

Upcoming Events



**ANNUAL MEETING
SWEDISH EASTER**
MARCH 30



VALBORG
APRIL 30



MIDSUMMER
JUNE 14



New Sweden
Cultural Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

PO Box 80141, Portland, OR 97280

<https://www.newsweden.org>

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President's Message

Hello New Sweden Members,

First things first: thank you for an amazing 2024! Last year was one of the busiest years for our organization and we could not have done it without you! New Sweden had many events throughout the year and we called upon you, our supporters, to jump in and help out. Wow oh wow did you show up! From the home-cooked dishes at the annual members meeting to the early morning fire for the crayfish boil, to the dozens of volunteers who worked tirelessly for our Christmas Goat Market and Lucia Fest; the collaborative efforts of New Sweden members, families, and friends have really helped to make a difference! Because of your hard work, we have been able to make contributions to local groups such as Trollbacken Summer Camp and The Portland Swedish School.

I have been doing a lot of thinking about culture and the importance of sharing culture. Swedish culture is bright, vibrant and historical. For me, the best part is when I share it with someone new. Like when I see the delight in someone's eyes as they taste glögg for the first time ... or when I talk with other friends, more versed in the Swedish ways, about which is the best Swedish recipe. It's part of New Sweden's mission to preserve and share Swedish culture, which is more important than ever in today's modern, fast-paced world. Symbolically speaking of course: by taking the time to slowly sip that warm wine and chat together ... sharing culture of the past ... I believe we are better suited to move forward into the future. In talking about where we are from and who we were, we can become inspired about where we are going and who we want to be!

The past couple of years have been a time of solid growth for both our membership and our board. We have filled our

secretary position but we are still looking for help in our membership department, specifically someone who can help with outreach or marketing. It's a great role for a social person!

Our board is almost done setting the calendar dates for the year, so please make sure to keep an eye on our website and social media as we announce each event. It's going to be a wonderful 2025!

Tack så mycket!
Steven Englund, President

Annual Membership Meeting and Swedish Easter Celebration

One of the first events of the year for New Sweden members is the annual membership meeting. It will be held on Sunday, March 30 at the West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Road, from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. There will be a short business meeting, followed by a simple celebration in anticipation of Swedish Easter, which falls on Sunday, April 20. Some food and beverages will be provided. All members are welcome: there is no charge. It's a wonderful, relaxed opportunity to meet other members of the organization. Further details to follow via email. Hope to see you there.

Valborg Celebration

New Sweden will be hosting a festive Valborg Celebration on the evening of April 30th. The event will take place at West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Road, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. Valborg is a Swedish tradition that marks the arrival of spring and is celebrated with bonfires, songs, and speeches. Not sure how many speeches may be given, but there will be a symbolic fire, and singing; some beverages and food will be provided. Watch for further information via email.

League of Swedish Societies Portland Midsummer Festival

Once again the League of Swedish Societies presents the Portland Midsummer Festival at Oaks Park. Gather your family and friends and join the League as we celebrate the 98th annual raising of the Majstång, an official Oregon Heritage Tradition. The League and club members started the annual tradition in 1926, following the Swedish tradition of celebrating Summer Solstice. Mark your calendar for this fun event:

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Pictures of Past Events



- Oaks Park, June 14th, 2025, 11 am-4 pm
- Food, desserts, and beverages available for purchase
- Entertainment for the whole family
- Favorite Midsummer games including tug-of-war
- Live music with some of your favorite musicians
- Flower crowns and additional activities for kids of all ages
- Raising of the Majstång
- Admission is a \$2.00 donation
- Parking \$5 per car and meters are located throughout the parking area



Volunteers Needed for Midsummer Food Booth

New Sweden volunteers help staff the food booth during the League of Swedish Societies Midsummer Celebration at Oaks Park. We are looking for six to eight volunteers to staff the food booth. Shifts will run two hours in length beginning at 10:00 am. Contact Bruce Tolonen at (503)255-8018 for further information and to select a shift in the food booth. And thank you for supporting this fun Swedish tradition.

Congratulations Bob Peterson!



New Sweden member Bob Peterson was recently nominated for Scandinavia of the Year. The award is one of the most prestigious Nordic awards given to an individual by Nordic Northwest and is presented annually. It recognizes outstanding achievement and public service within the local Nordic community. Being nominated is, in itself, an incredible honor.

"I was surprised and a bit shocked," Bob stated, "that my name was even brought up for consideration. It was an honor and a humbling experience. When you consider the large number of Scandinavian people in the Portland area who are contributing to the community in all sorts of ways. I was humbled to even be considered and felt that I was not deserving, as there are many Scandinavians that should receive this award before me."

Bob is also one of the Forest Trolls at Fogelbo and joins other Troll volunteers to work on the grounds every Tuesday morning rain or shine. If you happened to walk the grounds of Fogelbo last summer you may have noticed the thriving vegetable garden. It is just one of the many things that Bob set out to fix or improve. Bob was recently the recipient of the 2024 Troll of the Year. Grattis and tack så mycket Bob for the time and energy you put into making a difference in our community.

Thank You All!

A BIG shout out to New Sweden members. For every event put on by the New Sweden organization there is a group of amazing volunteers who give their time and talents to everything that needs to get done. Plans are made, food is prepared, tables are decorated, tickets are sold, music is organized, and through it all friendships are made. It is you that makes this organization so special. Thank you!

Additional Thanks to:

- Departing New Sweden Board members: Tanaka Axberg, Louise Karnéus
- Casey Currier and Broder Söder
- Ross Fogelquist
- Kristi Gustafson and Goat Market volunteers
- Christina Nieman and Lucia Fest volunteers
- Sara Winter and the Lucia Court



Upcoming 2025 New Sweden Events

- **March 29** - Orienteering: Stub Steward State Park Classic, details at croc.org, 10:30 am - 3 pm
- **March 30** - Annual Membership Mtg, West Hills United Universalist Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Rd., Portland, 2 - 5 pm
- **April 19** - Orienteering: Mt Tabor Classic, details at croc.org, 10:30 am - 3 pm
- **April 30** - Valborg Celebration on the grounds of West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 8470 SW Oleson Road, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, watch for further information via email
- **May 18** - Orienteering: Hamilton Island Classic, details at croc.org, 10:30 am - 4 pm —in conjunction with Portland Swedish School
- **June 14** - League of Swedish Societies Midsummer Festival, Oaks Park, 11 am - 4 pm
- **July 12** - Orienteering: Willamette Mission State Park Classic, details at croc.org, 10:30 am - 3 pm
- **August 9** - Kräftskiva Party on the grounds of Fogelbo
- **September 27** - Orienteering: Champoeg State Park Classic, details at croc.org, 10:30 am - 3 pm
- **November 29** - Scandinavian Christmas Goat Market, Norse Hall, 10 am - 4 pm
- **December 13** - Lucia Fest, Moreland Presbyterian Church, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- **December 13-14** - Scan Fair, Oregon Convention Center

* Cookie and Craft Events - TBA

* Soup Night - TBA

For more information, please visit <https://www.newsweden.org/events/>

Please note:

Email updates will be shared with members regarding event information that develops after the Quarterly newsletter has been printed and shared with membership.

DEADLINE FOR 2nd QTR NEWSLETTER: content to Paula.Inglett@ gmail.com by April 30th

Swedish Conversation Group - Samtalsgruppen - A Recurring Event

On Fridays a Swedish language conversation group meets via Zoom at 4:00 pm. The group is a comfortable place for anyone with beginning level skills in Swedish and no required homework. All one needs is a desire to improve their speaking skills. Getting comfortable speaking aloud is one of the most difficult parts of learning any language. Email Ann Stuller, sasmac@comcast.net to receive the Zoom link and join in the fun.

2025 Orienteering Season Is About to Begin!

by Kristi Gustafson

Orienteering is the sport of land navigation. It began in Sweden and has spread around the world. A course is laid out, participants use map reading skills, and a compass to locate checkpoints marked on the map, and return to 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 usually four different distances and skill levels, so beginners and experienced participants can all enjoy the event. The course can be completed as a group or individually. Following the event participants usually gather to celebrate their accomplishments and socialize.

On Sunday, May 18th, New Sweden participants will join with those from the Swedish School and meet up at Hamilton Island. The trailhead is located on the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge near Bonneville Dam. It is a stunning location with the Cascade Mountains towering over the mighty Columbia River. Following the CROC event, likely around 2:00 pm, folks will gather at a nearby picnic area, enjoy a hosted BBQ picnic and play Kubb. New Sweden members are invited to come and enjoy the picnic even if they have not participated in the orienteering event. New Sweden will reimburse event participants for their registration fee when course completed documents are submitted.

2025 Upcoming Orienteering Events, 10:30 am - 3:00 am

- Saturday, March 29 - Stub Steward State Park Classic
- Saturday, April 19 - Mt Tabor Classic
- Sunday, May 18 - **Hamilton Island Classic, New Sweden & The Swedish School**
- Saturday, July 12 - Willamette Mission State Park Classic
- Saturday, September 27 - Champoeg State Park Classic

No matter your skill level, mark your calendar for the 2025 CROC events. Join us!

If you are interested in learning more about Orienteering, helpful information can be found on the Columbia River Orienteering Club's website. Be sure to check it out!

It Is With Great Sadness...

Anna Lundin, a mainstay of the Portland Scandinavian community and a long time New Sweden Board member passed away on February 10, 2025. Many people came to know Anna over the years through her involvement and leadership within the Scandinavian community. Anna helped organize and direct many New Sweden events over the years. She also led Dalmålning painting classes and for years met regularly with her painting group. She was also a long time volunteer with the Forest Trolls at Fogelbo. Anna was a friend to many and had a knack for adding extra touches to anything she got involved with during her life. She excelled as a hostess illuminating her cozy Swedish decor with many candles and creating delicious meals for friends and family. She has been described as a Swedish force and will be greatly missed. Anna is survived by her husband Hans, son and daughter-in-law Markus and Nikki and their child, and son Patrik. Condolences can be sent to New Sweden, PO Box 80141, Portland, OR 97280. Executive board members will ensure that Hans and family receive your cards.



Seeking National and Regional Nordic Folk Costumes



A group of dedicated volunteer docents who lead quarterly tours at Fogelbo are seeking traditional folk and national dress costumes from Nordic countries. The docents are building a small costume collection that can bring an additional cultural and educational aspect to the tours. Female and male garments are welcome in any condition. If you would like to donate a folk costume contact Paula Inglett at (503)810-7097. A pickup of the items will be arranged. Please include your name, address and any pertinent information regarding the family history of the costume. The contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Ole Bolle has a New Cousin!

Thomas Dambo's most recent troll creation is located in Solvang, California. The troll's name is Lulu Hyggelig and she can be found inside the California Nature Art Museum.

The whimsical and wonderful troll has a keen appreciation for all things sweet and cozy. Lulu Hyggelig resides in the Michele Kuelbs Tower Gallery, waiting "patiently for pastry..."

Lulu Hyggelig is the first permanent troll in California created by the Danish artist. The troll is located in a tower at the museum. Dambo's trolls are known for spreading the word about conservation and recycling. Welcome to the family, Lulu Hyggelig!



Portland Swedish School

The New Sweden organization provided free booth space to the Portland Swedish School during the Goat Market this past November. Access to the space allowed the school to sell raffle tickets, promote the school's activities and recruit participants.

Trollbacken

New Sweden continues its annual support of Trollbacken with a donation of \$2,000 to the camp this year. The summer camp offers a unique opportunity for kids ages 7-13 to learn about the language, culture, people, music and traditions of Sweden. Further information can be found at trollbacken.org



Membership Coordinator Needed

The New Sweden organization is in need of a Membership Coordinator. Duties include updating member rolls, maintaining the database, emailing new members to welcome them into the organization, assisting with requests for volunteers, and reaching out to past members inviting them to rejoin. The coordinator can serve as a point of contact for current and prospective members, answering questions and providing support as needed. Familiarity with spreadsheets will be beneficial. Training will be provided. It is a board position with New Sweden board meetings taking place once a month via Zoom. The position is a great way to connect with new and old members alike. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

New Sweden Membership Renewals are DUE

Each January membership renewal takes place. If you have already renewed your membership, **"Thank you!"** Welcome to another year of New Sweden events and fellowship.

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

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

You can also pay with a check by mailing the form on page 9 of this newsletter with your check.

The Membership Roster will be updated April 1, 2025. If dues go unpaid you will be removed from the roster. Don't hesitate, renew today. We don't want to lose you!

Please Note: If you turned 80 years young in 2024 or earlier, and have been a member of New Sweden for at least three years, you have been elevated to Lifetime status. Which means no more dues to pay. **However,** you still need to fill out the Membership form each year in January in order for your Membership to stay active. If you have a Family Membership and your spouse has not reached that golden level yet, your membership changes to a Single membership.



Smederna (Eskilstuna) Eskilstuna coat of arms Duke Carl

In the last newsletter, we read an excerpt of Jimmy Granström's article "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". In this newsletter, we will get to learn a bit more about the town Eskilstuna in Sörmland.

The Sheffield of Sweden

Sörmland's long industrial history dates back to the 16th century and is clearly showcased with the statue "Smederna (The Blacksmiths)" which can be seen on the main square Fristadstorget in Sörmland's biggest town Eskilstuna. Its history dates back to medieval times when English monk Saint Eskil made "Tuna" his base and diocese of the south coast of Lake Mälaren. Saint Eskil was stoned to death by the pagan vikings of the neighboring town Strängnäs, 30 kilometers (19 miles) east of Eskilstuna, when he tried to convert them to Christianity. Eventually Tuna merged with the trading place Fors on the other side of Eskilstuna River, forming the town Tunafors.

The first steps towards Eskilstuna's industrial boom was taken in the 16th century by Duke Carl (later King Karl IX), the only son of Gustav Vasa to have inherited his father's interest in the iron industry. He appreciated the value of his mines, paddling furnaces, and foundries, continuing his father's work while developing his iron companies. One of his inherited commitments was a collection of smithies, each over a century old, in Tunafors. Here, Duke Carl found all the supplies that he needed to manufacture iron products on a large scale. At the end of the 16th century, he opened workshops in this little community to manufacture nails, which were in high demand in vast quantities in those days. Soon, weapons – such as halberds, pistols, and muskets – also became some of Tunafors' staple products. The name Tunafors was changed to Eskilstuna in 1739, and the city grew enormously during the Industrial Revolution and became one of the most important industrial cities of Sweden, earning the nickname "Stålstaden ("The City Of Steel"). Aside from firearms, the city also produced superior carpentry and wood carving chisels, cutlery, scissors, keys, machine tools and precision instruments. As a tribute to the steel industry, the figure of a steel worker is included in the city's coat of arms. Eskilstuna is sometimes called "The Sheffield of Sweden". At their peaks, both cities were home to numerous steel production companies.

Watch the website for complete article in the near future.



New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society Membership Form

About the New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society Membership

With your membership, you will receive our quarterly newsletter. You will also receive discounts at some events. For information on upcoming events, please visit newsweden.org/events.

New Sweden's newsletter covers all of our quarterly activities including; events, meetings, and activities. Our newsletter also entertains personal and historical stories and articles.

Be prepared to enjoy the many benefits of membership in New Sweden, most especially the opportunity to share with others your interest in preserving the traditions of Sweden in America!

First Name	<input type="text"/>	Last Name	<input type="text"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>		Phone	<input type="text"/>	
City	<input type="text"/>	State	<input type="text"/>	Zip Code	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>	E-mail	<input type="text"/>		

New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society membership levels

- Select one
- Basic/Single - \$25 a year
 - Senior Couple (over 65 years of age) - \$40 a year
 - Household/Family - \$45 a year

Comments

Make checks payable to 'New Sweden'
Please send payment and completed membership form to:

New Sweden Membership
Attention: Treasurer
P.O. Box 80141
Portland, Oregon 97280

Pay online at
newsweden.org/membership

Membership Information and Questions

www.newsweden.org

As of February 2025, please direct all membership questions to:

newswedenpdx@gmail.com

Welcome to New Sweden!

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST PRINTED NEWSLETTER UNLESS YOU ARE CURRENT IN MEMBERSHIP DUES OR A LIFETIME MEMBER.

P.O. Box 80141
Portland, OR 97280

CHANGE ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Photos of Past Events

