



Glimtar

SEPTEMBER 2024 The Newsletter of the Swedish-American Historical Society

SWEDISH-
AMERICAN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Chicago's Humboldt Park, designed by landscape architect Jens Jensen. PHOTO: Julia Bachrach

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A New Center for Swedish America?

Is the San Francisco Bay area becoming a new center for Swedish America?

It's a valid question as the Swedish presence in northern California rapidly grows, driven in large part by Silicon Valley, just south of San Francisco, the technology capital of the world.

A new Swedish Consulate General recently opened in San Francisco. Across the bay, the Nordic Center at the University of California at Berkeley is up and running, where, maybe the premier Department of Scandinavian Studies in the United States also has its home.

Around 150 Swedish-affiliated companies have established themselves in the area, supported by organizations like the Business Sweden Americas, Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce, Nordic Innovation House, and Vinnova, all primarily focused on Silicon Valley.

Sweden is the 13th largest investor in the U.S. and directly supports 367,000 jobs, and indirectly almost a million, in the United States. In 2023, total U.S. imports from Sweden amounted to \$18 billion and its exports to \$8.6 billion. California, the most populous state in the United States with nearly 40 million people, is the world's fifth largest economy, and the world's leading tech-hub. Today, Swedish affiliated companies support 44,000 jobs in California. In 2023, California's exports to Sweden amounted to \$603 million and its imports \$587 million, far bigger than any other state, with Texas in second place followed by Florida and New York.

All this activity is a clear sign of the importance of California for Sweden and the other Nordics. An estimated 15,000 Swedes live in the San Francisco Bay Area, and, in total, there are nearly 400,000 residents of Swedish descent in California.

The new Swedish Consulate General in San Francisco opened on January 1, 2024, with three diplomats from Sweden and four local employees. Its main mission is trade and investment promotion but it also has a consular mission as it serves as a center for Swedish passport applications in the western United States. Now, to the relief of the many tens of thousands of Swedes in this region, they no longer have to travel to the embassy in Washington, D.C. or the consulate general in New York for their new passports.

"We started our consular activities in March and the work is already very intensive," said Consul General Ann Lekvall, who came to San Francisco from Mumbai, India, where she was also consulate general, and where her work, she said in an

The new Swedish Consulate General in San Francisco opened on January 1, 2024, with three diplomats from Sweden and four local employees.



Anna Lekvall, new Swedish Consul General in San Francisco.

interview, was similar to her tasks in San Francisco: technology, investments, support of Swedish companies and, in general, what she calls "tech-diplomacy," a new type of diplomacy, quite unique.

Lekvall also sees the consulate general, in the main, as a "coordinating force" for all the Swedes and all Swedish in the San Francisco Bay Area. "Together," she added, "we are strong."

Sweden has been present in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1850, in the days of the famous gold rush. In 1943, the original consulate became a consulate general, but since then, the official Swedish presence in northern California has gone through ups and downs, even completely closing the consulate general before opening it as an honorary consulate general in 1983, and then, in 2024, reopening the consulate general, now located at 595 Market Street, Suite #1350, in San Francisco's financial district.

The official Swedish presence in Los Angeles, almost 400 miles south of San Francisco, has also gone through its ups and downs, with a final closing of its consulate general in 2009. An honorary consulate general opened in 2021, but when Sweden decided to upgrade its presence in the world's fifth largest economy, San Francisco, and Silicon Valley, won out over Los Angeles.

"The tech issues are becoming ever more important, also politically, and the interest in these issues and what Sweden—as an advanced technology nation—thinks and does, is enormous," said Anna Lekvall. And now, she added, with AI (artificial intelligence) becoming a new and very big issue, the consulate's work is full steam ahead.



Mr. Nordic and Sustainable Capitalism

At the Nordic Center at the University of California at Berkeley, the five Nordic countries have a strong friend and eager promoter in Robert Strand, executive director, or “Mr. Nordic,” as the prominent Swedish philanthropist Barbro Osher, former honorary consul general in San Francisco, called him.

Strand launched the Nordic Center in 2021 with the support of a \$2 million grant from Barbro and Bernard Osher.

“I feel,” said Barbro Osher at the time, “the Nordics stand for social awareness and responsibility toward one another locally and globally. These elements are part of Berkeley’s mission, to illuminate solutions for the public good. And the Nordic Center at UC Berkeley can be at the very heart of it all.”

The center, small but very active, serves as an interdisciplinary platform, fostering dialogue, supporting exchanges, sparking research, and further elevating the profile and global interest in the Nordic countries. It also sees California as a unique testing ground for Nordic-inspired ideas. It is housed at the Institute for European Studies in close collaboration with the university’s prominent Department of Scandinavian, the Haas business school’s Center for Responsible Business, the Institute for Business & Social Impact, and the Peder Sather Center, named after the Norwegian immigrant and early trustee of UC Berkeley.

Mark Sandberg, the Nordic Center’s faculty director and professor with the Department of Scandinavian, sees all this as UC Berkeley’s “very unique Nordic competencies.”

“My experiences in the Nordics profoundly challenged my beliefs and underlying assumptions about American capitalism – and capitalism more broadly, Strand writes in the prologue to his upcoming book, *Nordic Capitalism – Lessons for Realizing Sustainable Capitalism*, and he sees Nordic capitalism as a “compelling alternative” to American capitalism.

He writes:

“In the Nordics, I encountered policies and practices often dismissed in the U.S. as ‘socialism’ and perceived as threats to freedom. I observed how universal access to efficiently administered healthcare, education, and social safety nets enhanced well-being and expanded freedom, with citizens willingly paying higher taxes recognizing the value of



Robert Strand,
Executive
Director, Nordic
Center at the
University of
California at
Berkeley.

services they received. I observed business leaders who promoted a stakeholder approach and behaved as stewards, prioritizing sustainability and broader societal interests alongside considerations of profits. Despite this broader focus, Nordic companies remained profitable and were often recognized as leaders in global sustainability. I saw heightened percentages of labor union membership ensuring decent wages and lifelong skills development, all achieved with minimal employer conflict. Strict taxes on carbon emissions and tougher environmental regulations were in place, yet the economies remained strong, and innovation thrived. The Nordic nations consistently led in holistic measures of societal well-being. These metrics provide a more comprehensive understanding of prosperity beyond GDP growth. Yet, the Nordic GDPs were strong as well.”

Strand, originally from the little town of Fountain Valley, Wisconsin, has Norwegian immigrant ancestors all the way back to 1861. He has been a Fulbright scholar in Norway, and has a PhD from the Copenhagen Business School, where he has also taught. Ten years ago, he came to UC Berkeley to run the Center for Responsible Business, where he is still the executive director. He teaches a course called “Sustainable Capitalism in the Nordics?” and, he said in an interview, he found a huge interest among students from many parts of the UC Berkeley campus.

Although still in its infancy, Strand sees the Nordic Center as part of an “incredible constellation of Scandinavian interest” where we are trying to “leverage existing institutions and invite partners and friends.” Among his goals for the next years are more opportunities for the students to study in the Nordic countries and more formal internships with companies in Scandinavia. He also wants the Nordic Center to continue to be an important public platform about the Nordic model.

Swedish-American Historical Society Fall Program on Landscape Architect Jens Jensen

The Swedish-American Historical Society fall program and dinner will take place on **Saturday, October 5, 2024**, at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood.

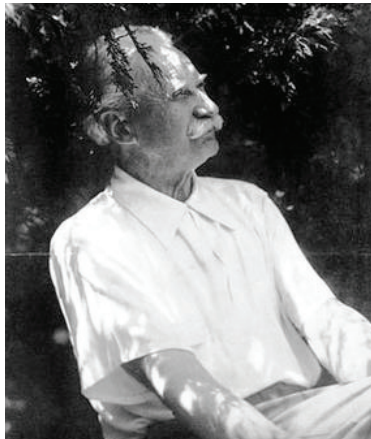


PHOTO: Helen Morrison Balfour



PHOTO: Robert Knapp

The program will feature “Jens Jensen: A Scandinavian-American Force of Nature,” by noted urban planner and historian Julia Bachrach. With a dinner catered by Tre Kronor Restaurant, Chicago’s “Nordic Bistro,” social hour begins at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00, followed by dessert and the program at 7:00. Details and tickets are available on the SAHS website www.swedishamericanhist.org.

Speaker **Julia Bachrach** served as the Chicago Park District’s preservationist planning supervisor for over 25 years. She has authored books including *The City in a Garden: A History of Chicago’s Parks* and *Inspired by Nature: The Garfield Park Conservatory and Chicago’s West Side*. Many know her from her appearances on *10 Great Parks That Changed America* (PBS), *Chicago Tonight* (WTTW), *Biking the Boulevards with Geoffrey Baer* (WTTW), *Jens Jensen: The Living Green* (Viva Lundin Productions), and *Curious City* (WBEZ).

We look forward to learning more about Jens Jensen, noted Danish-American landscape architect and conservationist who not only shaped many of Chicago’s city and regional public parks and forest preserves, but also played a part in preserving the Indiana Dunes sand dune ecosystem. In private practice, he shaped the gardens of large estates throughout the Midwest and as far east as Maine before retiring to establish the Clearing Folk School in Wisconsin where he trained future landscape architects.

SAVE THE DATE

FALL PROGRAM AND DINNER

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Swedish American Museum in Chicago

Sneak Peek at the first issue of *Swedish-American Studies*

SAHS members will soon receive the inaugural volume of our organization’s new journal, *Swedish-American Studies* (which replaces the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*). For the 2024 issue all Society members will receive both a digital version and a print version. We are excited to share with you a preview of the issue’s content.

ARTICLES

“The Two Monroes: Robert Monroe Harrison, the Monroe Doctrine, and Saint Barthélemy, 1821–1823” by **Ale Pålsson**

Pålsson examines diplomatic relations between Sweden and the United States in the 1820s. Controversy focused on pirates and privateers (including some Americans) in the Swedish-Caribbean colony of Saint Barthélemy.

“Krig för dörren’: Swedish-American Newspapers and the United States’ Entry into the First World War” by **Gregory Gaines**

Attitudes held by Swedish Americans about the entry of the United States into WWI are the focus of Gaines’s study. He examines Swedish-language newspapers in the United States in the weeks just before and after America’s April 1917 declaration of war.

“Carl Gustav Ellström: Covenant Leader, Socialist, Polemicist” by **Love Karlsson**

The career and significance of Swedish-American Mission Covenant clergyman Carl Gustav Ellström is examined in this article. Ellström left the ministry to speak for the Scandinavian Socialist Federation, and ultimately found himself rejected by both the church and socialist allies.

“Beyond the Dog Years: A New Perspective on Masculinity as an Intrinsic Value of the Swedish Emigration to America” by **Tove Tormod-Julin**

Tormod-Julin’s research examines the emigration of Swedish men to the United States between 1880 and 1910 in the context of the evolving ideals of masculinity around the turn of the century. Using emigrant testimony drawn from the *Emigrationsutredningen* (Emigration Investigation), she considers migration as a test of manhood.

“Should We Do It the Swedish Way? American Coverage of Sweden and Sex during the AIDS Pandemic” by **Saniya Lee Ghanoui**

Ghanoui examines the American media coverage of Swedish sexuality, sex education, and cultural attitudes towards sex during the 1980s and 1990s. Her work describes ways in which United States’ media sources attempted to reframe understandings of Swedish sex and sexuality.

The issue also includes a retrospective on the history of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* by **Kevin Proescholdt**, a Swedish-American Bibliography for 2023, a museum exhibit review, and seven book reviews.

Contributing to *Swedish-American Studies*:

The annual journal *Swedish-American Studies* invites submission of original work for publication: research papers, articles, field notes, reviews and other contributions will be considered for publication. The deadline for inclusion in the 2025 issue of *Swedish-American Studies* is 1 October 2024, with similar deadlines for future years.

Please contact journal editor **Mark Safstrom** (marksafstrom@augustana.edu) if you have any questions.

New Name, New Look

With this fall issue of the Swedish-American Historical Society's newsletter, we have a new name, *Glimtar*, meaning "glimpses." Many thanks to society board member **Anne-Charlotte Harvey** for contributing the new title, which conveys our charge to bring glimpses of Swedish America, historical and contemporary, to readers, along with news of the society and its events and publications.

Our new look presents feature articles around an issue theme, as well as news, in a several-page format that will fit on your shelves alongside *Swedish-American Studies* volumes.

JOB OPENING

The Department of Scandinavian at the University of California, Berkeley seeks applications for an **Assistant Professor of Swedish or Norwegian Literature, Culture, and Society**, with an expected start date of July 1, 2025.

For more information about the position, including required qualifications and application materials, please visit <https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/JPF04495>. The deadline to apply is October 14, 2024. With questions, please contact ISSAHR@berkeley.edu. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or protected veteran status.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Changes in SAHS Membership Renewal and Publications Sign-ups

As we continue to organize the office, you will see a few changes in the way you interact with our website and mailing list.

Starting in 2025, *Swedish-American Studies* will be available to our members as either a PAPER or DIGITAL subscription, and we need to collect your preferences. When renewing your membership online for 2025, please make sure to select whether you would like a paper copy of our journal or digital access to a PDF. To do so, you will click a button similar to the one you use to select the level of membership you would like to purchase. See below:

•TYPE	<input type="button" value="New Membership"/>	<input checked="" type="button" value="Membership Renewal"/>	<input type="button" value="Gift Membership"/>
•LEVEL	<input type="button" value="Patron - \$1,000"/>	<input type="button" value="Benefactor - \$500"/>	<input type="button" value="Donor - \$200"/>
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JOURNAL	<input type="button" value="Digital"/>	<input checked="" type="button" value="Paper"/>	
FORMAT	<input type="button" value="Clear selection"/>		

If you prefer to renew your membership through the mail, you'll specify your preferences when we send you a notice to renew.

Want to hear more about Society happenings directly in your inbox? Please fill out the "Newsletter Sign Up" form on our website or email us at info@swedishamericanhist.org and Office Manager **Aubrey Prestwich** will subscribe you to our email list.



Welcome to New Office/ Project Manager Aubrey Prestwich

SAHS welcomes **Aubrey Prestwich** as the Society's new Office/Project Manager. Prestwich is an MA student in Art History at the University of Illinois Chicago, though she is originally from Colorado's suburban front range. She studied Landscape Architecture with a minor in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Colorado. After completing her undergraduate work, Prestwich spent a year in London retraining in Art History at the Courtauld Institute of Art and is now focusing her research on modern and contemporary architecture and design.



Prestwich has been in the Office/Project Manager role since the end of May, allowing for some overlap and training with outgoing manager Maria Ward, including a breakfast at Tre Kronor. Since May, Prestwich has been hard at work streamlining the website, cleaning up the Society's membership databases, and getting a feel for the office and the community of Society members. She loves the commute to North Park from her home in Edgewater.

In her spare time, you can find Prestwich walking by the lake, reading, or doing fiber crafts while listening to podcasts. She loves a good fun fact, and her favorite Swedish pastry is a cardamom bun. She does have Swedish heritage on her mother's side, and she grew up visiting family in the north woods of Wisconsin where she learned about her heritage from her grandfather, Ted Rolander, and his sister, Beth. With their enthusiasm and fastidiousness in mind, she is thrilled to be working with the Swedish American Historical Society.

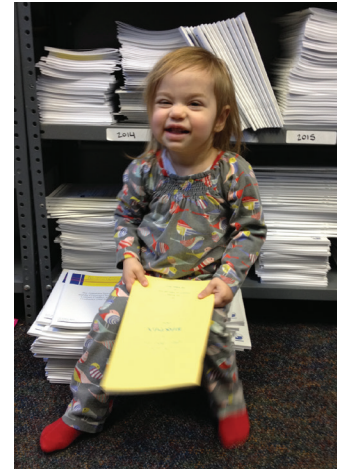
Fond Farewell and Many Thanks to Maria Ward

Swedish-American Historical Society Office/Project Manager **Maria Ward** has accepted a full-time teaching position for the 2024-25 school year. The society owes her deep thanks for her work over the past seven years, a time of many transitions.

Ward began as a part-time office manager in 2017. She taught for six years and then became the "at-home" parent when her children were very small. As the older kids entered school, Ward found the new office position to be a good fit, with flexible hours and the possibility of working from home as well as in the office. At the time, her youngest was only one and a half years old (seen pictured here as an "office baby" with stacks of SAHS *Quarterlies* from the winter of 2017-18, and with the entire family six years later).

During Ward's time as office manager, she's seen the position evolve and, with the Society board and members, experienced the many changes and challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. A special joy of her position has been welcoming new members. Ward says, "Through both delightful and challenging times, I've been so blessed by the affirmation, cooperation, and collegiality among you all. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity and help facilitate all you do with and for the SAHS, and I wish you all the very best in the future."

With her new position this fall, Ward returns to her first vocational calling as an elementary classroom teacher, joining a four-person team in 4th grade at Park View School in Morton Grove, Illinois.



Thank you, Maria Ward, for your years of excellent service to SAHS.

Scandinavian-American Socialists in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries

by Andy Meyer

The reading room of the Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago (SAAGC) tends to be quiet, but is often the place where curious researchers meet fascinating archival collections. For this newsletter, I wanted to highlight the research topic of one young scholar. **Mikael Lyngaas** is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Oslo who came to North Park to look at the Henry Bengston Papers. The Bengston Papers contain, among other things, records pertaining to Bengston's involvement with the Scandinavian-American socialist movement.

Here, Lyngaas describes the research he's conducting, suggesting how his work may cast new light on labor radicalism and the role Scandinavians played during its heyday in the United States.

I am a young Ph.D. candidate from the University of Oslo in Norway and I am currently writing my dissertation on Scandinavian-American socialists during the late 19th and early 20th century. This is a topic that has seen very little research, especially from a transnational perspective, a perspective that comes naturally when researching subjects from all three of the Scandinavian countries. The US Socialist parties in the late 19th and early 20th century were actively organizing newly arrived immigrants as well as blacklisted workers and radicals, primarily from Germany and Eastern Europe. Scandinavian immigrants made up a small percentage of the US population and subsequently were also a small minority within the growing labor movement. Despite this, Scandinavian workers formed their own socialist federations and trade-unions where they fought for better working conditions, higher wages and the eight-hour workday.

This project seeks to highlight the activity of Scandinavian-American socialists, their impacts, struggles, debates, and relations with other groups, including ethnic communities, trade unions, and political parties in both their home countries and within the U.S. This will primarily be done by looking at official documents of the Scandinavian-American organizations and their respective newspapers. As very few of these have been digitized, the project will demand extensive archival work, mainly in the American Midwest. The



Group portrait of Scandinavian Socialist Federation of the Socialist Party in 1917. Henry Bengston is the fourth (from the left) on the front row. SAAGC_0021

project's primary topic of study will be to a large extent determined by the source material. Since the research is still in an early stage, considerations regarding the different topical areas (economic, political, national, transnational, etc.) may change along the way. As a part of the research group "Democracy, Freedom and Boundaries" at IAKH (Department of Archaeology, Conservation, and History at the University of Oslo) I hope that my research can bring about fruitful collaborations and positive synergies. Although the project is still in a very early phase I have good reason to believe that it can give valuable insight, tying together a fragmented chapter of US and Scandinavian labor history.

Turns out, maybe the reading room of the SAAGC is not such a hushed place after all. For when researchers like Lyngaas find voices and images there from the past, they are recovered to speak in fresh and not-so-quiet ways.



PHOTO: Mikael Wallerstedt

Dag Blanck Receives Honor at Uppsala University

On October 7, **Dag Blanck** will be honored by Uppsala University with the Torgny Segerstedt Medal. Blanck is Professor of North American Studies at Uppsala University and is well known to Swedish-American Historical Society members as a former SAHS board member and as Director of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The medal recognizes a “Swedish researcher for particularly commendable efforts in the humanities and social sciences.” Established in 1988, the award is named for Segerstedt to honor his 23 years as Vice-Chancellor at Uppsala.

Blanck is an expert in Swedish-American relations, the multi-disciplinary study of Swedish and American influences and interactions in both contemporary life and past eras. He is the author of *The Creation of an Ethnic Identity: Being Swedish American in the Augustana Synod, 1860-1917* and numerous articles and book chapters concerning Swedish American history and culture and the relationship between Sweden and America. As a teacher and editor, Blanck has nurtured scholarship on both sides of the Atlantic. Swedish Radio frequently turns to Blanck for commentary on politics and current affairs in the USA.

The citation recognizing Blanck notes that he “is one of the truly leading experts in Sweden on North America. For many years, he has made a decisive contribution to educating people about Swedish-American relations, and through active collaborative work has demonstrated how research in the humanities and social sciences can produce a better understanding of the United States in terms of its history, politics and social life.”

The award ceremony is part of Uppsala University’s annual “birthday” celebration. Recent awardees have included Mikael Stenmark and Peter Wallensteen.

In Memoriam

Eloise V. Nelson

April 14, 1933 – May 1, 2024

We remember and celebrate the life and contributions of **Eloise Nelson** who served many roles in the Swedish-American Historical Society. Eloise and her husband **LeRoy Nelson** along with their daughters have been active supporters and creative forces behind public programs, publications, governance and even the office work of the society. SAHS President Emeritus Phil Anderson reflects on her impact on the society and the Nelsons’ work together in his tribute recently published in *Pietisten*.



My personal ties to Eloise extend back to 1979, when I came to teach at North Park Seminary and our family became involved at North Park Covenant Church. ... Most extensive, however, was our closely shared work in the Swedish-American Historical Society, a national organization based at North Park since the 1950s, where I had become involved as a board member in the early 1980s, then president from 1989-2023. Serving several three-year terms as a Society board member, Eloise was the first woman chair (1998-2001) and skillfully led the program committee for many years, designing publicity, including a new cover for our journal and masthead, and providing beautiful décor for public symposia and dinners. In 1980, she and LeRoy began leading Society tours around the United States and launched in 1990 a hugely successful Holiday Lights Tour to Sweden during the Advent season, offered for many years. Eloise and LeRoy each were recipients in 2008 of the Society’s highest honor, the Carl Sandburg Award. In their travels, they visited all fifty states and led nineteen tours to Scandinavia.

Excerpted with permission from the tribute to Eloise V. Nelson written by Philip J. Anderson and published in Pietisten vol. XXXIX, no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2024).



News and Notes

MIDWESTERN REGION

CHICAGO

On the second Saturday of each month, the **Swedish American Museum** offers free (with admission) guided tours of its new core exhibit, *We Are America*. The exhibit tells the story of Swedish immigration to Chicago. Places can be reserved here: <https://swedishamericanmuseum.org/product/33672>.



CHICAGO

Chicago residents can stock up on their favorite Swedish food and kitchen tools at a farmer's market at the Museum on October 16, 2024 from 3 to 7 p.m. For more information: <https://swedishamericanmuseum.org/product/33568>

DODGEVILLE, WISCONSIN

Folklore Village in Dodgeville's **Fall Swedish Music & Dance Weekend** takes place October 25-27, 2024. The event includes a variety of workshops, food, and opportunities for socializing. Information: <https://folklorevillage.org/fall-swedish-weekend/>



MINNEAPOLIS

Special exhibits at the **American Swedish Institute** through October 27, 2024 include Karin Larsson: *Let the Hand be Seen*, which celebrates the art and textiles Larsson created with her innovative approaches to textiles and design. Much of her work is evident in the paintings of her well-known husband, Carl Larsson. Also on display is the work of handweaver, educator and designer Christine Novotny. Information: <https://asimn.org/exhibition/karin-larsson-let-the-hand-be-seen/>



AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

MINNEAPOLIS

Plan ahead to attend the American Swedish Institute's **Julmarknad** market, December 6-8, 2024. The event includes music, family crafts, storytime, festive foods, and shopping of handmade goods from over 60 local artists. Information: <https://asimn.org/experience/festivals/>

MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

The **Norsk Høstfest**, a Scandinavian cultural festival, will be held September 25-28, 2024. The event features Scandinavian food, artisans, merchandise, and other attractions. Information: <https://hostfest.com>



PROCTOR, MINNESOTA

The Twin Ports Rosmaling Society's 43rd annual **Scandinavian Festival** celebrating Scandinavian folk art and entertainment will be held September 21 in Proctor, Minnesota. Information: <https://www.perfectduluthday.com/the-event/scandinavian-festival-2024/>

SCANDIA, MINNESOTA

The **Gammelgården Museum of Scandia** hosts a variety of events throughout the year, such as language classes, crafts, and food classes. Check out their calendar at: <https://gammलगardenmuseum.org/events/>



WESTERN REGION

PORTLAND

At the **Nordic Northwest/Nordia House**, founded in 1986, the events calendar starting in early September consists of a long list of events/activities, from Forest Bathing, Nordic Knitting Circle, contemporary Finnish strings concert, Skål night at the Stangeland vineyards, Rosmaling on rocks, and Nordic films and languages conversation groups. See www.nordicnorthwest.org/nordia-house



SEATTLE

At the **National Nordic Museum**, founded in 1979, the SEA-Nordic Film Festival takes place September 13-15. For three days at the Majestic Bay Theatres in Ballard the best in contemporary Nordic cinema, curated by special guest Silja Espolin Johnson, will be shown. Festival passes and opening night tickets are now available with an opening night showing of Norwegian drama *Sister, What Grows Where Land Is Sick?* (2022).



National Nordic Museum

On September 26, join local artist **Willow Heath** for a 2-hour watercolor class at the National Nordic Museum, celebrating the acquisition of *Project Aurora*. Willow will guide you in creating your own stunning watercolors of the Aurora Borealis.

And, on September 29, there will be a class, **Floral Impression Plate** with Ballard Clay, consisting of Nathalie Djurberg's sculptural clay work. Instructors will guide participants through the creation of a floral impression plate. Materials will be provided, but participants are also encouraged to bring flora. See www.nordicmuseum.org

EASTERN REGION

NEW YORK CITY

The New York Baltic Film Festival runs November 6 through 17, 2024, at Scandinavia House: The Nordic Center in America, with both in-person and streaming components. In-person screenings and events November 6-10 at Scandinavia House in New York. Online screenings via Eevent will be available November 8-17. More information at <https://www.scandinaviahouse.org/event/new-york-baltic-film-festival-2024/>

SCANDINAVIA HOUSE

ONLINE

Scandinavia House, New York City, holds its monthly Nordic Book Club on Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. Eastern Time. More information is available at <https://www.scandinaviahouse.org/event/>

Swedish American Museum, Chicago, offers Genealogy Sessions, a Book Club, and a Cooking Class online. More information is available at swedishamericanmuseum.org. Select Events.

The American Swedish Institute, St. Paul, holds Virtual Makers Mornings on Tuesdays 10:30 am–12 pm CDT, an informal drop-in session hosted by ASI staff in which craftspeople share their work and stories. Virtual Makers Mornings and other online programming from ASI are listed in the institute's bi-monthly events catalog: asimn.org. Select Events.

Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College hosts a monthly Nordic Book Club and a monthly Genealogy Club. For more information go to: www.swensoncenter.org/events

National Nordic Museum, Seattle, will present "Roots of Change: The History and Impact of Plant Immigration and Human-Flora Interactions in Iceland" on November 14, 2024, at 11 a.m. Pacific Time. There is a \$5 fee. To register and receive the Zoom link, send a request to programs@nordicmuseum.org.

NOTE

If you are aware of upcoming events or recent happenings of potential interest to members and friends of the Swedish-American Historical Society for inclusion in the next (spring) newsletter, please let us know. Suggestions for topics of future newsletter articles are welcome, as well. Contact us at: info@swedishamericanhist.org.



SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Glimtar

The Newsletter of the
Swedish-American
Historical Society



SWEDISH-AMERICAN
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