

# SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Newsletter / September 2015

## Proescholdt is named as successor

### *Nordstrom retiring as editor of the Society Quarterly*

For the first time in 18 years, a new editor is taking charge of the Society's *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*. The October issue will be Byron J. Nordstrom's 71st and last. The new editor as of January will be Kevin Proescholdt, associate and book review editor since 2008.



Byron Nordstrom

Nordstrom, who became editor in 1997 after the death of Raymond Jarvi, indicated to the publications committee early in the year that he would like to retire. After due deliberation, the committee recommended Proescholdt and the Society board gave its approval at the April 18 meeting.

Both have served as chair of the Society board, Nordstrom in 1990-94, Proescholdt in 1996-98, 2007-12 and also currently. Both were associate

and book review editor when they were named editor. Both are recipients of the Society's Sandburg Medal, Nordstrom in 2010, Proescholdt in 2013.

Proescholdt becomes the seventh editor of the quarterly since 1950, following in the footsteps of Paul A. Varg, 1950-58; E. Gustav Johnson, 1958-67; Franklin D. Scott, 1967-74; H. Arnold Barton, 1974-90; Raymond Jarvi, 1991-96, and Nordstrom.

"Byron's record-breaking length of service as editor of the *Quarterly* may never be exceeded, and I greatly appreciate his dedication to producing such a high-quality journal," Proescholdt said. "I'll be calling on him frequently for advice and counsel as I try to continue in his footsteps."

Nordstrom is retired professor of history at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN. Proescholdt lives in



Kevin Proescholdt

Minneapolis and is conservation director for Wilderness Watch, a national nonprofit wilderness conservation organization. He has worked for environmental organizations in Minnesota for nearly 35 years and has written and edited a variety of publications in that time.

## Upcoming in the Quarterly

The latest quarterly (July) features articles by Brita Butler-Wall on "Anna Sophia: Memoir of a Prophet's Wife" and Roger McKnight on "Doing What She Could: Poor Relief and the Augustana Women's Mission Association, Minneapolis, 1896-1961." The issue also includes reviews by H. Arnold Barton and Lee Sather of new books by Ulf Beijbom and Odd Lovoll.

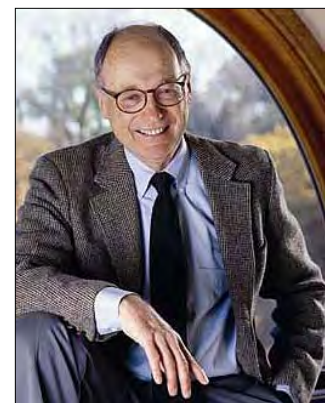
The October issue, Nordstrom's last as editor, will include "Anders Chydenius and the 18th Century Controversy over Emigration," by H. Arnold Barton, and "Lundin's Juniper-Ade: A drink like mother's," by Eric Lund.

## Thomas Tredway to speak on Bergendoff legacy

Thomas Tredway will speak at the Society's fall dinner meeting on "Conrad Bergendoff and the Ungodly Swedes" The meeting will be held at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St., with a wine and cheese reception at 5:30 and dinner catered by Tre Kronor at 6. (Reservation form on page 3)

Tredway, former president of Augustana College, is the author of the Society's current dividend book, *Conrad Bergendoff's Faith and Work: A Swedish-American Lutheran, 1895-1997*. Bergendoff served as president of Augustana from 1935 to 1962.

The spring 2016 meeting will focus on St. Ansgarius Church (see story on page 2). The fall 2016 meeting will be in Seattle.



Thomas Tredway

## *Kajsa Anderson is appointed officially as NP archivist*

Anna-Kajsa Anderson, interim archivist of the F.M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections at North Park University since 2012, was named to the position officially during the summer. The archives contain the records of the Evangelical Covenant Church, North Park, the Swedish-American Historical Society and a handful of lesser organizations.



Kajsa Anderson

Under Anderson and her predecessor, Anne Jenner, the archives has become increasingly more professional and usable. Earlier this year, they were used as a learning experience by a North Park urban sociology class taught by Lida Nedilsky. A redesigned website with new features went on line in April.

An exhibit featuring the Dalkullan Publishing and Importing Company opened in the archives April 10 and will continue until Dec. 20. From 1895 to 1972, Dalkullan sold books, steamship tickets, cigars and more from its store on Clark St. In connection with the exhibit, the archives produced a booklet reprinting an article from the October 1962 *Swedish Pioneer Historical Quarterly*, "Chicago's Belmont and Clark: A Corner of Memories," by Henry Bengston.

### Focus: "The Future of our Past"

### *NAHA to celebrate 90th year at anniversary event Oct 17*

The Norwegian-American Historical Association will celebrate its 90th birthday at a noon luncheon and program Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. The program will consist of a discussion by four historians of "The Future of Our Past." The four are:

Philip J. Anderson, president of the Swedish-American Historical Society, retired professor of history at North Park Theological Seminary.

Annette Atkins, professor of history at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, regular history commentator on Minnesota Public Radio.

Gary De Krey, professor of history at St. Olaf College and NAHA archivist.

Lee Pao Xiong, professor of history and director of Hmong studies at Concordia University.

For more information or to make reservations for the lunch, call 507-786-3221 or e-mail [naha.stolaf.edu](mailto:naha.stolaf.edu).

## Swedish Council grant aids

### St. Ansgarius project

With the support of a \$3,500 grant from the Swedish Council of America, the Society archives is beginning the process of conserving and digitizing the fragile 1849-1896 parish registers and minutes of Saint Ansgarius Episcopal Church, founded by Gustav Unonius as the first Swedish congregation in Chicago.

These records are significant historically to both the city and Swedish America and include records that survived the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. For years, they have been deemed too fragile to handle and closed to researchers.

The Ansgarius records list communicants and pastoral acts such as baptisms, burials and marriages. They also include a pastor's diary, circa 1882, and the church meeting minutes for 1858-1875.

Photos of the church interior and founder Unonius complement the church records, which are largely in Swedish.

One of the most remarkable items in the collection is a chalice presented to the congregation by Swedish singer Jenny Lind. It bears the following rather modest inscription: *Givet till den Skandinaviska Kyrkan St. Ansgarius i Chicago av en Landsmaninna, A.D. 1851.*

The Society's spring program next year will focus on St. Ansgarius centering around the chalice and possibly other liturgical items such as the chasuble housed at the Swedish American Museum. The program will be held at St. James (Episcopal) Cathedral, 65 E. Huron St.



St. Ansgarius chalice

### News of members

### *Anderson elected to AHI board, Johnson to NAHA board*

Cross pollination at work: Society president Philip J. Anderson was elected to the board of trustees of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis last year for a three-year term. Longtime Society officer and board member Ronald J. Johnson was elected a director of the Norwegian American Historical Association at its biennial meeting last October at St. Olaf College.

**Karin Moen Abercrombie**, executive director of the Swedish American Museum, was the recipient of a Matthiasson Community Service Award April 9 at the fourth annual Andersonville Honors Gala.



## Lindström wins the war to keep its umlaut intact

Lindström, MN, made national news in April when federal regulations required the state to eliminate the umlaut from its city limit signs. Public opinion unleashed an outcry that ended when Gov. Mark Dayton issued an executive order restoring the umlaut and said, "Even if I have to drive to Lindström and paint the umlauts on myself, I'll do it."



Lindström, population 4,442, was founded in the 1800s by Daniel Lindström, who left Sweden in 1853. Located some 40 miles northeast of downtown Minneapolis, it is identified by a water tower shaped like a coffee pot. The city name on the tower includes the umlaut.

"These are not just two little dots," said Lina Norrman, a University of Minnesota lecturer.

The "ö" is "a significant letter with its own sound. You can't just take them away."

### Museum sets ball for Nov. 7

This year's annual Three Crowns Ball benefitting the Swedish American Museum in Andersonville will be held Saturday, Nov. 7, in the Crystal Ballroom at Davis Street and Chicago Avenue in Evanston. Honorees will be the Center for Scandinavian Studies at North Park University and its director, Charles Peterson.

Looking for a gift idea for a Swedish American friend or relative? Give a membership in the Swedish-American Historical Society.



### Spring dinner sets record

More than 150 members and guests, the largest number in many years, attended the Society's spring dinner program, "Thank you for the music: From Jenny Lind to ABBA," April 18 at the Swedish American Museum. They joined Anne-Charlotte Harvey and the performers in rousing versions of "Chicago, Chicago, de ä en stad så stor" and "Hälsa dom därhemma." Pictured above, the Tre Kronor buffet table (Photo by Carol Noren)

## FALL 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 Oct. 17.

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 Oct. 12**

## Book news

### *Granquist: 'A New History of Lutherans in America'*

*Lutherans in America: A new history*, by Society board member Mark Granquist, was published early this year by Fortress Press. One reviewer called it “a lively and engaging narrative that will be the standard for scholars, students and curious laypeople for years to come.”



Mark Granquist

A second book, *Scandinavian Pietists: Spiritual Writings from 19th-Century Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Finland*, edited and with an introduction by Granquist, was published in August by Paulist Press.

Granquist, associate professor of history at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, is also the author, with another Society board member, Maria Erling, of *The Augustana Story: Shaping Lutheran Identity in North America*, which shared the Biglerville Prize of the Lutheran Historical

Society of the Mid-Atlantic in 2011.

Pietism is also the subject of another new book by a Society board member, *The Swedish Pietists: A Reader*, edited, translated and introduced by Mark Safstrom, lecturer in Swedish and Scandinavian studies at the University of Illinois. The book, published by Pickwick Publications, Eugene, Oregon, consists of excerpts from the writings of Carl Olof Rosenius and Paul Peter Waldenström.

### Swedish Place Names Trivia Quiz

Q. How many towns in the U.S. and Canada bear the names of Sweden's three largest cities?

A. Nine in seven states and Saskatchewan (two in Minnesota) named Stockholm, four named Malmo, only one (in Nebraska) named Gothenburg.

Q. Towns in need of spell check?

A. Galva (Gävle), Illinois; Smolan (Småland), Kansas, and Sweeden, Kentucky.

Source: *Swedish Place-Names in North America*, by Otto Landelius, translated by Karin Franzen, edited by Raymond Jarvi (Swedish-American Historical Society, 1985).

Newsletter editor: Eric Lund  
Production: Grace Lund

### Society Officers

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Treasurer, Donald E. Olson  
At-large, Eric R. Lund

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Peter Strom, Chicago  
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Archivist, Anna-Kajsa Anderson  
Quarterly editor, Byron J. Nordstrom  
Editor emeritus, H. Arnold Barton

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