

# Swedish-American Historical Society

October 2008

## Society marking 60th anniversary

### *Nils Hasselmo will speak at Nov. 8 dinner*

The Society will celebrate its 60th anniversary at a symposium and dinner Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Westmoreland Country Club, 2601 Old Glenview Road, Wilmette.

Founded Oct. 15, 1948, as an outgrowth of the Swedish Pioneer Centennial celebration, the Society was known originally as the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society. The name was changed in 1983.

The dinner speaker will be Nils Hasselmo, former president of the University of Minnesota

and a past president of the Society. Entertainment will be by Nordic Voices Chicago, who have performed at the city's Field Museum and Swedish American Museum Center.

The evening will begin with a 6 p.m. reception, followed by dinner and program at 7. Invitations have been mailed to all Society members, with an Oct. 30 reply deadline. Cost of the dinner is \$65 and of the afternoon symposium (see story below) \$30. Parking is available.

### **Afternoon symposium will look at the past and the future**

The afternoon symposium will feature three panels which will look back at the Society's first 60 years and ahead to the future as well as digitalization to make archival information and the *Quarterly* more widely available.

The panels will take place from 2 to 5 pm, with a coffee break in between. The first panel, "Looking Back," will be moderated by Eric Lund, sixth president of the Society (1976-82). The panelists will be:

**H. Arnold Barton**, retired professor of history at Southern Illinois University, editor of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, 1974-90, and a Society board member for 24 of the last 36 years.

**Nils Hasselmo**, also the dinner speaker, who served twice on the Society board, 1965-70 and 1980-86. He was elected president in 1984 and became chairman in 1985 when the board structure was changed to provide for a chairman as well as a president who would serve as executive officer.

**Harald Runblom**, retired professor of history

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### **Other stories**

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## **Afternoon symposium to look back, ahead**

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and director of the Center for Multiethnic Research at Uppsala University in Sweden.

The second panel on "Looking Ahead" will be moderated by Philip Anderson, president of the Society, and will feature three younger scholars:

**Anita Olson Gustafson**, associate professor of history at Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC, named the school's professor of the year in 2007.

**Joy K. Lintelman**, professor of history at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, selected to give the 2008 Ander Lecture in Immigration History at Augustana College Oct. 17.

**Kevin Proescholdt** of Minneapolis, director of the Izaak Walton League Wilderness and Public Lands Program and current chairman of the Society board of directors.

The third panel, on "The Challenges and Opportunities of Digitalization," will be moderated by Dag Blanck, director of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, as well as assistant professor at the Center for Multiethnic Research at Uppsala University..

**Anne Jenner**, director of archives and special collections at North Park University, including the Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago.

**Bruce Karstadt**, executive director of the American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis and honorary Swedish consul general for Minnesota.

**Kurt Peterson**, associate professor of history at North Park University.

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**Newsletter editor: Eric Lund**

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## ***Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago observing 40th anniversary***

As the Society celebrates its 60th anniversary, this year, the Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago, established by the Society in 1968, is observing its 40th.

The archives was the special project of the late Selma Jacobson, who challenged the Society in 1962, declaring that "it is time for somebody to begin collecting things."

The archives began in the basement of the old North Park College library before moving to the basement of the seminary building, where they survived a flood and funding and management concerns. Jacobson was the first archivist until she resigned in 1982 for health reasons.

Since then the collection has grown and found a home in several other locations under professional archivists, and today it is in modern storage and research facilities in the lower level of North Park University's new Brandel Library.

It is used by researchers from all parts of the world as well as local students. The largest collection by far is the records of the Independent Order of Svithiod and its various lodges.

Other major collections are those of the Society itself, American Daughters of Sweden, Dalkullan Publishing Company, Swedish American Athletic Association, Swedish Cultural Society and Swedish Club of Chicago.

Smaller but no less important collections include the American Colony in Jerusalem, Bishop Hill, Independent Order of Vikings and Swedish National Society of Chicago.

The archives today is under the direction of Anne Jenner. For more about the archives, additional collections and images from the photo collection, see the Society's new web site: >[swedishamericanhist.org](http://swedishamericanhist.org)<

Society notes

***Coming in the mail***

Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter is a booklet, "Why I Wrote the Novel About the Swedish Emigrants," by Wilhelm Moberg, with an introduction by Philip J. Anderson. This is a reprint of an address given by Moberg at the annual banquet of the Society Jan. 29, 1966.

By now you should have received your invitation to the Society's 60th anniversary symposium and dinner (see page 1).

The July issue of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* is on its way, with articles on "We must not stop now!: The Founding Fathers of the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society," by Eric Lund, and "Ethnicity versus Reality," by Eric J. Salomonsson, about the Swedish Cemetery Corporation of Worcester, Massachusetts.

Sometime in the coming weeks, you will be receiving a letter with information on our 60th anniversary fund-raising appeal and our plans for the future.

Up and running

***Visit our new web site***

The Society's web site has a new look and has been completely redesigned to make more information more easily available. The re-design was the work of Chris Brown of Seattle, who spent a month at the Society's office on the North Park campus in the spring.

Click on [swedishamericanhist.org](http://swedishamericanhist.org) to order books and past issues of the *Quarterly*, view photos from the archival collection, connect with other Swedish-American web sites, learn more about the Society and find a wealth of other information.

**Rudolph Vecoli, immigration historian, dies at 81**

Rudolph J. Vecoli, professor of history and director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, died June 17 in St. Paul at age 81.

The son of Italian immigrants, he joined the University of Minnesota faculty in 1967 and served until 2005. His initial interest in Italian immigration expanded to studies of immigrant groups from all parts of the world.

In 1996, he was one of the main speakers at the Society's Conference on Swedes in the Twin Cities at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. His address, "Immigrants in the Twin Cities: Melting Pot or Mosaic?" appears in the Society's book on the conference, "Swedes in the Twin Cities."

***Veto threatens Bishop Hill sites, Sandburg home***

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's Aug. 16 veto of funds for three Bishop Hill landmarks and Carl Sandburg's birthplace in Galesburg threaten to force their closing to visitors.

The cuts are in the budget of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and would close the Bishop Hill State Historic Museum, the Bjorklund Hotel and the Colony Church, all owned and operated by the state.

The Heritage Steeple building museum, Henry County Museum, Vasa Archives and Bishop Hill's many shops and restaurants as well as tours continue as usual.

Illinois legislators were working last month on a bill to restore the funding. A petition is being circulated on the internet by the Swedish American Museum of Chicago and others.

## SAHS at 60

### *Society has published 25 books since 1950*

As the Society looks back on its first 60 years, it can point with pride to its 25 books since 1950.

Some are out of print, but a number are available on the society's internet home page, including:

**Farm, Forge and Philosophy: Chapters from a Swedish Immigrant's Life in America**, by Adolph Burnett Benson. 1961.

**Wertmuller, Artist and Immigrant Farmer**, by Franklin D. Scott. 1963.

**From Isolationism to Involvement: The Swedish Immigrant Press in Transition**, by Finis Herbert Capps. 1966.

**Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, 1820-1850**, by Nils William Olsson. 1967.

**Letters from the Promised Land: Swedes in America, 1840-1914**, by H. Arnold Barton. 1975.

**Wheat Flour Messiah: Eric Jansson of Bishop Hill**, by Paul Elmen. 1976.

**Travels in America, 1851-1855**, by Rosalie Roos. 1982.

**Swedish Place-Names in North America**, by Otto Robert Landelius, edited by Raymond Jarvi. 1985.

**Scandinavian Immigrants and Education in North America**, edited by Philip J. Anderson, Dag Blanck and Peter Kivisto. 1985.

**Peter Cassel and Iowa's New Sweden**, edited by H. Arnold Barton. 1995.

**On the Left in America: Memoirs of the Scandinavian-American Labor Movement**, by Henry Bengston. 1995.

**Swedes in the Twin Cities: Immigrant Life and Minnesota's Urban Frontier**, edited by Philip J. Anderson and Dag Blanck. 2001.

**Ingrid: My Swedish-American Life and Adventures**, by Ingrid Bergstrom. 2003.

**Scandinavians in Old and New Lands: Essays in Honor of H. Arnold Barton**, edited by Philip J. Anderson, Dag Blanck and Byron J. Nordstrom. 2004.

Other books are also available, including:

**Swedes in Chicago**, by Ulf Beijbom.

**Sweden: The Nation's History**, by Franklin Scott.

**A Search for Ancestors**, by H. Arnold Barton.

## New members

### *Society adds 35 from 14 states*

New members are the life blood of any organization. The Society has recently added 35 from 14 states and Sweden, including:

Karin Moen Abercrombie, Chicago, IL  
Vince and Sally Anderson, Chicago, IL  
Christina Barkel, Birmingham, MI  
Loran K. Bohman, Youngwood, PA  
Jann Coles Bonander, Sanger, CA  
Michael Boyd, Langley, WA  
Janis Carlson, Libertyville, IL  
Daniel Danielson, Bloomington, MN  
Craig Diangelo, New Britain, CT  
Lori Dillmn, Kalamazoo, MI  
Jean Forest, Cleveland, OH  
Rolf Forsberg, Lake Forest, IL  
Paul R. Frederiksen, Toledo, OH  
Joan Lindquist Graham, Richmond, CA  
Sven-Inge Idofsson, Hamneda, Sweden  
Paul Jevert, Turlock, CA  
B. Knudsen, Kandiyohi, MN  
Kirk Larson, Atlanta, GA  
Roy Larson, Evanston, IL  
S.R. Lee, Palo Alto, CA  
Sandra Michaels, Gurnee, IL  
Ingrid Moorehouse, Chicago, IL  
Erik Nilsson, Torrance, CA  
Janet Owen, Austin, TX  
Sylvia Rose  
Ewa Rydaker, Roseville, MN  
Mark Safstrom, Seattle, WA  
David Seaquist, Waltham, PA  
Karen Snowberg, Pleasantville, NY  
Cletus R. Swanson, Peoria, IL  
Ed Thorpe, Guernsey, WY  
James Wedberg, Bethesda, MD  
Kim-Eric Williams, West Chester, PA  
Cliff Winddotter, Gränna, Sweden  
Gene Wunderlich, Annandale, VA