

Upcoming Events



**KRÄFTSKIVA
(CRAYFISH PARTY)**
AUGUST 9



ORIENTEERING
SEPTEMBER 27



GOAT MARKET
NOVEMBER 29



New Sweden
Cultural Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

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You Need to Know

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President's Message

Dear New Sweden Members & Supporters,

Summer seems to be in full swing! The League of Swedish Society's Midsummer was an excellent kickoff to this exciting season. My son and I had a great time listening to the musicians, watching the dancers, and of course enjoying the many tasty foods that were offered. I extend my gratitude to everyone who helped make this event possible. It was our 98th year!



Steven and Elliot pause for the national anthems at the LSS Midsummer

All of the hard work reminds me that it's more important than ever to take care of ourselves during this busy season. The Swedish phrase "*ta en vilopaus*" is a reminder to "*take a rest*," which is I think is something we could all do a little more!

May your öl be cold on these varm days ahead,
Steven Englund

New Sweden Board Member and Officer Positions Opening Soon

Please consider becoming a part of the New Sweden Board of Directors. A few of the Director's terms are coming to an end and we invite you to become more involved by joining the New Sweden Board. The Board meets monthly. There will be members at large and officer positions open. Elections will be held at the November Board meeting with roles to begin January 1, 2026. If you would like to be a part of the New Sweden Board of Directors email your intent to newswedepdx@gmail.com and indicate your interest in a Board member at large or officer position. Your consideration is appreciated.

Kräftskiva Party Time is Here!

**New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society invites
Current paid/Active members to the
Annual Crayfish Party in the garden at Fogelbo
8740 SW Oleson Road, Portland, Oregon
Saturday, August 9, 2025
6:00 - 10:00 pm
Join us for a traditional Swedish Crayfish Party
Celebrate the Summer and the Crayfish Harvest
with delicious food, dancing and singing
You'll enjoy Crayfish, Swedish meatballs, and a smorgasbord
Non-alcoholic punch, coffee and water will be provided by New Sweden
Members, please bring a dish or dessert to share
Adult Member: \$35 (age 16+), Youth: \$15 (age 4-15), Free: (age 0-3)
Online ticket sales are available now at newsweden.org
Purchase tickets and reserve your spot
Ticket sales will conclude on Saturday, August 2nd at 10 pm
Tickets will not be available at the door.**

Kräftskiva Volunteers Needed

Your help is needed to make this year's Kräftskiva a success! Please consider signing up for one of the following tasks. You can secure your choice by emailing newswedepdx@gmail.com and indicating your volunteer preference. Thank you members! It takes all of us to make large events run smoothly and ensure a successful event for everyone.

The number in bold after the task is the number of volunteers needed:

Friday, August 8 Volunteer Needs

- Additional crayfish cooks - **2**

Saturday, August 9 Volunteer Needs

- Set-up, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, - **6**
- Guest check-in, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, **1**
- Buffet set-up, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, **2**

Saturday, August 9 Volunteer Needs (continued)

- Trash monitor, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, **1**
- Drink station, 8:00 - 10:00 pm, **1**
- Trash monitor, 8:00 - 10:00 pm, **1**
- Clean up, 10:00 - 11:00 pm, **6**

Midsummer at the Springs at Tanasbourne in Hillsboro

Story and photos by Sara Winter

New Sweden members, Sara Winter, Pirjo Schulbach and Christine Smith, had the joy of bringing Swedish Midsummer to The Springs at Tanasbourne community. Together with the residents, Sara and Pirjo crafted traditional flower crowns using birch branches and bright summer flowers, filling the patio with color, joy and creativity.

Once everyone was ready with their Midsummer crowns, Christine and the dancers of Vasa Rosebuds, carried in their “traveling” maypole and raised it at the center of the room—setting the stage and inviting all to join in the fun. With energy and enthusiasm, she led traditional singing and dancing around the maypole, encouraging joyful participation from residents and guests alike. One especially fun moment was when everyone joined in for *Små grodorna* (“The Little Frogs”), a playful and traditional Swedish Midsummer dance. Residents and guests hopped and laughed in a lively circle, fully embracing the festive spirit.

The Vasa Rosebuds, dressed in their full traditional Swedish costumes, gave a charming performance that captivated the audience with its authenticity and heart.

Adding a festive touch to the celebration, Marian Thompson carved a beautiful watermelon for the occasion—complete with traditional dancers and a Midsommar pole. Her creation was a joyful work of art.

As we said our goodbyes, it was heartwarming to see both residents and staff still proudly wearing their handmade flower crowns. We’re already looking forward to returning next year!

A big thank you to Marian and Carl Thompson for their continued support and encouragement of Swedish culture!



Hans Lundin ~ Husband, Father and Friend

1933 - 2025

In the early morning hours of May 11, 2025, Hans Lundin passed away. The previous day Hans had attended the Memorial Service for his beloved wife Anna Lundin. Hans was able to hear and see many special moments of their life together and he was pleased with so many longtime friends and family members in attendance to honor the memory of Anna. Undoubtedly, it was deeply touching for all to learn that Hans had passed away so soon after Anna.

Hans was born in 1933 in the small town of Kumla southwest of Stockholm. In 1955 he joined the Swedish Army's Ing 1 (Ingenjörregemente 1) in Stockholm. He enlisted for the Swedish Army's service requirement of one year of active duty followed by one month of active service every few years. Hans came to the United States in 1961 and worked on construction of industrial projects in several states, as well as in Israel, Jamaica and Canada. Retiring in 1999, he and wife Anna moved into their home in Lake Oswego. Hans and Anna have been members of the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society from almost its inception.

New Sweden's website holds links to previous newsletters over the years. An article on Hans Lundin written by his grandson Calvin Lundin can be found in the November 11, 2021 newsletter. The website address is newsweden.org and the piece is entitled "Friendliness Amidst Mass Destruction: Sweden in World War II" by Calvin Lundin.



Upcoming 2025 New Sweden Events

- **July 23** - Orienteering: Member Training Short Course Columbia Park - Details at croc.org, 6:30-8 pm
- **August 9** - Kräftskiva Party on the grounds of Fogelbo 6-10 pm
- **September 27** - Orienteering: Champoege State Park Classic - Details at croc.org, 10:30 am-3 pm
- **October 11** - Orienteering: Corn Maze - Details at croc.org, 7-9 am
- **November 29** - Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market, Norse Hall, 9 am-4 pm
- **December 1 -31** - Membership renewal takes place
- **December 13** - Lucia Fest, Moreland Presbyterian Church, 3-5 pm
- **December 13-14** - Scan Fair, Oregon Convention Center
- Baking and Craft Events - TBA
- Soup Night - TBA

Swedish Conversation Group - Samtalsgruppen - A Recurring Event



On Fridays, a Swedish language conversation group meets via Zoom at 4:00 pm. The conversation group of about 12 people finds that it is a comfortable place to work on Swedish language skills. Those interested in learning Swedish are welcome to attend, no matter your skill level. All one needs is a desire to improve your speaking skills. Email Ann Stuller, sasmac@comcast.net to receive the Zoom link and join in the fun.

Orienteering with New Sweden - Save the Dates

Champoeg State Park Classic takes place on Saturday, September 27 from 10:30 - 3:00 pm. Join CROC and New Sweden members for orienteering at Champoeg State Park. More details will be sent via email as the date gets closer.

Corn Maze Orienteering will take place on Saturday, October 11 for CROC's annual early morning October event. The corn maze orienteering event on Sauvie Island will be great fun for all. More details and exact location will be sent via email as the date gets closer.



The League of Swedish Societies Board



The League was organized in 1928 as an umbrella for Swedish organizations. It still runs strong today and is composed of five Swedish organizations, together celebrating all things Swedish. The five members are: Harmoni Lodge #472, New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society, Portland Nordic Chorus, Skandia Lodge and the Swedish Society of Linnea.

Photo by Michelle Bauer Photography LLC

Portland Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market

- Save the Date

Get in the holiday spirit (jultämning) by attending the annual Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market in Portland, Oregon! The Market will take place on Saturday, November 29, 2025 at historic Norse Hall, 111 NE 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97232.



New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society is proud to host the 4th annual Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market and introduce you to the new Christmas Goat Market logo.

Once again there will be a large lineup of outstanding vendors that include many local artists, live entertainment, three floors to explore, a free kids area and an assortment of Nordic foods available to purchase.

Please note the Goat Market will be opening one hour earlier than previous years. The Market will run 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Ticket prices are

\$8 for Adults (ages 16 +)

\$4 for Youth (ages 4 - 15)

FREE (3 and under)

Make sure to save the date for this year's Market!

Newly Adopted Goat Market Mission Statement

At a recent New Sweden Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved and adopted the recently developed mission statement for Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market.

The mission statement clearly states the purpose of the Goat Market and what it aims to achieve. It will guide decision-making among all stake holders.

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society *New Sweden's Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market*

Mission Statement

To produce a Christmas festival celebrating the cultures and traditions of Nordic peoples.

Goals and Objectives

Create a consistent source of revenue for New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society.

Encourage and support the Nordic community by providing the opportunity for Swedish and other Nordic organizations to promote and financially benefit their organization.

Promote Nordic traditions, crafts and cultures.

Support Nordic youth organizations and camps.

Midsommar at Oaks Park

A huge thank you to the the Board and members of The League of Swedish Societies who worked



long hours to make Portland Midsommar 2025 such a success!!

And it was a huge success! Over 500 people were in attendance under beautiful blue skies, flower crowns adorned most heads young and old. Vasa Youth Group Swedish Dancers performed traditional dance numbers, vendors were successfully added, making Swedish Fish was a hit in the kids craft area, delicious food was consumed and musical groups performed throughout the afternoon. The majstång adorned with greenery and flowers, is always the highlight of the annual event, and it is what helps to make Portland Midsommar an official Oregon Heritage Tradition. Next year marks the League's 99th year celebrating Midsommar.

Midsommar photos by Michelle Bauer Photography LLC



Swedish Bus Stop Celebrates Its 15th Anniversary!

Commuters who take TriMet Line 45 at Southwest 89th Avenue and Oleson Road have been able to experience “A Little Bit of Sweden,” for the past 15 years as they wait for the bus. Thanks in part to the unique bus shelter that sits across the street from Ross Fogelquist’s home devoted to all things Swedish and Scandinavian.

In the fall of 2010, nearby families and members of the Garden Home Crossing Committee cleared the ground, donated and purchased plants for the surrounding Swedish-inspired garden, designed, constructed and painted the shelter and buried a time capsule to remember the event.

The shelter was originally decorated with a sign that read “Busshallplats” – Swedish for “bus stop” – and trimmed with delicate folk art paintings of flowers along the eaves. “I wanted to use bright colors that would stand out,” said GunMarie Rosqvist, a local artist who painted the designs.

The Aloha Garden Club, the New Sweden Cultural Society, and the Garden Home Crossing Committee all made generous donations to assist with getting the project off the ground. And there were many volunteers who also gave their time and talent to the project’s success.



Some upkeep has been needed over the years. More recently, two “talking” Dala horses, a symbol of Swedish heritage, were added to the back wall of the bus shelter. A note of thanks to Eric Goranson and other Forest Trolls for maintaining the shelter and the surrounding grounds. The bus shelter has become a landmark along this section of Oleson Road as it continues to provide joy and a bit of Swedish flair to all who pass by.

Seeking Swedish Speakers for Konversations Grupp

New Sweden is looking for Swedish-speaking volunteers to help facilitate an expanded conversation group. New Sweden will partner with Nordic Northwest to host the group at Nordia House. The meeting time and frequency will be decided by the people who attend the first meeting. One idea is to have both an afternoon and evening group depending on the number of volunteers and interested participants. If interested send an email to newswednpdx@gmail.com and indicate that you are a Swedish speaker interested in volunteering for a Swedish conversation group. More information to come.



Köping Town Hall

Scheele

Dybeck and melody for "Du gamla, du fria".

Köping – From the Discovery of Oxygen, the Swedish National Anthem and Lyricist to Sweden's 2024 Oscar Entry

by J. Granström

In the previous two newsletters, we learned more about the history and cultural contributions of the two Swedish landskap Södermanland and Västmanland. In this newsletter, we will focus on the small town of Köping in Västmanland.

Köping, home to less than 20,000 people, has made a significant resurgence in recent years, following the success of the 2018 blockbuster "Tårtgeneralen (The Cake General)" and Sweden's 2024 Oscar entry "Den sista resan (The Last Journey)". However, Köping made significant contributions to Swedish life long before these movies were made. The German-Swedish pharmaceutical chemist Carl Wilhelm Scheele spent the later part of his life in Köping. Scheele discovered oxygen (although Joseph Priestley published his findings first), and identified several other elements and compounds, from nitrogen and chlorine to citric acid and arsenic acid. Born in 1742 in Stralsund in western Pomerania, which at the time as a Swedish Dominion inside the Holy Roman Empire. He moved to Köping in 1775 to manage a pharmacy and stayed there until his death in 1786. A statue of Scheele is erected on Stora Torget in Köping.

Köping is also the birthplace of Richard Dybeck, the lyricist of the Swedish national anthem "Du gamla du fria" (literally "You Ancient, You Free"), who was born outside of Köping in 1811. He wrote the lyrics of the song to a Swedish folk tune. Although the Swedish constitution makes no mention of a national anthem, "Du gamla, du fria" enjoys universal recognition and is used, for example, at government ceremonies as well as sporting events. It first began to win recognition as a song in the 1890s, and the issue of its status was debated back and forth up until the 1930s. In 1938, the Swedish public service radio company Sveriges Radio started playing it in the evenings at the end of transmission, which marked the beginning of the *de facto* status as national anthem the song has had since. Despite the belief that it was adopted as the national anthem in 1866, no such recognition has ever been officially accorded. In 2000, a Swedish Parliament committee rejected a proposal to give the song official status as "unnecessary". The committee concluded that the song has been established as the national anthem by the people, not by the political system, and that it is preferable to keep it that way.

You can learn more about Södermanland and Västmanland by reading the full length article in a recent issue of the U.S.-wide publication "Nordstjernen": <https://issuu.com/swedeninamerica/docs/2505>



P.O. Box 80141
Portland, OR 97280
CHANGE ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Membership Renewal Reminder

A reminder to all New Sweden members that your membership renewal will take place between December 1 - 31, 2025. It needs to be completed prior to January 1, 2026. An up to date membership roster helps the Board of Directors plan and carry out events.

Membership means you will receive the quarterly newsletter and emails to inform you about upcoming events and time-sensitive information, special member-only activities, and special member-only perks (such as special-event access to the Columbia Sportswear Employee Store).

The easiest way to renew your New Sweden membership is by visiting the New Sweden website, <https://www.newsweden.org/membership/> PO Box 80141, Portland, OR 97280.

Please Note: If you turned 80 years young in 2025 or earlier, and have been a member of New Sweden for at least three years, then you have been elevated to Lifetime status. This means no more dues to pay. However, you still need to fill out the Membership form in December in order for your Membership to stay active for the following year. If you have a Family Membership and your spouse has not reached that golden level yet, your spouses's paid membership changes to a Single membership.