



# Newsletter

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Volume 145 - Edited by Louise Karnéus

November 2024

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Dear Members,

I hope this letter finds you well and thriving as we transition into a cozy holiday season. As we wrap up another successful summer and autumn, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our achievements and share some exciting news about our upcoming Fall and Winter events.

This past summer has been a remarkable time for our organization. Thanks to your continued support and dedication, we successfully hosted several community events that brought us closer together to share Swedish culture. Highlights included our Kraftskiva party and the 98th Annual Portland Midsummer.

There are two exciting upcoming events that I would like to share. First, we will host the Scandinavian Goat Market at Norse Hall on November 30th (111 NE 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97232). This festive market has quickly become a Portland staple—not only for our loyal Nordic network, but for thousands of holiday shoppers in the PNW. This year we've added many new features such as Early Entry tickets and a quiet coffee room, where guests can enjoy a peaceful fika before rejoining the festivities.

Secondly, we will hold the magical Lucia concert on December 14th at the Moreland Presbyterian Church (1814 SE Bybee Blvd, Portland, OR 97202). This song-filled celebration is a winter event that symbolizes 'bringing light to darkness.' We all know that both Portland and Nordic winters are dark and dreary - but this event is a shining star on the calendar.

My deepest gratitude goes out to our many volunteers who put in countless hours of work to help these events function well. It's always great to work alongside you all!

Warm regards,  
Steven Englund, President



## Upcoming Events



### Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market

Saturday, November 30, 2024, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Norse Hall, 111 NE 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97232

Early Entry: \$16.00 (at 9:00 AM with coffee and treats included), Adults (ages 16+): \$8.00, Children (ages 3-15): \$4.00, Children under 3 free

Tickets are available here for presale: <https://newswedenpdx.square.site/goatmarket2024>, but can also be purchased at the door.

Join us in celebrating the season by supporting local artisans and makers. Take care of your holiday shopping and get into the holiday spirit (*julstämning*) with warm Scandinavian food, drinks, winter wonderland Lego villages, and music as you browse through cozy Norse Hall. Vendors include painters, woodworkers, and various Scandinavian and Scandinavian-inspired food and drinks to take away, as well as food and drinks on site! It is ideal for all ages, with children's craft activities and entertainment on stage throughout the day. This event is proudly organized and presented by New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society, and features booths with goods from many of our fellow Portland organizations serving food and cheer. All are welcome!

The Christmas Goat, or *julbock*, is a familiar fixture in Swedish homes around the holidays (including those of many New Sweden members!). It is now synonymous with Christmas in Sweden, but traces back even before Christianity spread to Scandinavia. The Christmas Goat has its roots in Norse mythology, originally referring to the two goats who pulled Thor in his flying chariot. Over the years, it has morphed into a symbol of the holiday season associated with mischief (dressing up as a *julbock*, or hiding a figurine in your neighbor's house). Decorative *julbockar* are made of straw, and were once associated with the last harvest of grain and the coming of winter. Each year in Gävleborg, an enormous *julbock* is built and, without fail, set on fire. We can't boast quite this level of pyrotechnics at this year's Goat Market, but we hope to see you all there!

**Volunteers are still needed for this event! If you are interested in volunteering at the Goat Market, contact Pam Martin, [martinp97267@gmail.com](mailto:martinp97267@gmail.com).**



## New Sweden's Lucia Fest

Saturday, December 14, 2024, 3:00 - 6:00 PM

Moreland Presbyterian Church, 1814 SE Bybee Blvd, Portland, OR 97202

Adults (ages 12+): \$15.00, Children (ages 4-12): \$5.00, Children under 4 free

Scandinavian tradition holds that in Värmland, Sweden, a white-clad maiden wearing a crown of burning candles and a red sash brought food to starving villagers on the shores of Lake Vänern. On the morning of December 13, the strains of "Santa Lucia" are heard everywhere in Sweden as the maiden comes out of the night with her crown of lighted candles to dispel the darkness, bringing light to the Christmas season. While it was originally a Swedish tradition, it has since spread to the other Scandinavian countries.

You are invited to enjoy a beautiful traditional pageant and music of the season by:

- ❖ The children of the Swedish School of Portland and VASA Youth Group
- ❖ Nordic Northwest's Official 2024 Oregon Lucia Court
- ❖ Portland Nordic Chorus

Following the program there will be the customary singing and dancing around the Christmas tree, a visit by Tomten, glögg, coffee and traditional baked goods! Because of the church size this year we will have a limited amount of tickets available. To ensure you get a chance to attend this once a year spectacular event make sure to purchase your tickets early.

*If you are reading a printed version of this newsletter, please go to <https://www.newsweden.org/events/> to purchase tickets!*



## Past Event: Cooking Class

New Sweden members recently enjoyed a cooking class led by chef Richard Fremark (see rightmost photo below), and organized by Kristi Gustafson! We are so thankful for her work here! The event was well-attended and helped attendees get excited for holidays.





## Past Events: Visits from Petra Hilleberg, Honorary Swedish Counsel

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This year, Nordic Northwest's Oregon Midsummer celebration was held on the grounds of Fogelbo. Petra Hilleberg, the honorary Swedish consul based in Seattle was in attendance. Ross Fogelquist occupied this position previously. Ross is the last serving honorary Vice Consul for Oregon. The Oregon consulate was closed in 2007 after 110 years of operation. The photo on the left shows Ross and Petra standing together behind Fogelbo itself, Ross' world-famous Steiner cabin, a symbol of Swedish (and Scandinavian) life

in the Pacific Northwest. The event was vibrant with Fogelbo as backdrop. This was also the first year that Ole Bolle, Thomas Dambo's famous troll sculpture, was able to partake in the festivities (you can read more about Thomas Dambo on page seven of this newsletter).

Petra also returned to Portland and participated in a special event organized by New Sweden. New Sweden organized a special reception at the West Hills Unitarian Fellow church. The Honorary Consuls from Germany, Austria, and Finland attended as well. Broder Cafe provided delicious food, and in addition to remarks from the Consul, local Swedish entertainers performed as well. The busy consul had made a special trip to Portland to meet the Swedes and Swedish Americans community members.



## Past Event: League of Swedish Societies' Midsommar

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On June 15, Oaks Park came alive with the vibrant colors and joyous atmosphere of a Swedish Midsommar celebration, shared with the member organizations of the League of Swedish Societies. Midsommar is a centuries-old tradition in Sweden that marks the summer solstice, and our event is the longest-running in the state of Oregon. This marked its 98th year!

The event in the park was a delightful blend of authentic Swedish customs and local charm. Families and friends gathered around a beautifully decorated maypole, adorned with fresh flowers and greenery, to perform traditional ring dances.



The air was filled with laughter and the sweet scent of wildflowers as attendees of all ages wove their own flower crowns. Traditional Swedish dishes like pickled herring, potatoes with dill, and strawberry cake were shared, creating a true feast for the senses. Many thanks to the Swedish groups that put this event together, and to Steven Englund for chairing and working hard to keep the celebration alive. We are eagerly awaiting the centennial, just around the corner!



### Past Event: New Sweden's Kräftskiva

This past August, New Sweden members gathered at the home of Hans and Anna Lundin for a traditional *kräftskiva*, or crayfish party. The space was transformed into a festive wonderland, adorned with colorful paper lanterns and whimsical crayfish-themed decorations. Long tables were set up and covered with vibrant tablecloths and decorated with playful party hats and bibs featuring crayfish motifs. The star of the evening was, of course, the mountain of bright red crayfish, perfectly seasoned and utterly delicious, provided to us by Bröder cafe. Guests eagerly peeled and savored the succulent crustaceans, accompanied by crisp bread, sharp cheese, and plenty of *snaps*. The *kräftskiva* was a delightful celebration of Swedish culture and cuisine, bringing a taste of Scandinavian summer to our community.





Though Ole Bolle has spent nearly a year on Fogelbo's campus, we wanted to take this opportunity to share a bit more about his troll siblings, scattered across the globe! Most of us know by now that Ole Bolle is a sustainable troll sculpture designed by Danish artist Thomas Dambo. Thomas Dambo is renowned for his colossal wooden sculptures that blend seamlessly with nature. His work primarily focuses on creating giant trolls like Ole Bolle (pictured on the bottom right corner of this page) from recycled materials, particularly scrap wood. These impressive sculptures, often hidden in forests or parks, encourage people to explore nature and contemplate the relationship between humans and the environment.

Dambo's artistic vision combines storytelling, sustainability, and community engagement, making his installations both visually striking and thought provoking. Each troll has its own name and backstory, forming part of Dambo's narrative. These sculptures, some reaching heights of up to 30 feet, are meticulously constructed using recycled wood, old pallets, and other discarded materials. The artist often involves local communities in the creation process, fostering a sense of ownership and connection to the work.

Beyond his troll sculptures, Dambo's portfolio includes a variety of other large-scale installations and projects that promote recycling and environmental awareness. Outside of Scandinavia, his work is featured in the United States, South Korea, and Australia, bringing his message of sustainability to a global audience. Through his art, Dambo not only transforms discarded materials into beautiful, whimsical creations but also inspires viewers to reconsider

their relationship with waste and the natural world. His unique approach to public art continues to captivate audiences worldwide, encouraging environmental stewardship through creativity and imagination.



*A landskap is the closest Swedish equivalent to a State—these are overlapping provincial titles referring to geographic regions. “Län” is a similarly-used word referring to a political or governmental division of the country, and landskap refers to a purely geographic division and is known for a broader cultural identity. Of course, each landskap has distinctive traits and cultural and geographical diversity, yet are often boiled down to stereotypes (just like our American states). In each newsletter, we’ll explore a new one.*

Stockholm is Sweden’s largest city and its capital, a hub for Sweden’s history and culture, and most international visitors’ getaway to the rest of Sweden. Stockholm’s origins can be traced to its strategic location on 14 islands where Lake Mälaren meets the Baltic Sea. According to legend, the city was founded by Birger Jarl in 1252, although archaeological evidence suggests earlier settlements in the area. The name "Stockholm" is believed to come from the words "stock" (log) and "holm" (islet), possibly referring to a log boom in the strait between what is now Gamla Stan (the Old Town) and the mainland.

Throughout the medieval period and beyond, Stockholm grew in importance as a trade center. The city's location made it a natural hub for commerce between the Baltic region and the rest of Europe. The Old Town (Gamla Stan), with its narrow cobblestone streets and well-preserved buildings, still stands as a testament to this era. In the 17th century, Sweden rose as a major European power, and Stockholm flourished as the capital of the Swedish Empire. This period saw the construction of many grand palaces and public buildings, reflecting the city's growing wealth and influence.

Stockholm's culture is deeply rooted in Swedish traditions while embracing modernity and innovation. The city is renowned for its museums, with over 100 institutions covering a wide range of subjects. The Nobel Prize ceremonies and banquet, held annually in Stockholm, highlight the city's commitment to science, literature, and peace. Stockholm's cuisine scene blends traditional Swedish fare with international influences, and the concept of "fika" - a coffee break often accompanied by pastries - is an integral part of daily life, with countless cafes (the *kanelbullar* and *kardamambullar* at the city's best spots are unmissable). The city's design aesthetic, characterized by simplicity, functionality, and elegance, has had a significant impact on global design trends.

Today, Stockholm stands as a city of national and global significance. As Sweden's political, economic, and cultural center, it plays a crucial role in shaping the country's future. On the international stage, Stockholm is recognized as a leader in sustainability, consistently ranking among the world's greenest cities. It's also a hub for technology and innovation, with a thriving startup scene that has produced global companies like Spotify and Klarna. My own visits to Stockholm have taken me to museums large and small, some unlike any others in the world. The Abba museum lets you dance with a hologram of the band, and the Vasa museum next door has a full Swedish naval ship on display indoors, recovered from the bottom of the city's harbor centuries after it sank on its first voyage. Skansen, an open air museum, offers a window into Swedish life throughout the centuries. Stockholm's commitment to social welfare, environmental sustainability, and technological advancement makes it a model for urban development worldwide, cementing its position as an influential global city in the 21st century.



Above: a row of houses on a quieter street in Old Town (Gamla Stan)



Below, left: A 1720 cottage on Skeppargränd, a street in Södermalm  
Below, right: A hall of sculptures at Carl Eldhs Ateljémuseum





Stockholm is easily navigable on foot, by bus and subway, and even occasionally by boat! I have spent a lot of time there, staying with Swedish friends and family over the years, and want to share some of my favorite spaces in the city. My interests lean towards museums, design, and of course, food. Aside from the major museums and attractions mentioned in the article above, here are some other neighborhoods and spots.

**Gamla Stan** - This translates literally to “Old Town”, featuring the Royal Palace and Nobel Prize museum. The shops here will tend to be a bit more expensive, somewhat inauthentic, and geared towards tourists, but walking around is still worth it for the color scheme and beautiful old buildings (the color scheme and style are strictly enforced by city codes). Get lost in the streets: Marten Trotzigs grand is stockholms thinnest street, and makes for a fun photo opportunity. In Storatorget, the large central square in this area, check out the building at the southwest corner to see a cannonball lodged in the facade. There are many legends surrounding it, the most prominent of which is that it was launched by Gustav Vasa at the Danish King Cristian II while he occupied the city. To eat, Sillkafé is unmissable!

**Östermalm** - Östermalm is seen as rather ritzy, with many small Swedish design studios and shops. Svenskt Tenn is a must if you are interested in furniture and textiles. This multi-floor store on the waterfront has nearly the full design range with beautiful staged rooms and even some exhibits. Stora Bagariet, right next door, is a busy bakery with great *kanelbullar*, *kardamambullar*, and lunch fare. Over nearer to Norrmalm, Svensk Hemslöjd is a great place to pick up souvenirs, including linens, wood carvings, and prints. Östermalm’s Saluhall is an indoor food market with many excellent options for traditional Swedish fare. The Royal Theatre, National Library, and Army Museum are all in Östermalm as well; plenty of attractions to break up shopping and dining. The National Museum and Stockholm’s Moderna Museet are technically a bit south of this neighborhood on the island of Skeppsholmen, but within walking distance.

**Södermalm** - Södermalm is an island south of the city center, made up of multiple neighborhoods. It’s a hip area for shopping, particularly vintage wear and galleries, including the famous Hörnstull Market. The area was once mostly factories, farms, and a home to the working class (in contrast to Gamla Stan’s merchant class). Starting from Slussen Bus/Metro Station, you can take a walk through a fascinating area of Stockholm where new meets old, a perfect walking tour to get a taste of the city throughout centuries. Start with the Stockholm City Museum, or just stroll down Götgatan past Mosebacke Torg and Mosebacke Water Tower. Continue down Svartensgatan past Drottningen Quarter and Katarina Church. Then walk down Fjällgatan and check out views over Stockholm, finally cutting up to Skeppargränd (a must-see street!) and onward to Bondegatan. Climb up Vita Bergen to Sofia Kyrka, the highest point on Södermalm, and finally head down the other side to the hip Neighborhood of SoFo (South of Folkstullsgatan) for window shopping. Meatballs for the People is a great restaurant at the end of this walk. A little touristy, but excellent quality and variety. If you are on the other end of Södermalm, exploring Hörnstull, vintage shops and galleries on Hornsgatan, and perhaps even prison-turned-beach at Långholmen, Torget is a great restaurant as well.

**Vasastan** - Another hip neighborhood just barely north of the city center, Vasastan would be a great base if you were hoping to stay somewhere a bit more laid back, but still very near the heart of the city. Food here is some of the best in the city. Lilla Ego, Grus Grus, Babette, and the exceptional *kardamambullar* at Bergstrand’s Bageri are all worthwhile stops. Upplandsgatan, just south of Odenplan (the central station for this neighborhood) boasts an excellent array of antique shops for curios and Swedish goods. North of the neighborhood is Hagaparken, a vast and scenic park on a lake. Carl Eldh’s Ateljémuseum is one of my favorites in Stockholm. Carl Eldh was a Swedish sculptor and this was once his studio. It is a lovely and lived-in art space with interesting tours in English and Swedish.







Forging a post-industrial future in Sweden's "pleasure garden" -  
How new industries, movies and music have given Mälardalen a much-needed  
confidence boost in recent years (by Jimmy Granström)

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World-famous Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf dubbed the Swedish landskap Södermanland (often abbreviated Sörmland) "Sweden's pleasure garden". Perched on the southern shores of Lake Mälaren and spreading across varied terrain spanning beaches, deep forest and meadowland, the natural beauty of the region is undeniable. It also hosts an impressive number of centuries-old castles and manor houses, including Harpsund which has been the Swedish prime minister's country retreat since 1952 and the site for meetings with everyone from Nikita Khrushchev to Volodymyr Zelenskyy since then. It has also given its name to Harpsund Democracy, which is (was) the Swedish practice of regular tripartite consultation between government, trade unions and businesses on major policy decisions. The practice has declined since the 1990s and is no longer a formal part of policymaking, but the term "Harpsund democracy" still describes this phenomenon in Sweden.

Sörmland is part of a region often referred to as Mälardalen (Mälaren Valley), known for its magnificent nature and history dating back to the Iron Age, including Sörmland's neighboring landskap Västmanland with as many as 20,000 ancient remains. Sörmland and Västmanland have also made significant contributions to Swedish popular culture, from Sörmland's largest town Eskilstuna's musical sensation "Kent" - considered the most successful Swedish language rock band of all time - to the 2018 blockbuster movie "Tårtgeneralen (The Cake General)" which takes place in the small town of Köping in Västmanland. In the film, we are transported back to 1984, when author and TV host Jan Guillou dubbed Köping "the dullest town in Sweden" on the popular show "Rekord-Magazinet". Resident Hasse Pettersson (Mikael Persbrandt) refuses to allow his new home to become the subject of a national joke and sets off on a mission to create the world's largest sandwich cake for a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. The movie initially paints a bleak picture of a town that has given up hope, which has recently also often characterized large parts of the region as a whole due to its diminished status from an industrial powerhouse of the past to a less prominent post-industrial present. However, in recent years, new industries such as recycling – and the secondhand mall ReTuna in Eskilstuna in particular - has given Sörmland a much-needed boost. To understand the region's contrasts between natural beauty and urban struggles, we must understand its past and how it came to shape its present.



God Jul och gott nytt år, vänner!



A very happy holiday season to all our members and their families.

We hope to see you in the holiday season!

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society

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