

# SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Established to Record and Interpret the Swedish Presence in America*

Newsletter / October 2009

Fall dinner Nov. 14 at Museum

## *Zorn authors to talk about and autograph book*

The Society's fall dinner Saturday, Nov. 14, will feature William and Willow Hagans talking about and autographing their book, *Zorn in America: A Swedish Impressionist in the Gilded Age*. The dinner will be held at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St., Chicago, beginning with a wine and cheese reception at 6, followed by dinner catered by Tre Kronor restaurant at 7 and program at 8. For reservations (deadline Nov. 9), please see the form on page 3.

The Hagans spent twenty years in research and collecting Anders Zorn etchings, resulting in their book, published by the Society and our 2009 dividend book. They will share stories of Zorn and the paintings, including those of three U.S. Presidents, that he completed during seven lengthy visits to America between 1893 and 1911. Zorn's work is held in collections at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Art Institute of Chicago and other museums. The Hagans' collection has been exhibited at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. Their book may be ordered online through our website, [swedishamericanhist.org](http://swedishamericanhist.org).

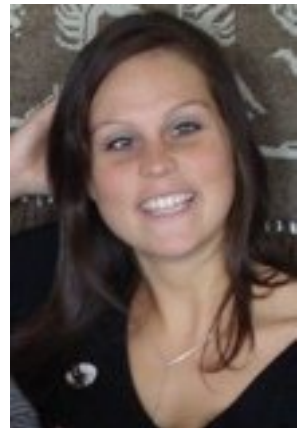
The Nov. 14 dinner also will include traditional music from Dalarna as well as a report by Society President Philip J. Anderson on the Society, its current and future projects.

## Arnold and Aina Barton moving to Sweden in December

**H. Arnold Barton**, long-time member of the Society board of directors and former editor of the *Quarterly* (1974-90), and his wife, Aina, will be moving to Stockholm, Sweden, around December 1. They are life members of the Society and plan to remain active in its affairs in any way they can in Sweden. They also hope to keep in touch with their good friends in the Society and see them when they are in Stockholm. Their address and telephone number there will be: Gärdesvägen 17, SE-135 51 Tyresö, Sweden; tel. (011-46-8) 712 85 90. Their e-mail address remains the same, [habarton@siu.edu](mailto:habarton@siu.edu).

## Meet Solveig, our new office manager

**Solveig Sandal** joined the Society July 1 as our new office manager. Solveig is from Denmark and is in the United States with her husband, Simon Johnsen, who has a post-doctoral appointment in chemistry at Northwestern University in Evanston. Solveig has bachelor and master's degrees in library science and information from Aalborg University in Denmark. She has served as an instructor at Aalborg, a law firm librarian and a librarian at Aarhus (Denmark) School of Business.



Solveig succeeds Maiken Jakobsson Sparshot as SAHS office manager and office manager of the Center for Scandinavian Studies of North Park University. She can be reached at 773-244-5592.

## Swedes in Canada project still targeted for 2010

Society director **Elinor Barr** is still hoping for publication next year of her "Swedes in Canada" book. Almost 600 manuscript pages were completed in March and sent to five reviewers, who returned their comments during the summer with suggestions, including cutting the length. So far (September), Elinor has rearranged four of the twelve chapters in accord with the suggestions. "It is not easy," she says, "to choose which interesting stories to leave out, but it must be done." For more on the project, see [swedesincanada.ca](http://swedesincanada.ca).

## News of members

### *Anne-Charlotte Harvey named 2009 Ander lecturer*

**Anne-Charlotte Harvey**, emerita professor of theater at San Diego State University, was selected to deliver the 2009 Fritiof Ander Lecture in Immigration History at Augustana College Oct. 9. Her topic was Swedish-American comic stereotypes in American popular culture. Anne-Charlotte, this year's Swedish-American of the Year of the Vasa Order in Sweden, is known as a performer of material derived from her research in Swedish immigrant music and theater. She has given programs for the Society several times.

Archivist **Anne Jenner** worked with John E. Peterson to produce *North Park University*, a history in photographs published May 11 by Arcadia Press as the latest in its Campus History series. Together they sorted through thousands of photographs in the archives. "We have a fantastic collection," says Jenner, who is also Society archivist.

**Byron Nordstrom**, editor of the Society *Quarterly*, retired in May as professor of history at Gustavus Adolphus College. He has recently been helping develop an exhibit opening next month marking the 80th anniversary of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis. The institute was founded Nov. 30, 1929, by Swedish-American newspaper publisher Swan Turnblad.

**Kurt Peterson**, North Park University associate professor of history and a Society director, is the author of *Lincoln Land: The History of Abraham Lincoln's Coles County (Illinois) Farm*. The book was published by the Friends of Abraham Lincoln's Farm LLC.

#### **Bernice Brandel, 1914-2009**

Bernice Brandel, a Society supporter for many years, died July 8 at Covenant Village in Northbrook, Ill., at age 95. She and her late husband, Paul W. Brandel, helped fund North Park University's Swedish exchange program and she was the lead donor for construction of the Paul W. and Bernice P. Brandel Library, which houses the Society archives.

#### **Sven Flodstrom, 1922-2009**

Sven Flodstrom, first chairperson of Chicago's Swedish American Museum, which he called his "life-long dream," died July 22 in Deerfield, Ill., at age 86. His Flodstrom Construction Company built many projects in the Chicago area. With museum founder Kurt Mathiasson he raised funds and directed remodeling of both the original and present museums in Andersonville.

## **New members**

The Society has welcomed thirteen new members since the last newsletter, including five from California. The new members, from nine states, are:

Sally Backman, Fargo, ND  
Brita Butler-Wall, Seattle, WA  
Frances Cochran, Menlo Park, CA  
Jeffrey D. Elmquist, Rice Lake, WI  
Mary Garrison, Lincoln, NE  
Ann Jackson, Costa Mesa, CA  
Shelly Johnson, Elk Grove, CA  
Richard Kehrberg, Ames, IA  
Alice Kenny, Kansas City, MO  
Elaine Lowell, Red Bluff, CA  
Susan Schalk, Claremore, OK  
Craig Swanson, Grand Rapids, MI  
Ingrid Wicken, Norco, CA

### **Exhibit will celebrate Dag Hammarskjöld's life**

North Park University's Center for Scandinavian Studies will celebrate the life and legacy of Dag Hammarskjöld with a video and photography exhibit at the Brandel Library Oct. 23-Nov. 13. Hammarskjöld was United Nations secretary general from 1953 to 1961, when he was killed in a plane crash in Africa. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously.

Dean of the college and center executive director **Charles Peterson** will speak at the exhibit's opening reception at 4 p.m. Oct. 23, the day before UN Day, on "The Motivation of a Life of Significance."

#### **Attention authors:**

### *Quarterly needs articles*

Byron Nordstrom, editor of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, is seeking articles for future publication. Submissions may be sent to him at [byron@myclearwave.net](mailto:byron@myclearwave.net).

Lead article in the current (July) issue is a 1950 history by Henry Bengston, Gunnar Adolfson and Martin Sundström on the Swedish Educational League, an adult education experiment in Chicago's Lake View neighborhood. A second article by Marion Hvistendahl discusses a similar experiment in Northfield, Minn.

The October issue will have an article on the early years of the Augustana Synod, which will be observing its 150th anniversary next year.

## FALL DINNER MEETING RESERVATION

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
3225 W. Foster Avenue, Box 48  
Chicago, IL 60625-4816

Phone: (773) 583-5722  
E-mail: [ssandal@northpark.edu](mailto:ssandal@northpark.edu)

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$30.00 per person for the dinner November 14.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Or charge my credit card:  Visa  Master Card

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Please respond by November 9.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

## About our Swedish-American Archives at North Park University

The Society's Archives, the Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago, is a research depository established in 1968. It constitutes a rich documentary record of the Swedish-American experience in Chicago, once "the world's second-largest Swedish city." These holdings provide a resource for scholars, students, genealogists, American and Swedish journalists, and others. Materials include letters, diaries, family histories, organization records, newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets, music, photographs, books, oral histories, and reference files.

The largest collection by far is the records of the Independent Order of Svithiod and many of its lodges. Other major local collections are those of the Swedish Pioneer (now Swedish-American) Historical Society, American Daughters of Sweden, Swedish American Athletic Association, Swedish Cultural Society, Dalkullan Publishing Company, Linnea Aid Society, and Swedish Club of Chicago.

Smaller, but no less important historically, are records of the American Colony in Jerusalem, Bishop Hill, Independent Order of Vikings, Swedish National Society of Chicago, Swedish Educational League, Svithiod Singing

Club, Swedish Engineers Society, Swedish Journalist Society [Chicago Chapter], and Swedish Typographers Union, as well as the papers of Henry Bengston, Carl Hjalmar Lundquist, and Gustav Stromberg and his wife, Helga, known as Syster Benediction. The Archives also includes an extensive collection of Swedish sheet music.

The archives contains primarily records of Chicago-area organizations and their members, not the family vital statistics usually sought by the genealogy researcher. The Society by definition does not engage in genealogical research. Important repositories of information of genealogical interest in Chicago include the Newberry Library and the Circuit Court of Cook County clerk's office. The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois is a national archives and research institute assisting those researching their Swedish-American family history.

The Society's Archives are located in North Park University's Brandel Library. For more information or to make an appointment to use the Archives, contact the Director of Archives and Special Collections, North Park University, at [archives@northpark.edu](mailto:archives@northpark.edu) or (773) 244-6224.

## SAHS BOOK ORDER FORM

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
3225 W. Foster Avenue, Box 48  
Chicago, IL 60625-4816

Phone: (773) 583-5722  
E-mail: [ssandal@northpark.edu](mailto:ssandal@northpark.edu)

Please send me copies of the books checked on the list below.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Or charge my credit card:  Visa  Master Card

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

### Book list

The Society web site, [swedishamericanhist.org](http://swedishamericanhist.org), lists 50 books available for purchase on line. They include these recent and earlier popular books, which may also be ordered using the form above. List price is followed by price for members, paper where indicated.

**Zorn in America: A Swedish Impressionist in the Gilded Age**, by William and Willow Hagans (Chicago: Swedish-American Historical Society, 2009). \$29.95/\$25.00.

**I Go to America: Swedish-American Women and the Life of Mina Anderson**, by Joy Lintelman (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2009). \$29.95/\$25.00.

**Why I Wrote the Novel About Swedish Immigrants**, by Vilhelm Moberg (Chicago: SAHS, 2008). \$6.95/\$4.00, paper.

**The Old Country and the New: Essays on Swedes and America**, by H. Arnold Barton (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2007). \$55.00/\$44.00.

**Ingrid: My Swedish-American Life and Adventures**, by Ingrid Bergstrom. (SAHS, 2003). \$16.50/\$14.95, paper

**Swedes in the Twin Cities: Immigrant Life and Minnesota's Urban Frontier**, Philip J. Anderson and Dag Blanck, editors. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2001). \$34.95/\$24.00.

**The Search for Ancestors: A Swedish-American Family Saga**, by H. Arnold Barton (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1979). \$24.00/\$21.60.

**Farm, Forge and Philosophy: Chapters from a Swedish Immigrant's Life**, by Adolph Benson (Chicago: Swedish Pioneer Historical Society, 1961). \$1.00.

**Swedish Recipes Old and New**. (Chicago: American Daughters of Sweden, 1955). \$12.00/\$10.00, paper. Over 100,000 copies sold.

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Newsletter editor: Eric Lund

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