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## KULTURNYTT



### MEET YOUR NEW EDITOR

Hello everyone,

I'm thrilled to be joining the board this year and stepping into the role of Editor for the Swedish Cultural Society's monthly newsletter.

A bit about myself: I live at UBC with my husband, our dog, and our two daughters, aged 14 and 17. Both of my daughters have been students at the Swedish School, and during the 10 years they were enrolled, I had the pleasure of being actively involved in various roles, including newsletter editor, secretary, and chair.

In the summer, I head back to Västervik, to visit family and friends. Professionally, I manage a health coaching company, focusing on helping individuals improve their well-being.

I'm excited to continue supporting the Swedish community and look forward to sharing updates, stories, and connections with all of you through this newsletter!

Best regards,  
Emma Carpenter



Add to your calendar!

- North book club March 3rd
- The Sweden House Society AGM - Tuesday, March 18th at 7:00 pm
- Scandinavian Community Centre Society AGM - Thurs. April 3rd, 7:00 pm

### Updates from the Board

On February 11th we held our AGM at the Scandinavian Community Centre. The meeting was well attended and we all enjoyed delicious Semlor.

The board gave thanks to outgoing chair Niklas Kviselius and voted in the following individuals as board members for 2025:

Monica Olofsson, Monica Severinson, Pia Hilton, Carina Spencer, Karmen Blackwood, Kristin Josephson, Riitta Huttunen, Linda Olofsson, Mari-Louise Olsson (Marie), AnnaKarin Törnkvist, Emma Carpenter.

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- AGM notices
- Digital Pre-Parliaments for Swedes Abroad
- Invictus games
- Introduction of the new board

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## SVENSKAR I VÄRLDEN

### Shape the Future: Digital Pre-Parliaments for Swedes Abroad

Do you want to influence issues affecting Swedes abroad? In two weeks, Svenskar I Världen is offering digital pre-parliaments kick off—discussion forums where Swedes worldwide share experiences and tackle challenges. These sessions will help shape conversations with politicians at the Swedes Abroad Parliament on June 18 and guide ongoing advocacy work.

From **March 11 to April 10, 26** sessions will be held—each topic discussed twice (morning and evening Swedish time) to accommodate everyone worldwide. Open to all, we invite you to register by visiting <https://www.sviv.se/>. Join in, share your ideas, or simply listen.

#### Sample discussion forums

- Öka valdeltagandet hos utlandssvenskar
- Återinför möjligheten att förnya det svenska körkortet utomlands
- Förenkla passansökan utomlands
- Krav kopplat till svenskt medborgarskap
- Inför personnummer till svenska barn födda utomlands



### Swedish representation at Invictus games

Established in 2014 by Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex, the Invictus Games were created to support the recovery and rehabilitation of wounded service personnel and veterans through sport. Jenny Hultén Hippel and Tommy Gerschman were recently among the 1900 volunteers selected to support over 500 competitors from 20 countries in addition to their accompanying friends & families in the first ever Hybrid (Summer/Winter) Games held in Vancouver and Whistler Feb. 8th-16th. Jenny and Tommy held roles in Guest Services/Swim Officiating and the Medical Team respectively thus directly supported competitors and family members throughout the Games.

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### MEET THE NEW BOARD



#### Monica Olofson - President

**1. What inspired you to get involved with the Swedish Cultural Society, and what keeps you coming back?**

When we moved to Canada, we enrolled the kids in Swedish School right away to keep up the Swedish language and our culture. From Swedish school, the step to get involved in Swedish Cultural Society was easy, to be able to celebrate our traditions together etc. Our friends in the Swedish Cultural Society are my extended Swedish family away from "home".



**2. What's one goal or initiative you're excited to work on this year?**

I am excited to work with our board to inspire more members to get involved in our society, Sweden House and helping to keep the Scandinavian Centre.

**3. If you could teleport to any place in Sweden for a day, where would you go and what would you do?**

I would love to be teleported to Vemdalen, Härjedalen, to visit and hug most of my family.



#### Marie Olsson - Vice President

**1. What inspired you to get involved with the Swedish Cultural Society, and what keeps you coming back?**

I really enjoy being involved with SCS and being a part of keeping Swedish customs and traditions alive here in Vancouver.

**2. What's one goal or initiative you're excited to work on this year?**

This is my second year on the SCS Board and I look forward to learn more about the functions and events through the year.

**3. If you could teleport to any place in Sweden for a day, where would you go and what would you do?**

I would go to Göteborg, sit at a cafe on Avenyn enjoying a shrimp sandwich and a glass of wine

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### MEET THE NEW BOARD <<<

#### Monica Severinson - Secretary

**1. What inspired you to get involved with the Swedish Cultural Society, and what keeps you coming back?**

Being active in the SCS helps me to connect with my Swedish heritage and being involved in the board lets me work with wonderful people with the same goal.



**2. What's one goal or initiative you're excited to work on this year?**

I hope we can involve more Swedes in worthwhile activities and events. The Centre is facing challenges and needs great ideas and much involvement from everyone to stay vibrant and attractive.

**3. If you could teleport to any place in Sweden for a day, where would you go and what would you do?**

Take me to my small cottage in Småland that I share with my siblings, please. I'll strap on my skis and take a tour around the lake.



#### Kristin Josephson - Treasurer

**1. What inspired you to get involved with the Swedish Cultural Society, and what keeps you coming back?**

My family is from Ångermanland, so staying connected to Swedish culture has always been important. I joined the society to keep connected to the traditions, improve my Swedish and be part of the community.

**2. What's one goal or initiative you're excited to work on this year?**

After a few years of getting familiar with the society and the board member role, I look forward to taking on more responsibilities in helping out during midsummer and our Christmas Market.

**3. If you could teleport to any place in Sweden for a day, where would you go and what would you do?**

I would go to where my family's farm was in the north, enjoy the peaceful countryside, and visit with the family members still living there.

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### MEET THE NEW BOARD



#### Riitta Huttunen - Vice-Treasurer:

**1. What inspired you to get involved with the Swedish Cultural Society, and what keeps you coming back?**

I came to Canada in 2010, and I really wanted to be able to speak Swedish. I was on the board for SWEA Vancouver for several years, as that was the first Swedish group I found when I came. Now I'm more involved with the Swedish Cultural Society. We are a great group, I enjoy volunteering as a group.



**2. What's one goal or initiative you're excited to work on this year?**

This is a tricky question, it would be great to find new volunteers as the workload is sometime too high

**3. If you could teleport to any place in Sweden for a day, where would you go and what would you do?**

Stockholm is wonderful, and skating on natural ice is my passion. This time of the year I would love to be transported to Stockholm and go skating on one of the many lakes with some of my friends.



#### Pia Hilton - Member at large

**1. What inspired you to get involved with the Swedish Cultural Society, and what keeps you coming back?**

When I first arrived from Sweden I volunteered at Swedish Press and then got involved in Swedish School, teaching, and then Swedish Cultural Society. SCS gives me and my family a connection to Swedish culture and traditions.

**2. What's one goal or initiative you're excited to work on this year?**

My goal is to help and assist in any way I can to keep the society and all its activities going,

**3. If you could teleport to any place in Sweden for a day, where would you go and what would you do?**

On a warm sunny day take me to the beautiful, sandy beach in Ljunghusen, with fika from Anna's Bageri.

#### AnnaKarin Törnkvist - Member at large





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### MEET THE NEW BOARD

#### Karmen Blackwood



**1. What inspired you to get involved with the Swedish Cultural Society, and what keeps you coming back?**

As a Vancouver born-and-raised Swedish-Canadian (Swedish on both sides!), I've been a SCS/SKF member for most of my life. I keep coming back because of the wonderful people involved, the tireless volunteers who inspire me and the feeling of connection within our local Swedish, and

broader Scandinavian, community. It's wonderful to be part of a community where, together, we can celebrate our shared Swedish heritage, customs, culture and values - to stay connected to where we, or our families, came from!



**2. What's one goal or initiative you're excited to work on this year?**

As member of the Swedish Cultural Society, Sweden House Society, and Scandinavian Community Centre Society boards, I'm especially excited to keep focusing on the fundraising strategies and activities we have been initiating to help strengthen our financial position and provide the necessary funds for facilities maintenance which will enable our Swedish and Scandinavian communities to continue to enjoy the Scandinavian Centre for many years to come!

**3. If you could teleport to any place in Sweden for a day, where would you go and what would you do?**

With family and relatives in various parts of Sweden - I'd be very happy to teleport to anyplace where they are for a visit and/or to celebrate a special occasion, but if I had to choose just one event or activity, I'd teleport back to Rättvik for Midsommar, as I really loved how traditional and special it was when we celebrated Midsommar there! So much fun, and unforgettable!



#### Carina Spencer - Ombudsman

**1. What inspired you to get involved with the Swedish Cultural Society, and what keeps you coming back?**

I'm proud to be Swedish. When I had children I wanted to keep my Swedish roots alive and teach them about my home country and for them to learn Swedish. This led me to find many new friends when I joined SCS. It is the community and celebrations of our heritage that makes me want to stay connected.

**2. What's one goal or initiative you're excited to work on this year?**

Like most volunteer organizations we need new people and ideas. We also need to work on keeping our Nordic community and the Centre alive and vibrant.

**3. If you could teleport to any place in Sweden for a day, where would you go and what would you do?** Figueholm, Småland. To hug and have fika with my family and friends. Childhood friends are very special and I'm lucky enough to have kept in contact with many of them throughout the years.

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### Linda Olofson - Member at large

**1. What inspired you to get involved with the Swedish Cultural Society, and what keeps you coming back?**

My parents have always been active members and they've inspired me to be involved and support the initiatives of the Swedish Cultural Society. I really enjoy being part of this team and helping to build our community!

**2. What's one goal or initiative you're excited to work on this year?**

We're always looking for ways to attract new members and also to make sure current members feel they're getting value out of the programs and events we have. I'm excited to work with the Board to fulfill these types of initiatives.

**3. If you could teleport to any place in Sweden for a day, where would you go and what would you do?**

I'd visit Örnköldsvik (where my family lived before we moved to Canada) to visit my god father and family. I'd also visit family in Vemdalen, and spend time in nearby Östersund for lovely meals and shopping. Finally, I'd visit family and friends in Stockholm - I'd spend time in gamla stan; I love the cobblestone streets and the lively areas.

## SWEDISH LIBRARY <<<

At the Scandinavian Centre, the Swedish Library offers an amazing selection of both new and old books, offering contemporary bestsellers alongside timeless classics.

To borrow books or DVDs please visit the Swedish room at the Scandinavian Centre. Please do NOT leave books to donate at the Centre without first contacting our librarian, Kee Kimmel. Kim can be contacted at [keeBill8@gmail.com](mailto:keeBill8@gmail.com).



## MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025

Time to renew your membership!

\$30 for family and \$25 for single.

e-transfer to [scstreasury@gmail.com](mailto:scstreasury@gmail.com).

Thank you!