

Upcoming Events



STEINER CHURCH
APRIL 12



VALBORG
APRIL 30



MIDSUMMER
JUNE 13



New Sweden
Cultural Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

PO Box 80141, Portland, OR 97280 <https://www.newsweden.org> newswedenpdx@gmail.com

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Ute Munger

President's Message

Happy Spring!

New Sweden is grateful for the group of volunteers who make up our Communications Team. They keep members informed of upcoming events and promote New Sweden to a wider audience. Stefan Rosqvist created our website, which he updated with a new fresh look. David Kleinke manages the New Sweden website and keeps it very up to date with information about future as well as past events. Courtnee Riise Averskog manages the New Sweden facebook page. She updates the page with appealing graphics, information about upcoming events, and photos from past events. Pirjo Schulbach manages New Sweden's Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market facebook page, monitoring and posting daily prior to the Goat Market. Stefan Nornholm creates our Instagram content reaching yet another audience with creative announcements promoting upcoming activities and photos of past events. Paula Inglett and Elaine Meis produce our quarterly newsletter and have made significant changes to the format and content reporting to our members about New Sweden's events, activities, and membership as well as Swedish items of interest. Paula writes the majority of the articles and Elaine edits and does the newsletter layout. All of these volunteers generously give their time to publicize and promote the New Sweden organization and we owe them our sincere gratitude.

We also use emails to remind members of upcoming events. You should have received an email in mid-March from [newswedengooglegroups.com](https://www.newswedengooglegroups.com). If you did not, please check your

spam folder. We can't be sure our members receive their emails from the contact group list, so additionally, we use USPS to mail the newsletter to the membership. It costs money but ensuring our members are informed is well worth it. If your email or home address changes, please let me know. We have had some tech issues when links are included in emails, so you may receive the same email twice. Thank you for your patience as we work through these minor challenges.

At many of our events we need volunteers to help make them a success. We have used the on-line program signup.com to organize volunteers and will continue to try that for some of our future events. If that is out of your tech comfort zone, please contact me and I'll gladly add you to an events' volunteer list.

We hope to see you at the Steiner Church presentation in Welches, our Valborg celebration, the picnic on Hamilton Island and Ross Fogelquist's birthday party!

Kristi Gustafson
New Sweden President
kristigus@aol.com, 503-807-9808

Historic 1937 Steiner Church Tour

Join New Sweden members and friends for a special presentation and tour of the historic 1937 Steiner Log Church on Sunday, April 12, from 1 -3 pm. The church is located at 68835 East Barlow Trail Road, Welches, OR 97067. It is a no-cost event for New Sweden members and a fee of only \$10 for non-members. If you need a ride or can give someone a ride, email Kristi Gustafson - kristigus@aol.com and she'll work to arrange carpooling.

The church is a stunning work of craftsmanship and is an outstanding example of Henry Steiner's Oregon Rustic architectural style. Mike Grudge, the church owner, spent 46 years working to restore the building and will be our guide for the event. He will discuss its rich history and restoration process. Light refreshments will be served following the presentation and tour.

Steiner constructed two churches; only the one built in 1937 still stands, as the other was destroyed by fire in 1947. The church is no longer used for services. Many of the Steiner cabins still exist, and each is a prized piece of Oregon's rich history. Each Steiner cabin is unique and Henry



Steiner used design principles for each one: to maximize views and the lay of the land; the use of logs less than 12 inches in diameter; the use of materials found on site; and to only purchase what could not be made. Many Steiner cabins have handmade cabinetry, furniture, and doors. An email with further information will be sent to all members in early April with additional details, so please save the date for this special New Sweden event.

Celebrate Valborgsmässoafton!

New Sweden will host a festive Valborg celebration on the evening of Thursday, April 30. The event takes place at West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Road, 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Come share hot dogs, songs and a bonfire - a Swedish Valborg tradition that for many marks the arrival of spring and is a joyful community celebration. An email invitation will be sent to all members in early April, so save the date for this free event on your calendar.



Valborg has deep roots in Swedish culture and is steeped in history. Traditionally, whole towns would gather around huge bonfires and try to scare off evil spirits and witches. Valborg also known as Walpurgis night, (which literally means "witch" night), is celebrated on the night of April 30. It signals a change in the seasons. Finally, the snow has melted and buds are appearing on the trees. At the end of a long, dark and cold winter it is easy to understand why this tradition has now become a celebration of spring with a party and a nice toasty bonfire to commemorate this historic cultural event!

Trollbacken Camp Scholarships Available

The New Sweden organization is delighted to offer three partial scholarships for family members and relatives of New Sweden Members for enrollment at Trollbacken this August. Approximately \$375 in scholarship funds are available to each of the three recipients to help offset the campers' registration fees.



Trollbacken Swedish Language Camp is for children 7 - 13 years of age. The summer session will take place August 16 - 21, 2026. The weeklong overnight camp is focused on Swedish culture, language and music. The camp is held at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center, Corbett, OR.

Scholarship applications are available by emailing Kristi Gustafson - kristigus@aol.com to request the application form. Scholarship applications must be submitted to New Sweden by April 15. All applicants and scholarships recipients will be notified. The deadline for Trollbacken camp registration is April 30th.

Portland Nordic Chorus Spring Concert

Celebrate the spring season with delightful songs performed by the Portland Nordic Chorus. The concert takes place on Saturday, May 2 at 7:00 - 9 pm in the Great Hall at



Nordia House, 8800 SW Oleson Road. The Chorus will be performing songs of renewal in the five Nordic languages. Tickets are available on the NNW website under Events Calendar. It is general admission with no reserved seating. Doors open at 6 PM with a no host bar with beer and wine for purchase. Treats provided by the Chorus members will be available following the concert.

The Portland Nordic Chorus is a mixed community chorus celebrating friendship and common interest in Nordic culture and music by rehearsing and performing music. The group sings primarily in Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, and English. We welcome all with and without Nordic heritage who have a desire to be a part of a choral group that explores Nordic languages and choral music. Further information can be found on the Portland Nordic Chorus website.

Hamilton Island Orienteering and Hosted Picnic

Come out to Hamilton Island on Saturday, May 9 to enjoy a fun-filled day of orienteering or, if orienteering isn't your thing, join us to take in the fresh air and scenic beauty of the Gorge with other New Sweden members. Around 2 pm, folks will gather at a nearby picnic area to enjoy a hosted BBQ picnic by New Sweden. The families from the Swedish School and the Vasa Rosebud are also invited.



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 before end of day on May 6. There will be no event-day registration. Check out the Columbia River Orienteering Club, croc.org for additional information. The start window runs from 10:30 am - 1 pm. Individuals and groups are welcome. An online registration link will be available one month prior to the event, visit croc.org to register under the "Events" tab. New Sweden will reimburse event participants for their registration fee after the course is completed.

An accurate headcount is needed prior to purchasing food for the picnic. Make sure to RSVP on the New Sweden website - newsweden.org, under "Events." If you'd like to attend the orienteering and/or picnic, but need a ride, or can give someone a ride, let Kristi Gustafson know and she'll work to arrange carpooling. So, whether you are orienteering or taking in the grandeur of Gorge, we hope to see you! Don't forget to bring along your appetite and your camp chairs.

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



**Researching Your Norwegian
and Swedish Roots**



WITH FRITZ JEUNGLING
Ph.D., AG®, AGL™
Attend in person at Sons of
Norway Hall, 111 NE 11th
Ave, Portland or online

Saturday, May 9 * 1 - 5 pm PDT
Register at gfo.org/seminar

New Sweden is pleased to co-sponsor a seminar on Swedish and Norwegian genealogy that the Genealogical Forum of Oregon is conducting on May 9, from 1-5 pm. Researching your Swedish and Norwegian Roots will be led by Fritz Jeungling, PhD. Participants can attend in person or online via Zoom. The seminar takes place at Sons of Norway Norse Hall, 111 NE 11th Ave., Portland.

Explore research strategies, records, and discoveries with expert guidance. New Sweden members receive \$10 off! Just use code NEWSWE when registering. Learn more and sign up today at gfo.org/seminar. If you have any interest in genealogy, don't miss this engaging and informative genealogical event!

Ross Fogelquist's Birthday and Anniversary of Knighthood Celebration



Join us in celebrating Ross Fogelquist's 88th Birthday and the 40th Anniversary of his Investiture as a Knight of the Royal Order of the Polar Star First Class. The celebration will take place on Friday, May 15 from 7 - 9 pm in the Great Hall at Nordia House. The evening will begin with social time to greet many friends and special guests, followed by a program that honors Ross's achievements with special memories being shared. There will be a few musical numbers and a variety of speakers, a champagne toast, with cake and coffee to follow. It is a time to celebrate the past and also to look forward to adding new memories in the years ahead. Plan to attend this special evening. Ross requests you wear your folk costume if you have one.

2026 Orienteering Season Has Begun!

Orienteering is the sport of land navigation. It began in Sweden and has spread around the world. A course is laid out, then participants use map reading skills and a compass to locate checkpoints marked on the map and cross the finish line in the shortest amount of time. While some participants are competitive and may run the course, many of us from New Sweden simply enjoy a nature walk while improving our map and compass skills.

New Sweden participates in the Columbia River Orienteering Club (CROC) events. There are four or five different distances and skill levels, so beginners as well as experienced participants can all enjoy the event. The course can be completed as a group or individually. Following the event New Sweden participants usually gather to celebrate their accomplishments and socialize. Check out the 2026 Calendar of Events in this newsletter for additional orienteering opportunities or online at croc.org.

League of Swedish Societies Portland Midsommar Festival

Join us in celebrating Midsommar on Saturday, June 13! Gather family and friends and join the League of Swedish Societies as we celebrate the 99th raising of the Majstång. The event takes place at Oaks Park from 11 am - 4 pm. The park is located at 7805 SE Oaks Park Way. Admission is a \$2 suggested donation and \$5 per car for parking.

There is entertainment for the whole family • enjoy making flower crowns • Swedish food and beverages available for purchase • kid's activities and favorite Midsommar games for all ages including tug-of-war • live music, dancing and singing • goods to peruse and purchase and of course, the raising of the Majstång. Midsommar celebrations are a way to welcome the long days of summer and connect with nature, family, and friends. So, mark your calendar for this beloved Swedish tradition as we celebrate the 99th annual raising of the Majstång, an official Oregon Heritage tradition. Hope to see you June 13th!

The League of Swedish Societies is an umbrella organization for five Swedish American groups to coordinate events and preserve cultural heritage. Each organization is seeking volunteers to assist with food preparation, greeting, and other tasks needed for a successful Midsommar festival. If you can help by volunteering, please email Wayne Barker at w.barker@comcast.net. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Vi ses vid Midsommar!



Swedish Conversation Group – Samtalsgruppen - A Recurring Event

A Swedish language conversation group meets via Zoom on Fridays at 4:00 pm. Participants enjoy the easy relaxed approach to work on beginning level Swedish conversation skills. There is no required homework, just a desire to improve your Swedish speaking skills. Email Ann Stuller - sasmac@comcast.net to receive the Zoom link and join the group.

Welcome New Members!

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society is excited to welcome additional new members who have joined the organization. Allison Brier and Linnea Smith joined in early 2026. Regrettably, we neglected welcoming Claire Elliker-Vågsberg and Kaarin Ekstrum earlier in 2025. The Board and other New Sweden members look forward to getting acquainted with all of you at upcoming events. Welcome!

Nordic Coffee Hour Hosted by New Sweden, Enjoyed by Many

New Sweden hosted the Nordic Coffee Hour at Nordia House on February 24. It was a highly successful event with many folks in attendance. Everyone enjoyed delicious Swedish pastries such as Hallongrottor, Drömmar, Honungsbatar, Stämplade småkakor, Chokladsnittar, *Hallonsnittar*, and Mandel Kranze, plus the friendly conversation over coffee.

A special word of thanks to Susan and Dan Schlesinger for their hospitality and use of their kitchen. A group of New Sweden members gathered a few days prior to the Coffee Hour to bake some traditional Swedish pastries. Special thanks to the baking team of Sue Graham, Kristi Gustafson, Beth Burczak, Elaine Meis, Karen Bloom, Jean Polling, Kathryn Wilske, Susan and Dan Schlesinger. In addition, Beth and Joel Johnson baked a selection of beautiful Swedish cookies, Eva Moore provided her flavorful cardamon cake, and Christie Hogueisson, along with granddaughter Annie, brought crackers, sliced meats and cheese. Decorations were provided by Beth Burczak, Ross Fogelquist and Sue Graham. Thank you all for adding to the success of the Nordic Coffee Hour hosted by New Sweden.



Volunteers Needed

- On the evening of Thursday, April 30 New Sweden will be hosting a festive **Valborg** celebration at West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Road, 5:30 - 8:30 pm. We are looking for six volunteers to help with event set up or clean up. Set up takes place at 4:30 pm and clean up would begin promptly at 8:30 pm. Sign up for volunteering at newsweden.org under Events.
- On the evening of Friday, May 15 there will be a celebration **of Ross Fogelquist's 88th Birthday** and the 40th Anniversary of Knighthood. The event will take place from 7 - 9 pm in the Great Hall at Nordia House. If you would like to volunteer for the planning team or as an event volunteer please contact Kristi Gustafson - kristigus@aol.com.
- On Saturday, June 13 the League of Swedish Societies Portland **Midsommar** Festival takes place at Oaks Park. We are looking for six to eight volunteers to staff the food booth. It is a fun way to participate in the day and meet some additional New Sweden volunteers like yourself. Two-hour shifts begin at 10 am. If you can assist in the food booth, contact Kristi Gustafson - kristigus@aol.com. And thank you for supporting this fun Swedish tradition.

Honungsbatar (Swedish Honey Boat Cookies)

Crust:

1 cup butter (use real butter at room temperature to make it easier to work with)

2 cups flour

1/2 cup sugar

Mix by hand, press into small forms 1/8" to 1/4" thick. Bake for 10-15 minutes at 350°F.

Filling:

1-1/4 cup chopped almonds

3/4 cup sugar

1/4 cup honey

3 tablespoons butter, melted

3/4 cup whipping cream

Place the filling ingredients in a pan and heat on stove. *Do not boil*. The batter will be thin. Add filling to partially baked cookies; fill each boat about 3/4 full. Bake for another 10-15 minutes at 395°F. Cool before removing from forms or they will break apart.

Tips:

Use tart forms about 3"x2". Fill molds with about a 1" ball of dough, press by hand until inside is completely covered. The above recipe for filling will be enough for two batches of crusts. The filling is easier to work with if it's cold. Both the dough and filling store well in the refrigerator.

~From the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation, Portland, Oregon, 2003 cooking class

Member Renewals

Membership renewal takes place annually during the month of December. If you still have not renewed your membership for 2026, please do so as soon as possible. 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 that inform you about upcoming special member-only activities and special member-only perks, such as access to the Columbia Sportswear Employee Store.

The easiest way to renew your New Sweden membership is by visiting "Membership" on the New Sweden website at newsweden.org. You can also mail the enclosed membership form in this newsletter with your check to: New Sweden 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 each December 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 spouse's paid membership changes to a Single membership.

The New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society is dedicated to sharing, promoting, and preserving Swedish culture and heritage in Portland, Oregon. The organization welcomes members from diverse backgrounds, including those with Swedish roots and those who simply appreciate the culture.

[] New Membership [] Renewal Membership [] New Address

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

[] Basic/Single \$25.00 [] Senior couple (over 65 yrs) \$40.00

[] Household/Family (children under 12) \$45.00 [] Over 80 years old free

Make checks payable to: New Sweden, P.O. Box 80141, Portland, OR 97280-1141

or pay online at www.newsweden.org/membership

[] I am interested in volunteering, please contact me at: _____

Members Please Note: If you have not been receiving periodic emails from New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society about upcoming events, please inform the Board by sending an email to the following address: newswedenpdx@gmail.com. The Board wants to make sure that all members receive announcements and information regarding New Sweden's events.

The Indomitable Småland Spirit – Part II

by Jimmy Granström



The Peace Banquet at Fredriksborg Castle
(Signing of Treaty of Roskilde, 1658)



Huskvarna around the year 1700

Living on the border was both a blessing and a curse. A curse in the sense that a new war was always likely, but also a blessing as one could live according to old customs for a long time without being reached by the long arm of state power. The border population therefore developed various strategies to reduce the harmful effects of the constant conflicts.

One strategy involved the local populations on both sides concluding their own peace agreements with each other. The so-called border peace was not something that the rulers looked upon with a gentle eye, and the exposed situation also meant that a special border mentality developed, characterized by a tendency to resort to violence. This meant that the border region could be a dangerous place to be. It was not until the former regions of Småland had fallen into Swedish hands - with the Treaty of Roskilde in 1658 - that the situation in Småland improved from a war perspective.

Around the same time, Sweden underwent significant transformations marked by extensive military engagements and territorial expansion, establishing itself as a major European power. This period, often referred to as the "Swedish Empire Era," saw Sweden's involvement in several key conflicts and wars. For the people of Småland, this period brought a surge in demand for weapons, spurring local industries to excel in forging swords and bayonets.

One of the cities already in an excellent position for that transformation was Jönköping, located on the shores of Lake Vättern. Jönköping and four other cities (Söderhamn, Norrköping, Örebro and Norrtälje) provided weapon deliveries in 1620, when King Gustaf II Adolf commissioned the town to be rebuilt after it had been demolished in yet another battle with the Danes. But long before that, there had been gunsmiths in Jönköping. The five cities manufactured the various weapon parts to exact orders, which were then delivered to the Jönköping factory.

The Huskvarna Weapons Factory was established in 1689 as a state-owned factory to meet the increased demand, and was chosen for its waterpower from the waterfalls, which was essential for drilling and grinding gun barrels. The company was privatized in 1757 and officially named the Huskvarna Rifle Factory. (You can read the rest of the article on pages 13 - 16 of Nordstjernen, Issue 2604: <https://issuu.com/swedeninamerica/docs/2604>)

Upcoming 2026 New Sweden Events

- **April 12** - 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund Pancake Breakfast, Norse Hall, 8:30 - 12, 111 NE 11th Avenue, PDX
- **April 12** - Historic 1937 Steiner Church Presentation and Tour, 68835 East Barlow Trail Road, Welches, 1 - 3 pm
- **April 15** - Trollbacken Scholarship Application Deadline
- **April 18** - Orienteering: Milo McIver State Park, details at croc.org, 10:30 - 3 pm
- **April 30** - Valborg Celebration West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Road, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
- **May 2** - Portland Nordic Chorus Spring Concert, Great Hall Nordia House, 7 - 9 pm
- **May 9** - Orienteering: Hamilton Island Classic and BBQ Picnic, 10:30 - 3 pm
- **May 9** - Researching Your Swedish and Norwegian Roots, Norse Hall, 1 - 5 pm
- **May 15** - Ross Fogelquist 88th Birthday Event and 40th Anniversary of Investiture of Knighthood, Great Hall Nordia House, 7 - 9 pm
- **June 6** - Orienteering: Champoeg State Park Classic, details at croc.org, 10:30 - 3 pm
- **June 13** - 99th Annual League of Swedish Societies Midsummer Festival, 11 am - 4 pm
- **July 11** - Orienteering: Mount Tabor Classic, details at croc.org, 10:30 - 3 pm
- **August 16** - Kraftskiva Party on the ground of Fogelbo for New Sweden members
- **October 17** - Orienteering: Mary S. Young State Park Classic, croc.org, 10:30 - 3 pm
- **November 28** - Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market, Norse Hall, 9 - 4 pm
- **December 1 - 31** - Membership Renewal
- **December 5** - Lucia Fest, Moreland Presbyterian Church, 3 - 5 pm
- **December 12 - 13** - Scan Fair, Oregon Convention Center
- **December 25** - Julotta, First Immanuel Lutheran Church, 7 am





P.O. Box 80141
Portland, OR 97280-1141
CHANGE ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED



INTERESTED??

[https://
portlandfloorball.org/](https://portlandfloorball.org/)

WHEN: Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.

WHERE: PDX Fieldhouse, 11040 SW Allen Blvd., Beaverton

COST: \$20 upon successful registration for a Game Night. *FIRST-TIMERS ARE FREE!

Registrations are made only through [Spond](#). All players must download the app and submit their Team Agreement to be eligible.

GAMES: Three 7-person pick-up teams play rotating 9-minute games (5v5 plus goalies). When all teams have played each other twice, they reshuffle and go again.

EQUIPMENT: PFC will provide loaner sticks and goalie equipment until players purchase their own.

OUR MOTO: Competitive but Kind