be on the grounds of Fogelbo. It will feature a feast of boiled crayfish, along with various side dishes, drinks, and traditional songs. Members in good standing will be able to purchase tickets online, more information to come.



Swedish Conversation Group - Samtalsgruppen - A Recurring Event



On Fridays, a Swedish language conversation group meets via Zoom at 4:00 pm. The group is a comfortable place for anyone with beginning level skills in Swedish and there is no required homework. All one needs is a desire to improve their speaking skills. Getting comfortable speaking aloud is one of the most difficult parts of learning any language. Email Ann Stuller, sasmac@comcast.net to receive the Zoom link to join in.

It Is With Great Sadness ...



Ulla is on the far left of the photo taken at Fogelbo in the 1980's.

Ulla Hanson died peacefully on March 28, 2025. She was 92 years of age at the time of her passing. Ulla grew up in one of the northernmost regions of Sweden in the province of Norrbotten. She was born on February 4, 1933, in Piteå, Sweden. Ulla immigrated to Oregon because she had an aunt living in the Portland area. She worked many years for Nicholas Ungar Furs. Ulla met her husband Doug during her early years in Portland. They were active members in the Portland Swedish community for over 50 years. She and Doug were Charter Members of the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society. Ulla was also active in The Swedish Society

of Linnea, Harmoni Lodge and the Order of Runeberg. She and her husband hosted many wonderful picnics at their home on Arnold Street. She is survived by her two daughters Maria and Sally and four grandchildren. Her husband Doug passed away in December 2022. They are interred at Crescent Grove Cemetery, Tigard, Oregon.

Columbia Sportswear Employee Store Pass Available to Members



Active Members can look for an email soon, sharing a pass that allows access to the Columbia Employee store! The pass will be good from May 2nd to May 26th. Accessing the store allows you to shop their brands at employee pricing of 40-50% below retail. The store is always stocked with current season products and is located on 14100 NW Science Park Dr, Portland, OR 97229. Your memberships must be current in order to receive the Employee Store pass. Receiving these passes is just one of the many perks of being a paid or Lifetime member! Update your membership today by visiting <https://www.newsweden.org>. Thank you.

Upcoming 2025 New Sweden Events

May 18 - Orienteering: Hamilton Island Classic, details at croc.org, 10:30 am - 4 pm; in conjunction with Portland Swedish School

June 14 - League of Swedish Societies Midsummer Festival, Oaks Park, 11 am - 4 pm

August 9 - Kraftskiva Party on the grounds of Fogelbo

September 27 - Orienteering: Champoeg State Park Classic, croc.org, 10:30 am - 3 pm

November 29 - Portland Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market, Norse Hall, 10 am - 4 pm

December 13 - Lucia Fest, Moreland Presbyterian Church, 3 - 5 pm

December 13-14 - Scan Fair, Oregon Convention Center, 10 am - 5 pm

December 15 - Membership Renewal begins

*Cookie and Craft Events - TBD

*Soup Night - TBD

For more information: newsweden.org/events/

Please Note: Email updates will be shared periodically with members regarding event information that develops after the quarterly newsletter has been printed and shared with membership.



New Sweden Newsletter Quarter 3 Deadline for content submissions: July 22, 2025.

Submission can be sent to paula.inglett@gmail.com



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CHANGE ADDRESS SERVICE
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