

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established to Record and Interpret the Swedish Presence in America

Newsletter / March 2015

April 18 program at museum

Thank you for the music: From Jenny Lind to ABBA

*Thank you for the music, the songs we're singing.
Thanks for all the joy they're bringing.*

ABBA's signature song sets the stage for the Society's spring dinner program April 18 at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St. The program, with Anne-Charlotte Harvey as narrator, will celebrate "Swedish and

Wahlberg is on the music faculty of the North Shore Country Day School.

The dinner and program is being co-sponsored by the Swedish Women's Educational Association (SWEA) and the Swedish American Museum.

April publication set for 'Swedes in Canada'

Swedes in Canada: Invisible Immigrants, by Elinor Barr, will be published in April by University of Toronto Press. Book launches are planned in Ottawa, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg and Edmonton and the author, a former Society board member, is looking forward to attending all of them. For her, the 432-page book is the culmination of an all-consuming project that began in 2001. The press has had the manuscript for five years.

Since 1776, more than 100,000 Swedish-speaking immigrants have arrived in Canada from Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Ukraine, and the United States. Barr's *Swedes in Canada* is the definitive history of that immigrant experience. Active in almost every aspect of Canadian life, Swedish individuals and companies have built railways and grain elevators across the country, the CN tower in Toronto, churches and other institutions in their communities. At the national level, the introduction of cross-country skiing can be attributed to Swedes.

Despite a long list of accomplishments, Swedish ethnic consciousness in Canada has often been very low. Using extensive archival and demographic research, Barr explores both the impressive Swedish legacy in Canada and the reasons for their invisibility as an immigrant community.



Anne-Charlotte Harvey and Magnus Hillbo

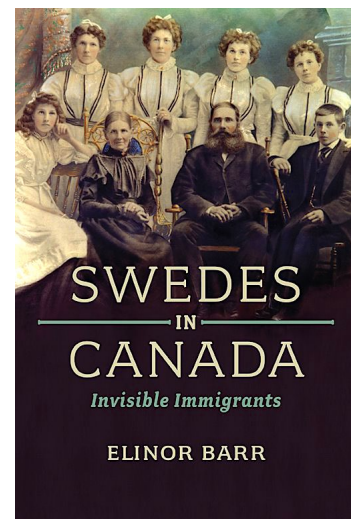
Swedish-American Music: Jenny Lind to ABBA." It will follow a wine and cheese reception at 5:30 and dinner at 6 catered by Tre Kronor. (*Reservation form on page 3*)

Performers will be P. Magnus Hillbo, Scott Uddenberg, Susan Nelson, the Merula Quartet, Ingmari Wahlgren and Catherine Buckley Werner. Narrator Anne-Charlotte Harvey, a well-known performer and recording artist, is a member of the Society board of directors.

Swedish native P. Magnus Hillbo has performed with opera and operetta companies across the United States and in Europe, among them Chicago Opera Theater and Light Opera Works locally. In his spare time he collects academic degrees, holding three in music and finishing his "last graduate degree" in theology. He is a pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Scott D. Uddenberg, a 1990 graduate of DePauw University, has sung with the Chicago Symphony and Lyric Opera choruses and Chicago Opera Theater. He was featured in January 2002 on the cover of the WTTW/WFMT member magazine.

Susan Nelson, who sings with Lyric Opera, performed the national anthem at the Chicago Bulls-Phoenix Suns game Jan. 17, 2012, at the United Center. Accompanist Ingmari



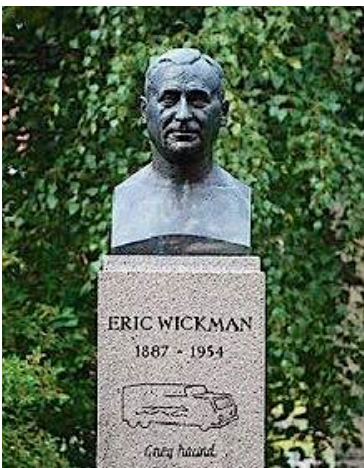
Book news

Three books in Swedish that are worth noting

Three recently published books in Swedish are worth noting and hopefully will be translated into English:

Oförglömligt: ett liv i emigrantsforskningens tjänst (*Unforgettable: A life in the service of emigration research*), by Ulf Beijbom. Beijbom, founder of the Emigrant Institute in Växjö, is well known to readers of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*. He is the author of more than 30 books, from *Swedes in Chicago* (1971) to this and three other books written since he turned 70.

Farväl Sverige: En musikbok om svenskarna som korsade atlanten för ett bättre liv (*Farewell Sweden: A musicbook about the Swedes who crossed the Atlantic for a better life*), by Alf Brorson, Peter Russberg, Ulf Beijbom and Tommy Hellstrom. The book includes a CD of 14 new compositions performed by Swedish bluegrass and country groups from Lapland to Skåne.



Busskungen (The bus king), by Kristin Lundell, is the story of Carl Eric Wickman, the founder of Greyhound Bus Lines. “Parallel to the story,” writes Tommy Hellstrom in *Sweden & America*, “Lundell tells about her own trip on Greyhound across the continent, meeting people, waiting in the now rather run-down bus stations and her experiences along the way.”

‘Curiosity’s Cats’ honored

Choice magazine in January named *Curiosity’s Cats: Writers on Research* (Minnesota Historical Society Press) as one of 2014’s Outstanding Academic Titles. The highly readable book, edited by Bruce Joshua Miller, is a collection of thirteen essays, including “Pilgrim Voices: Puritans, Immigrants and Historical Research,” by the Society’s Philip J. Anderson.

Council to meet in Rockford

The Swedish Council of America will meet April 23-25 in Rockford in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the Swedish Historical Society of Rockford. The society was established following the 1938 celebration in Delaware of the 300th anniversary of the arrival of the first Swedes in North America. It was officially formed on Jan. 31, 1939, incorporated on Nov. 29, 1950.

Swedish ingenuity: It’s the real thing

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the iconic, curvy Coca-Cola bottle, designed in part by Alexander Samuelsson. The Swede worked at the Surte glassworks near Gothenburg and emigrated to the U.S. in 1883.

In 1915, he made his mark with the help of plant supervisor Earl R. Dean in the design of the Coca-Cola bottle at the Root Glass Company in Terre Haute, Indiana. (Another design whose popularity was immortalized by a Swede was the 1930s’ advertising with images of Santa Claus holding a Coke created by Haddon Sundblom.)

Samuelsson was a senior manager of Chapman Root Bottling and his name was on the patent, though he didn’t get rich on the design (business owner Chapman J. Root became the multi-millionaire). The bottle, modeled after a kola nut—one of the ingredients the flagship product was named for—became one of the world’s most famous, most iconic and timeless product packages.



The design, considered genius because it was easy to grip, looked good and the glass didn’t break if it was dropped, was initially available in blue, green and clear glass. The bottles are smaller today but still hold the shape it was given 100 years.

*Text reprinted with permission from Nordstjernen,
www.nordstjernen.com*

Coming in the Quarterly

Anderson, Harvey lectures featured in January

Last Oct. 18, Philip Anderson delivered the 2014 Anderson lecture in immigration history at the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center of Augustana College in Rock Island. In 2010, Anne-Charlotte Harvey delivered the traditional “last lecture” on her retirement from San Diego State University. The two, “From Compulsion to Persuasion: Voluntary Religion and the Swedish Immigrant Experience” and “Rag Rug: The Last Lecture,” are featured in the January Quarterly along with an article by James Kaplan, “Birger Sandzén: Coming to America.”

The issue also includes three book reviews, including *A Handbook of Scandinavian Names*, reviewed by Katharina Leibring, and *The Autobiography of Pastor N.J. Lindquist*, edited by Society board member James E. Holst, reviewed by Kevin Proescholdt.

The April issue will feature a translation by John Norton of pieces of Ernst Skarstedt’s narrative of his time in Lindsborg, KS, from *Vagabond och Redaktör: Levnadsöden och tidsbilder*.

SPRING DINNER MEETING RESERVATION

Swedish-American Historical Society
3225 W. Foster Avenue, Box 48
Chicago, IL 60625-4816

Phone: (773) 583-5722
E-mail: kmandersson@northpark.edu

Please reserve ___ places at \$40.00 per person for the dinner and program April 18.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Or charge my credit card: Visa Master Card _____ Exp. _____

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please respond by April 13

People in the news

New honors here and abroad for Lane and Lintelman

Kerstin Lane, who received the Society's Carl Sandburg Medal last May, in November was awarded a bronze Hazelius Medal by Nordiska Museet in Stockholm. She was honored for her work with the Swedish American Museum in Chicago's Andersonville. **Barbro Osher** received a gold Hazelius Medal for her Pro Suecia Foundation. The medals honor Artur Hazelius, founder of Nordiska Museet and Skansen.



Lindstrom, MN, water tower

Joy Lintelman, whose book *"I Go to America"* won the 2010 Minnesota Book Award for general non-fiction, in November received the 2014 Solon J. Buck Award for best article of the year in Minnesota History magazine. Her article, "A Hot Heritage: Swedish Americans and Coffee," appeared in the spring issue. (See *October Quarterly* for more on both the Lane and Lintelman awards.)

Ronald J. Johnson, who like many Society members enjoys a dual heritage, was recently elected to the board of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, headquartered at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN.

Sally A. Johnson, production editor of the *Quarterly*, was the author of "Paul Carlson's Story" in the November Covenant Companion featuring the late medical missionary killed by Congo rebels in 1964. She worked for the Carlson Partnership until her retirement in 2013.

Obituary

Elder Lindahl, 1926-2014

Elder Lindahl, retired North Park University philosophy professor, died Nov. 3 at Covenant Village in Golden Valley, MN. He was 88. With the late Mel Soneson, he created the philosophy department at North Park.

"They designed a rock solid philosophy curriculum in preparation for the junior college becoming a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree granting college," wrote Phil Johnson in *Pietisten*. "The quality of their teaching was confirmed by the performance of the first philosophy graduates (1960) on that year's Philosophy Graduate Record Exam."

Born in Iron River, MI, he was a graduate of North Park, Michigan State and North Park Theological Seminary, with a doctorate from Northwestern. He was married for 62 years to Muriel, who preceded him in death.

He served with the U.S. Army 135th Combat Engineer Battalion and 485th Engineer Heavy Shop Company in Germany and Austria during World War II and wrote about his experiences as an 18-year-old in a book, *Private Lindahl, Citizen Soldier*.

After retiring he and Muriel moved to Covenant Village, where he led the Swedish Club, Computer Club and Lucia Festival. He wrote extensively for *Pietisten*, beginning with "A Retirement Soliloquy" in 1990.

‘Swedish Place-Names’ next book to be digitized

The next Society book that will be digitized is *Swedish Place-Names in North America*, by Otto Robert Landelius, translated by Karin Franzén and edited by Raymond Jarvi. It will join sixteen other volumes already available online at swedishamericanhist.org.

The book lists thirteen places in Illinois of Swedish origin, plus eight of probable Swedish origin. The thirteen include:

Bernadotte, a community and township on the Spoon River in Fulton County. The setting of Edgar Lee Masters’ poem, ‘Isaiah Beethoven,’ in his *Spoon River Anthology*, it is perhaps the only Swedish place-name that figures in world literature.

Bishop Hill, a state historic site named for Biskopskulla in Uppland, the birthplace of founder Erik Jansson. It is not only the oldest Swedish settlement in Illinois but, after New Sweden, Iowa, the second oldest extant Swedish settlement in the U.S.

Dahlgren, a community and township in Hamilton County named by a railroad official for his close friend, Civil War Admiral J.A. Dahlgren. A Swedish settlement never existed here.

Galva, the incorrectly spelled town near Bishop Hill named for Gävle. In July, 1856, *The Swedish Republican*, the first secular Swedish newspaper, was established here. It lasted only two years.

Jenny Lind Church in Andover, founded in 1850 by Pastor Lars Paul Esbjörn from Hälsningland. With the exception of the Delaware Colony, it is regarded as the first Swedish Lutheran congregation in the U.S.

Linné Woods, a forest preserve in Morton Grove named, in 1935 on the initiative of Elmer Anderson, a Swedish-American lawyer, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the famous botanist’s major work.

Peterson Avenue in Chicago, named for one of the most prominent men of Swedish descent in America, nursery owner and horticultural pioneer Pehr Samuel Peterson.

Swedona, a community in Mercer County. The first settlers were Germans who named the place Berlin. When a post office was established in 1855, it became Center Ridge. As the number of Swedish immigrants increased, it became Swedona in 1869. The post office was discontinued in 1920.

Books already digitized include the two volumes of *A Pioneer in Northwest America, 1841-1858: The Memoirs of Gustaf Unonius*, the first books published by the Society during its first decade.

Newsletter editor: Eric Lund
Production: Grace Lund

Society Officers

Board chair, Kevin Proescholdt
Board vice chair, Eloise V. Nelson
Secretary, Carol Noren
President, Philip J. Anderson
Treasurer, Donald E. Olson
At-large, Eric R. Lund

Board of Directors

Terms expiring 2015

Anne Jenner, Seattle, WA
Kerstin B. Lane, Chicago
Eloise V. Nelson, Northbrook, IL
Mark Safstrom, Champaign, IL
Mary Anderson Seeger, Caledonia, MI
Peter Strom, Chicago
Thomas Tredway, Hampton, IL

Terms expiring 2016

Donald Ahlm, South Holland, IL
Dag Blanck, Stockholm, Sweden
Anne-Charlotte Harvey, Lemon Grove, CA
Carol Noren, Chicago
Charles Olson, Chicago
Kurt W. Peterson, Chicago
Kevin Proescholdt, Minneapolis, MN

Terms expiring 2017

William Beyer, St. Paul, MN
Maria Erling, Gettysburg, PA
Mark Granquist, Northfield, MN
David M. Gustafson, Mundelein, IL
James E. Holst, Moraga, CA
Joy K. Lintelman, Moorhead, MN
Lynn Gullickson Spencer, Skokie, IL

Office manager, Karin Andersson
Archivist, Anna-Kajsa Anderson
Quarterly editor, Byron J. Nordstrom
Editor emeritus, H. Arnold Barton

Swedish-American Historical Society

3225 W. Foster Ave., Box 48
Chicago, IL 60625
773-244-5592
swedishamericanhist.org

