



The Nordic News  
Serving all Scandinavian-Americans in San Diego County

HoS Presidents Message:

Hi everyone and Happy New Year!

I hope you have had a nice holiday and are ready to take on the new year. At House of Sweden we had a busy last part of the year with a successful participation in December Nights. The board will have their first meeting of the year on February 5th when plans for the year will be discussed. With a slow start of the year, we will have our first get together at the cottage on February 10th with our annual meeting and dinner. We will continue to send out information and invitations via email, post on our Facebook page and send via postal service to the members without email. If you have yet to pay for this year's membership, please do so as soon as possible as the membership directory will be put together and given out at the annual meeting. Looking forward to seeing you at the cottage during the year!

Hälsningar,  
Sofia Fransson Krall  
President House of Sweden

Scandinavian Happenings in San Diego:

Calendar:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Jan 28  | King Carl XVI Gustaf's name day. It is traditional to fly the Swedish flag. |
| Feb 5   | HoS Board meeting, 11.00, at the cottage.                                   |
| Feb 6   | SWEA event at HoS, 18:30  |
| Feb 1   | HoS annual meeting: 16:15, dinner provided                                  |
| Feb 17  | Norwegian boys Choir, Escondido   |
| Feb 19  | Norwegian boys Choir, San Diego   |
| Feb 28  | SACC SD Young Professionals, 18:00 (call RSVP)                              |
| Mar 4-6 | Fettisdagen-between Shrove Monday & Ash Wednesday                           |
| Mar 23  | HoN International Waffle Day competition 12-14:00.                          |
| Mar 28  | SACCSD business mixer.  |
| Apr 20  | HoS Easter celebration at the cottage                                       |

Apr 28 Earth Day and all cottages are closed  
 May 5 ABBA Show at Cinco de Mayo-Old Town  
 May 18 HoN Lawn Program  
 May 26 HPR Ethnic Food Fair  
 June 6 Swedish National Day celebration.  
 June 7-8 HoD Lawn Program (Grundlovsdag)  
 June 23 HoS Midsummer lawn program

SACCS/D/T: Executive Forum Event, Washington D.C., June 13, 2019. See web site for mixer schedule and newsletter

Swedish Center: This past year's events were devoted to celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ingmar Bergman. Large celebrations were held across the country and in Sweden. The Swedish Center showed films and provided short talks about the filmmaker's life and work. Read more on the life of Bergman in the latest Nordstjernen, Vol 147, No. 01, January 1, 2019.

HoF: Our next bigger and public event that would most likely interest other Scandinavians is our Vappu Party - Lawn Program is on Saturday, April 27th. We will be serving Salmon soup, rye bread, Karelian pasties with egg-butter, Munkkis (Finnish donuts), Sima (special lemon drink). Our performer is Juli Wood, [Juli Wood Sax | I'm Saxomamaphonic!](#). Other Program: Lawn Ski race, "Fishing" and games for kids, and more. Best regards, Kirsi, Secretary, House of Finland

HoN: Hei du! Godt Nyttaar! International Waffle Day (a Swedish more so than Norwegian event I am told - actually March 25<sup>th</sup>.) We celebrate this year on Saturday March 23rd - a Waffle recipe competition - are you Swedes in? Samples prepared in the cottages and the winner will receive a little something as a prize. It starts at noon at the House of Norway. Last year we had 3-4 individuals that came prepared and the vote was decided by the public. That's it! Takk for at du spurte - vi maa gjoere mer sammen!

## **International Waffle Day**

Battle of Recipes HoN & HoS

Waffle Day is a tradition that is celebrated in Sweden and Norway on March 25. Waffles are typically eaten on this day. The name comes from *Vårfrudagen*, which in vernacular Swedish sounds almost like *Våffeldagen*. Spring Lady's Day is celebrated on March 25, the Christian holiday of Annunciation, and the Waffle Day is hence celebrated on the same day although it has no religious connections to Spring Lady's Day.

Fastelavn / Fastelavnsris:, Historically [Lutheran](#), nations of [Denmark](#), [Norway](#), [Iceland](#), [Greenland](#), [Estonia](#), [Latvia](#) and the [Faroe Islands](#) celebrated Fastelavn on either the Sunday or Monday before [Ash Wednesday](#). The holiday occurs the week before the Christian penitential season of [Lent](#), culminating on [Shrove Tuesday](#), the day before [Ash Wednesday](#), the first day of Lent.<sup>[2]</sup>

Another popular custom (especially among the children) is the "fastelavnsris", with which children ritually flog their parents to wake them up on the morning of Fastelavns Sunday. Fastelavnsris have many shapes and forms and differ from area to area. In some areas they are bunches of twigs, usually from fruit trees and preferably with buds. Those are often decorated with feathers, egg-shells, storks and little figures of babies. In other areas, they are a bent willow-branch, shaped like an ankh and wound with crepe paper that has frizzles cut with scissors. Both varieties may be decorated with candy as well.

### Premier Norwegian Boys' Choirs To Perform in Escondido and San Diego

On Sunday February 17, 2019 at 3:30 pm, First United Methodist Church of Escondido (located at 341 S. Kalmia St.) will host a choral concert by the Vanse Boys' Choir ("Vansguttekor - Deo Gloria") from Norway, under the direction of Bryan Breidenthal. Joining the Vanse Boys' Choir will be guest singers from the Silver Boys' Choir ("Solvguttene"), the boys' choir of the Norwegian National Broadcasting Company. The Silver Boys' Choir has been a flagship among Norwegian boys' choirs for the past 75 years. Among the guest singers will be their director, Frederik Otterstad, and his son Ludvig, who will also accompany the choir on both piano and organ.

During their Southern California concert tour, the choirs will perform a wide-ranging and interesting repertoire. They will sing sacred music from Norway, from Central America, and from the California Mission tradition. They will also perform a chapter from "Jonah - A Liturgical Drama", the Book of Jonah set to music, as well as selections from Mozart's Requiem. Hopefully they will also perform on Tuesday February 19, 2019 in the evening at St. Paul Episcopalian Church in San Diego, time to be announced.

HoN 2019 Activities Calendar – 01/20/19

Saturday January 26<sup>th</sup>, HPR President Installation Dinner – 5PM at Rancho Bernardo Country Club (\$43 / 2 pp)

Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup>, Membership Meeting 4:30PM (House of Norway)

Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>, Norwegian Boys Choir 3:30 pm , (First United Methodist Church of Escondido @341 S. Kalmia St., Escondido)

Tuesday February 19, Norwegian Boys Choir TBD. (St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral @2728 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, San Diego)

Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>- AL, Queens Hosting Day & Fastelavn 11AM – 4PM (House of Norway), Fastelavnsris making

Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> – AL, Membership Meeting 4:30PM (House of Norway)

Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>, Seaman's Church Service – 5PM (Ascension Lutheran Church)

Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> - AL, Waffle Day 11AM – 4PM (House of Norway), Battle of Recipes HoN & HoS (noon – 2pm)

Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>, Membership Meeting 4:30PM (House of Norway)

Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>, Membership Meeting 4:30PM (House of Norway)

Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> – Marc, *Morning with the Mayor - Norway Day*

Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> – Ashild Syttende Mai Flag Raising 9AM (Sefton Plaza) followed by Frokost (Hall of Nation), Musserende, Snitter & Dessert (Bubbles, Open-faced Sandwiches & Dessert)

Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> – AL (Frank), Syttende Mai Celebration (Lawn Program at International Houses) – Noon – 3PM, Parade at 2PM, Norwegian Crafts. Lefse & Waffles, Norwegian Goods for Sale, Children's Games

Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> – TBD, Ethnic Food Fair – 11AM - 5PM (House of Norway); Seaman's Church Service – 5PM (Ascension Lutheran Church)

Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Membership Meeting 4:30PM (House of Norway)

SUMMER BREAK (Mvh, *Anne-Lise Mogstad, PhD*)

HoD: Lawn program/Grundlovsdag, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

VASA Order of America: Unfortunately the last San Diego County Vasa Lodge has closed. Contact Dr. Robert Swanson or Beda Johnson for alternatives for membership or continuance of your membership in the VASA VOA.

SWEA: This is an event for our Swedish speaking members

SWEA San Diego välkomnar medlemmar av House of Sweden till ett intressant stresshanteringsföredrag som kommer att hållas av Stress Educator & Developmental Counselor Gabriella Bing.

Föredraget kommer att hållas på svenska, vänligen se länken nedan för en mer utförlig beskrivning av Gabriella och hennes företag Bring Clarity i Los Angeles.

Lättare middag med vin serveras. Det kommer att bli en givande kväll för Dig!

Var När Hur: Onsdagen den 6 februari 2019 klockan 18.30. I House of Sweden, 664 Pan American Rd W, San Diego, CA 92101. Anmäl Er via länk nedan på eventbrite, kostnad \$18. RSVP senast 2 februari.

Kids Corner:

Congratulations to House of Sweden's first ever Scholarship recipient Ryan Kochergal! Ryan will travel to Sjölundens summer camp this summer.



### News around town

Symposia: The Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation Nordic Spirit presentation “Vikings, Sagas and Runestones: New findings change history, with speakers from Uppsala University. February 8 and 9, 2019, Thousand Oaks, CA. Information: [scandinaviancenter.org](http://scandinaviancenter.org).

Happy Birthday: Eivor Carlson, Patty Pettit, Susan Hagstrom, Rose-Marie Mickelson, Vivianne Vancio, Lotta Wiik, Lenna Doyle, Britt Sieger.

The new Vicar at the Swedish Church in Los Angeles is Hans Bratt Hernberg: +1(310) 292.7080 <https://www.svenskakyrkan.se/losangeles>

HoS potlucks: First Sunday of each month at 16:15.

HoS (Pysselgruppen) craft group meets every second Wednesday from 11.00-15.00 and on fourth Saturday of each month from 11.00-16.00. Please contact Ingrid Englund at [Allthingsswedish@mac.com](mailto:Allthingsswedish@mac.com) for more information.

News Flash: Ingrid Englund will make and serve Swedish waffles at the House of Norway 23 March.

### News from Sweden:

A new government was finally formed on January 2019 after 130 days of negotiation. There is likely to be a vote of confidence that may spell a short life to the deal. Only the Social Democrats and Greens are actually in the Government. The Centre and Liberal parties collaborated on the agreement. As of this writing the Swedish government is Social Democrat-led with a right-wing economic policy. Stefan Löfven is the new/old

PM. The agreement was finally reach on several policy points, such as changes to rental regulations, tax changes, and the introduction of language and civics tests for would-be citizens. The Christian-Democrats gained the most members after the agreement with the Moderates following. Other parties seem to have only gain a few new members.

For more information on this and other subjects visit the [@thelocalsweden](#)).

Google, Amazon and Microsoft have all bought land in Sweden that will grow their present in Europe including building huge data centers. Google will be in Avesta, Microsoft in Sandviken and Gävle; Amazon Web Services will set up a new infrastructure region for its cloud computing services near Stockholm in 2018, with the three new data centers to be located in Västerås, Eskilstuna and Katrineholm; Communities in Sweden are approving bans on begging and the Supreme Administrative Court has upheld the ordinances. Not unexpected: Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland are top of list for most gender equality. Sweden's women's soccer team will play the US on June 20 in Le Have, France. Yemen peace talks have been undergoing in Sweden at Johannesberg Castle in Rimbo. Gävlebocken stood tall for the second year in a row without being burned down by vandals. Sweden is expected to smoke-free by 2025.

#### News from Finland:

The Finnish school system is one of the best in the world due to several very innovative policies that have transformed the education system: more decision power given to local schools and teachers to do whatever is necessary to help a student, e.g., Significantly improved reading, math and science literacy and one-one tutoring where necessary. Read more from an article of the Smithsonian magazine.

#### News from Denmark:

To understand the philosophy behind the Nordic countries business and economic success read 'Return of the Vikings- Nordic leadership in times of extreme change, by Chris Shern and Henrik Jeberg.

#### News from Norway:

Norway's right-wing government recently reached a deal to bring the country's small Christian-Democratic party into its ruling coalition to form a parliamentary majority. This was a significant change. Such a political act has not happened since 1985.

#### News from Greenland:

Many scientists who study the ice ablation in Greenland consider that a two or three °C temperature rise would result in a complete melting of Greenland's ice. Positioned in the Arctic, the Greenland ice-sheet is especially vulnerable to climate change. The pace of ice loss has increased four-fold since 2003 as enormous glaciers are depositing ever larger chunks of ice into the Atlantic Ocean, where it melts, causing sea levels to rise at an alarming rate. There is an enormous impact already seen on animal and human life.

#### News from Iceland:

Credit to The Independent: A volcano could cause global disruption if it erupt over southern Iceland, scientists have warned. The Katla volcano is bigger than Eyjafjallajokull which created a giant ash cloud that affected worldwide air traffic eight years ago. It has been releasing a much larger amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) than previously thought, researchers have discovered. Kalta, translates to “kettle” or “boiler”, last blew in 1918, having previously done so around every 50 years – leaving it overdue for another eruption. It sits near Iceland’s southern coastline around 25km from Eyjafjallajokull.



#### Nordic:

Since December 21, 2018 (winter solstice) it is all getting better in Nordicland. Each day is becoming longer and this process will go on till June 21, 2019 (Summer Solstice) when the summer solstice occurs. The Sun set December 10, 2018 in Sweden’s most northern city of Kiruna, marking the start of the polar night. It rose again above the horizon on January 2, but was not visible till January 10, 2019.



Jukkasjärvi, Sweden, January 10, 2019. Photo thanks to Asaf Kliger of The Local (English language Swedish newspaper).

Say it in Swedish/English (this section can also list Danish, Norwegian and Finnish items too):

1. An after Christmas greeting: god fortsättning (good continuance).
2. Old Swedish saying painted on the archway in the cottage: Älsken hvarandra barn ty kärleken är allt (Love everyone children for love is everything).
3. Finish the Glögg to the last drop: Tjugondag Knut, January 13 is Knut names day and final day to celebrate the Christmas season; Factoids:

There are over 20,000 international students in Sweden.

New Laws in 2019: No more TV license, State-run museums will start charging, sick-day benefits have tightened, Dental care is free till one is 23, gambling web sites must now be registered, no smoking in public after July, transgender identity is now protected in law, overseas child marriage will not be recognized, and animal welfare laws have become stricter.

Sweden now has 10.2 million people of which 1.7 million (16.6%) are foreign born. U.S. has 326 million citizens of which nearly 14% are foreign born. Sweden gained nearly 62,000 new citizens in 2018, split between men and women and, although consisting of 170 nationalities, Syrians represented the largest number this year. 621 US citizens became Swedes in 2018. 90,000 people had applied for Swedish citizenship. And, there are English-language jobs in Sweden but getting a residence visa and/or eventual citizenship is not as easy as some would imply. Crime incidents in Malmo, receiving much media attention, have actually decreased.

Visit 'The Local' for more news ([news@thelocal.se](mailto:news@thelocal.se)).

In General:



We would appreciate hearing about your news: travel, Birthdays, memories, Scandinavian news, etc. If you would like to write a short story of interest to our readers please submit to the editor.

By the time of this publication we had not heard from SWEA, Svenska Skolan, HoD, SCA, HPR.

You can visit the Facebook site House of Sweden in San Diego, [houseofsweden.us](http://houseofsweden.us) or get the latest e-bulletin by email. Editor: Calle: [vikingcalle@mac.com](mailto:vikingcalle@mac.com)

Please contact the Editor if you would to continue receiving the NORDIC NEWS via e-mail rather than via snail mail.

Viking Vista is the mutual publication of the Scandinavian Community of San Diego County.

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