Natural Scenics

By Angelica Farzaneh-Far

Photographer Jack Carlson teaches at the Chicago Botanic Garden where he has been on the instructional staff since 2009. A classically trained musician, Jack didn't actually enter the visual arts until adulthood. He bought his first camera in 1977 in preparation for a European trip. There had to be a way, he believed, to capture not just the sights of the trip but also the feelings and experience of the sights. In Jack's work, mood is superimposed on image. His photographs are metaphors. As a nature photographer, it is important, he believes, to carefully capture a photographic image rather than take numerous pictures that are later manipulated technologically.

Jack's exhibit “Natural Scenics” at the Swedish American Museum that opens on Jan. 15, 2020 is from his travels around this country, throughout the world and his own yard. Jack believes that nature speaks for itself. A nature photographer's obligation is to listen, respect, and respond to that voice.

Jack's grandmother, Ellen Pearson, was born in Västergötland, Sweden. Hearing that opportunities were vast and farm land was both cheap and plentiful, Jack's great-grandfather made the decision to come to the United States. The family immigrated to the U.S. before the turn-of-the-century, settling in Creston, Iowa. The ship on which they traveled allowed only one small piece of luggage per person, and his great-grandfather's trunk still holds pride-of-place in the living room of his house.

It was in Iowa that Ellen Pearson met John Carlson, a wood-worker from Småland, Sweden and the man who would become her husband. From the late 19th century until sometime in the late 1940's, Rockford, Ill. was known as a furniture and piano manufacturing town so John and Ellen left the other family members and moved there. Rockford is where Jack's parents met and the town where he grew up. During his time in Rockford, the east side of town was heavily Scandinavian. There were actually three girls in his high school class named Barbara Jean Johnson. Swedish was one of the language choices at Rockford East High School when he was a student.
Dear Members,

Where did the year go? I know that many of us have that feeling when December arrives each year. It has been a year filled with programs and concerts, Pop-up Cafés, building projects, and more. Throughout everything there is the acknowledgement that Kurt Mathiasson’s vision of creating a gathering and community space to celebrate Swedish culture and heritage continues to be true. The community of the Swedish American Museum is very much alive and we are all part of it – Swedes, Swedish-Americans, members or visitors, Chicagoans or tourists, young or old. The Museum thrives because of all of you who are connected.

Some reflections on the year of 2019. We have learned that our Pop-up Cafés with various baked goodies initiate conversation around memories from one’s childhood as well as the first and second generation of Swedish immigrants. Sharing our Museum with 350 Swedish scouts in the middle of the summer heat was another connection to the reason why the Museum was started. We participated in Open House Chicago for the first time in October and over 800 people visited the Museum, many for the first time. Already, some have come back to enjoy the exhibits and the story that is told.

Holidays throughout the year are great occasions to share traditions from our home country. Midsommar is celebrated in early June and Christmas starts in November with our first event Got Glogg. We have now had over 40 people share their own secret recipe of Glogg and more than 500 who has come to taste and judge. As soon as Thanksgiving is over we have popular holiday events such as Julmarknad, Breakfast with Tomten, Lucia, and the final event of the year, Julmiddag.

In addition to the activities that you can take part in there are many things that have been completed that might not be apparent to many of you. We installed new windows on the second and third floor and we are thankful for less draft and no seepage through cracks in the window frames. We removed the garage that was in the back of our 5217 building and the courtyard is also free of trees. This was done in preparation of connecting our two buildings and creating a gathering space in our 5217 courtyard.

Thank you all for being part of our Museum and we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a great start on 2020. Stay tuned for more updates as the new year progresses and we continue to work on improvements and projects.

Karin

Collection Donations

**Permanent Collection:**
Sue Christensen  
Kenneth Anderson  
Ron Nelson

**Prop/Educational/General:**
Ronald Ehemann  
Marcia Knudson  
Jan Muller, Jr.  
Susan Arnold

**Library:**
Wayne Anderson  
Joyce Haeckel  
Dorothea Chaveriat  
Carol Huotari

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**Mission Statement**

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

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Collection Donations

**Permanent Collection:**
Carol Rudolph  
Sue Christensen  
David Anderson  
Mary Morse  
David Nondahl  
Sharon Shuang  
Ralph O’Hara  
Kenneth Carlberg  
Charles R. Walgren  
Vereen Nordstrom  
Linda and Gary Forell  
Robert Remer  
Kate and Don Reed  
Louise Johnson  
Per-Hugo Kristenson

**Props/Educational/General:**
Ronald Ehemann  
Marcia Knudson  
Jan Muller, Jr.  
Susan Arnold

**Library:**
Wayne Anderson  
Joyce Haeckel  
Dorothea Chaveriat  
Carol Huotari

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Money clip belonging to the founder of Walgreens

Hand carved wooden figurines
I’m very pleased to announce a new collaboration with the Arvika Konsthall, whose current gallery manager, Marcus Modh, was an intern here at the Museum in 2013. Marcus worked with a collection of early twentieth century immigrant letters, which will become the basis for a new exhibit, “Ett Främmande Land / In A Foreign Land.” This project is generously supported by the MacArthur Foundation International Connections Fund.

We will commission four artists, two in Sweden and two in the United States, who have personal connections to immigration or whose artistic practice centers around related themes. The four artists will convene for two study tours, one in Sweden and one in Chicago. These study tours will investigate the history of Swedish immigration to the U.S. and how that history has present day echoes with current immigration trends in both Sweden and the United States.

After the study tours, the artists will reflect upon their experiences and create works of art reinterpreting the historical immigrant letters in our collection and making connections to the present. These artworks will be exhibited alongside several of the historical letters from our permanent collection. The exhibit will open in Arvika, Sweden, in late 2020 before coming here to Chicago to open sometime in 2021. Stay tuned!

Aspire! Gala 2019

We honored Janet Nelson at our Aspire! 2019 Gala.

Special thanks to Co-Chairs Ruth and Terry Uddenberg for a wonderful event.
Children’s Camps Throughout the Year

By Stacey Nyman

Travel the World Summer Camp, our annual summer camp, provides children with a healthy dose of education and fun. This weeklong camp run twice per summer and allows children to explore four cultures, experiencing food, games, crafts, music, storytelling and time with someone from that culture who can share enriching information and experiences with the participants. The success of this program along with wonderful feedback from families sparked a desire to provide more opportunities that will allow children to spend extended chunks of time learning about a subject in depth. We are excited to now offer several one-day camps throughout the year!

Because we don’t have the luxury to offer camps lasting several days during the school year, one-day camps work well. We can run these on days that many children have off of school. These camps will be thematic, each focusing on something different. Vikings, Buzz Aldrin and the moon, Greta Thunberg and the environment, pioneer life, Pippi Longstocking and holiday traditions are just a few of the themes we are ready to tackle. The schedule for the day will include ice-breaker games so that everyone can get to know each other, mini lessons on the subject, crafts, games, stories, sack lunch (provided by the campers) and, of course, free play in the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration.

Our one-day camps will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with optional extended care from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Extended care includes free choice activities from time in the Children’s Museum to crafts and games. Cost is $50 per child with extended care at $15 per child. Camp is available for children who are currently enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade; however, exceptions may be made for children older than fifth grade.

Upcoming Camps:

Monday, Dec. 23, 2019: Tomten’s Workshop: Kick off the holiday season with a camp focusing on Swedish Christmas traditions. This is the perfect time for adults to get some holiday cleaning, baking and shopping done while your children have a blast with us!

Monday, Feb. 17, 2020: Blast Off with Buzz: Spend President’s Day with us! Though Buzz Aldrin was not a U.S. President, he is a famous American! We will explore the moon through STEM experiments, stories, art and games.

You can sign up for camp on our website. If you have any questions, please contact Stacey Nyman at snyman@samac.org.

Restructuring Membership

By Angelica Farzaneh-Far

People who visit the Museum for the first time are amazed at the richness of the permanent exhibit. A common comment from first time visitors is that they couldn’t believe how much information could be found in such a seemingly small building. The fact that it hosts not one but two gallery spaces with a number of special exhibit portraying art and history with a connection to Sweden or Swedish-America is very unusual. In addition, the Museum offers a huge variety of cultural events each month. Events for all ages and interests. In short the Swedish American Museum has a lot to offer the public.

Since the last time the Museum raised its membership prices, we have added not only space with Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration as well as the building on 5217 N. Clark St., but we have also added a lot of new programming. We therefore found it fitting to bring our membership rates up to date as well.

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Volunteering & Commonly Asked Questions
By Caroline Gerbaulet-Vanasse

The Museum is a vibrant place filled with all sorts of exhibits, objects, programs and more! Our staff and volunteers work hard to offer the community a variety of events as well as taking care of everyday tasks such as our admissions desk and the Store. We love volunteers at the Museum as they make up a vital part of the work force!

Folks interested in volunteering naturally have many questions when they are considering applying to volunteer. We thought it would be useful to address a few of them.

A common question that we receive is, “What are your volunteer opportunities?” There are many possible answers. The reality is that the Museum’s need of volunteers changes throughout the year. Volunteers help everywhere in the Museum, from the office on the third floor to the collections in the basement. We have volunteers who work with us weekly, monthly or sporadically for individual events and programs. If you have an interest, just let us know and we will try to find a volunteer position for you.

Our next most common question is “Do I need to be able to speak Swedish?” The short answer to this is, “No.” Speaking Swedish at the Museum is certainly an asset, as we regularly have visitors who speak the language. It always seems to surprise and delight these visitors to find Swedish speakers in Chicago. Knowing the language is also useful in Collections and our Genealogy Center, because in both places there are texts to be translated on occasion. But don’t worry if you don’t speak the language, we have many volunteer opportunities for you.

There are many other common questions, but with consideration to the other articles waiting for your attention, we leave you with the following. If you are considering volunteering with us, ask us your questions! No question is too silly! And if the Museum’s needs and your availability do not match today, please do not hesitate to reach out once more at a later date.

Finding My Roots
By Jean Anderson Gordon

In March 2019, I called the Swedish American Museum to get some help translating a Swedish ship passenger document in the name of my grandfather, Jacob Anderson. The kind lady who answered the phone wondered if I was interested in researching my genealogy, and that is how I met Bengt Sjögren.

I was able to give him the only other document I had which was entirely in Swedish and had official stamps from the local church. From that piece of paper Bengt was able to search back several generations of my father’s family.

We met on four different Saturdays in April and May and on one occasion I mentioned I would be visiting my daughter, Beth, living in London and that she and I would be flying to Stockholm to visit the farming villages of Finspong, Hallestad and Simonstorp.

Bengt contacted a local historian (also named Bengt!!) who did his own research. He showed us the school my grandfather attended, a church cemetery where some Andersons were buried, and most surprising located two second cousins. We met them for coffee and cake. They were most cordial and welcoming. They were brother and sister and our grandfathers were siblings. Leif looked a lot like my grandfather, Jacob, who I remembered as a young girl.

Our short time in Sweden was much more than we expected and all because of Bengt (#1 in Chicago) and Bengt (#2 in Hallestad). We want to return to Sweden with more of my family. It opened up a whole new and exciting world to us. We owe many, many thanks to the Swedish American Museum and both Bengts.
What is a Winter Wonderland for You?

By Saga Sjöberg

Even though we all have different ideas of what this bitingly cold yet magical place looks like, Sweden has plenty of features and attractions that are commonly associated with the general picture of the phenomenon. A visit to Sweden in the wintertime might be exactly what you need to find your own answer!

For people travelling to Sweden around Christmas time, Christmas markets are a must. Characterized by extraordinary Christmas lights and decorations, they can be found all over the country, and typically have authentic handicrafts and delicacies to offer. The mixed smell of freshly made candied almonds and hot glögg speaks for itself, but the available selection of delights does not end there. Gingerbread cookies, saffron buns and marzipan can also be purchased in endless quantities.

Sweden’s largest Christmas market is found in the amusement park Liseberg in Gothenburg. Also the historical area of Gamla Stan, Stockholm, attracts quite a number of visitors as the narrow streets are temporarily lined with red market stalls. Farther north, in February, is the traditional Sami trading market in Jokkmokk. Located just north of the Arctic Circle, Jokkmokk is home to some of Sweden’s Sami (indigenous) population. With reindeer wandering the streets and only the Sami being allowed to vend, Jokkmokk market is an experience you will never forget.

As goes for holidays in most cultures, the food factor is of high importance to the Swedish Christmas. The Swedish Julbord (Christmas buffet) typically involves herring, potatoes, meatballs, sausages, ham, cheese, eggs, raw spiced salmon, rice pudding and Jansson’s Temptation. Restaurants all over the country go above and beyond with their Julbord - not only with the selection and quality of the food, but also with the decorations and atmosphere, making it both a culinary and aesthetic experience.

Sankta Lucia is another highlight of the Swedish holiday season. Taking place at dawn on Dec. 13, it involves a singing white-dressed procession, led by the Lucia wearing a candle-lit crown. Choirs as well as schools all over Sweden set up performances for parents and/or the public to enjoy. Traditional Lucia songs are performed, and the morning is finished off with a fika served by the Lucia.
Besides the holiday-related events, Sweden has an excellent selection of seasonal outdoor activities to offer, although these tend to be concentrated in the northern parts of the country. How about dog-sledding or petting reindeer? While there, you may also get to see the Northern Lights. The colorful rays are visible almost every night from September through March. Another natural wonder to experience is Kebnekaise; the mountain constituting Sweden’s highest point at 2,096 meters or about 6,875 feet. During the winter there are guided skiing tours on the mountain.

A special attraction, is the Ice Hotel in Jukkasjärvi. This unique setting has gained plenty of international recognition, and is exactly what it sounds like; a hotel completely made of ice. While the rooms have a temperature of -5°C to -8°C (around 20°F), reindeer hides and thermal sleeping bags will keep you warm. Saunas are available, and you will be awakened with hot lingonberry juice at your bedside in the morning.

Even if the most uniquely Swedish winter activities are concentrated in the north, activities such as skating on lakes and cross-country skiing can be enjoyed almost anywhere in the country. Downhill skiing is also an option, the most popular resorts being Åre and Sälen. Allowing you to breathe the crisp cold air and smell the coniferous forest, there are few better ways of experiencing the pure Swedish nature.

Sweden truly is a winter wonderland. Whether you want the authentic cultural experience, the adventurous outdoors experience, or simply the full holiday experience à la Sweden - look no more. Sweden has it all in store for you.
I will respond soon. Can you email me. My first of many interactions with Karin!

After having spent hours browsing Google in the search for Swedish-American organizations that might be interested in hosting a Swedish intern in the fall of 2019, I came across the Facebook page of the Swedish American Museum in Chicago. Well aware of the close to non-existing chance of even getting a reply, I decided to send a message. Needless to say, an interest in hosting an intern existed, and on Sept. 31 landed at O’Hare International Airport.

My first few days involved a rainy Scandinavian Day in Vasa Park, an extraordinary Swedish American Crayfish Party, and a whole lot of verbally spelling out my name to people when introducing myself. S-A-G-A.

One cultural difference that didn’t remain unnoticed for long, is that Swedish-Americans tend to take Swedish traditions more seriously than what I am personally used to. I have probably experienced more Swedish culture since coming here in September, than I have collectively during my past five years in Sweden. Not once in my almost 20 years in Sweden have I at any occasion seen a live folk dance performance, wholeheartedly celebrated a Swedish food day, or even been to an event where people dress in traditional Swedish folk clothing - all of which I got to experience within a week in Andersonville.

A few days into being a temporary Chicagoan, I was also informed that I would get the opportunity of spending one day a week in downtown Chicago at the Swedish Consulate, which came as a positive surprise. Having been filled with engaging cases regarding visas and residency, as well as thought-provoking discussions and lessons with Vice Consul Anna Engström Pattel, my Mondays at the Consulate have been a great experience.

The remaining four days of the week have, however, been spent at the Museum. Even though this internship is mainly about marketing, I have gotten the chance to try a lot of different tasks inside and outside the walls of 5211 N. Clark St.; creating and distributing posters, being on store duty, leading the children’s programs Bullerbyn and Hejsan!, being involved in the work behind the silent auction for the Aspire Gala and joining Karin to represent the Museum at Scandinavian festivals and fairs. And these are just a handful of the situations I have found myself in this fall. Besides giving me knowledge and insight, these experiences have facilitated innumerable fruitful interactions with people I would have never met if it weren’t for the Museum. With a clear lack of the barrier that Swedes stereotypically tend to surround themselves with - constituted by an awkward combination of wanting interaction, but being afraid of invading someone’s privacy - I have found that Americans (and Swedish Americans!) are just as hospitable and friendly as they say. The feelings of being both welcome and included struck me from the moment I first stepped into the Museum, and have not left me since.

By representing Sweden and the Swedish-American community in the best way possible, and creating a sense of home for Scandinavians in Chicago, the Swedish American Museum has brought me knowledge and understanding beyond the practical operations I came here to learn about. Having grown up in Sweden, passively blending into the culture of which I am a product, the importance of cultural organizations abroad has passed me by. The Museum has taught me that it is important to celebrate and connect with the culture with which one identifies. Being a lung that keeps pumping Swedish American air into Andersonville, the Museum creates a sense of belonging and a community that I feel fortunate to have been part of - if only temporarily.

This fall has really been beyond what I would have ever expected or dared to hope for when I first reached out to Karin, and it has surely been full of innumerable memorable moments, experiences and lessons. At the time of writing, I have a month left in Chicago. On Dec. 21, I will be heading back to Malmö, Sweden - sad to be leaving, grateful for having been given this amazing opportunity, and convinced that I will be back visiting the Museum soon enough.
One of the most remarkable examples of Scandinavian folk art is the painted picture indigenous to the Swedish peasant home. The commonly used name for these peasant paintings is bonader, and their provenance was to decorate the walls and ceilings of the homes at Christmas time and on feast days, thus adding a note of color and gaiety to the otherwise dark interiors. Between festivities, these canvas or paper panels were taken down and carefully kept, to become a part of the family inheritance. The collection of bonader at the Museum is a collection of extraordinary works on linen and paper, with vegetable and mineral pigments that achieve arrays of color. They were sized for specific wall spaces and hung unframed. Several of the artists were identified, and more than 100 may have practiced the craft. Donated to the Museum in 2000 by the Art Institute of Chicago, the 29 Bonader represent the eighth largest known collection. They originated in 1931 among acquisitions from world traveler Florence Dibell Bartlett of Chicago. Inspired by what she viewed as a decline in creation of folk art, Bartlett acquired pieces she found in 37 countries. She was the founder in 1953 of the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Photographer Jack Carlson teaches at the Chicago Botanic Garden where he has been on the instructional staff since 2009. As a nature photographer, he believes that it is important to carefully capture a photographic image rather than take numerous pictures that are later manipulated technologically. Jack’s exhibit “Natural Scenics are composed of pictures from his travels around this country, throughout the world and his own yard. Jack believes that nature speaks for itself. A nature photographer’s obligation is to listen, respect, and respond to that voice.

Like many residential streets in Chicago, the two long blocks of Lyndale between California Avenue and Kedzie Boulevard are lined with a mix of ordinary frame houses and apartments. Few of the buildings could be considered architecturally significant or worthy of historic preservation; no famous Chicagoans once lived here. The history of the street since the 1880s is little recorded except in the built environment of its humble houses, which represent the hard-won rewards of homeownership for generations of working class immigrants who passed their property on to their children or sold to the next wave of immigrants to arrive.

Now, many families are selling their houses to developers. Construction crews topple the old houses in a day, scrape the ground clean and erect cinder-block condominium towers which relate little to the story of the street. To a passerby, these boxy dwellings quickly become the new familiar backdrop and there are few visible remnants of the history of the previous houses and residents of this place.

Lost Houses of Lyndale is a two-fold project to create portraits of these missing houses in careful pen-and-ink drawings and to discover and document stories of the families and individuals who lived their lives in these homes over the past 130 years. Through archival research of property records and census data as well as oral histories of older neighbors, the project is an ongoing attempt to record and re-tell local street history in the face of the discontinuity of city-wide redevelopment. The house portraits are framed in scraps of wood scavenged from the demolished buildings as a physical memory of the buildings, and miniature wooden models of the houses contain relics, toys, and photos left behind by former residents.
Recurring Events

MOON MADNESS
Friday 3 p.m.
Jan. 3, Feb. 7, March 6
The Buzz Aldrin Education Cart is available for exploration the first Friday of each month. Moon Madness 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 is 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.

BULLERBYN
Sunday 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Jan. 12 and 26
Feb. 9 and 23
March 8 and 22
Taking place on alternative Sundays in tandem with Svenska Skolan, Bullerbyn is a time for singing cherished children’s songs, reading humorous tales and having lots of fun in Swedish. Children aged 6 months to 5 years are welcome to attend with parents. Only Swedish is spoken in Bullerbyn, so Swedish should be spoken regularly at home too! We meet in the gallery space or the Children’s Museum. Kids are welcome to stay and play in the Brunk Children’s Museum after the program. Classes are free for members, non-members are asked to make a $5 per child/class donation; payment can be made at the Museum. Reservations are recommended and can be made via emailing museum@samac.org.

SVENSKA SKOLAN
Sunday 10 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Jan. 12 and 26
Feb. 9 and 23
March 8 and 22
Taking place at the same time as Bullerbyn, Svenska Skolan is for children of school age (Kindergarten - High School) who speak Swedish. The children learn about Swedish history, geography and culture in a school setting. It is a great way for children to practice their Swedish with children their own age as well as learning more about their heritage.

SCANDINAVIAN JAM
Sunday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Jan. 12 - Starting at 12:30 p.m to take part in Julgransplundring
Feb. 9 and March 8
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.

HEJSAN – STORY & CRAFT TIME
Friday 11 a.m.
(September through June)
Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 20
Join us at the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration for story and craft time on the third Friday of each month. The theme for the school year 2019-2020 is animals. Come meet a different animal every month. 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, Jan. 11 11:15 a.m.
Sunday, Feb. 2 11:15 a.m.
Sunday, March 15 11:15 a.m.
Dive into the history of Swedish immigration to Chicago with a 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 such as Andersonville in Chicago then and now. The tour is free with admissions, and members are free. Reservations are recommended and can be made via email to museum@samac.org.

MOVIES
Thursday, March 5 1 p.m.
During the spring we will continue to watch “Modus: what makes someone a murderer?”. This is a crime series based on the books by Anne Holt. A smart and brooding Swedish detective series, Modus follows psychologist and ex-FBI profiler Inger Johanne Vik as she finds herself and her autistic daughter drawn into an investigation of a series of disturbing and brutal deaths in Stockholm. The episodes are tied together but can be watched individually. In Swedish with English subtitles. The movie is free and you can make your own sandwich for $5 per serving.

January

THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1 IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR’S DAY

JULGRANSPLUNDRING
Sunday, Jan. 12 noon
Julgransplundring is a family event where Swedes celebrate the end of Christmas by “dancing the tree out” It is a party where you get to dance around the tree one last time before it is taken out and all the Christmas decorations come down. The Museum will celebrate this with an event for the whole family with games, dancing and hot dogs. Admission is $5 per person.
SWEDISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

STARTS
MONDAY, JAN. 13 OR TUESDAY, JAN. 14

ENDS
Monday, April 13 or Tuesday, April 14

The Swedish American Museum is offering evening Swedish Classes with four levels: Beginners I, Beginners II, Intermediate, and Conversation/Advanced. All courses will run for fourteen weeks each class lasting 90 minutes. The instructor is Hanna-Klara Thurfjell. Tuition is $210 for Museum members, $250 for non-Museum members. Books are not included in tuition.

Beginners I
Mondays 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. starting Jan. 13
For students who have no knowledge of the Swedish language. Students will learn the fundamentals: basic grammar, vocabulary, conversation, Swedish culture and traditions. Classes will be held in English.

Beginners II
Mondays 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. starting Jan. 13
For students who have some knowledge of basic grammar and vocabulary. Emphasis will be on vocabulary, grammar and spoken Swedish. Classes will be held in English.

Intermediate
Mondays, p.m. 8 - 9:30 p.m. starting Jan. 13
For students who have a working knowledge of Swedish, including elementary conversation and reading. The course will cover advanced grammar, vocabulary and conversation. The classes will be held in Swedish and English.

Conversation/Advanced
Tuesdays 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. starting Jan. 14
For students who have mastered the skills at the intermediate level and want to practice the Swedish language. The course will focus on advanced conversation, discussions, reading, and comparisons of Swedish and American culture and traditions. Classes will be held in Swedish.

Instructor Hanna-Klara Thurfjell (Beginners I, II and Conversation/Advanced)
Hanna-Klara Thurfjell is a Swedish transplant who settled in Chicago 10 years ago. Born and raised in Örebro, Sweden, she moved to New York City in 2003, received her Bachelor’s Degree in English Language and Criticism from Hunter College in 2008, and her Master’s from DePaul University in 2012. She is currently back in school working towards a second Master’s and is thrilled to teach in her first language here in Andersonville. Her teaching approach strives to make Swedish more approachable and fun, whether you’re establishing a connection to your roots, looking to learn a new language, or want to learn more about Swedish culture.

REFUND POLICY: Class fee must be paid before or at the time of the first class. A tuition refund is available up to two days after the date of the first class. Tuition is not refundable after this time. Please call the Museum at 773.728.8111 if you have questions.

BOOK CLUB
Thursday, Jan. 23 noon
Saturday, Jan. 25 2 p.m.
The Museum is starting a book club. A different book by a Swedish author will be picked every month. To start off we will read “Swede Hollow” by Ola Larsmo. The event is free with admission and an optional lunch will be served at a small cost. Registration is encouraged, and the book is for sale in the Museum Store. Registrations can be made by emailing museum@samac.org.

GENEALOGY SESSION
Saturday, Jan. 25 10 a.m. - noon
Film: Lucky Strike
Lucky Strike: When the Americans Came to Our Village is a World War II documentary film by Jan-Olof Nilsson based on his 2013 book about the Allied crews who, after bombing missions deep into Germany, desperately flew to Sweden when their planes were too damaged by flak or fighters to make it back to England.
Cost is free for Swedish American Genealogical Society members; $10 for non-members to participate. Reservations appreciated and can be made via email to genealogy@samac.org or by calling the Museum at 773.728.8111.

KNITTING GROUP
Sunday, Jan. 26 1 p.m.
Join the Swedish American Museum knitting group! All knitting levels are welcome. Bring your project, share some of your favorite patterns and learn from each other. There will also be chances to learn some specifically Swedish knitting patterns and techniques.

COOKING CLASS INSPIRED BY MAGNUS NILSSON’S COOKBOOKS
Tuesday, Jan. 28 1 p.m.
Join us for a series of cooking classes inspired by Magnus Nilsson’s cookbooks. Two different classes will be held two times each (so don’t sign up for all four). At the January and February (Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6 p.m.) class we will be making soup and semlor (Swedish Lent buns). The second class will be held in on Tuesday, March 31, 1 p.m. or Tuesday, April 28, 6 p.m. Cost is $40 per class and there is a limit of 6 participants per class.

VEGETARIAN DAY POP-UP CAFÉ
Saturday, Feb. 1 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
On vegetarian day the Museum will serve split pea soup and Swedish pancakes. This Swedish split pea soup, known as Ärtsoppa, is an immensely hearty meal. A large serving of meaty pea soup on Thursdays goes back hundreds of years to when Sweden was more heavily populated with Catholics. Since Catholics were fasting on Fridays, the day before required a big, hearty meal. A large serving of meaty pea soup followed by a heavy dessert of pancakes with sweet toppings was both filling and commonly available to even those on a tight budget to keep you over until Saturday morning.
SAMi NATIONAL DAY
Thursday, Feb. 6 6 p.m.
Talk by Dr. Charles Peterson

Dr. Charles Peterson has been the Executive Director of the Center for Scandinavian Studies at North Park University in Chicago since 1993. He is a frequent consultant on Scandinavian culture for corporations and individuals. He serves on the boards of several Scandinavian-American organizations including the Swedish Council of America, the Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce, and the Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce. His current research projects include Sámi and Eskimo Media, Culture, and Language.

The Sami national day was established in 1992, during the 15th Sami conference in Helsinki, to mark and celebrate a crucial event in Sami history. On Feb. 6, 1917, northern and southern Sami crossed the National borders to come together for their first meeting in Trondheim, Norway. For the first time, they could share and discuss common concerns and work together to find mutual solutions. The first National day was celebrated on Feb. 6, 1993, in conjunction with the proclamation of the opening of the International Year of Indigenous People in Jokkmokk, Sweden, by the United Nations. Since then, during this important day, Sami flags fly and the Sami national anthem is sung in the local Sami language.

ADVENTURES IN SWEDEN: BLAST OFF WITH BUZZ
Monday, Feb. 17 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
extension possible until 4 p.m.

Though Buzz Aldrin was not a U.S. President, he is a famous Swedish-American! Spend President’s Day at the Museum’s day camp where children in Kindergarten through fifth grade will explore the moon through STEM experiments, stories, art and games. Camp is $50 per child with extended care at $15 per child.

BOOK CLUB
Thursday, Feb. 20 noon
Saturday, Feb. 22 2 p.m.

The Museum is starting a book club. A different book by a Swedish author will be picked every month. The event is free with admission and an optional lunch will be served at a small cost. Registration is encouraged, and the book is for sale in the Museum Store.

GENEALOGY SESSION
Saturday, Feb. 22 10 a.m. - noon
“What’s New in Arkiv Digital” presented by Kathy Meade

ArkivDigital is the largest private provider of Swedish Church Records and other Historical Records online! All images are newly photographed images of the original document. Kathy Meade will walk us through the changes and updates to the program and how to best use it in your genealogy research.

Cost is free for Swedish American Genealogical Society members; $10 for non-members to participate. Reservations appreciated and can be made via email to genealogy@samac.org or by calling the Museum at 773.728.8111.

KNITTING GROUP
Sunday, Feb. 23 1 p.m.

Join the Swedish American Museum knitting group! All knitting levels are welcome. Share some of your favorite patterns and learn from each other. There will also be a chance to learn some specifically Swedish knitting patterns and techniques.

SEMLOR POP-UP CAFÉ
Tuesday, Feb. 25 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Semlor (Lenten buns) were originally consumed on Fettisdagen, or Fat Tuesday, as a celebration before the Christian fasting period of Lent. In modern Sweden, since strict adherence to Lent has waned, semlor make their appearance in bakeries from about January through Easter. However, Semla Day (semmeldagen) is still celebrated on Fat Tuesday every year. King Adolf Frederick died in 1771 after eating 14 servings of semlor. So while indulgence is encouraged on Fettisdagen, it might be best to keep your semla intake to fewer than 10! Come and get yours at the Swedish American Museum. Cost is $6.

COOKING CLASS INSPIRED BY MAGNUS NILSSON’S COOKBOOKS
Tuesday, Feb. 25 6 p.m.

Join us for a series of cooking classes inspired by Magnus Nilsson’s cookbooks. Two different classes will be held two times each (so don’t sign up for all four). This is the same class as the one in January where we will be making soup and semlor (Swedish Lent buns). The second class will be held in on Tuesday, March 31, 1 p.m. or Tuesday, April 28, 6 p.m. Cost is $40 per class and there is a limit of 6 participants per class.

March

HERRING BREAKFAST
Sunday, March 1 noon

Join us for a traditional fried herring breakfast which includes meatballs, potato sausage, and much more. The brunch is catered by Tre Kronor Restaurant. Cost: $40 members, $50 non-members. Prepaid and confirmed tickets are required and no refunds available for cancellations within 5 days of event. Reservations can be made at the Museum or on the Museum website.

SCANDINAVIAN DANCES WITH LINDA AND PAUL

Four Friday sessions 7:30 - 10 p.m.
March 6, 13, 20 and 27

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 the time. Beginners will learn 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. Attendance at each class is not required but highly recommended. No partner needed and any experience level welcome. Cost per class: $10 members, $15 non-members; save by paying for all 4 classes ($32 members, $52 non-members). Reservations can be made at the Museum or on the Museum website.
CONCERT WITH JAERV
Sunday, March 8
Dinner 4 p.m.
Concert 5 p.m.
The award-winning Swedish quintet Jaerv, present an extroverted, vigorous and heartfelt folk music with influences from both jazz and pop music. Together, the five members have created a homogeneous, vivid sound which has established Jaerv on the folk music scene as well as in many other forums. Rooted in several different musical traditions, Jaerv offers a varied stage performance where vocal, five-voiced tunes blend in with energetic dances and free improvisations. Jaerv is an internationally well-known act and has toured the U.S., Japan, Spain, Scotland, Ireland, Finland and Norway among other countries.
Dinner will be served at 4 p.m. and the concert will start at 5 p.m. Dinner tickets need to be booked in advance for $25 and for the concert only tickets are $15.

MAZARIN POP-UP CAFÉ
Friday, March 13 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
The Mazarin is an almond filled pastry that is a classic on the Swedish fika table. Not everyone is brave enough to attempt to bake it at home but it is nevertheless a favorite among young and old. In honor of Mazarin Day the Museum will host a pop-up café. Anyone looking for something new to bake can pick up the special little tins needed to create this pastry and a recipe in the Museum Store.

PANCAKES WITH PIPPI
Saturday, March 14 9 a.m.
Join Pippi Longstocking, a popular Swedish character, for Swedish pancakes, crafts, singing and dancing. This is a unique opportunity to meet Pippi and learn how to make pancakes Pippi-style! All ages are welcome. Cost is $15 members, $20 non-members, $5 12-24 month olds, infants are free. Prepaid and confirmed tickets are required and no refunds available for cancellations within 5 days of event.

VÅFFLOR POP-UP CAFÉ
Wednesday, March 25 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Swedish waffle day is celebrated with a pop-up café. The Swedish Våfflor differ from other types of waffles with their thinner appearance and texture more similar to pancakes. They are particularly known for their classic heart shape and even have their own special day on March 25 Våffeldagen (Waffle Day). Recipes varied widely. Some include eggs (Äggvåfflor). Some don’t and are more crispy and light (Fravåfflor). Others incorporate carbonated water, sour cream, or even heavy cream.

BOOK CLUB
Thursday, March 26 noon
Saturday, March 28 2 p.m.
The Museum is starting a book club. A different book by a Swedish author will be picked every month. The event is free with admission and an optional lunch will be served at a small cost. Registration is encouraged, and the book is for sale in the Museum Store.

GENEALOGY SESSION
Saturday, March 28 10 a.m. - noon
TBD
Cost is free for Swedish American Genealogical Society members; $10 for non-members to participate. Reservations appreciated and can be made via email to genealogy@samac.org or by calling the Museum at 773.728.8111.

KNITTING GROUP
Sunday, March 29 1 p.m.
Join the Swedish American Museum knitting group! All knitting levels are welcome. Share some of your favorite patterns and learn from each other. There will also be a chance to learn some specifically Swedish knitting patterns and techniques.

COOKING CLASS INSPIRED BY MAGNUS NILSSON’S COOKBOOKS
Tuesday, March 31 1 p.m.
This is the second part in our cooking classes inspired by Magnus Nilsson’s cookbooks. This class will be repeated on Tuesday, April 28, 6 p.m. Cost is $40 per class and there is a limit of 6 participants per class.

Swedish Heritage Night with the Blackhawks
Thursday, March 19
The Chicago Blackhawks are excited to invite the Swedish community to the United Center on Thursday, March 19th when they take on the Minnesota Wild. With the purchase of a ticket through this offer, you will receive an autographed puck by Swedish defenseman, Erik Gustafsson.
Purchase your ticket by Sunday, January 5th to guarantee yourself a signed puck. Puck redemption details for day of game pickup will be communicated to you within one week of the event.
Tickets start at $71 including the signed puck. Depending on how many tickets we can sell the price may come down.
To reserve your tickets email museum@samac.org
Meet the new Store Manager

By Catherine Selen

Hej Allihopa! My name is Catherine Selen, and I am the new Manager at the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store. Originally from Urbana, Ill., I attended the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign studying microbiology and Scandinavian studies. I spent all 4 years of college taking various courses from Viking Mythology to the films of Ingmar Bergman.

After studying abroad at Uppsala University with a scholarship from the Barbro P. Osher Pro Suecia Fund, I was determined to continue learning more about Swedish culture and language; when I saw an opening at the Museum, I was ecstatic!

Previously, I worked as the gift buyer and assistant manager at The Red Balloon Co.- some of you may remember their location on Clark before they relocated to Lakeview. I spent a wonderful 3 years there learning all the moving parts behind running a small local business; the ins-and-outs of retail management, buying, social media marketing, and product merchandising. It has been a very natural transition into my current role, and an exciting opportunity to work for a thriving non-profit organization.

Joining the Swedish American Museum team has also allowed me to connect to our Swedish neighborhood more and more. My father, Mats Selen, immigrated to Canada from Dalarna when he was just 11 years old, but I’ve come to learn that my family also has roots in Andersonville!

My farfar, Lars Selen, was born at Swedish Covenant Hospital on Foster after his parents moved to Chicago for work. They moved back to Sweden shortly after he was born in 1932, but would continue to do business around the U.S. in the steel industry. My parents and grandparents eventually ended up in the U.S. around the early 1980s, bringing us full circle when I moved to Chicago in 2014. It's been wonderful to learn more about not only my family’s immigration story, but so many others at the Swedish American Museum during my time here.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in the coming months, and hope you will come by the Museum Store soon!
December is such a special time in Sweden. The joyful sounds of Sankta Lucia, fragrant pepparkakor wafting through the air, and magical Tomtar all around the house sets so many of us into a daze of nostalgia and yuletide bliss. With the holidays fast approaching, we are excited to have our very own Jul Pop-Up Shop open at 5217 N. Clark St., right next to the Museum! Stop in soon to grab some of the best products for the holiday season before they sell out!

My 5 favorite things for 2019:

5) Boxed Holiday Cards
From Happy Gnomes to Hygge homes, we have the cutest holiday cards to send to all of your loved ones this season.

4) Hand-Painted Crafts from Sweden
Amazing detail and design goes into our many hand-painted Dala Horses, wooden ornaments, votive holders, and other home décor imported from makers around Sweden.

3) Swedish Holiday Books for Any Age
While The Tomten may be the first classic to come to mind, we have several great children’s books, holiday recipes, and new novels for the whole family!

2) Ekelund Woven Textiles
Established in 1692, Ekelund kitchen towels and runners are some of our best-selling gifts year round! The holiday collection is beautifully made with classic designs of Swedish Christmas traditions.

1) Tomtar!
No Jul is complete without a new Tomte. We have the best selection of Tomten that we’ve ever had in our Jul Pop-Up, so hurry in before they are gone!
Meet the Communications Assistant

By Elise Beck

“Hello, everyone! My name is Elise and I am the Marketing Assistant here at the Museum. I started this fall, and already feel proud to be a part of this dynamic community! I grew up in Wisconsin and moved to the Chicago area around a year and a half ago. Since then, I’ve enjoyed exploring all of the neighborhoods of the city. Andersonville quickly became one of my favorite areas. I wanted to find a way to connect locally, and that’s when I started working at the Swedish American Museum!

I think the Museum is the perfect embodiment of the spirit of the neighborhood: always exciting, always growing, and always possessing something for everyone. While in essence it’s a museum about immigration and the Swedish-American experience, ultimately, this is a museum about people. It’s about their struggles, their triumphs, and their legacies. Being able to see how each guest experiences the Museum differently is one of the aspects of my role that I love most! Meeting and speaking with all the wonderful visitors, volunteers, and community members is another reason I am happy to be a part of the team here. I hope to meet you all in the future. Happy holidays!

Meet intern Emma

By Emma Sosa

My name is Emma Sosa and I have been interning with Emily and working in the collections this fall. I am a junior at North Park University in Chicago and am pursuing a Curatorial Studies/Creative Writing double-major. Though I was born here (at Swedish Covenant Hospital!), my home is the Twin Cities area in Minnesota.

During my time at the Museum, I’ve been doing a lot of projects related to collections management. This entails making sure records are up to date, pulling objects from the collection, documenting and photographing artifacts, taking inventory, etc. In addition, I helped put together the Lost Houses of Lyndale exhibit, located on the second floor of the Museum. I also worked on the Kungsholm exhibit, which involved inventorying some of the puppets and designing the layout.

Though I’ve been part of the Curatorial Studies program at North Park since freshman year, I didn’t realize until recently how many different kinds of work fall under the curatorial umbrella. Up until this year, my only experience had been exhibit set-up and take-down in the Carlson Gallery at North Park. Through my internship at the Swedish American Museum (as well as my internship at the Minneapolis Institute of Art this past summer), I’ve been able to experience and learn more about other tasks, such as object handling, record-keeping, research, and documentation. These experiences have broadened my understanding of art curation, as well as given me insights into the specific kind of work I may be interested in for my career.
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□ Donation to Museum: $ ________  □ Total: $ ________

□ Please make checks payable to the Swedish American Museum
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* Free Admission  
* Discounts in the Museum Store  
* Discounts on Classes & Programs  
* Invitations to Openings and Special Events  
* Subscription to Flaggan Newsletter  
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  †† All of the Above & One Annual Free Gift Membership for a Friend  
  ‡ All of the Above & Special One-time Discount in the Museum Store  
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  ‡‡‡ Special Recognition

Mail to: Swedish American Museum  
5211 N. Clark St., Chicago, Illinois 60640-2101  
Call: 773.728.8111  
Go Online: SwedishAmericanMuseum.org
Join the Swedish-American Business Community

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SWEA Chicago utgörs av ett buntantal kvinnor; en härlig blandning medlemmar som bostår här i över 30 år, några som precis flyttat hit och allt däremellan.

Vi har ett trettiofält träffar under året där vi firar svenska högtider, pyslar, gör studiebesöker eller går på föredrag, även spelandrar och utomhusaktiviteter ingår i vårt varierande program.

Vi välkomnar varmt nya ansikten, speciellt på vår förmedling som är en lugn och social stund att bara träffa och prata svenska.

Läs mer om oss på eller skicka e-post till
www.chicago.swea.org  chicago@swea.org
Du hittar oss även på facebook under
"SWEA Chicago med vänner"

Promotion of Swedish Culture and Tradition
Winter 2020 Programs and Events at a Glance

Exhibits

MAIN GALLERY

BONADER
EXHIBIT OPENS
Friday, Dec. 13 10 a.m.
EXHIBIT CLOSING
Sunday, Jan. 12 4 p.m.

NATURAL SCENICS By Jack Carlson
EXHIBIT OPENS
Wednesday, Jan. 15 10 a.m.
EXHIBIT OPENING
Friday, Jan. 24 6 p.m.
EXHIBIT CLOSES
Sunday, March 1 4 p.m.

RAOUL WALLENBERG GALLERY

LOST HOUSES OF LYNDALE STREET By Matt Bergstrom
EXHIBIT CLOSES
Monday, Feb. 17 4 p.m.

Recurring Events

MOON MADNESS
Friday 3 p.m.
Jan. 3, Feb. 7, March 6

BULLERBYN
Sunday 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23
March 8 and 22

SVENSKA SKOLAN
Sunday 10 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23
March 8 and 22

January

THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1 IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR’S DAY

JULGRANSLUNDRING
Sunday, Jan. 12 noon

SWEDISH LANGUAGE CLASSES
Beginners I Mondays 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. starting Jan. 13
Beginners II Mondays 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. starting Jan. 13
Intermediate Mondays, p.m. 8 - 9:30 p.m. starting Jan. 13

SCANDINAVIAN JAM
Sunday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Jan. 12 - Starting at 12:30 to take part in Julgransplundring
Feb. 9
March 8

HEJSAN - STORY & CRAFT TIME
(September through June)
Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 20

THE DREAM OF AMERICA
EXHIBIT GUIDED TOUR
Saturday, Jan. 11 11:15 a.m.
Sunday, Feb. 2 11:15 a.m.
Sunday, March 15 11:15 a.m.

MOVIES - “MODUS”
Thursday, March 5 1 p.m.

February

VEGETARIAN DAY POP-UP CAFÉ
Saturday, Feb. 1 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

SAMI NATIONAL DAY
Thursday, Feb. 6 6 p.m.

ADVENTURES IN SWEDEN: BLAST OFF WITH BUZZ
Monday, Feb. 7 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
extension possible until 4 p.m.

BOOK CLUB
Thursday, Feb. 20 noon
Saturday, Feb. 22 2 p.m.

GENEALOGY SESSION
Saturday, Feb. 22 10 a.m. - noon

KNITTING GROUP
Sunday, Feb. 23 1 p.m.

SEMLOR POP-UP CAFÉ
Tuesday, Feb. 25 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

March

COOKING CLASS INSPIRED BY MAGNUS NILSSON’S COOKBOOKS
Tuesday, Feb. 25 6 p.m.

HERRING BREAKFAST
Sunday, March 8 noon

SCANDINAVIAN DANCES WITH LINDA AND PAUL
Four Friday sessions 7:30 - 10 p.m.
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CONCERT WITH JAERV
Sunday, March 8
Dinner 4 p.m.
Concert 5 p.m.

PANCAKES WITH PIPPI
Saturday, March 14 9 a.m.

BOOK CLUB
Thursday, March 26 noon
Saturday, March 28 2 p.m.

GENEALOGY SESSION
Saturday, March 28 10 a.m. - noon

KNITTING GROUP
Sunday, March 29 1 p.m.

COOKING CLASS INSPIRED BY MAGNUS NILSSON’S COOKBOOKS
Tuesday, March 31 1 p.m.