

RELATED SPECIAL EVENTS (All Events Free!)

www.ptpubliclibrary.org

Book Lovers' Café: *Big in Sweden* Discussion

March 6 (Thursday) Port Townsend Public Library (Pink House) 2:00 pm

Join the library's book club for a group discussion with Melody Sky Weaver.

Swedish Scandinavian Folk Festival with the Daughters of Norway

March 6 (Thursday) Carnegie Reading Room 5:00–7:00 pm

Enjoy an evening of Swedish and Scandinavian inspired food, crafts, music, and a dramatic reading from *Big in Sweden*.

Storytime Connections: Pippi Longstocking Tea/Coffee Party

March 11 (Tuesday) Port Townsend Public Library 4:00 pm

Listen to great Pippi stories and enjoy a *Fika* party with Swedish treats for kids and their families.

Community Book Discussion with Jefferson County Genealogical Society

March 13 (Thursday) 13692 Highway 19 (Airport Cutoff Road) 6:00 pm

Enjoy a discussion about *Big in Sweden* and visit our local genealogical society's HQ with JCGS President Cathy Beatty-O'Shea.

Family Movie – *Pippi Longstocking*

March 19 (Wednesday) Library Learning Center (Pink House) 4:00 pm

Come enjoy a family classic about the strongest girl in the world! Fun for all ages.

Cold Water Queen Talks Cold Water

March 20 (Thursday) Carnegie Reading Room 6:00 pm

Join the Cold Water Queen, Karyn Stillwell, as she discusses the Wim Hof Method and dives into the health benefits of cold water immersion.

My Great Swedish Adventure

March 22 (Saturday) Port Townsend Public Library (Pink House) 2:00 pm

Join Melody Sky Weaver as she shares stories of starring on a Swedish Reality show to meet her family. Enjoy *Fika* and Swedish goodies.

Meet the Author: Sally Franson

March 27 (Thursday) Northwest Maritime Center 6:00 pm

Join Sally Franson for a presentation and reading. Followed by a book signing and books for sale from Imprint Bookshop.

Art in Action: Wheat Weaving with Patt Roche

March 28 (Friday) Port Townsend Public Library 3:00–5:00 pm

Watch a live demonstration of this Scandinavian art.

PTFF Presents: *The Mamma Mia! Sing-Along* (movie rated PG-13)

March 29 (Saturday) Rose Theatre 10:00 am

Enjoy the ABBA inspired musical at the beautiful Rose Theatre. Reserve your FREE tickets at www.ptfilmfest.com or pick them up in person at the library. Singing and costumes encouraged!

Live Online: Meet the Author Sally Franson Encore Presentation

March 31 (Monday) Zoom 6:00 pm

Join Sally Franson for an online presentation, discussion, and reading.



If you are very strong, you must also be very kind. – Astrid Lindgren

PORT TOWNSEND PUBLIC LIBRARY

20th ANNIVERSARY



COMMUNITY READ
2025

SALLY
FRANSON

Big in Sweden

Published by Mariner Books



ABBA®

Port Townsend Reads ... a community coming together through reading

Author Profile



PHOTO: GLORIA COLLYARD

Sally Franson is the author of the novels *Big in Sweden* and *Lady's Guide to Selling Out*, a Minnesota Book Award finalist. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Best American Travel Writing*, among many others, and she has been featured on NPR, *The Jason Show*, Slate's *Working*, and Literary Hub's *Fiction/Non/Fiction*. A 2022 cast member of *Allt för Sverige*, a Swedish reality TV show about finding your roots, Sally lives with her family in Minneapolis.

Visit her online at www.sallyfranson.com.

Big in Sweden

"Sally Franson is a world-class entertainer. She can finesse a seriocomic moment in a way that leaves you catching your breath. Deft and delicious, this book is a flat-out delight machine. A heart opener, a page turner, and a true originell! I laughed out loud, I ugly cried, and I never, ever wanted it to end."

– Meg Ryan, actor, writer, and director

A charming, wise, and laugh-out-loud funny novel following an American woman competing on a Swedish reality show in an attempt to discover her roots.

Paulie Johansson has never put much stock in the idea of family: she has her long-term boyfriend Declan and beloved best friend Jemma, and that's more than enough for her. Yet one night on a lark, she lets Jemma convince her to audition for *Sverige och Mig*, a show on Swedish television where Swedish-Americans compete to win the ultimate prize: a reunion with their Swedish relatives. Much to her shock, her drunken submission video wins her a spot on the show, and against Declan's advice Paulie decides to go for it.

Armed with her Polaroid camera, a beat-up copy of *Pippi Longstocking*, and an unquenchable sense of possibility, Paulie hops on a plane to Sweden and launches into the contest with seven other Americans, all under the watchful eye of a camera crew. At first, Paulie is certain that she and her competitors have nothing in common besides their passports and views their bloodthirsty ambitions with suspicion. Yet amid the increasingly absurd challenges—rowing from Denmark to Sweden in the freezing rain, battling through obstacle courses, competing in a pickled herring eating contest—Paulie finds herself rethinking her snap judgments about her fellow countrymen, while her growing attachment to her Swedish roots increases her resolve to win the competition herself.

THE COMMUNITY READ PROGRAM & HOW IT WORKS

The City of Port Townsend has proclaimed March as the official "Reading Month." Community Read is designed to promote closer ties among community members through the shared experience of reading, sharing, and discussing the same book and ideas related to topics raised by the book.

- A limited number of free copies of the book will be available at the Port Townsend Public Library on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional copies will be available at the library on two-week loans, or you may purchase a copy at Imprint Bookshop.
- Read the book, then pass it on to others.
- Prepare for a discussion about the book with your own book group or join one of the library's book discussions. A brochure with discussion issues and questions is available at the library.
- Attend the many related in-person and online events during the month of March.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE!!! This year's Community Read events are in person and online and detailed program information is on the library's website at www.ptpubliclibrary.org

ALL MONTH MARCH 1–31

Scandinavian Delights Grab a bingo sheet at the library, or print one from the website, to try Scandinavia things and learn about some of the healthiest and happiest people in the world! Complete a BINGO and be entered to win a prize.

StoryWalk – Pippi Longstocking A fun outdoor adventure at Kah Tai Lagoon for the whole family to enjoy *Pippi Longstocking*. Walk and read the book. Explore anytime during daylight hours in March.



MORE EVENTS ON THE BACK!

For more information:
(360) 385-3181
www.ptpubliclibrary.org



SPONSORS: Port Townsend Library Friends and Foundation and our community partners: Daughters of Norway, Jefferson County Genealogical Society, Port Townsend Film Festival, Rose Theatre, Imprint Bookshop, Northwest

Maritime Center, Port Townsend School District, *Port Townsend Jefferson County Leader*, *Peninsula Daily News*, and KPTZ 91.9 FM.