

To preserve, teach and celebrate Swedish heritage.

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Summer 2013

5211 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60640-2101

[www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org](http://www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org)

## *Eight Seasons in Sápmi* Exhibit Showcases Sámi Culture This Summer

The only European indigenous group to be formally recognized by the European Union, the Sámi people inhabit the far northern reaches of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia. It is there they make their home—called Sápmi, continuing 8,000 years of tradition from

warmth of the Sámi people. Her photos depict all aspect of Sámi life from the 400 year-old winter market in Jokkmokk, Sweden to herders gathering in their *kåta* or tents and telling stories around a warm fire.

The second part of the exhibit arrives in July



handicrafts or *duodji* to reindeer husbandry.

This summer the Swedish American Museum will be hosting the exhibit, *Eight Seasons in Sápmi: The Land of the Sámi People*. It consists of two parts; the first is a photo collection by Danish-American photographer Birgitte Aarestrup opening on June 28.

Aarestrup, the author of the book *Eight Seasons Above the Arctic Circle – The Sámi of Lapland*, spent time living in and traveling around Sápmi to capture the contrasts of light and dark, ancient culture as it fuses with modern technology, a cold region filled by the

and includes Sámi *duodji* such as hand-crafted knives, drums and purses adorned in the rich colors of Sámi culture—red, yellow, blue and green. This portion of the exhibit also includes more historical information about Sápmi.

We encourage you to take a break from all the many festivities of summer to come to the Museum to immerse yourself in Sami culture and heritage. This exhibit is brought to the Museum in collaboration with Ájtte—the Swedish Mountain and Sámi Museum, Sámi Duodji—the Sámi Handicraft Foundation, and Birgitte Aarestrup. ■

## 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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## BECOME A MUSEUM MEMBER

Members receive *Flaggan*, free Museum admission, discounts in the Museum store and on workshops, classes, and special invitations to exhibits and events. Call the Museum for more information.

## Executive Director's Letter

# Dear Members and Friends,

As Spring and Summer melt together here in Chicago and flowers are blooming in backyards and planters, it is with some nostalgia that I miss the hills of *vitsippor* in Sweden (white flowers that cover hills in the spring). One of my friends from Sweden recently posted a beautiful Facebook picture of *vitsippor*, and it truly felt like spring even though the weather here was cold and almost wintery.

Thinking of Sweden and “home” is a mix of looking forward, remembering the past, and enjoying what is happening right now. I am so fortunate to live here in Chicago, to have a wonderful family, and to be part of the Swedish American Museum community. Every day is a new adventure, and our thousands of visitors remind us that what we are doing makes a difference.

Part of that adventure are our many childhood memories that come back to us in all sorts of unexpected ways. Last week we had Swedish visitors who not only came to see the Museum, but also brought greetings from my home church in Göteborg. That immediately reminded me of my childhood years in Sweden growing up with my parents and sisters. So many of our visitors, members and friends tell us that the Museum helps bring back these memories.

For me, our summer exhibit, *Eight Seasons in Sápmi*, is another of those reflections back to my childhood. Our family went on a summer camping trip to northern Sweden in Fatmokat when I was about 8 years-old. We stayed in traditional Sámi housing, a *Kåta* or tent, and my dad had to regularly wake up during the night to put more wood on the fire because it was very cold. It is wonderful to be able to show this exhibit, which is traveling around the United States, here at the Museum. We hope that many of you are able to come and see it.

The visitors from Sweden also gave me a flashback to when I moved away from home to the United States more than 30 years ago on a new adventure. That, of course, quickly moved my thoughts to Kathryn, our daughter, who is on an internship adventure in Australia. She is turning 20 this summer and experiencing something new and adventurous for her. She is there for a two-month period and she is at a similar place in life that I was

when I moved here—ready for the unknown and new experiences. It is hard to imagine what our ancestors had to do to when they left Sweden to come here over a century ago into the unknown. We celebrate them every day here at the Swedish American Museum by showcasing the treasures they brought with them and how they dealt with the new experiences of the immigration adventure.

Talk about new experiences—the Museum is now the proud owner of a parking lot, something that many dreamt of for a long time. It is a little bittersweet however, since the parking lot was owned by Nelson Funeral Home and they closed their Andersonville location and are now only in Park Ridge. We miss them and their presence in the neighborhood, but we are excited that we could purchase the parking lot from them, at the corner of Foster and Ashland.

Looking forward and adapting to new things involves technology and how it clearly has changed our ability to stay connected with our families even when we travel far away. However, the unknown of what is ahead has not changed. Through Facebook I'm able to see what my friends are doing in Sweden and also around the United States. The Museum is able to communicate with many of you regularly through Facebook, Twitter, and our website. We can quickly get a message out about something happening at the Museum or other Swedish-American and Swedish news. It's a great way to reach many people in a very short time period with both interesting messages as well as “Food for Thought.”

However, nothing replaces a visit to the Museum where you can experience the exhibits, programs, the store, and connect with other members and friends. Now we have our own parking lot that all our visitors and members are welcome to use while visiting the Museum. For more information see the article on the next page.

Have a wonderful summer and take a trip to Andersonville to see us!



Karin Moen Abercrombie  
Executive Director

## Around the Museum

# The Dream Has Come True

The Swedish American Museum finally owns its own private parking lot in Andersonville. Pictured below are Janet Nelson and her brother Rick Nelson turning over the keys to the Nelson Funeral Home parking lot to Karin Moen Abercrombie, executive director, and Karl Ahlm, vice chairman of the Museum's Board, at Chicago Title and Trust Company on May 2, 2013.

When the Nelson family decided to consolidate all of its operations at their Park Ridge location, the Museum was asked if it wanted to purchase the lot. Other neighborhood businesses were interested but it was always the wish of Vera Nelson, matriarch of the Nelson family, that the Museum should have the right of first refusal. The Board of Directors approved a letter of intent and then spent

many hours of deliberation on the mechanics of purchasing the lot and maintaining it for museum volunteers and patrons to use while visiting or working at the Museum.

The lot, located a half block from the Museum at the corner of Ashland and Foster, is in excellent condition and provides more visibility for the Museum in addition to easing the parking concerns of many who drive to the Museum for special events. Since there is limited space, however, patrons will have access to the lot on a first-come, first-served basis. Many patrons carpool, which will help the availability of parking. Arrangements are being made with Lincoln Towing to monitor the lot and control its use for Museum purposes only.



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At the Museum's Annual Meeting Kerstin Lane was thanked for her leadership in proposing this arrangement to Vera Nelson years ago. She also reminded all of us that we never could have done this until now, because we had to struggle so long to reach financial stability as a small Museum.

The purchase of the lot signals the kickoff of a much larger capital campaign to enhance the facilities and exhibits of the Museum, which will be described as the details are developed. ■

## Volunteer Profile: Chris Biersdorf

Chris Biersdorf has been lending his cheerful and welcoming personality, his hard work and his ability to adapt to new situations to the Museum for the past year. He has worked throughout the Museum from welcoming visitors at the front desk to helping with the ever changing demands of special events. Chris has also supported the Store and the Children's Museum. He discovered the Museum while exploring Andersonville from the nearby environs of Loyola University where he is a senior studying anthropology. Drawn to the space and atmosphere of the Museum, Chris investigated the possibility of becoming a volunteer.



The Museum is a natural fit for Chris who is attracted to the endless array of activities and events available in the city. Special

events, especially lectures, reflect these interests. A favorite event was Faith Walls' recent discussion of her research on bullying in Swedish schools. He enjoys interacting with Museum visitors, listening to their stories, and helping make their visits to the Museum rewarding.

Chris will take a break from volunteering when the Loyola semester ends in May to spend several weeks at the Loyola campus in Woodstock, Illinois, studying Ice Age ecology at an archeological dig. He is interested in pursuing anthropology studies in graduate school after he completes his undergraduate degree in December. We hope he will continue to study in the Chicago area and volunteer at the Museum. We appreciate Chris' many contributions to the Swedish American Museum. ■

## Pleased to Meet You! by Stacey Nyman

Thinking back on my childhood brings memories of Anna's cookies dipped in milk with a drop of coffee in my special coffee cup. My mother, grandmother, and I would sit on the porch swing, and visit. My Nana would sing me bits of Swedish songs (with "tra-la-la" inserted into the places where Swedish words were long forgotten). After, we'd often take a walk to Clark Street with the goal of restocking the kitchen cupboard. We'd stop into the Swedish Bakery and I'd look up with big eyes at the clerk offering a cookie with a smile. My family, with its rich Swedish heritage, would frequent Swedish establishments. We'd find them during our frequent travels, but our favorites were in our own neighborhood.

My grandmother moved to Andersonville from Sweden when she was two, and after my mother married, she purchased the house right

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next door—which my family owned until 2000 when they sadly moved up to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

where my father's Swedish family lives. My grandfather also came from Sweden to Chicago as a child. Growing up at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, I attended many Santa Lucia Festivals, and when I was 16, I was chosen to represent the church! One of my best memories was participating in this event. The solemn walk down Clark Street, the awesome feeling of being at the Daley Center, the pride of my heritage...it just couldn't get any better. Add many Midsommar Fests, and weekly walks down Clark Street for Swedish groceries, and you can see that the Swedish American Museum is my true home.

Attending North Park University just added to my love of the Swedish culture. I took a year of Swedish my senior year, and while I didn't hold onto much of what I learned, it is coming back to me bit

by bit! I likely could not hold any sort of an educated conversation, but could probably count to ten if asked! I graduated from North Park with a degree in elementary education and spent the next 13 years teaching. I also got married and started a beautiful family. My Swedish American husband Scott works for the Evangelical Covenant Church as a pension accountant. We have three children. Sophie is 9, Ethan is 7, and Griffin (Finn) is 5. They are the lights of my life.

I felt so at home stepping into the Store Manager position this past March. Everyone was so welcoming and warm. It was very interesting learning about the different merchandise, and using my creativity throughout the store. It was challenging, but a lot of fun at the same time! Learning the lay of the store, and information about each product truly broadened my knowledge of Swedish culture. It was a valuable experience that can only enrich my ability to teach others about Sweden

When I learned of the Educational Manager opening, I knew in my heart that it was the career I had always been searching for. It is a dream come true. Early in my teaching career I explored working in the educational departments of museums. However, when positions would open, the timing was never right. I was always in the middle of a school year. This time, the timing was just right. I am incredibly excited to combine the love of my heritage with my love of children. It is an absolutely perfect combination!

If my Nana could see me now, she'd be so proud. She passed her knowledge and love of Sweden to me. I now have the incredible opportunity to pass it along to countless children. That is a gift that I cannot wait to give. When you stop by the museum, please find me and say hello! ■

## Friday, June 21, Is "Give to the Swedish American Museum Day!"

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 21. Not only is it the official Swedish Midsommar celebration, but it's also our third annual "Give to the Museum Day!"

"Give to the Museum Day!" is a special day set aside for members and friends to make online donations in honor of the Swedish American Museum's 37th anniversary and the ongoing restoration of our Dala Horse.

Whether you're having your first cup of coffee of the day, on your lunch break at work, or out and about using your smart phone, you can easily "Give to the Museum!"

1. **Anytime after 12:01 a.m. on June 21, visit [www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org](http://www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org).**
2. **Click the button marked "Give Now."**
3. **Enter the amount of your donation, using either a credit card or PayPal.**

During this 37th anniversary year, our "Give to the Museum Day!" goal is to raise \$15,000 for the restoration of the Dala Horse, signage for the parking lot, and general operating support for the Museum.

As an added incentive, the first \$5,000 raised between 12:01 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. on June 21 will be matched 1:1 by our generous donors.

If you're not near a computer or smart phone on June 21, you can call the Museum at 773.728.8111 and give us your donation over the phone using a credit card. Or you can send a check made out to the Swedish American Museum.

Even if you've already made a gift this year, please consider making an additional gift on June 21 to help us reach our \$15,000 goal.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Swedish American Museum. ■



# Chicago Swedes Found Sweet Home in Alabama

By Stephen Anderson

Times were tough in Chicago in 1896, and across the nation, during the depression that followed the Panic of 1893. Banks failed and railroads went bankrupt. Employment was hard to find. Tenuous labor relationships plagued the city after the Haymarket Square riot of May 1886 and Pullman strike of 1894.

Andersonville, which had been annexed to Chicago in 1889 as part of the Township of Lakeview, struggled to maintain its identity as a center of Swedish culture. Because the community was now inside city limits, its skillful residents were prohibited from building homes out of wood.

A group of Swedish businessmen, headed by entrepreneur Oscar Johnson, began dreaming of forming a settlement in warmer climes where immigrants like them could establish an agricultural community unfettered by city ordinances, prejudices and clutter.

The ambitious group founded the Svea Land Company and elected Johnson as president. Members began visiting Alabama in search of potential sites for establishment of a Swedish colony.

In southern Alabama, not far from Mobile and the Gulf of Mexico, the Chicago entourage found in Baldwin County an area of fertile soil for farming, majestic forests, and best of all, a year-round mild climate.

They purchased 1,500 acres between the Fish and Black Rivers, completing and recording the deeds and abstracts in June 1896. They decided to call the settlement Svea, after a region of Sweden that was similarly verdant.

Local history and tradition trumped the choice of name, however. The area had been called Silverhill since the end of the war between the states, and that appellation was too firmly established to be changed by newcomers.

The silver that it referenced was the payment of cash by a man named Lowell, the proprietor, to laborers at his hilltop turpentine still. Many former slaves were among the workers who went up the hill for silver on paydays. Nearby was Silverhill Creek, an essential source of water for the operation.

Alabama and other gulf states benefited when the lucrative turpentine and rosin industry had to relocate from the Carolinas and Georgia. Forests of long-leaf yellow pines in those states were overworked and abandoned. From 1904 to 1909, Alabama produced 10 percent of these substances nationally.

In 1897, the first families left Chicago to settle in Swedish Silverhill. They included the Oscar Johnsons and the Axel Westerlunds. Johnson's cousin, Ester Anderson, visited in 1898 and

decided to stay to conduct school in a barn for about 10 colony children. A school building was constructed later in the year.

An evangelical church was established December 1, 1902, as *Svenska Evangeliska Missions Forsamling* and subsequently built on land provided by Johnson. Services were conducted in Swedish until about 1930. A Parent-Teacher Association was organized in 1906. A group of ladies formed a Non Pareil Club in 1907 and subsequently sponsored a town library.

Silverhill was incorporated in 1926, and its founder, Oscar Johnson, was elected its first mayor. Today, an Oscar Johnson Memorial Park, near the site of the historic turpentine distillery,



The Oscar Johnson Memorial Library, formerly the Svea Land Company office, in Silverhill, Alabama.

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memorializes his contributions with flowering shrubs and dogwood trees.

The hurricane of September 1906, a setback for the Swedish community, caused substantial property damage. Many settlers moved back north rather than reestablish their ravaged farms and continue the arduous task of transporting crops to markets in Mobile. Others gave up farming and sought different work in nearby communities.

Conditions improved gradually as farming made a comeback and businesses began to locate in Silverhill. Arriving in the 1920s were an ice cream parlor, a news and magazine stand, a grocery store and gift shop, a feed store, a poultry business, a restaurant, several

cabins for tourists, and a shipping platform for the railroad spur.

Then came the Great Depression and the end of rail access. A downward spiral continued until World War II, when military installations were built in Pensacola and Mobile. Many residents worked at these locations and in related industries around the area. Silverhill became a bedroom community.

The 2000 census reported Silverhill's population at 618 residents living in 241 households. Proportions of ancestry were 14.8% German, 10.2% Swedish, 9.0% English, and 6.4% Irish.

Silverhill now has only an elementary school for kindergarten through 6th grade. Both Central Baldwin Middle School (7th and 8th grades) and Robertsedale High School are located about four miles east in Robertsedale. ■

*Stephen Anderson, a Swedish American Museum volunteer and former board member, has four ancestors from the Forsman family interred in Silverhill Cemetery: a grandmother, great grandmother, great grandfather and great-great grandfather.*

## Keeping In Touch – Family Letters from Sweden by Veronica Robinson

This spring the Swedish American Museum has had the wonderful opportunity to host a Swedish intern in the collections and education departments. Ylva Frögéli from Uppsala University has been working full time at our Museum since January. One of Ylva's first projects was the translation of a set of letters into modern Swedish and finally into English. The letters were donated to the Museum in 2010 and document several years of correspondence between members of the Cardell-Larson family.

Per Cardell was a Swedish immigrant who arrived in the United States when he was 26 years old. He stepped ashore on Ellis Island May 11, 1900 in order to chase down "the American Dream." Per

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was the second-born child in a family of 7 children from Jönköping, Sweden.

His loving family wrote him letters from Sweden over the years which he kept and passed on to his own children.

In the early 20th century many Swedish immigrants found opportunities in Chicago. Per Cardell was among them and found work as a carpenter at the Pullman Palace Car Company building luxury train cars for the railroads. Within a few years several of

Per's brothers also traveled to Chicago and found work at Pullman. Per married a woman named Frida, also a Swedish immigrant to Chicago. In 1904, they had a daughter, Ebba, whom the family mentions many times in the series of letters.

In many of the letters, Per's mother and father, Anna and Johannes Larson, write to him about the farm back in Sweden and his siblings. They long for him and hope that he will visit them again soon. In one letter, Per's sister, Maria, writes to Per's wife, Frida and asks for help convincing her other siblings to stay in Sweden. She writes, "My brothers have the America Fever, and of course I don't know about a cure."

In these letters, Per's family gives a picture of daily life in Sweden during this period of heavy emigration from the country. First-hand accounts like these letters are very valuable to historians and researchers, but are also incredibly important to the families who inherit them—they can give insight into ancestors that is not apparent in institutional records. For more stories of Chicago's Swedish immigrants and historical artifacts, stop in to the Museum and visit our second floor exhibit "The Dream of America: Swedish Immigration to Chicago." ■

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## PROGRAMS, EXHIBITS & CLASSES

# SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM

### GUIDED TOUR: A DREAM OF AMERICA – SWEDISH IMMIGRATION TO CHICAGO

*Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m.*

*Saturday, July 27, 11 a.m.*

*Sunday, Aug. 25, 11 a.m.*

*Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m.*

*A Dream of America* tells a fascinating story that starts in the mid 1800s in Sweden. It takes the visitor on a journey from Sweden to the New World, providing insights into the struggles and triumphs of Swedish immigrant life in Chicago. Cost for the tour is \$4 adults, \$3 seniors and students. Members are free. Reservations are recommended.

### WALKING TOUR OF ANDERSONVILLE

Monthly guided tours during the summer will start and end at the Museum. June 26, July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26, at 1 p.m. Learn about Swedish heritage in Andersonville with a guided tour led by the Swedish American Museum. Self-guided tour books are available at the front desk of the Museum as well.



### ANDERSONVILLE FARMER'S MARKET

*Swedish American Museum Booth*

*Wednesday, July 3, 3 p.m. – 8 p.m.*

*Wednesday, Sept. 18, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.*

Andersonville's Farmer's Market runs every Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. starting on Wednesday, June 5. Hours change to 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. starting Wednesday, Sept. 11. Local and regional vendors

### SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM HOURS

#### GENERAL MUSEUM:

Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

#### CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:

Monday – Thursday: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

#### MUSEUM STORE:

Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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Chicago, Illinois 60640-2101  
773.728.8111

[www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org](http://www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org)

set up shop on Clark Street and Berwyn Avenue to sell fresh and specialty products. On July 3 and Sept. 18, stock up on fresh goods fruits and vegetables and lingonberries too! Stop by the Farmer's Market on these days and pay a visit to the Swedish American Museum booth. We will have a great variety of Swedish food and cooking related items for sale, rain or shine.

### SCANDINAVIAN JAM SESSION

*Second Saturday of the month—June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*

Musicians and instructors Mary Allsopp and Paul Tyler co-host a Scandinavian Jam at the Swedish American Museum the second Saturday of every month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All ages are invited to bring any instrument, regardless of level. Come for

learning new Scandinavian songs or playing old classics! Recording devices are recommended. Contact [Scandi.Fiddler@yahoo.com](mailto:Scandi.Fiddler@yahoo.com) or [PTyler@ameritech.net](mailto:PTyler@ameritech.net) with questions.

### PIONEER THE WORLD DAY CAMP 2013

*Aug. 5-9, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

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



## HEJSAN – CHILDREN’S AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

*Every 1st and 3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., September – June*

This after-school program, focusing this spring on pioneer crafts and games, is designed for children ages 5 to 10. Younger children are welcome under the supervision of an adult. Cost: \$1 per child. Reservations are recommended.

*June 6: Spool Knitting*

*June 20: Homemade Butter*

*Sept. 5: TBD*

*Sept. 19: TBD*

## BULLERBYN

*Every other Sunday, 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.*

Swedish song and story time for children from 6 months to 6 years old. Parents are active participants and children are welcome to stay and play in the Brunk Children’s Museum afterwards. Please note that this program is designed for young Swedish-speakers and the session is conducted in Swedish. Cost: Free for Museum members, \$5/child each session for non-members.

*Sundays: Sept. 15 and 29*

## MIDSOMMARFEST

*Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.*

*Sunday, June 9, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.*

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

Celebrate Midsummer at the Museum with traditional dancing around the Maypole and Swedish music. Then visit Andersonville’s annual street festival. For more information, see the box on the next page.

## GIVE TO THE MUSEUM DAY!

*Friday, June 21, 2013*

“Give to the Museum Day!” is a special day set aside for members and friends to make online donations to the Swedish American Museum. Whether you’re having your first cup of coffee of the day, on your lunch break at work, or out and about using your smartphone, you can easily “Give to the Museum!” Our “Give to the Museum Day!” goal is to raise \$15,000 for the Museum, including restoration of the Dala horse, signage for the parking lot, as well as providing general operating support for the Museum.

*Special - Dala horse funflector for all donations \$50 and higher.*

If you’re not near a computer or smartphone on June 21, you can call the Museum at 773.728.8111 and give us your donation over the phone using a credit card. You may also send a check made out to the Swedish American Museum.

## THE 7TH ANNUAL JENNY LIND CONCERT

*Sunday, June 23, 5 p.m.*

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

## FREE FAMILY CONCERT WITH RACHEL BARTON PINE

*Sunday, June 30, 11 A.m.*

Join us for a free concert with Rachel Barton Pine, renowned international concert violinist. She’ll be performing songs from her new album *Violin Lullabies*. Registrations recommended: email [Museum@samac.org](mailto:Museum@samac.org).

## ANDERSONVILLE SIDEWALK SALE

*Friday, July 26-Sunday, July 28, 2013*

The Museum will participate in Andersonville’s annual sidewalk sale, where neighborhood stores line the sidewalks of Clark Street offering special sales. The Museum will have highly discounted items from the store as well as collectibles, knickknacks and jewelry from the Tantalizing Treasures Sale.

## FILM THURSDAY

*Sept. 5, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.: Annika Bengtzon – Crime Reporter*

Take a break from your regular schedule and enjoy a Swedish movie at the Swedish American Museum. Reservations are recommended. This event is free. Coffee and sandwiches served at self-cost.

## SCANDINAVIAN DAY

*Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

The 34th Annual Scandinavian Day Festival again takes place in Vasa Park, South Elgin, Ill. Call the Scandinavian Day Hotline at 847.695.6720 or visit [www.scandinaviandayil.com](http://www.scandinaviandayil.com) for more information. The Museum will participate in the festivities and have many items available for sale from the Museum Store.

*Save the Date*

**ANNUAL BALL**

Saturday, Oct. 26, 2013



## EXHIBITS

### ***Entangled Routes* – Corinne D. Peterson, Tim Klassen and Stephen Klassen**

*Through Sunday, June 23, 2013*

*Closing Reception: Friday, June 21, 2013*

*Exhibit Closing: Sunday, June 23, 2013*

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



### ***Eight Seasons of Sápmi, the Land of the Sámi People***

*June 28 through Sept. 8, 2013*

*Exhibit Opening: Friday, June 28, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.*

*Gallery Walk: Saturday, June 29, 11 a.m.*

*Start with Art: Wednesday, July 24, 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.*

*Family Night: Friday, July 26, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.*

*Exhibit Closing: Sunday, Sept. 8, 4 p.m.*

This multi-layered exhibition explores the rich culture of the Sámi, the indigenous population of northern Europe. The exhibit is a collaborative effort featuring more than 40 photographs by Danish-American photographer Birgitte Aarestrup; artifacts, text and photographs

illustrating Sámi history, traditional life, reindeer herding and oral tradition from Ájtte, the Swedish Mountain and Sámi Museum; and Sámi handicrafts, known as *duodji*, from the collections of Sámi Duodji, the Sámi Handicraft Foundation

### **A Swedish Painter - Michael Söderlundh**

*Sept. 13 through Nov. 24, 2013*

*Exhibit Opening: Friday, Sept. 13, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.*

*Gallery Walk: Saturday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m.*

*Start with Art: Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.*

*Family Night: Friday, Sept. 20, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.*

*Exhibit Closing: Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013*

Michael Söderlundh is a Swedish artist, active since the 1960s, who considers painting to be an unrivaled expression. His paintings evolve organically as he paints, and seek to discover new meanings beneath the known forms of nature. He has exhibited both in Sweden and abroad and has created many public art works for hospitals, subway stations and civic buildings throughout Sweden.

## CLASSES

### **SWEDISH LANGUAGE SERIES**

The Museum is offering evening Swedish classes this summer with four levels: Beginners I & II, Intermediate, and Conversation/Advanced. Courses will include eight 90 minute lessons; classes run eight weeks. The instructors are Eva May (Beginners I & II) and Anna Albinsson-Kaplan (Intermediate & Conversation/Advanced). Tuition is \$110 for members, \$145 for non-members. Books are not included in the tuition.

#### *Beginners I, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., June 4 – July 23*

For students who have no knowledge of the Swedish language. Students will learn the fundamentals: basic grammar, vocabulary, conversation, Swedish culture and traditions. Classes will be held in English.

#### *Beginners II, Tuesdays, 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., June 4 – July 23*

For students who have some knowledge of basic grammar and vocabulary. Emphasis will be on vocabulary, grammar and spoken Swedish. Classes will be held in English.

#### *Intermediate, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., June 5 – July 24*

For students who have a working knowledge of Swedish, including elementary conversation and reading. The course will cover advanced grammar, vocabulary and conversation. The classes will be held in Swedish and English.

#### *Conversation/Advanced, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., June 5 – July 24*

For students who have mastered the skills at the intermediate level and want to practice the Swedish language. The course will focus on advanced conversation, discussions, reading, and comparisons of Swedish and American culture and traditions. Classes will be held in Swedish.

## MIDSOMMARFEST

### **Swedish American Museum South Stage Performance Schedule**

#### **Saturday, June 8, 2013**

11:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremony
11:45 a.m.	Traditional Maypole Dance
12:15 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.	Swedish American Children's Choir
12:40 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.	Nordic Folkdancers
1:05 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.	Chicago Swedish Male Chorus
1:25 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Merula Swedish Choir

#### **Sunday, June 9, 2013**

12 p.m., Noon	Nordland Band
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The Nordic Family Genealogy Center hosts genealogy sessions from 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Saturday of each month. Annual membership: \$20 for Museum members; non-members pay \$10 per session. If possible, bring your laptop computer and family information to class.

*Saturday, July 27 - Tentative tour of the Family History Center in Wilmette*

*Saturday, Aug. 24 - "Brave-Hearted Viking Women", presented by Dr. James Borg*

*Saturday, Sept. 28 - "The Most Helpful Genealogical Tools You've Never Used," presented by Marsha Peterson-Maass*



### Research Hours

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

*Three research appointments are available each Wednesday.*

*12 noon - 1 p.m.*

*1 p.m. - 2 p.m.*

*2 p.m. - 3 p.m.*

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

## RESERVATIONS

If you would like to make reservations for one or more of our events please fill out the information below and return this form to us with payment or e-mail us at [museum@samac.org](mailto:museum@samac.org)

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Time & Date \_\_\_\_\_

Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ # of people attending = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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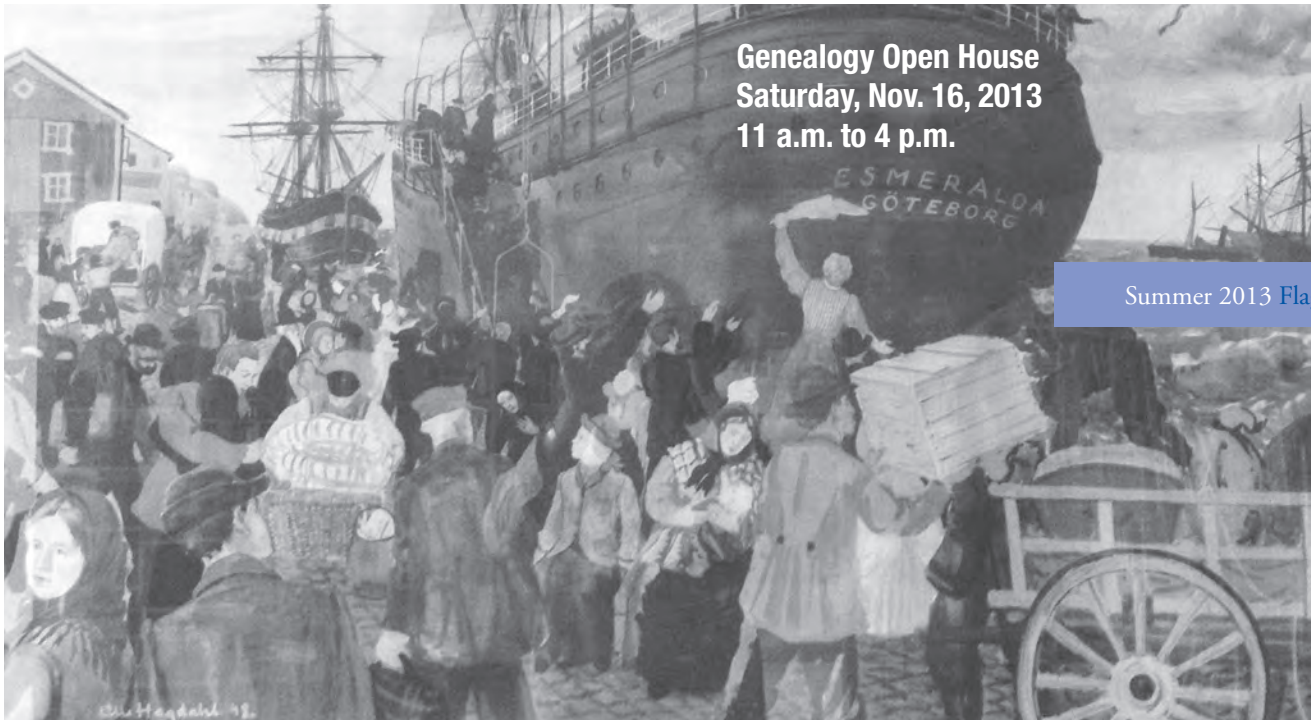
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## Exploring Your Swedish Roots



Genealogy Open House  
Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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**Save the Date:** The popular *Exploring Your Swedish Roots* will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This open house event will feature one on one help with research, translations and more.

## Nordic Family Genealogy Center Update

Looking for a place to go on Saturday mornings? Interested in your own genealogy or genealogy in general? Check the website to see what interesting topics are being addressed at our monthly sessions.

This year started with a wonderful presentation by Tim Malott, business manager for Book Partners, a company that prints on-demand hard or soft cover bound books. Audience members learned about producing a book capturing their own family history. What a wonderful gift for future generations to enjoy! One fantastic fact learned was that the company is willing to print any number of books—even just one.

Participants in the February genealogy session groaned and giggled and participants in the March genealogy session patted their stomachs in delight when food customs were discussed. Kerstin Nicholson discussed “Swedish Food of Yesterday and Today.” We learned that although starvation has been obliterated in Sweden, some of the old Swedish food preservation techniques are still alive. One tradition is the production of fermented herring. Herring

are harvested in the spring, fermented, and then eaten at fermented herring (*surströmming*) parties held in August, particularly along the east coast area north of Stockholm. The reason for the groans and giggles? A video showing Swedes enjoying this delightful delicacy also showed the Swedes holding their noses because of the odor released when the cans of herring were opened. The odor is so obnoxious that airlines have forbidden this food item to be transported from Sweden to America. In March, Anna Engstrom, a SWEA and Museum member, discussed traditional Easter holiday celebrations past and present. She brought examples of Swedish candy and a delicious treat for us to eat—mini-semlor.

Bookbinding and food topics were left behind as the April meeting discussed how immigrants left behind their Old Country, traveled to America, and ended their journey at Ellis Island. The video, *Ellis Island*, depicted the building of this immigration center, the journey of millions, and photographs of those who came to define the American Dream. ■

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### 8 Flaggan Summer 2013

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# Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration Inspires by Jessie Aucoin



As I look back on my time here, I am reminded of the thousands of children that have come in and out of the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration and I am struck by how quickly time flies! Little ones that started coming here when they could barely walk, are now so familiar with the space that they are practically junior docents, helping remind other visitors of the rules, show them where objects are, and explaining what the various historic artifacts are used for.

Although I enjoy seeing these regulars gain a better understanding of 1870 life, I only recently started to also notice the other skills children develop while here. Perhaps the most obvious is the opportunity to strengthen their curiosity and sense of imagination; tornados and floods are just two examples of the numerous complex storylines that I often see reenacted.

I also get to witness an improvement in self-confidence, especially among some of the more shy children; as they become more comfortable in their surroundings, they are better able to open up to other kids and become more adept at articulating their thoughts, concerns, and questions to the adults in the museum. While there are expectations of behavior for playing in the children's museum, our docents ultimately strive to allow guests the autonomy to explore the space in a relaxed environment. This "free play" approach to the exhibit further builds up a child's

self-confidence as one gets to interact with the space on one's own terms and preferred speed.

The former teacher in me can't help but get excited at the historic empathy the children's museum fosters in its visitors. One of the most challenging aspects of context that I faced in the classroom was getting my students to understand that the battles fought, the political movements established, and the social unrest discussed, were lived by people. Through our "living history" approach, children gain an understanding of the sacrifices made and difficulties endured in a way unlike any other.

With this in mind, I encourage all members

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to re-visit the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration. Perhaps you too will observe a young child prepare for the approaching tornado or ask a new friend to play with them, or maybe, just maybe, you'll overhear a child ask her parent why life was so hard for Swedes in the late 1800s.

After nearly five years, I am leaving my position as Education Director inspired by all we have done to engage children in our community's history, encouraged by the important role the Swedish American Museum plays in the education of Chicago area youth, and honored to have been a part of it all. From the bottom of my heart: tack så mycket! ■

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## The Museum Board of Directors

# Special Thanks to our Evolving Board Members in 2013

In 2006 when the Board of Directors adopted new bylaws it put into effect term limits for board members. This means that each year two to four board members rotate off the board and new ones are recruited. Each board member may serve three consecutive two-year terms before rotating off to make way for new members. Based on these start dates, three long-time board members retired this year: Vereen Nordstrom, Annika Jaspers and Kristen Nicholson. A newly elected member is Ted Johnson.

**Ted Johnson** was welcomed as a new Board member at the Annual Meeting in April. Ted is principal of Volta Elementary School, located on Chicago's northwest side. Volta is a PK-8 school with over 1000 students and nearly 30 languages spoken within its walls. For the past four years Volta has been involved in a Sister Schools partnership with Svartedalsskolan and, to a lesser extent, Trulsegårdsskolan in the Göteborg, Sweden.

Ted is clearly no stranger to the Museum or to Swedish culture. His paternal grandparents hailed from the western borderlands of Sweden and his maternal great-grandparents were from the Swedish-speaking area of Finland. It is this heritage that prompted him to become engaged in the Chicago Swedish community. Ted is active in the Nordic Folk Dancers and Chicago Swedish Male Chorus, as well as a member of the Hagar Lodge of the Vasa Order and the Gothenburg Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International.

**Vereen Nordstrom** has been on the Board for many years. She was the board secretary in 1983 and again for the last six years. In addition to being secretary and on the Executive Committee,

Vereen is an important member of our Nordic Family Genealogy Advisory Board, member of the Collections Committee and the Children's Museum Advisory Board and she has cochaired the Tantalizing Treasures Sale. Vereen will continue to be a driving force on the Genealogy board and other committees even though she no longer has Board of Director responsibilities.

**Annika Jaspers** contributes her professional writing skills to our museum's publications and was instrumental in leading the museum through its growing phases. She was chair of the nominating committee from 1999-2000 and again in 2002. She chaired the search committee in 2006 and the Bylaws committee in 2008-2009. Annika has been an officer on the Executive Committee of the Board from 2000 to 2012. She started as the secretary in 2000, then become the vice chair in 2007, and finally the chair from 2009-2012. She is currently cochair of the marketing committee and has promised to continue her work on this committee.

**Kerstin Nicholson** has been on the Board of Directors for the last 10 years. Kerstin is very involved in the development and purchasing for the Museum's store. She is also on the Advisory Board of the Nordic Family Genealogy Center and served as the Board president from 2007-2008. She volunteers often in the store and helps in coordinating the Museum's activities with other Swedish organizations in Chicago.

Thank you Kerstin, Annika and Vereen for lending your professional services to the Museum and for being such generous volunteers and dedicated Museum patrons. ■

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Museum exhibits provide a visual way of appreciating the immigrant experience. For personal stories and background,

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Four issues a year of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, plus dividend books.

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### For more information, write

Swedish-American Historical Society  
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or see [www.swedishamericanhist.org](http://www.swedishamericanhist.org)

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## Museum Programs & Events June - September 2013

### A DREAM OF AMERICA – SWEDISH IMMIGRATION TO CHICAGO

*Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m.*

*Saturday, July 27, 11 a.m.*

*Sunday, Aug. 25, 11 a.m.*

*Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m.*

### WALKING TOUR OF ANDERSONVILLE

*June 26, July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26, at  
1 p.m.*

### ANDERSONVILLE FARMER'S MARKET

*Swedish American Museum Booth*

*Wednesday, July 3, 3 p.m. – 8 p.m.*

*Wednesday, Sept. 18, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.*

### SCANDINAVIAN JAM SESSION

*Second Saturday of the month—*

*June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14,*

*1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*

### PIONEER THE WORLD DAY CAMP 2013

*Aug. 5-9, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

### HEJSAN – CHILDREN'S AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

*Every 1st and 3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.  
– 4:30 p.m., September – June*

### BULLERBYN

*Every other Sunday morning at  
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.*

*Sundays: Sept. 15 and 29*

### MIDSOMMARFEST

*Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.*

*Sunday, June 9, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.*

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

### GIVE TO THE MUSEUM DAY!

*Friday, June 21, 2013*

### THE 7TH ANNUAL JENNY LIND CONCERT

*Sunday, June 23, 5 p.m.*

### FREE FAMILY CONCERT W/RACHEL BARTON PINE

*Sunday, June 30, 11 a.m.*

### ANDERSONVILLE SIDEWALK SALE

*Friday, July 26-Sunday, July 28, 2013*

### FILM THURSDAY

*Sept. 5, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.: Annika  
Bengtson – Crime Reporter*

### SCANDINAVIAN DAY

*Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.*

### EXHIBITS:

*Entangled Routes –  
Corinne D. Peterson, Tim  
Klassen and Stephen Klassen  
Through Sunday, June 23, 2013*

*Eight Seasons of Sápmi, the  
Land of the Sámi People  
June 28 – Sept. 8, 2013*

*A Swedish Painter –  
Michael Söderlundh  
Sept. 13 – Nov. 24, 2013*

### SWEDISH LANGUAGE SERIES CLASSES

*See the insert.*

### GENEALOGY

*See the insert.*

*For more information on Museum programs and events, see the center insert.*