



Glimtar

MARCH 2025

The Newsletter of the Swedish-American Historical Society

SWEDISH-
AMERICAN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Peterson School in Chicago in 1941 with a World War II Victory Garden in the foreground.

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What's New in Swedish America?

"All tradition is change"*

...our discussion of Swedish America circles around what it has always been: a place of belonging.

Sitting down with Molly Wright Steenson, president and chief executive officer of the American Swedish Institute (ASI) in Minneapolis, you notice that behind her written on the whiteboard is "all tradition is change." This is an important reminder as we ponder questions of identity and purpose in the ever changing landscape of Swedish America.

What's new in Swedish America? She quickly answers, "Swedish America is alive, I think this might end up being an answer to multiple questions, which is to say that Swedish America is a living construct not ossified in time." More deeply, our discussion of Swedish America circles around what it has always been: a place of belonging.

Steenson points to Swedish-American studies and Swedish-American heritage as "something that doesn't exclude, but rather that invites" and reminds us that the ASI's mission is "a gathering place for all people to explore diverse experiences of migration, identity, belonging and the environment through arts and culture, informed by enduring links to Sweden." She adds, there is a "heritage lens for those of us who emigrated and our families emigrated three, four generations ago or maybe more. But it's also the lens on contemporary Sweden. If we lose the contemporary lens, we lose who we're speaking to, we lose our relevance. We lose our opportunity to be a rich point of relevance for new audiences or for our existing audiences to understand where they stand."

A desire for belonging can come from reasons other than ancestry. While Steenson has Swedish heritage, she knows that many are connected to the institute and its mission for deeply personal reasons. She explains, "I find that I learn a lot from many different perspectives, from traditionalists, from progressives, from volunteers who donate with their time and also with financial support, and some people who spent their entire lives here. We have a place that is a place of deep meaning for people, but you can have deep meaning here and not be Swedish whatsoever." It is this fluid dynamic that seems to give meaning to the statement "all tradition is change."



Molly Wright Steenson



The American Swedish Institute lit for the winter holidays.

Putting on her academic hat (she was a professor and vice provost for faculty at Carnegie Mellon), Steenson describes that "inquiry is not in stasis, cultural inquiry is not in stasis. And storytelling is not in stasis." For example, in April she is giving a paper at the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (SASS) conference bringing together her scholarship on artificial intelligence (AI) strategies and the folk slöjd (handicraft) tradition, leading a discussion on putting technology back in the hands of people. Similarly, the story of immigration is not in stasis and continues to be relevant. While it may have begun for Minnesota with northern Europeans over a century ago, more recently it has been the stories of Vietnamese, Hmong, Laotian, Somali, Mexican, Ecuadorian, and El Salvadorian communities that are told.

Steenson points out, "one thing that's unique to realize about Minnesota is, for instance, that it has the largest Somali population in the United States. And there is a Somali Swedish diaspora as well that ASI connects to in some really potent ways." For example, the ASI will host an exhibition in June of internationally acclaimed Swedish artist Salad Hilowle. His work is a poetic exploration of belonging, spectatorship, and the visibility of the African experience in Sweden over time—an important connection between Somali Swedes and the Somali emigrant community in the United States that is consistent with the mission of the institute.

It's that complexity of existing in what Steenson calls "multiple spheres" that is the strength of Swedish America. For her it's a dynamic place where you can come together and naturally be a human being.

*"All tradition is change" is the subtitle of the 1992 Swedish Folk Art exhibit assembled by Beate Sydhoff, Mats Widbom, and Barbo Klein, with consulting from Henry Glassie. The exhibit, which toured North America during 1994-1997, represented new views of folklore as emergent culture.

New Academic Perspectives on Nordic America

Lucia Hodgson



Lucia Hodgson

The response to the thematic stream topic I proposed for the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study's (SASS) annual meeting in Seattle, May 2024, was strong and exciting. "Nordic Settler Experiences in North America" drew 21 presentations resulting in six panels.

The idea for the thematic stream emerged from conversations within NordSet, a collaborative research network on Nordic settler colonialism with members at major universities in Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Denmark. NordSet studies the histories of colonialism in the Nordic countries and the role of these histories in shaping Nordic identities, past and present. For example, scholars have examined Nordic participation in the global slave trade, settler colonialism in Sámi lands, and various forms of collaboration by Nordic individuals and groups with other European empires.

The SASS stream contributed to this growing body of scholarship by expanding its scope to North America. NordSet sought to generate submissions challenging traditional migration histories in which Nordics have typically been viewed in isolation from the broader American settler colonial context due to a presumed exceptional benevolence on the part of Nordic settlers. This new approach understands Nordic immigrants as settler colonists who established themselves as inhabitants of the land through Indigenous dispossession and displacement, exploitative labor practices, depletion of natural resources, and the exercise of white privilege.

Several papers presented histories of Nordic-Indigenous contact that trouble the myth of Nordic benevolence. Emma Ruddy's "Native American Complexities and Realities: The Role of Scandinavian Settlers in the Utah Black Hawk War" argued that the Scandinavian immigrants adopted a settler colonial mindset resulting in encroachment on Native lands, depletion of natural resources, and intense conflict between the two groups. "Icelandic Settlers in 1870s Nova Scotia: Land, Modernity, and Immigration Policy" by Jay L. Lalonde told the history of a short-lived Icelandic settlement in which Icelanders contributed to dispossession of Indigenous peoples and solidification of settler colonial governance.

A cluster of presentations illustrated how central literary studies are to understanding Nordic settler colonialism. In "Heritage Fiction: The Swedish-American Example of Lillian Budd," Jennifer Eastman Attebery analyzed how fiction operates similarly to local history writing, enabling Swedish Americans to claim a hybrid heritage that included both Swedishness and a place in a normative Anglo-American mainstream. Ursula Lindqvist's "Rewriting the Swedish Migration Narrative" explored the archetypal Swedish-American migrant story of mobility and resettlement through its intentional disruption in the novel *In the Distance* (2017) by Hernan Diaz.

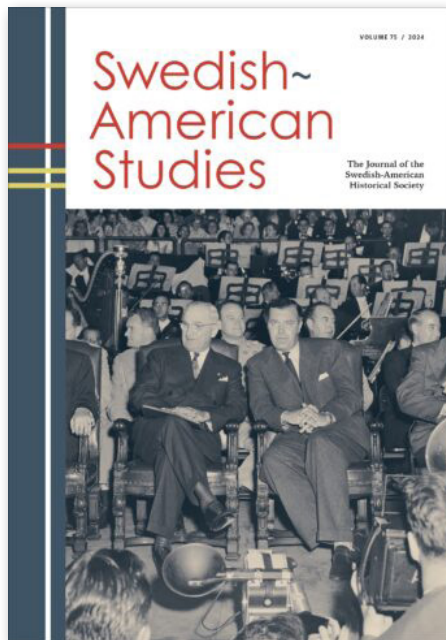
Two presentations focused on Nordic involvement with US chattel slavery. "Echoes of a Plantation Bell" by Rikke Lie Halberg traced the life of a plantation bell introduced in 1778 at La Grange, the largest plantation in the Danish West Indies, and now part of the collections of the Naval Museum in Elsinore, Denmark, to understand its role in the memory culture of "The Fireburn," the colonial labor revolt in the Danish West Indies in 1878. My paper "S. M. Swenson: Swedish Settler and Slaver in Nineteenth-Century Texas" drew from work on my current project concerning a Swedish Texan who owned slaves and plantations in pre-Civil War Texas whose case offers an opportunity to think through the theoretical and historical intersections between settler colonialism and chattel slavery.

All the papers on the panels were original and innovative. The wealth of scholarship on Nordic settler experiences in North America suggests the vibrancy of this trend in Nordic studies. There is much more to learn about Nordic settler colonialism in the past and its present legacy in both the Nordic countries and North America.

Lucia Hodgson is the recipient of a Swedish Research Council Project Grant for her project "New Sweden Texas: Swedish Settlers and Slavery in Nineteenth-Century Texas." She is a researcher in the Swedish Institute for North American Studies (SINAS) and the Department of English at Uppsala University in Sweden.

Successful Launch of *Swedish-American Studies*

The first volume of *Swedish-American Studies* (SAS) was launched last year under the editorship of Mark Safstrom. Safstrom, an assistant professor in the Scandinavian Studies Department at Augustana College, had been the editor of the annual's predecessor *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* (SAHQ) since 2021, and he sees the change from a quarterly to an annual as both continuing and expanding the Swedish-American Historical Society's (SAHS) long-standing publication venture.



While the original purpose of SAHS (initially named the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society) was "to honor the Swedish Pioneers and to make known the accomplishments of Swedes to American life during the past century," Safstrom sees the scope of the SAHQ and SAS as having expanded to include not only Swedish immigration to North America but also the flow of ideas between Sweden and the United States and encompassing the 20th and 21st centuries as well as the 19th. He stresses, however, that the journal still has a focus that is predominantly historical.

A process began under Safstrom's editorship of the quarterly to transform it to a peer-reviewed academic journal, and that transition is complete with the establishment of SAS. The change was driven by the demands of the field, where young academics in both the United States and Sweden look to peer-reviewed publications as preferred outlets for their work.

As for going from a quarterly to an annual publication schedule, a major reason was economic, Safstrom stresses, pointing out the higher work load involved in filling and copy editing a journal every three months as opposed to once a year. With the goal of having SAS contain a "core number" of scholarly articles—currently set at around five per volume—recruiting contributors also becomes somewhat less challenging. That said, Safstrom, still sees part of his work with SAS as building up the publication's brand and its network of contributors.

Safstrom actively recruits potential contributors by looking at the conference programs of organizations such as the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study, and Adam Hjorthén, SAS Associate Editor, surveys the field of possible material for the annual in Sweden from his base at Uppsala University. For the

annual's first issue in fall 2024, they featured emerging scholars offering perspectives on less-explored topics such as Swedish-American masculinities (Tove Tormod-Julin) and the idealistic but ultimately failing consolidation of Christian socialism crafted by Carl Gustav Ellström (Love Karlsson); and reconsiderations and updates of Swedish Americans' varied reactions to the US entry into World War I (Gregory C. Gaines), Americans' ambiguous reactions to Swedish sex education as it continued into the AIDs era (Saniya Lee Ghanoui), and Sweden's commercial presence and interactions with the US in the Caribbean during the early 19th century (Ale Pålsson).

While scholarly articles thus make up the major share of SAS content, Safstrom stresses that the publication also runs what he calls "state-of-the field" essays, such as the 2024 contribution by former SAHQ editor Kevin Proescholdt about the history of the society's main publication. The first SAS volume also contains a collection of photographs, a feature that Safstrom hopes to continue. He also sees the publication as a platform that allows archives with Swedish-American materials to showcase their holdings.

SAHS members can look forward to an equally excellent issue of SAS in fall of 2025. Anyone interested in contributing to *Swedish-American Studies* may contact Mark Safstrom directly at marksafstrom@augustana.edu.

Contributing to *Swedish-American Studies*:

Newsletter readers are cordially invited to submit original work for publication: research papers, articles, field notes, reviews and other contributions will be considered for publication. The deadline for inclusion in the 2026 issue of *Swedish-American Studies* is 1 October 2025, with similar deadlines for future years. Please contact journal editor **Mark Safstrom** (marksafstrom@augustana.edu) if you have any questions.

Legacy of Architect Jens Jensen Featured in 2025 Fall Program by Julia Bachrach

Anne Jenner

Danish American landscape architect Jens Jensen was brought to life in an enthusiastic presentation by Julia Bachrach at the Swedish-American Historical Society's October 2024 program at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood. Eighty members and friends gathered for a delightful meal catered by Tre Kronor restaurant.

Jensen's imprint on the city and region was of interest not only to our members but also to supporters of Chicago parks and regional historic preservation. The event buzzed with conversation and good cheer as new connections were made. Jensen 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.

Our presenter Julia Bachrach, who served as the Chicago Park District's preservation planning supervisor for over 25 years, has a soft spot for Jensen. Her slides and stories guided us through the history and living legacy of Jensen in and around Chicago. Enjoy learning more and viewing photos of Jensen in one of Bachrach's many writings and publications—the 2017 online article "Jens Jensen and Humboldt Park," which can be found at this link: www.jbachrach.com/blog/2017/10/2/jens-jensen-and-humboldt-parks.

Anne Jenner is curator at the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections and chair of the Swedish-American Historical Society board.



Garfield Park was among the many West Park Commission landscapes overseen and improved by Jens Jensen as general superintendent.

SAVE THE DATE

SPRING PROGRAM

Thursday, April 24, 2025

American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SPRING 2025 PROGRAM!

The Swedish-American Historical Society's (SAHS) spring program will again be held in conjunction with the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study's annual meeting in Minneapolis/St. Paul in late April. Author of *For the Love of Cod* **Eric Dregni** will speak at a luncheon at the American Swedish Institute, beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 24, with catering by the Institute's celebrated Fika restaurant. More specifics about the program will be released on the SAHS website and Facebook feed in March.



Peterson Elementary School

Andrew J. Meyer

Just a few blocks from North Park University's campus is Mary Gage Peterson elementary school, a Chicago public school that first opened its doors in 1925. To celebrate the school's centennial, I am working with other community members to celebrate its history, including the story of Mary Gage Peterson and her husband, Pehr Peterson. Current students will lead some of this research and celebration, so records from the Swedish American Archives of Greater Chicago will be used by a group of elementary-age students.

One thing has struck me about this project: archival research can be difficult and can lead in many directions. Mary Gage Peterson herself was quite an accomplished person: a trustee for Mt. Holyoke College, one of the founders of the Chicago College Club, an active leader in several religious organizations, and more. Do these other organizations have records related to Mary Gage Peterson that would shed light on her contributions? Yes! Indeed many of them do. And together with the resources here at the Swedish American Archives of Greater Chicago, these records provide a better picture of the life of Mary Gage Peterson.

Her husband, Pehr Peterson, immigrated from Sweden and created a large nursery for trees and plants. Catalogues from the Peterson nursery with titles like "Trees, Shrubs, Vines, and Herbaceous Plants" and "Peonies and Irises" are available online via the Biodiversity Library—a project of the Smithsonian library. And resources at the Chicago Public Library have confirmed that "Peterson Avenue" and "Peterson Park" here in Chicago are both named in his honor.

As the director of the archives, this shouldn't come as a surprise. The resources here at the Swedish American Archives of Greater Chicago are significant but obviously not comprehensive. They focus on a particular community and a particular place, a mission that does not include collecting plant catalogues relevant to the biodiversity of the entire earth. But to see the cooperation and connections among dozens of different organizations and institutions—especially through the lens of a researcher and through the lens of young scholars—has been eye opening.

I wish to note a staffing change here at North Park. Sarah Hawkinson, the part-time digital archivist, recently accepted a full-time position as the curator at the Swedish American Museum here in Chicago. Sarah was a wonderful colleague and co-worker and was the lead in helping transition archival issues of the *Swedish American Historical Quarterly* to the University of Minnesota Press system.

Andrew J. Meyer is director of Archives and Special Collections, North Park University, Chicago.



1928 Graduating Class of Mary Gage Peterson Elementary School, Peterson School Archives.



Peterson school in 1941 with a World War II Victory Garden in the foreground.

Tribute to Don Olson

Philip J. Anderson



Don Olson receives the Sandburg Award in 2016.

It is both a pleasure and a privilege to pay tribute to **Don Olson** for his many years of service to the Swedish-American Historical Society (SAHS). A longtime member with many ties to a variety of cultural organizations in Sweden and America, Don agreed (without too much arm-twisting) to become SAHS treasurer in the fall of 1998. Don's vocation was as a high-school mathematics teacher, so he was naturally good with numbers. Though the society's mission is straightforward in terms of publications, preservation, and programs, its financial aspects are detailed and time-consuming for a volunteer-led organization. When Don stepped away as treasurer in 2020, after 22 years, our books were in good order and our investments managed wisely, passing it forward. Don then graciously accepted election to two terms on the board of directors, giving continued energy and guidance. Concurrently, he also served as chair of the advisory board of the Center for Scandinavian Studies at North Park for many years.

Cheerful, dependable energy is a good way to describe Don. His role in the society went way beyond being treasurer. Living just a half-block from the campus of North Park University, home to the SAHS office and archives, he was omnipresent when something needed attention, from the details of programs and dinners to the mysteries of the US Postal Service. His car was always available if something or someone needed to be picked up or taken somewhere, be it to the airport or the hospital, or needing a ride home. With a strong back, Don carried boxes and lent a hand setting up and breaking down equipment, always with a laugh and a smile. Just ask any of the six office managers he worked with!

In October 2016, Don was honored with the SAHS's highest honor, the Carl Sandburg Award.

On a personal note, having known Don and Kay for 46 years, I am grateful for shared leadership in the society and our regular interactions, which also included the dimension of valued friendship in and beyond the work of SAHS. On behalf of us all, thank you and best wishes Don!

Philip J. Anderson, Professor Emeritus of Church History at North Park University, served as president of SAHS from 1989 to 2023.

A Thank You to Kerstin Lane

Bruce Karstadt

As she completes her service on the Swedish-American Historical Society (SAHS) board, we wish to express gratitude to **Kerstin Lane** for supporting in so many ways the activities of the society. Kerstin has been a dedicated advocate of Sweden and Swedish-American culture ever since her immigration to the US in 1973. After moving to Chicago with husband Joe, she became deeply involved in its Swedish-American community and is well-known for serving for 20 years as the founding Executive Director of the Swedish American Museum in Andersonville.

Even with such a demanding role, Kerstin found time to become involved with the SAHS. In her service on the board, she was actively engaged in programming and community engagement, often making the museum available to the society for many programs and activities. SAHS also benefited greatly from Kerstin's roles as Honorary Consul General for Sweden, trustee of Swedish Council of America, and founder of the Chicago chapter of the Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA). These roles not only helped to sustain the society's Chicago-based work, but also linked the society to other organizations and individuals in the broad Swedish-American landscape and in Sweden.

Always a wise source of initiative, common sense, and insight, Kerstin drew upon her love of Sweden and her wide network in ways that were invaluable gifts to SAHS. Her willingness to share her time with the society for so many years provided us with a steady continuity. With gratitude, the society expresses its sincere thanks to Kerstin for her generous service in support of SAHS. *Tack så hemskt mycket, Kerstin!*

Bruce Karstadt is a current SAHS board member and retired President/CEO of the American Swedish Institute.



Kerstin Lane



Message from the SAHS Board Chair

Anne Jenner



Have you ever wondered how the Swedish-American Historical Society (SAHS) accomplishes so much? I'm happy to share a bit of information about the work of the Board of Directors, a group of dedicated individuals who work throughout the year planning and publishing *Swedish-American Studies* and *Glimtar*, organizing and hosting our public programs, supporting our archives, and managing finances and fundraising. They field applications for scholarships, answer research questions, and connect with members who have an interest in further supporting the society through board service.

Our board members possess an array of personal and family connections to Sweden and Swedish America and bring with them their interest in exploring and preserving the cultural heritage and history of Swedish America. They also bring professional and life experiences that support the challenges of sustaining the society's publications, programs, and archival collections. Some are scholars in fields such as history, folklore, music, literature, language pedagogy, gender studies, or religious studies. Others are public historians, genealogists, librarians or archivists, journalists, or professionals and leaders in cultural heritage organizations. Still others come from professional fields that lend financial and fundraising expertise to our work together.

Board members meet quarterly or monthly in committees and twice annually as a full board to share reports, celebrate successes, and discuss future opportunities and challenges. Based on three-year terms, a few rotate off each fall and new members are elected. We welcome nominations from members. Contact info@swedishamericanhist.org to nominate yourself or someone else to serve on the SAHS Board of Directors.

In October 2024, six new or returning board members joined our roster. Ever grateful for their contributions, we recognize all here.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Pocatello, Idaho
Chad Eric Bergman, Chicago, Illinois
Klas Bergman, Los Angeles, California
Ulf Jonas Bjork, Rock Island, Illinois
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Bruce Karstadt, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Amy Swanson King, Seattle, Washington
Kurt Peterson, Chicago, Illinois
Inga Thiessen, Minneapolis, Minnesota

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS AND STAFF

Philip J. Anderson (President Emeritus), Hovland, Minnesota
Adam Hjorthén (Journal Associate Editor/Book Review), Årsta, Sweden
Carl Anders Johnson (Treasurer), Chicago, Illinois
Andrew Meyer (Archivist), Chicago, Illinois
Byron J. Nordstrom (Editor Emeritus), LeSueur, Minnesota
Aubrey Prestwich (Office Manager), Chicago, Illinois
Kevin Proescholdt (Editor Emeritus), Minneapolis, Minnesota
Mark Safstrom (Journal Editor), Rock Island, Illinois

Update on our Fundraising Campaign

In the fall of 2023, the Swedish-American Historical Society (SAHS) established the **Philip J. Anderson Publications Endowment** to provide ongoing, sustainable support for the SAHS publications program, with a focus on production of the society's flagship journal *Swedish-American Studies*. The endowment honors **Philip J. Anderson's** legacy of service and scholarship. Now Professor Emeritus of Church History at North Park University, Anderson served as the society's president for 35 years.

Publications have been a central aspect of the society's work since its founding in 1948, and *Swedish-American Studies* will carry that legacy forward to new generations of scholars and lay readers. For 75 years, the society's journal, first published as the *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly* and then as the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, has provided the society's members and the community of those interested in the history of Swedish America with accessible scholarship.

So far, SAHS has dedicated \$250,000 of existing and donor-raised dollars toward this endowment, and we have another \$250,000 to raise to reach our \$500,000 goal. When completed, that endowment will generate approximately \$20,000 of regular annual income that will allow for affordable society membership, an accessible journal subscription, and ongoing editorial excellence.

Please consider making a gift to the **Anderson Endowment** to put the society and its publications program on solid footing for the future. The Society is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization, and any gifts to the Society are fully tax deductible. If you would like to discuss a gift of appreciated stock, a multi-year pledge, or other gift strategies, please reach out to board member **Kurt Peterson** at petersonkurtw@gmail.com or (312) 218-5545.

PHILIP J. ANDERSON PUBLICATIONS ENDOWMENT



Scan this QR code with your phone camera to be directed to the endowment donation page on our website.

<https://www.swedishamericanhist.org/product/endowment-donation/>

News and Notes

MIDWESTERN REGION

CHICAGO

North Park University's School of Music, Art, and Theatre will present *Titanic—A Murder Mystery Opera*, the American premiere of an opera by Matias Vestergård and Lea Marie Løppenthin, at the Windy City Playhouse. The event is co-sponsored by the Center for Scandinavian Studies and the American Scandinavian Foundation. Performances May 1 and 3, 7:30 p.m., with pre-show conversations at 6:30 p.m. Tickets available at northpark.edu/events

CHICAGO

The exhibit "Swedish Cabins: The Legacy of Henry Steiner" runs through May 4, 2025, at the **Swedish American Museum**. Curated by Nordic Northwest, the exhibit explores the role of Swedish immigration in the work of Craftsman-style log building designer Henry Steiner, who worked in the Mt. Hood, Oregon, region.

MINNEAPOLIS

"Ann Wolff: The Art of Living" is at the **American Swedish Institute**, February 15 - June 8, 2025. Swedish artist Ann Wolff's art will be displayed throughout the Turnblad Mansion.

MINNEAPOLIS

"Salad Hilowle: Inscriptions" is at the **American Swedish Institute**, June 21 - October 26, 2025. This exhibit will display Swedish artist Salad Hilowle's sculptures and moving images accompanied by sound, focusing on the historical and current Afro-Swedish diaspora. Hilowle is a Somalian immigrant to Sweden.

SCANDIA, MINNESOTA

Gammelgården Museum of Scania opens for touring and events on May 3, 2025. For more information about hours, tours, and programs, go to <https://gammelgardenmuseum.org/>

SJÖLUNDEN, BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Concordia College Swedish Language Village offers various programs for adults and children, including a flagship youth summer camp for children 7-18 years of age. For more information go to <https://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/languages/swedish>

MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

The **Norsk Høstfest**, a Scandinavian cultural festival, will be held September 24-27, 2025. The event features Scandinavian food, artisans, merchandise, and other attractions. Information: <https://hostfest.com>



WESTERN REGION

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Melanie Hack, University of Bergen, will lecture on "Everyone Needs a Helping Hand!! An Overview of Employee Rights in the Context of Elder Care in the EU and Norway," at **University of California**, 201 Philosophy Hall, April 10 at noon. For more information go to ies.berkeley.edu

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

At **University of California**, April 1, 7:30 p.m., in Zellerbach Hall, Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes will perform Edvard Grieg's piano sonata and Geirr Tveitt's Sonata Etere, a 1950s piece inspired by Norwegian folk music.

THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA

The **Scandinavian American Cultural and Historical Foundation** at California Lutheran University will hold its annual Scandinavian Festival on the university's campus April 5-6, 2025. The foundation also organizes an annual "Nordic Spirit Symposium" which this year, its 26th annual, took place February 7-8, 2025. Entitled "Before the Vikings: The Extraordinary Nordic Bronze Age," the symposium included some of Scandinavia's leading experts on the Bronze Age. See <https://scandinaviancenter.org>

SEATTLE

At the **National Nordic Museum**, the Nordic Innovation Summit will take place May 13-14, 2025. This event, first held in 2018, has become North America's leading event for Nordic innovation in business, industry, technology, and policy, bringing together leaders from North America and the Nordic countries for economic and cultural exchange. See www.nordicmuseum.org

PORTLAND

At the **Nordic Northwest/Nordia House**, the exhibit "Boliglaboratorium: A Danish Housing Lab" will take place in April and May 2025, examining the question, "How do we create housing that addresses some of the greatest challenges of our time?" Boliglaboratorium is a joint initiative of the Danish Arts Foundation and Realdania. This US phase of the exhibit is presented by Scan Design Foundation. The exhibit was first showcased at the 2023 Architectural Congress in Copenhagen. See www.nordicnorthwest.org/nordia-house



EASTERN REGION

BOSTON

The **Scandinavian Cultural Center** in West Newton is hosting a book talk on March 29, 2025, at 1 p.m. with Kortney Yasenka about her latest book, “Swedish Lagom: Finding Joy in Just Enough.” Yasenka is a licensed clinical mental health counselor of Swedish heritage.



BOSTON

On May 31, 2025, the **Scandinavian Cultural Center**, West Newton, will hold “Berserk,” the Center’s Viking festival. Two rival Viking encampments on the front lawn will display traditional Viking-era craft, Viking games, and combat demonstrations. See www.scandicenter.org

JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

Jamestown’s **Scandinavian Folk Festival** will be held July 19 and 20, 2025, in the Northwest Arena, downtown Jamestown. The festival includes musical performances, Midsummer celebration, lectures, and vendors. Go to www.scandinavian-jamestown.org

NEW YORK CITY

On April 5 through August 2, 2025, at **Scandinavia House**, “Nordic Echoes—Tradition in Contemporary Art” will be on exhibit featuring contemporary Nordic folk arts and cultural traditions from the Upper Midwest (North and South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan). The exhibit includes 55 works by 24 contemporary artists whose practices are grounded in Nordic traditions.



NEW YORK CITY

The **American-Scandinavian Foundation’s** annual Spring Gala will take place on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at the Metropolitan Club in New York City. H. E. Halla Tómasdóttir, President of the Republic of Iceland, the newest Patron of ASF, will be an honored guest. The evening will also feature the presentation of the ASF Cultural Award to acclaimed Swedish-American artist Helena Hernmarck. Additional honorees will be announced soon. See www.scandinaviahouse.org

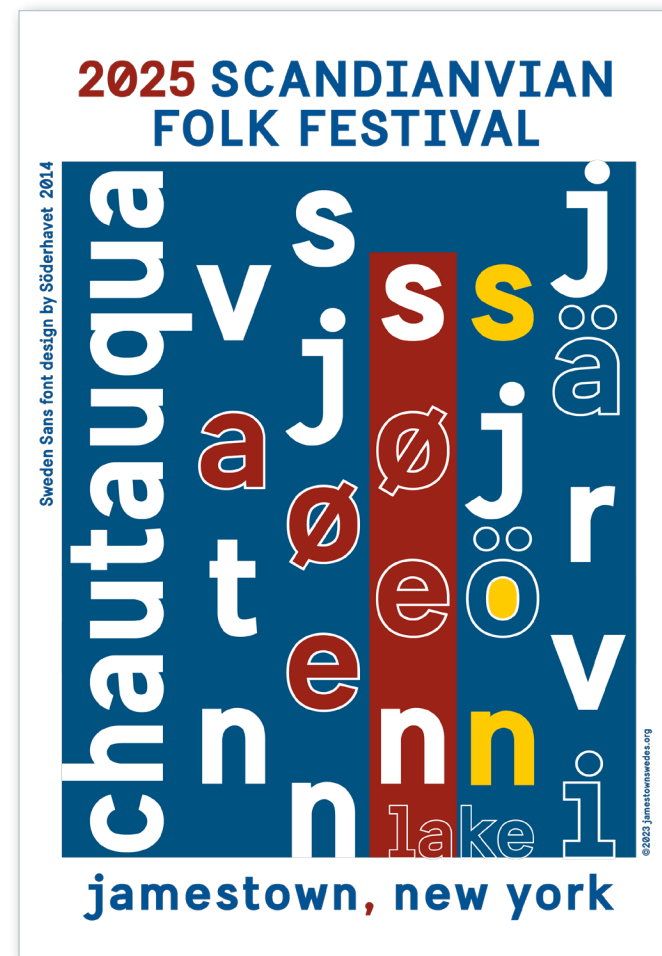
PHILADELPHIA

March 29, 2025, is the last day of the “Open Saunas” exhibit at the **American Swedish Historical Museum**. The Ebba Sparre Sauna Collective has been a temporary sauna operating from December 2024 through March 2025. Visitors have had the opportunity to experience sauna firsthand at the museum in connection with the exhibit “Sauna is Life: Sauna Culture in Finland,” booking space in three saunas.



PHILADELPHIA

The **American Swedish Historical Museum’s** New Sweden legacy lecture series will hold its last two lectures on March 19 and April 12, 2025. The March lecture is “New Sweden’s Colonists under Dutch Rule, 1655-1664,” by Evan Haefeli, professor at Texas A&M University. The April lecture by legal scholar Paul Finkelman is entitled “Peter Stuyvesant’s War on Swedes and other Lutherans.” See www.americanswedish.org



Jamestown’s **Scandinavian Folk Festival** will be held July 19 and 20, 2025, in the Northwest Arena, downtown Jamestown.

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 newsletter, please let us know. Suggestions for topics of future newsletter articles are welcome, as well. Contact us at: info@swedishamericanhist.org.

Glimtar

The Newsletter of the
Swedish-American
Historical Society



SWEDISH-AMERICAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3225 W. Foster Avenue, Box 48
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