

Swedish Club News

Vol. 58, Issue 1: January 2019

Swedish Club . Seattle . Washington
A home for the Nordic-American community

President's Message

Dear members and friends,

I invite you to donate to the Swedish Club.

We live in a constantly changing world. Even if Seattle weren't one of the fastest-growing cities in America, with new buildings going up on every block, we'd still find ourselves occasionally bewildered by the changes happening around us: relationships, consumer goods, technology, cars and so on. Sometimes it seems as if nothing's stable anymore.

Except for the Swedish Club.

And for my family and me, that's the biggest reason why we love the Club. Since 1892—that's 126 years—the Swedish Club has been an integral part of Seattle. The Club has been in its current building since 1961, a total of 57 years. My grandfather was a Club president long before I came along, but like many of you, my wife **Vinda** and I weren't active in the Club until later in our careers.

But when our son was about to be married, hosting the rehearsal dinner at the Swedish Club was a no-brainer for us. It was like coming home, as we remembered celebrating so many birthdays and other events with family members in the restaurant on the top floor. With retirement and more time on our hands, we were drawn into the activities, the new friends we made, the opportunities to volunteer.

And as my son's family grew to include his son, the Swedish Club has become even more important to us. We want Neel August Sund, or Gus, as we call him, to have a place where he can experience

the Swedish part of his heritage. Gus loves the pancake breakfasts, and I can't wait until he's old enough to search for and find the new chair we bought for the Stockholm Room with his name on the back. At the Club we can introduce him to his first Luciafest, to traditional Swedish food, dancing around a maypole and perhaps taking a class to learn to speak Swedish. These are all activities that the Swedish Club offers. It will be fun to see him take his first bite of *lutefisk*. Also available are genealogy, Nordic films and Nordic-oriented singing, dance and musical groups.

Maybe you don't have grandchildren to introduce to the Swedish culture and traditions, but I hope you appreciate what goes on at the Swedish Club and want to keep it going both in the near future and for the long term. Even small donations add up to help to provide programs, building refurbishment and funding for our endowment. Won't you join me in helping to fund the Club's vital presence and potential? Give at swedishclubnw.org or call 206-283-1090 today.

Tack!

GARY SUND
garysund@ymail.com



Club Notes

Dear members and friends,

This one-time-only, post-holiday, shortened issue of our newsletter has two goals. The first is to invite you to upcoming events in our first calendar for the new year.

And the second is to invite you to donate to the Swedish Club.

A calendar of events and an invitation to donate have this in common: they work together and depend on one another!

Our burgeoning calendar of events is, we hope, enough reason for you to donate to the Club. But it wasn't always this way. In fact, when I began working at the Swedish Club in 2009, it was open a couple of Friday evenings a month, but no one could remember which Fridays. There was a monthly members' dinner and some language classes, an annual concert by the Swedish Women's Chorus...and that was about it. But thanks to some wise planning by Board members

and others—and the support of our members—our monthly calendar now overflows with Swedish- and Nordic-oriented events. Some events are free, which means we don't make money when offering them, and others need to be subsidized by donations. We need your support to continue the events listed on the next two pages.

We also need your support to provide low-cost or free rentals to groups such as the Swedish Singers of Seattle, Spelmanslag, Nordiska Dancers, Barneleikkaringen and about a half-dozen similar groups. Without the Swedish Club as a meeting and practice place, some of these Nordic cultural groups would be priced out of other facilities and perhaps cease to exist. We need your support to continue this worthwhile opportunity to provide space for other Nordic groups to thrive.

We also need your support for refurbishing our building. Again, several years ago, our elevator was outdated, our upstairs carpet was deplorable, and our dining room and bar appeared to be from the

