

Upcoming Events



ORIENTEERING
OCTOBER 18



**SCANDINAVIAN
Christmas
Goat Market**
GOAT MARKET
NOVEMBER 28



LUCIA
DECEMBER 5



New Sweden
Cultural Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

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

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New Sweden

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Ute Munger

President's Message

New Sweden members were active this summer – attending the League of Swedish Societies traditional Midsommer celebration at Oaks Park; participating in Ole Bolle's birthday celebration by providing a Swedish centered interactive booth for kids of all ages on the grounds of NNW; and hosting a festive August Kraftskiva party led by the organizing team of Beth Burczak and Sue Graham and Ross Fogelquist. All this was possible because of great volunteers who worked on these events and made them a success.

New Sweden's elections for the board of directors and officer positions will be held in December. If you are interested in running for a position or nominating someone, please contact Ross Fogelquist at newswedenpdx@gmail.com. Ross is serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee at. We would especially like to add board members who have lived in Sweden to serve on the Board.

The project for Ole Bolle's birthday was creatively designed by Sara Winter. Inspiration for the project came from the book *Children of the Forest* by Swedish author Elsa Beskow. Check out the article and photos of the project further in the newsletter. Conversation was sparked about New Sweden starting a book club that could meet monthly. If you are interested in working to develop a Swedish/Nordic book club, please contact me.

The holidays are always an exciting and busy time for New Sweden with events on three consecutive weekends beginning with New Sweden's Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market on Saturday, November 28th. The Goat Market Committee is shifting into high gear as we finalize plans for this year's Market. New

Sweden's Lucia Fest Committee is creating a special program to celebrate the 70th year of the Oregon Lucia. The third weekend is Scan Fair at which New Sweden will be having an information booth. I hope you'll be able to volunteer at one or more of these events to create and enjoy the holiday spirit! Watch for volunteer signup information on our website - newsweden.org, by emails or by visiting the website at SignUp.com.

Kristi Gustafson
kristigus@aol.com

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, no fee, just a desire to improve your Swedish speaking skills. Email Ann Stuller - sasmac@comcast.net to receive the Zoom link and join the group.

Tusen tack! Supporting Swedish Conversation Groups

Language is the foundation of culture and is the main tool that allows people to share values and build a shared identity. The New Sweden Board is very grateful to the people who have worked diligently to keep the Swedish language included in the conversation. A thousand thanks go to Ann and Sid Stuller for their continued work on the Friday afternoon online Swedish class. In addition, Joel Johnson, Ross Fogelquist, Kristi Gustafson, and Sue Graham have worked jointly with Nordic Northwest to create a monthly in-person Swedish conversation Group. Thank you all for your commitment to helping others learn and enjoy the Swedish language.

Norse Hall Night Market

Greig Lodge continues to sponsor Night Markets. They take place inside the historic ballroom at Norse Hall on the second Thursday of each month from 5 - 9pm. Night Markets will happen on the following dates - October 8, November 12 and December 10. Vendors sell an eclectic range of goods. There is something for everyone! If you are interested in selling some of your own items, tables can be rented for \$20. For further vendor information contact: norsemarket@gmail.com. The Landhandel shop will also be open and selling vintage Scandinavian goods. A light dinner is available for purchase and the bar will be open. Free admission. Come check out the Night Market at Norse Hall, 111 NE 11th Avenue, Portland!



Norse Hall Pancake Breakfast



Grieg Lodge hosts their delicious pancake breakfast on Sunday, October 11th at Norse Hall. In the spirit of supporting other Nordic organizations, New Sweden members are encouraged to enjoy a delicious all-you-can-eat Viking pancakes, served with scrambled eggs, sausage links, fresh fruit, lingonberry jam, orange juice and bottomless cups of coffee and tea (cocoa for the kids). Breakfast is served from 8:30 am – 12 pm.

Seating is cafeteria style in the charming Bergen dining room 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 enjoy the best breakfast in town, served with Norwegian hospitality and catch up with other New Sweden members and Norse friends. The breakfasts are often fundraisers for other Nordic organizations.

The Cinema of Ingmar Bergman Film Series

Portland State University Instructor Dr. Tom Birnie will introduce each of the Ingmar Bergman films in the series and lead a discussion on aspects of the film at the end of each session. Ingmar Bergman was one of the most influential film directors of all time, and his works have inspired a host of other filmmakers. Bergman's films evolved in several distinct stages over five decades and reverberate with psychological and philosophical themes that explore the depths of the human psyche.

All films are in Swedish with English subtitles. The course will introduce participants to the major films of Bergman. Among topics to be explored and discussed will be personal relationships, faith, identity, alienation and redemption. An informal workshop format will allow participants to view films, learn about and discuss the works below:

- September 29 - Introduction on Bergman; Crisis (1948)
- October 6 - Thirst (1948)
- October 13 - Smiles of a Summer Night (1955)
- October 20 - Hour of the Wolf (1968)
- October 27 - Autumn Sonata (1978)

Thomas Birnie holds a Ph.D. in German Literature, with a doctoral minor in Scandinavian Studies, from the University of Washington. He has taught Scandinavian subjects at Portland State University since 1990 and is actively engaged in Nordic events locally. The film series is an NNW sponsored event and tickets are available on their website at nordicnorthwest.org.



Evening Swedish Conversation Group – Now a Reality!

New Sweden and Nordic Northwest have created an opportunity for people interested in improving and practicing their Swedish conversation skills, to come together in a friendly and encouraging setting. There are three skill levels – beginning, intermediate and advanced. Participants will be able to self-select their level when they attend. The groups are facilitated either by native speakers or speakers who have lived in Sweden for many years.



The In-Person Swedish Conversation group will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. The first session began on September 9 and had an excellent turnout of participants. The upcoming group sessions will take place on October 14, November 11, and December 9. The conversation begins at 7:00 pm and meets at Nordic Northwest, 8800 SW Oleson Rd, Portland, OR. There is no charge for the conversation

group and no membership is required. Sessions are scheduled through August 11, 2027.

There are several individuals from a variety of Swedish language backgrounds who will be working with the small groups to learn the Swedish language or assist in polishing skills. If you are interested, please sign up on the Nordic Northwest website, information can be found in the Events section or email us at: newswedenPDX@gmail.com, with questions. All conversation levels are welcome. Come ready to speak, listen, learn and have fun in Swedish!

Orienteering Event

The final orienteering event of the season takes place at Mary S. Young Nature Park in West Linn on Sunday, October 18th, 10:30 – 3 pm. The 128-acre park offers a wooded setting along the banks of the Willamette River with features for all to enjoy. The park is also a favorite among urban birders. The course will offer a Classic point to point orienteering format. Map handout begins at 10:30am. The course opens at 11:00 am and all courses close at 3pm. Advanced registration is needed before October 14th, 11:59 pm. Everyone is welcome – members, non-members, and families. Sign up at newswedenpdx@gmail.com. Visit www.croc.org for further information. First timers are encouraged to team up with other New Sweden participants. If you have questions contact Kristi Gustafson, kristigus@aol.com



Vendors • Food • Music

SCANDINAVIAN

Christmas Goat Market

November 28th

2026

9:00-4:00

Norse Hall

111 NE 11th

Portland, OR

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society

Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market

Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market—hosted by the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society—returns to Norse Hall to deliver pure julstämning (that's Yuletide spirit!). Gather your

family and friends to kick off the season by taking in the festive market area filled with handcrafted items and treasures, plus seasonal foods. It all takes place Saturday, November 28, 2026, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at historic Norse Hall, 111 NE 11th Avenue, Portland.

This fifth annual Goat Market will once again offer a large lineup of over 30+ outstanding vendors, many of whom are local artists of Scandinavian descent. Enjoy day-long live entertainment, three floors to explore, and an assortment of Nordic foods available for purchase. Families can enjoy the huge Lego displays, kid-friendly crafts, and live entertainment, while everyone soaks up the cheerful atmosphere of this Scandinavian-themed holiday fest.

Willamette Week's Oregon Winter 2025 magazine named the Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market as "one of the best winter markets" in the Portland area. Tickets available at the door. Prices: \$8 for adults (ages 16 +), \$4 for youth (ages 4 -15), and FREE (3 and under). See you at the Goat Market!



Goat Market Volunteers Needed – Free Admission with Volunteer Shift

Get into the holiday spirit while volunteering at this year's Goat Market. It's a fun way to be part of the festivities while providing support for one of New Sweden's largest events and its primary fundraiser. Plus, admission is free for all volunteers. Volunteers are needed for setup and decorating on Friday, November 27th. And on Saturday, November 28th, we need volunteers as greeters, dining room hosts, door monitors, clean up, and more. Please log onto to sign up for a volunteer shift at [Signup.com](https://signup.com). Your help and participation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Burczak at beth@burczak.com.

Why So Many Goats in Swedish Christmas Traditions?

In Norse mythology, goats were highly revered creatures connected to the gods, fertility, and the harvest. It begins with Thor, who raced across the sky in a chariot pulled by two mighty goats. Thor could kill his goats for food and bring them back to life the next day with his hammer symbolizing renewal. And it was believed that Thor controlled the weather making him a vital god for farmers.



Swedes of old celebrated Jul, the ancient mid-winter festival around the winter solstice. Farmers believed the spirit of the harvest lived in the very last sheaf of grain bundled from the fields. It was believed to bring good luck and fertility for the next year. The sheaf was often shaped into a goat and was kept inside during Jul because it was believed to hold magical properties. It was sometimes called the Julbock.

Folklore held that an invisible goat spirit would roam the farmstead in the weeks leading up to midwinter to oversee that all preparations were done properly. The Jul goat is another pagan Jul symbol that was absorbed into Christian holiday traditions. As Christianity became the norm, the Jul goat remained popular as a trickster figure. It became customary for men of the villages to dress up as the julbock and play pranks on unsuspecting neighbors or be disguised as a visitor bringing holiday gifts to households. The julbock would eventually become the traditional Christmas bringer of candy and gifts, along with the Jultomte, before being replaced by Santa Claus. The Jul goat is an ever-present symbol of the winter holidays in Scandinavian countries.

Today, small straw goats tied with red ribbons are common Christmas tree ornaments and table decorations throughout households of people with Scandinavian descent. Sweden is famous for a massive 43-foot-tall straw julbock built every year in the town square of Gävle. Known as the Gävle Goat, it has become a global media sensation because it is usually burned down by vandals before the end of December.

The Jul goat may already be a tradition within your family, but if not, and you're looking for a way to enhance your traditional Christmas celebration, the Jul goat could be a wonderful addition. Straw Jul goats, tied with red ribbons, and found in various sizes will be available for purchase at the New Sweden booth at the Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market on November 28. Stop by and check them out!

Portland Nordic Chorus Holiday Concerts



Join us for beautiful songs of the season from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden sung in the native languages. The Portland Nordic Chorus will present their holiday concert in the Great Hall at Nordia House on Sunday, November 29 at 4:00 pm. General admission, no reserved seating. Doors open at 3:00 pm with adult beverages available for purchase. Seasonal treats, many home baked, will be provided by the Chorus following the concert. This concert tends to sell out, so buying tickets early is recommended. Tickets will be available on the Nordic Northwest website.

The Nordic Chorus will also be presenting their beautiful songs of the season Christmas concert at Grieg Lodge in Norse Hall on December 5 at 7:00pm. Doors to the Hall will open at 6:30 pm, the Oslo Lounge will open at 5:00 pm. Donations of \$10 per person and \$20 per family are suggested for admission to this beautiful holiday concert. All donations will go directly to the Portland Nordic Chorus. Norse Hall is located at 111 NE 11th Avenue, Portland.

December Means Membership Renewal Time

Membership in the New Sweden organization runs annually January – December. The easiest way to renew your New Sweden membership for 2027 is by visiting the Membership tab 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 2026 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 yet reached 80 years of age, your spouse's paid membership changes to a Single membership. Thank you for your membership renewal.

☐ 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.

Welcome New Members!

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society is excited to welcome Genevieve Keller, Julie and Tim Dexter, and Ralph Stengren. All recently joined New Sweden. The Board and other New Sweden members look forward to getting acquainted with you at upcoming events. Welcome!

New Sweden's Lucia Fest

The annual Lucia Fest is a Swedish celebration of light and hope that marks the Christmas season. Join us on Saturday, December 5, from

3 - 5 pm at Moreland Presbyterian Church for

this cherished holiday tradition. The church is

located at 1814 SE Bybee Blvd. The family

event will feature a traditional procession of

the Lucia Court, singing, and a variety of

performances that bring the magic of the Swedish holiday to life. A

reception follows the program and will feature traditional holiday treats

such as glögg, Scandinavian baked goods, coffee and juice. The event is

hosted by New Sweden will also include dancing around the Christmas

tree and a visit from the Tomte. Admission: Adults \$15.00; Children

(4-12yrs) \$5.00; Children (3 and under) free. Make sure to mark your

calendars as you don't want to miss this special holiday tradition.



Lucia Fest Volunteer Needed

The Lucia Fest Committee needs your help as we prepare for the beautiful and traditional Swedish Lucia Program taking place on December 5th. There are numerous areas where help is needed from the program to the reception. We will meet via Zoom once a month to plan and organize the event. If you would like to help with the Lucia Fest, indicate your interest by emailing: newswedenPDX@gmail.com. Thank you!

Be Part of the Lucia Tradition – Seeking Applicants

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Oregon Lucia program. It has been an Oregon tradition since 1956, the program puts young women with an interest in Nordic heritage in touch with this beloved legend of Scandinavia, while offering them the opportunity to serve their community and



receive scholarships. Nordic Northwest's Official Lucia Scholarship program is currently accepting applications for the 2026-27 Lucia Court. Young women who embody leadership, strength of character, compassion and service hold historic qualities of St. Lucia. The age range for applicants is from 16-20 years of age. Participating in the court offers a deep connection to Nordic heritage. Application deadline is Friday, October 30, 2026. The 2026-27 application can be found on Nordic Northwest's website –

nordicnorthwest.org. The 70th Anniversary Celebration, the Crowning of the 2026 Lucia, and the opening of the Lucia Exhibit will take place at Nordia House on Sunday, November 22, 2026.

Swedish Julotta 2026 – Sunrise Christmas Service

You are invited to participate in a traditional Swedish Christmas sunrise church service in the beautiful and historic First Immanuel Lutheran Church on Friday, December 25, 2026. The service begins at 7:00 am and the church is located at 1816 NW Irving Street, Portland. The service features a Swedish liturgy, Christmas hymns, songs by members of the Portland Nordic Chorus and an appearance by the 2026 Lucia Court. Good strong coffee and pastries follow the service. It is a beautiful and joyous way to experience this day.

Julgrandsplundring Party

With great fanfare, we will wrap-up the holiday season and “throw out the Christmas tree.” An event for all ages is our annual Julgrandsplundring “Christmas tree plundering.” This traditional Swedish event is held close to Saint Knut’s Day January 13, as it is the 20th day of Christmas and is considered the end of the Christmas holidays. The event will take place on January 10th, and you can count on snacks, games and a bit of singing as we “dance away Christmas.” Further information will be forthcoming.



Nordic Coffee Hour Hosted by New Sweden



New Sweden will again be hosting a Nordic Coffee Hour in the new year. Join us to meet new friends, catch up with old ones, and enjoy coffee with traditional Swedish treats. All are welcome to the free Nordic Coffee Hour hosted by New Sweden on February 23, 2027, at Nordia House, 10-11:30 am. Plans are being made to hold a baking event closer to the Coffee Hour date or if you enjoy making Swedish baked goods in your home your help would be greatly appreciated. Please let Kristi Gustafson know of your interest by sending an email to newswedenpdx@gmail.com.

Ole Bolle Birthday Fun

New Sweden hosted a craft table for the third birthday celebration of Ole Bolle which was held on the campus of Nordic Northwest on Sunday, August 9th. The event’s focus was on recycling and reusing. New Sweden member Sara Winter designed an enchanting craft for kids to make at the birthday celebration. Sara drew inspiration for the project from the book, *Children of the Forest*, by the renowned Swedish children’s author and illustrator, Elsa Beskow. The tiny folk of Beskow’s book live inside the roots of an old pine tree. The children wear bright red mushroom caps covered with white spots as they play and interact with forest animals and fairies. Sara, assisted by New Sweden volunteers, helped visitors





created their own *Children of the Forest* inspired lanterns made from mostly recycled materials, complete with a flameless LED candle. While the project was targeted at children, many adults also joined in creating lanterns after reading accompanying posters on the idea and the intent of the project. Special thanks to New Sweden's Ole Bolle birthday volunteers: Sara Winter, Sue Graham, Susan Schlesinger, Kristi Gustafson, Hao Ruan, Carin Landgren and Ann Grangard.

Kräftskiva – The Swedish Crayfish Party

A beautiful August evening welcomed New Sweden members and guests to this year's annual Kräftskiva party on the grounds of NNW. Overhead man-in-the-moon paper lanterns and string lights added to the festive mood, with bibs, hats, crayfish table runners, and flameless candles decorating the long rows of tables. The potluck buffet and dessert tables were brimming with many types of traditional Swedish dishes and sweets. Once folks were seated, platters piled high with crayfish and dill made their entrance. Guests joined in the singing of obligatory Swedish drinking songs as the cozy feel of the evening lingered with the setting sun. Kräftskiva brings our members together for this beloved-end-of-summer tradition. Thank you to everyone for helping make the evening so special.



Thank-you Kräftskiva Volunteers

A huge shout out to all the volunteers who helped make this year's Kräftskiva a great success! Tack så mycket! – Beth Burczak, Chip Burczak, Sue Graham, Glenn Graham, Roger Wallberg, Herje Wikegård, David Kleinke, Eric Goranson, Ute Munger, Ray Wikman, Leanne Ritchey, Hao Ruan, Eva Moore, Gunilla Admundson, Jackie Amberwood, Carin Landgren, Stephen Englund and Elliott, Stefan Nornholm, Ross Fogelquist, Kathy Wilske, Martin Hulth, Kristi Gustafson, Casey Currier, Julie Dexter, and Paula Inglett.





Trollbacken Swedish Camp

This past August campers got to experience the Swedish language in an authentic, fun and immersive way during their week-long stay at Trollbacken. Cultural traditions were learned through crafts, baking, folk dancing, skits, outdoor games, pool time and singing at campfires. Using their new language skills, campers developed confidence as they made friends and enjoyed new experiences. Trollbacken Swedish Camp is held at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center, Corbett, OR and is for children 7 - 13 years of age. The New Sweden organization provided partial scholarships for three camp attendees this past summer. Learning grows naturally at Trollbacken!



As the days get shorter, watch for the arrival of a special New Sweden newsletter holiday edition, featuring the 70th Anniversary of Lucia Queen of Lights, an Oregon tradition since 1956.

**New Sweden**

Cultural Heritage Society

P.O. Box 80141

Portland, OR 97280-1141

CHANGE ADDRESS SERVICE

REQUESTED

Upcoming 2026 New Sweden Events

October 2 - Online Swedish Conversation Group, 4:00 pm
October 9 - Online Swedish Conversation Group, 4:00 pm
October 14 - Swedish Conversation Group, Nordia House, 7 pm
October 16 - Online Swedish Conversation Group, 4:00 pm
October 18 - Orienteering: Mary S Young State Park Classic, www.croc.org, 10:30 - 3 pm
October 23 - Online Swedish Conversation Group, 4:00 pm
October 30 - Online Swedish Conversation Group, 4:00 pm, reoccurs each Friday
November 11 - Swedish Conversation Group, Nordia House, 7 pm
November 28 - Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market, Norse Hall, 9 - 4 pm
December 1 - 31 - Membership Renewal during month of December
December 5 - Lucia Fest, Moreland Presbyterian Church, 3 - 5 pm
December 9 - Swedish Conversation Group, Nordia House, 7 pm
December 12 - 13 - Scan Fair, Oregon Convention Center, 10 am
January 10 - Julgransplundring - Location - TBD
January 13 - Swedish Conversation Group, Nordia House, 7 pm
February 10 - Swedish Conversation Group, Nordia House, 7 pm
February 23 - Nordic Coffee Hour hosted by New Sweden, Nordia House, 10-11:30 am