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Mission Statement

Through its arts and educational programs and its permanent collection, the Swedish American Museum interprets the immigrant experience for children and adults and promotes an appreciation of contemporary Swedish-American culture.

Happy Holidays! from the Museum Staff

Flaggan

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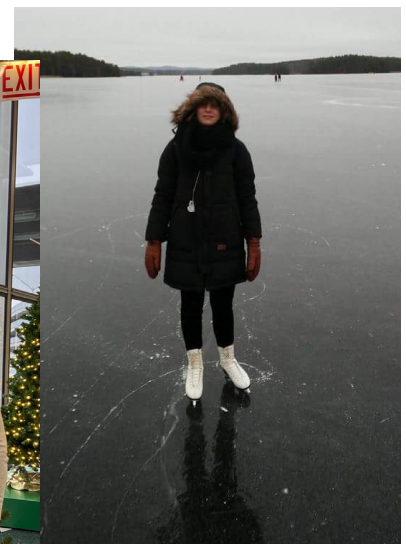
Karin Moen Abercrombie with Family



Kristen Larson



*Karin Moen Abercrombie
&
Anna Patel Engström*



Lisa Lindström



Jacqueline Victor with her son



Angelica Farzaneh-Far

Christmas in the Store

by Kristen Larson

Every Christmas morning, my Dad's duty was to pass out the Christmas presents to each child. He always insisted on taking the wrapping paper after we eagerly ripped it off our presents. The pattern repeated for every present and for every child, all nine of us. This created quite the sight when at the end of our Christmas frenzy my Dad was lost in the pile of discarded wrapping paper. He was always equipped with two or three garbage bags for all the packaging that was tossed aside, but as I looked back on these memories I knew there had to be a better way.

My New Year's Resolution back in January 2020 was to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle. In the last two years I feel like I have learned a thing or two about gifting while also reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfills, so I have compiled a brief list of alternative ways to wrap presents.

1. Gift bags (New and Used). I have a whole stack of bags that have been given to me through the years that I hold onto waiting for the right occasion to match. If you are looking for some new gift bags, The Kerstin Andersson Museum Store has a 3D Tomte gift sack that is perfect for the holiday season. I have been known to gift presents in reusable shopping bags, of which our store has many fun designs ready for gifting.
2. Furoshiki Wrapping. A cloth/bandana/swaddle blanket/any type of square (typically) fabric as long as it can be folded can be used to wrap gifts. Many videos can be found on YouTube detailing all the fascinating ways to wrap a gift. Your item doesn't need to have conventional dimensions either, you can wrap just about anything and it will turn out lovely. This really becomes a gift within a gift. My toddler has been excitedly asking for cloth napkins and I have a feeling that a few Ekelund napkins will make their debut in furoshiki form, wrapped around individual Brio trains placed in our advent calendar.
3. Reusable Bow or Other Décor. Some items may come in a pretty box already and you aren't worried about it being disguised. Instead of using a plastic bow, consider our En Gry and Sif felt flowers, fair trade felted wool creations from Denmark.



A white felted flower pom intertwined with a green leaf branch folded into an Ekelund hand towel.



Plush Tomte on Red Gift Bag



<https://swedishamericanmuseum.org/order-to-go/>





Holiday food has arrived





www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/shop







www.Swedish





AmericanMuseum.org/shop



Exhibits

By Phoebe Yates

At the Museum, our annual Painted Bonader exhibit will run from Dec. 10, 2022 – Jan. 9, 2023. In 2000, the Art Institute of Chicago gifted the Museum 29 Swedish folk paintings from the Florence Dibell Bartlett Collection. In the early 20th century, Bartlett traveled extensively around the world and became interested in folk art and its decline due to mass manufacturing. She began collecting examples of folk art and eventually obtained a collection of art from over 37 countries, including Sweden.

The folk art on display in this exhibit are examples of 18th – 19th century bonader one would find lining the walls of Swedish homes. They typically display scenes of everyday life in Sweden, wedding scenes, or various stories from the Bible. In the 18th and 19th century, weddings often happened during the Christmas season when there was an abundance of food. Therefore, people often hung bonader of wedding and Christmas themes during this time of year as a festive decoration. Our exhibit Painted Bonader is in honor of this tradition and acts as decoration for our Museum around the holiday season!

Do not miss your last chance to see Dream of America before it closes on Dec. 30! In the fall of 2021, the Museum received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to re-do our permanent exhibit, Dream of America. On Dec. 30, the exhibit will close and we will begin construction on our new permanent exhibit, We Are America, which is set to open Sept. 8, 2023. We Are America will continue to tell the Swedish immigration story to Chicago, and will be the lens through which we explore immigration from the 19th century to today.

We Are America will feature stories from various Swedish-American Chicagoans, immigration stories from our partners in the Chicago Cultural Alliance, fun interactives, and over 80 artifacts from the Museum's permanent collection.

EXHIBITS





Nordic House

The Nordic House in Chicago showcases the uniqueness of the Nordic region. It is a place of refuge in an otherwise busy and energetic city. It provides visitors with an immersive experience of the Nordic region through images and videos, but also offers the best of what the respective Nordic countries have to offer in terms of quality retail products, food, and culture. The Nordic House will be the place where exciting things happen.

The Nordic House is located inside the Wrigley Building's South Tower at 400 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago Ill.

Hours

Daily 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day

Christmas Eve – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

EXHIBIT AT NORDIC HOUSE

SAMI DREAMS

Conversations with Modern-Day Sámi

Photography by Randall Hyman

Exhibit Closes, Monday, Nov. 28, 2022

The Sámi, northern Europe's only indigenous people, share dreams few others fully understand. With shamanistic roots disrupted by nightmarish oppression, a present blessed by resiliency and growing political power, and a future confronted by climate change and lingering marginalization, these are the people, from poets to politicians, whose dreams will carry them forward.

GREAT FEELINGS AND MEETINGS

Photography by Hans Ekestang

December 2022

Hans Ekestang's photography exhibit "Great Feelings and Meetings" will be on display throughout the month of December. This exhibit

first opened at the Museum in June of this year. The exhibit at Nordic House will display select photographs, focusing on those Ekestang took of local Chicago blues and R&B artists.

Ekestang's photographs blend his two passions in life, photography and music. He has devoted the better part of his life to traveling internationally to create a superior catalog of photographs, having attended blues festivals across Scandinavia, Europe, and the United States. His subjects have included blues legends B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Chuck Berry, James Brown, Little Richard, Fats Domino and Buddy Guy, among countless others.

EVENTS AT NORDIC HOUSE

FRIDAY FIKA

Fridays, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fika is much more than just a coffee break. It is a social phenomenon, a reason to spend quality time with colleagues, family and friends. Visit Nordic House on Fridays for freshly baked cinnamon rolls and coffee.

NORDIC FOLKDANCERS

Friday, Nov. 25, 1:30 p.m.

The Nordic Folk Dancers of Chicago have been entertaining audiences for over 40 years. Most of their members are of Swedish, Danish or Norwegian background.

NIKKI O'NEILL

Saturday, Dec. 17, noon

Nikki O'Neill is an Americana singer-songwriter with a deep love for soul music. Her second solo album, "World is Waiting," is a solid mix of blues, soul, spunk and sass. Nikki teaches guitar at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago, and she performed at the 2022 AmericanaFest in Nashville. Born in Los Angeles, Nikki moved to Stockholm, Sweden as a child and grew up there, attending the music programs at Sodra Latins Gymnasium and Kulturama. She has been a guest teacher at the all-female rock music program ELLA at Gotlands Folkhögskola, and worked as a music journalist for several Swedish newspapers, magazines and the national radio.

Nikki will be joined on stage by Rich Lackowski.



Shop Marimekko at Nordic House

NORDIC HOUSE





Aspire! Gala 2022



Frank Schneider & Kevin Palmer



Aija & Claes Brameus with guests



*Susan Meyer,
Honorary Consul of Norway*



*Maria Kristina Nilsson, Anette Seaborg, Ann Brost
& Linda Tonge*



Alice & Nels Nelson

Aspire! Gala 2022

Speech at the Swedish American Museum Aspire Gala November 5, 2022

I really wish I could be with you tonight in person in honoring the Museum's Genealogy Society. I'm Bengt Sjögren, chair of the Trustee Board and a proud member of the Board of the Genealogy Society.

My interest in Genealogy started 12 years ago when I attended a presentation by Kathy Mead of Arkivdigital – a program that provides digital online versions of Swedish church books, general muster rolls, estate administration and a lot more.

My wife Gerd and my father-in-law had for many years tried to find out some background on Gerd's grandfather or farfar Kalle Hawerman from the archives in Sweden. It was a tedious job reading microfiches and with limited results. Kalle never talk about his family and the only information they knew was that he was born in the city of Jönköping and that the great-great grandfather supposedly was a military surgeon and German immigrant.

During Kathy's presentation we were allowed a temporary license, so I took the opportunity to test the program whilst listening. Low and behold I found the information right off the bat. That set me off on a 5-year research project on this branch of the family. Some parts were easy, some were much more difficult, and often I got stuck. In the end I discovered a lot of interesting information about past generation and, of course, the fact that the first Carl Hawerman came to Karlskrona, the Swedish navel-base, in early 1700 and joined the Navy as a non-commissioned officer.

At the same I now wanted to know more about my great-great uncle who had emigrated to the US. I thought I needed some experienced researcher, so I contacted Dan Hubbard, and he provided me with a very interesting and well written report. As a result, I have connected with several distant American cousins. What a joy.

Now I was hooked, and I decided to join the Board of the Genealogy Society. It has been a wonderful experience to meet and learn from other genealogist and to try help in spreading the news and to become a researcher myself. Vereen, as the chair, has made certain that we stayed focused. She is a great leader, cheerful with a wonderful sense of humour. A special thank you for all your good work.

The Board consist of a group of very dedicated and helpful persons with a lot of tips and tricks. Shirley, Lori, the two Sues, Diana, Dan, Wayne, Julie, and Marie Jones. And not to forget Karin who has been a great supporter to our cause. It's been so much fun to work with all you.

Becoming a more experienced researcher myself, I have also tried to contribute helping some Swedish-Americans looking for their ancestry. It's been exciting to assist many families to find their roots and help them in planning their trips to Sweden where they have in many cases connected with their Swedish cousins. Many of them have become my good friends. Some of you are probably at the Gala tonight. Along the way I have discovered many new and beautiful parts of Sweden.

As you can hear I'm enthusiastic about the Society and even if I'm biased, I would sincerely like to congratulate my friends on the Board and members of the Society to this wonderful recognition.

Have fun tonight!

Genealogy Poem – by Vereen Nordstrom

Genealogy / learning about the past
Oh so many people / pursue this task

Church records / and estate inventory
Give us a picture / tell us a story

Ancestors: Farmer / soldier / or city dweller
Genealogy / can be a teller

Years ago / in the museum hall
Said Edith Johnson and Maud Svendahl

Come / come / come have a look
All you need / is this 26 page book
ASIDE: pamphlet listing documents which may help

Later / Marilyn Jeglum became our mentor
And began / the Nordic Family Research Center

In 1994 began informal monthly meetings
Hoping our family tree / would soon be completing

A board was developed in two thousand and five
And to this day / it still does survive

Planning formal monthly presentations
Giving genealogy information

Helping people with their research
And hoping that findings / do not besmirch

You might need to develop a thick skin
When you find out / about your kin

Name change / Swedish American Genealogical Society
Saying good-bye / to the Nordic variety

CDs / Arkiv Digital/ and many a website
Today, technology / can delight and excite

Swedish,/ Finnish, /German, /or Dutch
Our ancestors left behind / oh so much.

They left their beloved country
To travel far / to the land of the free

So now we are here / you and me
Thanks be to them / I am sure you agree.



*Lauren Cody, Carl Källen,
Beata Krakus, John Kolb,
Natasha & Oskar Berg*



*Standing: Norma & Tom Thorelli, Arman Vartian, Ken Norgan & Eliot Vartian-Foss
Sitting: Joe & Kerstin Lane*



Genealogy Advisory Board



Members of Verdandi Lodge #3 I.O.S.



Thank you to our Sponsors!

Bronze

Ken Norgan

Table

Larry & Laura Ekstrom

Ron & Loretta Peterson

Pure Barre Lincoln Square

Verdandi Lodge No.3, I.O.S.

Music

Jennifer Debner & Blaine Boogert

Wine

Bob & Mardee Gramen

Dessert

Weidemanis Family

Decoration

Vereen Nordstrom

Valet Parking

Larry & Laura Ekstrom

Gala

Russell & Catherine Holmquist

Thank you Cookie

Specially prepared by Ann Cutler

Sponsored by Janet Nelson

Thank you for donating to the Silent Auction!

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Brick of Chicago
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Chicago Cubs
Chicago Food Tours
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Sauna Club
Send Some Chicago
Shaw's Crab House
Marketa Sivek
Steppenwolf Theatre
SWEA Chicago
Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce, Chicago
The Peninsula Hotel Chicago
Joy Thorbjornsen-Coates
Uncharted Books
Uvae Kitchen & Wine Bar
Vase & Vessel
Jacqueline Victor
Nancy Wenstrand
Women & Children First
Phoebe Yates
Zanies



Madeline & Philip Gerbaulet-Vanasse



*Standing: Steve & Debra Northey, Steve Satek & Jan Lory
Sitting: Mathew Herman, Frank Schneider, Kevin Palmer & Carleen Lory*



Cynthia Seifert, Judith Seifert, Susan Boss & Karin Moen Abercrombie



Jacqueline Victor & Angelina Farzaneh-Far



Phoebe Yates, Meghan Hamilton & Layne Borden

Programs & Events

RECURRING EVENTS

BULLERBYN & SVENSKA SKOLAN

Sunday, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bullerbyn

Sunday, 10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Svenska Skolan

Dec. 4 & 18

Bullerbyn is a time for singing cherished children's songs, reading humorous tales and having lots of fun in Swedish. Children aged 6 months to 5 years are welcome to attend with their parents. Only Swedish is spoken in Bullerbyn, so Swedish should be spoken regularly at home too! We meet in the gallery space or the Children's Museum. Classes are free for members, we ask non-members to donate \$5 per child/class. Payment can be made at the Museum.

Svenska Skolan takes place at the same time as Bullerbyn. It is for school-aged children (kindergarten – high school) who speak Swedish. Children learn about Swedish history, geography and culture in a school setting. It is a great way for children to practice their Swedish with children their own age, while learning more about their heritage.

SCANDINAVIAN JAM ONLINE

Sunday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 4 & 18

Scandinavian Jam, where we practice what we teach.

Join Mary Allsopp and Paul Tyler online on the first and third Sunday of every month.

Enjoy an afternoon of traditional roots music. We teach by ear, review and share tunes. We are happy to take suggestions and love meeting new people. It's a friendly group and we have folks joining in from across the country.

DECEMBER

Closed

Sunday, Dec. 25 - Tuesday, Dec. 27

Saturday, Dec. 31 - Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023

PREVIEW SALE

Friday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

The Museum Store invites you to enjoy a day of Christmas shopping!

JULMARKNAD

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 4, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Julmarknad is the Museum's annual Christmas Bazaar, where traditional Scandinavian and modern handicrafts will be available for purchase.



CANDLE MAKING AND CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m.

Make your own hand-dipped candle. While the candles are drying we make other Swedish decorations.

BREAKFAST WITH TOMTEN

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. Waitlist only

Sunday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m. Waitlist only

Swedish pancake breakfast with traditional crafts, a special visit from Tomten, and dancing around the Christmas tree.

LUCIA

Tuesday, Dec. 13

Noon crowning at Nordic House

4:45 p.m. Procession from the Swedish American Museum and program at Catalpa Ave.

7 p.m. at Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Celebrate St. Lucia Day with Lucia candidates representing Swedish-American organizations throughout the Chicago area.

BAKING CLASS

Thursday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.

Learn some traditional Christmas baking.

JULGUDSTJÄNST

Sunday, Dec. 18, 4 p.m.

Join us for a traditional Swedish Christmas church service.

JULMIDDAG

Sunday, Dec. 18, 5 p.m.

A festive and traditional Swedish Christmas smörgåsbord will be served at the Museum.

COOKIE CONTEST

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 5:30 p.m.

Join us for the first ever cookie contest at the Swedish American Museum either as a participant or as a judge (all visitors are judges).



Holiday Hours

Starting Monday, Dec. 5

HOLIDAY MUSEUM & STORE HOURS

Starting Monday, Dec. 5

Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



CHILDREN'S MUSEUM HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SPECIAL HOURS

Friday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 24, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Store Only

CLOSED

Sunday, Dec. 25 - Tuesday, Dec. 27

Saturday, Dec. 31 - Tuesday, Jan. 3

