

The Lutfisk Wrapper

Vol. 26 Issue 9— October 2020

VASA Order of America - Harmoni Lodge # 472

Ordinarily Meets: 3rd Sunday of the month 4:30p

(Light Refreshments at 4pm)

Hollywood Senior Center

1820 NE 40th - Portland, OR 97212

Harmoni Homepage: www.harmonilodge472.org

Harmoni US Postal Address: PO Box 13282 Portland, OR 97213-0282

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President's Message:

Dear Harmoni Members,

The September just past will go down in the books mostly for smoke, I think. Ann and I got a good taste of it here in Portland, but went through most of the long siege while visiting family in Spokane, where the air was as bad there as it was here. I hope all our members doubled down on their social distancing and simply stayed indoors till things cleared. From what I have heard so far, no one's homes, property, or health were damaged as a result of the massive fires, and I also hope everyone's luck will continue to hold.

A bright spot in the month was Harmoni's first ever socially distanced, totally virtual, Zoom-hosted, business-free social meeting. Interacting over the internet with the familiar voices of our members and their little pictures on the screen was a good deal more fun than you might expect if you haven't tried it. We have Teri Davis to thank for making all the arrangements, as well as providing a bit of live coaching to help everyone get the most out of the experience. So we're looking forward to trying it again this month, again at our regular meeting time, on the 18th at 4:30p.

Best to everyone as Fall sets in in earnest, enjoy the fall colors, beware of goblins, and

Happy Halloween!

In Truth and Unity,

Charlie



Calendar of Events:

Oct. 18 **Harmoni Bus/Social Meeting**
(Sun.) **Zoom Meeting 4:30p**
See set-up instructions on Page 3

Nov. 6 **Friday Night Lecture: 7:30p**
(Fri.) *Growing Up in Sweden – by*
 Marianne Bratt
On-line w Zoom or In-Person

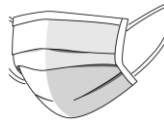
Nov. 15 **Harmoni Bus/Social Meeting**
(Sun.) **Zoom Meeting?? 4:30p**

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Covid-19 Procedures

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our lives.
Please remember to:

Keep your distance, wash your hands, and
remember to wear a face mask when outside,
or inside, whenever you are around groups of
people other than your own household. Please
protect yourself, and our community.



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Friday Night Lectures?

Nordic NW continues to try to schedule live
lectures for Nordic cultural education.
They will offer 'Growing Up in Sweden' on
Friday, November 6, presented by Marianne
Bratt. You must register to listen (via Zoom)
or attend In-person. Free for NNW members,
\$5 for non-members. Check out the new
procedures on the NNW website:

<https://www.nordicnorthwest.org/past-friday-night-lecture-series>



*(Though our family would not attend in-person, we
may cozy up to the computer on Zoom. ed.)*



October Happy Birthdays!!!

- 1 Ylva Aiken
- 4 Alice Harris
- 5 Virginia Campbell
- 27 Tina Tengblad Kreft
- 27 Nancy Tuttle

Ja, må du leva! Ja, må du leva!

Ja, må du leva!

Uti hundra år!

Ja, visst ska du leva!

Ja, visst ska du leva!

Ja, visst ska du leva!

UTI HUNDRADE ÅR!

HURRA! HURRA! HURRA! HURRA!



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**Remember that a pile of money awaits you
if your name is pulled from the magic
Scandinavian jar, and you are attending the
monthly Harmoni meeting. (Here's hoping for a
monthly meeting eventually...maybe we should try this at a
Zoom meeting...ed.)**

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Zooming Works for Harmoni!

Harmoni Lodge has entered the Zoom era. Thanks to member Teri Davis, our Zoom coordinator and meeting guru. Here are her directions:

The Zoom Meeting will start at 4:30 pm. (The link says 4:20 so you can start logging in before 4:30.) You should be able to click on the link highlighted below and go right to the meeting (or cut & paste that link into your web browser.) You do not need to download the Zoom app, though you can if you want to ahead of time, but it's not necessary.

Once you get to Zoom you need to enter their name and the Meeting ID, and then will be prompted for password. You can log in from a cell phone or a desktop or laptop computer. There are options once you get logged in to turn off your video and mute yourself. Make sure you know where the mute button is so you can 'unmute' and talk and be heard when you want to! And it's more fun when we can see each other, so don't be shy!

Topic: Harmoni Lodge Social Meeting
Time: Oct. 18 2020 04:20 PM Pacific Time
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7651487428?pwd=R09JQkRicjIOSCtDdi93VTFRdE1idz09>

Meeting ID: 765 148 7428
Passcode: 54321

Hope to see even more of you there soon!



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A New Address for the Janet???

Remember the old game of telephone? For some reason, after speaking with Janet Johnson last month during the 'checking up on Harmoni folks' telephone calls, we erroneously thought Janet was moving to a new condo... This prompted a second telephone call from Janet who advises, she has not moved, and is indeed very happy in her home in Vancouver – no new address, same old telephone number. Sorry for the confusion!!!



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What's Up with ScanFair 2020

Nordic NW is still showing ScanFair as happening in Portland as scheduled on December 12-13. Harmoni Chairman, Charlie Tohlen believes Harmoni Lodge should not participate, as Covid -19 numbers are not falling, and many Harmoni members fall within the most vulnerable age category for infection. Social distancing for our booths at ScanFair would be difficult, and nothing is more important than the safety of our members. See you at ScanFair 2021.

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Lucia Cancelled for 2020

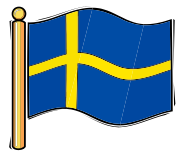
Though Nordic NW has not yet cancelled ScanFair, they have cancelled the Oregon Lucia program for 2020. As Harmoni member Christine Smith has not yet restarted the VASA Youth Dancers, due to Covid-19 concerns and concern for the health of the dancers and their families, it is unlikely that the group will dance or perform their usual Lucia program for us this year. We commend Christine for her careful concern for all the VASA dancer children, their families and their audiences.



Looking for a good read?

Swedes in Oregon

Arcadia's 'Images of America' series will soon include the book *Swedes in Oregon* due to be released November 9, 2020. Originally based on Swedish Roots in Oregon's 2019 exhibit at Nordia House, the authors David A. Anderson and Ann Baudin Stuller have incorporated text and vintage photos to portray the impact of Swedish immigrants on the development of the state of Oregon. Autographed copies of *Swedes in Oregon* may be pre-ordered online at www.swedishrootsinoregon.org. After November 9, the book is scheduled to be on sale at FinnWare and other fine stores throughout Oregon.



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Around Town with our Members:

Marta Smith has a new phone number! Please make this change in your roster: 503 841-8508
ms



Elisabeth relaxing in Arizona

Elisabeth and Craig Mendenhall are spending a couple of weeks in AZ. The weather has been unusually hot. Actually AZ has had the hottest summer on record with temperatures between 110-115° for several months. The last couple of weeks we have had 100-105° so a little better for us from the

PNW who complain when we have 3 days in a row with 90 degrees.

The weatherman was funny: There will actually be a cool down. Only 99 tomorrow! Needless to say, the pool has been used a lot. Since we have not been here for 7 months because of Covid there were a lot of things to tend to, especially the yard that had gone wild. We normally have a yard person keep an eye on things, but released him in February thinking we would soon be here again. That did not happen. Arizona is mostly a Republican state and it is interesting to see their different attitudes to many things; corona virus, global warming, recycling etc. Enjoyed seeing some of you at our zoom meeting in September. Maybe a few more can tune in for October.

em

Hans and Anna Lundin are looking for a new home to buy, a house without stairs. But still in the same area where they live now! They already have had a garage sale and it went just fine, selling many of Anna's beautiful home decorations. Anna belongs to the Swedish group *Svea*, and they are meeting rather often, outside in parks practicing correct social distancing. Hans and Anna's granddaughter in Seattle now belongs to a band and this group of kids have performed concerts outside of some local neighborhood houses. Fun and much appreciated!



Doug Hanson's cousin who is moving from Seattle to Los Angeles was able to make a stop at the Hanson's home for one night, enjoying dinner and a visit with other family members. **Ulla** has had some problems with her back and shoulder, but overall they are both doing rather well.

More:

Around Town with our Members:

Andrew Toth Jr. just had total knee replacement surgery. Painful, but he's taking one day at the time and improving with good help and support. Luckily, as a teacher he is able to teach and take part in meetings over the computer, just like all his colleagues.

Joyce Nielsen emails:

We're getting ready to leave for our Yuma vacation home on Sunday for a few weeks. We should be back the week before Thanksgiving. Other news is regarding our grandson Jesse Dent. He is continuing his diving career and is presently working as a foreman at a river in southern Texas. From there he will go to a job on the Mississippi River and eventually hopes to return to Thailand. When working in Thailand before, he met other divers from Norway and Sweden and surprised them when he was able to understand some of what they were saying when speaking in their native languages. He thought it was because Kaare and I had taken him to so many Scandinavian activities when he was young. However, I reminded him that he and his sister Stephanie went to Swedish language camp for a couple of years when it first started at Anderson Lodge. Apparently what he had learned stayed with him all these years later. His best friend is a diver from Norway and he intends to visit him before going to Thailand. He has told his friends that he was raised to appreciate his Swedish heritage.

No other news from here. We will continue to wear masks when out in public. No health problems for us so far. We send many fond regards to all our friends at Harmoni.

jn

Annika Tohlen made a surprise appearance on the September Zoom meeting with Harmoni – mostly because her folks, **Ann and Charlie** participated from Annika's dining room table in Spokane. You can Zoom from anywhere! Try it, you'll like it!

Not much to report from 'Planet Northeast Portland'! It has been a very different summer for **Astrid Hanke**, enjoying her swimming pool through all the sunny days, along with all the fresh organic vegetables from the garden, but definitely missing the usual get togethers with friends. Thanks to **Ann Tohlen** for keeping us connected through the Lutfisk Wrapper; hope someday soon we will be able to meet at Harmoni again.

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Thanks to this month's newsletter contributors: Teri Davis, Ross Fogelquist, Astrid Hanke, Elisabeth Mendenhall, Joyce Neilsen, Nordic Northwest, Marta Smith, Charlie Tohlen, and Margot Toth. The deadline for the **November 2020** newsletter will be **Friday, October 30, 2020**.

Email your news to:

anntohlen@yahoo.com,

call (503) 236-0200, or send via US Mail to:

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See You There!

