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New Exhibits See page 3.

New Faces at the Museum

See pages 4, 5 and 6, and welcome our new volunteers, interns, curator and member and community engagement manager, as well as our two new board members. Welcome!

Around the Museum

Check out the new items at the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store on and join the Swedish Genealogy Center as it grows and changes, page 7, and get an update on the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration on page 8.

And More!

Register for Pioneer the World Day Camp on page 9, read about SWEA on page 11, and check out our upcoming programs, exhibits and events starting on page 12.
Dear members and friends,

It is wonderful to be talking about our spring and summer programs and events. Especially when our warm early spring days have been replaced with fall-like days, even if it is May.

The Museum celebrated our 40 years with a birthday party on April 2 with great spirits and fun memories as well as exciting plans for the future. Our 40th Anniversary Campaign is now in its final stage and we need another $100,000 to reach our goal. We are so thankful to all who have participated and we encourage you to donate again, if you can, and for others we greatly welcome your support to help us reach the $1 million goal.

Some of our projects have started and we hope to have the new kitchen in 2017 and, fingers crossed, the Water Tower should be back on our building before the summer is over.

The special exhibits connect our Museum to our visitors and members in different ways. Currently we are learning more about energy efficiency and sustainability with our exhibit in the gallery space 22 Sustainable Houses from Bollnäs to Kiruna while the second floor Chicago Streetwalk photographs connect us to Chicago with images of everyday situations taken with the special eye of Mats Alfredsson.

This summer the gallery will host “Nordic - A photographic essay of landscapes” by Magnus Nilsson. We are planning to have special food events that connect with Tre Kronor but also some of our local restaurants in Andersonville and greater Chicago, during the exhibit. Magnus Nilsson is the owner of Fäviken, one of three 2 star Michelin Nordic Guide restaurants in Sweden. The exhibit is produced by American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis and in addition to photos by Magnus Nilsson there are photographs of the restaurant by Cameron Wittig and Po Tidholm from Minneapolis. The timing of the exhibit and our new kitchen is very special. Look for special mailing related to the exhibit.

The Museum is once again invited to be part of Millennium Park Family Fun with activities for children during a whole week, June 26-July 2. Come and see us and if you want to help, please contact Stacey Nyman, our education manager.

It is great to, once again, have all our staff positions filled and we have a fabulous team working at the Museum. Everyone is strong in their own area and best of all they work very well together. Please introduce yourself next time you come and visit so we all can connect names and faces of our members and friends of the Museum.

The Museum is once again the sponsor of the Swedish Stage and the Beer Booth at this year’s Midsommarfest on June 10 and 11, and we have a full music line-up, see page 13 for details. We will need many volunteers to help with Museum activities during the day and the Beer Booth throughout the festival. Please contact us if you can help for a two-hour shift, or more, it is a fun event and a great support to the Museum.

Have a wonderful spring and summer and safe travels if you go back to Sweden or if you stay here in Chicago or the United States. Thank you all for all your support and for your help to continue to make our Museum a great place for everyone.

Trevliga Hälsningar,

Karin Moen Abercrombie
Executive Director
We have two new exhibits in the Museum through spring. Hanging in the main gallery is 22 Sustainable Houses from Bollnäs to Kiruna, featuring sustainable structures that highlight the wide range of results that come from the design of sustainable buildings. Each building is presented with photographs and a description of how the architects used sustainable building practices in that project. All of the structures are located in northern Sweden, showcasing how sustainable architecture can be designed in harsh climates. Given the complex, creative considerations that go into sustainable design, we believe the exhibit is a revelation for anyone who daily spends time in buildings. Complementing the exhibit are objects from the Museum collection.

On March 26, the Museum hosted a talk by Ulf Nordwall, editor of the book Sustainable Houses in Cold Climates upon which the exhibit is based, and Urban Keskitalo. They discussed the details of each building in the exhibit, including the challenges and successes of building these types of houses in Sweden’s northern climate. Keskitalo talked about current building projects and one of our more popular discussions to date this year.

In the Raoul Wallenberg gallery, we are featuring the photography of Mats Alfredsson, accompanied by several quotes from Carl Sandburg. A native of Borås, Sweden, Mats has been photographing street scenes for decades. Chicago Streetwalk, based on his photography book featuring candid moments of Chicagoans making their way around the city, is, in his words, “my tribute to the Windy City and its people.”

“For me, street photography is to discover and document what others usually don’t see. Small human events in the public space, which normally go unnoticed, but in the frozen moment leave traces. My passion for this classic genre is based on a genuine interest in people of all ages and social classes.”

The opening reception for this exhibit was March 30, with about 40 people on hand to view Mats’ work and congratulate him on capturing the Chicago spirit so beautifully in images. Given Mats’ Swedish Chicago connections, the second floor echoed with a lot of Swedish accents and laughter from a very diverse, encouraging crowd. Along with signing his book (currently on sale in the Museum Store), Mats discussed his influences and inspirations as a street photographer. This engaging exhibit will be on display through July.
We would like to take this opportunity to introduce some of the new faces you might have seen around the Museum.

Rebekah, Scott, Luana and Madeleine have come on board to offer the Museum their skills and talents as volunteers. Rebekah has recently joined us to “support the Museum in its mission of education; preserving and sharing the history of Sverige and Svensk immigrants to the United States.” Her parents came from Sweden (she is half Sami) and she is hoping to learn more about Swedish culture and her heritage. Rebekah lives in Evanston and works as a nanny now that her three children have gone off to college.

Scott recently moved to Chicago and is “hoping to get involved in [his] new neighborhood” by learning about one of the biggest cultural aspects of Andersonville. After graduating from the University of Indiana in December, Scott transported himself here and currently works at Berlin Packaging. Scott thoroughly enjoys running, volunteering, reading and meeting new people. Luana and her husband recently moved to Chicago from Australia but she is originally from Brazil where she worked in marketing and advertising. While in Chicago, she is studying integrated marketing and is working to improve her English at DePaul University. She is very excited to learn about two cultures during her time here in Chicago. Madeleine has joined us from Stockholm, Sweden.

She moved to Chicago to pursue her master’s degree in integrated marketing communications. She hopes to help the Museum reach a larger audience.

Currently the Museum has four interns who look to gain valuable skills to take with them in future endeavors. We have two interns working with the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store and Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration, one with marketing and communication and one with the curator.

Sarah and Maribel are currently working with the Museum Store but will soon start their work in the Children’s Museum. Both study psychology with an emphasis on early childhood at Northeastern Illinois University. Sarah is a senior who will be graduating in May. She reflects on her experience interning at the Museum Store saying, “Out of this experience, I hope to gain a better understanding of the museum industry as a whole.” Sarah hopes to one day be a dance therapist to help children on the autism spectrum. Maribel has a passion for working with children. As an intern at the Museum, she “hopes to learn the ways the museum presents cultural and immigration information to visitors of all ages.” After graduation, Maribel hopes to put what she learned toward her childhood psychology emphasis.

The communications department has gained a new intern, Mary Kate, who is an avid fan of museums and all things history. Mary Kate is a junior studying communication with an emphasis on film at Loyola University Chicago. She explains her love for historic institutions such as ours, saying, “Learning about new and interesting aspects of cultures and history is fascinating and a humbling way to realize how interconnected we all are on this earth.” Mary Kate helps with social media, marketing, planning and promoting for the Museum. She is very fond of her time here and hopes to one day go into museum work and create documentaries.

Moa is currently studying curatorial studies at Stockholm University with an emphasis on historical artifacts. She has a BA degree in Fashion Studies and a great interest in the cultural heritage of traditional Nordic folk costumes and the relationship between clothing and national identity. Moa hopes to learn more about the curatorial work at the museum and the Swedish-American culture. Interns and volunteers are an integral part of the running of our Museum - they offer as much as they learn to our community here. It is our goal to make interns feel appreciated and valued while they are learning valuable, practical skills for their future endeavors. Mary Kate Williams
Our New Curator: Keith Ulrich

As a relatively “fresh” museum professional, I am thrilled to join the team at the Swedish American Museum as curator. Having been a volunteer here since 2015 getting to know the staff and other volunteers, I could tell this is a great fit and consider myself lucky that Karin and the Board felt the same way.

I graduated with a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb in 1996. After a nearly 20-year career in publishing in which I edited local history books, middle school educational textbooks, architectural engineering manuals and healthcare materials, I decided to go back to school for a graduate-level certificate in Museum Studies. After spending a year in the program, a year in which I was reminded daily of how little I have in common with college-aged students, I landed a job as Director of Programs at the Lombard Historical Society, about 30 miles west of Chicago. It was a great experience, but I am certainly happy to be working in Chicago, and especially at a museum so close to home (I live in Edgewater).

As curator, I am excited to spend time interacting with our awesome volunteers, visitors, and board members as I transition onto the team. As well, if you or any one you know is interested in learning more about collections care and management, I am always looking for volunteers to help preserve our history!

Keith Ulrich
Curator

Our New Member & Community Engagement Manager: Caroline Gerbaulet-Vanasse

Goddag! Hur mår ni allihop? Hello! How are you all doing?

I look forward to getting to know you all better! As both a Swedish and an American citizen, and as a volunteer at the museum myself, I am eager to begin my new role as your Member & Community Engagement Manager! I am excited to join the team here at the Swedish American Museum.

My journey started during my high school years (beginning in 2002), when I began volunteering at the museum. Back then, a spark was ignited and I hoped that one day I might work here. Since then I graduated with a BA in Psychology, with a minor in History, from Richmond American International University in London, England. During my years in London, I volunteered at The National Archives near Kew Gardens. I earned my master’s degree in library and information studies from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, in 2012. There I learned things that are not only relevant to libraries, but to museums as well. Upon my return to Chicago, I volunteered at the Shedd Aquarium, where I helped collect visitor feedback. Since 2013 I have worked at Powell’s Books Chicago in Hyde Park. Working in a bookstore is every bookworm’s dream, and I enjoyed my time there very much. When not at work, I enjoy traveling, reading, making art and being amongst animals. I have two orange tabby cats named Bambi and Faline, who both turned 1-year-old this April.

Throughout the years, I have continued to volunteer at SAM and attend events. The thought of working here has never been far from my mind, and I am still pinch myself now that the dream has become reality! I cannot wait to do my part to help continue to make this a great museum for members, volunteers and visitors alike! Come speak Swedish with me any time!

Caroline Gerbaulet-Vanasse
Member & Community Engagement Manager
Two New Board Members Elected at Annual Meeting

Two new members were elected to the Swedish American Museum’s Board of Directors during the April 11 Annual Meeting.

Elizabeth Peterson is an attorney who grew up in Lake Forest, Ill. All of her father’s grandparents emigrated from Sweden to Chicago at the beginning of the 20th century. In 2000, she signed up for a beginning Swedish language course at Brown University and spent the following summer taking language and culture classes in Uppsala.

Liz graduated from Brown in 2003 with bachelor’s degree in political science. She returned to Sweden that fall to pursue a degree in international studies at Uppsala Universitet. She completed her degree in 2004 and returned to the United States to start law school at Washington University in St. Louis.

Liz returned to Sweden after her first year of law school to conduct research on the Swedish judiciary. She also spent time at the Silk Road Studies Project in Uppsala and co-authored a conference report about organized crime in the Baltic Sea region.

Liz graduated from law school in 2007, passed the Illinois bar exam and began practicing law in Chicago. She started in a general commercial litigation practice, and ended up practicing bankruptcy law. She currently represents clients on a pro bono basis through Chicago Volunteer Legal Services.

She is a member of the Chicago Humanities Festival’s Shortlist Committee, which seeks to attract young professionals to the festival, and a board member of the Brown Club of Chicago.

Frank Schneider has been a Chicagoan since 1992 and currently lives in the Logan Square neighborhood. With a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Illinois at Chicago, he has worked in architecture and real estate throughout his career.

Frank has been a Swedish American Museum volunteer for more than 10 years. He has dressed as “Frey the Viking” for the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration Viking Breakfast and has assisted children with craft projects. On the Ball Committee for the Ruby Gala benefit, he helped design and fabricate centerpieces.

Frank has been a member of the Chicago Art Deco Society (CADS) for over 20 years and a volunteer for the past 17 years. His role in CADS includes advocating for historic preservation of endangered Chicago buildings and structures in the Art Deco style.

Frank is a founding volunteer and current supervisor at the Whipple Community Garden in Logan Square. His responsibilities have included assisting with the garden’s design and layout and providing ongoing maintenance and volunteer coordination.

Election of Officers

Following the Annual Meeting, the Museum’s Board of Directors elected officers for 2017-2018. Serving on the Executive Committee are Janet Nelson, chair; Cathy Holmquist, vice chair; Else-Britt DeLong, secretary; Dan Juran, treasurer.

Elizabeth Peterson and Frank Schneider, the Museum’s newest board members.
Kerstin Andersson Museum Store

Coming this spring to the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store is a product that will make pet lovers howl. Happy Pet Project Ceramic Food and Water Bowls, from Magisso, are ceramic bowls designed especially for your dogs’ and cats’ dining pleasure and health. Self-cooling ceramic pet bowls will keep pet food and water cool for hours, keeping food fresh without the need of a refrigerator, even on a warm day. All you have to do is run the bowl under cold water for 60 seconds.

The neat thing about terracotta is that, when wet, it creates its own refrigeration using a system of heat exchange. The unglazed, porous terracotta surface absorbs the water and sends it back to the outer surface. When the water makes contact with the air, evaporation occurs and, as the liquid water turns to gas, the reaction cools the object and whatever is inside. This process goes on for hours with only a 60-second initial contact with water.

You cannot see the science, but you can see the design, and these are ingenious and stylish bowls. The exterior, matte, terracotta colors come in black and soft pink and blue. Inside, each bowl is glazed in a glossy cream surface safe for food. In addition to plain bowls, the series also includes the Happy Pet Project Slow Dining Bowls. These bowls have all of the same features as the original bowls but have an added three-dimensional shape rising from the bottom of the bowl. Dog bowls, large and small, feature bones and cat bowls, fish. Veterinarians praise the Slow Dining Bowls for helping pets with over-eating issues by preventing the ability to gulp food. This aids in chewing and is ultimately good for dental hygiene.

Even if you do not have a pet, think about getting one to set outside for the hot and thirsty pets in your neighborhood.

Melissa Weems
Store Manager

Change and the Swedish American Genealogy Center

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus stated, “Change is the only constant in life.” This has been translated as “the only constant is change.”

Change is certainly occurring at the Swedish American Museum, and more changes are planned. The staff and the Executive Director have new office space. Plans have been made for other changes, including upgrading to a commercial kitchen, expansion of the second floor exhibit space, upgraded classroom and improved energy-efficient heating and cooling systems.

The Genealogy Center has also undergone a change when it moved from the third floor to the second floor. Paint and new carpeting provide an inviting environment. The new furniture arrived, just in time for the 40th birthday party. With a sleek Scandinavian look, the room is now airy and bright.

Last year the Nordic Family Research Center changed its name to the Swedish American Genealogical Society. Past clients served in the Center brought questions about Swedish ancestry, but questions regarding other Nordic countries did not arise. Altering the name was a change but the Wednesday afternoon research and Saturday programs have remained constant. Check the website for a list of these programs, which are held on the fourth Saturday of most months.

There was also a change to the Swedish American Genealogical Society Advisory Board. New member Bengt Sjögren joined Dr. Daniel Hubbard, Sue Jackson, Kathy Meade, Wayne Nelson, Sue Nordstrom and Vereen Nordström.

Visit the Museum to discover what changes are happening. Plan a visit to do research in the improved Genealogy Center and perhaps change your family tree with additional “branches and twigs.” We might be interested in the past, but we are also ready for future changes. Come join us.
The Museum’s 40th Birthday Party

The Museum celebrated its 40th anniversary with a birthday party. About 140 people gathered April 2 for an evening of music, memories and new beginnings.

The evening started with a greeting by 48th Ward Alderman Harry Osterman, who reminded us all what an important part the Museum plays in the Andersonville community. A scavenger hunt took us through the Museum looking for pictures from the past, and people enjoyed pictures and added a personal message or memory on a memory wall created for the occasion.

The evening was filled with music by Like Minds Trio, and as a special treat Ulla Silversten created a Museum Song to the tune of “Mamma Mia” to which all could sing along. Tre Kronor provided wonderful Swedish hors d’oeuvres and Wikstrom’s Specialty Foods donated a cheese platter.

Paul Rimington, Annette Seaberg and Bengt Sjögren took us through the Museum’s past, present and future. Paul reminded us of the very first fundraisers, challenges and triumphs. Annette took us through the last 10 years with Karin at the wheel. Bengt looked toward the future with the return of the water tower tank and expected building renovations.

Gerd Sjögren from the Swedish Consulate talked about the vital role the Museum plays for Swedes here in America. She explained how her son did not miss a single class in all his years at the Swedish school and what a difference that makes in keeping language and culture alive.

The new Genealogy Center opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony, champagne toast and birthday cake, with comments from Barbara Rafaill from the Delmar & Audria M. Olson Family Foundation and Bengt Sjögren. It was a wonderful evening, and people were reluctant to leave when the festivities ended.

Education: Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration

While our children’s programs and events are educational, they have the added bonus of being fun! The year is full of entertainment and learning with old favorites and new additions to the calendar! If you haven’t been to a family event, please consider attending in the future. Kids aren’t the only ones who have fun! Read on to explore the past, present and future of what’s going on at the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration.

The Past: This March brought one of the most entertaining events: Pancakes with Pippi. Guests arrived to energetic, silly and bouncing Pippi Longstocking! She played, crafted and giggled her way through the morning. Guests watched with delight as she made pancakes HER way (she added baby food and pretzels!) and led them in a game of “Pippi Says” followed by a scavenger hunt through the Museum. Everyone took home Pippi Braids or Mr. Nilsson ears, a parrot puppet and a box full of loot from the hunt. It was a delightful morning as always!

The Present: It is hard to believe, but we are coming very close to the end of the academic year. That doesn’t mean, however, that our youth tours will end. We run tours for children and young adults year round. During the school year, we have a school group most mornings. During the summer, we have day camps and early childhood centers visiting. Homeschool groups come all year long. Every day brings a new bunch of smiling, eager faces ready to discover, play and learn.

The Future: With summer comes one of our most popular programs, “Pioneer the World Day Camp.” Offered in two sessions, each lasting one week, the camp exposes children to other cultures as they “travel” the world each day. While the four countries that we are visiting in 2017 are being kept secret, in the past we have visited places like Hawaii, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Japan, Palestine, Australia, Germany, Poland, the Philippines and of course Sweden! While exploring each of the four countries, campers learn about the culture through activities like dance, music, storytelling, art, food, sports and games. On the last day, campers plan and lead a World’s Fair to showcase all they have learned while traveling the globe. This year, camp is being held July 31-August 4 and August 14-18. Visit our website for more information and to register, or use the registration form on page 9.

Stacey Nyman
Education Manager
Pioneer the World Day Camp
2017 REGISTRATION FORM

Session (select one):
❑ Session I: July 31-August 4  ❑ Session II: August 14-18

Camper Information
Name ___________________________  ❑ Male  ❑ Female
Date of Birth ___________________ Age _____
Grade Completed (as of June 30, 2017) ______

T-shirt size: ❑ Child 6-8 (S) ❑ Child 10-12 (M) ❑ Child 14-16 (L) ❑ Adult S ❑ Adult M ❑ Adult L ❑ Adult XL

Address _____________________________________________________________
City ___________________ State ____ Zip Code _____________
Phone ____________________________

Parent/Guardian #1 Contact Information
Name ____________________________
Email Address ____________________________
Address (if different from above) ____________________________
City ___________________ State ____ Zip Code _____________
Main Phone __________________ Alt. Phone __________________

Parent/Guardian #2 Contact Information
Name ____________________________
Email Address ____________________________
Address (if different from above) ____________________________
City ___________________ State ____ Zip Code _____________
Main Phone __________________ Alt. Phone __________________

Emergency Contact Information #1 - Alternate Pickup/Release
Name ____________________________
Main Phone __________________ Alt. Phone __________________
Relation to Child ____________________________

Emergency Contact Information #2 - Alternate Pickup/Release
Name ____________________________
Main Phone __________________ Alt. Phone __________________
Relation to Child ____________________________

Please list any people in addition to parents/guardians/ emergency contacts who are permitted to pick up your child:
1: ______________________________________________________
2: ______________________________________________________
3: ______________________________________________________

Medical Release Information
Primary Physician ____________________________
Phone ____________________________

Are there any medications or medical conditions that we should be aware of, or that a medical personnel would need to know about, if an emergency occurred and you could not be reached?:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Does your child have any allergies? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, explain:
____________________________________________________________________________________

Does your child require a special diet? ❑ Yes ❑ No
If yes, explain:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Registration Information
How did you hear about Pioneer the World Day Camp?
❑ Repeat Camper  ❑ Friend/Family  ❑ Advertisement
❑ Museum Website  ❑ Email  ❑ School  ❑ Flyer
❑ Other: ____________________________

Method of Payment: ❑ Cash ❑ Check
❑ Credit Card # ____________________________ exp______ v code____
❑ Paypal (payment date: ________________)

Purchase Amount: ❑ Member $200  ❑ Non-Member $250  ❑
Extended Care (2 p.m.- 4 p.m.) $75 for the week

Permissions
In signing this form, you grant permission for your child to participate fully in the program. While the Swedish American Museum will take all reasonable steps to provide individual care and safety for your child, the Swedish American Museum will not assume responsibility for any injury, damage, or harm that might result during the course of any activity during the program. In permitting your child to participate, you expressly agree that all such responsibility will remain with and is assumed by you, as the parent or guardian of the child, and release the Swedish American Museum, its trustees, officers, employees and agents from and any and all liability.

If a medical emergency arises, every effort will be made to contact you or the person designated on your registration form. However, if you cannot be contacted immediately, you agree to authorize the Swedish American Museum or its employees or agents to request and authorize, at your expense, emergency medical treatment.

Photo Release
For valuable consideration received (waived), I hereby grant to the Swedish American Museum and their legal representatives and assigns, the irrevocable and unrestricted right to use and publish photographs of the minor listed on this form, or in which that minor might be included, for editorial, trade, advertising and any other purpose and in any manner and medium including electronic usages (websites, photo disks, email, online stock, etc); to alter the same without restriction; and to copyright the same. I hereby release the Swedish American Museum and it’s legal representatives and assigns from all claims and liability relating to said photographs.

Parent/Guardian Name ____________________________
Parent/Guardian (signature) ____________________________ Date ________________
Reservations

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

Name
Address
City     State   Zip
Phone    Email

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

I want to: ❑ Join ❑ Renew my membership

Name
Address
City     State   Zip
Phone    Email

❑ I want to give a gift membership to:

Name
Address
City     State   Zip
Phone    Email

❑ My membership: $ _________
❑ Gift membership: $ _________
❑ Donation to Museum: $ _________  ❑ Total: $ _________

❑ Please make checks payable to the Swedish American Museum
❑ Please charge the following card:  ❑ Visa  ❑ Mastercard

Account No.    Exp. Date
Name on Card
Signature

Join the Swedish American Museum!

I want to: ❑ Join ❑ Renew my membership

Name
Address
City     State   Zip
Phone    Email

❑ I want to give a gift membership to:

Name
Address
City     State   Zip
Phone    Email

❑ My membership: $ _________
❑ Gift membership: $ _________
❑ Donation to Museum: $ _________  ❑ Total: $ _________

❑ Please make checks payable to the Swedish American Museum
❑ Please charge the following card:  ❑ Visa  ❑ Mastercard

Account No.    Exp. Date
Name on Card
Signature

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

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

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

Mail to: Swedish American Museum
5211 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60640-2101
Call: 773.728.8111
Go Online: SwedishAmericanMuseum.org
SWEA: Swedish Women’s Educational Association

Some of you may have noticed our ad in Flaggan over the years, but perhaps only a few of you are able to actually read what is says, as it is typed in Swedish.

It all started in Los Angeles 37 years ago, when Agneta Nilsson gathered some of her girlfriends and decided to start a non-profit organization for Swedish women who had moved away from their homeland. The main purpose of SWEA was — and still is — to promote and maintain Swedish culture and traditions as well as the Swedish language. The organization grew fast, and by 1981 it developed into SWEA International, an umbrella organization with chapters in different cities, first around the USA and Canada, with Europe, Asia and Africa soon after. Today we are represented on five continents, in about 30 different countries around the world. This makes us the largest non-profit organization promoting Sweden outside of Sweden.

SWEA International, as well as each local chapter, awards grants yearly for projects that promote knowledge and understanding of Swedish culture and heritage. On a yearly basis, SWEA International donates approximately $120,000 USD (2 million SEK) in grants and scholarships to projects associated with Sweden. We also announce the Swedish Woman of the Year to honor a person who in various ways has made an impact or represented Sweden abroad.

Kerstin Lane, the previous executive director for 20 years at the Swedish American Museum, founded the SWEA Chicago chapter in 1981. The Chicago chapter grew from 18 attendees who showed up at that first meeting, to 100 members in a short period. SWEA Chicago has had a steady membership roster of 90 to 130 ever since. The age span is from young to old, and some have been here one year and others over 30, which makes this group of women very resourceful.

Beside the fact that we as an organization promote our culture and traditions, SWEA is so much more for the individual member. On an international level, we are a large network where a member can easily find personal help when moving from one country to another, or even when moving back to Sweden after years abroad. On a local level, we help each other with anything from finding a dentist or a babysitter to housing or a travel companion — you name it! It’s a network of sisters who will help any woman in any situation. Moving to a new country with a new language and culture can be both scary and confusing.

Most of our members have done it at some point and are happy to help those who are new to the experience. There are also those who join us for social reasons, and those who like to maintain the Swedish language and traditions and make sure their children do as well.

In Chicago we have over 30 gatherings in a year, and most are for members only. We try hard to accommodate our different age groups when we plan our programs, and we do our best to find different locations throughout the greater Chicago area to please our members who are scattered around the city.

Our events differ in size; we offer smaller gatherings like our popular coffee mornings, when we simply meet for coffee to chat and hang out. This is perfect for newer members in the organization or those who want a feel for what we do and who we are before becoming members. We also arrange game nights and entertainment gatherings, meet to do crafts, plan long walks or cross-country skiing, and schedule lunches and dinners out on the town.

Another favorite gathering place among the mothers in SWEA Chicago is the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration, open exclusively to SWEA members and their young children once a month. We appreciate this partnership with the Swedish American Museum, where mothers and children alike enjoy spending time together to play, chat, exchange experiences, find comfort, eat lunch or have a fika.

Some of our larger events include our yearly Shrimp Fest, the Christmas party “Lilla Julafton” and of course Midsummer. At the midsummer celebration (hosted in a member’s home) spouses and children are included as well, which is a great opportunity to have our Swedish community come together and dance around the maypole, eat traditional Swedish food, meet each other’s families and connect. We also participate in the yearly Julmarknad at the Swedish American Museum.

To be accepted as a member of the SWEA organization you need to be a female over 18 years of age, have mastered the Swedish language and live within the local chapter’s geographical boundaries. If you or someone you know have questions or are curious to know more about us and our Chicago chapter, send an email to chicago@swea.org or visit us on the web www.chicago.swea.org and we promise to get back to you.

Veronica Strandell
Vice President of SWEA Chicago
— MAY 2017 —

SUSTAINABLE HOUSING - LECTURE
Thursday, May 18, noon
In connection with our current exhibit “22 Sustainable Houses from Bollnäs to Kiruna” Linnea Bengtsson will give a presentation on a local Rockford neighborhood project expanded into an international partnership generating economic benefits on both sides of the Atlantic. Three homes were built as a collaboration project incorporating Swedish heritage and education and helped foster a sustainable future in Rockford. Students from De la Gardiegymnasiet in Lidköping, Sweden, came to Rockford for this project. Linnea Bengtsson is an international business developer who works out of both Rockford and Lidköping. Bring a bag lunch to eat while enjoying the exhibit and the lecture will start at 12.30 p.m.

HEJSAN - STORY & CRAFT HOUR
Third Friday of the Month, 11 a.m. - noon
May 19: Buzz Aldrin - Astronaut
Join us at 11 a.m. at the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration for a story and craft hour on the third Friday of each month, September through June. All ages are welcome to attend with a caregiver for this free (with admission) program. While there is no additional cost to attend, reservations are appreciated and can be made via email to snyman@samac.org.

SKOKIE FESTIVAL OF CULTURE
Saturday, May 20 - Sunday, May 21, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Since its inception in 1991, the Skokie Festival of Culture has become one of the premier ethnic festivals in Illinois, attracting more than 450,000 visitors and dozens of cultures, all representing Skokie’s tremendous diversity. Attendees will take their free ‘Tour of the World,’ enjoying two days of ethnic folk music and dance, a wide range of food, unique arts and crafts, beer tasting, a merchandise bazaar, and dozens of cultural booths and displays. More information can be found on http://www.skokieculturefest.org

BULLERBYN
Sunday, May 21, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Taking place on alternative Sundays in tandem with Svenska Skolan, Bullerbyn is a time for singing cherished children’s songs, reading humorous tales, and having lots of fun in Swedish. Children ages 6 months to 5 years are welcome to attend with parents. Only Swedish is spoken in Bullerbyn, so Swedish should be spoken regularly at home too! We meet in the gallery space or the Children's Museum. Kids are welcome to stay and play in the Brunk Children's Museum after the program. The classes are free for members. Non-members are asked to make a $5 per child/class donation; payment can be made at the Museum. Reservations are recommended and can be made by emailing kaberccrombie@samac.org.

THE DREAM OF AMERICA EXHIBIT GUIDED TOUR
Sunday, May 21, 11 a.m.
Dive into the history of Swedish immigration to Chicago with this guided tour of the Swedish American Museum’s permanent exhibit, “The Dream of America.” Uncover the stories of real immigrants like Karl Karlsson, who left Sweden with his family in 1893, or Elin and Birgitta Hedman, who made the journey in 1924. Learn about what awaited the millions who came to America via Ellis Island and what life was like in Swedish neighborhoods such as Andersonville in Chicago then and now. Suggested donation for the tour is $4 adults, $3 seniors and students, members are free. Space is limited; reservations are recommended and can be made via email to museum@samac.org.

ANDERSONVILLE FARMERS MARKET
Wednesday, May 24 3 p.m. - 9 p.m.
The Swedish American Museum will take part in the Andersonville Farmers Market for one day this summer.

GENEALOGY SESSION
Saturday, May 27, 10 a.m. - noon
Sweden's local historical societies - a treasure trove for family research
Presented by Bengt Sjögren
Local communities and parishes across Sweden have a rich and colorful history that is traceable. Most have very active historical societies - documenting and building local archives, museums and websites. The historical societies can provide unique opportunities for adding insights into your family research and support during local visits. Cost is free for Swedish American Genealogical Society members; $10 for non-members to participate. Reservations appreciated and can be made via email genealogy@samac.org or by calling the Museum at 773.728.8111.

THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY ON MONDAY, MAY 29.
Spring 2017 Programs and Events Continued

— JUNE 2017 —

Exhibit: “Nordic: A Photographic Essay of Landscapes, Food and People”
Friday, June 16 - Sunday, Sept. 24
Start with Art, Friday, June 30,
9 a.m. - noon
Family Night, Friday, June 30,
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Exhibit Closing, Sunday, Sept. 24, 4 p.m.
Acclaimed Swedish chef, cookbook author and photographer Magnus Nilsson will present an exhibition of his photography. The large-scale photographs of the Nordic countries, as well as Greenland and the Faroe Islands are drawn from his three year research and over 8,000 photos for “The Nordic Cookbook” which includes over 700 recipes. This exhibit was produced by the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis and invites visitors to discover food as means for sharing heritage and culture.

MERULA CHOIR CONCERT IN CELEBRATION OF BERIT HENNINGTON
Saturday, June 3, 5 p.m.
Merula Springs into Summer:
Come listen to the Merula choir as we “spring into summer”. We will be performing known Swedish and American folk songs mixed with other music that makes us happy.

Tickets for the concert are $10 in advance for adults available for purchase on the Museum’s website and $15 at the door. Children under age 10 are free.

The Merula choir is a mixed choir who sing together to have fun and keep the Swedish tradition of choir singing alive in Chicago. Merula is lead by Ulla Sivertsen and always welcome new singers. For more information, please email merulachoir@gmail.com

BULLERBYN
Sunday, June 4, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
This is the last meeting before summer break. Taking place on alternative Sundays in tandem with Svenska Skolan, Bullerbyn is a time for singing cherished children’s songs, reading humorous tales, and having lots of fun in Swedish. Children ages 6 months to 5 years are welcome to attend with parents. Only Swedish is spoken in Bullerbyn, so Swedish should be spoken regularly at home too! We meet in the gallery space or the Children’s Museum.

Children are welcome to stay and play in the Brunk Children’s Museum after the program. The classes are free for members. Non-members are asked to make a $5 per child/class donation; payment can be made at the Museum. Reservations are recommended and can be made by emailing museum@samac.org.

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

MIDSOMMARFEST
Saturday, June 10
11:00 a.m. Festival Kick-off by ACC
11:30 a.m. May Pole
12:00 p.m. Swedish Jamboree
2:00 p.m. Hugh Too
4:00 p.m. Waco Brothers
6:00 p.m. Fiona Grey
7:00 p.m. Moose the DJ featuring The Princess
8:00 p.m. ABBAlute
Sunday, June 11
11:00 a.m. Peter Nordberg
12:00 p.m. LiveWire
2:00 p.m. Hode Snitch
4:00 p.m. New Invaders
6:00 p.m. Lynne Jordan and the Shivers
8:00 p.m. The Gold Coast All Stars

SWEDISH LANGUAGE CLASSES START
Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m. (Beg. I) & 8 p.m. (Beg. II)
Wednesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m. (Int.) & 8 p.m. (Adv.)
The Swedish American Museum is offering evening Swedish classes this summer with four levels: Beginners I, Beginners II, Intermediate and Advanced. All courses will run for eight weeks with classes running 90 minutes. Classes begin June 6 & 7 and end July 25 & 26. Each class will be held if there are a minimum of four students registered. Tuition is $110 for Museum members, $145 for non-members. Books are not included in tuition.

ANDERSONVILLE MIDSOMMARFEST
Friday, June 9, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday, June 10, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday, June 11, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Note: The Museum is open regular hours during Midsommarfest unless stated otherwise. Midsommarfest is Andersonville’s annual summer street festival, now entering its 52nd year. Each year, nearly 50,000 people flock to Clark Street from Foster to Catalpa for two days of music, dancing, kids’ entertainment and delicious food. Vendors from around the region sell their wares to passers-by, while ethnic dance troupes and cutting-edge bands keep the party going. There is a $5 suggested donation to enter the street festival on Friday; $10 on Saturday and Sunday (kids under 12 and seniors over 65 are free).

HEJSAN - STORY & CRAFT HOUR
Third Friday of the Month, 11 a.m. - noon, September - June
June 16: Carl Larsson - Artist
Join us at 11 a.m. at the Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration for a story and craft hour on the third Friday of each month, September through June. All ages are welcome to attend with a caregiver for this free (with admission) program. While there is no additional cost to attend, reservations are appreciated and can be made via email to snyman@samac.org.
Spring 2017 Programs and Events Continued

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ROCKFORD’S MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION
Friday, June 16 - Saturday, June 17
At the Erlander Home Museum (404 S. Third St., Rockford, Ill.) on Saturday, June 17, you can find a market, crafts, exhibits, music, dancing, food and more at this annual summer celebration organized by the Swedish Historical Society. Please direct your questions about this event to the Swedish Historical Society at 815.963.5559.

ANNUAL JENNY LIND CONCERT
Sunday, June 18, 5 p.m. dinner followed by concert at 6 p.m.
Join the Swedish American Museum for our annual Jenny Lind concert on Sunday, June 18. The Royal Swedish Academy of Music has selected the 2017 “Jenny Lind” winner to perform in Sweden and the United States. This year’s program features opera singer Ylva Stenberg. Confirmed and prepaid reservations for the concert are required; reservations for the concert only are recommended. Dinner is $15 and starts at 5 p.m. Tickets may be purchased on the Museum’s website (SwedishAmericanMuseum.org).

OSKAR STENMARK TRIO - IN MY GRANDMOTHER’S FOOTSTEPS
Monday, June 19, noon
In Gärdeby, Dalecarlia, you will find an important and ancient music tradition. The small Swedish village has been a cultural hub for over two hundred years. Oskar Stenmark, a flugelhorn player, is the seventh generation in his family to pass on this tradition, much thanks to his (paternal) grandmother Elsie Börjes, who grew up in Gärdeby. Elsie went on a U.S. tour with a group of fiddlers in 1956, when she was only 17 years old. 61 years later Oskar is recreating the tour by visiting Minneapolis, Rockford, Bishop Hill, Washington D.C. and New York. Coming to Chicago, also a stop on Elsie’s visit in 1956, the music moves from past to present. Together with Swedish bass player Lars Ekman and Ukrainian-American pianist Alex Pryrodny, the group will perform polkas, waltzes and walking tunes, mixed with a contemporary expression and sounds from New York. Bring a brown bag lunch at noon to enjoy the concert that will start at 12.30 p.m. Suggested donation for the concert is $5.

SWEDEN VÄST IN GENEVA
Saturday, June 24
Swedish Days in Geneva June 20 - 25. The whole family will enjoy fabulous food, carnival rides, live music & entertainment nightly. The Museum’s Kerstin Andersson Store will participate in Sweden Väst, the tent that’s everything Swedish.

MIDSOMMAR MUSIC FESTIVAL AT BISHOP HILL
Saturday, June 24
Celebrate the summer solstice with music. Concerts in the village park from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Maypole decorating and procession at 4 p.m. Barn dance at 7 p.m. MidSommar Respite: If you get too hot or dry while exploring Bishop Hill during this summer celebration, the Vasa National Archives invites you to take a break and enjoy fika with us. Fika is a Swedish custom of offering visitors a drink and a snack. To help pass the time while you cool off, we have a make-and- take clay sculpture station for you. Please direct your questions to Bishop Hill at 309.927.3899.

MILLENIUM PARK - FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL
Monday, June 26 - Sunday July 2, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
For the second year running, Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration will host one week at the Family Fun Festival at Millennium Park. Children of all ages are welcome to enjoy some Swedish crafts free of charge.

WALKING TOUR OF ANDERSONVILLE
Thursday, June 29, 1 p.m.
Learn about the Swedish heritage in Andersonville with a guided tour led by the Swedish American Museum. Cost is $5 per person and includes admission to the Museum and a copy of the walking tour booklet. Members pay $1 for the booklet. Guided tours will start and end at the Museum on last Thursday of June through September.
Save the Date for:
Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017
The Swedish American Museum’s Annual Fundraising Gala, Aspire!, will be held at the Sunset Ridge Country Club on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017. Aspire to grow more, to connect more, to welcome more, to entertain more, and to inspire more! Please save the date and plan to join us!
Rent this charming, cozy cottage on 1½ acres of forest. The family has had a connection to this lakefront community for over 150 years and have lovingly rebuilt the home with all modern amenities and details. For information contact jeanette@mellskog.com
Sponsored by:

Moving? Remember to send us your change of address! Don’t miss one issue of Flaggan!

Spring 2017 Programs and Events at a Glance

— RECURRING EVENTS —

ANDERSONVILLE FARMERS MARKET
Every Wednesday, May 10th-August 30th 3pm-8pm and September 6th-October 18th from 3pm-7pm
SCANDINAVIAN JAM
Sunday, May 14, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 9, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
HEJSAN - STORY & CRAFT HOUR
Third Friday of the Month, 11 a.m. - noon, September - June
May 19: Buzz Aldrin - Astronaut
June 16: Carl Larsson- Artist
BULLERBYN
Sunday, May 21, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Sunday, June 4, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
THE DREAM OF AMERICA EXHIBIT GUIDED TOUR
Sunday, May 21, 11 a.m.
Friday, June 16, 11 a.m.
Friday, July 28, 11 a.m.
GENEALOGY SESSION
Saturday, May 27, 10 a.m. - noon
Saturday, July 22, 10 a.m. - noon

— JUNE 2017 —

MOON MONDAY
Monday, June 5, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Monday, July 3, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
WALKING TOUR OF ANDERSONVILLE
Thursday, June 29, 1 p.m.
Thursday, July 27, 1 p.m.

MIDSOMMAR MUSIC FESTIVAL AT BISHOP HILL
Saturday, June 24

MERULA CHOIR CONCERT IN CELEBRATION OF BERIT HENNINGTON
Saturday, June 3, 5 p.m.

SWEDISH LANGUAGE CLASSES START
Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 p.m. (Beg. I) & 8 p.m. (Beg. II)
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Friday, June 16 - Saturday, June 17

ANNUAL JENNY LIND CONCERT
Sunday, June 18, 5 p.m. dinner followed by concert at 6 p.m.

CONCERT WITH OSKAR STENMARK
Monday, June 19, noon

GIVE TO THE MUSEUM DAY!
Friday, June 23

For more information visit the Museum at SwedishAmericanMuseum.org