IN THIS ISSUE

Museum Celebrates Three Anniversaries

In April of 1976 Sweden’s King Carl XVI Gustaf visited Chicago to help celebrate the grand opening of the Swedish American Museum in Andersonville.

In 2001, Sweden’s Queen Sylvia attended the opening of the third floor as the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year.

And this is the 10th anniversary for Executive Director Karin Moen Abercrombie.

See the story on page 3.

Collections Storage

The Skvadern above is now located in the new storage closets in the basement of the Museum.

See the story on page 4.
Dear members and friends,

Welcome to this edition of Flaggan!

During the summer we had several Midsommar celebrations; the first one was right here in Andersonville. The Museum was responsible for the Swedish Stage and Beer Booth at Clark and Foster. The stage was sponsored by Fields Volvo and Orloff Volvo and we had lots of great music including Swedish musicians from Chicago and Sweden, and the Beer Booth was sponsored by Holmquist Northern Insurance. Board member Steve Satek led the team of volunteers at this great event for our Museum. Our thanks to everyone who was part of Midsommarfest; it took many of us.

The Museum also participated in Rockford’s Midsommar celebration and Sweden Väst in Geneva. An exciting event for us and other Nordic Organizations in Chicago was the arrival of Draken Harald Hårfagre for the Tall Ships Festival at Navy Pier during the last week of July. Over 23,000 visitors saw the Viking Ship, and the Museum had a booth for the Tall Ships Festival at Navy Pier during the last week of July. Over 23,000 visitors saw the Viking Ship, and the Museum had a booth sponsored by Holmquist Northern Insurance. Board member Steve Satek led the team of volunteers at this great event for our Museum. Our thanks to everyone who was part of Midsommarfest; it took many of us.

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Sweden’s King Carl XVI Gustaf visited Chicago in April 1976 to help celebrate the grand opening of the Swedish American Museum in Andersonville. To Sweden’s royalties, this establishment of a permanent tribute to Scandinavian immigrants was a significant event.

As one of the few remaining vestiges of Nordic heritage in Chicago, a city that once had a Swedish population second only to the capital city of Stockholm, the Swedish American Museum has a mission that is clear to the staff, the board of directors and the trustees.

Now observing its 40th anniversary, the Museum opened in a small Clark Street storefront that it soon outgrew. In 1987, an ideal three-story building that had housed historic Lind Hardware became available. In April 1988, the Swedish king returned to mark the Museum’s second grand opening.

At first, the Museum used only the two lower levels. The main floor houses a gallery for meetings and exhibits, and a store filled with items from and about Sweden. The second floor is devoted to the permanent exhibit, “A Dream of America: Swedish Immigration to Chicago,” and staff offices.

In 2001, Sweden’s Queen Sylvia attended the opening of the third floor as the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. This has become a popular facility where youngsters can learn about Scandinavian heritage while they play.

Each day, a child from toddler on up can row a Viking ship, milk a cow on a Swedish farm, keep house in a log cabin, or dress up as an immigrant pioneer. Birthday party rentals, school tours and educational programs are special occasions almost weekly in the Children’s Museum.

Also enjoying an anniversary this year is Executive Director Karin Moen Abercrombie, who 10 years ago took on the tasks of supervising operations of the physical plant, the growing staff of employees and volunteers, and the events that take place in the Museum, seven days a week.

Karin emigrated from Göteborg in 1980. Two years later, she moved from Minnesota to Chicago. She worked for the Swedish Trade Council for a year, joined the SVEA ladies, and taught classes in Swedish. She also was controller, financial manager and CFO for some private mid-size firms.

When the opportunity to manage the Museum arose, Karin Abercrombie was the ideal person to meet the challenge and to enhance the scope of its activities and outreach. She had been a volunteer, and her degree in education from the University of Jönköping fueled her desire to expand teaching programs for children and adults.

In 2006, she succeeded Kerstin Lane, who had been director of the Swedish American Museum since it was founded. “Every day is a new adventure,” Karin notes. “Our thousands of visitors remind us that what we are doing makes a difference.”
As the collections staff and dedicated volunteers work through the last pieces of our collections storage reorganization project, we have rediscovered some fun and unique artifacts that have not recently been on display. The Museum has over 16,000 artifacts in our collection, each one carefully catalogued and stored. We only have the space to display about 5 to 10% of this collection at any given time, so many items remain in storage for use in research and for future exhibits. As we have moved many of our artifacts into our new archival quality, high density shelving, we have had to inventory and condition report each piece. Inventory has given us the opportunity to re-examine many of these artifacts. One such piece was a wooden carving of a curious-looking creature with the ears of a rabbit and wings and tail of a bird. The base of the carving was inscribed “Skvadern” and “Sverige 1951.”

According to legend, the Skvader or Skvadern is a species of winged hare native to Sweden. The skvader is actually a folkloric creation invented by a hunter named Håkan Dahlmark in 1874. Dahlmark claimed to have shot the creature — which is a cross between a hare and a wood grouse — while on a hunt north of the town of Sundsvall in Medelpad, Sweden. On his birthday in 1907, his housekeeper presented him with a painting of the animal that her nephew had made, which Dahlmark eventually donated to a local museum. In 1918, a taxidermist by the name of Rudolf Granberg constructed a stuffed skvader at the request of the museum’s curator, Captain Erik Hammarberg. To this day, the museum still has the stuffed skvader on display and some visitors are disappointed to find that the creature never really existed. The town of Sundsvall now considers the skvader to be its unofficial symbol and have erected a statue of the creature. The term “skvader” now also refers to a bad compromise or contradiction.

The skvader could be considered the Swedish cousin of the American Jackalope, a mythical jackrabbit with antlers, “native” to the American west. Similarly, another relative may live in northern Germany, the Wolpertinger — supposedly a creature with the head of a rabbit and the body of a squirrel as well as fangs and antlers. Interestingly, a 17th century natural history text documents a “horned rabbit” considered real at the time but has now proven to have been fictional. Historic Arabic poetry from Persia mentions an Al-mir’raj, a rabbit with a large spiraling horn — similar to that of another mythical creature — a unicorn.

The Swedish skvader, it appears, is in good company. For now, the Museum’s wooden skvader is also in good company — among the other wooden artifacts in our new archival-quality shelving system.

Veronica Robinson
Curator
Genealogy Stories

Hooked on Genealogy
After a Trip to Sweden

A trip to her paternal grandmother’s sister in a Stockholm suburb sparked Shirley Koelling’s interest in genealogy. Since then, she has visited Sweden five times, each time meeting more family members and discovering information about both sides of her family.

By visiting her grandfather’s town, she hoped to obtain some history about him. All she had was his mother’s death notice to help. He had left Sweden in 1907 and not stayed in contact with his native country.

With the aid of a bus station ticket agent and some kind strangers, Shirley was able to meet several second cousins, their children, and her grandfather’s youngest brother. She was able to visit the farm where her grandfather grew up. The current owner remembered her grandfather and allowed her to take photos of each room in the house.

“I was in Seventh Heaven!” Shirley recalls. Now she loves working in the Museum’s Genealogy Center and wants people to have the kind of experiences she has had.

One memorable client brought in a 49-year-old wedding invitation with the hopes of finding the current address of the couple. The address was found and the client was able to return to Sweden and help celebrate the couple’s 50th wedding anniversary.

Shirley is one of several Wednesday afternoon volunteer researchers who help others solve genealogy puzzles. She is also active in the South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society in Hazel Crest.

Bad Shoes Equal Genealogy Interest

Sue Jackson always knew she was three-fourths Swedish but had no knowledge of any family earlier than her grandparents. No great aunts, no great uncles. Therefore, no family stories.

The only hint Sue had was a remark from her father’s mother when Sue asked why she had come to the United States. Her grandmother replied, “I didn’t like my shoes.” No further explanation.

Much later, Sue discovered that, as a farm girl, her grandmother’s shoes were wooden. The shoes were probably a metaphor for the many things her grandmother did not like. In any case, “bad shoes” brought Anna Karin Aronsson across the Atlantic Ocean and to Chicago.

Sue joined the Museum after she discovered it had a genealogy group. Since then, she has become an active member who serves on the genealogy advisory board and is a volunteer researcher on Wednesday afternoons.

Sue was named Volunteer of the Year in 2009. She fondly remembers one research incident that led to the meeting of two Museum members, and then to a marriage.

Genealogy can lead to many new and exciting places, and much better shoes!

How do you find your Swedish Roots?
Open House
Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come meet with experts from the Museum, Sweden, and SWEA for help with beginning and intermediate genealogy research, translations, geography, travel, and more — all for only $10.

To request a time-slot for genealogy research and/or translations, please make a reservation at 773.728.8111 or genealogy@samac.org.

Sponsored by the Swedish American Museum and The Swedish-American Historical Society
Polycarpus von Schneidau, a Swedish immigrant who lived in Chicago, accomplished a lifetime of remarkable achievements before he celebrated his 12th birth date. He was a soldier, a teacher, an engineer, a photographer, a consular official, a husband and a father.

Born Karl Johan Fredrick Polycarpus von Schneidau in Skeppsholmen Parish, Stockholm, on February 29, 1812, he lived for 47 years – 30 in Sweden and 17 in the United States. He was able to observe only 11 anniversaries of his leap-year birth.

His parents were Swedish Army Captain Johan Henrik von Schneidau of Kisa Parish, Östergötland, and Baroness Antoinetta Elisabeth Cronhielm. Their family trees included ancestors who emigrated from Austria during the Thirty Years War.

Like his father, who died in 1837 after a distinguished military career, young Polycarpus became a soldier. He was assigned to the elite Svea Artillery Regiment, then appointed aide-de-camp to King Carl XIV Johan with the rank of lieutenant.

Destined for distinguished service in the Royal Swedish Army, Polycarpus von Schneidau’s aspirations were stymied when he fell in love with Carolina Elisabeth Jacobsson, the daughter of a Stockholm merchant.

The feeling was mutual and they decided to wed, but there was a catch: Carolina was half-Jewish. Polycarpus was prohibited by military convention from marrying a woman of a religious faith other than the national church. He resigned his commission in 1842 and started planning their immigration to America with Carolina.

At age 30, Polycarpus left Sweden for Denmark with his bride-to-be.

She converted to Christianity before they were married in Copenhagen. From there, they went to Hamburg and embarked for the United States aboard the vessel Stephani. Arriving on July 26, 1842, in New York City, they made their way to Pine Lake in Wisconsin territory. Polycarpus had been attracted to New Uppsala, the short-lived Swedish settlement there, through articles sent to the Stockholm press by its founder, Gustaf Unonius.

Frontier life in rural Wisconsin was arduous for the young couple. Polycarpus had injured his leg during the trans-Atlantic voyage and was not able to clear and farm their woody plot. He passed time by sketching likenesses of friends they had left in Sweden.

Painter Sarah Freeman Clarke heard about him, arranged a visit and was impressed by the artwork. She obtained sponsors for the couple to relocate to Chicago in 1844. Polycarpus began teaching French and German, fencing, dancing and gymnastics.

In addition to teaching, he worked part-time as an engineer in a copper mine and as superintendent of construction for the new Galena & Chicago Union Railroad. His strong desire for a permanent vocation happened to coincide with development of a new art form: daguerreotype photography.

In 1848, his Chicago sponsors sent him to New York to learn the technique and obtain the equipment he would need. His first venture as a professional was as an assistant to Matthew B. Brady.

continues on the next page
The summer of 2016 was busy, but really fun! We celebrated Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration’s fifteenth birthday in June with a big birthday party. We had a wonderful whirlwind of two full sessions of Pioneer the World Day Camp (we visited Poland, Australia, Puerto Rico and Sweden). We also had a busy time as the weekly partner at the Millennium Park Family Fun Festival at the end of August. On top of all this, we had numerous day camp visits and quite a few little ones celebrated birthday parties with us.

For me, fall is a time for new beginnings. As a child, it was the start of a new year. New school supplies, new clothes, the possibility of a new child in class. During my teaching years (14 of them!), fall was a time of cute new faces, new books, new classroom themes, more new supplies (I really love fresh new boxes of crayons and markers!) and another fresh start with the slate wiped clean, yet again. Fall also brings a new season with beautiful colors, new weather as the temperature starts to drop and new routines as families adjust to back to school and sports schedules.

While no longer in the traditional teacher role, I still look forward to fall, especially as Education Manager at the Museum. It is the time when schools start filling the calendar with tours and all those cold weather month birthdays need a place to celebrate. I begin planning dates for beloved programs and start brainstorming new ideas.

This fall, I am looking forward to a number of events. Hejsan, our story and craft hour, will occur on the third Friday of every month at 11 a.m. This year we will be focusing on famous people of Swedish descent. I am also beginning to look forward to our holiday events and am already planning activities. Those anxious to sign up for Breakfast with Tomten, held this year on Dec. 10-11 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m., can do so via our website. It always sells out quickly and in 2015 it sold out before Halloween (you can also call the Museum or email me at snyman@samac.org to sign up).

Fall is a sweet time filled with new experiences. I hope that all our guests are able to enjoy this special time of year with family and friends. And I hope that the Museum can be a destination as part of a new family tradition.

Stacey Nyman
Education Manager

Swedish Immigrant Wore Many Hats in Short Life continued from page 6

Between 1849 and 1856, Polycarpus established Chicago studios successively at four locations on Lake Street. In 1850, Brady asked him to return briefly to New York to photograph an old friend, Jenny Lind, the “Swedish Nightingale” whose United States tour was about to begin. Polycarpus became active in Chicago’s Swedish community, serving as Chicago’s Swedish-Norwegian vice consul and also as Danish vice consul. He convinced Gustaf Unonius to establish the Scandinavian congregation that became St. Ansgarius Protestant Episcopal Church.

On the evening of October 27, 1854, two acquaintances of Polycarpus visited his studio to request a sitting for a tall friend named Abraham Lincoln. That would have been 11 days after the future president’s historic anti-slavery speech in Peoria. The likeness became the fifth known image of the future president.

Documentation of this incident was the subject of “Picturing Lincoln,” a 2008 essay by scholar Vernon Burton that was published by the University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Although the 1854 daguerreotype was lost, reportedly in a fire, an altered ambrotype exists.

The 1855 death of his beloved Carolina devastated Polycarpus. Married for only 13 years, they had experienced a short life of adventure together. Every setback had been followed by opportunities.

Polycarpus spent most of 1856 and 1857 mourning in Europe while living with their 10-year-old adopted daughter Pauline. For a time, he was confined to bed in Berlin with arthritis so severe that he was unable to move.

His health failing, he returned to his Chicago studio in 1858 for the last time. He sold the photography business that year to another Lincoln photographer, Samuel Alschuler, who had moved from Urbana to Chicago.

Karl Johan Fredrick Polycarpus von Schneidau died December 27, 1859, in his 48th year - two months short of February 29, his 12th birth date.

Stephen Anderson
— EXHIBITS —

“SONGS FROM THE SEA/HAVETS SÅNGER”
Saturday, June 4 - Oct. 30, 2016
Songs of the Sea is a collaborative, multimedia exhibition combining visual art and music. Opera singer and composer Simon Pettersson of Sweden and visual artist Lana Stephens of Virginia met while working abroad in Florence, Italy and this exhibit is the result of their chance meeting on their way to an opera festival. Originally debuted at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, each work of visual art produced by Pettersson is accompanied by one of ten classical songs composed by Pettersson in his native Swedish. Stephen’s drawings were born of the landscape of southern Sweden and Pettersson composed the accompanying songs as part of a musical story of lost love and inescapable tragedy inspired by the Edgar Allen Poe poem “Annabel Lee.” Visitors will be able to view the artwork and listen to each piece in the intimate setting of our second-floor exhibit space in the Raoul Wallenberg Room.

SACRED & SECULAR: ARTWORK OF STUART CARLSON
Opened: Thursday, Oct. 6,
Start with Art: Friday, Oct. 28,
9 a.m. – noon
Family Night: Friday, Oct. 28,
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Exhibit Closing: Sunday, Nov. 27, 4 p.m.
The Museum will exhibit over 20 works of Stuart Carlson (1938-1980) an influential art instructor and prolific artist. The son of Swedish immigrant parents in Chicago, Carlson began to study art and design at a young age. Carlson often described his work as “faceted,” his figure and still life paintings are like images viewed through a prism - segmented but recognizable. Several pieces on display are part of the Museum’s permanent collection, but the majority of the art will be on loan from Carlson’s former art students.

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED, BY BJÖRN BREITHOLTZ
Sunday, Nov. 6 - Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017
“Still there were the noises from the wharves, still you went to America by boat. I went to Masthugget, Västergatan Landala with an old Leica-camera in a leather strap over my shoulder. I had just been admitted to the Art college in Gothenburg I was curious. This was 1959.” While studying art in Gothenburg, photographer, Björn Breitholtz, captured the daily life the port city in the 1950s and 1960s. At a time when many were still leaving for America by boat, Gothenburg was a center for Sweden’s transatlantic travel. Opening on November 6, 2016, the Swedish American Museum will host an exhibition of Breitholtz’s photography in our Raoul Wallenberg Room. His black and white stills present a snapshot of life in Gothenburg during a time of transition. After studying in Stockholm and Gothenburg, Breitholtz opened his own studio and continued to work as a freelance photographer for monthly magazines as well as the Victor Hasselblad company. Throughout his career he has exhibited his work in Lund, Malmö and Gothenburg.

—RECURRING EVENTS—

SCANDINAVIAN JAM
Sunday, Nov. 6, Dec. 11,
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 every 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 where you can, sit back and listen when you want a break. We are a group of musicians who enjoy spending time together, and would enjoy having you sit in with us! Contact Scandi.

MOON MONDAY
Monday, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
The Buzz Aldrin Education Cart will be available for exploration the first Monday each month. Moon Mondays will allow guests at the Swedish American Museum and the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration to enrich the experience of the Buzz Aldrin: Space Visionary exhibit. This tech-equipped mobile exhibit will be used on a regular basis as part of our educational programming as well as during select school tours. This complement to our Buzz Aldrin: Space Visionary exhibit was made possible through a grant from the Swedish Council of America.

HEJSAN - STORY & CRAFT HOUR
Third Friday of the Month,
11 a.m. - noon, September - June
Nov. 28 - Leif Erickson, Explorer
Dec. 16 - Alfred Nobel, Scientist
Join us at 11 a.m. at the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration for a story and craft hour on the third Friday of each month, September through June..Theme for the fall 2016 is Famous Swedes. All ages are welcome to attend with a caregiver for this free (with admission) program. While there is no additional cost to attend, reservations are appreciated and can be made via email to snyman@samac.org.

THE DREAM OF AMERICA EXHIBIT GUIDED TOUR
Saturday, Nov. 19, 1 p.m.
Dive into the history of Swedish immigration to Chicago with this guided tour of the Swedish American Museum’s permanent exhibit, “The Dream of America.” Uncover the stories of real immigrants like Karl Karlsson, who left Sweden with his family in 1893, or Elin and Birgitta Hedman, who made the journey in 1924. Learn about what awaited the millions who came to America via Ellis Island and what life was like in Swedish neighborhoods like Andersonville in Chicago then and now. Suggested donation for the tour is $4 adults, $3 seniors and students.

Fiddler@yahoo.com or PTyler@ameritech.net with any questions.

Fall Programs and Events

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM HOURS
GENERAL MUSEUM AND STORE HOURS:
Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Store open to 6 p.m. on Fridays

CHILDREN’S MUSEUM HOURS:
Monday - Thursday: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Got Glogg?
Tasting and Competition

Friday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.
Glogg, mulled wine, is a vital part of the Christmas season for Swedes. Join us for this competition to see who really has the best glogg in Chicago. Those wanting to compete should contact the Museum or go on our website to reserve their space and receive the rules for competing. Tasters and judges can purchase tickets on the Museum’s website. Admission is $20/person and includes sandwiches and samples from all our competing glogg masters.

CHRISTMAS PREVIEW AND SALE AT THE MUSEUM STORE
Sunday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
The Kerstin Andersson Museum Store invites you to enjoy a day of Christmas shopping, get a chance to see the new items for the season. Specially priced items will be available and members will receive a 20 percent discount on all items.

— NOVEMBER 2016 —
KALMAR NYCKEL: Sailing a 17th-Century Swedish Colonial Ship into the 21st Century
Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016, 7 p.m.
Sam Heed, Senior Historian & Director of Education, Kalmar Nyckel Foundation will highlight “key” educational initiatives that have unlocked the potential of the Tall Ship Kalmar Nyckel, turning an interesting replica Swedish ship that sails into one of the world’s great educational resources. By using the ship as a floating classroom and inspirational platform for an array of sea- and land-based programs, the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation has become a relevant and exciting place for modern audiences. Sam’s recent projects for the Foundation include the production of a feature-length documentary film for television about the original ship’s first transatlantic crossing that launched the colony of New Sweden in 1638 and the opening of the new Copeland Maritime Center, an 18,000 square foot cutting-edge educational center and ship maintenance facility. Collaborative partnerships with the Vasa Museum in Stockholm, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and NOAA’s Monitor National Marine Sanctuary off Cape Hatteras have energized and enhanced the Foundation’s programs – turning Kalmar Nyckel into “a Tall Ship with a Broad Reach.” Cost $10, proceeds to benefit Kalmar Nyckel Foundation.

EXPLORING YOUR SWEDISH ROOTS
Hosted by Swedish American Genealogical Society
Sunday, Nov. 13, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Meet one-on-one with experts for help with genealogy research, translations, and more. In addition to the Museum’s own researchers, two genealogists from Sweden, Elisabeth Thorsell and Ingrid Nilsson and the North American representative of ArkivDigital, Kathy Meade, will be present to answer your questions about Swedish research. Reservations recommended. Walk-ins will be accommodated if time permits. Call the Museum at 773.728.8111 to schedule your appointment. Cost: $10 to participate. All participants will be entered in a raffle to win special prizes.
CANDLE MAKING AND CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Sunday, Nov. 20, 4 p.m.

Candle making has a strong tradition in Sweden. With the long, dark winter nights, candles were essential for lighting and are associated with many of the oldest festivals. Light up the winter by making hand-dipped candles. Additionally, we will create paper heart baskets and Christmas ornaments. You will also learn how to make a traditional Swedish Christmas treat. Bring a pair of sharp scissors. Coffee and sandwiches will be served. Cost is $10 for Museum members and $15 for non-members. Reservations are recommended and can be made on the Museum’s website.

FAMILY FUN: FICKLA, RICKA, AND DICKA AND THEIR NEW SKATES

Saturday, Nov. 26, 11:30 a.m.

Flicka, Ricka and Dicka are three sisters who live in Sweden. Christmas is coming and the girls are so excited. What will be under the tree on Christmas morning? Join us as we read this delightful story written by author-illustrator Maj Lindman. Following the story, we will be making a craft project that will be fun for all ages. Each child will also take home a free Flicka, Ricka and Dicka activity book.

EXTRA: STORE SPECIAL

Bring the gift of Children’s Literature home for the Holidays! The Kerstin Andersson Museum Store will have a sale on all Children’s Books the week of Nov. 21, 2016, including the beloved Flicka, Ricka and Dicka series and Snipp, Snapp and Snurr series. Stop in to learn more.

— DECEMBER 2016 —

LATE NIGHT ANDERSONVILLE AND JULMARKNAD PREVIEW SALE

Friday, Dec. 2, 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

It’s Late Night Andersonville on Dec. 4, where shoppers can enjoy later store hours throughout the neighborhood. There will also be a preview sale from select Julmarknad vendors.

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 handcrafts will be available for purchase. Visit the Children’s Museum for crafts, games and a special visit from Santa. It’s entertainment for the whole family and includes a kaffestuga, Lucia processions and folk dancers. $2 suggested donation for admission for all.

MARIN/MARIN - SWEDISH MASTER FIDDLERS

Friday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Mikael och Mia are called master fiddlers as well as inspired teachers. Their repertoire is a mix of traditional tunes and original compositions. Mikael’s creative sound world put together Mia’s fulminant playing equals musical fireworks without parallel. They teach regularly at music colleges, schools and workshops in Sweden and around the world. Sometimes alone, other times together with dance teachers or other music teachers. Both of them play in other bands and teach at different schools in Sweden. More information and their tour schedule can be found at www.miamarin.com/index.php/en/band2/marin-marin. Cost: $10/person

BREAKFAST WITH TOMTEN (SANTA)

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m.

Our most popular family event of the year has been extended to two dates again this year! Join us on either Saturday or Sunday for a Swedish pancake breakfast with traditional crafts, dancing around the Christmas tree, and a special visit from Tomten. Cost: $15 members, $20 non-members, $5 children ages one and older; infants under one are free. Prepaid reservations are required. Register early as this event tends to sell out.

ST. LUCIA CELEBRATION AT THE MUSEUM AND EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 4:45 p.m. at Swedish American Museum

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Andersonville’s Lucia celebration includes a procession starting at 4:45 p.m. from the Museum and returns for a program at 5 p.m. At 7 p.m., the celebration continues at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, with holiday songs, readings and a final Lucia processions.

LATE-ER NIGHT ANDERSONVILLE

Friday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Are you a procrastinator when it comes to holiday shopping? Are you at your most productive when the stress of a quickly approaching holiday is giving you a little extra motivation? Then join us for our second night of Late Night Andersonville, just a little “late-er” than usual. On Friday, Dec. 18 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., take advantage of 4 more hours of the same discounts from Late Night Andersonville, plus once again enjoy free entertainment, refreshments, and pictures with Santa.

SVENSK JULGUDSTJÄNST (SWEDISH CHRISTMAS SERVICE) AT EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, Dec. 18, 4 p.m.

Join us for a traditional Swedish Christmas church service at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, led (in Swedish) by a priest from the Swedish Church in New York.

JULMIDDAG - TRADITIONAL SWEDISH CHRISTMAS FAMILY DINNER

Sunday, Dec. 18, 5 p.m.

A festive and traditional Swedish Christmas Smorgåsbord will be catered by Tre Kronor. Tomten (Santa) will be on hand to give julklappar (presents) to all the children. There will be a Lucia procession and everyone is welcome to dance around the Christmas tree. Cost is $60 for Museum members; $70 for non-members; $20 for kids 12 and under; infants under 2 are free. RSVP by Dec. 15 by phone, email or on the website. Prepaid reservations are required.
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2016

Oct. 31 through Dec. 23

Museum & Museum Store
Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Late Night Andersonville, Friday, Dec. 2, 10 p.m.
Late-er Night Andersonville, Friday, Dec. 16, 10 p.m.

Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration
Monday - Thursday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dec. 26 through Dec. 30

Museum & Museum Store
Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration
Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Julmarknad Hours
Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Museum will be closed on the following days:
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day,
New Year’s Eve & New Year’s Day


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 = $_________

Event
Time & Date
Price $_______ x __________# of people attending = $_________

Event
Time & Date
Price $_______ x __________# of people attending = $_________

Event
Time & Date
Price $_______ x __________# of people attending = $_________

Grand Total: $______________________

Payment:
☐ Check enclosed, payable to Swedish American Museum
☐ Credit Card  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard

Account #
Expiration Date
Name on Card
Signature

Swedish American Museum
5211 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60640-2101
773.728.8111 | SwedishAmericanMuseum.org

Name
Address
City            State            Zip
Phone
Email

Museum Member  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Sign here
In 1976, the Swedish American Museum was the ambitious dream of Kurt Mathiasson. With just a few volunteers he set up the Museum’s humble beginnings in a storefront on Clark Street.

The dream caught on, and in 1985, the Museum had tax-exempt status and a board of directors. By 1986, the board had made a bold decision to secure a three-story building at 5211 N. Clark Street.

The first executive director, Kerstin Lane, had only volunteers and very little money, she had to figure out how to develop and run the space of the facility that once housed a hardware store. This required more than a big dream and volunteers. It required vision and fund-raising at a new level.

The Museum’s first major fund-raising event, called The Galaxy Ball, was held in the newly built State of Illinois Building on Randolph Street. Every year since, the event has moved to different locations. This funding source enables the Museum’s executive director, Karin Moen Abercrombie, and her staff and volunteers to create a place for obtaining and sharing information through unique programs and exhibits; for exploring and celebrating our heritage in collaboration with other cultural organizations and genealogy tools; and teaching our children about immigration in the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration.

This year the Museum celebrates a milestone. We named it the Ruby Gala, since the ruby represents 40th anniversaries. So wear something colored ruby red and let’s have fun!

The event will take place in the romantic Cathedral Hall of the University Club on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Meet dignitaries from Sweden and the United States. Enjoy entertainment and dancing to music of the 80s. Take home gifts and prizes from the silent and live auctions.

Be sure to join us for this festive celebration. Watch for ticket information in the mail or visit the Museum’s website, www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org.

Kerstin Lane and Joan Papadopoulos, co-chairs

This beautiful ruby pendant necklace will be the live auction item at the Ruby Gala.

An Andersonville Original

SIMON’S

Your Swedish bar across the street from the museum.
5210 North Clark, Chicago
773.878.0894

SKÅL!

An Andersonville Original

SVEA RESTAURANT

Swedish American Home Cooking
5236 North Clark
Andersonville ~ Chicago
773.275.7738
New Members
Richard & Suzanne Ahlstrand
Michael Anderson
Lori & Mr Barcliff Baptista
Bill Bauling & Sara Anderson
Cindy August & Mona Dajoni
George Bindas & Anna Li
Joseph & Julie Birkenheier
Patrick Bressette
Greg Campbell & Amelie Petitclerc
Tom Caron
Kristine & Tim Casart
Anna-Lisa Castle
Santiago Castrillon
Jack & Caroline Chambers
Rebecca Coke
Ramon & Kristine del Rosario
Edward Didrickson
Floyd Dillman & Amy Weiler
Perry Duis & Cathlyn Schallhorn
Felicia Egan
James Elkington & Jessica Linker
Matt & Gina Estkowski
Alex Fedotov & Nancy Lindquist
Emma Fenc
Susan & William Filstead
Bruce Fischer
Tarik Galesic
Bernardo Gonzalez & Marie Bubendorff
Sandra Grung
Christine Happ
Nancy Huddleston
Sean Jensen-Grey & Tanja Baumann
Ben & Andrea Johnson
Benzon Karanja & Bethany Hovda
Luke & Sandgren Karl
Mathieu & Kimberly Kouame
Jason Krohn & Michelle Martin-Krohn
Jay Lenn & Greg Diercks
Elinor Lindberg
Paul & Rachel Losoff
Mitchell Lowenstein
Warner Lystra & Jamie Widing-Lystra
Cameron & Kathleen Marceau
Rebecca McCarthy
Chad & Al Melby
Paige Midness
Joseph Minton & Sarah Kapadia
Linda Moucha-Meyer & Joel Meyer
Vicki Nabulsi
Jim Nelson
Ruth Nelson
Ana Nobis
Anders Norremo
Claire & Andy O’Neill
Ethel Osborne
David & Britta Ossim
Lauren Parsons & Sara Corcoran
Hilary Page
Howard & Manya Pashman
David & Betsy Peterson
Brent & Mary Porter
Patrick Racey & Shelia Murphy
Jon Raffensperger & Erika Hasle
Ateeg & Amina Rahman
Lucia Ramos
Kathryn Rezek
Michele Ritchie
Carl & Pat Ross
Patrick & Carolyn Sandercock
Geraldine Satter
Jorunn Scheiderich
Andrew & Emily Schiller
James & Libby Shortenhaus
Bethany Snyder-Morse
Carl & Karin Sonneman
Greg Stasak & Sara White
Pete Stilie & Grace Pedrosa
Jan Stone & Xavier Manrique
Julie Swanson
Deniz Tatargil
Elizabeth Toms & Keith Brown
Cherryl Troy
Michael & Elizabeth Tumminello
John Turner
James Walker & Fanny Söderbäck
Kurt & Lisa Waller
Linda Waters
George Wellmer
Nathaniel & Ruth Williams
Maryellen Zaborowski
Marianne & Douglas Zapotocny

Join the Swedish American Museum!

I want to:  [ ] Join [ ] Renew my membership
Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone Email

[ ] I want to give a gift membership to:
Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone Email

[ ] My membership: $ ________
[ ] Gift membership: $ ________
[ ] Donation to Museum: $ ________  [ ] Total: $ ________

[ ] Please make checks payable to the Swedish American Museum
[ ] Please charge the following card: [ ] Visa [ ] Mastercard
Account No.  Exp. Date
Name on Card
Signature

Basic Memberships:
Corporate: $250 *
Non-Profit Organization: $75 *
Family: $50 *
Individual: $35 *
Student/Senior Couple: $25 *
Student/Senior: $15

Patron Memberships:
Three Crowns: $1000 + $$$
521 Club: $521 - $999 ++
Linnaeus Society: $250 - $520 +
Sandburg Society: $100 - $249 ++
Sustaining: $75 +

Memberships Include:
* Free Admission
* Discounts in the Museum Store
* Discounts on Classes & Programs
* Invitations to Openings and Special Events
* Subscription to Flaggan Newsletter
† All of the Above & a Subscription to Sweden & America Magazine
‡ All of the Above & One Annual Free Gift Membership for a Friend
§ All of the Above & Special One-time Discount in the Museum Store
+++ Invitation to a Special Event
++++ Special Recognition

Mail to:
Swedish American Museum
5211 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60640
Attn: Membership
Imagine joining a museum and finding your family. That’s how Wayne Nelson describes his relationship with the Swedish American Museum. “I have been involved in my genealogy hobby for well over 40 years, but it was my involvement with the Swedish American Genealogical Society at the Museum that led me to connect and meet with my family in Sweden. For that I am very grateful.” It is that gratitude that fuels Wayne’s motivation to be such a willing and generous donor to the Museum.

Wayne says that he was stymied with the idea of finding any family in Sweden since he doesn’t speak the language. However, with the technology and support available in the U.S. through the society’s help, he has been able to both visit there and host relatives from Sweden. They continue to be in close contact. “It has meant a lot to me to know them.”

With that perspective, Wayne was one of the first donors who stepped up to the challenge of the 40th Anniversary Campaign. “I am excited about the renovations that will be done following the campaign with the improvements in the kitchen space and greater room to display the Museum’s vast collection. I’m hoping we can do the café space which will be a nice addition.”

Not only offering financial support, Wayne is a frequent volunteer at the reception desk and served on the Board of Directors for six years until this year. “I am continuously inspired by the dedicated staff and my fellow volunteers for all their good work. They make it an interesting and enjoyable place to be,” he said.

Wayne, a member for 15 years, is a regular attendee at the musical performances and other fun events such as the Got Glogg? Tasting and Competition. He makes particular note of the current Maleras glass exhibit which he describes as “outstanding.” The Christmas festivities are a favorite of his, particularly the Julmiddag, the Swedish Family Christmas Dinner. “It’s a wonderful time to celebrate the holidays with songs, good food with cheer and warm fellowship.”

The Museum is fortunate to have members like Wayne who takes his membership very seriously, and the future of the Museum, in a meaningful and significant way.

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We are counting on your help to take the Museum to even greater heights in the next 40 years and beyond. As we take the Museum to the next level, we plan to improve the visitor experience, deliver more programming and secure our future in historic Andersonville. We believe our 40th Anniversary Million Dollar Campaign will enable us to engage new audiences while continuing to serve our loyal members, but we can’t do it without you. As Andersonville grows, it is more important than ever to preserve Swedish culture and experiences that make our neighborhood a unique destination for our members, tourists and residents.

These are the improvements we are hoping to make:

- Expanded exhibit space on the second floor devoted to “The Dream of America”, along with a new and improved Genealogy Center that will be more visible to our visitors and invite them to explore their heritage as they are inspired by our exhibit.
- Modernized classrooms that engage a new generation through utilizing technology.
- Upgraded technology and more flexible displays to provide an interactive visitor experience that can be frequently updated.
- A café that will give our visitors a chance to experience Fika and encourage visits to the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store.
- A sustainable home for the Swedish-American story for years to come.

Through the Museum’s innovative offerings and experiences, donors, members, visitors, and general public will be motivated to 1) visit the Museum; 2) become or remain members; 3) enroll in Museum programs, classes, and volunteer opportunities; 4) financially support the Museum.

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40th Anniversary Donor Profile: Wayne Nelson

The Museum’s 40th Anniversary Campaign
40th Anniversary Donor Profile: Russ and Cathy Holmquist

The Swedish American Museum is an important part of the “cultural quilt” that is Chicago in the words of Russ Holmquist, a nearly 40-year Museum member and supporter. He has served on the Board of Directors and is currently a board trustee.

He sees his involvement as a way to honor his grandparents and great-grandparents who emigrated from Sweden and set their marks in the city. He is grateful for their sacrifices and the courage with which they ventured forth to a new life. “I am interested in preserving and honoring their history and in telling the immigrant story that is so significant both historically in our family and in the current situation in the United States. Telling that story is an important role for the Museum.”

Russ and his wife, Cathy, are contributors to the 40th Anniversary Campaign. “We are happy to make this pledge commitment and donation. It has been 10 years since the Museum has had a major fundraising campaign, so it’s time to address further development of its mission.”

As a longtime business owner in Andersonville, he reminisces about the initial Clark Street storefront Museum, and expresses pride in the destination and keystone the Museum has become as part of the culture and lifeblood of the neighborhood. “It is amazing how the Museum has developed with the leadership of Kerstin Lane, former executive director, and now with Karin Abercrombie as executive director.” He marvels at how the Museum is thriving through the loyal generosity of many and the thoughtful stewardship of a carefully managed budget. “It’s a high-value experience of which to be a part,” he said. “I am proud of what the Museum has become.”

Russ particularly enjoys the gallery exhibits that showcase Swedish artistic expression and the social events that focus on fundraising such as the annual gala ball. “It’s a wonderful time for us to share good times and to celebrate our heritage as well as to provide needed support to sustain the Museum’s programming.”

Russ’s hope is that the vitality of the Museum and its variety of programs and events will attract wider participation, particularly among the third and fourth generation of Swedes as well as the neighbors in Andersonville and beyond. “The Museum has earned its place in Chicago and fully deserves our time and treasure as we look to its future growth.”

40th Anniversary Donor Profile: Bob & Mardee Gramen

About a dozen years ago when Bob and Mardee Gramen retired they started spending more time at the Swedish American Museum including taking in the rotating gallery exhibits and enjoying musical events. Bob also took advantage of the Swedish language classes. It was natural that Bob felt at home touring the Museum’s second floor exhibit “The Dream of America - Swedish Immigration to Chicago” because his parents immigrated from Sweden in the 1920s. Bob’s father came from Värmland while his mother was raised in Skåne. His parents eventually settled in a Swedish neighborhood on Chicago’s South Side where Bob’s father worked as a housepainter.

As much as Bob and Mardee enjoy the many cultural and social activities that the Museum offers, the primary motivation for their continuing involvement is their strong belief that we all benefit, especially in the current environment, by remembering and honoring the significant personal sacrifices made by those who came to Chicago from Sweden and other countries to make a better life for themselves and their children. The Museum also tells the story of how, as a consequence of the immigration process, Chicago and the U.S. have benefited in so many ways. Bob and Mardee support the Museum by volunteering, and participating on committees. Bob has also served on the Board of Directors and is currently on the Board of Trustees. Their participation has also afforded them the opportunity to meet others and establish new friendships. This strong belief in the importance of the Museum’s mission and quality of its programs has, of course, translated into a desire to provide financial support and they happily joined others in making a special contribution in honor of the Museum’s 40th anniversary to help carry on and enhance the Museum’s activities for the benefit of the Andersonville neighborhood, and Chicagoland.
Welcome to Our New Staff Members

Angelica Farzaneh-Far

“Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing.” Rollo May

Communication in all its forms has always fascinated me. In high school I studied journalism and graphic design, my undergraduate and graduate degrees are in sociology and communication. When I first arrived in the US, I worked at the UN in New York. As the aid to one of the NGO representatives I followed the discussions at the UN on the role of women and reported back to the NGO world.

I grew up in northern Sweden far above the arctic circle, where the winters bring two months of darkness and in the summer the sun never sets. It is a magical place where winters mean northern lights and snow all the way up to your roof on the sides that were not cleared. The summers brought millions of mosquitoes, cloudberrries and long hikes in the wilderness.

My village is trilingual, where people speak Swedish, Finish and Saami (the language of the Sami people). I got to experience firsthand the effect that language and heritage has on our understanding of who we are. This experience has been very valuable when leaving Sweden. I moved to the US in 2003 and what was supposed to be a three-year adventure has turned into home. Me, my husband and two children have lived in Chicago for 6 years now and my daughter is an avid Blackhawks fan who loves to celebrate Midsummer.

As the new Communications Manager here at the Swedish American Museum I get the opportunity to work mostly with written and visual communication. As the Swedish language teacher to Kindergarteners I get to guide children in their effort to remain bilingual.

Marissa Ivie

My name is Marissa Ivie and I am the new Member and Community Engagement Manager here at the Swedish American Museum. I am very excited to be joining the staff of the Museum. I had been a volunteer for a little over a year, helping out with special events and serving on the committee for the Annual Gala. I have loved being a part of the volunteer community at the Museum, and am looking forward to continue serving in this new role.

Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, I moved to Chicago during the summer of 2015 to pursue my dream of working at a museum. After graduating from Arizona State University with dual degrees in European History and Biochemistry, I interned at a small history museum in Dublin, Ireland. At the Little Museum of Dublin, I was able to interact with members and volunteers, coordinate events, and answer questions from museum guests. This experience sparked my desire to work at a community based museum that engages with and supports the community around it.

In Chicago, I found work giving tours at the Richard H. Driehaus Museum in River North and interned at the Chicago History Museum. Shortly after moving here I found the Swedish American Museum while I was looking for ways to become involved and feel connected to the city outside of work. I quickly learned that the Museum was just the place I was looking for. My great-great-grandmother had emigrated from Sweden, settling in Bishop Hill, Ill. With my Swedish roots, I felt connected to the Swedish American immigrant story the museum told, but also loved that it was very involved in the Andersonville neighborhood. I enjoyed the many programs and events that the Museum hosted. I soon became a volunteer, working several small events, and joining the Three Crowns Ball Committee. I enjoyed my time as a volunteer, meeting other volunteers and becoming engaged with the community. In my new role, I will continue to serve the Museum, helping volunteers, members, and the Andersonville neighborhood feel connected with our mission, programs, and community.

If you’re a new volunteer or member looking to get further involved in all the Museum has to offer, please reach out and I will find the perfect fit for you.
Get your Swedish Foods delivered direct to your doorstep for only $12.99 2nd day air, nationwide.

Visit www.swedishdeli.com for more information.
Moving? Remember to send us your change of address! Don’t miss one issue of Flaggan!

Fall 2016 Programs and Events at a Glance

— EXHIBITS —
“SONGS FROM THE SEA/HAVETS SÅNGER”
Saturday, June 4 – Oct. 30, 2016
Opening Event: Saturday, June 4, 11 a.m.

SACRED & SECULAR: ARTWORK OF STUART CARLSON
Opened: Thursday, Oct. 6
Start with Art: Friday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m. - noon
Family Night: Friday, Oct. 28, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Exhibit Closing: Sunday, Nov. 27, 4 p.m.

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED, BY BJÖRN BREITHOLTZ
Sunday, Nov. 6 – Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017

— OCTOBER 2016 —
SWEDISH FOLK TEXTILES, WENDEL SWAN
Friday, Oct. 28, 5:30 p.m. reception, 6:15 lecture

HEJSAN - STORY & CRAFT HOUR
Third Friday of the Month, 11 a.m. - noon, September - June
Nov. 28 - Leif Erickson, Explorer
Dec. 16 - Alfred Nobel, Scientist

THE DREAM OF AMERICA EXHIBIT GUIDED TOUR
Saturday, Nov. 19, 1 p.m.

BULLERBYN
Sundays between 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 20

— NOVEMBER 2016 —
KALMAR NYCKEL: Sailing a 17th-Century Swedish Colonial Ship into the 21st Century
Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016, 7 p.m.

MARIN/MARIN – SWEDISH MASTER FIDDLERS
Friday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

BREAKFAST WITH TOMTEN (SANTA)
Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m.

ST. LUCIA DAY CELEBRATION AT THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 11:30 a.m.

ST. LUCIA CELEBRATION AT THE MUSEUM AND EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 4:45 p.m. at Swedish American Museum
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Ebenezer Lutheran Church

LATE-ER NIGHT ANDERSONVILLE
Friday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

SVENSK JULGUDSTJÄNST (SWEDISH CHRISTMAS SERVICE) AT EBENEZER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, Dec. 18, 4 p.m.

JULMIDDAG – TRADITIONAL SWEDISH CHRISTMAS FAMILY DINNER
Sunday, Dec. 18, 5 p.m.

For more information on classes, exhibits, programs and special events at the Museum see pages 8 - 11.