MISSION
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.

VISION
To be the preeminent Swedish-American immigration museum in the greater Chicago area and a unifying force within the Midwestern Scandinavian community.

CORE VALUES
The Swedish American Museum
Celebrates Swedish culture, customs, and traditions
Honors the Swedish immigration experience
Recognizes contributions of volunteers and supporters
Fosters collaboration with the broader community
There is always a lot of activity at the Swedish American Museum, and 2019 was no exception. The Museum hosted wonderful quarterly exhibits, themed pop-up cafes, numerous concerts, Swedish language classes, and a wide range of programs throughout the year. For me, some of the highlights included volunteering at Midsommarfest, researching my family tree at the Genealogy Center with my dad and Bengt Sjögren, participating in the Chicago Architecture Center’s Open House Chicago, and taking Swedish holiday baking classes with Karin Abercrombie (pro tip: the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store sells metric measuring cups and specialty ingredients).

This was my first year as the chair of the Board of Directors. I have been fortunate to work with a great group of directors who support the Swedish American Museum in many ways. For example, Kevin Williams, vice chair, and Cathy Holmquist, secretary, serve on the Volunteer Council and both are extremely generous with their time at the Museum; Kevin can often be found at the front desk or helping to set up events and Cathy is a tremendous help at the Museum Store. In addition to keeping an eye on the Museum’s finances, Terry Uddenberg, treasurer, and his wife Ruth, were our Aspire! Gala chairs, and they hosted a wonderful event that honored Janet Nelson (my predecessor). Julie Benson and Vereen Nordstrom are very active with the Swedish American Genealogical Society at the Museum and are extremely knowledgeable about genealogical research. Anna Engstrom Patel works with Karin Abercrombie at the Swedish Consulate and has helped expand cultural programming at the Museum. Annika Jaspers led the effort to restructure Museum memberships and admissions rates this year. John Kolb, Frank Schneider, and Jim Thybony are members of the Museum’s Facilities Committee, and they are working hard on getting the Museum ready for a new café and expanded store (among other things!). Steve Satek has become synonymous with Andersonville Midsommarfest, and was essential in organizing a really fun weekend for the whole community. And, of course, Karin Abercrombie, Executive Director, works tirelessly to make sure absolutely everything at the Museum runs smoothly.

I would also like to thank the Board of Trustees, the Museum staff, our many volunteers, donors, partners, and members for their continued support of the Swedish American Museum. Our work is truly a collaborative effort, and I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish next!

Med vänliga hälsningar,
Liz Peterson
As we reflect on 2019 at the Museum I believe many of us will have a smile on our face. The smiles could be smiles from a memory of eating a favorite bakery item and relaxing with friends at one of our pop-up cafés or the sound of music from one of our concerts. Learning from an author about what they hoped to achieve by writing a book. A visit to see a special exhibit in the gallery or reconnect with ancestors by visiting the “Dream of America” exhibit are fun memories. For the younger visitors it is usually about spending time in the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration and finding new friends. A visit often ends by walking through the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store and finding a treat to eat or something to use during the year or just a special interest item. We are so fortunate that about 45,000 visitors come to the Museum for all these events and exhibits. We also are excited to have special events such as Tantalizing Treasures, Vårmarknad, Midsommarfest, Julmarknad and Open House Chicago, which are familiar to us as enjoyable Museum offerings. Through this Annual Report, as in Flaggan during the year, we hope to describe our activities and to give you a more complete picture of our Swedish American Museum and how we provide many “smiles” here in Andersonville.

The Museum is open to the public seven days a week and many of our programs are held in the evening and weekends and it takes many people to make that happen. We have a small wonderful staff of seven that makes most of it happen. Together they work with docents who work with the Brunk Children’s Museum and contracted educators that together with our education manager teach students about immigration. We have a large and dedicated group of volunteers that make our work possible. The front desk is often staffed by a volunteer and they personally welcome our visitors and many times there is an exchange of personal stories of how their heritage has led them to the Museum, often Swedish but not all the time. The store volunteers share their interest in the items in the store and what they have a personal affection for. Most of our programs and events run smoothly thanks to volunteers helping with set up, welcome guests, and answer questions as well as clean up. The Pop-Up Cafés have found the volunteers interested in cooking, baking, and serving. Behind the scenes are our volunteers who work in our collection, install and take down exhibits, help us with building issues and special projects. The dedication, support, energy, and interest is what makes the Swedish American Museum a truly unique place to be part of.

Our visitors are also part of what forms the Museum. We are fortunate that visitors come from all around including our Andersonville community, Chicago and the greater Chicagoland. We host tourists as well, from not just other states but Sweden, Europe and all parts of the world. Last summer we had a very special group visit the Museum. 350 Swedish scouts ages 14 to 18 spent a week in Chicago prior to going east for a World Scout Jamboree. We had eight groups come throughout a week in July to learn about the Swedish immigration to Chicago and, of course, have a fun time at the Brunk Children’s Museum. The laughter and smiles that filled the Museum during that week was a great memory. The group of scouts could easily be found as they all had blue and yellow Fjällräven backpacks.

In the beginning we mentioned some of the large events that bring people to the Museum
that are new to our community. Many of these events require everyone to work together over a longer period of time and with extra efforts. One of the larger events that happens every year is Midsommarfest in early June. Many volunteers help out during the festival but special thanks go to Steve Satek, Amber Holst and Janet Nelson for both planning the event and then working for two long days. The second weekend of June has activities from noon to 10 p.m. for two full days. During the day we sell items from the store and have free crafts for the children and have flowers available for people to make a Midsommar flower wreath. On Saturday morning we dance around a decorated Midsommar pole in the middle of Clark Street. By the evening we move it closer to the Museum so that the crowds can dance and “feel” the music from the Swedish Stage. Most popular is the ABBA music on Saturday evening when the street is packed with music lovers. A new addition in 2019 was that we decided to serve food – Swedish meatballs and hot dogs with homemade mashed potatoes and Swedish pancakes. It was hard to know ahead of time how well it was going to be received and if it was a positive initiative. Fortunately, it was a success and by luck we had enough meatballs to last until Sunday evening and we served 230 lbs of homemade mashed potatoes. Clearly something we should do again.

One of the few events that are not held at the Museum is our Annual Fundraising Gala. We find a unique venue where we celebrate the Museum and honor a special person that is part of our Swedish-American community in Chicago. In 2019 we honored Janet Nelson and the evening was planned in detail by co-chairs Ruth and Terry Uddenberg. It was a great event and about 180 people enjoyed time together in an evening of celebration for everyone. We found a creative way to use our new building and retail space at 5217 N. Clark even without having accomplished getting a permit so we could connect the buildings. In April we held the Tantalizing Treasures sale in our new space and during Christmas it turned in to “Jul Pop-up Store”. We had a small concern that our customers would miss that we had two stores but it turned out to work very well and the additional space offered more opportunities for shopping. Our hope is that when we look back on 2020 we will have been able to connect the buildings with an opening so that we have a retail store and a café but also an opening to the back yard behind 5217 next to 5211.

I also want to say a special thanks to the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees for their guidance and support and to our committees for their dedication to the overall mission. Together we continue to carry out the Museum’s mission and reaching for new goals and new opportunities.

I feel privileged and thankful to work with all of you and to be part of the Swedish American Museum.

Karin Moen Abercrombie
Swedish Museum members and friends came together to celebrate at 2019’s Aspire Gala in record numbers. The Gala’s theme of Black and White was not only about the colors but was also about the mood; no grey in between, everything was “all-out.” The Gala was held at the Park Ridge Country Club where the venue was great, the food was delicious and the music was wonderful. We came to celebrate our Swedish heritage, our Swedish Museum and a remarkable member of Chicago’s Swedish community, Janet Nelson. We were awed at Janet’s many accomplishments. It seemed everyone attending really celebrated and enjoyed.

Aspire was not only about FUN, but was also about supporting our Museum. A BIG thanks goes out to the many generous sponsors and contributors. A live auction for an authentic Nobel Dinner and a vast array of silent auction items, including some homeless pets, added both fun and support for the Museum.

All told, Aspire 2019 was a great success; we all had fun celebrating and we provided great support for the Museum.
Saga Sjöberg, Stacey Nyman, Anna Engström Patel

American Daughters of Sweden Ladies

Allison Chambers

Rosemarie Young with her family and brother-in-law Richard Young

Elsa Swanson, Lenore Johnson, Joann and Richard Johnson, Kristin and Paul Bergquist, Alice and Nels Nelson, Rosemary Schnell, Russell Bruzek

Saga Sjöberg, Stacey Nyman, Anna Engström Patel

Janet Nelson rocking it out on the dancefloor to the music of Hugh Too
COLORS OF THE NORTH
By Alison Aune and Kirsten Aune
Jan. 19 - March 15
Sisters Alison and Kirsten Aune work with textiles and mixed media to create densely patterned and colorful works inspired by Nordic textiles, designs, and symbols.
Alison draws inspiration from traditional folk art and symbolic decorative designs that she integrates into her mixed-media paintings. Kirsten creates hand-painted and silk screen printed contemporary geometric and floral textiles. Each honors their cultural roots and pays tribute to women’s artistic and domestic contributions to material culture.

THE MASTER OF ANCIENT NORDIC MYTHOLOGY
Bengt Lindström’s work
June 28 - Sept. 22
Swedish artist Bengt Lindström (1925-2008) became a world-renowned artist with his signature style of painting portraits with thick, bold shades of green, red, blue, yellow, white, and black. His work was influenced by the people of Lapland - the most northern part of Sweden - and he was deeply inspired by the ancient mysterious monsters and deities of Nordic mythology.

KLÄROBSKYR
Photography exhibit by Ludvig Perés
March 23 - June 23
Klärobskyr translates to the combination of the words clear and obscure. Perés plays with the meaning of these words, while at the same time giving a small glimpse into the big fascination Swedes seem to have with America and the American culture. Perés’ work explores the powerful relationships between shadow and light, specifically the metaphorical aspects that play upon our unconscious psyches.

ENCORE! ENCORE!
The Puppets of Chicago’s Kungsholm Miniature Grand Opera
Sept. 27 - Dec. 1
The Swedish American Museum is thrilled to demand an encore from the dazzling puppet divas of Chicago’s world-renowned Kungsholm Miniature Grand Opera. The puppets astounded audiences from 1941 to 1970 at Chicago’s famous Swedish-themed restaurant Kungsholm (today’s Lawry’s restaurant), before arriving here at the Museum.
TEXTILE BONADER
Jan. 25 - March 24
Embroidered and woven bonader became very popular at the turn of the 19th Century thanks to mail-order catalogues and pattern magazines. In the beginning they were mostly found at the homes of the upper class, but as the practice spread it became more popular with farmers and workers. In these homes the bonader got center stage since paintings were unaffordable. The Museum owns a collection of textile bonader that is brought out for display on occasion.

THE PULL OF THE SEA
Leon Lundmark’s work
Saturday, April 6 - June 30
The paintings of Leon Lundmark (1875-1942) capture the greatness of the sea by balancing the interaction between wind and gravity with the water’s surface. Like the waters he painted, Lundmark’s life was also a mix of tranquility and turbulence. In a poem Lundmark wrote to a friend, he described the sea’s many moods, which are reflected in his paintings and help us see what continually pulled him back to the seashore.

DOCUMENTING SWEDISH AMERICA
A Setterdahl Family Tradition
July 6 - Sept. 29
Driven by a relentless passion to record as much history about Swedish-Americans as possible, Lennart Setterdahl (1928-1995) and his family have made prolific contributions to our understanding of Swedish America and Swedish immigration. On exhibit was the Setterdahl family’s story of how they came to do this work and just a few of the many thousands of stories the family has collected over the years.

LOST HOUSES OF LYNDALE
By Matt Bergstrom
Oct. 5 - Feb. 17, 2020
Like many streets in Chicago, Lyndale St., between California Ave. and Kedzie Blvd. is lined with a mix of ordinary frame houses. Few of the buildings could be considered architecturally significant or worthy of historic preservation. The history of the street since the 1880s is little recorded. But these houses 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.
During 2019, we accepted 88 new artifacts into the permanent collection, six books into our library collection, and a few other items into our prop and educational collections. The library collection gained books relating to genealogy and local history, while the permanent collection gained artifacts telling a range of local and national Swedish-American stories, including a number of original crafts and artworks by Swedish-Americans and small local family history archival collections. Additionally we received a Swedish bonad textile that was brought over to the United States by the donor’s grandmother in 1892, an original customized Georg Jensen money clip belonging to the founder of Walgreens and passed down through four generations, and a classic Swedish dollhouse by Lundby complete with dolls and decorations.

One artifact from our permanent collection, a vintage Hansel and Gretel book, was lent out to Vasa National Archives for a two-year exhibit on Nordic fairy tales, and we received back three artifacts from a long-term loan to the Museum of Danish America for their traveling exhibit, Skål!, which we hosted in mid-2016. In early January, a group of researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures visited our collection to digitize a number of Swedish-American folk music records produced here in Chicago as part of the center’s larger efforts to preserve and share the history and culture of Scandinavians in the Upper Midwest. We hosted two additional research visits to the collections and answered over 30 research requests to long-distance researchers.

We added about 600 new images to our collections database as we digitized 200 artifacts out of the more than 17,000 artifacts currently in the permanent collection. This brings our current digitization efforts up to nearly 800 artifacts digitized by the end of 2019! We’ve also begun efforts to standardize the data and metadata in our collections database to enhance its cross-functionality. These efforts will help us research and track objects, document changes to artifacts’ conditions over time, and make artifacts more accessible to long-distance researchers, with the eventual goal of making the collections available online to the general public.
Each year we take a moment to reflect upon our Museum’s volunteers. The Museum runs on a staff of seven, our board, and our volunteers. To keep an organization such as this operational and a place that visitors may enjoy requires a big team effort. Speaking on behalf of the staff, we are extremely appreciative of our volunteers! In 2019, over 190 of you volunteered throughout the year, providing a total of over 7,675 volunteer hours combined. The impressiveness of these numbers does not stop there; out of the 190 people, a good 50 or more volunteer on a weekly or monthly basis!

This year it is my honor to announce that our 2019 Volunteer of the Year was David Anthonsen! Each year we nominate several volunteers that we feel go above and beyond for the Museum, and whose enthusiasm for our organization is projected loud and clear for anyone to witness. Our 2019 winner is no exception. David is a volunteer we can depend upon whether we need help slinging pancakes, fixing something, or helping out at any number of our events. It is also rumored that he throws a fantastic crayfish party!

Kathryn Abercrombie
Steve Anderson
Karin Andersson
Giedre Antanaitis-Rudawski
David Anthonsen
Carolyn Aronson
Kristin Bergquist-Even
Anna Best
Lena Billgren
Else-Britt DeLong
Sabiha Dohadwala
Carol Erickson
Vivi-Anne Erikson
Linda Flentye
Diana Gardner
Tess Geschrey
Tori Geschrey
Bob Gramen
Jim Haglund
Cathy Holmquist
Amber Holst
Ted Johnson
Joanne Kiewicz
Shirley Koelling
Miles Lindblad
Wayne Nelson
Janet Nelson
Kerstin Nicholson
Sue Nordstrom
Griffin Nyman
Sophie Nyman
Ulla Olausson
Hannah Overstreet
Kevin Palmer
Erika Powers
Ed Pritikin
Elizabeth Ries
Erica Ries
Barbara Ross
Frank Schneider
Carolina Schwartz
Carol Seaton
Kate Sheehy
Saga Sjöberg
Bengt Sjögren
Emma Sosa
Astrid Thoren
Ruth Uddenberg
Kathy Voss
Margot Ward
Kevin Williams
The Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration is not just a place to visit in our amazing Museum. It is truly an experience. While providing many things to see, do and learn from, it also has the ability to transport you into the past, allowing you to experience history in a hands-on way. In addition to these physical experiences within the Museum, children and families are also drawn there for deeper educational experiences from historical tours to programs based on contemporary Swedish culture.

In 2019, youth of all ages from the greater Chicago area and beyond came to the Museum for school tours. During tours, children have rich experiences that enhance their school curriculum and bring history to them in a unique way. Using costumed educators, we offer hands-on role play that includes stories from people who experienced the sometimes harsh voyage to America. This allows the students to feel the emotions others may have felt so long ago. On top of this, they get to use authentic artifacts and explore a farmhouse and pioneer cabin right in the middle of Chicago. School groups are also exposed to a new culture through dance and arts and crafts. It is not unusual to hear children exclaiming that they can’t wait to come back with their families, and many do!

Family and children programs make up a large portion of what we offer at the Museum. Birthday parties and special events like Breakfast with Tomten, Pancakes with Pippi, Midsommarfest and Julmarknad continue to draw in many people. Regular programs like Travel the World Day Camp, Moon Madness and Hejsan, our monthly story and craft hour, are things our Museum families look forward to. The Museum was also chosen, once again, to participate in Millennium Park’s Family Fun festival. There we were able to connect with thousands of people over the week we were the hosts. Families learned about Swedish traditions, Vikings and Pippi Longstocking as well as famous Swedes like Buzz Aldrin and Greta Thunberg.
We also added some children and family events in 2019. Our Family Festival was held in our parking lot in early September. We themed it based on the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, honoring Swedish-American, Buzz Aldrin. Families gathered to enjoy games, crafts and STEM activities based on the moon. Families also enjoyed some Swedish hotdogs while they played! In October, we provided a camp for Chicago Public School families during the strike. Children were dropped off and participated in themed days including games, crafts, stories and play. Another new program was Tomten’s Workshop. This one-day workshop, held the Monday before Christmas, allowed families to drop off their children for a day of holiday fun. It was a wildly popular program and the children left having learned about Swedish Christmas traditions, with handmade gifts to give to special people, and with big smiles.

The number of people reached by the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration in 2019:

- Children’s Museum: 12,826
- School Tours: 3,270
- Birthday parties: 1,051
- Special events: 1,400

Some comments from our visitors:

“The dual experience of completing a hands-on immigration simulation and touring the Museum exhibit provided students with a great perspective on immigration that connected extremely well to our classroom curriculum. The facilitators were knowledgeable and did a wonderful job helping students understand this important and complex topic. Students were engaged from start to finish and referenced their learning from this trip for weeks after the trip was over.”

-Susan Nordberg, 4th grade teacher, Meadowbrook School

“The interactive play allows the students to step into the life of an immigrant. The Museum’s displays allow the students to get a first-hand account of what it was like to be an immigrant.”

-Kathleen Matthes, 2nd grade teacher Disney II Magnet School

“This field trip is the highlight of my year. We have been coming for 10 years and my students are always absolutely riveted.”

-5th grade teacher, Chicago Public School

“When I bring my children to the Children’s Museum I feel good about the experience they will leave with. They are able to learn through play. They can touch things that allow them to actually experience history.”

-Kathleen S., parent

“I think the Swedish American Museum is a truly wonderful place where my family can stay connected with our Swedish heritage and enjoy bonding with others over our shared Swedish culture and traditions.”

-Christina K., parent

We encourage you to visit the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration and attend one of our events or programs. Children and adults alike will enjoy experiencing learning in a way that brings all the senses into action.
The Kerstin Andersson Museum Store experienced many changes in 2019. A host of new faces and offerings have made it another successful year for us! There are numerous highlights from 2019 that have all contributed to many achievements for the store. Our expanded selection of Scandinavian grocery items has been enthusiastically embraced by our members and the greater community. A collection of new kitchen products, games, and books brought in customers who have come to know us for our impressive collection of gifts. Finally, management changes and traveling markets kept us busy during the last half of the year. Our new store manager, Catherine Selen, joined us in October to kick off a busy holiday season and open our Jul Pop-Up at 5217 N. Clark, St., next door to the Museum.

One of the best additions to the Museum Store this year was the glass-front freezer. When we introduced the refrigerator in November 2018, we had an overwhelmingly positive response from our members to the hard-to-find Swedish cheeses, herring, and other Scandinavian treats. Fast forward one year, we have worked hard to source and stock more of those traditional foods that play such a big role in many Swedish holidays and family gatherings. With this in mind, we were able to buy a new retail freezer for the Store to house all of the best Swedish sausages from Paulina Market, and some of our favorite baked goods courtesy of Bennison’s Bakery. The introduction of Potatiskorv, or Potato Sausage, to the sales floor was a rousing success during our annual Lucia celebration and Julmarknad, and quickly became one of our best-selling items. Grebbestad Anchovies also topped the list again as a holiday staple. We are happy to have played a part in making many family feasts feel more Swedish this year!
Our Jul Pup-Up shop was also a shining star this holiday season. Being able to dedicate so much space to our wide selection of Christmas merchandise made for a wonderful shopping experience. Many new customers visited us to feel the magic of Swedish Christmas surround them as they shopped through rows and rows of Tomtar, Julbok, and straw ornaments. The space allowed for creative merchandising, with two additional window displays to feature a host of nostalgic décor. It was also a more comfortable shopping experience for a higher volume of customers to browse in each store during the busy Lucia celebration, and over the weekend of Julmarknad. Our holiday sales increased over 5% this year despite a late start to the post-Thanksgiving shopping season!

The Museum Store attracts a wide range of customers from those shopping locally, to visitors from across the globe through a wide array of products and promotional sales. Our most successful sale featured our selection of Scandinavian books, an ever popular purchase for gifts, traveling, or a cozy weekend at home. All of the success we see from these promotions can be attributed to the enthusiasm of our store volunteers. We are so lucky to have such a spirited group of people who passionately promote our mission to share Swedish culture with Andersonville and the greater Chicago community. Thanks to each of them, our annual sales for 2019 saw an 11% increase over 2018.

2019 proved to be one of our best years yet, and we look forward to the continued success of the Museum Store as we grow and expand not only our inventory, but the store itself! Stay alert for more updates in 2020 on the future of our space at 5217 N. Clark St., and other great improvements around the Museum.
The Swedish American Genealogical Society continued to hold monthly presentations and weekly research opportunities during 2019.

“I attend most of the genealogy sessions and always enjoy learning about sources I had no idea existed. I especially enjoy the individual coaching from Bengt. He is like a Swedish Henry Louis Gates, and has answered many questions I had about my family. I think this genealogy group is the best bang-for-your buck I have ever gotten.”

– Gloria Evenson

We followed a Swedish family who left Småland to travel to America in order to seek a better life. We learned of their hardships and successes in their new country. Two of our genealogy members discussed their genealogy research travels. Much can be discovered whether you engage in a local day trip to where your ancestors lived in America or partake in a longer trip to Sweden to visit their original homeland. Sue Nordstrom discussed the trip her ancestors took from Östergötland to Swedona, Ill. Julie Benson shared tips on how to get the most out of local, domestic, and/or international genealogy research trips.

Many of our members joined the American Daughters of Sweden on a trip to Bishop Hill and Andover, Ill. A docent from the Heritage Association guided all on a walking tour of Bishop Hill and provided historical notes of interest. Presentations on weaving, broom making and other arts and crafts were demonstrated. The history of Andover was discussed and tours were provided of the Jenny Lind Chapel.

During your travels or research, you might have discovered a Swedish soldier in your family tree and wondered how you could find records about his service. Kathy Meade and Bengt Sjögren demonstrated how to find military records and presented an historical overview of conscription methods in Sweden from the early 1600s to the present day.
The session provided an effective, two-pronged approach: practical advice on how to search military records was preceded by the historical background that helped participants put the information into context. This kind of program is what makes the Swedish American Museum’s genealogy sessions both compelling and useful."

- Cindy Schreuder

Kathy Meade also gave a presentation describing the detailed records available in Swedish American churches. These could include genealogical information such as where in Sweden the emigrant came from, moves within North America, and birth and death information.

Or you might have discovered that there is nobility in your family tree. Bengt Sjögren provided historical information about noble families: how they became noble, what privileges were bestowed upon them, and what happened to them in present day Sweden. Did you know that there is an acting family in Hollywood with noble Swedish blood? (Answer: brother and sister Jake and Maggie Gyllenhaal)

“For years I have been clumping nobility and royalty into one group but I now know (thanks to Bengt) that Swedish nobility has its own clear distinction. This information helped me in my genealogy research. My ancestors in Skåne lived between a royal palace (Sofierö) and a noble manor house (Krapperup) - both beautiful structures but different. My great-grandfather learned his trade as saddle maker at one but the other was farming primarily.” - Julie Benson

Members discussed the book “Xenophobe’s Guide to the Swedes” by Peter Berlin. This short, informative and amusing book describes the unique character and behavior of the Swedes. You can imagine the surprise when it was discovered that one of the attendees is a close personal friend of the author.

Sue Jackson, Shirley Koelling, Kathy Meade, Wayne Nelson, Bengt Sjögren and Diana Young continued to provide guidance to researchers in their quest for family information on research days. The Genealogy Advisory Board continued to plan programs and their dedication is greatly appreciated.

Join us in the Genealogy Center to discover your own story and at our presentations to discover what surprises you might find about your family.
Svenska Skolan and Bullerbyn are the Swedish American Museum’s program directed towards Swedish speaking children. Bullerbyn is for children who have not yet started Kindergarten and is a time spent together with friends and caregivers speaking, playing and singing in Swedish. Bullerbyn has approximately 15 children and caregivers that joined us in 2019.

Svenska Skolan is divided up into three groups. The upper class in Svenska Skolan teaches children in 5th grade until they graduate high school. Because students stay in the upper class for several years, they have individualized curricula, depending on their progress. Students learn Swedish language through reading and spelling exercises. They also learn about Swedish history. This year different students have studied different periods of Swedish history, from the Stone Age to the reigns of Gustav Vasa and other Swedish kings. Every year, the entire upper class also read an age-appropriate book by a Swedish author. This school year the group is reading Mysteriet på Hester Hill (The Haunting of Hester Hill) by Kristina Ohlsson. The upper class is taught by Christina Merdinger who has been a driving force behind Svenska Skolan for many years.

The middle group is taught by Marja-Liisa Hiltunen. Spring 2019 started with 10 children in the class that were divided into groups depending on their individual levels. During the spring the children worked on a Swedish city that was presented at graduation in June of 2019. They worked hard finding facts, and images to put together a poster. For children who have Swedish as their second language it is quite a feat to read facts and rewrite it in their own words. In addition the children learned about Swedish birds and flowers, Swedish currency, and Easter in Sweden. There is also a combination of listening to a novel being read by the teacher and reading out loud themselves. The children worked on grammar and practiced the songs that most children in Sweden sing at their school graduations.

During the fall a new school year begun and there were a total of 12 children in the group. Since there were a number of new children from the younger group this year, some time was spent getting to know each other and to talk about families. The children created their own family tree. The fall focused on learning about seasons, spelling, grammar, as well as getting ready for the annual Lucia celebration.

The youngest group is taught by Petter Wahlback. The group focuses on expanding the children’s Swedish vocabulary through being read to out loud and watching Swedish children’s programs. During the year the children learn about Swedish holidays and how these are traditionally celebrated in Sweden. The group focuses on letters and numbers in Swedish with each week focusing on a theme and five words. There is also time for crafts and games where the focus is on using Swedish.

Svenska Skolan graduation 2019
Throughout the year, the Swedish American Museum offers evening language classes on four levels: Beginner I and II, Intermediate and Conversational Swedish. Last year’s increase in students has remained strong through our current session, which reflect the strengthening interest in connecting to Swedish roots and language, for the purpose of traveling, communicating with relatives or preparing for a potential move with a Swedish family member. Hanna-Klara Thurfjell has continued as the instructor for Beginner I and II, and the Conversational class, while the Intermediate Swedish class is taught by Claes Brameus.

Beginner I is our warm welcome to the Swedish language and culture, starting with practicing vowel sounds, being able to introduce oneself, weekly vocabulary lists, textbook work and an overview of Swedish holidays, geography, traditions, even treats!

Beginner II builds on Beginner I, adding further elements of grammar, and includes assignments in which the students are given scenarios of daily activities and then are encouraged to engage in dialogue to problem solve and ask questions. Weekly vocabulary lists and textbook homework ensure that learning continues outside the classroom, while conversation and participation is encouraged during class.

Both classes incorporate Swedish art and pop culture through different forms of media. Handouts, podcasts, online videos, movies and boardgames are a part of the curriculum for all classes. As a fun activity at the end of the session, each class views a Swedish movie. This session we were even able to incorporate the tradition of Semlor (Swedish dessert traditionally enjoyed on Fat Tuesday) into a class, thanks to the Museum Staff, which provided the treats.

Our intermediate course is geared towards students who are ready to do individual work and use the Swedish language in more practical ways. We use radio, books, TV and movies to have interactions with everyday language, and individual weekly assignments to describe something in writing and spoken language. We have targeted exercises for specific areas and also do weekly listening comprehension. Classes include Swedish history, art, culture, geography and current events as applicable. Students are expected to be able to use the language to write and speak at a basic level, as well as understand hearing. The classes are tailored to fit the students current level and help them get to a conversational level.

Conversational Swedish is taught in Swedish and is geared toward students with advanced knowledge of the language who want to practice with others. This past session, students discussed current events, played some boardgames, read a current novel and then planned to view the film version of the story. We even had two Swedish guests join us in the beginning of the year for a class. Student assignments include reading articles in Swedish, summarizing them and presenting them to the group. Many students meet outside of the designated class time and are planning to come back next session to continue to practice their skills.

The Swedish classes continue to offer members and non-members a valuable educational connection to their heritage, their current family, the Swedish community in Chicago, and beyond.
2019 was another great year for the Museum. In addition to the programs that we have come to both expect and appreciate, there were a number of additional programs and classes this year. Some of them are becoming new regular programming and some were wonderful one-off events. Here are some of the program highlights:

Sisters Alison Aune and Kirsten Aune are textile artists. During their exhibit “Colors of the North,” they facilitated two workshops where visitors could try their hands at something new. The first one was a mixed media workshop for families. In this workshop, Alison Aune invited participants to bring paper copies of old photos of ancestors, homesteads, textiles and artifacts. Alison demonstrated ways to collage these images into unique mixed paintings. The workshop was an opportunity to share stories and memories across the generations through artistic creativity. Kirsten Aune then held a demonstration using her technique of hand-cut stencils. She guided workshop participants in creating their own fabric which could be used for a pillow, wallet or small bag. The sisters’ time at the Museum ended with a fashion show displaying the wonderful colors and patterns of the Aune sisters.

There were a number of occasions where our visitors got to bring out the artist within. Swedish artist Hans Öhman came to teach traditional Swedish patterns. In this easy to follow, step by step class, participants learned the techniques used when painting rosmålning. There was also a chance to paint your own Dala horse as well as the Dala rooster. In this now annual event, participants got to create their own patterns on a ready-carved Dala horse or rooster. Not only a fun event but a great gift as well. In 2020 we are looking forward to painting both horses and pigs.

The Museum was honored to have three book talks in 2019. First up was David Lagercrantz, who is famous for the continuation of Stieg Larsson’s Millennium Trilogy. It was a chance for us to learn what it is like to write a continuation of a series written by someone else. Later in the year we had a visit from Ola Larssmo, who presented his book “Swede Hollow.” The book is historical fiction that explores Swedish immigration to Swede Hollow in Minnesota. As a special treat Akvavit Theater did a staged reading from the book at the event. Finally, we had a visit from Swedish-born author Maria Ribbing Cornell and her son Nicholas Cornell, a young artist on the autism spectrum and illustrator of the book. This event was aimed at families and the participants got to work on a community tree to help us see that our circle of friends might be bigger than we think.
Last year, the Swedish American Museum hosted an outstanding 15 pop-up café events! From Hygge Fest celebrations to kanelbullensdag, there were so many opportunities to share Swedish favorites with the community. One of the best ways to cross cultural lines is by connecting through food. These treats not only satisfied Swedish-American locals, but also introduced other guests to Swedish culture and the museum!

**2019 Pop-up Cafés:**
- Feb. 3 - Hygge Fest/Carrot Cake Day
- Feb. 23 - Pancake Lunch
- March 5 - Fettisdag (Fat Tuesday) Semla
- March 13 - Mazarin Day
- March 25 - Waffle Day
- April 20 - Easter Café
- May 6 - Swedish Fika
- May 15 - Cardamon Roll
- May 18 - Vårmarknad Café
- June 6 - Swedish National Day
- June 21 - Midsommar Café
- Aug. 9 - Swiss Roll Day
- Sept. 28 - Pancake Lunch
- Oct. 4 - Cinnamon Roll Day
- Oct. 13 - Fresh Whipped Cream Cake Day
- Nov. 7 - Sticky Chocolate Cake Day
- Nov. 15 - Cheesecake
- Dec. 7 & 8 - Julmarknad Café

In addition to the many pop-up cafes we hosted in 2019, we took part in Andersonville’s Summer Chefs’ Dinner. To celebrate 10 years of the Andersonville Farmers Market, a special outdoor community dinner and fundraiser featured market-fresh food and desserts from more than 10 area chefs and businesses. The evening included live music, local beer, spirits and organic wines. The Museum served a pancake cake with fresh berries. The Museum also hosted a number of baking classes. Participants learned to bake some Swedish bread and pastries as well as cookies. For the first time the Museum had a food tent at Andersonville Midsommarfest. People could choose between Swedish classics such as hotdogs with bun and mashed potatoes, meatballs and pancakes. It was a great addition to an already cherished event.

One of two new events for this year that we hope will become tradition was taking part in Chicago Open House, where the Museum was visited by 800 people in one weekend. This was a great way for people to discover the Museum for the first time. The other event was our Vårmarknad or Spring Market. Similar to Julmarknad (Christmas Market), Vårmarknad featured Scandinavian crafts and items but this time with a spring theme.
Special Events
- Herring Breakfast with Tre Kronor Restaurant
- Appreciation Brunch
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- Museum Celebration and Annual Meeting
- Vårmarknad
- Tantalizing Treasures Sale
- Aspire! Gala

Holiday Celebrations & Programs
- Julgransplundring
- Easter Crafts for Adults
- Midsommarfest including Children’s Crafts, Swedish Stage, Beer and Food Tent
- Got Glögg?
- Christmas Preview and Sale
- Julmarknad and Julmarknad Preview Sale
- St. Lucia Celebration at the Museum
- St. Lucia Celebration with Ebenezer Lutheran Church
- Breakfast with Tomten
- Svensk Julgudstjänst – Swedish Christmas Service with Ebenezer Lutheran Church
- Julmiddag – Traditional Swedish Family Christmas Dinner

Museum Store on the Road
- Swedish Historical Society Midsommar Celebration in Rockford
- Sweden Väst in Geneva
- Scandinavian Day Festival in Vasa Park
- Annual Scandinavian Festival in New Berlin
- Chicago Estonian House Christmas Market in Riverwoods

Concerts & Performances
- An Immigrant’s Journey in Music by Bach+Beethoven Experience
- Fashion Show
- Jeffrey Wagner Concert and Gallery Walk
- Merula Choir Concert
- Chicago Swedish Mixed Chorus Concert
- Smörgåsbandet
- Akvavit Staged Reading
- “Across the Ocean” by Johan Johansson Dinner and Concert
- Sunset Serenaders

Lectures, Films & Books
- Thursday night movies/TV series
  - Sami Blood
  - Inspector Winter
  - Modus
- Swedish Patterns, a talk by Linda Westergren-Muhr
- Magnus Sailing Stories
- “Becoming Astrid” film screening
- The Reasons and Dynamics of Swedish Emigration to America, and the Shaping of Swedish-America
- Reception and Book Signing by David Lagercrantz
- Movie Nights
  - Trespassing
  - Nice People
- Art Talk by Curt Aspelin
- Travel Lecture by Eloise and LeRoy Nelson and Don Ahlm
- “Reawakening Vision” in Collaboration with DuSable Museum
- Book Talk with Ola Larsmo
- Children’s Human Rights Talk by Kristin Bievens
- Book Signing with Tara Sweeney
Family Programs
• Moon Monday
• Hejsan! Story and Craft time
• Bullerbyn Swedish Language Playgroup
• Pancakes with Pippi
• Spring Crafts
• Dala Rooster Craft
• Millennium Park Family Fun Festival
• Moon Landing Celebration at the Adler Planetarium
• Travel the World Summer Camp
• Family Festival
• Pippi Movie Showing
• “The Boy and the Tree” book presentation
• “First Contact” movie showing
• Viking Crafts in the Classroom
• Dala Horse Decoration
• Winter Crafts in the Classroom
• Tomtens Workshop

Swedish American Genealogy Center
• Saturday Genealogy sessions
  - Documentary “The American Dream”
  - Swedish Military Research, A Wealth of Records
  - Seeking a Better Life
  - Genealogy Road Trips
  - Book Discussion “Xenophobe’s Guide To The Swedes”
  - Nobility in Swedish History and Genealogy
  - Swedish American Church Records

Classes & Workshops
• Swedish Language Series
• Scandinavian Jam Sessions for Musicians
• Mixed media workshop
• Textile workshop
• Swedish Classes for Children
• Scandinavian Dances with Linda Westergren-Muhr and Paul Muhr
• Painting Class with Hans Öhman
• Baking Class Series
• Candle Making and Christmas Crafts
• Gingerbread House Decoration Class

Community Events
• Hygge Fest in Andersonville
• International Game Night at Dank Haus
• Talk at the Historical Association
• Visit from the Swedish Archbishop
• Summer Chefs’ Dinner
• Andersonville Sidewalk Sale
• A Taste of Andersonville
• #THEREALCHICAGO
• Andersonville Arts Week
• World Dumpling Fest
• Chicago Film Festival “Jordgubbslandet”
• Open House Chicago
• Andersonville Joy on Clark Street

Guided Tours
• The Dream of America – Swedish Immigration to Chicago
• Walking Tour of Andersonville
• Lost Houses of Lyndale
• Family Guided Tours
• School Tours

Swedish American Genealogy Center

Baking class
2019 FINANCIALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and dues income</td>
<td>$261,761</td>
<td>$328,732</td>
<td>$268,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission fees</td>
<td>$41,239</td>
<td>$38,285</td>
<td>$37,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorials and restricted gifts</td>
<td>$44,063</td>
<td>$94,519</td>
<td>$278,769</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift shop sales</td>
<td>$233,756</td>
<td>$210,143</td>
<td>$174,487</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special events/programs (net of program costs)</td>
<td>$89,510</td>
<td>$91,482</td>
<td>$80,676</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total public support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$670,329</strong></td>
<td><strong>$763,161</strong></td>
<td><strong>$839,503</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants from government agencies</td>
<td>$88,566</td>
<td>$78,077</td>
<td>$33,507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income and net assets released from restriction</td>
<td>$301,853</td>
<td>$67,354</td>
<td>$345,033</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Public Support &amp; Other Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,060,748</strong></td>
<td><strong>$908,592</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,218,043</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$793,149</td>
<td>$778,199</td>
<td>$685,228</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general services</td>
<td>$147,233</td>
<td>$126,399</td>
<td>$104,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund-raising services</td>
<td>$46,760</td>
<td>$43,863</td>
<td>$43,890</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Functional Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$987,142</strong></td>
<td><strong>$948,461</strong></td>
<td><strong>$834,100</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior period adjustment/Special Expense</td>
<td>$73,606</td>
<td>-$39,869</td>
<td>$383,943</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets - beginning of year</strong></td>
<td>$3,988,944</td>
<td>$4,028,813</td>
<td>$3,644,870</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets - end of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,062,550</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,988,944</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,028,813</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balances at Year End</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current assets (cash, grants and inventory)</td>
<td>$2,112,950</td>
<td>$2,095,975</td>
<td>$2,214,482</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed assets, less depreciation</td>
<td>$3,273,439</td>
<td>$3,273,076</td>
<td>$3,282,470</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions receivable (noncurrent portion)</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$32,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total other assets</td>
<td>$74,731</td>
<td>$74,731</td>
<td>$74,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$5,492,120</td>
<td>$5,473,782</td>
<td>$5,604,033</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities and Net Assets</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>$108,909</td>
<td>$99,069</td>
<td>$125,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term and deferred debt, net of current portion</td>
<td>$1,320,661</td>
<td>$1,385,769</td>
<td>$1,449,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,429,570</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,484,838</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,575,220</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,062,550</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,988,944</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,028,813</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once again 2019 was a good year for the Museum. Total Revenues grew by 16.7% to $1,060,748. A major part of that growth was a strong income from investments. While Contributions and Dues were less than the prior year they held steady when compared to 2017 and 2016. Store revenues continued to grow, up by 11.2%. The Museum’s strong programs continued to grow resulting in an increase of expenses by 4.1% to $987,142. The net result of revenue and expenditures was an increase in the Museum’s net assets by $73,731 to $4,062,550.

Only a few months ago we thought 2019 built a strong foundation for the future with the new 5217 building, a new store and a new café. Today, with the effects of the world pandemic, that strong financial foundation will allow, with the help of member’s support, to survive the uncertainties of the current world and to flourish again when the world returns to the new normal.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Ulla & Bertil Brunk Family Foundation, Inc.
Swedish American Museum
and the
Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration

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