

To preserve, teach and celebrate Swedish heritage.

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Winter/Spring 2015

5211 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60640-2101

www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org

Prairie Wildflower Paintings Exhibit

The delicate paintings of prairie wildflowers and grasses by Illinois artist George Olson, which have been admired worldwide at galleries and botanical institutions, will be seen during the next three months at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago.

Olson will attend the opening reception for his Museum exhibit, "Homage to the Tallgrass Prairie," at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 19. Sixty of his acclaimed works in pencil and watercolor were published in "The Elemental Prairie" (University of Iowa Press, 2005).

"The work is composed like a piece of music or good writing," Olson said of his showing at the Horticultural Society of New York. Viewers "appreciate the delicate detail of the plants, the textures depending on the time of year, the gesture created by the plant."

From more familiar examples like milkweed and morning glory, to less known specimens such as spotted horsemint and hoary vervain, he finds that every prime prairie tallgrass plant

"expresses something about the prairie."

A man who practices what he preaches through art, Olson has been involved in prairie restorations in two Illinois counties for more than 30 years.

He also produces publications, workshops and slide lectures, and has held more than 80 solo exhibitions. A graduate of Augustana College who has a master's degree in fine art from the University of Iowa, Olson taught at the College of Wooster in

Ohio from 1963 until his retirement in 2000. During research leaves, he served as artist-in-residence at the Missouri Botanical Garden and made drawings of specimens in the Dixon Prairie Restoration at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Other events associated with the exhibit are Start with Art on Friday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to noon and Family Night on Friday, April 24 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The exhibit is scheduled to conclude May 31. ■



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.

FLAGGAN

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Executive Director's Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

It has been a frigid winter again this year, but something that really warms all of our hearts and that we may take for granted, are our families. I'm personally very fortunate to have a wonderful immediate family with Dan and Kathryn and also my sisters, Ulla and Eva and their families who all live in Sweden. I also have many extended "family" members who are part of who I am and my life from old friends to familiar faces in my neighborhood, something I very much appreciate and cherish.

Dan, Kathryn and I went to Sweden to celebrate Christmas with my sister Eva and her family this year. It was a very special treat that we had not done for many years—not since Kathryn was young enough to beam with excitement when Tomten came walking across the frozen lake with all his packages. Our older sister, Ulla, and her husband came to Gothenburg from Stockholm so we could all be together.

My two sisters and I lost our dad in 1993 and our mom in 1999. All of a sudden we were the oldest generation of the family and responsible for things that our parents had done for so many years. We are lucky that we have each other, and that all of us are married with our own families and children, who as cousins all have a great time together and stay connected despite the physical distance from each other.

I have also been blessed with knowing and being a part of other families here in the United States but also back in Sweden while growing up. My first "external" family was the Ydreborg family, who I started babysitting for at age 13. I took care of their four children in France for a summer and also traveled with them to Africa for six months. One of their daughters-in-law was actually our first au-pair for Kathryn so we have two connections to that family. We got together again while we were in Sweden just recently. Our connection was such that it felt like barely any time had passed since we last were together.

Without my own American family the move to the United States would have been very hard. My relatives in Minnesota were

wonderful in that they immediately included me in their circle when I moved to the area as a 22 year-old. I was also quickly an honorary family member of a Swedish-American family in St. Paul who taught me about American traditions ranging from carving pumpkins to eating sliders from White Castle. I taught them about Lucia and pepparkakor in exchange.

When moving to Chicago I quickly joined several more families, including my local Swedish family that started with SVEA (now SWEA) and Svenska Skolan. One of my first co-workers is now Kathryn's honorary grandma and one of my very good friends from church is my "American Sister."

Today the Museum family is a big part of my extended family and also Dan and Kathryn's. It stretches across many ages, backgrounds and interests. I hope that many of you are able to connect with friends and others at the Museum and make it part of your extended family.

There are many opportunities to connect—we have Bullerbyn for our Swedish families with young children, Hejsan for children of all ages and their parents, the Nordic Family Genealogy Center for the ones interested in family research, and other groups that connect through our many programs and special events.

In 2014 the Museum's community or "family" grew as a result of the Water Tower situation. Andersonville's residents and businesses connected and came together in supporting the Museum's efforts to recreate the Water Tower landmark. There is still work to be done before we will see a new rendition of our Swedish Andersonville symbol on top of the Museum, but in the process our "family" has grown and become stronger. For that I am especially grateful.

Karin Moen Abercrombie
Executive Director

Around the Museum

Fun Times Ahead at the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration

2015 has been quite exciting thus far at the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration. We have had many successful and energetic family events that have kept little ones busy using creative thinking and imagination. I can only hope the next few months will bring more of the same, and I look forward to watching little minds grow as they constantly learn and experience new things.

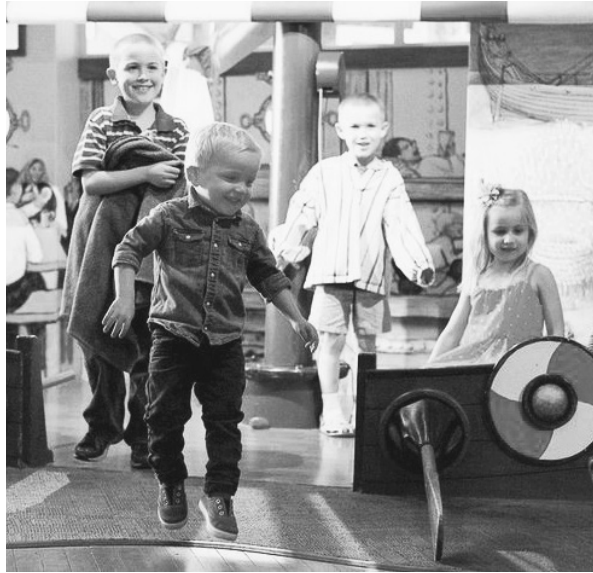
Hejsan is our story and craft hour that takes place on the third Friday of the month at 11 a.m. This year we have been learning about animals and nature in Sweden. We have studied many different animals including bears, reindeer and wolves. Future topics include rabbits, mushrooms and more. Hejsan is always filled with giggles and wonder as the children listen to a story related to the topic and then put their creativity to work as they do a craft. The program is free with Museum admission and runs through June.

As we move closer to the warmth of summer, the event I tend to look forward to most is our Pioneer the World Day Camp held in July and again in August. A wonderful week of fun and educational activities are planned for both sessions of campers. Campers travel to a different country from days one through four, and then on the last day of camp we have a world fair to showcase their newfound knowledge to their friends and families.

A typical day at camp starts out with a flight on SAMAC airlines. All departures and arrivals conveniently take place from the first-floor gallery at the Museum. When we arrive at our destination we learn some fun facts, study the country's flag and learn some helpful phrases in case we need to communicate with people residing there. After our minds are packed full of

knowledge, we enjoy a special guest. This person is typically from the country we are visiting and takes time to teach us something new about our destination. We learn lots of different things from traditional music and dances to storytelling and art!

When our guest leaves, we move upstairs to our classroom for an art project. Soon it's time for lunch and a play break in the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration. During the afternoon traditional and contemporary games from the highlighted country take center stage. Sometimes these games are



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board games and other times they require a lot of physical movement. A well-deserved snack follows and is representative of the country of the day. Last year when we studied Korea, we ate seaweed...which was then followed by traditional Korean cookies to everyone's delight! Finally, after a long trip, it is time to travel back to Chicago.

While three of the countries I have planned for this year's visits are a surprise—even the campers won't learn where they are going until they arrive each morning—we always travel to Sweden. Sweden is very much a high point of the week as the children know they get to spend an extended period of time in the Children's Museum. This year Pioneer the World Day Camp will run July 27 through 31 and Aug. 10 through 14. We hope your young explorers can join us! If you are interested in registration information or have questions about any of our programs, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at the Museum. ■

Stacey Nyman, Education Manager

The Past and the Future – Genealogy at the Museum

Looking to the past is something that genealogists do. The Nordic Family Genealogy Center (NFGC) has presented programs that have absolutely accomplished that goal.

In the fall, Eric Basir discussed his wonderful, and at times unpleasant, experiences in Sweden as a television crew followed him and nine other American contestants as they traveled and learned about Swedish culture on the television show *Allt för Sverige*. The prize for the Swedish-American who endured the most cultural challenges was a family reunion with cousins in Sweden.

Veronica Robinson, the Museum's curator, discussed "Ties That Bind: Swedish Clubs in Chicago's History." She provided an historical review of why these clubs originated and what role they played in the lives of many Swedes. "Exploring Your Swedish Roots: Open House" held in November of last year provided attendees with the opportunity to meet one-on-one for help with genealogy research, translations, and to obtain answers to geographic and travel questions.

We kicked off 2015 with Kathy Meade, North American representative for ArkivDigital and NFGC Advisory Board member,

who presented "Emiweb vs. Emibas." She discussed the strengths of these two key Swedish emigration resources.

As for the future, the Genealogy Center has a fine line-up of programs scheduled for this spring. In March, Advisory Board member Sue Nordstrom will discuss the book "The Orphan Train." Between 1854 and 1929 orphan trains transported 200,000 orphaned, abandoned or homeless children from the eastern cities to the Midwest in the hope of providing them with a better life.

In April, Eric Basir returns with a discussion titled "Photo Restoration in 4 Easy Steps." Basir will use documents brought by attendees for demonstration purposes. In September, Advisory Board member Kris Nicholson will discuss "Today's Immigration in Sweden." In October, Dan Hubbard, professional genealogist and Advisory Board member, will present "Writing A Family History," explaining what to do with all the research one has obtained. Other programs are in the process of being developed so stay tuned and come join us! ■

Vereen Nordstrom, NFGC Board Member

Kerstin Andersson Museum Store

Thinking spring? Want to re-enter society after a long winter of hiding indoors, eating too much and complaining about the weather? It's time to emerge from winter caves, take stock and make ready for the warmer days ahead. It's time to think about getting in shape in body and mind! It's time to think about mingling with people! The Kerstin Andersson Museum Store has exciting new products to help you pamper yourself as Chicago warms up slowly but surely.

Everyone knows that health and happiness start on the inside, so eating right is of the utmost importance. Get a head start on inner happiness in our cookbook section with texts celebrating the benefits of the Scandinavian-style diet. Choose new twists on old favorites or try something entirely new. Cook your recipes with our attractive and indestructible Gastromax cooking utensils, and don't forget to top it all off with a little dollop of anti-oxidant packed Felix lingonberry sauce – now paired with blueberries and ginger.

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Need a good workout to help shed those winter pounds? Fun and fashionable t-shirts, by our very own Eva May, keep you looking good while you're working hard. The super-soft fabric feels comfy against your skin and special men's and women's cuts flatter just right. Not just workout gear, but fabulous fashion wear as well, Eva's hand-printed designs and Swedish sayings offer inspiration, or wry humor, creating the feeling of being in on "something special" when you wear them.

You're feeling great and looking fit, what next? Why not pamper yourself and improve dry winter skin with our newest line of soaps. Soap Sisters & More, run by Suzie and Linda Tjernlund, have

uncovered a recipe for beautiful, healing soaps that "make it fun to wash your hands." Gentle glycerin bars soothe sensitive skin and are even safe for babies! The sisters' newest line of mineral clay soaps with essential oils are specially formulated to benefit different skin types and are for use on face and body. Luxurious, natural, essential oil scents appeal to both men and women. All offer rich hydration and silky smooth feeling of glycerin and beautiful designs that are as fun to give as they are to keep. Ask us about special orders for wedding showers, baby showers or birthdays.

Now you're ready to meet the world again after months of hibernation. You're eating right, feeling fit and looking good... What am I missing? Ah, yes, your brain! Everyone knows that reading expands your mind, but did you know that recent studies indicate that readers of fiction have greater empathy, social perception and emotional intelligence? Fiction is the perfect mental workout for the social nature of the warmer months. The Museum Store can help you there too. Let your mind wander through our expanded fiction section and enjoy old favorites and exciting new authors. Not only will you exercise your brain, but you'll reap the added benefits of just getting lost in a good summer read.

These are just a few of the new and exciting additions to the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store. Stop in, check us out and see what else we have new in stock. ■

Melissa Weems, Store Manager



Volunteer Profile

Carol Erickson: Honoring Her Heritage

For the past year and a half Carol Erickson has shared her love of Sweden, the Museum, retail, and making people feel valued, with all who walk through the doors of the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store. A Museum member for several years, she was not the first in her family to volunteer. That honor goes to her children, both

of whom volunteered at the Museum during their high school days.

Carol's Swedish connections run deep. All of her grandparents emigrated from Sweden to South Bend, Ind. Only her mormor (maternal grandmother) came as a young child. The others made their journeys as adults. Her family has always stayed in touch with relatives from Sweden and, as the years go by, the bond across the Atlantic has remained strong.

Relatives often visit Carol from Sweden and she has visited Sweden several times. Two trips were particularly memorable. In 2003 Carol and her husband visited Sweden with all three of their children. Ten years later Carol journeyed back to Sweden to spend time with her daughter who was then studying in Uppsala.

A proud graduate of North Park University, Carol has studied Swedish but she confesses her mastery of the language remains a

work in progress. She does love being surrounded by everything Swedish in the store, as well as the setting along Clark Street, the merchandise and, of course, the visitors. Luckily for the Museum, she has retail and customer service in her blood. During college Carol began her retail career behind the register at the Covenant Bookstore and continued well after graduation working her way up to buyer and eventually manager.

Volunteering at the Museum Store gives Carol the opportunity to give back to the community and to the Museum. It has also given her many interesting stories to tell us. People open up to Carol and share their own unique stories about their connections to Sweden. On more than one occasion Carol has even met Swedish visitors who know her relatives!

Most touching for Carol is the time an elderly woman explored the store with a young couple. They spoke in Spanish and English. While they were visiting from South America, it turned out that the woman's family had emigrated from Sweden many decades ago. For her, surrounded by all things Swedish, she was filled with such nostalgia for her childhood. Though this particular woman had never been to Sweden, visiting the Swedish American Museum had moved her greatly. Carol was honored to share the woman's experience and looks forward to enjoying many more moments like these in the future. ■

Elizabeth Cline, Membership and Volunteer Manager

Swedish Organizations Support “Vikings” Exhibition

An exhibition titled “Vikings” opened Feb. 27 at The Field Museum and explores the myths and truths of those Nordic voyagers through Oct. 4. Rare artifacts and examples of Norse craftsmanship, including a replica ship, will be on display. For some of these pieces it will be the first time they have been seen in the United States.

The installation was organized by the Swedish History Museum in Stockholm in partnership with MuseumsPartner in Austria. The Swedish American Museum in Chicago is collaborating with other Nordic organizations in support of the exhibition and will be a host committee member for a special Passport to Scandinavia event on March 18.

Visit www.fieldmuseum.org for information about the “Vikings” exhibition, and refer to our website, www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org, for details of special programs of interest to members throughout the run of the exhibit.

From whence came these rugged Vikings? How did they live in their secluded Scandinavian enclaves before they became feared throughout Europe? Beyond the runestone legends and the sagas passed down in song, little recorded history has been found.

The precise date of the onset of the “Viking Age,” however, has been determined. It was on June 8, 793, when a pagan horde attacked the small British island of Lindisfarne, plundered and destroyed its 158 year-old monastery, slaughtered the men and ravished the women.

Word spread through European coastal communities as these

cruel, non-Christian marauders relentlessly sought treasures and captured slaves during the next three centuries.

Rapacious seafarers from Sweden, Denmark and Norway

pillaged in Britain, France, Spain, Italy and beyond Russia to Kiev and Constantinople. The westbound voyages of exploration and settlement in Iceland and Greenland came later in this period.

A “viking” was an individual who went “vik-ing,” a synonym for plundering, but most



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Scandinavians were in fact peaceful farmers and artisans, not pirates who plied the seas for opportunity and enrichment.

Life in Nordic countries was a primitive blend of farming, hunting and fishing. The basic unit of the economy was the self-sufficient family farm. Its members mastered all the requisite

skills for providing homes, food, clothing and tools.

Population growth eventually exceeded available, arable land, so Scandinavians inevitably took to the seas in search of new homelands to be conquered and settled. Vikings raided Scotland and Ireland in 795, and drove the Irish out of the Faeroes in 825.

They wintered in Francia in 842, raided Spain in 844 and besieged Paris in 885.

More adventurous Nordics settled Iceland from 870 to 930. Erik the Red began settlement of Greenland in 986, and his intrepid son, Leif, is thought to have landed in what is now Newfoundland in North America.

Few civilized countries were spared from the Viking onslaughts. Evidence has been discovered by archeologists in such faraway places as Lisbon, Seville, Arles, Pisa, Jerusalem, Bulgaria and Morocco.

When did the Viking Age end? Many historians point to 1066, when the English defeated the attacking Norwegian forces and killed King Harald Hardrada at Stamford Bridge. Danish armies under Svein Estrithson and his son, Cnut, tried again to capture England in 1069-70 but gave up and returned home with their plunder once a settlement was reached with William the Conqueror. ■

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Vi välkomnar varmt nya ansikten, speciellt på vårt förmiddagsfika som är en lugn och social stund att bara träffas och prata svenska.

Läs mer om oss på www.chicago.swea.org eller skicka epost till chicago@swea.org

Du hittar oss även på facebook under "SWEA Chicago med vänner"

 Promotion of Swedish
Culture and Tradition



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Monday - Friday 9:00a.m. - Noon
Wednesday also 2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

Phone Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed for lunch between noon - 1 p.m.

A Labor of Love: Historic Swedish Courting Gifts

Winter is fading and spring is in the air. Valentine's Day is just behind us and Swedish spring celebrations are around the corner. Late spring and summer are often considered the season for weddings in the United States and that tradition is similar in Sweden.

Pingst or Pentecost is a holiday in the Christian tradition, usually celebrated seven weeks after Easter Sunday. In Sweden, this holiday has become associated with spring celebrations—confirmations, baptisms and especially weddings. Though the religious aspect of the holiday is not

as strong today for most Swedes, the day is still a popular day for these celebrations. As Pingst

usually falls in the month of May or June, it is usually among the first warm spring days in Sweden—perfect for a wedding!

Of course, before any wedding celebration comes the courting for the couple. Historically in Sweden, the act of courtship was also associated with gift-giving in preparation for the couple's future life. Historic weaving tools from Sweden are frequently decorated with ornate carving or painting. Practical weaving tools, such as scutching knives, mangle boards and distaffs were often given as courting gifts in Sweden in the 18th and 19th centuries. A young man would spend countless hours decorating



Scutching knives were used to separate the woody stalk of the flax from the interior fibers to prepare the flax for spinning.

such a gift to present to the woman he desired to marry. He might paint flowers or carve patterns, and would usually include her initials in the design. If the woman accepted the gift, it meant his attentions were welcome and he could begin courting her in earnest.

During this same period in Sweden, a bride-to-be was often expected to weave a fine linen shirt, decorated with ornate embroidery on the cuffs and collar, for her intended husband. Additionally, she would weave and sew items for her future home—table linens, wall hangings, towels, pillow covers, sheets and coverlets—these items would be kept in a bridal chest or brudkista for her wedding day. This collection of household items including gifts from family and friends as well as those she personally made would be started at an early age so her trunk would be full by the time she married.

Though many of these courting traditions have changed or modernized over the years, many families have kept these antique tools and linens from their ancestors as family heirlooms. Many times they were brought to the United States with Swedish immigrants as reminders of their family and homeland, and can be found in family collections as well as in the collection of the Swedish American Museum today. ■

Veronica Robinson, Curator



Mangle boards were the precursor to the metal pressing iron. The board was placed on top of a roller and rolled back and forth on top of the cloth to smooth out wrinkles.

family and homeland, and can be found in family collections as well as in the collection of the Swedish American Museum today. ■

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PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM

NEW EXHIBIT

HOMAGE TO THE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE by George Olson

*Exhibit Opening: Thursday, March 19,
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.*

Start with Art: Friday, April 10, 9 a.m. – noon

*Family Night: Friday, April 24,
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.*

Exhibit Closing: Sunday, May 31, 4 p.m.

George Olson's work features the native grasses and wildflowers of the North American Prairie. The artist has been involved with prairie restorations in Illinois for over 25 years and his watercolors capture his deep interest in our state's natural heritage. His creations have been shown widely throughout the United States and abroad, including Great Britain, Japan, Australia, South Africa and Brazil. Previously, Olson taught at the College of Wooster in Ohio. During his time at Wooster, he was granted six research leaves, which included time at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis as the artist-in-residence and a sabbatical studying and drawing prairie plants in the Chicago area. Olson is a graduate of Augustana College and received his MFA from the University of Iowa.

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM HOURS

GENERAL MUSEUM:

Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:

Monday – Thursday: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

MUSEUM STORE:

Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

5211 North Clark Street
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773.728.8111
www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org

FILM THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 7, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Take a break from your regular schedule and enjoy a movie at the Swedish American Museum the first Thursday of every month this spring at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reservations are required. This event is free; coffee and sandwiches are available for purchase. This season we will be showing all ten episodes from the first season of the Swedish and Danish collaboration, *The Bridge* (Bron/Broen). Two hour-long episodes will be shown during each Film Thursday throughout the spring.

About The Bridge (Season One):

A woman is found murdered in the middle of the Oresund Bridge, on the border between Sweden and Denmark. Police from both countries are called to the scene and what looks like one murder, turns out to be two. It's a spectacular double murder: the

bodies have been brutally cut in half at the waist and put together to form a single corpse. It's also just the beginning of a wave of violence the likes of which no one has ever seen before. Both police forces find themselves in a race against the clock in a deadly showdown with a superior enemy, and no one will be the same when it's over.

GENEALOGY SESSION

Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. – noon

"The Orphan Train" Book Discussion

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. – noon

Complete Photo Restoration in Four Easy Steps

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. – noon

*South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society Library
and Pullman Employee Records*

Different topics each month. Cost is free for Nordic Family Genealogy Center members; non-members pay \$10. Reservations appreciated and can be made via email genealogy@samac.org or by calling the Museum at 773.728.8111.

HEJSAN – STORY & CRAFT HOUR

Third Friday of the Month, 11 a.m. – noon, September – June

March 20: "Birds" by Kevin Henkes (handprint nests)

April 17: "Rabbits and Raindrops" by Jim Aronson (clothespin rabbits)

May 15: "Theodore and the Talking Mushroom" by Leo Lionni (mushroom houses)

Hejsan is now on Friday mornings. Join us at 11 a.m. at the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration for a free story and craft hour with admission. This spring the theme is animals and nature of Sweden. All ages are welcome to attend with a caregiver.

REPEATING EVENTS

BULLERBYN

Sunday, March 15, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 19, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 3, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 17, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Taking place roughly every other Sunday in tandem with Svenska Skolan, Bullerbyn is a time for singing cherished children's songs, reading fun tales, and having lots of fun in Swedish. Children ages 6 months to 5 years are welcome to attend with a parent. Only Swedish is spoken in Bullerbyn, so Swedish should be also be spoken regularly at home too! We meet in the gallery space or the Children's Museum. Kids are welcome to stay and play in the Brunk Children's Museum after the program. The classes are free for members. Non-members pay \$5 per child/class; payment can be made at the Museum. Reservations are recommended and can be made by emailing Inordstrom@samac.org.

Reservations are appreciated and can be made via email to snyman@samac.org.

SCANDINAVIAN JAM

Sunday, April 12, 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 10, 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

It is music at the Museum—wake up your ears, exercise your fingers and play along with us! Musicians and instructors Mary Allsopp and Paul Tyler co-host a Scandinavian Jam at the Swedish American Museum the second Sunday of every month. Join us for an afternoon of traditional roots music starting with instruction from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. New tunes are taught in the call and response “aural” tradition. The afternoon continues with a brief snack, and the jam session kicks off at 2 p.m. Build a repertoire with the unique tones and unusual rhythms of Scandinavia. Recording devices are encouraged. Bring your instruments, request your favorites, share a tune, and play along on what you can, sit back and listen when you want a break. Contact Scandi.Fiddler@yahoo.com or PTyler@ameritech.net with any questions.

THE DREAM OF AMERICA EXHIBIT GUIDED TOUR

Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.

Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m.

Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m.

This fascinating tour starts in the mid-1800s in Sweden and takes the visitor on a journey from Sweden to the New World, providing insights into the struggles and triumphs of Swedish immigrant life in Chicago. We meet Stina Olofsdotter, whose son is leaving Sweden with his family in 1868; Karl Karlsson and his family who emigrated in 1893; and Elin and Birgitta Hedman, who arrived at Ellis Island in 1924. Cost for the tour is \$4 adults, \$3 seniors and students, members are free. Space is limited; reservations are recommended and can be made via email to museum@samac.org.

MARCH 2015

SCANDINAVIAN DANCES WITH LINDA AND PAUL

Three Friday Sessions: March 13, 20, 27, 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Always wanted to learn how to dance or take your dancing to the next level? If you can walk, you can learn to dance! Emphasis is on basic dance techniques one step at a time. Beginners learn how to recognize music, connect with your partner, lead and follow. For those with advanced dance abilities, classes build a strong foundation to develop additional dance skills and improve technique. The Hambo, considered Sweden’s National Dance, will be the focus of the last class on Friday, March 27. Attendance at each class is not required but highly recommended. Cost per class: \$10 members, \$15 non-members; save 20 percent with all 3 classes (\$24 members, \$36 for non-members). No partner needed and any experience level welcome. If you have any questions, email museum@samac.org or call 773.728.8111. Preregister online.

EXHIBIT CLOSING: STREETS, BLOCKS AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Sunday, March 15, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This is your last chance to check out Swedish-born artist Björn Sjögren’s works at the Swedish American Museum.

PASSPORT TO SCANDINAVIA AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

Wednesday, March 18, 6 p.m.

Join the Field Museum and the Swedish-American community for an exclusive evening event celebrating cultural diversity in Chicago. Experience the new exhibition, “Vikings,” and go beyond the legend of brutal warriors and learn the truth about the Vikings. For more information about this event visit <http://www.fieldmuseum.org/at-the-field/exhibitions/vikings>. Tickets can be purchased at the door for this event at the Field Museum.

FAMILY PROGRAM ON VIKINGS AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us in the Crown Family PlayLab at the Field Museum as we explore Viking culture and play games in celebration of the newly-opened “Vikings” exhibit. This family event is a collaboration between the Swedish American Museum and the Field Museum. For more information please visit the Field Museum’s website (www.fieldmuseum.org/at-the-field/calendar/art-and-science-spotlight).

CELEBRATE VÅFFELDAGEN/WAFFLE DAY AT THE MUSEUM

Wednesday, March 25, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Våffeldagen is celebrated on March 25, the feast of Marie Bebådelsedagen or Annunciation Day. That was the day the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Swedes have found a great way of celebrating this day—we eat waffles! At the Museum we will celebrate Våffeldagen by serving delicious Swedish waffles all day. A suggested donation of \$5 per serving is asked.

GET SMART ABOUT BRAIN HEALTH

Thursday, March 26, 2 p.m.

Are you curious about how to take care of your brain as you age? If so, come to the Swedish American Museum on Thursday, March 26 for a midday seminar highlighting 10 steps you can follow to take care of your memory and mind. The seminar will be led by Dr. Emily Lindner from Great Lakes Clinical Trials. Dr. Lindner is board-certified in Internal Medicine as well as Longevity Medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine. This is a free seminar, but reservations are requested and can be made by calling the Museum at 773.728.8111. Emailed RSVPs will also be accepted at museum@samac.org.

EASTER ACTIVITIES ALL WEEK

Monday, March 30 through Thursday, April 2, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Looking for something to do with the kids the week before Easter? Join us for Easter-themed activities all week long at the Swedish American Museum and Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration. They will have fun learning about all the fun Swedish Easter traditions from creating Easter trees with feathers to dressing up as witches!

SOFIA TALVIK LIVE IN ANDERSONVILLE

Tuesday, March 31, 7 p.m.

Join us as we welcome back to the Museum Swedish singer Sofia Talvik. Currently touring in promotion of her newest album, *Big Sky Country*, Talvik has made an impression on audiences from Lollapalooza to South by Southwest. Unmistakably Nordic in flavor, she somehow still conforms to American interpretations of her own original acoustic folk music. Talvik is a North Sea siren blending sparkle and melancholy in a visually-arresting solo presentation. Tickets are available for advanced purchase on the Swedish American Museum's website. This event is co-sponsored by the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce—Chicago's Young Professionals.



Photo by Jonas Westin

APRIL 2015

THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3 FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

SWEDISH EASTER BUFFET

Saturday, April 4, 6 p.m.

Celebrate Easter with your friends and family at the Swedish American Museum's traditional Easter smorgasbord. Cost is \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members and \$15 for children 12 and under. Reservations can be made on the Museum website.

THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5 FOR EASTER SUNDAY.

KIDS' ACTIVITIES ALL WEEK

Monday, April 6 through Friday, April 10, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Looking for something to do with the kids now that Chicago Public Schools are out? Join us for activities all week long at the Swedish American Museum and Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. this week Monday through Friday! The fun will continue from the previous week's Easter-themed activities and will include creating Easter trees with feathers and dressing up as witches (a Swedish tradition around this time of the year).

ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Tuesday, April 14, 6 p.m.

All are welcome—members and non-members—to attend this celebration of the Museum's achievements and activities from the past year. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and the annual meeting follows at 7:30 p.m. Cost for the dinner is \$20 per person. Volunteers are our guests. Reservations are required and can be made online. If you have any questions, please email museum@samac.org or call 773.728.8111.

FROM JENNY LIND TO ABBA

Saturday, April 18, 5:30 p.m.

The Swedish-American Historical Society with SWEA Chicago and the Swedish American Museum invite you to enjoy a bouquet of Swedish music in America, presented by Dr. Anne-Charlotte Harvey on Saturday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m. This musical evening features the following performers: Magnus Hillbo, Merula Quartet, Susan Nelson, Scott Uddenberg, Ingmari Wahlgren and Catherine Buckley Werner and will take place at the Museum. Tickets can be purchased in advance on the Museum's website for \$40 and include the concert and dinner.

RUNES, TWITTER AND THE VIKINGS

Sunday, April 26, 4 p.m.

What are runes, these most enigmatic of characters? Even the word rune itself is claimed to mean 'mystery.' Enter the world of runic inscriptions with its lively Pagans and pious Christians. Learn about law makers, warriors, trade correspondence, death poems, cryptograms, and autocrats with Henrik Williams, professor of Scandinavian Language at Uppsala University. And above all, find out what the Vikings have to say on their mighty rune stones.

Professor Williams is primarily a philologist, teaching and doing research in runology, Old Swedish, and Old Icelandic. He has authored numerous scholarly papers in both Swedish and English and published a variety of pieces including a book on the language in Viking age Swedish runes stones, an edition of the Old Swedish romance *Haerra Ivan* and major articles on the conversion of Sweden. Recently, he was awarded the Rudbeck medal for his ground-breaking work in runology.

Cost is \$10 to attend and includes fika (coffee and treats).

CONSCIOUS BREATHING

Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.

We all know the importance of breathing. But few of us understand that how we breathe affects every single aspect of our life. According to Anders Olsson, any quest for enhanced health and well-being should include improving your breathing habits as a basic component. Breathing is an integral part of us and is with us wherever we go. Since one can practice retraining your breathing habits anywhere and at any time, it is simple to establish improved breathing inexpensively and effectively. Come learn more about Anders' work helping people rethink the way they breathe.

MAY 2015

THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY ON MONDAY, MAY 25.

JUNE 2015

SAVE THE DATE:
50th ANDERSONVILLE
MIDSOMMARFEST

Friday, June 12 – Sunday, June 14



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

PIONEER THE WORLD DAY CAMP 2015

Session I: July 27 - 31, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Session II: Aug. 10 - 14, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Travel the world without leaving Chicago! Come and explore the food, dance, folk arts, and cultural identities of a different country each day in our Pioneer the World Day Camp. Campers end the week with their very own World's Fair to show off their work to the public. Pioneer Camp is always packed with fun and adventure for children ages 6 to 10. Cost for 2015 session: \$200 members, \$250 non-members; extended care is available until 4 p.m. for an additional \$75 per week. Call the Museum at 773.728.8111, ext. 26, to reserve your spot or register via our website visit www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org.

RESERVATIONS

If you would like to make reservations for one or more of our events please fill out the information below and return this form to us with payment or email us at Museum@samac.org

Event _____

Time & Date _____

Price \$ _____ x _____ # of people attending = \$ _____

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*A bouquet of Swedish music in America, presented
 by Dr. Anne-Charlotte Harvey*

FROM JENNY LIND TO ABBA

at the Swedish American Museum

Saturday, April 18



Price: \$40.00
 5:30 p.m. Wine and cheese
 6 p.m. Dinner catered by Tre Kronor
 7 p.m. Program

Featuring the following performers:

Magnus Hillbo, Merula Quartet, Susan Nelson, Scott Uddenberg, Ingmari Wahlgren, Catherine Buckley Werner.

SPONSORED BY: The Swedish-American Historical Society,
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We apologize if we have missed a donation or if a donor is listed incorrectly.

Water Tower Fund Update

One year ago on March 20 a crowd stood outside the Swedish American Museum and watched a cherished symbol of the neighborhood make its journey from the Museum's roof to our parking lot for further inspection. As we now know, the blue and yellow painted tank was too badly damaged by the harsh winter to be restored. The focus now is on recreating the icon that marks Andersonville's unique history.

In the last months of 2014, the Museum made a call for donations to the Water Tower Fund that would take us from \$70,000 to \$100,000 by the start of 2015. With a matching gift campaign made possible by long-time Museum supporters and life trustees, Bo and Anita Hedfors, we did it! We thank our many donors for their support and generosity. With two-thirds of the

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total \$150,000 needed to recreate the historic Andersonville Water Tower landmark secured, we can

begin to set a timeline and develop plans for recreating this beloved symbol.

We want to express our gratitude to those who provided major gifts of \$10,000 or more to the fund: Museum life trustees Ulla and Bertil Brunk, the Edith Marie Appleton Foundation by Museum trustee Albert Goodman, the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, and the Hedfors family.

Check in for new Water Tower related events and news on our website. ■



Add to your family history

Museum exhibits provide a visual way of appreciating the immigrant experience. For personal stories and background,

Join the Swedish-American Historical Society

Four issues a year of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, plus dividend books.

The Society's latest book is *Norwegians and Swedes in the United States: Friends and Neighbors*.

For more information, write

Swedish-American Historical Society
3225 W. Foster, Box 48
Chicago IL, 60625

or see www.swedishamericanhist.org

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Non-Profit Organization: \$75 *

Family: \$50 *

Individual: \$35 *

Student/Senior Couple: \$25 *

Student/Senior: \$15

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521 Club: \$521 – \$999 ††

Linnaeus Society: \$250 – \$520 †

Sandburg Society: \$100 – \$249 ††

Sustaining: \$75 †

Memberships Include:

* Free Admission

* Discounts in the Museum Store

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* Invitations to Openings and Special Events

* Subscription to *Flaggan* Newsletter

† All of the Above & a Subscription to *Sweden & America* Magazine

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†‡ All of the Above & Special One-time Discount in the Museum Store

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Museum Programs & Events March – May 2015

NEW EXHIBIT:

“HOMAGE TO THE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE”

Exhibit Opening: Thursday, March 19
Start with Art: Friday, April 10
Family Night: Friday, April 24
Closing: Sunday, May 31, 4 p.m.

March 20: “Birds” by Kevin Henkes (handprint nests)

April 17: “Rabbits and Raindrops” by Jim Aronsky (clothespin rabbits)

May 15: “Theodore and the Talking Mushroom” by Leo Lionni (mushroom houses)

BULLERBYN

Sunday, March 15, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Sunday, April 19, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Sunday, May 3, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Sunday, May 17, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

SCANDINAVIAN JAM

Sunday, April 12, 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 10, 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

THE DREAM OF AMERICA EXHIBIT GUIDED TOUR

Saturday, March 14, 11 a.m.
Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m.
Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m.

FILM THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 7, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

SCANDINAVIAN DANCES WITH LINDA AND PAUL

Three Friday Sessions: March 13, 20, 27, 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

GENEALOGY SESSION

Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m. – noon
Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. – noon
Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. – noon

EXHIBIT CLOSING: STREETS, BLOCKS AND NEIGHBORHOOD

Sunday, March 15, 4 p.m.

HEJSAN – STORY & CRAFT HOUR

Third Friday of the Month, 11 a.m. – noon, September – June

PASSPORT TO SCANDINAVIA AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

Wednesday, March 18, 6 p.m.

FAMILY PROGRAM ON VIKINGS AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WAFFLE DAY/ VÅFFELDAGEN

Wednesday, March 25, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

GET SMART ABOUT BRAIN HEALTH

Thursday, March 26, 2 p.m.

SOFIA TALVIK LIVE IN ANDERSONVILLE

Tuesday, March 31, 7 p.m.

EASTER ACTIVITIES ALL WEEK AT THE MUSEUM

Monday, March 30 through Thursday, April 2, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SWEDISH EASTER BUFFET

Saturday, April 4, 6 p.m.

KIDS' ACTIVITIES AT BRUNK CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Monday, April 6 - Friday, April 10, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Tuesday, April 14, 6 p.m.

FROM JENNY LIND TO ABBA CONCERT

Saturday, April 18, 5:30 p.m.

RUNES, TWITTER AND THE VIKINGS

Sunday, April 26, 4 p.m.

CONSCIOUS BREATHING

Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.

For more information on these and other Museum programs, events, classes, films and jam sessions, please see the center insert.