

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established to Record and Interpret the Swedish Presence in America

Newsletter / March 2018

Spring meeting welcomes speaker Mary Anderson Seeger

“Nordic Noir—with Emphasis on Swedish Crime Fiction”

The Swedish-American Historical Society will hold its Spring meeting on Saturday, 14 April 2018, at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago. Members and friends will recall that this was to be our featured topic at the Fall 2017 meeting in Chicago, but because of illness in the family Dr. Seeger was unable to be with us. We are delighted that we can again feature this program in April. Professor Seeger



Mary Anderson Seeger

has been a member of the Society for more than fifty years and serves on its board of directors. She retired from Grand Valley State University in Michigan in 2005 after a forty-year career there as dean, which included being a professor of modern languages.

As a genre, Scandinavian crime fiction has become immensely popular over recent decades and continues to attract new authors and devoted readers—captivated

by a literature that engages the pulse of contemporary society and confronts its many social challenges. Professor Seeger, an avid reader and astute critic, will bring her insights to bear on Swedish crime novels, reviewing their background and selected authors, giving guidance to WHY and HOW and WHO we might read.

It will be a special evening, not to be missed, with good food from Tre Kronor, enjoyable conversation, a great presentation, and all the news of the Society. Please see details of registration and cost on page 4. We look forward to being together!

Report on the past SAHS Fall meeting 2017

The Swedish-American Historical Society held its Fall meeting on 21 October 2017 at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago. Society President Philip Anderson provided the program for the evening event. He spoke

about his ongoing research into the Swedish-American judge and former Duluth mayor Clarence “C. R.” Magney (1883-1962), and his highly influential role in the bitterly contested extension of U.S. Highway 61 along Minnesota’s



Philip Anderson

North Shore of Lake Superior—through the Grand Portage Indian Reservation to the Canadian border crossing—beginning in 1932 to an act of the U.S. Congress in 1943. Not completed until 1966, it is noted today as one of the nation’s most scenic highways. This involved local, state, and

federal agencies, conservation groups, and complex relationships with the Minnesota Ojibwe people.

Magney’s immigrant father, Jonas, was the first student of Eric Norelius in 1862 at Red Wing, Minnesota, the first graduate of what soon became Gustavus Adolphus College, and a pioneer pastor in the Augustana Synod. Following his own graduation from Gustavus in 1903 and a law degree from Harvard in 1908, Magney practiced in Duluth, became mayor of the city (1917-1920), state district court judge (1920-1943), and then appointed by Norwegian-American Governor Edward Thye to the Minnesota Supreme Court (1943-1953). One of Minnesota’s most influential leaders, his papers have only recently been located by Anderson. Magney was also a leading conservationist, responsible for the establishment of many iconic state parks in Minnesota. “Our state parks,” he said, “are everyone’s country estate.”



Clarence Magney

Franklin D. Scott prize awarded to Anders Bo Rasmussen

Quarterly Editor Kevin Proescholdt has announced that the winner of the Franklin D. Scott Prize for 2017 is Anders Bo Rasmussen for his article, “‘The States’ Readmission Puts an End to All Civil and Political Questions’: Scandinavian Immigrants and Debates over Racial Equality During the Impeachment of President Andrew Johnson.” The article appeared in the October 2017 issue of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*. The \$250 prize is awarded for the best article by a writer previously unpublished in the Society’s quarterly journal. The prize is named for the late Franklin Scott, eminent historian at Northwestern University, former president of the Swedish-American Historical Society, and former editor of the *Quarterly*.

Meet Maria Ward, Society’s New Office Manager

Beginning this past fall, Maria Ward has assumed the officer manager position, responsible for the day-to-day work of the Society. She is the immediate “face” that members, friends, and inquirers encounter when they call or email with membership questions, book orders, or details of the Society’s programming. Leaving the position is Annika Safstrom, who has given such excellent leadership over the preceding year-and-a-half and has worked alongside Maria during a period of transition. We are grateful for Annika and wish her family well as they will be relocating nearer to family in Seattle.



Maria Ward

Of Swedish (and Norwegian) descent, Maria knows the North Park area well, where she attended the University (majoring in elementary education with a concentration in history and a minor in Swedish) and continues to live in the area with her husband Brian and children Erik (7), Annalisa (4), and Kajsa (will be 2 in May). Maria taught fourth and fifth grade in Chicago for six years and holds an M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language from Northeastern Illinois University. While an

undergraduate at North Park, Maria participated in the longstanding exchange program with Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola in Jönköping, Sweden. Moreover, her father, Steven Elde, is a former archivist of the Society.

Deeply appreciative of her Swedish heritage, Maria says that she is “excited now to have this part-time opportunity with the Swedish-American Historical Society and participate in its work, as I think it fits with my availability, gifts, and interests especially well.” Welcome Maria!

Swedish-American Historical Society Elects Board Members and Officers

At the Board of Directors meeting on 21 October 2017, the following members completed their terms and cycled off the board: Maria Erling, James Holst, Joy Lintelman, and

Lynn Gullickson Spencer. The following members were elected to three-year terms on the board to fill these vacancies: Dag Blanck, B. Marcus Cederström, Anna-Kajsa Echague, and Carol Norén. Three other board members were eligible for and elected to second three-year terms: William Beyer, Mark Granquist, and David Gustafson. Officers and members of the executive committee for 2018 will be: Kevin Proescholdt, chair; Ronald Johnson, vice-chair; Mark Granquist, secretary; Donald Olson, treasurer; Philip Anderson, president; and Grace Carlson Lund, at-large. The Society greatly appreciates the service and commitment of all retiring, newly-elected, and continuing board members and officers.

Many, Many Thanks to 2017 Year-End Donors!

The following donors generously contributed \$5,605 to the 2017 year-end appeal:

Evelyn and Harry Anderson	Ronald J. Johnson
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Earl D. Check	Terry Proescholdt
Yvonne Collins,	Sylvia Rose
in memory of her Swedish	Ellen T. Rye
and Finnish grandparents	Mary Seeger
Ellen Edstrom	Jean Spoolstra
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Anita Olson Gustafson	Swedish Heritage Society
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Nordic Museum’s New Location Opening May 2018

The Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle will hold the grand opening of its new facility on 5-6 May 2018 at 2655 NW Market Street. The modern 57,000-sq. ft. museum and



cultural center to be located in the heart of the Ballard neighborhood will include a refined layout with expanded exhibition and educational spaces. The new museum design is organized around a linear “fjord” that weaves together stories of the Nordic region and of the Nordic American experience. Bridges crossing the fjord intensify the experience of migration, connecting Nordic and Nordic-American exhibits. The old museum on NW 67th Street is now closed while transitioning to the new facility.

The Society Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary, Fall 2018

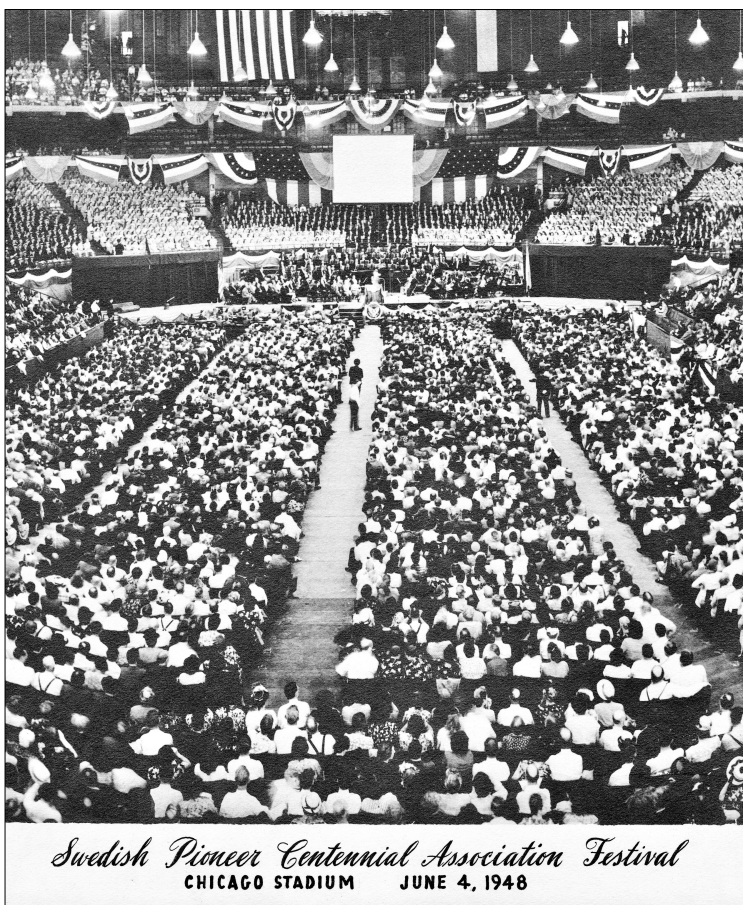
The Swedish-American Historical Society has had a long tradition of commemorating and celebrating its history every ten years, and 2018 will be no exception. Established on 15 October 1948 as the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society (our name was changed in 1983), following the immensely successful nationwide centennial observances of the earliest immigrants to arrive with Gustaf Unonius in 1841. This came to be described as the “Great Migration” when approximately 1.3 million Swedes came to North America until 1930. Planning, which began in the early 1940s, was interrupted by WWII but taken up again in earnest in the autumn of 1945.

The Swedish Pioneer Centennial reached its apex at the old Chicago Stadium on 4 June 1948 when 18,000 (some have estimated as many as 20,000) Swedish Americans gathered long

into the night, listening to President Harry Truman, HRH Prince Bertil of Sweden, and Carl Sandburg—who soon after agreed to become the Society’s honorary chairman, a position he held until his death in 1967.

Plans are underway for a festive gala anniversary program and dinner, reflecting on the Society’s history and unwavering mission “to record and interpret the Swedish presence in America”—over the past and into present, as well as in anticipation of the exciting challenges and opportunities of future years. *Look for details to come soon after the Society’s spring meeting in April regarding the nature of the program and the location of the Fall meeting in October.*

We are confident that this gathering will help propel the Society to the more elaborate occasion of its 75th Anniversary in 2023!



SAHS Archivist Departs North Park

Anna-Kajsa Echague (formerly Anna-Kajsa Anderson) resigned her position last October as Director of the F. M.



Anna-Kajsa Echague,
North Park University Cupola

Johnson Archives and Special Collections at North Park University to relocate with her husband to Minnesota. She served for five years, and among the collections that she administered was the Society’s Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago (SAAGC). She led the work of the archives with professional-

ism and expertise in preservation and online digitization (for example, the Society’s book collection, *Quarterly*, and the fragile records of the historic St. Ansgarius parish in

Chicago), collection development, volunteer and student supervision, and developing creative exhibitions.

Kajsa has been closely involved in the work of the Society board and chairing its Preservation Committee. She will continue her involvement as a newly elected member of the Board of Directors and ongoing participation in the committee she chaired. The Society is grateful for her years of service and wishes her the best wherever her archival skills will be employed!

University librarian Stephen Spencer has been serving as interim archivist; a search for a new archivist is now nearing completion. We thank Steve for the excellent and conscientious services he has provided the Society collections and to its researchers. An announcement will be soon forthcoming regarding Kajsa’s successor.

Newsletter editor: Phil Anderson
Production: Grace Lund



THE SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
invites you to a
FESTIVE SPRING DINNER
featuring a program on Swedish Crime Fiction, "Nordic Noir,"
by Mary Seeger, SAHS board member

The evening will also include an informative report on the
Swedish-American Historical Society by Philip J. Anderson, Society president.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 5:30 P.M.

The Swedish American Museum
5211 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois

■ 5:30 p.m. Reception ■ 6:00 p.m. Dinner ■ 7:00 p.m. Program

----- *DINNER MEETING RESERVATION* -----

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

Phone: (773) 244-5592
E-mail: info@swedishamericanhist.org

Please reserve _____ places at \$40.00 per person for the dinner and program on April 14.

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 6.