

Upcoming Events



ORIENTEERING
JULY 11



OLE BOLLE BIRTHDAY
AUGUST 9



KRÄFTSTIVA
AUGUST 16



New Sweden
Cultural Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

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

Board of Directors

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Ute Munger

New Sweden

Membership Ambassador

Ute Munger

President's Message

It was a busy spring for New Sweden with our annual meeting, a tour of the Steiner Church in Welches, a Valborg celebration, an orienteering event on Hamilton Island followed by a barbeque, an 88th birthday and knighthood celebration for Ross Fogelquist, AND a traditional Swedish Midsommar celebration. It's exciting to see the rich and varied events New Sweden has created or participated in thus far in 2026.

Each event, some more than others, takes volunteers to make it successful. Please put our events on your calendar and plan to help when you can so we can keep an active organization. Remember the conventional wisdom of, "many hands make light work."

We continue to find that not all New Sweden's Google Groups emails are reaching our members. In the future, we may try using Mailchimp or another email marketing platform for our group mailings. In the meantime, please check the New Sweden website at newsweden.org for any updates or additions you may have missed. David Kleinke is keeping our website very up to date so you can learn if an event has been changed, cancelled, or a new event added.

We're looking forward to our annual kräftstiva on August 16th. I hope our members who haven't experienced kräftstiva will attend and enjoy this traditional late summer Swedish party celebrating...crayfish and the last of summer under the August moon. We lowered the admission price this year, and for those who aren't enamored with crayfish, there will be an even lower priced ticket! There is a limit on how many tickets we can sell and ticket sales will begin July 7th.

~Kristi Gustafson

Trollbacken Summer Camp Scholarship Winners

New Sweden awarded three partial scholarships for enrollment to attend Trollbacken Swedish Language this August. The scholarship winners are Madeliene Wallberg, Astrid Sandling, and Hilda Rednoske. Family members or relatives of New Sweden members were eligible to apply for the scholarship. Each winner received \$375 to help offset the campers' registration fees.

Trollbacken Swedish Language Camp is for children 7 - 13 years of age. The summer session takes 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. We hope all Trollbacken attendees have a great week at camp!

Annual Membership Meeting and Floorball Presentation

About forty New Sweden members turned out for the Annual Membership Meeting on March 29, 2026. A delicious ham dinner was hosted by the New Sweden Board of Directors and members provided tasty potluck dishes. People enjoyed the meal and the for time for conversation. After a brief business meeting, a short program on the growing sport of floorball took place. Floorball originated in Sweden where it is exceptionally popular. Currently it is one of the fastest growing sports in the US behind Pickleball. David Slater, along with Max Sigander, Alex Dawson, and Peter Hanning, all members of the Portland Penguin Floorball Club, gave the presentation. Max and Peter grew up in Sweden where they learned to play floorball, known as innebandy in Sweden.



David Slater said floorball is a fast-paced indoor team sport and that it attracts "good folks." Their team motto is "competitive but kind" as there are clear rules to avoid injuries. People 16+ are welcome to play. Some participants are at the beginning level, while others are more experienced players. The group plays in Beaverton on Thursdays at the PDX Fieldhouse, 11040 SW Allen Blvd., Beaverton from 7-9pm. Online registration is needed prior to playing. First timers are free and the only equipment required are shoes to run in. The regular fee is \$20 which covers the cost of the facility rental. Go to <https://portlandfloorball.org> for further information.

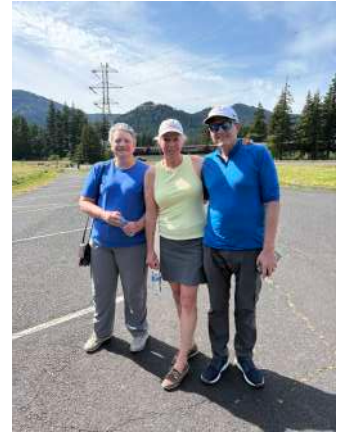
The Penguins are looking forward to competing nationally and are currently raising funds for uniforms and equipment. You can contribute to their team fundraising by making a donation. Email: portlandfloorball@gmail.com for additional details.

Welcome New Members!

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society is excited to welcome additional new members who have joined the organization. Abbe MacFarlane, Richard A. Dahl, John Bergendahl and Rhonda Lund. The Board and other New Sweden members look forward to getting acquainted with all of you at upcoming events. Welcome!

Hamilton Island Orienteering and Picnic

Great weather was a bonus to the Hamilton Island orienteering event, followed by a New Sweden hosted picnic which took place on May 9th. The island is located near Bonneville Dam and accessed via the Washington side of the Columbia River. Kathy Wilske, and Beth and Chip Burczak participated in the orienteering event, along with members of the Swedish School and Vasa Rosebud dancers, plus family members. Once the course was completed people gathered in a nearby picnic area to enjoy the hosted BBQ. Big thanks to Chip Burczak for grilling hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone! Post picnic some folks enjoyed exploring the trail along the Columbia while others played a game of Kubb. It was a perfect setting and day for a spring picnic!



Generous Donation for Hansen House Renovation

Hans Sohlstrom and Nancy Kershaval are making a special donation to Nordic Northwest to honor the memory of their friends Hans and Anna Lundin. The Sohlstrom gift expresses the deep affection and appreciation of the decades long friendship the couples shared. The gift will be used to pay for renovation of the Hansen House. Both couples have been longtime members of New Sweden and the Nordic community.



The Hansen House was built by Danish Americans in 1931. Carl and Irene Hansen were the original owners of the house. Carl, born into a Danish immigrant family and settled in Scholls, Oregon. He, along with his wife Irene and newborn daughter Alta, moved into the one-bedroom home in the fall of 1931. A cabinet maker by trade, Carl's

craftsmanship is visible throughout the home. Carl soon built a barn and a cabinet shop on his 2-acre property. As the family prospered and grew with the birth of daughter Rita, Carl built a larger home on their property in 1972, making the one-bedroom home obsolete. Neighbor Charles Fogelquist, Ross's father, offered \$100 for the one-bedroom building.

A deal was made to relocate that structure about 500 feet to its current location. Moving the building proved to be a challenge. In fact, Carl cut 8 inches off his shop to allow the house to pass on the west side as it was pulled on skids onto the Fogelquist property. Without one board shifting out of place, the house built of local 1 x 4-inch vertical fir, moved beautifully to its new location. Repurposed as a wood shop until 1980 when son Ross Fogelquist inherited the property. The historic Hansen House stands as a tribute to Danish woodworking craftsmanship, Scandinavian ingenuity and friendship. It is located on the grounds of Nordic Northwest.

Swedish Conversation Group – Samtalsgruppen - A Recurring Event

A Swedish language conversation group meets via Zoom on Fridays at 4:00 pm. Those interested in learning Swedish are welcome to attend. 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.

League of Swedish Societies Presented a Traditional Midsummer Festival

On June 13th many people from across the Portland metro area participated in an official Oregon Heritage Tradition – a Swedish Midsummer at Oaks Amusement Park. Thanks to The League of Swedish Societies and its Board members for making Portland Midsummer Festival 2026 such a huge success! People attended the event under beautiful blue skies. Flower crowns adorned heads young and old and Swedish dancers, vocalists and talented musicians performed throughout the afternoon. Tasty and traditional Scandinavian items were available for purchase via an assortment of vendors. Once again, the kids craft area was a hit for the young and young at heart. Thanks to the creative skills of Sara Corbin Winter many folks went home with a delightfully decorated Dala horse. The raising of the majstång, adorned with greenery and flowers, is always the highlight of the annual event.

The festival aims to be characteristically “lagom” in its style, seeking a perfectly simple approach to midsummer. The League works to keep the family friendly event cost effective by requesting only a \$2 donation for admission. It aligns with the League’s mission to preserve and promote Swedish heritage. The State of Oregon has designated the festival as an official Oregon Heritage Tradition. Plan now to attend next year’s event as the League of Swedish Societies will celebrate their 100th year hosting the official Oregon Heritage Tradition – a traditional Portland Scandinavian Midsummer.



Midsummer Reflections

Recently the League of Swedish Societies sponsored the 99th Annual Midsummer Festival at Oaks Park. Pause for a moment to reflect on that detail... for nearly 100 years Swedes, Swedish Americans and people of Scandinavian descent have provided an opportunity for people in the Portland area to participate in one of Sweden's most cherished traditions, celebrating Midsummer. Generations of families and friends have come together over the years to raise the majstång, dance and sing around it, enjoy food, and celebrate summer at its height.

The earliest Midsummer celebrations in Portland can be traced back to 1888, when the Swedish Society Linnea was established. On June 24, 1928, the most reported on Midsummer celebration in Portland was organized for



Midsummer Dancers Mid to late 1920's.

the first time by the League of Swedish Societies and took place at Gladstone Park. The main planning and carrying out of the event fell on the members of the League, which was founded just seven months prior in November 1927, by the Swedish Society Linnea, Nobel Lodge, Harmoni Lodge, Alberta Lodge, Skandia, Columbia Male Chorus, Swedish Businessmen's Club, Runeberg Lodge and the Swedish Dance Club.

The overall purpose of the newly formed League was to promote friendship among the various Swedish organizations in Portland. In addition, the League wanted

cooperation among the various groups to put on social events that may be beyond the financial capabilities of the individual societies and represent Portland's Swedish American population at civic events. Today the League is composed of the following five Swedish organizations - Harmoni Lodge #472 (Vasa Order of America), Portland Nordic Chorus, Skandia Lodge Order of the Vikings, Swedish Society of Linnea, and New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society.

In 2018, the League of Swedish Societies' Midsummer Festival was the first midsummer celebration to be designated as an official Oregon Heritage Tradition as registered by the Oregon Heritage Commission. This designation recognizes community events that are more than fifty years old, reflect Oregon's unique character, and have become associated with what it means to be an Oregonian. In 2017, Dave Alford and Robert Basel undertook the necessary steps to get this official designation. Thank you, Dave, for your leadership and we recognize another good deed done by the late Robert Basel.

Special thanks to Leif Rosqvist, prior Editor of the New Sweden Newsletter for historical information on Portland Midsummer.



1928 Midsummer Program.



Member Renewals

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.

☐ 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.

Norse Hall Viking Pancake Breakfast

In the spirit of supporting other Nordic organizations, New Sweden members are encouraged to enjoy a delicious all-you-can-eat Viking pancake breakfast on Sunday, September 13th at Norse Hall. Breakfast is served from 8:30 am - 12 pm, New Sweden members try to meet up around 9:30 am. Enjoy pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage links, fresh fruit, strawberry compote, lingonberries, orange juice and coffee or tea - served in the charming Bergen dining room. There is cafeteria style seating and no reservation is necessary. The price for the breakfast is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 3-10, and free for children under the age of 3. Norse Hall is located at 111 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232. Enter through the Couch Street side door and downstairs to the Bergen dining room. Come, get acquainted and catch up with other New Sweden members. The breakfasts are often fundraisers for other Nordic organizations.

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. The goal is to get a monthly in-person Swedish conversation group taking place and to begin in the fall. A meeting will be set up once we have an idea of interest level and support. If interested send an email to newswedenpdx@gmail.com and indicate your desire to be a part of the conversation group or a Swedish speaker interested in volunteering to assist. We are looking for individuals who are proficient in speaking Swedish to work with us to create this group.

Ole Bolle Birthday Celebration

Join in the fun of celebrating the birthday of Ole Bolle by renowned recycle artist Thomas Dambo. The free fun-filled community event takes place on August 9, from 10 am – 2 pm at Nordia House, 8800 SW Oleson Rd, Portland. The special celebration will feature hands-on crafts and creative activities that encourage imagination, sustainability and play. Families can explore exciting craft stations using recycled and repurposed materials just like materials used to bring Ole Bolle to life. At noon birthday songs will be sung and a birthday treat shared. Come enjoy a day of creativity and eco-friendly fun. Guests are encouraged to register at nordicnorthwest.org and use public transportation or ride sharing services. Parking is limited.



Swedish School in Portland

The Swedish immersion Saturday language and cultural school held its graduation on the morning of June 6 at Augustana Lutheran Church in NE, Portland. The event featured a traditional Swedish summer graduation performance and the children sang Swedish summer songs organized by New Sweden member Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske. Students ages 3 to 12 joined with their family members in the singing of the Swedish summer hymn, "Den blomstertid nu kommer" and the Swedish National Song, "Du gamla du fria." A fika followed the graduation performance.

The goal of the Swedish School in Portland is to develop the students' ability to comprehend, speak, read, and write Swedish. In addition, the students learn about their cultural heritage through songs, traditions, geography, history, and literature. Students at the Swedish School build self-confidence and make friends with other Swedish-speaking children. Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske, has a professional church musician degree from Sweden and is the pre-school classroom teacher and music director at the Swedish School. The New Sweden organization makes an annual contribution to support the Swedish School in Portland.





At Fogelbo, 8740 SW Oleson Road, Portland, Oregon

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

Punch, coffee and water provided by New Sweden; you are welcome to bring an adult beverage

Please bring a dish or dessert (preferably Swedish) to share

Current paid members and their guests.

Adult Member: Crayfish eater \$25 (age 16+), Adult Member: Non-crayfish eater (\$15)

Youth: \$10 (age 4-15), Free: (age 0-3)

Online ticket sales begin Tuesday, July 14 at newsweden.org/events

Purchase tickets and reserve your spot

Ticket sales will conclude on Tuesday, August 11 at 10 pm

Tickets will not be available at the door

When you purchase your ticket please sign-up for one of the volunteer opportunities.

It takes volunteer support to make the evening a success!

Thank you!

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 when you purchase your ticket for the event. Online ticket sales run July 14 - August 11 at newsweden.org. Thank you, members!

It takes all of us to make large events run smoothly and ensure a successful event for all. Special thanks to members who help volunteer at nearly every New Sweden event - Leanne Ritchey, Erik Thorin, Dave Alford, Uta Munger, Eva Moore, Eric Goranson, Christie Peterson-Hogueisson, Ray Wikman, Sara Corbin Winter, Pirjo and Dirk Schulbach. Please check the Events tab on our New Sweden website to purchase your ticket and volunteer.

NNW New Executive Director Coming on Board

Nordic Northwest is excited to announce Andrew Haight as its new Executive Director. Andrew will begin his duties June 29. His appointment follows a thoughtful and collaborative search process shaped by the participation of Nordic Northwest's board, staff, volunteers, community members, and hiring committee, whose care and commitment helped guide this important decision. Andrew brings many years of experience in cultural institutions, education, public engagement, fundraising, and organizational leadership, including his current role as Director of Individual Giving at Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) and previous leadership roles with OMSI and the New York Botanical Garden.

He is inspired by Nordic Northwest's mission, vision, inclusive programming, beautiful campus, and role as a welcoming home for community. Andrew is also an avid cross-country skier who can often be found with his family at Teacup Nordic Center during the winter. He and his wife, Mavia, love exploring the trails, woodlands, and waterways of the Pacific Northwest with their children.

Members are thrilled for this next chapter and excited for the passion, thoughtfulness, and care Andrew will bring to Nordic Northwest's future. Thank you to Brady Jensen, Joanna Caine, Sassa Anders Carver and Alex Tinker who spent many volunteer hours working through an involved process to select the new director.

Curators Visit to Assess Fogelbo Collection

Inga Theissen, Director of Collections from the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, MN, and Laurann Gilbertson, Chief Curator at Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, IA, were invited by Nordic Northwest to assess the Fogelbo Collection for three days in March.



The curators worked on site at Nordic Northwest and Fogelbo, the home of Ross Fogelquist. Each curator is highly regarded as outstanding in their field, and the institutions they represent are very prestigious with comprehensive collections. The first day Theissen and Gilbertson created a category system for the objects in Ross's collection. The aim of the categorization was to ensure that anyone associated with the collection will have the same understanding of the cultural and historical value of the objects. Theissen and Gilbertson worked their way systematically through Fogelbo, assigning categories to most objects.

It was noted that the categories are in no way representative of an object's value (either monetary or historical). Each object can tell a unique story about itself, the way it was made, who made it, where it came from, or who collected it. A few examples of categories used by Theissen and Gilbertson denoted older objects, while another was for objects with traditional form and/or decoration, and another category was for items relating to Ross Fogelquist or the Fogelquist family. Six categories were created in all.

The curators stated that they felt very honored to have the opportunity to experience Ross's collection at Fogelbo. They said that is one of the best private collections of Scandinavian antiques in the country. Theissen and Gilbertson said the objects in the collection have been well cared for, are in good shape and had general recommendations on care of the collection. They stated the condition of

the collection is stable and they have no concerns with the collection remaining on site at Fogelbo until its eventual donation to Nordic Northwest.

Theissen and Gilbertson appreciated the opportunity to work with Ross Fogelquist, NNW staff and volunteers, and the Fogelbo collection. They commented that the deep and broad collection is impressive, as is the amount of information that Ross knows about the individual pieces. They reviewed NNW's Collection Management Policy and stated they have every confidence that the organization will continue to be good stewards of the Fogelbo collection.

Information drawn from *Fogelbo Collection Assessment Report* created by Inga Theissen and Laurann Gilbertson, March 2026 for NNW.

Ross Fogelquist's Birthday and Knighthood Anniversary Celebration

New Sweden hosted an 88th birthday celebration to honor Ross Fogelquist and the 40th Anniversary of his Investiture as a Knight of the Royal Order of the Polar Star First Class. It was a packed Great Hall at Nordia House on Friday May 15, to recognize Ross and some of his lifetime achievements.



Once the Nordia House doors opened guests were drawn to the Great Hall by the lively music. The Leikarringen Dancers, directed by Christie Stilson set the festive mood for the evening. The dancers, dressed in folk costumes, performed their numbers to traditional Scandinavian music. Martin Hulth, a good friend to Ross, emceed the evening.

Sweden's Honorary Consul to OR and WA - Petra Hilleberg traveled from Bellevue to attend the party. Later, Petra shared her thoughts on the evening, "It was such an honor to help celebrate the incredible Ross Fogelquist's 88th birthday! The evening also marked 40 years since Ross received the Nordstjärneorden (Order of the Polar Star) from the King of Sweden – such a well-deserved honor for someone who has done so much for Sweden and the Swedish community over the years. You could really feel how loved and appreciated Ross is, and having nearly 200 people there to celebrate him made the evening so special. A big thank you to New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society for the incredible job organizing it...all the volunteers, and everyone who came to celebrate such a remarkable man. Happiest birthday, Ross!"

So many of Ross's friends generously volunteered their time - from set-up, directing traffic, distributing cake, to clean up - were all part of making the evening a huge success. The smile all evening long on Ross's face told it all. A complete video of the evening's festivities can be found on New Sweden's website, under Events at newsweden.org.



Special word of thanks for helping make the celebration so special:

Petra Hilleberg, Sweden's Honorary Consul to OR and WA

Leikarringen Dancers who performed and served cake, and Director Christie Stilson

Martin Hulth, Emcee

Brady Jensen, NNW Board President

Steve Becker, Ross's former student

Susan Scheslinger, Fogelbo lead docent

Anna-Karin Lindbergh Rednoske, Led the singing of Swedish National Anthem and Birthday Song

Gunilla Admund, Led the singing of Swedish National Anthem and Birthday Song

Deb Kelly, Accordionist

Peter J. Bro, generously donated Broder Söder employee time and beverage service

Casey Currier, Broder Söder Manager, party event coordinator

Broder Söder Staff

Dan Scheslinger, Photographer

Fogelbo Docents, Servers

Ann Grangaard, Flower bouquets

Steve Noble, Digitized VHS tapes

Nordic Northwest, Donated akvavit for birthday toast

Lyssa Kemble, NNW Rental Coordinator

Sue Graham, Paula Inglett and Kristi Gustafson, New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society Board,

Members and Planning Committee

Welcome Hao Ruan to the New Sweden Board Directors!

Hao Ruan recently joined the Board and is a hard-working volunteer at New Sweden events as well as Nordic Northwest. Hao is also a docent at Fogelbo and while giving tours enjoys discussing with visitors the many unique tools in the kitchen. He enjoys the advancements in railroads and train travel, traveling to Scandinavia and doing photography. We're happy to have you on the board!

Goat Market Volunteers Needed – Save the Date – Saturday, November 28, 2026

- Quarter 4 newsletter will include specific volunteer needs
- Volunteers receive **free admission** to the Goat Market

12 New Giant Dambo Trolls on tour of PNW

Calling all troll hunters! New exhibits to open this fall.

<https://ow.ly/CYVR50Z94Gz>



New Sweden
Cultural Heritage Society

P.O. Box 80141

Portland, OR 97280-1141

CHANGE ADDRESS SERVICE

REQUESTED

Upcoming 2026 New Sweden Events

- July 11 - Orienteering: Mount Tabor Classic, details at croc.org, 10:30 - 3 pm
- July 14 - Kraftskiva online ticket sales begin visit newsweden.org/events
- August 9 - Ole Bolle Birthday Party, Nordic Northwest, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- August 11 - Kraftskiva online ticket sales conclude at 10 pm
- August 16 - Kraftskiva Party Fogelbo grounds, 6 - 10 pm for New Sweden members
- September 13 - Viking Pancake Breakfast, Norse Hall, 8:30 am - 12 pm
- October 17 - Orienteering: MS Young State Park Classic, croc.org, 10:30 - 3 pm
- November 28 - Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market, Norse Hall, 9 - 4pm
- December 1 - 31 - Membership Renewal during month of December
- 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