

ARCTIC HIGHWAYS

UNBOUNDED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE - A TRAVELING ART EXHIBITION

Matti Aikio | Tomas Colbengtson | Maureen Gruben
Gunvor Guttorm | Marja Helander | Dan Jåma
Sonya Kelliher-Combs | Laila Susanne Kuhmunen
Meryl Macmaster | Britta Marakatt-Labba
Olof Marsja | Máret Anne Sara

IN THIS ISSUE...

Executive Director	1
Around the Museum	
Renovations	2
Curator's corner	3
Museum Store	5

Special exhibit	7
Ragnar Benson	9
Collection Donation	10
Children's Museum	11
Diversity Project	11
Volunteering	12

Programs and Events	13
Nordic House	15

Mission Statement

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

Flaggan

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5211 N Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640
Phone 773.728.8111
Editors: KARIN MOEN ABERCROMBIE
ANGELICA FARZANEH-FAR
Design: GRANT HOOVER

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Dear members and friends,

Another year has started and we have so many exciting things happening at the Museum this year. The second floor exhibit “We Are America” will be introduced and if everything goes as planned we will have a Café on the first floor sometime in 2023. The Brunk Children’s Museum of Immigration is again welcoming children and families for exploration and students are learning about immigration through school tours. The store has been in transition for a couple of months and it will be completely in the new space when we start the construction of the Café.

We truly appreciate everyone’s support and participation in our events throughout the past year and specifically our holiday events. We also thank you all for your financial support with your memberships and donations, it’s the foundation for our Museum.

We have continued to mix online and in person programs and it seems to be the way we will continue going forward. We are really excited to welcome back knitters to our monthly knitting club on the last Sunday of the month. We tried to have the knitting club virtually but it was hard to share techniques and tips online. Hopefully we will see old and new friends joining us.

Programs will be added, changed, and updated throughout the year. Many of you have been at our popular Breakfast with Tomten event, either with your own children and grandchildren or as a volunteer. The breakfast combined with crafts and visit from Tomten makes it a fun event for the whole family. Other family events that we have held in the past include Pancakes with Pippi, often held in the spring. This year we are instead trying a new spring event that will combine pancakes with Easter crafts for the whole family. There will be fun for all ages and we invite children to come dressed as a Swedish Easter Witch!. We hope you will join us.

The pop-up cafés will continue until the Café is ready. We often try to have them in connection with Swedish food days (which are many) and also on some weekends. Nordic House has had Fika Friday during our time in the Wrigley Building and we are happy that many people are enjoying Swedish Cinnamon and Cardamom rolls. As part of the focus on food and pop-up cafés, we had planned a cookie contest in December but it was hard to fit it into the busy holiday season. The current plan is that we will have it sometime in April, so start planning what cookie recipe you are willing to share and hopefully we will be able to add it to the Café menu later in 2023.

We will soon be looking for bakers and people interested in learning to bake Swedish treats, so let us know if you have an interest in being part of the group that will be in the kitchen sharing your love for Swedish baked goods.

Throughout this issue of Flaggan you will learn more about the exhibits and programs from the Museum staff.

We are very sad that Bengt Sjögren passed away in January 2023. He was a big part of the Museum since the early 1990s when he and his wife Gerd moved to Chicago with their family. Bengt has supported the work of the Museum and has been part of the overall operations as Chair of the Trustees. He was also engaged with the Genealogy Advisory Board and has helped many people find their relatives in Sweden. I will personally miss his support and our conversations and discussions and his never-ending energy for all that the Swedish American Museum is about.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Museum (or online) as a visitor, participant in a program, volunteer, shopper, or just stopping in to say hello.



Karin Moen Abercrombie
Executive Director

Renovations

by Phoebe Yates and Angelica Farzaneh-Far

It is with great excitement that we announce that the Museum's permanent exhibit "Dream of America" is closed. For the last two years we have been working hard on a remake of the second floor of the Museum and we have now reached the last phase which is the physical renovation.

In 1988 the Swedish American Museum opened its doors in the building that we are currently in. This is where the exhibit "Dream of America" was created. The exhibit is organized thematically - moving counterclockwise, starting with the intro to Swedish immigration at the top of the stairs. It moves to preparing to leave Sweden, packing a trunk, a bit about the journey and the Swedish American Line, a display about Ellis island, and beginning a new life in Chicago, including information about religious life, careers, home life and Swedish-American clubs. The exhibit has grown over the years as donations to the collections have been coming in.

In our updated exhibit, "We Are America", you can expect not only a larger space with the east wall moved, you will also see never before seen artifacts from our permanent collection. The exhibit will still tell the Swedish immigration story to America and Chicago, and you will see some familiar faces like Elin and Birgitta waiting at Ellis Island. We are including updated information about immigration and emphasizing that immigration is not a notion of the past.

"We Are America" is about connection and using the Swedish-American story as a lens to explore broader themes of immigration. There will also be immigration stories from various members of the Chicago Cultural Alliance placed throughout the exhibit, helping to emphasize that immigration and immigrants are a big part of how Chicago was shaped into the city we know today. The artifacts displayed in "We Are America" are all from our permanent collection or on loan from our generous donors. Those artifacts will be changed regularly, about every 8 months, to help protect our artifacts and allow for more items to be displayed.

While "Dream of America" is closed you will still be able to visit the exhibit on Andersonville's Swedish history on the second floor. In 2021, the Lind Room on the second floor was transformed into an exhibit space featuring "Andersonville Through the Ages". Curated by Emily England, this exhibit highlights the uniqueness of Andersonville and its history. Objects on display include, among other items, a still from Simon's Tavern used during the Prohibition era, an original ceiling tile of the Lind Hardware Store (now the Museum's main building), a Midsommarfest poster, and various photographs of people celebrating Midsommarfest and Pride. These objects and photographs represent the three nicknames of Andersonville - "Little Sweden", "Gilstown", and the "Shop Local" capital of Chicago.

"We are America" will open its doors on Friday, Sept. 8, 2023. We hope that you will come celebrate with us when that happens.



Curators Corner

by *Phoebe Yates*

This installment of *Life of a Museum Artifact* will discuss conservation: what it is, why we need it, and how we use it at our Museum.

Conservation is defined as “the technology by which preservation is achieved.” The role of the conservator is to see to the preservation and restoration of items in a collection to minimize any potential damage. Preventative conservation is an ongoing practice, done to avoid having to restore any damage. The main goal of the conservator is to prevent deterioration. Deterioration can occur from a combination of causes including environmental, mechanical, and biological factors.

Preventative Conservation

Environmental factors that are potentially damaging to artifacts include light, temperature, humidity and atmospheric gases. As discussed in one of the previous installments, it is imperative to control temperature and humidity in storage and exhibit spaces. To prevent mold and pests, artifacts should generally be kept between 40-60°F and at a relative humidity of 45-60%. Light damage is often seen in the fading of colors on archives and textiles, and is why artifacts are not kept on display for long periods. Ideally, collections storage areas should be designed to minimize these environmental factors.

The most common mechanical factor causing deterioration is mishandling or inadequate support. Accidents happen and yes, even trained museum professionals drop things sometimes. However, there are best practices put in place to ensure those accidents are minimal. When handling objects, gloves are worn to protect the object from the oils and anything else that may be on our hands. Gloves can also provide a grip and help to prevent an object from slipping out of your hands. However, when handling archives, best practice is not to wear gloves but to use clean bare hands. You are less dexterous while wearing gloves and are more likely to rip or damage a document or photograph. Inadequate support is another issue and one that can damage an object by how it is stored, displayed, or even moved. An artifact should always be supported at its weakest points and stored in such a way that when its storage container is jostled, the item itself does not move. Conservators will often build special mounts and storage boxes for fragile items that need extra care.

Biological factors include damage from insects, plants, animals, and microorganisms. Most museums have an integrated pest management (IPM) system in place to track and remove pests from collections and exhibit areas. The most common pests are:

Pest	Items at risk
Silverfish and Firebrats	Starch (paper, wallpaper, book bindings, textiles, cotton, silk, glues)
Carpet Beetles	Organic materials (textiles, carpet, fur/feathers, seeds, grains, etc.)
Powderpost Beetles	Woods, items containing starch, sugars, and proteins
House Moth	Rugs, carpets, wool, textiles Seeds, grains, and vegetable matter
Furniture Beetles	Animal products, silk, cellulose (linen, cotton, wood), book bindings

Restoration

While preventative conservation aims to prevent damage from occurring, restoration repairs damage that has already occurred. The first pillar of conservation is to prevent damage because by its nature, restoration alters the originality of an item. Each conservator who provides treatment to an item must decide if restoration is essential to prevent further deterioration and if the damage outweighs the loss of originality. Restoration and the degree of alteration is different with each item depending on the deterioration the conservator is trying to restore. Treatment depends

on the type of item, potential future uses, and available resources. For example, with books, restoring bindings is a common treatment because it does not alter the text or photographs within the book, only ensures the book can be opened without fear of losing pages. However, restoration on sculpture from the Classical period in Greece would be more noticeable and alter the originality of that sculpture due to the specific type of marble originally used. Most conservators, except perhaps those in Greece, do not have access to that Greek marble. Therefore, any additional materials used in restoration would be slightly different, altering the make-up of the item.

Restoration is an important part of conservation and an artifact's life because it extends that life, and protects the history it encompasses.

Conservation at the Swedish American Museum

Like most smaller museums, our Museum does not have a conservator on staff. However, Lisa, our Curatorial Assistant, and I are trained in preventative practices and the Museum has many measures in place to protect the items of our permanent collection. We do routine surface cleaning of our artifacts in storage and on display, conduct IPM, and ensure items are properly supported in storage and on display. Interns have been assisting the inventorying the collections, they have also been noting down items that need to be re-housed or have become fragile. Lisa and I then assess the condition of the item and decide whether the damage is something we can fix, or if we will need additional help. In such situations, we work with conservators in the area for professional help. Fortunately, with the grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services we



received for the permanent exhibit, we are able to have conservators come and work on some beloved artifacts such as the alter from the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Manchester, Iowa.

Conservation is an important field to preserve and restore the life of museum artifacts. Without it, many items would be lost to history!

The next and final installment of *Life of a Museum Artifact* we will discuss deaccessions and how even though an item's journey may be at an end in one museum, it may be the beginning of its new life in another.



Museum Store

By *Kristen Larson*

We are officially in the Danish *Hygge* season! While *Hygge* can be felt and celebrated all year long, it has an especially strong influence in the winter months. Now that the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store is incorporating more Nordic influences from the surrounding countries (courtesy of The Nordic House) we have more options to choose from when it comes to facilitating a more *Hygge* lifestyle.

I learned that Hans Christian Andersen was a frequent party guest and would bring along paper and a pair of scissors. Andersen would then amuse guests by cutting small silhouettes from his fairy tales to distribute to his hosts, very *Hygge*. Replica cut-outs (\$9) are available to remind us of the magical fairy tales that Andersen shared with the world



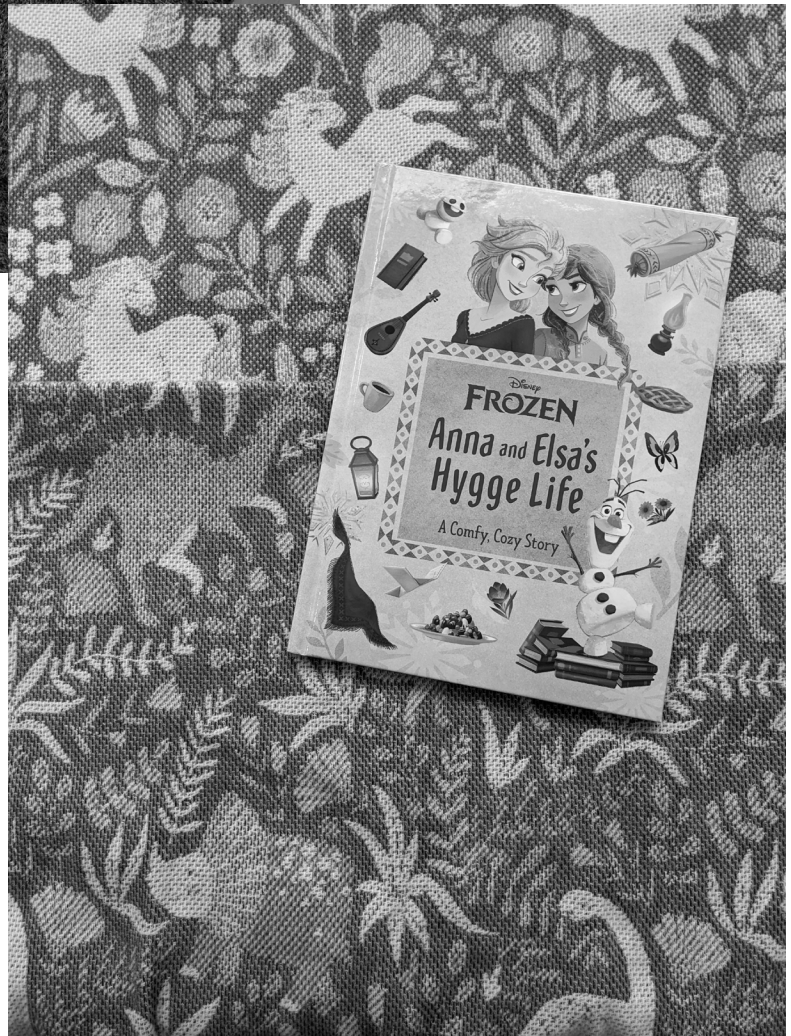
Three Hans Christian Andersen cutout designs: Swan Dancers, The Tightrope Dancer, and Palm Angels.

Nearly all books on *Hygge* incorporate wool sweaters and blankets; items that keep our bodies and hearts warm during the cold season. My family ventured out to Starved Rock State Park for an icy adventure this winter and my husband sported his new Norwool sweater. The temperature reading at the parking lot was 19°F, and even with one infant and a toddler I have been trying to better incorporate the Swedish saying “There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.” This philosophy was adopted after reading the book of the same name by Swedish author Linda Åkeson McGurk (paperback, \$17) So while my infant was bundled, tucked into a baby carrier and zipped inside my coat, and my toddler was head to toe in layers and a heavy snow suit, my husband insisted on not wearing a coat. He had a technical long sleeve shirt and his wool sweater on top, and loved every second of our family hike. He said, “The sweater was nice that it kept me warm but the woven nature of it kept it breathable so I wasn’t suffocating in heat.” We have both men’s and women’s sizes available (XS-XXL, \$110), and if they continue to be successful we will add more design options for this upcoming fall lineup!

In the book *Anna and Elsa’s Hygge Life*, Olaf learns about *Hygge* after asking this Disney group of friends “How can you give yourself warm hugs?” I absolutely adore this book and think it’s the best book about understanding *Hygge* in all its simple complexities (hardcover, \$14.99). There are many ways to answer Olaf’s question, but one of the easiest answers comes from Ekelund in the form of cozy unicorn and dinosaur baby blankets (\$64.50). Soft to the touch, charming to look at and incorporating the quality and longevity of Ekelund’s products, these blankets grow with children and are an early introduction to recognizing the ease and comfort of *Hygge*.



Norwool Sweater with a copy of There's No Such Thing as Bad Weather



Two Ekelund blankets, a unicorn and dinosaur pattern with the book Anna and Elsa's Hygge Life

Special Exhibit

ARCTIC HIGHWAYS

Matti Aiko, Tomas Colbengtson, Maureen Gruben, Gunvor Guttorm, Marja Helander, Dan Jåma, Sonya Kelliher-Combs, Laila Susanne Kuhmunen, Meryl Macmaster, Britta Marakatt-Labba, Olof Marsja and Máret Anne Sara
Closes on Sunday, April 2

This exhibit discusses the exploitation of Indigenous land and the effects of the imposed borders of nation states on the natural land borders used by Indigenous peoples. Nine Sami artists and three Indigenous artists from Canada and the United States are using this exhibit to start a dialogue, raise questions, and establish waypoints between their culture and ours.

Sponsored by Rosemary Schnell Estate

SPECIAL EXHIBIT



TILLING THE PAST

Photographer Hilma Ljung

Exhibit Opens Friday, Feb. 10

Exhibit Closes Sunday, June 18

Hilma Ljung lived on a farm in the small Swedish town of Svalöv. Between the years 1908 and 1930 armed with her 4x5 glass plate view camera, Ljung photographed the lives and land that surrounded her. In an era where photography was dominated by photographers such as Eadweard Muybridge, Ljung brings a refreshing feminine perspective to this male governing epoch.



SPECIAL EXHIBIT

LETTERS FROM HOME

Nisrine Boukhari, Areej Almansory, Luis Sahagun and Aram Han Sifuentes

Exhibit Opens Friday, April 21

Exhibit Closes Sunday, Aug. 13

This exhibit is a collaborative contemporary art exhibit that will bring together artists in Sweden and Chicago to create original works interpreting a collection of early 20th century letters to Chicago immigrant Emil Olsson from his family in Sweden. This international exchange will produce new contemporary artwork interpreting themes present in the Olsson letters that relate to the early Swedish American immigrant experience from a variety of perspectives.

Sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



Ragnar Benson

By Julie Anne Benson

Erik Ragnar Bengtsson (1899 – 1979) came to Chicago at age eleven with his sister Betty through New York’s Ellis Island in 1911 to live with their father’s brother, Olof Benson. Ragnar was the fourth of ten children born to Karl Edvard Bengtsson (1866-1935) and Mathilda (1869-1946). All Karl and Mathilda’s children were born at Strånghult in Virestad Parish (Kronoberg Ian) Sweden. Four of the children ended up in Chicago. All the others remained in Sweden.

Uncle Olof immigrated to Chicago more than a decade earlier and was established and quite successful in the construction business living on living at 437 N. LeClaire St. in the Austin neighborhood with his wife Kristina and daughter Olivia. Soon after arriving Ragnar took the surname Benson, attended Nash School where he learned English and later was trained as a bricklayer. By the 1920s Ragnar started his own construction business with some fellow Swedes and he developed strong business skills and had a good reputation for dependable work ethic among the Swedish community.

By 1932 he incorporated Ragnar Benson, Inc. and a few years later opened offices and an equipment yard at 4744 West Rice in Chicago hiring mostly Swedes. During the 1930s and 1940s his business grew with an impressive customer base such as Western Electric, Montgomery Ward, Container Corporation and American Brake Co. By the 1950s Ragnar Benson, Inc. was one of the largest general contractors in the United States with between 3,000 and 4,000 employees.

In recognition of his successes Benson was awarded the prestigious Royal Order of the Vasa in 1952. The Royal Order of Vasa (Kungliga Vasaorden) is a Swedish order of chivalry, awarded to citizens of Sweden for service to state and society especially in the fields of agriculture, mining and commerce. The Royal Order of Vasa was first instituted on 29 May 1772 by King Gustav III.



In 1969 Benson was one of ten awarded the prestigious Horatio Alger Award along with Ronald Regan and Thurgood Marshall. The Horatio Alger Award was founded in 1947 to honor the achievements of out-standing Americans who have succeeded in spite of adversity (“rags to riches”) and to emphasize the importance of higher education with a focus of perseverance and hard work.

Benson is often remembered as the Chicagoan who chartered an SAS airplane in 1957 and invited 70 family and Swedish-American employees as a thank you on a three-week all-expense paid holiday from Chicago to Sweden. Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley shook hands and waved goodbye to Ragnar at O’Hare Airport and after landing in Sweden, Benson was invited to Stockholm for a meeting with the King of Sweden where in celebration of the event he wore blue and yellow colors. SAS needed special approval from the Swedish government to land at Malmö airport because this was not a normal route.

Ragnar’s cousin Olivia Benson Johnson was one of the 70 on board that famous SAS flight and in 1957 she writes home:

So far this has been the most wonderful trip I have ever had in my life. When we landed in Malmö one hour early about 6,000 people were already there to greet us. Had we come in as expected, they thought about 8,000 would have been there. All newspaper reporters and photographers were busy bees, a band was also there to greet us. They said the king wouldn’t have had a bigger reception. (Ragnar’s wife) Elsa received a big bouquet of flowers, yellow roses and blue iris, the Swedish colors.

So, who was Ragnar Benson? He was a Swedish American immigrant, a successful American businessman, a philanthropist and a dedicated family man. His family and his religion were most important to him. During his life he was recognized by many and an inspiration to all.

Donation to the Collection

By *Phoebe Yates*

As many of you are aware this past year, and continuing this year, we are limiting the donations we accept to our Permanent Collection. We just closed “Dream of America” and are now beginning to bring all the objects that were on display, back into storage. Our collecting moratorium was put in place to ensure these artifacts will have a place in our storage area. Since our main concern has been physical space, the donations we accepted this past fall were two digital collections.

Accepting a digital donation means that the Museum receives or makes a high-resolution copy or scan of the original. The donor keeps the original document or photograph and maintains legal ownership of the item. Thus, the issue of space is not a problem, because the donation lives digitally on our server.

The Donations

Albert Goodman donated one of the digital collections we accessioned in 2022. The donation is a collection of photographs taken by Edith Appleton, Albert’s mother, in the 1930s and 40s. The photos were taken around Chicago and Evanston, Ill, Miami, Fl, and Brazil. Edith was the daughter of Albert Appleton who founded Appleton Electric. Edith worked at the company for a time, and is remembered by her family as a warm, artistic person.

The second digital collection was donated by Leonard Johnson and includes photos and documents of his time traveling aboard the M.S. Gripsholm in 1969. Records include a document from the Ricardo Nelson Travel Bureau, a M.S. Gripsholm daily agenda, farewell dinner menu, passenger list, and photos of the donor and his family aboard the ship.



Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration

By Jacqueline Victor

We had a lively holiday season in the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration! After more than two years of relative quiet on the Museum's third floor, our Children's Museum fully reopened to the public just in time for our annual Julmarknad and Breakfast with Tomten. It has been wonderful seeing children back in the Museum, and we have begun hosting a fuller schedule of birthday parties and school tours.

In order to reopen the Children's Museum, we rehired docents to staff the Museum, updated our cleaning protocol, replaced some of the items in the Museum with alternatives that could be more easily cleaned (for example, we replaced the plush vegetables with replica plastic ones), and repaired and restored numerous artifacts and objects. Our Curator Phoebe Yates wrote an article for this issue of Flaggan that discusses how the Museum conserves the artifacts that we hold in Collections. Our educational artifacts are not subject to the same level of conservation, as they are intended for play and for frequent handling by children. This presents specific difficulties in keeping them clean and in good condition, but it also allows us more leeway in how we care for the objects. For example, we were able to paint some of our wooden objects with clear, non-toxic paint so that we can regularly disinfect them without damaging the wood. I would like to extend a particular thanks to volunteer Miles Lindblad for all of his help sanding down and refinishing many of our wooden items, including all of our firewood. For a while, it seemed like we were running our own workshop out of the classroom! We welcome you to come see the results in our Children's Museum this year.

This spring, we look forward to restarting our regular Hejsan! craft and story time for young children, and to some Easter family fun! Keep an eye on our event calendar, our Museum email newsletters, or our social media pages for more information on upcoming spring events.

Photo: Lena Granefelt



Diversity Project

by Jenny Uddenberg

The Swedish American Museum has created an ongoing virtual exhibit that celebrates the diversity of the Andersonville neighborhood in Chicago, the diversity of Swedish Americans and Swedes in Sweden. Our goal is to share the richness of our communities and challenge the ideas of a monolithic identity. In doing so our hope is that we build more bridges for connection and discovery.

The idea for this project started with a member of the Swedish American Museum who has a background in researching culture and heritage. She reached out to the Museum and helped write the proposal. After many months of discussions and interviews, the website is finally up. You can visit it at www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/diversity-project.

For many, this may be the first time hearing about the Diversity Project and we encourage you to visit our website. If you are interested in being involved and share your story, you can email SwedishAmericanMuseumChicago@gmail.com.

Volunteering at the Museum

By *Layne Borden*

Volunteering at the Museum comes in many forms. While we have some volunteers who come in weekly to help with the day-to-day running of the Museum by helping in the Store and at the admissions desk, that is not all one can do. The Museum has a number of different areas for one to volunteer in, depending on where their interest lies.

The admissions desk is one of the most important places in the Museum. Not only is it the place where people can buy tickets to visit the Museum, but it is also where they can find information on our current exhibits, updates on the Museum, learn about events, get suggestions on different places to see in the neighborhood, and ask about memberships to the Museum. The person behind the desk gets to meet new people and learn about Andersonville in a whole new way as they help guide visitors through the Museum and the community around us.

When someone volunteers in the Store, they don't just have to do retail or customer service. They can help by setting up window displays, taking inventory of items, changing the merchandise on display to fit the ever-changing seasons, pricing items, stocking shelves alongside much more.

The Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration is now fully reopened, and with it comes a number of great opportunities to volunteer. While one could come in and work as a docent in the Children's Museum, they can also assist with family oriented programming that comes in the form of events or school tours. If there's anyone who would like to volunteer with the Children's Museum but not necessarily work with the kids themselves, there a number of tasks involving sewing, craft preparation, and maintenance that they can sign up to help with.

A number of the events at the Museum also involve serving food, whether it is at a concert dinner or one of our pop-up cafes. To volunteer with the Museum during one of our food events, one needs a Food Handler's Certificate; however the Swedish American Museum will provide resources for one to get their certificate and can pay the fee required for the online class and certification.

By volunteering at the Museum, you enrich our community. Everyone brings something different to the Museum, and by coming to events or doing day to day things, we are better for it. Volunteers receive a discount in the Store based on hours is also a good motivator for anyone who'd like to do their shopping at the Museum. To volunteer at the Museum, visit our website at <https://swedishamericanmuseum.org/involvement-opportunities/> and fill out a short application.



Reeve working in the Museum basement

Programs & Events

RECURRING EVENTS

BULLERBYN & SVENSKA SKOLAN

Sunday, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bullerbyn

Sunday, 10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Svenska Skolan

Feb. 19

March 19

April 16 & 30

Bullerbyn is a time for singing cherished children's songs, reading humorous tales and having lots of fun in Swedish. Children aged 6 months to 5 years are welcome to attend with their 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. Classes are free for members, we ask non-members to donate \$5 per child/class. Payment can be made at the Museum.

Svenska Skolan takes place at the same time as Bullerbyn. It is for school-aged children (kindergarten – high school) who speak Swedish. Children learn about Swedish history, geography and culture in a school setting. It is a great way for children to practice their Swedish with children their own age, as well as learning more about their heritage.

SCANDINAVIAN JAM ONLINE

Sunday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Feb. 19

March 5 & 19

April 2 & 16

Scandinavian Jam, where we practice what we teach.

Join Mary Allsopp and Paul Tyler online on the first and third Sunday of every month.

Enjoy an afternoon of traditional roots music. We teach by ear, review and share tunes. We are happy to take suggestions and love meeting new people. It's a friendly group and we have folks joining in from across the country.

HEJSAN! STORY AND CRAFT

Thursday, 2 p.m.

Feb. 23

March 30

April 27

Join us at 2 p.m. at the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration for a story and craft on the last Thursday of each month. All ages are welcome to attend with a caregiver for this free (with admission) program. While there is no additional cost to attend, reservations are appreciated and can be made via email to jjvictor@samac.org.

BOOK CLUB ONLINE

Saturday, Feb. 25, 1 p.m.

The Half-drowned King by Linnea Hartsuyker

Saturday, March 25, 1 p.m.

My cat Yugoslavia a novel by Pajtim Statovci

Saturday, April 29, 1 p.m.

Summer Light, and Then Comes the Night By Jón Kalman Stefánsson

The Museum book club reads a wide range of books from the Nordic countries. This is a free event and you can register by emailing museum@samac.org. The books can be bought in the Museum Store.

FEBRUARY

Closed on Mondays

SEMLA PICKUP & POP-UP CAFÉ

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Semlor (Lenten buns) were originally consumed on fettisdagen, or Fat Tuesday, as a celebration before the Christian fasting period of Lent. This year you can preorder yours at the Swedish American Museum. Cost per semla is \$5 for members and \$6 for non-members. Last order is taken Sunday, Feb. 19, 6 p.m. Any purchase of more than 4 semlor has to be pre-ordered.

GENEALOGY SESSION ONLINE

Saturday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m. – noon

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

POP-UP CAFÉ

Sunday, Feb. 26, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Stop by the Museum for a fika in our pop-up café. Try a Swedish Cinnamon Roll, Sandwich or other baked goods in the Museum's pop-up café in the main gallery while enjoying our temporary exhibit on display.

KNIT CLUB

Sunday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m.

Returning for 2023 – come to the Museum and knit together during the pop-up café. We will meet on the last Sunday of every month as we learn from each other and sometimes a special guest will teach us Swedish knitting patterns. We appreciate to know if you plan to come but feel free to just show up. To let us know you are coming you can email museum@samac.org or call 773.728.8111

COOKING CLASS ONLINE

Monday, Feb. 27, 4 p.m.

In February we will be making stew and variations of the Swedish Lenten bun "Semla." For this online class you will receive the recipe in advance. You can then either cook alongside or watch and try later. It is an interactive Zoom so you will be able to ask questions. Cost is \$10.

MARCH

Closed on Mondays

DINNER AND MOVIE

Thursday, March 2, 5 p.m. dinner and 5:30 p.m. movie

Cost for dinner and movie is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Movie only is \$10 for all.

HERRING BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 5, noon

Join us for a traditional fried herring breakfast which includes meatballs, potato sausage, and much more. The brunch is catered by Tre Kronor Restaurant. Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members.

MAZARIN POP-UP CAFÉ

Sunday, March 12, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

This almond filled pastry is a classic on the Swedish fika table. Not everyone is brave enough to attempt to bake it at home but it is nevertheless a favorite among young and old. In honor of Mazarin Day the Museum will host a pop-up café.

EASTER CRAFTS AND PANCAKES

Saturday, March 18, 9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Everyone is invited to for a morning of Swedish Easter crafts and pancakes. This is not a drop in event. We will have crafts for all ages and levels and a Swedish pancake breakfast. Cost: \$15 members (adults and children 2 and over); \$20 non-members (adults and children 2 and over); \$5 children aged 12-24 months; Infants are free. Prepaid and confirmed tickets are required and no refunds available for cancellations within 5 days of event. Max 60 participants.

INSIDEWALK SALE

Friday, March 24 – Sunday, March 26

As part of Andersonville InSidewalk Sale the Museum is hosting a mini Tantalizing Treasures Sale. Come find your treasure among things old and new.

GENEALOGY SESSION ONLINE

Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m. – noon

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

VÅFFELDAGEN POP-UP CAFÉ

Saturday, March 25, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Museum will host a pop-up café for waffle day. Stop by to try the Swedish variant with fresh whipped cream and jam.

POP-UP CAFÉ

Sunday, March 26, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Stop by the Museum for a fika in our pop-up café. Try a Swedish Cinnamon Roll, Sandwich or other baked goods in the Museum's pop-up café in the main gallery while enjoying our temporary exhibit on display.

KNIT CLUB

Sunday, March 26, 1 p.m.

Returning for 2023 – come to the Museum and knit together during the pop-up café. We will meet on the last Sunday of every month as we learn from each other and sometimes a special guest will teach us Swedish knitting patterns. We appreciate to know if you plan to come but feel free to just show up. To let us know you are coming you can email museum@samac.org or call 773.728.8111

COOKING CLASS ONLINE

Tuesday, March 28, 4 p.m.

In March we will be making gratin and banana pancakes. For this online class you will receive the recipe in advance. You can then either cook alongside or watch and try later. It is an interactive Zoom so you will be able to ask questions. Cost is \$10.

APRIL

The Museum is closed on Sunday, April 9 in observance of Easter. Closed on Mondays

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OPEN ALL DAY

Tuesday, April 4 – Thursday, April 6, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Children's Museum will be open full day during CPS spring break (Easter Friday and Sunday the Museum is closed).

DINNER AND MOVIE

Thursday, April 6, 5 p.m. dinner and 5:30 p.m. movie

Cost for dinner and movie is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Movie only is \$10 for all.

EXHIBIT OPENING

Friday, April 21, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

The special exhibit "Letters from Home" opens. For more information see page 7.

ANNUAL MEETING ONLINE

Sunday, April 23, noon

Members are welcome to attend this year's annual meeting. This event is free but reservations are required to receive a Zoom code.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Sunday, April 23, 5 p.m.

All are welcome to help us celebrate all the wonderful volunteers that make the Swedish American Museum such an inviting place to be. Our volunteers can be found all over the Museum, at the front desk, in the Store, behind a computer or in the collection. All an important part of the running of this Museum. Dinner and cake will be served. Cost is \$20 for members and non-members. Volunteers are our guests.

GENEALOGY SESSION ONLINE

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. – noon

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

COOKING CLASS ONLINE

Tuesday, April 25, 4 p.m.

For this online class you will receive the recipe in advance. You can then either cook alongside or watch and try later. It is an interactive Zoom so you will be able to ask questions. Cost is \$10.

POP-UP CAFÉ

Sunday, April 30, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Stop by the Museum for a fika in our pop-up café. Try a Swedish Cinnamon Roll, Sandwich or other baked goods in the Museum's pop-up café in the main gallery while enjoying our temporary exhibit on display.

KNIT CLUB

Sunday, April 30, 1 p.m.

Returning for 2023 – come to the Museum and knit together during the pop-up café. We will meet on the last Sunday of every month as we learn from each other and sometimes a special guest will teach us Swedish knitting patterns. We appreciate to know if you plan to come but feel free to just show up. To let us know you are coming you can email museum@samac.org or call 773.728.8111



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Nordic House

The Nordic House in Chicago will showcase the uniqueness of the Nordic region. It will be a place of refuge in an otherwise busy and energetic city. It will provide visitors with an immersive experience of the Nordic region through images and videos, but also offer the best of what the respective Nordic countries have to offer in terms of quality retail products, food, and culture. The Nordic House will be the place where exciting things happen.

The Nordic House is located inside Wrigley Building's South Tower at 400 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago Ill.

EXHIBIT AT NORDIC HOUSE GREAT FEELINGS AND MEETINGS

Photography by Hans Ekestang

Ekestang's photographs blends his two passions in life, photography and music. He has devoted the better part of his life to traveling internationally to create a superior catalog of photographs, having attended blues festivals across Scandinavia, Europe, and the United States. His subjects have included blues legends B.B. King, Muddy Waters, Chuck Berry, James Brown, Little Richard, Fats Domino and Buddy Guy, among countless others.

NORDIC HOUSE FRIDAY FIKA

Fridays, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fika is much more than just a coffee break. It is a social phenomenon, a reason to spend quality time with colleagues, family and friends. Visit Nordic House on Fridays for freshly baked cinnamon rolls and coffee.