

# SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Newsletter /September 2010

'Contact, Conflict and Confluence, 1860-2010'

## *November conference will focus on Augustana and Covenant*

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Augustana Lutheran Synod and the 125th anniversary of the Evangelical Covenant Church. To mark the occasion, the Swedish-American Historical Society, in cooperation with four other groups, is sponsoring a conference Nov. 5-6 at North Park University in Chicago.

Formed in 1860, the Augustana Synod was the largest Swedish-American organization in the United States until 1962, when it became part of the new Lutheran Church in America, which as a result of later mergers became the present Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The Covenant Church was organized in 1885 as the Mission Covenant Church by Mission Friends who sought a non-confessional identity as a "believers' church."

Both shared roots in Sweden's religious life and a common history in North America as immigrant denominations. Each ultimately followed their own trajectories as they found their way in American life through the generations.

"As Augustana marks its 150th anniversary and the Covenant its 125th, it is fitting to observe these celebrations with a symposium that explores the nexus of relationships between the two," said Society president Philip J. Anderson. Joining SAHS as co-sponsors are the Augustana Heritage Association, the Commission on Covenant History, North Park Theological Seminary and

(Continued on page 4)

### Registration details

Cost of the conference, including all sessions and the dinner, is \$60.00, or \$30.00 for students. You can register by filling out the form on page 4 or by using the Society website, [swedishamericanhist.org](http://swedishamericanhist.org). The deadline is Oct. 26. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Holiday Inn North Shore, 5300 W. Touhy, Skokie, phone 847-679-8900. The conference rate is \$99.00 plus 9.5 percent tax (mention the Society when calling).



Carl Milles sculpture at Cranbrook

## *Weekend in Detroit a hit*

Thirty-one Society members enjoyed an outstanding weekend in the Detroit area Apr. 23-25. Participants came from Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and Massachusetts, as well as Michigan, for visits to Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn and the famed artists' colony Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills. The weekend also included a sumptuous smorgasbord at the local IKEA and a festive dinner at the Swedish Club of Metropolitan Detroit.

The Detroit weekend was the latest in a line of such Society programs dating back to 1979. Previous programs at sites in Swedish-American history have included Western Illinois, 1979 and 2006; Minneapolis (Moberg country), 1981, 1990 and 2008; St. Louis, 1983; Milwaukee and Pine Lake, Wisconsin, 1992; Peter Cassel Days in New Sweden, Iowa, 1995; New Sweden on the Delaware, Philadelphia, 1997; Lindsborg, Kansas, 1999; Rockford, Illinois, 2002; Door County, Wisconsin, 2002; Worcester, Massachusetts, 2003, and Austin, Texas, 2005.

For a full report on Detroit with photographs, see our web site, [swedishamericanhist.org](http://swedishamericanhist.org).

# Swedish inventor gave us jukebox, parking meter

By Stephen Anderson

Adjacent to the visitor information desk at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago is a parking meter that suggests it was invented by a Swede. True, of course, but the contributions of Justus Percival Seeburg (born Sjöberg) to American life went far beyond that.

He is remembered primarily as the inventor of the jukebox, which the Seeburg Corp. introduced 80 years ago as the eight-selection Audiophone, but he also pioneered coin-operated washing machines, refrigerators, pinball games and dispensers of ice cream and soft drinks.

Born April 20, 1871, in Göteborg, Seeburg entered the United States at age 16 and worked for piano manufacturers in Chicago and Rockford until 1905. He joined the Marquette Piano Co. and developed the first coin-operated models. He founded the J.P. Seeburg Co. two years later to distribute Marquette products.

One hundred years ago, the company began selling Seeburg devices. Among them was the Orchestrion, which included piano, violins, mandolin and percussion instruments. Another product was the mortuary organ.

During World War II, the Seeburg Corp. concentrated on producing electrical equipment for the United States armed forces. It received the Army-Navy E for Excellence Award four times.

Returning to his specialty in 1949, Seeburg ushered in the "Silver Age" of jukeboxes with the first 100-selection coin-operated phonographs that became popular in restaurants and bars throughout the world. He was honored by the king of Sweden as one of the country's foremost inventors.

After Justus P. Seeburg retired, his sons sold the business in 1956. He died in Stockholm on Oct. 21, 1958, at age 87. The Swedish American Museum is seeking memorabilia—photographs, printed matter, advertisements, insignia, etc. An appropriate display is contemplated. Anyone with material may contact museum executive director Karin Moen Abercrombie at 773-728-8111.

*(Steven Anderson, a member of the Society and Museum boards of directors, is a great nephew of Seeburg. This article first appeared in the Museum newsletter, Flaggan.)*

---

Newsletter Editor: Eric Lund

---

## 2010 dividend book

### *"Shuttle in Her Hand"*

*Shuttle in Her Hand, A Swedish Immigrant Weaver in America*, by Marion Marzolf, is the Society's 2010 dividend book for sustaining, donor, benefactor and life members. Regular members may purchase the book at 10 percent discount, or \$14.50, plus postage.

*Shuttle*, the first novel published by the Society in its 62-year history, is the story of Maja Lisa Lindholm and her journey from Rättvik, Sweden, to Stockholm, then Appalachia, Grand Rapids, Mich., and Chicago. It includes actual people and places and combines historical accuracy with weaving lore.

Marzolf, a retired professor of journalism and American and Scandinavian studies at the University of Michigan, says a number of weavers in twentieth century America were born and trained in Sweden; other Americans traveled to Sweden to learn weaving.

## SAHS Quarterly

### *Coming in the next issues*

Articles in the July *Quarterly* include Part II of "The Mountains for Multiple Audiences: Olof Grafström's Journey to Silver Lake, Washington," by Brian Magnusson, and "Unveiling the Mystery of August Brodin," by Kevin Proescholdt. A 1945 article by Brodin in the October 2009 *Quarterly* on Swedish study circles was accompanied by an editor's note by Byron Nordstrom wondering who Brodin was and Proescholdt set out to find the answer.

The October *Quarterly* will have articles by Thomas Tredway, former president of Augustana College, and Dag Blanck marking the 150th anniversary of the Augustana Lutheran Synod.

## News of the archives

### *Svithiod collection expanded*

The Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago's extensive collection of Independent Order of Svithiod records was expanded this spring with the addition of 16 binders of Grand Lodge board of directors, convention and other material spanning 62 years, 1953-2005. Archivist Anne Jenner called it a significant addition.

Kajsa Anderson, who assisted in the archives for the past two years and carried out the digitization of the Society *Quarterly*, began graduate study in library and information science at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana this fall. She has received a graduate assistantship in the American Library Association archives at the university.

## News of members

### *Swedish-American of Year*

**John E. Norton** is the latest Society member to be named Vasa Order Swedish-American of the Year. He was feted in August at a round of festivities in Sweden. A former director of the Society (1967-72), he joins previous honorees Arnold Barton, Glen Brolander, Nils Hasselmo, Selma Jacobson and Nils William Olsson. In addition to the Society, he is active in the Augustana Historical Society and the Bishop Hill Heritage Association.

**Willow Hagans**, known to Society members as co-author with her husband, William, of *Zorn in America, A Swedish Impressionist in the Gilded Age*, is the new chairman of the Swedish Council of America.

**Frederick Hemke**, Northwestern University professor of music, was informed in May that he had received two Fulbright grants for study abroad, in London and Riga, Latvia. He chose to accept the London award and teach at the Royal College of Music.

Society board member **Mark Safstrom** is the new editor of *Pietisten* magazine. Until recently a teaching assistant in Scandinavian at the University of Washington, he has been given a three-year teaching appointment at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

## Karin Andersson

### *New office manager*

The new office manager of the Society is Karin Andersson, who succeeds Solvie Bach Sandal. Solvie left at the beginning of summer to give birth to a son, August. She and her husband and son will return in December to Denmark.

Karin Andersson is a native of Umeå, Sweden. She came to the U.S. in 1982 and worked for 19 years at the Swedish Trade Council in Chicago and seven at the Swedish American Museum. She and her husband, Olof, have a grown son, Jonas.

In addition to her work for the Society, she is secretary of the Center for Scandinavian Studies at North Park University.

### *Coming in April*

Of interest to Society members is the 101st annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies which will be held in Chicago next Apr. 28-30. Details will follow in the next newsletter. North Park University is in charge of planning and arrangements for the meeting.

## 1923-2010

### *Rev. Roy E. Olson*

The Rev. Roy E. Olson, retired Evangelical Covenant Church pastor and chaplain, died Mar. 26 of skin cancer in his home in Skokie. He was 86. A long-time member of the Society, he served 12 years (1992-2010) as an active member of the board of directors.



Born in Rockport, Mass., he was a 1948 graduate of North Park Theological Seminary. He subsequently served as pastor of Covenant churches in Mason City, Iowa; New Sweden, Me.; Pawtucket, R.I., Brooklyn, N.Y., and Bridgeport, Conn.

Founding president of the Covenant Chaplains Association in Chicago, he served as a chaplain at Swedish Covenant Hospital, the Covenant Home of Chicago and Covenant Village in Northbrook.

## 1914-2010

### *Dorothy Jacobson Vann*

Dorothy Jacobson Vann, an oral historian and long-time Society member, died May 10 at Brandel Care Center in Northbrook. She was 95. She was preceded in death by her husband, Reynold, a former teacher and administrator at North Park College.

A Society board member 1975-83, she was a mainstay of the program and archives committees during that time. In the 1980s, she set out to compile oral histories of older members of the North Park community as well as histories of older homes. The interviews have been transcribed and are available with other material she collected in the Society archives at North Park University.

She was the daughter of a Covenant minister who stood up to the Ku Klux Klan in Nebraska, resulting in a cross being burned on their lawn. She and her husband came to Chicago from Kansas in 1941 when he took a position as a chemistry teacher at North Park Academy. Dorothy later worked in the college library. She also was a ceramicist and painter.

Residents for more than 50 years, she and Rey tried to begin racial integration of the North Park community by renting the upstairs apartment of their two-flat to an African-American couple. They were frequent hosts in their home to North Park Swedish exchange students and to Society board members.

---

## RESERVATION FORM

### FALL CONFERENCE – NOV. 5-6

- ☐ Check enclosed for my/our reservation for \_\_\_\_ persons at \$60.00 each, students \$30.00  
☐ Or charge my ☐ Visa or ☐ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail reservation form (or register online):

**Swedish-American Historical Society**  
**3225 W. Foster Ave., Box 48**  
**Chicago, IL 60625**

**Phone: (773) 244-5295**  
**E-mail: [info@swedishamericanhist.org](mailto:info@swedishamericanhist.org)**  
**Website: [www.swedishamericanhist.org](http://www.swedishamericanhist.org)**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline Oct. 26.** Please include e-mail address

---

## *November conference will focus on Augustana and Covenant*

(Continued from Page 1)

the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College.

The conference, “Contact, Conflict and Confluence, 1860-2010,” will open Friday evening with a keynote address by Thomas Tredway, former president of Augustana College, on “Two Anniversaries and Five Historians.” It will conclude Saturday evening with a dinner and audience-participation hymn fest in Anderson Chapel. In between, four panel sessions will explore various aspects of the interrelationship of the two churches.

The panels, on Saturday, will consist of:

### **8:45-10:15, Historical Patterns (1840-1900)**

Philip Anderson, North Park Seminary, on “Two Historians and the Shared Identity of Two American Churches: Denominational Historiography in the Writings of G. Everett Arden and Karl A. Olsson.”

Mark Safstrom, University of Illinois, Champaign, “Peter Paul Waldenström: A Good Lutheran?”

Maria Erling, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa., on “Mission Friends and Augustana’s Mission to the Comanches, 1879-1880.”

### **10:45-12:15, Historical Patterns (1900-1960)**

Dag Blanck, Uppsala University and Augustana College, on “Two Churches and the Swedish-American Community.”

Mark Granquist, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, on “After the Transition to English: Relations Between Augustana and the Covenant in the 1920s and 1930s.”

Kurt Peterson, North Park University, on “To Join or ‘Go It Alone’: Post World War II Ecumenism in the Covenant and Augustana Traditions.”

### **1:30-3:00, Theology, Bible and Mission**

John Weborg, North Park Seminary; John Phelan, North Park Seminary, and David Lindberg, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

### **3:30-4:45, Memory, Merger and Multiethnicity (1960-2010)**

Presenters and audience participation with Martin Marty, University of Chicago, as moderator.

Marty will be the speaker at the dinner, offering reflections on the symposium. The 8:15 p.m. Anderson Chapel hymn celebration, to be led by Gracia Grindel, Luther Seminary; Glen Wiberg, Covenant pastor, and Royce Eckhardt, Covenant church musician, will be open to the public.

Helping underwrite costs of the conference in addition to registration fees are grants from the Swedish Council of America (\$4,000), the Augustana Heritage Association (\$2,000) and the Commission on Covenant History (\$1,500).

### **Latest in a long series**

The Augustana-Covenant conference Nov. 5-6 is the latest in a series sponsored by the Society during the past 50 years, including:

1962 – Symposium on the study of Swedish immigration history, at North-western University, Evanston. (See April 1962 *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*.) [The *Quarterly* is available online at our website.]

1982 – Conference on Swedish-American research resources, at Augustana College. (See January 1983 *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*.)

1983 – Oral history conference, at North Park College. (See July 1983 *Quarterly*.)

1985 – Swedish-American archives and library networking conference, at Augustana College. (See July 1985 *Quarterly*.)

1988 – “Swedish-American Life in Chicago,” at North Park College. (See January 1989 *Quarterly* and Society book published in 1992.)

1992 – Conference on “Scandinavian Immigrants and Education in North America,” at Augustana College. (See July 1992 *Quarterly* and Society book published in 1995.)

1996 – Conference on “Fitting In: Swedes and Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Sweden and Chicago,” at North Park College. (See July 1996 *Quarterly*.)

1996 – “Swedish-American Life in the Twin Cities,” at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul. (See Society book published in 2001.)

1998 – “Memory, History and Ethnicity,” at Doubletree Hotel, Skokie, IL. (See January 1999 *Quarterly*.)

2007 – “Friends and Neighbors? Swedes and Norwegians in the United States,” at Augustana College. (Book forthcoming.)

## **Heritage Gathering VII celebrates Augustana**

The Society’s upcoming November conference will be the second this year marking the 150th anniversary of the Augustana Lutheran Synod. The first was Augustana Heritage Gathering VII, sponsored by the Augustana Heritage Association and held June 10-13 at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill.

The first day featured a historical tour to Andover and Moline with visits to the Jenny Lind Chapel, Andover church and cemetery, and First Lutheran Church in Moline. The opening event following dinner was a hymn sing and worship service, at which Archbishop Anders Wejryd of Sweden was the preacher.

Friday and Saturday each featured two major sessions as well as workshops on such topics as hymnody, the role of women, the Americanization of the synod, and founder Lars Paul Esbjörn’s contacts with and interest in the synod after his return to Sweden.

Major session topics Friday were “Augustana and the Global Church” and “Augustana and the Future of Christian Education” led by three college presidents, Dr. Steven C. Bahls, Augustana, Rock Island; Dr. Edward F. Leonard III, Bethany, Lindsborg, Kan., and Dr. Jack R. Ohle, Gustavus Adolphus, St. Peter, Minn.

Major session topics Saturday were “Augustana and Lutheran Identity in America” and “Lutherans in Society and Augustana.”

Workshop leaders Saturday included Society president Philip J. Anderson, Dag Blanck, Mark Granquist and Thomas Tredway, seventh president of Augustana College, 1975-2003.

Two books, one new, one recent, deal with the history of Augustana:

*The Augustana Story: Shaping Lutheran Identity in North America*, by Maria Erling, associate professor at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa., and Mark Granquist, history professor at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. (2008). (See review in the January 2010 *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*)

*Coming of Age: A History of Augustana College, 1935-1975*, by Thomas Tredway (2010).

The first Augustana Heritage Gathering was held in 1998 in Chautauqua, N.Y.

## Book notes

### *Wins Top History Prize*

*"I Go to America": Swedish-American Women and the Life of Mina Anderson*, by **Joy K. Lintelman**, won the 2010 Minnesota Book Award for general nonfiction. Lintelman, a professor at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., is a Society director. Her book was a Society dividend for sustaining and life members last year. The annual book competition is sponsored by the St. Paul Public Library.

Quarterly editor **Byron Nordstrom**, professor emeritus of history at Gustavus Adolphus College, is author of the recently published *Culture and Customs of Sweden*, latest book in the Greenwood Press *Culture and Customs in Europe* series.

**Lilly Setterdahl's** latest book is *Chicago Swedes: They spoke from the heart*, which includes 340 oral histories and 300 photos that were produced by her late husband, Lennart Setterdahl.

**The Rev. Arthur A.R. Nelson** has written *Prayers Public and Personal*, a new book from Covenant Publications. Nelson is a retired Covenant minister who served a term as president of North Park College in the early 1980s.

## News notes

### *Historic church burns*

The historic New Sweden (Iowa) United Methodist Church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground June 19. A painting of the first log church used by the congregation in 1854 was one of the few items salvaged. "It's a great piece of history lost," said the Lockridge fire chief.

The Norwegian American Historical Association, on which the Society was modeled in 1948, will celebrate its 85th anniversary at an all-day event Saturday, Oct. 23, at St. Olaf College, Northfield Minn., where it has its headquarters. The association was founded in 1925.

**Agneta Rosenberg** has been named chairman of Chicago's Gothenburg Sister City Committee by Mayor Richard J. Daley. Chicago has 28 sister cities, of which the relationship with Gothenburg is one of the oldest. The mayor of Gothenburg was a visitor to Chicago this summer.

The Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center at Augustana College is hosting a week-long Swedish film festival Oct. 11-15, concluding with a symposium Oct. 16 at which speakers including Society members **Larry Scott** and **Rochelle Wright** will comment on the five films. Both have taught and written about Swedish film.

## Applications invited

### **Nils William and Dagmar Olsson Research Fund**

Established in 1969, the Olsson Research Fund provides modest grants to help defray expenses of original research in the field of Swedish-American immigration history. Grant proposals should include a curriculum vitae, project description (2-4 pages) and itemized estimate of expenses.

Letters of application, together with the required documents should be sent to Philip J. Anderson, Chair, Awards and Grants Committee, Swedish-American Historical Society, 3225 W. Foster Ave., Box 48, Chicago, IL 60625-4895.

### **Franklin D. Scott Prize**

This is a \$250 prize awarded for the best article by a writer previously unpublished in the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*. The prize is named for the late Franklin Scott, historian, former president of the Swedish-American Historical Society, and former editor of the quarterly.

Contributions, preferably on a CD with an accompanying print copy, should be addressed to the editor, Byron J. Nordstrom, 32342 390th St., LeSueur, MN 56058.

Articles should be double spaced, with footnotes numbered serially and placed at the end. Length: 15 to 20 pages, including notes.

## Luxury at sea

### *The Swedish American Line*

An exhibit at the Emigrantregister in Karlstad recalls the role in Swedish-American history of the Swedish American Line, whose elegant ocean liners including the *Drottningholm*, *Gripsholm*, *Kungsholm* and *Stockholm* carried Swedes and others to America and Swedish-Americans to Sweden for visits.

The story of the Line would make an interesting *Quarterly* article. Its passenger history spanned 60 years, 1915-1975. During World War II, the *Kungsholm* was acquired by the U.S. Maritime Commission for \$6 million and became a troopship, the *USS John Ericsson*. In 1956, the *Stockholm* collided in the New York harbor with the *SS Andria Doria*.