



***New Sweden Cultural Heritage Society and
Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter***
INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE

Walpurgis/Vappu

April 30, 2015

starting at 6:00 p.m.

Don Leethem's home at
25495 SE Hoffmeister Road, Damascus OR 97015

Come join the fun - there will be snacks, sima and punch, varm korv, and sweets. The Scandinavian Chorus will sing. And hopefully you will, too!

Bring your children and grandchildren.

2 driving options:

OPTION 1

1. Eastbound on I-84
2. Find your favorite way through Gresham and go onto Highway 26 (generally Eastbound toward Sandy, OR.)
3. Take the Boring exit, turn right (west) and travel about 3.6 miles. (Road not marked, but is the terminus of Highway 212)
4. Turn right onto 242nd and travel about .5 miles.
5. Turn right onto Hoffmeister Road and travel east about .6 miles.
6. Turn left into gravel driveway (just before sharp right-hand turn sign.)
7. Driveway splits, keep left. You are there!

OPTION 2

1. From I-205 take Highway 212 exit (Estacada and Damascus) (Exit 13??)
2. Drive east on 212, pass through Damascus and watch for 242nd.
3. Turn left onto 242nd and travel about .5 miles.
4. Turn right onto Hoffmeister Road and travel east about .6 miles.
5. Turn left into gravel driveway (just before sharp righthand turn sign.)
7. Driveway splits, keep left. You are there!

What are Walpurgis and Vappu?

Walpurgis (Valborgsmässoafton) in Sweden: The 30th of April, marks the end of the winter in Sweden and Finland, and is the most important festive celebration of the year alongside of Christmas and Midsummer. Walpurgis is celebrated in Sweden in different ways, always depending on the part of the country. Lighting large bonfires is a popular celebration in eastern parts of Sweden like in Svealand or Uppland, where people gather material for their bonfires for months ahead. Lighting bonfires is an ancient custom related to keeping away evil spirits, demons and witches. Nowadays Walpurgis is just seen as a celebration of springtime, but for a feel of the good old Viking days the Skansen Open-Air museum still celebrates Stockholm's largest and most historical Walpurgis celebration.

For most of the Swedes though, Walpurgis just means the end of the winter season and there is no better way to celebrate it than singing spring songs. Spring songs and choral singing are very typical of the Swedish celebrations, with many of the traditional songs dating from as far back as the 19th century. The most popular and traditional spring festivities are held in the old university towns of Uppsala, Lund and Gothenburg, with its famous carnival parade. Current and graduated students party all day and all night, and even perhaps longer than that, wearing all the time their characteristic white graduation caps. Walpurgis is a double national festivity in Sweden because King Carl XVI Gustaf celebrates his birthday on Walpurgis day, 30th of April. Swedish flags are raised all around the country to salute him and show him respect.

Vappu in Finland*: In Finland Vappu is the biggest carnival-style festival held in the streets of Finland's towns and cities. The celebration, which begins on the evening of 30 April and continues to 1 May, typically centers on singing, celebration of a new summer and copious consumption of sparkling wine and other alcoholic beverages.

Student traditions, particularly those of the engineering students, are one of the main characteristics of Vappu. Since the end of the 19th century, this traditional upper-class feast has been made lively and full of creativity by university students. Vast majority of undergraduates (graduates from university-preparatory high schools), university students and alumni of all ages celebrate Vappu by wearing their white caps. The caps of the engineering students are distinguished by a tassel hanging on the right side of the cap.

A traditional Vappu treat is to drink sima, a home-made mead, and eat tippaleipä, a freshly cooked maize extruded of a kind of doughnut dough. In the capital Helsinki and its surrounding region, fixtures include the capping of the Havis Amanda, a nude female statue in Helsinki harbor on 30 April at 6 p.m., and the biannually alternating publications of ribald matter called Äpy and Julkku, by engineering students of Aalto University School of Science and Technology. (* excerpted from Wikipedia, with corrections)