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## 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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# Dear members and friends,

As we welcome fall, it feels like summer flew by. During the summer weekends we had pop-up cafés serving our baked goods. It was always hard to predict what was going to be popular. Some weekends we sold a lot of cookies – drömmar (dream cookies), chocklad kakor (chocolate cookies), kola kakor (toffee cookies) and pepparkakor (gingerbread). Mazariner (almond tarts) were always popular and fresh kanelbullar (cinnamon rolls) and kardemumma bullar (cardamom rolls) were often gone by the end of the day. Sandwiches with meatballs and beet salad, egg and anchovies or sausage was a savory addition to the sweets. The lessons learned during the pop-up cafes will be used when we open our Museum Café. We are currently waiting for the permits so we can start the work and until that is done, we will continue with our pop-up cafés. With all these cookies baked at the Museum we decided that it was time to hold a cookie baking competition. If you have a traditional recipe that has been passed down for generations or a brand new version, we want to hear from you. More information can be found on the Museum website.

The courtyard has been well used by our café guests and staff enjoys taking a lunch break outside. We were all excited when the engraved bricks arrived and we had a company install them. Once they were in place we realized that some of the images were hard to see. The process of finalizing the replacement of bricks has been started and we hope to be finished sometime in October. In the meantime you are welcome to visit the courtyard to read the messages and enjoy the new flooring. Thank you to everyone who donated to this wonderful addition!

This fall the Museum has a number of exciting programming in addition to some great changes. You may have noticed that the Museum Store move into the space in 5217 is almost complete. The new furnishing is almost all up and is looking great. We are welcoming several musicians this fall for a series of concerts that we hope you will enjoy. A very colorful exhibit “Folk Paintings” is a mix of old and new currently adorns the walls in the Gallery. A great backdrop when listening to the music. With a new Education Manager in place we are preparing for the Children’s Museum to reopen sometime this fall.

The Museum is working together with the Nordic Consulates in setting up the pop-up Nordic House. This is an opportunity to expose Chicagoans to our way of life as well as a calm space to relax on Michigan Avenue. You can read more about the collaboration in this issue of Flaggan.

On a personal note, our family took a trip to Sweden at the end of June and early July and had a wonderful time with my sisters and their families. Dan and I drove to Oskarshamn from Gothenburg and took the ferry to Gotland for a couple of days. It was the first time for both of us and we enjoyed seeing all the historical areas, the stone formations called rauks and Fårö, the island where Ingemar Berman lived.

We are now looking forward to this year’s annual gala *Aspire 2022*. This year we are honoring our Genealogy Advisory Board. We look forward to an evening of entertainment, food and live music at the Roosevelt University Library on Saturday, Nov. 5. The silent auction will once again be held online with several raffles at the event.

Karin Moen Abercrombie  
Executive Director

# Curators Corner

by Phoebe Yates

Welcome back to Curator's Corner and our series on The Life of a Museum Artifact at the Swedish American Museum. In the last installment, we discussed proper housing and environmental factors for storing The Museum artifacts. Now, let's look at the reason many of you donate your objects and archival material: exhibit display and research. However, there are factors to consider when determining if an artifact will be displayed.

## Which aspect of the immigration story will this artifact help to tell?

First, the artifact must fit the theme and narrative of the exhibit. Let us think about "Dream of America" and the theme of Swedish immigration. If we curated a case to explore how people travelled from Sweden to America, we would not display a menu from the Swedish Bakery. Instead, we look for artifacts that represent travel like passports.

## How do we choose an artifact to display?

We have 37 passports in our collection. The condition of an artifact is one of the most important things we consider when displaying objects.

We use a 5-point scale to rate the condition of our artifacts

1. Excellent: No discernible problems.
2. Very Good: Few discernible problems, such as slight scratching, paint chipping, or small tearing; generally good condition.
3. Good: Generally good condition with noticeable problems, such as pieces missing, large paint chipping, or some staining.
4. Fair: Noticeable wear and tear, rips, and general damage, such as easily handled dry and cracking paper; intact, ripped textile; or unattached doll leg.
5. Poor: Overall fragile and unusable condition, such as paper falling apart, mold or pest activity present, or object in multiple pieces; item cannot be handled without causing further damage.

It is important to assess the condition of artifacts regularly to maintain preservation. Those in fair and poor condition are unlikely to ever be displayed because it would cause more damage.

## How unique is the artifact?

After assessing the artifact's condition, we determine if it is unique in its make, model, material, and/or use. When artifacts have unique stories, they have high exhibit value since the artifacts help further the narrative of the exhibit. We consider what we know about its previous owner and the story behind the artifact that makes it unique. For example, one of the 37 passports in our collection stands out because it belonged to a woman who traveled by herself from Gothenburg to New York in 1923.

In the early 20th century, single, young women were one-third of the Swedish population immigrating to the United States. During this time, U.S. immigration law stated that women traveling alone needed male sponsors in the United States to ensure they would not become charges of the public. Her passport tells the story of its owner and acts as a tool to discuss immigration policy in the United States and the demographic of Swedish immigrants in the early 20th century.

## What happens when an artifact is chosen for display?

Finally, it is important to digitize artifacts and ensure our database records are up-to-date before display. Photographs of objects or scans of archival materials allow us to track an artifact's condition while on display. For preservation purposes, artifacts on display are rotated every 8–12 months and sensitive objects, such as fragile or light sensitive photographs and documents, are rotated every 3 months.

Continues on page 4



# Caring for Archival Collections

by Lisa Lindström

When I started working at the Swedish American Museum earlier this year, I was tasked with developing an archives policy for managing and reorganizing our archival material. I completed my Master's degree in Archival Science in 2019, and I have worked with numerous archival collections since 2016. Over the years, The Museum has gathered an impressive collection of archives. However, complete updates for organizing, housing, and preserving our archives based on new archive-specific standards is greatly needed for ensuring consistency and best practices arranging, storing, and handling all archival material.

The chance of building an archive policy from scratch was exciting! We started by clearing out a dedicated archives' storage space in the collections area in the basement. Then, I quickly set to work on developing new practices and standards for archival care. We are now implementing these in a long-term project where we sort and update all archival material in accordance with our new archive standards.

## What is an archive?

Generally, material categorized as archival include collections of documents, manuscripts, oral histories, maps, music records, photographs, and personal papers. Archives differ from museum artifacts or objects because archival material contains extractable information. In short, archival material are “read” in one way or another. In comparison, an artifact is normally a three-dimensional object, such as a *dalahäst* (dala horse) or a painting by Carl Larson.

## What is in an archive?

A big part of the archival material at The Museum consists of family records and scrapbooks from Swedish immigrants and their families often spanning several generations. Passports, boat tickets, wedding certificates, and letters and postcards to and from family in Sweden are some items giving us insight into the lives of the hundreds of thousands of Swedes who left their home country and built new lives in the United States.

## Why is archival material important?

Each archive is invaluable and unique—archival material tell the story of the people who originally created it. Our archives are crucial to The Museum's values and mission of interpreting and honoring immigrant experiences; it is also why preserving and our organizing archives is so important.

## How is archival material best preserved?

Various preservation techniques and archival-grade storage materials are used to minimize physical and chemical deterioration of archival material. These are specifically developed for long-term storage. Some common signs of deterioration that I see include fading from light exposure; creasing and damage from folding or bad storage; rusting from paperclips and staples; staining from glue and tape; and discoloring from unstable plastic sleeves. To avoid further damage, The Museum staff, volunteers, and interns place all items in archival-grade, closed boxes, folders, and sleeves to best protect fragile and brittle material. We remove metal and adhesives, and we store records unfolded. We monitor and regulate temperature and humidity, which lengthens the lifespan of our precious collections, ensuring their future use.

## What are preservation techniques important?

Depending on handling, storage and material used, a photograph normally lasts between 25–70 years before fading. With proper use of archival grade material and storage, a photograph's lifespan doubles. For paper objects, archival preservation ensures a lifespan of several hundred years before significant deterioration.

## How is archival material best organized?

Organizing archival material in accordance with the latest standards is another big part of caring for archival collections. Archival organization is crucial because it allows us to easily locate and access various archival records.

The process includes physically arranging items into so-called series of related material. A series could be groupings of correspondence, photographs, writings, financial documents, and more. Additionally, we are creating “Finding Aids” to provide access to our collections without physically browsing through boxes. A Finding Aid is a document that provides information about the content, history, creation, and use of a specific archive. For example, the Finding Aid for a collection of postcards includes background on the correspondents, dates when the postcards were written, short summaries of postcard content, and more. Finding Aids are especially useful for research purposes.

Archival organization standards are based on the idea that archival material is situated and understood within a larger collection. Unlike a book, which tends to be described at an individual level (for example, in a library), the individual items in an archive are best understood by how they relate to each other. For example, in order to understand the content of a letter, it is helpful to read it within the context of the full correspondence arranged in chronological order. Information about the context, origins, and functions of the archive help us understand each item. It is why we organize archives in specific ways and gather as much information as possible about the people who created the archive. At its core, an archive is essentially a sequence of interrelated documents.

If you seek hands-on experience working with The Museum's archival collections, need advice about best caring for your family papers and photographs, or crave learning more about archiving, please reach out ([lindstrom@samac.org](mailto:lindstrom@samac.org)).



*Fragile postcards are stored in polypropylene sleeves within an archival-grade folder to ensure longevity.*



*Newly designed labels on archival boxes ease the identification of material.*

## Curators Corner continued from page 2

### What happens when artifacts are not displayed?

We are lucky to have a large collection of the Swedish American immigration experience in Chicago. Around 250 of these artifacts are currently displayed in our permanent exhibit, “Dream of America.” However, did you know the artifacts on display only account for about 1.5% of our entire collection? Generally, less than 10% of a museum’s collection is on display at any given time.

It can be a little disconcerting to hear that less than 10% of a museum’s collection is on display at one time. However, about 85% of collections are used for research. Artifacts containing personal information, like identification cards, or artifacts in poor condition are restricted to research use only (the other 5%). Museums frequently host visiting researchers and students interested in researching using museum collections. For example, earlier this year a student from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago researched design patterns of Swedish folk dresses.

At The Museum, curatorial assistant Lisa Lindström and I are working hard to increase access to our collection for visiting researchers and students. If you would like to schedule a research visit, please contact me ([pyates@samac.org](mailto:pyates@samac.org)). Stay tuned for the next installment of The Life of a Museum Artifact to learn about conservation of The Museum collections.

# Store Updates

By *Kristen Larson*

As we approach fall and winter when days and daylight hours shorten, and I think about how to keep my family well lit while bicycling during twilight hours. National Public Radio recently reported, “According to the National Safety Council, 1,260 bicyclists were killed in 2020, up . . . 16% from the year before and an increase of 44% over the past decade. Preliminary figures recently released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicate cycling fatalities rose another 5% in 2021.” As of August 2022 in Chicago, there have been 7 cycling-traffic fatalities.

Although these fatalities can be attributed to a number of factors, I focus on what I can do to stay safe—especially with my two little ones in tow in a bike trailer—when bicycling with fewer hours of daylight. We carry FunFlectors at the Kerstin Andersson Museum Store.

Made of the highest European quality reflective materials, FunFlectors are Swedish safety reflectors that help make pedestrians and bicyclists visible at night. For example, bicyclists typically become visible to drivers when 50–100 feet away. Yet FunFlectors make you visible to drivers when 400 feet away, which gives drivers up to 6–7 seconds longer to react.

You can wear FunFlectors on backpacks, jackets, strollers, bicycles (and bike trailers), and even dog collars! Safety reflectors are an easy and affordable way to help keep you and your loved ones safe and should be worn by all.

On a lighter note (pun intended), the FIFA World Cup begins on November 20 in Qatar! We are ready to watch our favorite Nordic teams play their best while we cheer them on. The Museum Store is well equipped with flags of all sizes, temporary tattoos, jerseys, pins, stickers and more. Even the smallest fans can represent their Swedish pride in a Swedish soccer ball onesie. Upon request, we can order larger flags for Denmark, Finland, and Norway for our fellow Nordic football fans.

In 2017, we welcomed the artists behind Ola Silversmide (silversmith) & Urmakeri (watchmaking) to Chicago and highlighted their tribute work to Swedish matches from Tidaholm. When matches were first developed in the 1830s, yellow phosphorous was used, which was highly combustible and dangerous.

A Swedish professor—Gustav Erik Pasch—tested and refined the match making process and created a safer product by using red phosphorous. He reduced risks of accident by igniting red phosphorus using a special pad also containing red phosphorus. The Vulcan match factory was later built in 1868 and grew as the biggest manufacturer of matches in the world, producing approximately 2.5 million match sticks per day.

The Museum Store now offers Swedish match boxes and a limited number of beautiful silver match accessories styled as rings, earrings, and tie tacks, which is soon to sell out.



*Three of our most popular funflectors: snowflake, dala horse and pride flag.*



*Swedish soccer jersey and a Sweden soccer ball onesie.*



*Sampling of the remaining Ola Silversmide Tidaholm Match Accessories*

# Volunteering at the Museum

By Layne Borden

Our volunteers are incredibly important to the Swedish American Museum. Without them, the Museum would not be the same. I took on the role of coordinating volunteers at the beginning of the summer, making sure we had enough people available to cover events, yet not overwork anyone, while also ensuring everyone knew what volunteer opportunities were available.

*Everyone on the staff is so friendly; it makes you feel “special.” The volunteer coordinator makes it easy to volunteer! Your responsibilities are clearly described, and they make it easy to know what time is available and when you’ve committed to.*  
-Kristin Even-Bergquist, long-time volunteer at the admissions desk and food events

Over the summer, I made a number of changes to the volunteer system. Early on, I learned when someone volunteered, they would need to come in for the whole day; however, not everyone has time or the energy for a whole day. Therefore, I split the day in half. Currently, we have two shifts, which means a person only volunteers for 2–3 hours. With the success of adding shifts to our volunteer schedule, they continue into autumn and onwards and expand past regular volunteer hours into scheduling volunteers for events.

*I enjoy volunteering at The Museum and with the addition of the new shift times, it’s been so easy to select times that fit with my summer schedule!*  
-Joy Thorbjornsen-Coates, regular volunteer and member of The Museum’s Board

I also made minor changes to past volunteer practices which should make it more convenient and straightforward for volunteers when they work at the Museum. My goal is to make the work of our volunteers as enjoyable as possible.

Alongside those alterations, much of my summer was spent getting to know our volunteers and identifying what would make their lives easier as they volunteer at the Museum. I was able to implement changes that helped them feel more at home during normal hours and at events.

As time goes on and I know our volunteers more, I will be able to make helpful changes to easily volunteer at the Museum. If you’re interested in volunteering during our regular Museum hours or at events, email ([museum@samac.org](mailto:museum@samac.org)) or complete the volunteer intake form on The Museum website.



Volunteers at Midsommarfest



# Special Exhibits

## SWEDISH FOLK PAINTING: TRADITION AND CHANGE

Alison Aune, Pieper Bloomquist and Åse Larsjos  
Closes on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022

Master folk artists Alison Aune, Pieper Bloomquist, and Åse Larsjos studied, taught, and transformed traditional Swedish dalmålningar art from Dalarna. We will exhibit their work reviving and reimagining the possibilities of Swedish folk art for the contemporary day alongside historic pieces from the Swedish American Museum collection. Come see the evolution of Swedish folk with its characteristic floral kurbits (fantastical gourd flowers) and decorative figurative bonadsmåleri painting from the southern provinces of Småland and Halland from hundreds of years ago until today!



## FROM THE VAULT: LANDSCAPES, IMMIGRANTS AND FEMALE ARTISTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Exhibit Closes on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023

The exhibit features artwork by Swedish and Swedish-American artists from The Museum's permanent collection. With a focus on female artists, the artwork on display is a good representation of the work The Museum has collected over time and explores missing perspectives. Women and minority artists are often underrepresented in museum collections, and we recognize it is important to acknowledge these holes in our collection. From the Vault explores artwork from 12 different artists, each with a unique background and connection to Swedish/Swedish-American communities.



## BONADER

Exhibit Opens, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022  
Exhibit Closes, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023

One of the most remarkable examples of Scandinavian folk art is the painted picture indigenous to the Swedish peasant home. The commonly used name for these peasant paintings is bonader, and their provenance was to decorate walls and ceilings of homes at Christmas time and on feast days by adding a note of color and gaiety to the otherwise dark interiors. Between festivities, these canvas or paper panels were taken down and carefully kept, later becoming part of the family inheritance. The bonader at The Museum is a collection of extraordinary works on linen and paper with vegetable and mineral pigments that achieve arrays of color. They were sized for specific wall spaces and hung unframed. Several artists were identified, and more than 100 may have practiced the craft. Donated to The Museum in 2000 by the Art Institute of Chicago, the 29 bonader represent the eighth largest known collection. They originated in 1931 among acquisitions from world traveler Florence Dibell Bartlett of Chicago. Inspired by what she viewed as a decline in creation of folk art, Bartlett acquired pieces she found in 37 countries. She was the founder in 1953 of the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.





# The Journey

By *Christian Hookanson Youngberg*

After working together with the Swedish American Museum's Genealogical Society to learn about my Swedish ancestors, I decided to go to Sweden. The trip began in Åseda—the hometown of my grandfather Edvin Håkansson, his siblings, and parents. I arranged to meet a member of the Åseda church to show me around. I was introduced to Brita—an energetic, stylish attractive woman in her mid-60s. She was my personal guide for a good part of a day who shared information about the overall area, the Toratorp homestead, and its surrounds. We met in the Åseda church, and we were the only two there. As we talked and sat in the pews that Thursday morning, the organ began to play! It was very moving! With various changes made over the years, the church is beautiful and centuries old. It was fun to think of the Håkansson family—and the many other ancestors—worshiping there in those same pews.

Brita and her family have lived in the Åseda area for generations. She knew my grandfather's sister from church. She was able to tell me about my family several generations back and take me around the area to look at houses where they lived, graves where some are buried, and the school many of my ancestors attended. As I drove with Brita along a beautiful road surrounded by woods, I pictured all 13 of my ancestors walking, running, and riding on horseback, in a buggy, or in a wagon on the same route, which in those days which was a dirt road, wondering who was lagging behind.

It is amazing to think that the Håkansson ancestors remained in the same roughly 15-mile area for over 300 years. However, transportation was limited then, and they tended to stay and find work that was easily accessible. It was a rural environment so the occupations centered on life as it was. Many men were farmers, farm hands, blacksmiths, or carpenters doing their best to make a life for themselves and their families. They lived in the country on small farms or in houses with limited access to occasional crossroads or villages. They learned about their houses: the Håkansson homestead in Toratorp and the homes down the road that belonged to the family of Anna Lisa—Petersdotter, Edvin Håkansson's grandmother.

Of course, seeing Grandpa's home was one of the highlights of my trip. It was pouring rain over the day and a half when I explored the 15-mile area, yet nothing could dampen my excitement about being there. Walking around the house and adjacent acres made me wonder what their lives were like, and I imagined myself back in the 1890s when they first moved there. While there, I thought about a story that Grandpa told me. He said, "they could have as much bread as they wanted, and reach into a barrel and grab a (probably smoked) fish," perhaps herring. Not far down the lane from the homestead remains the still-used school they attended. Driving down the lane I pictured the children going to-and-from, some running and others walking, and Grandpa—probably a skinny redhead either trying to stay out of trouble or getting into trouble. How I wish I could talk with him after my experience there!

After seeing the areas around Åseda parish and the homes, I said goodbye to Brita and drove to the nearby beautiful Nottebäck parish, where my great-grandfather Carl Peter Håkansson and almost all of his and Carolina Sophia's children were born into and baptized. It is a stunning church both inside and out. Seeing the baptismal font and imagining the christenings of my great aunts and uncles and great grandfather was amazing.

The road took me south and then farther to the west as I ventured to Dädesjö, Drev, and Sjösås parishes. Sjösås is where I would have wanted to live, as did many of Carl Peter's ancestors! I could picture all of them boating, enjoying a cool dip in the lake during the short summers, and fishing all year long. There was a path along the shoreline that led to a park and some historic buildings with informative signs. I enjoyed the walk and seeing a representation of what life was like for those fortunate to live in this lovely place.

I took one last look at the lake as I drove away. The sun was setting and it is a view I will never forget. If you are researching your ancestors, I hope someday you will personally be able to experience this kind of journey of a lifetime.



*Nottebäck parish church*

# Meet the Education Manager

By *Jacqueline Victor*

Hej! My name is Jacqueline Victor, and I am the Swedish American Museum's new Education Manager. I focus on the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration, family programming, and school programs. It has been a pleasure starting at The Museum and getting to know The Museum community. My husband's family is Swedish-American (and Norwegian-American). From them, I have become acquainted with many of the traditions and histories that make The Museum feel both familiar and exciting. I love learning about culture and history, and now I have a good reason to visit Sweden and learn Swedish!

I grew up in Austin, Texas, and my background is in university teaching and research combined with many years volunteering at my son's schools—he is now in 7th grade. We moved to Chicago in 2013, living in Hyde Park while I completed a PhD in French Language & Literature at the University of Chicago. During that time, we also spent 2 years living in France just west of Paris in Saint-Germain-en-Laye. After finishing my PhD, I taught humanities courses for 2 years at the University of Chicago and decided to join the field of museum education. I have always loved museums, and as a university instructor, I enjoyed designing and leading class visits to museums and rare book libraries with my students. I would have been thrilled to visit the Children's Museum as a child, and I am grateful to keep it a welcoming and wonderful experience for children and their families.

My large and exciting task this year is to reopen our Children's Museum and prompt our family and school programs back to full swing. My longer term project expands upon these programs and deepens and broadens our connections with the community, city, and schools. I have an open ear for your ideas and suggestions!



# Volunteer of the Year

*Diana Gardner*

*Unfortunately the text for this article went missing in the spring/summer issue of Flaggan.*

I am honored to be awarded the volunteer of the year. My father always said, "Love what you do," and for the past 7 years, I have truly loved being a volunteer at the Swedish American Museum.

I so very much enjoy greeting our guests and giving them information on our museum and all the exhibits we have to offer. As volunteers at the front desk, we are the first people they see and I enjoy welcoming them to our museum. Because I like to stay busy, I also enjoy helping out with the mailings for our members, as well as organizing brochures in English, Swedish, and Spanish on our Swedish Immigration to America Museum on the 2nd floor.

I am very passionate about art and enjoy visiting museums in Chicago as well as other cities. Because of this interest in art, I enjoy the exhibits here at the Swedish American Museum and lectures given by the artists. The pleasure I feel from volunteering at the Swedish American Museum is a great part of my life and I look forward to many more days ahead.





## Nordic House

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

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

### **EXHIBIT AT NORDIC HOUSE SAMI DREAMS**

Conversations with Modern-Day Sámi  
Photography by Randall Hyman  
Exhibit Closes, Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022

The Sámi, northern Europe's only indigenous people, share dreams few others fully understand. With shamanistic roots disrupted by nightmarish oppression, a present blessed by resiliency and growing political power, and a future confronted by climate change and lingering marginalization, these are the people, from poets to politicians, whose dreams will carry them forward.

### **GLOBAL INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES: FROM TURTLE ISLAND TO SAPMI**

Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.

The program will be a panel discussion between a Sami person (Scandinavian Indigenous person) and a North American Indigenous person. The discussion will explore similarities and differences between the two panelists' cultures, and reflect on their individual experiences. The panel will be moderated by Josee Starr and followed by a Q&A with the audience. The panel will be hosted within the exhibit space for Sami Dreams, a photography exhibit displaying portraits of Sami people and their oral histories. The photographer, Randall Hyman, will be invited to participate in the panel as well and share his experience in capturing the photographs.

### **NORDIC HOUSE SUNSET CRUISE**

Thursday, Oct. 20, 4 p.m.

Nordic House Chicago is collaborating with Wendella sunset cruises to create a very special event. We will meet at the Nordic House for a reception starting at 4 p.m. with the boat departing promptly at 5:30 p.m. for a two hour sunset cruise. Tickets are \$50 and include an open bar. Nordic House is located on 400 N. Michigan Ave.



You are invited to the Swedish American Museum's  
**Aspire! Gala**  
Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022

6 p.m. Cocktails  
followed by dinner, raffles and dancing to live music

This year we are honoring the  
Swedish American Genealogical Society Advisory Board

**Roosevelt University Murray-Green Library**  
430 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Black Tie Optional

For tickets and more information please visit  
<https://swedishamericanmuseum.ejoinme.org/aspire2022>

All attendees need to be either vaccinated against Covid-19 or show proof of a negative Covid test taken within 72 hours of the event. Masks are optional. We reserve the right to change any Covid related policies in accordance with CDC and City guidelines at the time of the event.

All proceeds benefit the Swedish American Museum.  
Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by the law.

# **The Silent Auction**

**is online again this year**  
**Sunday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m. - Sunday, Nov. 6, 6 p.m.**

A silent auction will be held online.  
If you want to make a donation to the Silent Auction please visit  
[www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/annual-gala](http://www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/annual-gala)

The auction will open on Sunday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m. and close on Sunday, Nov. 6, 6 p.m.  
Starting Saturday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m. some of the items will be on display at the Museum so  
you can come and see them in person.

You will also have an opportunity to learn the online bidding program  
and start placing your bids.

## **Program Book**

**Submissions taken until Wednesday, Oct. 19**

If you would like to advertise in this year's Gala program book just visit our website at  
[www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/annual-gala](http://www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/annual-gala)

You don't have an ad? No problem!  
We will create an ad for you at no extra cost.

## **Raffle Tickets**

**We are doing a 50/50 raffle**

You have a chance to win \$500 for every \$1,000 in tickets sold.  
Buy as many tickets as you wish to increase your chances of winning.

Tickets can be bought at the Museum or at the Gala.  
The drawing will take place at the Gala so the  
last day to buy raffles at the Museum is Friday, Nov. 4.

# Programs & Events

## RECURRING EVENTS

### BULLERBYN & SVENSKA SKOLAN

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

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

Oct. 23 & 30

Nov. 13

Dec. 4 & 18

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

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

### SCANDINAVIAN JAM ONLINE

Sunday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Oct. 2 & 16

Nov. 6 & 20

Dec. 4 & 18

Scandinavian Jam, where we practice what we teach.

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

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

### THE DREAM OF AMERICA EXHIBIT

#### GUIDED TOUR

Saturday, Oct. 22, 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 20, 11:15 a.m.

Dive into the history of Swedish immigration to Chicago with a guided tour of the Swedish American Museum's permanent exhibit, "The Dream of America." Uncover the stories of real immigrants such as Karl Karlsson, who left Sweden with his family in 1893, or Elin and Birgitta Hedman, who made the journey in 1924. Learn about what awaited the millions who came to America via Ellis Island and what life was like in Swedish neighborhoods like Andersonville in Chicago then and now. The tour is free with admission, and free for members. Reservations are recommended.

## OCTOBER

Closed on Mondays

### GLOBAL INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES: FROM TURTLE ISLAND TO SAPMI

Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.

See page 10 for details.

### FOLK PAINTING CONTEST

Submissions accepted until Sunday, Oct. 16

Winner announced on Thursday, Nov. 3

The Museum is hosting a Swedish Folk Painting contest for adults. Submit your best folk painting with title via email to (pyates@samac.org). Master folk artists Alison Aune, Pieper Bloomquist, and Åse Larsson will judge the entries. We will display the winning folk painting in the "Swedish Folk Painting: Tradition and Change" exhibit in the Main Gallery.

### CHICAGO MIXED CHORUS CONCERT

Sunday, Oct. 16, 3 p.m.

Join us for a long awaited concert by the Chicago Swedish Mixed Chorus. The program is sung in Swedish and English. Refreshments to follow. Cost is \$10 at the door.

### COOKING CLASS

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 4 p.m. online

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 6 p.m. in person

What other Swedish dishes can be prepared with similar ingredients? In October, we will make variations of the Swedish meatball. For the online class, you receive the recipe in advance so you can either cook along or watch and try later. It is an interactive Zoom so questions are welcome. The online cooking class is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. The in-person class is limited to 4 participants, \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members.

### NORDIC HOUSE SUNSET CRUISE

Thursday, Oct. 20, 4 p.m.

See page 10 for details.

### NIKKI O'NEILL CONCERT

Friday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. concert

Nikki O'Neill is an Americana singer-songwriter with a deep love for soul music. Her second solo album, "World is Waiting," is a solid mix of blues, soul, spunk and sass. Nikki teaches guitar at the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago, and she's performing at the 2022 AmericanaFest in Nashville in September. Born in Los Angeles, Nikki moved to Stockholm, Sweden as a child and grew up there, attending the music programs at Sodra Latins Gymnasium and Kulturama. She has been a guest teacher at the all-female rock music program ELLA at Gotlands Folkhögskola; and worked as a music journalist for several Swedish newspapers, magazines and the national radio.

Nikki will be joined on stage by Chris Corsale (guitar, vocals), Chris Stanford (bass, vocals) and Rich Lackowski (drums, vocals).

A Swedish hotdog dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Please arrive at 6:30 p.m. if you plan to come for the concert only. Concert only tickets can be bought at the door at \$10 for Museum and SWEA members and \$15 for non-members. Tickets including dinner are \$20 for Museum and SWEA members and \$25 for non-members (buy in advance on the Museum website). The concert is sponsored in part by SWEA.

## GENEALOGY SESSION ONLINE

Saturday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m. – noon

“How to Travel Trouble-Free and Absorb Your History in Sweden” by Jan Carlson

Cost is free for Swedish American Genealogical Society members; \$10 for non-members to participate. Reservations appreciated and can be made by email ([genealogy@samac.org](mailto:genealogy@samac.org)) or phone (773.728.8111).

## SMALL FISH RADIO THEATER

Sunday, Oct, 23, 7 p.m.

Small Fish Radio Theatre and Thespinarium produces portable theater for the ear. Podcasts are available free on Apple Music, Spotify, TuneIn radio and their website. With followers worldwide, to date Small Fish Radio Theatre has featured the work of more than 100 artists. Small Fish Radio Theatre is returning to the Museum for their Annual Horror Show. Join us at the Museum for first row seats to his awesome event. Email ([rsvp@smallfishradio.com](mailto:rsvp@smallfishradio.com)) for reservations. Cost of admission is \$10 cash at the door.

## BOOK CLUB

Saturday, Oct. 29, 1 p.m.

“Christina Queen of Sweden” by Veronica Buckley

The Museum book club reads a wide range of books from the Nordic countries. Register for this free event by email ([museum@samac.org](mailto:museum@samac.org)). Buy the book in the Museum Store.

## MAGNUS MÅRTENSSON

Saturday, Oct. 29, 6 p.m. dinner (7 p.m. concert)

Pianist and comedian Magnus Martensson is back at the Museum. Expect laugh-out-loud comedy and an exquisite piano performance. The hilarious family-friendly show features music by Peterson-Berger, Grieg, Vivaldi's Four Seasons played simultaneously on violin, piano, and much more.

A “Flying Jakob” (chicken, bacon, banana and peanut dish) dinner with, salad and dessert will be served. Dinner will start at 6 p.m. and the cost for dinner and concert is \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members. If you only want to come to the concert the cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. Prepaid and confirmed tickets are required and no refunds available for cancellations within 5 days of event.

## NOVEMBER

**The Museum is closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 in observance of Thanksgiving Day. Closed on Mondays.**

## ASPIRE! 2022 GALA

Saturday, Nov. 5, 6 p.m.

The Museum's annual fundraising event is a night of fun and celebration of Swedish and Swedish-American heritage and culture. While an online silent auction is held, Gala guests are treated to a night of celebration of the Museum's mission and accomplishments. Our annual dinner, dance and raffle will be held in the Roosevelt University Library in Chicago. We will honor the Swedish American Genealogical Society Advisory Board.

## DALA HORSE / PIG / ROOSTER CRAFT

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m.

You may have heard of the Dala Horse, but did you know that there are also Dala Pigs and Dala Roosters? These are not as famous as the horse but still commonly found in homes around Sweden. You have this unique opportunity to paint your own rooster, pig or horse at the Museum.

## COOKING CLASS

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 4 p.m. online

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 6 p.m. in person

Join us for another cooking class series. In November we will make Kroppkakor - the Swedish version of potato dumplings. For the online class, you receive the recipe in advance so you can either cook along or watch and try later. It is an interactive Zoom so questions are welcome. The online cooking class is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. The in-person class is limited to 4 participants, \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members.

## GOT GLÖGG?

Friday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.

Glögg, or mulled wine, is a vital part of the Christmas season for Swedes. Join us for a fun competition to see who has the best glögg in Chicago! Those wanting to compete can reserve their space and receive the rules for competing on the Museum website. Tasters can purchase tickets on the Museum website or at the Museum. Admission is \$20 and includes sandwiches and samples from all competing glögg masters. Prepaid and confirmed tickets are required; no refunds available for cancellations within 5 days of event.

## BOOK CLUB

Saturday, Nov. 19, 1 p.m.

“The Historians: A Thrilling Novel of Conspiracy and Intrigue During World War II” by Cecilia Ekbäck

The Museum book club reads a wide range of books from the Nordic countries. Register for this free event by email ([museum@samac.org](mailto:museum@samac.org)). Buy the book in the Museum Store.

## ANDERSONVILLE JOY ON CLARK STREET

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

JOY ON CLARK returns this year! Clark Street businesses welcome folks to a dedicated day for active older adults for fun, holiday activities, tastings, experiences, and food. This year we are cultivating dance lessons, live signers, food and more to the day. Meet the Education Manager

*By Jacqueline Victor*

Hej! My name is Jacqueline Vi



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

## Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration

**The Children's Museum opens on Tuesday, Nov. 29!**

Museum members should be on the lookout for special members only events in October and November.

Note that once we re-open the Children's Museum hours are different from the Museum hours due to school tours.

### Children's Museum Hours

Monday, Closed

Tuesday - Thursday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.