Entangled Routes: Exhibit Blends Nature and Art as Envisioned by Family of Creative Artists

Entangled Routes, the next special exhibit at the Swedish American Museum, will open Friday, March 22, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Artists Corinne D. Peterson and her sons, Tim Klassen and Stephen Klassen, will display various pieces of mixed media art that is rooted in Scandinavian heritage and their personal experiences of the landscape, people and myths of the North.

Corinne Peterson
A sculptor of ceramics, Corinne grew up on a farm near Anoka, Minn. She attended North Park University, then received a master’s degree in social work at the University of Illinois-Chicago and started a psychotherapy practice.

Dreams about clay led her to take a class at the Lillstreet Art Center in Chicago and to become enthusiastic about creating artistic objects. This resulted in development of a second successful career.

Corinne refers to clay as “the primary material of my art – the result of an eons-old process of decay and growth. Rock, worn by wind and water, changes into fine grains, which when wet can be shaped. Kiln-fired clay turns stone hard. Its durability makes it a source for learning symbols and stories of past cultures.”

Corinne's sculptures are in many private and public collections, including Kirkland & Ellis, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and Oakton College. Her clay tile murals and mosaics can be seen around Chicago at the CTA station at Roosevelt and State, Latin Middle School, and many Park District facilities.

The sculptures to be displayed in Entangled Routes “allude to elemental forces at work in the formation and life of rocks I saw on a trip to Sweden and Norway last summer,” Corinne said. Her trip fulfilled a desire for connection with the landscape where her grandparents lived before immigrating to Minnesota.

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Executive Director’s Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

When Kurt Mathiasson started the Swedish American Museum he wanted to create a place where everyone felt at home, not just the Swedes and the Swedish-Americans, but also anyone interested in our rich traditions and the dynamics of immigration. Located in the heart of Andersonville, first as a store front and now, since 1988, in the old Lind Hardware building, we open our doors seven days a week to all who have come to know our Museum for our diverse activities and events. Our visitors come to enjoy the art exhibits on the first floor, the immigration stories on the second floor and for the younger ones, to play at the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration.

In the beginning, of course, most of our members and visitors were Swedish or Swedish-Americans, and the Museum became another “home” where they could go and meet friends and be part of a Swedish community. Our Swedish heritage is still, and always will be, our unifying focus, but today that focus has attracted the broader community, and we are so fortunate to be the “home” or destination to over 40,000 people annually. Every day we try to make everyone feel welcome whether they come for a short visit or to stay for hours.

We have many wonderful groups in the neighborhood that are using the Museum for meetings and events in the evenings. Some evenings have two or three different groups using the Museum at the same time. Often there will be coaching sessions on the third floor, a board meeting for a local dance group on the second floor and a choir rehearsing on the first floor. We have had weddings and gatherings of all ethnicities, business meetings, birthday parties – even a beer brewer’s kick-off gathering. All this is in addition to our regular hours, lectures, family programs, Christmas and holiday celebrations, and special Treasure sales. These are all wonderful ways of expanding our Museum to include the larger community and to have our doors be open and welcoming.

We have many great programs planned for our members and visitors at the Museum. We are also working together with SWEA, SACC and North Park University to offer programs to the Swedish-American community as a group. We had a great event in November with the Swedish Church Choir from New York and this year we are all planning a family celebration and concert to celebrate Valborg. Our hope is that most of the Scandinavian and Swedish choirs in Chicago are able to be part of the concert.

We are, indeed, fortunate that our Museum has grown into a such highly valued community institution, founded upon our Swedish heritage and traditions all of which we continue to exemplify and share with all.

Karin Moen Abercrombie
Executive Director

Historical Society Meets in Museum for Program on New Sweden Colony

The Swedish-American Historical Society, based at North Park University, will conduct its semi-annual dinner and program at the Swedish American Museum at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 20.

A discussion of the 375th anniversary of the founding of the New Sweden Colony in Delaware will be presented by Kim-Eric Williams, director of the Swedish language program at the University of Pennsylvania, a former governor of the Swedish Colonial Society and a recipient of the Royal Order of the Polar Star.

Two ships left Gothenburg in December 1637, anchored in Delaware Bay on March 29, 1638, and established the first Swedish settlement in the New World. Its tenure ended only 17 years later, when Dutch forces captured Fort Christina on September 15, 1655, and incorporated the settlement into New Netherland.

The Historical Society, established in 1948, has published three books related to the New Sweden Colony. For more information, or to make dinner reservations, go to www.swedishamericanhist.org or contact Karin Andersson at kmandersson@northpark.edu.
The Swedish American Museum has been so fortunate to host a talented group of fantastic interns and volunteers from universities and other schools over the years. This spring, we are excited to have Ylva Frögéli as an intern from January through May. Ylva is a graduate student at Uppsala University working on her master’s degree in cultural heritage and museum studies within the department of ALM (Archive, Library and Museums.) She already holds a BA in international archeology from Gotland University and is excited to learn more about the museum and cultural heritage fields in the United States.

Ylva originally began her studies with aspirations of being a professional archeologist. During an archeology internship at a Museum, she realized that she enjoyed working in a museum setting rather than at a dig site; she liked being able to interpret the stories of the artifacts for visitors in a direct way. Ylva turned her focus to museum education and curatorial studies. She started her graduate degree and began volunteering and participating in traineeships at local museums where she designed children’s educational programming and learned about artifact care and conservation.

As part of her program of study, Ylva elected to complete an internship and decided to apply internationally. She focused her search in the United States so that she could both learn about the museum field in another country and further improve her English language skills. Ylva was excited to secure an internship here at the Swedish American Museum because, being born and raised in Sweden, she thought she could bring a useful perspective to the work and she thought that working at an institution that held some familiarity would help her feel more at home, even though she was in another country. As of 7 days into the internship, she reports that she does, in fact, feel very at home here. She attributes the feeling to the warm welcome she has gotten by volunteers, staff and members of the Museum.

Ylva is very excited to work and learn at the Museum and she is also excited to experience American culture. She says that she has seen many American TV shows and movies and is curious to experience real, day-to-day, American culture. She has already leapt into her experience – trying corn dogs, beef jerky, root beer and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches – as well as attending a party for Groundhog Day and watching the Super Bowl. While she likes trying all these uniquely American things, she says she really likes experiencing the culture from inside and living it day-to-day. She admits that her biggest challenges so far have been getting used to hearing and speaking English most of the time and tackling Chicago’s city transit system. She says that Chicago is a much bigger and busier city than her hometown, 25 minutes outside Stockholm, which she describes as mostly “fields, forest and water,” with one grocery store and two restaurants. While experiencing American culture, she has also found opportunities to help her American friends and family experience a taste of Sweden – she has been busy making batches of Swedish pancakes to share!

We are incredibly excited to be hosting Ylva and honored to be part of her American experience!

Andersonville’s Dala Horse on Hiatus

The well-known Dala Horse is missing from its familiar Andersonville location on the corner of Clark Street and Farragut in Chicago, a block north of the Swedish American Museum.

It has not been the victim of thieves, nor has it fled to greener pastures. The symbolic painted horse was transported on February 15 to a shop that specializes in the renovation of colorful statuary. It is expected to return in about four months.

Installed in the spring of 2005, the horse was painted by Lars Gillis, the artist who also brightened the appearance of the Museum’s third-floor Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration. Stockholm is shown on one side of the horse and Chicago on the other.

The statue was donated to the Museum and the Andersonville community by the Swedish Women’s Educational Association of Chicago (SWEA). During one of the international organization’s major celebrations, each chapter around the world created a painted Dala Horse.

Also known as a “Dalecarlian” horse, the Dala (Dalahäst in Swedish) is a traditional statuette that originated in the Swedish province of Dalarna. Once it was simply a toy for children, but now the horse has become a symbol of Sweden. Varieties in several sizes and colors are sold in the Museum store.

SWEA has already generously donated to the fund for the Dala Horse restoration, but more is needed to cover the costs for refreshing this neighborhood landmark. If you are interested in donating or finding out more about how you can contribute to this undertaking and future preservation efforts, please call or e-mail the Museum.
The Swedish American Museum holds more than 13,000 artifacts in its permanent collection. These historical objects are regularly rotated through the Museum’s many exhibit spaces – including the second floor “The Dream of America” exhibit, our front windows and our other public areas. Though the structure and storyline of many of these spaces remains intact, the artifacts and individual stories change frequently.

When visiting the Museum, you never know what treasures you may find. Imagine the surprise of one Museum member, Viola Nelson, who found a photograph of her parents in our second floor exhibit, “The Dream of America.” Several years ago, Viola was showing a friend around the Museum and discovered her parents – along with many of their friends and neighbors – were featured in a photograph that was hanging in the exhibit. She had not seen the photo before, as it was an official Scandinavian Fraternity of America photograph of a dinner party, not a personal snapshot.

Viola’s parents were Margareta Andersson (Greta) and Olaf Robert Nelson (Bob). They immigrated to the U.S. separately between 1922 and 1924. Bob initially moved to Chicago’s south side to live with his brothers who were already here. Greta moved in with her aunt on the north side and worked as a cook in Lake Forest. In the depression era of the early 1930s, Bob moved to the north side of Chicago to work as a chauffer, and he and Greta met one day at a dinner-dance held by the Scandinavian Fraternity of America. They married in 1934 and lived in Highland Park, where they remained active in both the S. F. of A. and the Vikings clubs. Post-WWII, Bob had a successful career as a homebuilder on the North Shore, while Greta became a homemaker. They raised their daughter with a strong Swedish influence – going to S.F. of A. functions, and spending summers at their Minnesota “sommarstuga.”

A few years after Viola discovered the photograph, she revisited the Museum with friends but found the photograph was no longer on the wall, the staff had rotated it off exhibit and put something else in its place. She contacted us to inquire if she could see the photo again. Based on her description, we were able to locate the correct photo in storage and bring it out again. Viola was so taken with the photograph and happy to see it in the Museum’s collection that she wanted to help the Museum care for and protect the photo. She sponsored a project to reframe the photo in a special archival frame so that it would be protected for many years to come, both on and off exhibit.

Next time you are visiting the Museum, remember to take a closer look at some of the artifacts on display – you just may find something incredibly interesting or strangely familiar!
Else-Britt reconnected with her Swedish roots through the Museum. How the California girl who had lived in Germany for 27 years found herself on the journey to connect with her Swedish roots is a remarkable tale. Born in Malmö, Sweden, Else-Britt lived there until shortly before the end of first grade. May 16, 1951, her eighth birthday, found Else-Britt, along with her younger sister Eva, in a children's dormitory on Ellis Island. Her knowledge of English was limited to the words of the song My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean.

Her mother had died two years earlier; Else-Britt, her sister and father moved in with his mother in Limhamn, where she attended kindergarten and first grade. In May, 1951 her father and the two girls sailed from Gothenburg to New York on the MS Stockholm. Upon arrival in the harbor, Else-Britt’s father was taken to Staten Island to be examined while the girls spent a week among strangers on Ellis Island before being reunited. The family then boarded a Greyhound bus for Denver, Colorado, where her father and an American woman of Danish descent, whom he had met years earlier as a merchant marine, were to be married. After the wedding the girls were again left alone in the company of strangers. Returning from a week-long honeymoon, the new family drove over the mountains to California. By September Else-Britt was a 3rd grader in California.

It was another 11 years before Else-Britt saw Sweden again. At age 19 she sailed alone to Sweden and stayed with her grandmother for 6 weeks, thereby reviving some of her Swedish. Upon her return, she secured American citizenship, completed a BA in English at UC Santa Barbara, and taught high school English for five years. During this period she met and married a fellow English teacher. It was his hobby and passion as a jazz musician that soon took them to Germany. What was supposed to be a year’s adventure being a musician in Europe turned into a career and lengthier stay. During the 1972 Olympics in Munich, her husband was musical director of the German production of Godspell and Else-Britt was the Prop Manager. Her twin daughters and son were born and raised in Germany. She became certified as a Montessori pre-school teacher and taught in a bilingual school for a number of years. Life was good, and living in Germany felt like a better fit than southern California where Else-Britt had always had a sense of not belonging. It was also easier to visit friends and relatives in Sweden.

But there was to be another change in the next chapter of her life. In 1989, Else-Britt suddenly became a widow with 3 children and needed to reinvent her career to full-time work as a teacher of English to adults. Her twin daughters completed German high school and left for college in the U.S. With their departure, Else-Britt began considering moving back to the U.S. with her son – but where? Then she heard from a friend from the past—30 years past, to be exact. Ray DeLong, was clearing out old boxes and ran across some letters from Else-Britt, which included her stepmother’s phone number. As luck would have it, the 90 year-old stepmom had remained at the same address and she put Ray in touch with Else-Britt. A year later Else-Britt, although already an American citizen, found herself, in essence, immigrating once again to the United States. This time she was older, wiser and had a perfect command of English. Her son completed high school and college in the U.S. Ray and Else-Britt married; she began working for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, joined the North Shore Choral Society, took up Tai Chi, and been to places like India, China and Japan to visit her world-traveling daughters.

Life was good but still providing surprises. In 1999 upon her stepmother’s death, Else-Britt received some Swedish documents which revealed that she had been adopted as a 6 week-old baby. Here was perhaps the explanation for that lingering vague sense of not belonging. She had often wondered why she was so different from her sister. What was Else-Britt to do with the knowledge? Would her biological family welcome her or even know of her existence? She figured that at her age, and with all the changes that she had already undergone, she had nothing to lose by trying to make contact. A Swedish journalist friend, found her birth mother in Malmö, made contact and asked if they knew about Else-Britt and if she could write to them. Long story short: Else-Britt polished up her Swedish by taking a conversation class at the Museum, and the following summer traveled to Sweden where she met her mother and her four brothers and sisters. Her first time home was a true homecoming. She was amazed by their easy acceptance of her and that they shared so many of the same interests: books, films, nature and travel. She was also surprised to learn that her biological mother lived only a mile from the “aunt” she had been visiting in Malmö for years. Perhaps they had crossed paths and never knew it.

The Swedish American Museum played a small part in Else-Britt’s story by being there to help her connect with her Swedish roots and learn more about Sweden. She began to celebrate more Swedish traditions in her home including Midsommarfest. One of her daughters had her wedding reception at the Museum. Her grandchildren, 3 of whom have Swedish names, like to play in the Children’s Museum and love herring, meatballs and lingonberries. Since Else-Britt retired, between trips to see her children in Michigan and China, or going to hear her bass-playing son perform in Chicago, she has been a remarkable volunteer spreading her time and talents between the store, the admissions desk, and special events.
Entangled Routes  continued from page 1

Her travels, “an artist residency of my own design,” included two weeks in Tegelgården, where she led a clay workshop, and visits to the stone ship arrangement Ales Stenar, the Arctic Circle, museums and the homes of a several Nordic relatives.

Tim Klassen
A collage artist, Tim lives in Oregon and has had several exhibitions in the Portland area. Born in Winnipeg, Canada, he graduated from Glenbrook North High School in Northbrook and received a bachelor of arts degree from Goshen College in Indiana. As a student, he worked for the government of Belize and says he has left a trail of art on six continents.

During his travels last summer in Sweden, Norway and Denmark, Tim became deeply connected with the land and its people. He found “a freshness of youth next to elegant deterioration – an affinity alongside the novelty of strangeness and distance.”

Panels of wood are integral to his collages. Each piece he finds offers patterns of grain that reveal its origins, hinting at the tree it once was and the earth and climate that nurtured it.

In Tim’s hands, the remnants “evoke and support images that come from the Scandinavian lands of the past and present. The grains themselves return to a visual earth and sky.”

In collages, Tim has used photos from his Scandinavian trip, some of relatives he had not encountered before. “Placing and pressing them into the wood, drawing and painting to integrate them in a new context, leads down some different roads of exploring history,” he explains.

“And so routes and roots layer upon each other; entangled perceptions of the past and present mingle, and grains of wood continue to regenerate new life.”

Stephen Klassen
An artist who works with wood, Stephen lives in Minnesota. There, his mother was born and his grandparents “left their bones after forgetting how to speak Norwegian and Swedish.” The house he lives in was built by Norwegian carpenters and housed Swedes for more than a century.

“I see trees as guardians and inventors of continuity,” Stephen says. “Their roots mine the deep darkness and build a green ladder toward the sun. For generations, Scandinavians have cherished the warmth of wood, radiating summer heat in the dead of winter.”

In his process of shaping wood, Stephen feels he is reworking the life of trees. “I find the succession of seasons patiently written as I dig into the body of the wood.” His materials vary from sticks he finds in neighborhood walks to boards from lumberyards.

“I work with wood because I find the tree’s story memorized in the knots, wormholes and other particularities of its structure,” Stephen says. “These are points of entry for me as I cut, carve, scrape, stain, paint and rub material into the wood, alternately burying and revealing the surface.”

He repeats concentric lines and mimics shapes he finds in the wood. “A piece devolves as I make many separate objects, one after another. In both cases I allow and celebrate the gradual mutation that accumulates as I build the work,” he adds.

“My work as an artist is to put these pieces together and find new ways to make them live, to remember them.”

Related Museum programs
Following the exhibit opening on Friday, March 22, a related Start with Art event is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 27, and a Family Night program is planned from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, April 5. Corinne Peterson will give an artist talk on Thursday, April 25, at 7 p.m. The exhibit will close at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 23.
A DREAM OF AMERICA – SWEDISH IMMIGRATION TO CHICAGO
Saturday, March 23, 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m.
Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m.
Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m.
A Dream of America tells a fascinating story that starts in the mid 1800s in Sweden and it takes the visitor on a journey from Sweden to the New World, providing insights into the struggles and triumphs of Swedish immigrant life in Chicago. Cost for the tour is $4 adults, $3 seniors and students. Members are free. Reservations are recommended.

FILM THURSDAY
First Thursday of the month, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
April 4 – Arn the Knight Templar
May 2 - TBD
Take a break from your regular schedule and enjoy a Swedish movie at the Swedish American Museum. Reservations are recommended. This event is free. Coffee and sandwiches are available at self-cost.

SCANDINAVIAN JAM SESSION
Second Saturday of the month – April 13, May 11, June 8, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Musicians and instructors Mary Allsopp and Paul Tyler co-host a Scandinavian Jam at the Swedish American Museum the second Saturday of every month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All ages are invited to bring any instrument, regardless of level. Come for learning new Scandinavian songs or playing old classics! Recording devices are recommended. Contact Scandi.Fiddler@yahoo.com or PTyler@ameritech.net with questions.

BULLERBYN
Every other Sunday, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
March 17, April 7 and 21, May 5 and 19
This new offering is a Swedish song and story time for the younger children from 6 months to 6 years-old with parent participation.
We meet in the gallery space or the Children’s Museum. Children are welcome to stay and play in the Brunk Children’s Museum after the program. Cost: free for Museum members, $5 per child for non-members.

A SWEDISH-AMERICAN FAMILY “PÅSK” WORKSHOP
Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m.
What a great way to start your Easter! Learn about traditional Easter food, decorate a “påskris,” and paint eggs both the Swedish and American way. Children dressed up in Easter costumes will receive a special treat. Swedish fruit punch and delicious open-faced sandwiches will be served during the workshop. Cost: $10 members, $15 non-members. Reservations are required.
CELEBRATE “VÅFFELDAGEN” AT THE MUSEUM

Monday, March 25, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Våffeldagen is celebrated on March 25 as the feast of Marie Behåndelsedagen or Annunciation Day. That was the day the Archangel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Swedes have found a great way of celebrating this day — we eat waffles! At the Museum we will celebrate Våffeldagen on Monday, March 25. We will begin serving delicious Swedish waffles at 10 a.m. Cost: $5 per serving.

FAMILY NIGHT

Friday, April 5, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening of crafts and activities for the whole family. This is a free event. Reservations are recommended.

ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Tuesday, April 9, 6 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the Museum's annual meeting. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. and the annual meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Cost for the dinner is $20 per person. Volunteers are guests. Reservations are required.

ROUTES TO ROOTS with CORINNE PETERSON

Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.

On April 25, ceramic artist Corinne Peterson will present a talk about the artwork she has created for the Entangled Routes exhibit. She will include stories and images from her trip last summer to Norway and Sweden. She will discuss her visits to ancient graves, standing stones and rock carvings; her observing of the midnight sun and her meetings with relatives, and will describe how these experiences influenced her art-making. Open-faced sandwiches will be served. Cost: $10 Members | $15 Non-members

VALBORG CELEBRATION & CONCERT AT NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

Sunday, April 28, 4 p.m. for Family Fun and 5 p.m. for Concert and Sing-Along

Join SACC, SWEA, the Swedish American Museum and Chicago’s Scandinavian Choirs as we welcome spring.
4 p.m. Fun for the whole family begins with games, singing and of course something to eat, including hot dogs at $2/person.
5 p.m. Several popular Chicago-area Scandinavian choral groups perform their best-known selections. The program ends with all choirs singing together and then allong with the audience. Cost is $10 for adults and $5 for children under 12. Admission proceeds benefit the participating choirs.

MOSAIC – CELEBRATING CHICAGO’S COMMUNITIES

Thursday, May 2, 6 p.m.


CHICAGO SWEDISH MALE CHORUS SPRING CONCERT 2013

Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m.

Join the Swedish Male Chorus for its annual spring concert at the Swedish American Museum with great music, great food, and great friendships. Tickets are available from chorus members or at the door. Call the Museum at 773.728.8111 for more information.

MERULA CONCERT

Saturday, May 11, 5 p.m.

Join us for a performance of the Swedish Choir, Merula. More information coming soon online.

MIDSOMMARFEST

Friday, June 7, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Sunday, June 9, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Museum hours: Saturday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Celebrate Midsummer at the Museum with traditional dancing around the Maypole and Swedish music. Then visit Andersonville’s annual street festival.

THE ANNUAL JENNY LIND CONCERT

Sunday, June 23, 5 p.m.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Music has selected the 2013 “Jenny Lind” winner to perform in Sweden and the United States. This year’s winner is from the Stockholm area, Soprano Magdalena Risberg, and she will be accompanied by fellow Stockholmer David Huang, winner of the Royal Academy of Music accompaniment scholarship award. For more information about the winners, visit www.fhp.nu. Cost: $15 members, $20 non-members. A summer salad dinner will also be served. Reservations are recommended.

PIONEER THE WORLD DAY CAMP 2012

Session I: July 8-12, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Session II: Aug. 5-9, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

This summer kids can travel the world without ever leaving Chicago! Campers are introduced to the food, customs, folk arts, and cultural identities of four different countries in our “Pioneer the World” day camp. Families are invited to attend our very own “World’s Fair” on the last day, where campers display their handiwork to the public. Pioneer Camp is always packed with fun and adventure for children ages 7 to 10. Cost: $200 members, $250 non-members; extended care available until 4 p.m. for an additional $75. Call the Museum at 773.728.8111, ext. 26, to reserve your spot. Registration deadline for Session I is Friday, June 14, and Friday, July 12, for Session II.
EXHIBITS

”ENTANGLED ROUTES” – CORINNE PETERSON, TIM KLASSEN AND STEPHEN KLASSEN

Exhibit Opening: Friday, March 22, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Start with Art: Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Family Night: Friday, April 5, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Artist talk by Corinne D. Peterson: Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.
Exhibit Closing: Sunday, June 23, 2013

Artists Corinne D. Peterson and her sons, Tim Klassen and Stephen Klassen, make art rooted in their Scandinavian heritage and their experience of the landscape, people and myths of the North. Corinne is a ceramic sculptor, Tim makes collages, and Stephen carves and paints wood.

CLASSES

SWEDISH LANGUAGE SERIES

Evening Swedish classes with four levels. The Beginners I & Beginners II courses will include fifteen 90 minute lessons, classes run fifteen weeks. The Intermediate & Conversation/Advanced courses will include fifteen 90 minute lessons, classes run fifteen weeks. The instructors are Eva May (Beg. I & II) and Anna Albinsson-Kaplan (Int. & Conv./Adv.). Books are not included in the tuition.

Tuition: $205 Members | $240 Non-members

Beginners I, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., through April 23
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, Tuesdays, 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., through April 23
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, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., through April 24
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, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., through April 24
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.

We usually hold summer classes for Beginners I and II in June and July. Fall sessions start September 2013.

SCANDINAVIAN DANCES WITH LINDA AND PAUL

Final session - March 15 – 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Always wanted to learn how to dance or take your dancing to the next level? If you can walk, you can learn to dance! Emphasis on basic dance techniques one step at a time. Beginners learn how to recognize music, connect with your partner, lead and follow. For those with advanced dance abilities, classes build a strong foundation to develop additional dance skills and improve technique. The Hambo, considered Sweden’s National Dance will be taught the last class March 15. No partner needed and any experience level welcome.

Cost per class: $10 Members | $15 Non-members
GENEALOGY

The Nordic Family Genealogy Center hosts genealogy sessions from 10 a.m. to noon, the third or fourth Saturday of the month January through October, except June.

Annual membership: $20 Members  |  $10 per session Non-members

**Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. to noon**

“Påsk Traditioner” Easter Traditions

**Saturday, April 20 (Note the date change), 10 a.m. to noon**

Possible Field Trip

**Saturday, May 18 (Note the date change), 10 a.m. to noon**

“Will the Real Sven Larsson Please Stand Up”
Combined meeting with CAGGNI (Computer Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern, IL)

For further information, call the Swedish American Museum at 773.728.8111 and leave a message for Vereen Nordstrom or e-mail: genealogy@samac.org

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**Research Hours**

The Genealogy Center is open for individual research on Wednesday afternoons. Experienced members of the Nordic Family Genealogy Center provide individual assistance. There is no charge for Museum members; non-members pay $10 per visit.

*Three research appointments are available each Wednesday.*

- noon to 1 p.m.
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Individuals with appointments have priority over walk-ins. Please contact the Museum at genealogy@samac.org or 773.728.8111 to schedule an appointment.

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**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 e-mail us at museum@samac.org

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Museum Member   & Yes   & No

Grand Total: $______________________

Payment:

- Check enclosed, payable to Swedish American Museum
- Credit Card   & Visa   & MasterCard

Account #

Expiration Date

Name on Card

Signature

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Swedish American Museum
5211 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60640-2101
773.728.8111 | www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org
Children’s Museum by Jesse Aucoin

Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin was born in 1930 to a Swedish-American father and an American mother. Although he is arguably most famous for being the pilot of the Apollo 11 mission, and thereby the second man to walk on the moon, Aldrin has accomplished countless other feats in his life. He graduated third in his class at West Point Academy, was a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot who flew over sixty missions during the Korean War, helped develop numerous ideas on space travel including the orbit path now known as the Aldrin trajectory, and he founded the non-profit organization ShareSpace with the goal to teach children of all ages about space exploration and help facilitate affordable space flight experiences, to name just a few.

For years the Swedish American Museum has wanted to honor “Buzz” within our Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration. Construction started this past fall with expected completion by the end of April. Already installed is a countdown clock and blast-off chairs for children to ride to the moon. There will be moon footprints, space tools and costumes for aspiring astronauts to maneuver in and a moveable information cart that will be used in conjunction with our educational programming and school tours.

In additional to special programming for the official opening, the Museum will host a party to celebrate the exhibit’s completion.

From Vikings to visionaries, Swedes and Swedish-Americans have made an indelible impact on history. Whether visiting the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration or the Swedish American Museum as a whole, we hope to continue to educate guests of all ages about their achievements. Please join us in paying tribute to Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin and his place in history. We are beyond excited to complete this long-awaited expansion and look forward to continued growth and improvements to the children’s museum.

A large array of books, both fiction and non-fiction, including references on Swedish language, traditions, recipes and travel, can be found at the Museum Store. The authors of two available books of historic interest discussed them during programs at the Museum during the past year.

In his fascinating family chronicle, “Whiskey Breakfast: My Swedish Family, My American Life,” Chicago author Richard C. Lindberg relates the experiences of his immigrant father and grandfather as they sought better opportunities in the New World.

Lilly Setterdahl, in her meticulous compilation, “Not My Time to Die: Titanic and the Swedes on Board,” tells what happened to each of the 123 Swedish passengers (118 of them single) aboard the ill-fated liner that was bringing them to the United States.

Another book that features Swedish-Americans is “Swedish Chicago” which is chock full of black and white photographs, spanning decades, from the early Swedish immigrants to current photos of Andersonville and the Swedish American Museum. The images portray the Swedish influences that can be found in our city, from the Wrigley Building and Wrigley Field, to the house of Carl Sandburg to familiar sights around us, like Simon’s Tavern and the Swedish Bakery. There are many personal stories and family portraits from prominent Chicago Swedes such as the Bollings and the Nelsons.

In addition to informative books about the adventures and achievements of Swedish immigrants, the Museum store stocks several fictional works. Among them are the best-selling Stieg Larsson trilogy that begins with “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.”

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Heart and Soul of Genealogy Center Remembered

The legacy of Marilynn Jeglum, whose name became synonymous with genealogy research at the Swedish American Museum, lives in the memories of countless people she helped to connect with family histories.

Credited for realizing a need for a more formalized genealogical program, and the dedication to secure the resources that such an initiative would require, Marilynn passed away on January 10 after decades of incomparable contributions to the Museum.

“We would not have our active Nordic Family Genealogy Center if it wasn’t for Marilynn’s time and energy to share her knowledge and interest in family research,” said Executive Director Karin Moen Abercrombie. “The center helps our members connect with their families in Sweden in a way that most of us would not be able to do without help.”

That sentiment was echoed by Vereen Nordstrom, a Museum board member and Genealogy Center colleague, who called Marilynn “truly the heart and soul” that has made the research facility a reality.

“She worked relentlessly,” Nordstrom said, “to obtain equipment and resources, provide monthly genealogy sessions, enlist volunteers, and participate in weekly research days. Mention her name around the Museum and people think immediately: genealogist extraordinaire.”

Other active members agree. “If not for Marilynn Jeglum and the Genealogy Center, I would never have known the other half of my family,” said Wayne Nelson. Sue Jackson added that Marilynn started her “on an amazing journey into the past and opening doors to the present.”

Born in 1931, Marilynn lived most of her life in Andersonville. Widowed in 1968 after 16 years of marriage, she returned to school for bachelor’s and master’s degrees and worked full time as a single parent.

“Mom was the strongest person we know,” her children recalled in their eulogy. “She pulled five children and bags of groceries up and down Clark Street in a red wagon through slush and snow. She remodeled kitchens, drove us cross country, and lived by the adage that if you want to play hard, you have to work hard.

“Mom treasured the international flavor of our family, teaching us the value of learning about our own heritage as well as other cultures. She taught us to love and value those who are different from us.”

Nordstrom recalled how proud Marilynn was of her Swedish heritage and that she was a long-time Andersonville resident.

“She delighted in telling stories about the old neighborhood, and remembered when the current site of the Museum was Lind’s Hardware.”

Marilynn’s home was decorated with Swedish furniture, art objects and souvenirs. “Although she loved all things Swedish, she embraced the international flavor of her family,” Nordstrom said.

“Genealogy work continues at the center, and we all remember and thank Marilynn for her hard work. She was present at our holiday program in December, and we were able to acknowledge her dedicated service.”

The Nordic Family Genealogy Center has established a fund in memory of Marilynn Jeglum.
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Museum Winter/Spring 2013 Programs

A DREAM OF AMERICA – SWEDISH IMMIGRATION TO CHICAGO
Saturday, March 23, 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m.
Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m.
Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m.

FILM THURSDAY
First Thursday of the month, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
April 4 – Arn the Knight Templar
May 2 - TBD

SCANDINAVIAN JAM SESSION
Second Saturday of the month—April 13, May 11, June 8, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

BULLERBYN
Every other Sunday—March 17, April 7 and 21, May 5 and 19, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

HEJSAN – CHILDREN’S AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
Every 1st and 3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., September – June

“A TOLERANCE VS. INCLUSION: HOW IMMIGRATION AFFECTS EDUCATION”
Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m.

A SWEDISH-AMERICAN FAMILY “PÅSK” WORKSHOP
Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m.

CELEBRATE “VÅFFELDAGEN” AT THE MUSEUM
Monday, March 25, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FAMILY NIGHT
Friday, April 5, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION
Tuesday, April 9, 6 p.m.

ROUTES TO ROOTS with CORINNE PETERSON
Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.

VALBORG CELEBRATION & CONCERT AT NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY
Sunday, April 28, 4 p.m. for Family Fun and 5 p.m. for Concert and Sing-Along

MOSAIC – CELEBRATING CHICAGO’S COMMUNITIES
Thursday, May 2, 6 p.m.

CHICAGO SWEDISH MALE CHORUS SPRING CONCERT 2013
Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m.

MERULA CONCERT
Saturday, May 11, 5 p.m.

MIDSOMMARFEST
Friday, June 7, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Sunday, June 9, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

PIONEER THE WORLD DAY CAMP 2013
Session I: July 8-12, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Session II: Aug. 5-9, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

“ENTANGLED ROUTES” EXHIBIT
Exhibit Opening: Friday, March 22, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Start with Art: Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Artist talk by Corinne D. Peterson: Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.

Closing Reception: Friday, June 21, 6 p.m.
Exhibit Closing: Sunday, June 23

SWEDISH LANGUAGE SERIES
Beginners I, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., through April 23
Beginners II, Tuesdays, 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., through April 23
Intermediate, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., through April 24
Conversation/Advanced, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., through April 24

SCANDINAVIAN DANCES WITH LINDA AND PAUL
Final session - March 15 – 7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

GENEALOGY
Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. to noon
Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. to noon
Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. to noon

For information on exhibits and monthly events, please see the center section of Flaggan.