Celebrate Sweden the Club Way

Sveriges nationaldag, June 6, was celebrated for the first time in 1916, marking the day in 1523 that Gustav Vasa, founder of the Swedish nation, rode into Stockholm to be crowned king, ending the Kalmar Union with Denmark. The day also commemorates the establishment of the Swedish constitution in 1809.

Nowadays on June 6, the King presents flags to various service organizations, the flag is flown on all public flagpoles and buildings, and there are parades, music and speeches in most communities. If you own a Swedish flag, you surely ought to display it on June 6.

Here at the Swedish Club, our National Day celebration will be spread over two days, with a dinner on Friday, June 5, and our annual car show on June 6. While Gustav Vasa probably rode a horse into Stockholm, somehow the idea of arrival, even by car, seems appropriate. And we wouldn’t be Americans, would we, unless we added our own touch to the celebration?

Our special celebration at the Center will include:

- On June 5, a concert by the Swedish Women’s Chorus and Svea Male Chorus. Fresh off their performance at Folklife, the women will sing many of the songs they performed at Seattle Center, with the addition of the men and some patriotic songs too. After the 6 p.m. concert in our lobby, we’ll go upstairs for a 7 p.m. salmon dinner by Chef Malin Jonsson, with strawberries for dessert. Honorary Consul Lars Jonsson will provide his annual report on the State of Sweden and announce our Swede of the Year for 2015. The dinner is $25. Please send in your reservation by June 3.

- On June 6, we’ll enjoy our annual Swedish car show with voting on Best Volvo, Best Saab, Best American Car and People’s Choice. Bar open from noon to 2 p.m. for smörgås sandwiches and beverages. Be sure to check out the display cases on the ground floor for the fabulous exhibit on Swedish cars. Thanks to Gary Ramstad for heading up the car show.

Our Mission

To promote better understanding between the United States and the Nordic countries, with emphasis on Sweden, and to perpetuate Nordic culture and traditions through the teaching, observance, practice and celebration of this culture and its traditions.
**Club Notes**

A frequent question asked of me is “What are you doing to bring young people into the Club?” My polite response is along the lines of “Well, plenty, but first let me ask you. I bet you think that young people joining in 2015 will ensure the Club’s stability in 20 years?” I then assure them that we have numerous opportunities tailored to young people: we’re active on Facebook and Instagram; we have live music at least twice a month; we offer lower-cost “Viking” memberships for anyone up to the age of 29, as well as our new Social memberships; and we host special events such as ABBA Night in April, attended by over 400 people, and Eurovision in May, also well attended. Furthermore, we invite young people to volunteer, to serve on committees and on the Board, and so on.

Then the questioner and I usually go on to discuss what young people bring to the Club. For me, it’s the value of a multigenerational community as well as new ideas and fresh planning. But despite the good intentions behind this frequent question, bringing young people into the Club is not a guarantee of our stability in the future. The active people who are joining the Board, heading committees, donating money and shouldering a lot of the work around the Club are in their 50s, 60s and up. People toward the end of their careers and retired people have more time and more interest. When today’s 30-somethings are 50-somethings, they too will treasure their Nordic heritage and appreciate what a community such as the Swedish Club has to offer. Here at the Club, we love to have members of all ages around and involved in whatever way they want to participate. As we move into the future, I know that new retirees will also be here to keep the Club running, while new young people will be here to keep it lively.

Kristine Leander, Executive Director
kristine@swedishclubnw.org

**President’s Message**

Maybe you’ve seen the new signs around the Swedish Club with a Dala horse, cocktail and open-faced sandwich? They were created to promote a new category of membership at the Club: Social members.

Executive Director Kristine Leander and the Membership Committee continue to work to grow the Club’s membership, and recently the committee suggested this new category of membership. They recognized that some people want to enjoy the Club’s food, beverages and the view from the Crown Room—and maybe read the Swedish Club News—without the cost and commitment of a full membership. Many of those folks are willing to forgo the numerous other benefits of membership as long as they’re free to eat, drink and socialize at the Club. And so, Social memberships were created, for an annual fee of $25.

Of course, our other categories of membership still exist, along with their associated privileges: discounts on events, such as the monthly Swedish Pancake Breakfast and the recent 90th birthday party for Stan Boreson; access to the members-only line at pancake breakfasts; and a reduced price for Swedish language classes and other events and services. Other privileges include serving on committees; making nominations to, and serving on, the Swedish Club Board; and voting on revisions to the bylaws and at Board Member elections—not to mention use of the library, free genealogy services and rental discounts after a year’s membership. Naturally we hope that in time, all these benefits will prove irresistible to our Social members, and that they’ll decide to upgrade to full membership.

In the two months since the Social memberships became available, 21 members have opted to join under this new category. We’re pleased to welcome Social members into the community at the Swedish Club.

Brandon Benson
Swedish Club President
What’s Old Is New Again

B ack in the late 1980s, the Swedish Club changed its name to the Swedish Cultural Center when we became a nonprofit organization. Adding the word “culture” to our name was more accurate to our mission and helped in our bid to gain nonprofit status. Trouble was, everyone continued to call us the Swedish Club.

So about a year ago, we obtained the legal right to do business as the Swedish Club while keeping the official name Swedish Cultural Center. A generous donor gave us the funds to change our sign back to “The Swedish Club,” and Club member Brian Runberg helped get the font and the logo just right to fit in with the building.

In case anyone wonders, you will see us use “Swedish Cultural Center” on bulk mailings but “Swedish Club” on individual letters. That’s because our bulk mailing permit is tied to our nonprofit status, and we have to continue using that name when we do business with the Postal Service. It’s OK to use either name, but we say Swedish Club most of the time.

Bidders Strike Gold at Club Auction
By Gary and Vinda Sund, auction co-chairs

T he annual Swedish Club auction, “The Gold Rush Is On,” proved true to its name as we struck gold on the evening of May 9. Thank you to the volunteers, donors and guests who helped us put on a very fun and profitable evening for the Swedish Club. We hoped to make $20,000 at the auction—but we must have hit pay dirt, because we think our final number will be closer to $40,000 raised to help the Club.

Auctioneer Nelson Jay urged our guests to raise their bidding cards until we hit various fundraising targets during the evening. Honorary Swedish Consul Lars Jonsson even found himself bidding on the opportunity to sit at the reviewing stand for the Norwegian May 17 parade! Lars won the opportunity to sit there at the Swedish Club auction. (Honor- ary Norwegian Consul Kim Nisselquist welcomed Honorary Swedish Consul Lars Jonsson and Laurie McDonald Jonsson to the reviewing area during the May 17 parade. Lars won the opportunity to sit there at the Swedish Club auction.)

In case anyone wonders, you will see us use “Swedish Cultural Center” on bulk mailings but “Swedish Club” on individual letters. That’s because our bulk mailing permit is tied to our nonprofit status, and we have to continue using that name when we do business with the Postal Service. It’s OK to use either name, but we say Swedish Club most of the time.

SC Announces
News about, or in the interest of our members...

The Swedish Club announces 1,070 member households, of whom 30 are Social members.

New Members
Arne E. Anderson
Amy Bensinger
Rodger Benson & Scott Erickson
Gerald Berg & Family
Bjarni Bergvinsson
Steve Bird
Joel Blaschke
Stan & Barbara Boreson
Dana Brooking
Holly Calmes
J.C. Carey
Evan Cartwright
Scott Chelgren
Katherine Childers
Colin Davidson & Anna McPhee
Stephen DeWilliam
Sheila Dunagan
Leif Eie
Andy Fife
Tyler Fishbone
Bo-Alex Fredvik
Rosette Gault
Lynval Golding
Juliette & John Grigoryan
Brent Gunderson
Rev Alan J. Hagstrom
Ashley Hedeen
John Hilton
Susan Hodges
Peter Isaacson
Laurie Johnson
Mark Johnson
Terrylee Johnson
Siri & Bjorn Johnson
Lyle & Kaye Larson
Todd Lawson
Sabina Mueller
Patrick Murphy
Kim Myran & Bill Conradt
Bradley Payne & family
Elizabet Pearson

www.swedishclubnw.org
In Memoriam

Jane Isakson Lea passed away on May 21, 2015. She was born at home in Seattle in 1927. As a young woman, Jane traveled with her family to Sweden with the goal of remaining for a year. Her father left early, leaving Jane and her mother to become acquainted with their relatives and the Swedish language. This whetted Jane’s interest in spoken Swedish, so she returned to Seattle, where she enrolled in the UW and got her bachelor’s in Scandinavian studies. Jane later received her master’s in librarianship.

Jane married her first husband in 1952, but he died of a brain tumor in 1971. Jane then married Jim Lea, who had been a good friend of Jane and her husband. As an adult, Jane was a charter member and active dancer with Nordiska Folkdancers and a strong supporter of the Swedish Club. She remembered her parents’ work supporting the construction of the Club on Dexter Avenue, when some members worried that it was “too far out.”

Jane carried on her interest in the Scandinavian community by serving as a trustee of the Nordic Heritage Museum and being chosen as the first “Swede of the Year” at the Club in 2008. She continued backing the Club, eventually forming The Jane Isakson Lea Foundation, which supports the Swedish Club and other Swedish cultural activities in the region, such as Skandia Folkdance’s midsommar party and children’s Swedish lessons. Donations in her honor may be made to The Jane Isakson Lea Foundation, at 2442 NW Market St., PMB #295, Seattle, WA 98107.

Friends are invited to a gathering to honor Jane and her contributions to the community on Sunday, June 14, 2015, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Swedish Club, 1920 Dexter Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98109.

Former Swedish Club President Bertil Dillner passed away in Sweden in May. President Dillner presided over the Club in 1996–97, a time when the Club was facing difficult times with decreasing membership and revenues. Many of the most successful parts of today’s organization were implemented under his presidency, such as the transition to a tax-exempt organization, offering monthly Swedish pancake breakfasts, and showing Swedish films.

Bertil, along with his wife, Brita, emigrated from Sweden in 1967 to work for Boeing, which he did until his retirement in 1988. In 2005, they returned to Linköping, Sweden, to be closer to their daughter Eva. To send condolences, contact Executive Director Kristine Leander. The photo depicts Bertil, Brita, and Eric Wangsten, the manager of the Swedish Club at the time.
Our full schedule of Swedish language classes begins Monday, June 22. Instructors Laura A. Wideburg, Ph.D., and Pia Nyström, M.Ed., will help you develop your Swedish skills—from beginning and conversational classes all the way up to reading a Swedish novel in nine weeks. Unless otherwise noted, classes are $79 for standard Club members and $99 for the general public. See more details at swedishclubnw.org/Events/classes.htm.

**Beginning Swedish I**  
Mondays, 7:30–9 p.m., June 22–Aug. 17

**Beginning Swedish III**  
Tuesdays, 7:30–9 p.m., June 23–Aug. 18

**Beginning Swedish IV**  
Mondays, 6–7:30 p.m., June 22–Aug. 17

**Pre-Advanced Swedish**  
Mondays, 6–7:30 p.m., June 22–Aug. 17

**Advanced Swedish**  
Tuesdays, 6–7:30 p.m., June 23–Aug. 18

**Expert Swedish**  
Mondays, 7:30–9 p.m., June 22–Aug. 17

**Conversational Swedish**  
Fridays, noon–1 p.m., June 26–Aug. 21 (no class July 3)  
$59 members, $79 general public

**Lifetime Members**

The latest Lifetime members to join the Swedish Club are **Stan and Barbara Boreson**. The Club gave them honorary Lifetime memberships at Stan’s 90th birthday party at the Club on May 15. In more than 70 years in show business, Stan appeared on The Lawrence Welk Show, The Kate Smith Hour and Garrison Keillor’s A Prairie Home Companion, and at numerous festivals and theaters throughout the world. He appeared on KING-TV from 1949 to 1968, the majority of that time as the host of the children’s show “KING’s Klubhouse.” Stan, along with his contemporaries JP Patches (Chris Wedes), Captain Puget (Don McCune) and Brakeman Bill (Bill McClain), kept millions of kids entertained so that moms could get dinner on the table. The Swedish Club is proud to claim Stan and Barbara as Lifetime members. They hope to make it to some of our Friday Happy Hours in the near future.

Board Member **Angela Nelson** and her husband, **Andrew van Leeuwen**, became Lifetime members this spring. Angela is employed at Microsoft, and Andrew is an architect with Build, LLC. Angela’s interest in Sweden was fueled by studying there during college and making frequent visits since then. This photo shows the family’s recent visit to Åreskutan in Jämtland.
The Vikings are coming! Chris Loeffler and friends (Bill Scammell and Chris’s dog Hugo) made sure that Ballard’s May 17 parade didn’t forget the Swedes! They pulled a flag-bedecked Scandinavian wooden ketch, decorated to resemble a Viking ship. They didn’t win any prizes this year, though they had enthusiasm to spare. Let us know if you’d like to be part of the parade next year, as we plan to start a little earlier to craft a memorable entry. Thanks, Chris!

Four different students or student groups from the University of Washington have visited the Swedish Club this quarter to interview staff and volunteers for various student projects. An architecture student from Sweden, Matilda Schuman, is writing about our building. Shane Lantz, writing for an online publication, Seattle Globalist, interviewed Kristine about the role of the Swedish Club in contemporary Seattle, and another student from a communication class came by to interview staff. Shown here is Sierra Mason, who is interviewing Swedish nationals at the Club: Martin Johnson, Maria Norstedt and Rebecca Coenning. Sierra’s group is creating a documentary about the Swedish Club’s efforts to recruit young Swedish nationals into our membership. Thank you, UW students, for your interest in the Swedish Club!
Coming Events at the Swedish Club

**Wednesday, June 3. Trivia.**

Members and guests are welcome. Every first Wednesday of the month, come enjoy Trivia, along with pea soup and homemade limpa bread. Food at around 6, Trivia at 7 p.m.

**Friday, June 5. National Day Concert & Dinner.**

Our Swedish Women’s and Svea Male Choruses will present a concert at 6 p.m. Then at 7 p.m., Chef Malin will make a salmon dinner for $25. Honorary Consul Lars Jonsson will present a State of Sweden report and announce the Swede of the Year. Please RSVP by June 3: 206-283-1090 or rsvp@swedishclubnw.org.

**Saturday, June 6. Annual Classic Swedish and American Car Show.**

Swedes love to celebrate National Day—and what better way to celebrate than to enjoy a car show! Both Swedish and American cars on display from noon to 4 p.m. Vote on Best Volvo, Best Saab, Best American Car and People’s Choice. Bar open from noon to 2 p.m. for smörgås sandwiches and beverages. Club members who want to participate: RSVP to enter your classic (up to 1985) Volvo, Saab, American or other foreign car by contacting Gary, the Swedish car show coordinator, at ramslp@hotmail.com or 206-365 6913.

**Sunday, June 7. Swedish Pancakes.**

Live music, dancing, and authentic Swedish pancakes, with ham, lingonberries et al. Music by Gnomes & Trolls, Lilla Spelmanslag and Smilin’ Scandinavians. $9 guests, $7 Club members, $5 children 5–12. 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Stay afterward for genealogy in our lobby.

**Wednesday, June 10. Members & Friends Dinner.**

Local liquor is all the rage! Our program is a panel of local distillers who will talk about their products and how they got into the biz. Maybe some tastes too! Fremont Mischief, Sound Spirits, Westland Distilling, Swede Hill Distillery, and OOLA Distillery. (We may add more by the evening of the program.) RSVP by Monday evening: $20. RSVPs after Monday evening: $25. 206-283-1090 or rsvp@swedishclubnw.org. Social hour 5:30, dinner 6:30. Program around 7:30.

**Friday, June 12. Scandinavian Folkdance.**

Dance to live music from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Partner not required! Dance: $8 members, $10 guests. Lesson at 7:30 to review basic dances. For information, contact pat@folkdancing.com.

**Wednesday, June 17. Club Board Meeting.**

Members are welcome. Public comment period 6 p.m., followed by the meeting.

**Monday, June 22. Swedish Language Classes Begin.**

Check out the exact schedule of beginning, intermediate, advanced and conversational Swedish: swedishclubnw.org/Events/classes.htm. (It’s OK to start a class one week late. Talk to the instructor.)

---

**Friday, June 19. Midsommar Food & Dance.**

Chef Malin will make a typical Swedish midsommar meal, and we’ll dance around the midsommar pole. Come at 4 p.m. and help us decorate it. Bring flowers from your garden too! A traditional smorgåsbord of Swedish summer food at 6 p.m. Please prepay: $25. Yakima’s Swede Hill Distillery will be on hand with tastings of their craft liquors, including Apple Pie Moonshine.
Wednesday, June 24.
Kafferep.
Monthly Swedish-style coffee party with home-made goodies from our best baking members. 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday, June 24.
Finnish Film.
Nummisuutarit (The Cobblers on the Heath). Marriage plans go awry in 19th-century rural Finland. 86 min. 7:30 p.m. $5. Repeats June 26, 2 p.m. Sponsored by Finlandia Foundation.

Friday, June 26.
Fourth Friday Music.
Prom Queen, fronted by sultry chanteuse Celene Ramadan, plays pop/jazz. Around 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 4.
Fourth of July at the Club.
Absolutely the best spot in Seattle for watching fireworks. Barbecue dinner. Fun for all ages. Bring your friends. Dinner and inside seating $35, dinner and outside seating $45. Free parking opens at 5:30, and the doors open at 6:30 p.m. RSVP: 206-283-1090 or rsvp@swedishclubnw.org. Volunteers needed. Let us know now if you’d like to help out that evening and enjoy the fireworks.

Every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
Genealogy Research. From the Swedish-Finn Historical Society in our lobby. Monday & Thursday 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Wednesdays 2–5 p.m. and every Pancake Sunday!

Every Tuesday
Sing with Us! Svea Male Chorus meets at 6:45 and the Swedish Women’s Chorus at 7:30. Singing together is verrrry Swedish. No auditions, always fresh coffee, everyone welcome.

Every Wednesday
Fiber Arts Open Studio. From 1 to 6 p.m. Weaving, knitting, sewing, etc.

Lilla Fredag. Our bar is open for Swedish pea soup, homemade limpa bread and libations. 5:30 p.m. First Wednesday of the month: Trivia Night. Last Wednesday of the month: Bingo!

Helping the Club?
Rentals available at Swedish Club, 1920 Dexter Ave N., Seattle. Call 206-283-1078 or visit www.swedishclubnw.org/Venues/venues.htm. If you’ve been a member for at least a year, you get a 20 percent discount.

Wednesday, June 24. Swedish Bingo.
Members and guests welcome. Every last Wednesday of the month, come play Bingo! Enjoy pea soup and homemade limpa bread. (Hint: the limpa bread alone is worth coming for!) Food at around 6, bingo at 7 p.m.

Every Friday
Swedish Food: Kafé & Happy Hour! Friday Kafé includes smörgås sandwiches, Swedish meatballs and homemade desserts, prepared by Chefs Ann-Margret and Malin from noon to 2 p.m. Evening food with different entrees each week by our chefs at 6 p.m. Menu: www.swedishclubnw.org

Matinees. Films with English subtitles. $5 donation. 2 p.m. Come early for lunch in our Kafé (noon to 2).
• June 5. Swedish film: En sång för Martin (A Song for Martin). Drama about love and Alzheimer’s disease. 117 min.
• June 19. Swedish film: Zozo. 103 min.

We’re All Vikings Now. Once again, we’re watching the Viking syllabus of DVDs and films, “Vikings to Volvos,” compiled by Board Member Larry Johnson. Visit swedishclubnw.org/Events/Vikingfilms.htm for a complete schedule. Starts around 5:45 p.m.
• June 5. Viking Terror.
• June 12. Secrets of the Viking Sword.
• June 19. The Vikings: Skaldic Poetry and Sagas.
• June 26. Vikings Journey to the New World.