

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established to Record and Interpret the Swedish Presence in America

Newsletter / November 2011

Eight Society members are honored for service

Kerstin Lane recognized as Swedish-American of the Year

Eight Society members have been honored recently for service to the Scandinavian-American community and its institutions. They are:



Kerstin Lane

Eric Lund, Eloise and LeRoy Nelson, and Donald Olson, recipients of Swedish Council of America Awards of Merit at a dinner Oct. 7 in Chicago.

Stephen Anderson, honored as the Swedish Museum 2010 Volunteer of the Year at a recognition dinner Apr. 12.

Lane, honorary Swedish consul general for Illinois, served as first paid executive director of Chicago's Swedish-American Museum from 1988 to 2006, a period of spectacular growth during which the museum went from 1,000 square feet of rented space to 24,000 square feet in a building of its own. A 1974 immigrant, she is also active in the Swedish-American Historical Society, SWEA (Swedish Women's Educational Association) and the North Park University Center for Scandinavian Studies.

She is the latest Society member to be named Swedish-American of the Year. They include Glenn Seaborg, 1962; Rudolph Peterson, 1965; Nils William Olsson, 1969; Curtis Carlson, 1981; H. Arnold Barton, 1988; Nils Hasselmo, 1991; Glen Brolander, 1998; Anne-Charlotte Harvey, 2009, and John Norton, last year.

Kerstin Lane, honored July 30-31 in Filipstad and Karlstad, Sweden, as the 2011 Vasa Order Swedish-American of the Year.

Odd Lovoll, honored by Norway's Fritt Ord (Freedom of Expression) foundation Sept. 6 in Oslo.

Byron J. Nordstrom, awarded the Swedish-American Historical Society Carl Sandburg Medal at the annual meeting Nov. 5.

The Carl Sandburg Medal



Awarded to Byron Nordstrom, Nov. 5, 2011

Lovoll, retired King Olav V professor of history and Norwegian at St. Olaf College, was honored for his 2010 book, *Norwegian Newspapers in America*, for which Fritt Ord financed his research. As editor of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, he produced 32 publications between 1980 and 2000, including his own *A Folk Epic: The Bygdela in America* (1975); *The Promise of America: A History of the Norwegian-American People* (1983); *A Century of Urban Life: The Norwegians in Chicago before 1930* (1988), and *The Promise Fulfilled: A Portrait of Norwegian Americans Today* (1998). *Norwegians on the Prairie: Ethnicity and the Development of the Country Town* followed in 2006.

Nordstrom, retired professor of history at Gustavus Adolphus College, has been editor of the Society's quarterly since 1997. He is the 18th recipient of the Sandburg Medal created in 1974, when the first two medals were awarded to Society founders Vilas Johnson and Conrad Bergendorf. Subsequent recipients have been Selma Jacobson, Franklin Scott, Nils William Olsson, Wesley Westerberg, Sten Carlsson, Emeroy Johnson, Emory Lindquist, Nils Hasselmo, H. Arnold Barton, Eric Lund, Ulf Beijbom, Philip Anderson, Eloise and LeRoy Nelson, and Ronald Johnson.

(continued on next page)

Eight Society members honored for service

(continued from first page)

Lund, the Nelsons and Olson were honored by the Swedish Council “in recognition of outstanding contributions” and “many years of promoting and preserving the Swedish heritage.” Lund is a former president and longtime director of the Swedish-American Historical Society; Eloise Nelson is a current director and has the distinction of having served as the Society’s first female board chair; LeRoy is a former director and current publications committee member. Olson was honored for his work with the North Park University Center for Scandinavian Studies, of which he is board chair. He also is active in the Society, of which he is the treasurer.

Anderson, a journalist and Society director, has been a Swedish Museum volunteer for more than 20 years, frequently serving at the admission desk and greeting visitors. Certificates of appreciation were presented to 35 volunteers at the April dinner.

Scott Prizes are awarded to Noren, Stasiewicz

Franklin Scott Prizes of \$250 each were awarded at the Apr. 16 spring board meeting to Carol Noren and Agnieszka Stasiewicz. The prizes, named for former Society president and *Quarterly* editor Franklin D. Scott, are awarded for the best first article in the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* by a writer whose work has not appeared there previously.

Stasiewicz’s article, “A Model for Her Sex: Ethnic Womanhood in Swedish-American Publications for Children and Young People, 1890-1920,” appeared in the January 2011 issue. Noren’s article, “One Family’s Journey: The Emigration of Nels Westergreen,” is in the current July issue, which also includes an article by Lizette Gradén on “Folk Costume Fashion in Swedish America: Crafting Cultural Heritage and Diversity through Dress.”

Coming in the October issue is a lead article on “Erik Jansson’s Two Wives and the Bishop Hill Colony,” by Brita Butler-Wall, as well as the annual Swedish-American bibliography.

Seven directors elected Nov. 5 at 2011 annual meeting

The Society board of directors consists of 21 members, plus the appointed president and treasurer and an at-large member. Seven directors are elected each year to three-year terms. After two terms, a director has to be off the board for at least a year before being eligible to return. The “class of 2014” elected Nov. 5 includes three directors

named to second three-year terms, two returning to the board after an absence of a year, and two new directors beginning their first terms. A third new director was elected to a one-year vacancy on the board.

Reelected to second three-year terms were Vincent Anderson, Chicago; Ronald Johnson, Madison, Wis., and Ellen T. Rye, Silver Spring, Md. Returning to the board are Bruce Karstadt, president of the American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis, and Joy Lintelman, professor of history at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. They replace Frances Johnson and Charles Peterson.

New directors include Maria Erling, professor of modern church history and mission at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Penn.; James Holst, Moraga, Calif., general counsel emeritus of the University of California Board of Regents and a former chairman of the North Park University board of directors, and Peter Strom, who will complete the term of Christina Johansson, who has returned to Sweden as a librarian at the Chalmers University of Technology in Göteborg.

Strom, a North Park graduate and nephew of late SAHS board member Leslee Schiller, worked for several years in the North Park archives. He is currently an “ambassador” for the Chicago Cubs and an intern for the Carl Jeppson Company, where he is researching and archiving the company’s early days. The company has produced a Swedish-style schnapps called Jeppson’s Malört (only for the Chicago market) for more than 80 years.

News items

Rockford radio program ends

A half-hour Sunday morning Rockford radio program of worship and music in Swedish ended 75 years on the air June 26. “It ran its course,” said Maj. Randy Hellstrom of the Salvation Army, the show sponsor. “It’s sad. The show served its purpose. There are just fewer and fewer people out there who speak the language.” Rockford became home to thousands of Swedes beginning in 1852.

“Blending Celebrations in the Rockies: How Midsummer became American and Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Pioneer Day became Swedish” was the intriguing title of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center 2011 O. Fritjof Ander Lecture given Oct. 15 at Augustana College in Rock Island by Jennifer Eastman Atteberry of Idaho State University.

The June merger of the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden (*Svenska Missionskyrkan*), Swedish Baptist and Swedish Methodists churches was the subject of a article by Mark Safstrom in the October Covenant Companion, “Facing the Future Together.”

Newsletter editor: Eric Lund

Books by members

New volumes on Sandzén, West Coast Swedes

Recent new books by Society members include volumes on Birger Sandzén, Swedish customs, West Coast Swedes, and hymnody:

Birger Sandzén on Art, Music and Transcendence, by James M. Kaplan (Nordic Studies Press, Chicago, 2010).

Ten New Lives: Swedes in the Pacific Northwest, by Lars Nordstrom (Swedish Roots in Oregon Press, Portland, 2010).

Culture and Customs of Sweden, by Swedish-American Historical Quarterly editor Byron J. Nordstrom (ABC-CLIO/Greenwood, Santa Barbara, CA, 2010).

The preceding three books are reviewed in the current July issue of the *Quarterly* by Bruce Kahler, Lizette Gradén and Ulf Jonas Björk.

Singing the Story: Sightings in Christian Music, by Glen V. Wiberg, published by Pietisten magazine, includes 29 Wiberg columns together with 39 hymns and an appendix of recommended recordings (Minneapolis, 2011).

Another new volume, *Norwegian-American Essays 2011: Transnationalism in the Norwegian-American Experience*, Øyvind T. Gulliksen, editor, is a joint publication of the Norwegian-American Historical Association and NAHA-Norge dedicated to late Society member Jon Gjerde (1953-2008). The Introduction opens with "The Legacy of Jon Gjerde (1953-2008)," followed by the first article, Gjerde's "The United States: A Nation of Immigrants in the Past and Future."

News of the Archives

Archivist Anne Jenner is awarded advanced degree

Anne Jenner, archivist of the F.M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections at North Park University, was awarded a master's degree in library and information science at University of Illinois commencement exercises May 15 in Champaign-Urbana. The archives comprise the archives of the Evangelical Covenant Church, North Park University and the Swedish-American Historical Society.

Newly elected Society board member Peter Strom worked for several years in the archives while a student at North Park and after, serving under three archivists on two major projects, the Dorothy Vann Oral History Project and cataloging of the Covenant Historical Library.

In May, Jenner conducted a seminar in the archives for members of the Chicago Cultural Alliance. Attendees from other ethnic organizations came to learn about how to run

an archives program, with the Society's Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago as one model.

On Oct. 22, a group from the Nordic Family Genealogy Center of Chicago's Swedish-American Museum toured the archives and learned about its resources of value to genealogists.

From Arnold Barton

Following is part of a recent e-mail from former *Quarterly* editor H. Arnold Barton, who moved to Sweden last year with his wife, Aina.

You wondered whether I was writing anything nowadays. Not so much lately, largely due to the long process of getting properly settled in and adjusted here. I have given some lectures--in Stockholm, Uppsala, Drottningholm, and Eric Jansson's native parish, Biskopskulla, in Uppland--and there are more in the offing. More and more I seem to be falling into the role of a kind of "elder statesman," more occupied with others' writings than with my own. I am constantly requested to review and give my opinions of books and research proposals. But I will get back to some projects of my own. I have been thinking, for example, of writing something on Americans living in Sweden.

.....

50 Years Ago

On 27 January 1962, the Society held its first conference, an invitational lunch and afternoon session at Northwestern University in Evanston followed by a dinner at North Park College. The lunch speaker was Karl-Gustaf Hildebrand of Uppsala University. (See April 1962 *Quarterly* for text and summary of afternoon symposium).

25 Years Ago

On 22 November 1986, at a lunch following the fall board meeting, Nils William Olsson reminisced on the 1948 Swedish Pioneer centennial celebration which gave birth to the Society and Robert Ostergren, University of Wisconsin professor of geography, spoke on "The Transplanted: Swedish Immigrant Communities on the Midwestern Agricultural Frontier."

10 Years Ago

On 2-3 November 2001, the Society board met at Augustana College in Rock Island and participated in the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center 20th anniversary conference on "Being Swedish Today." On 5-6 April 2002, the Society sponsored a trip to Rockford for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Swedes there.

.....

SAHS BOOK ORDER FORM

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

Phone: (773) 583-5722
E-mail: kandersson@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, 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.

- ☐ **Shuttle in Her Hand: A Swedish Immigrant Weaver in America**, by Marion Tuttle Marzolf. (Chicago: Swedish-American Historical Society, 2010). Novel. \$15.95/\$14.50, paper.
- ☐ **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 Creation of an Ethnic Identity: Being Swedish American in the Augustana Synod 1860-1917**, by Dag Blanck. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2006). \$25.00/\$20.00.
- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **Scandinavian Immigrants and Education in North America**, edited by Philip J. Anderson, Dag Blanck, and Peter Kivisto. (Chicago: SAHS, 1995). \$21.95/\$10.95.
- ☐ **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.

Latest Society profile

As of July 30, the Society had members in 44 states, Canada, Sweden (55), Finland, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany and the Netherlands. States with the largest memberships were Illinois (126) and Minnesota (88), followed by California (47) and Washington (27). The only states with no members were Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma and South Dakota. Total membership was 633, of which 313 were Regular members, 98 Sustaining, 31 Benefactor and Donor, 87 Life, 70 Library and 5 Student.