

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established to Record and Interpret the Swedish Presence in America

Newsletter / March 2012

'Pretty Much 100% Scandinavian'

Film program planned for April 14 dinner at Swedish museum

A not-to-be-missed program has been planned for the Society's Apr. 14 dinner meeting at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St. in Chicago.

Photographer Stefan Quinth and his collaborator, Society board member William Beyer, will talk about and show the first film in their acclaimed series, "Pretty Much 100% Scandinavian." They also will show clips from the second film, on Scandinavian humor, and from the third film, on life and work, to be premiered Apr. 22 at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis.

Swedish-born award-winning photographer Quinth, now living in Colorado, and Beyer, of Minneapolis, began their collaboration several years ago. The first film in their series explores the immigration experience, process of Americanization, importance of landmark institutions such as churches and colleges, power of family and community, vitality of arts and craft, matter of language, and enjoyment of humor.

The evening will begin with a wine and cheese reception at 5:30, followed by dinner catered by Tre Kronor restaurant at 6:00 and the program at 7:00. Cost is \$40 per person. Reservations may be made by mail to the Swedish-American Historical Society, 3225 W. Foster Ave., Box 48, Chicago, IL 60625-4816, or online at swedishamericanhist.org. Reservations deadline is April 9.

Karstadt, Lintelman return to Society board of directors

Bruce Karstadt, president of the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, and Joy K. Lintelman, professor of history at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., were elected to the Society board of directors Nov. 5 after an absence of a year. They succeed Frances Johnson and Charles Peterson, who were not eligible for reelection.

Three others were reelected to second three-year terms ending in 2014: Vincent Anderson, Ronald J. Johnson and Ellen Rye. Maria Erling and James Holst, appointed to the board earlier in the year, were elected to their first full terms. The Society board consists of 21 directors, seven



From the archives

Archivist Anne Jenner writes about *Jul and Yule: Swedish and Swedish-American Christmas Serials*, of which *Barnens Julafönn*, published by the Covenant Church of Sweden from 1924 to 1974, is an example. For more examples and the story see page 3.

elected every year and eligible to serve two consecutive terms before replacement.

The seven elected Nov. 5 join Donald Ahlm, Stephen Anderson, William Beyer, Dag Blanck, Mark Granquist, Kerstin Lane, Eloise Nelson, Carol Noren, Charles Olson, Kurt Peterson, Kevin Proescholdt (board chair), Mark Safstrom, Mary Seeger and Peter Strom.

Appointed officers are Philip Anderson, president; Donald Olson, treasurer, and Eric Lund, at-large member of the 6-member executive committee that also includes the board chair, vice-chair and secretary.

2012 dividend book on the way

The Society's 2012 dividend book, *Norwegians and Swedes in the United States: Friends and Neighbors*, edited by Philip J. Anderson and Dag Blanck, is being mailed to sustaining members. Regular members may order it from the Society.

The book, published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, is an outgrowth of an October 2007 SAHS conference at Augustana College and includes seven of the presentations from the conference, plus an additional ten chapters by scholars who were invited to contribute.

New honorary consul general

Ulf G. Anvin is the new honorary Swedish consul general for Illinois, succeeding Society board member Kerstin Lane, who retired in June after eight years as honorary consul and ten as honorary consul general. Anvin has lived in the United States for 23 years and now resides in St. Charles. He has worked for more than 40 years with a worldwide metals corporation, today a German firm known as Aurubis.

Six Society members had roles in a symposium, "Sverige och Nordamerika: Migration, språk, kultur," Mar. 9-10 at Riksföreningen Sverigekontakt in Göteborg. **H. Arnold Barton, Ulf Jonas Björk** and **Brian Magnusson** represented the Swedish American side. The symposium had 25 participants and was organized by **Dag Blanck** and **Harald Runblom**. Barton and **Ulf Beijbom** shared experiences and observations at the Friday night dinner. A report is being prepared by Barton for a future issue of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*.

Eloise Nelson is one of three authors of *Aging in Grace: The Growth of Covenant Retirement Communities, 1886-2011*, published in January. The "coffee-table" book chronicles the history of the communities and their current sixteen campuses and is dedicated to two past Society members, the late **Nils G. Axelsson** and **Paul W. Brandel**, who were institutional leaders.

Former Society board member **Frederick Hemke** is retiring in June after 50 years on the Northwestern University music faculty. Hemke's multifaceted career includes performing with the Chicago Symphony. He will be involved in three valedictory events May 31-June 3 at the Pick-Staiger concert hall. He will perform Gershwin (from his latest compact disc) during a Northwestern chamber orchestra concert May 31. The Tokyo saxophone quartet, all former students, will premier new music in a concert June 2, and the N.U. saxophone ensemble and a mass saxophone group will give an afternoon concert June 3, with a reception to follow.

A letter to the editor

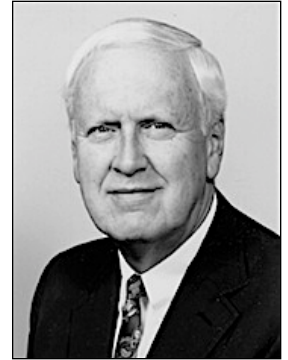
I was pleased to read in the November newsletter the mention of the Salvation Army's Swedish-language radio broadcasts in Rockford, which ended earlier after 75 years. Last October at a Salvation Army regional reunion in Rockford, tribute was paid to this legacy. *USA Today* noted the passing of the last Swedish-language broadcast radio program in North America.

At the time, I prepared a short history of the various Swedish-language programs, particularly the Rockford program. I enclose a copy in case you may find this information useful to the SAHS archives at North Park University. I was honored that Dr. Byron Nordstrom printed my article, "The Scandinavian Department of the Salvation Army in the United States, 1887-1965," in the January 2010 *Quarterly*.

Milton Edward Nelson
Park Ridge, IL

Rolland S. Carlson, bank executive

Rolland S. Carlson, 79, retired Harris Bank and Covenant Church executive, died Feb. 24. He joined Harris as a teller and was executive vice president when he retired in 1992. From 1992 to 1997 he headed Covenant Benevolent Institutions and led the consolidation of the church's retirement communities across the country under a single organization. In 2008, Swedish Covenant Hospital honored him and his wife, Janis, as recipients of its Spirit of Compassion Award. Son of a Swedish immigrant father, he participated regularly in Society activities.



Rev. Kenneth H. Granquist, 87, father of Society board member Mark Granquist, died Jan. 27 at his home in Roseville, Minn. Ordained as a Lutheran minister in 1952, he served congregations in East Hartford, CT; Waukegan, IL; Grand Rapids, MI; DeKalb and Mount Prospect, IL, and Minneapolis (Messiah Lutheran). After retiring in 1988, he served as visitation pastor at Como Park Lutheran Church, St. Paul.

George M. Stephenson, Jr., 91, also of Roseville, died Dec. 11. A lawyer, he was the son of George M. Stephenson, Swedish-American historian familiar to long-time readers of the *Swedish Pioneer/Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*.

Year-end appeal nets \$4,055

The Society's year-end appeal raised \$4,055 from 57 donors. The largest contribution was \$500, followed by 21 contributions of \$100. Contributors were:

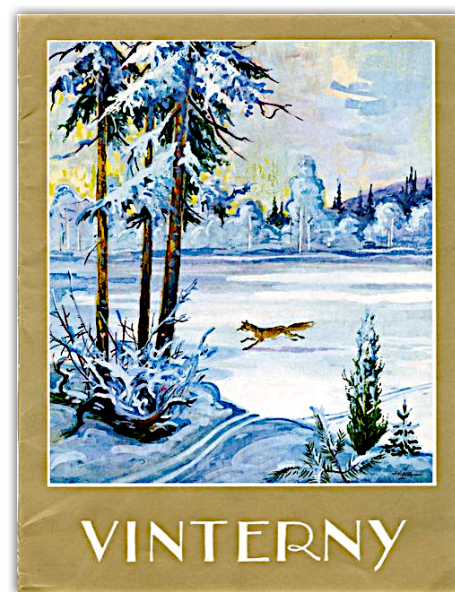
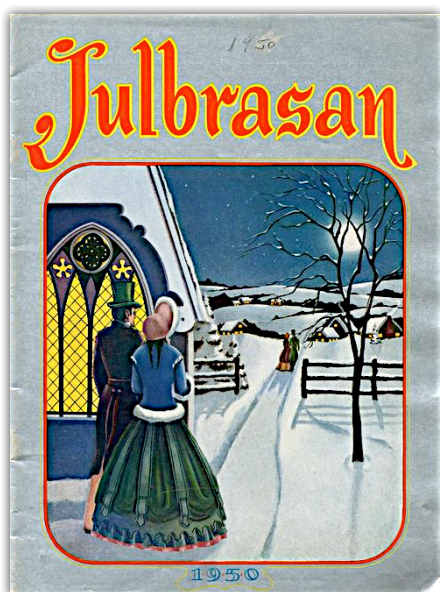
Richard Ahlstrand, Evelyn Anderson, Philip and Karna Anderson, Robert and Marjorie Anderson, Rolf D. Anderson, K. Stephen Anderson, William Anderson (Chevy Chase, Md.), William and Dorothy Anderson (Burke, Va.), Albin R. Applequist, H. Arnold Barton.

William Beyer, Carl Broberg, Glen and Elaine Brolander, Jon and Linda Brorson, Irving Carlson, Janis L. Carlson, Charles Collins, John Enander, Victor Erickson, Barbara and Julie Graves.

Anne-Charlotte Harvey, Helen V. Hayden, James and Sandra Holst, Marilyn Hood, Olof Hägerlund, Carl E. Johnson, Frances Johnson, Mark D. Johnson, Ronald A. Johnson, Richard F. Kehrberg.

Duane and Susan Kullberg, Kerstin and Joe Lane, Bruce L. Larson, Eric and Grace Lund, Edwin Lundberg, David Manthey, Selma Halberg McLaughlin, Sylvia R. Meagher, Charles M. Monell, David Monson.

Karen Murphy, LeRoy and Eloise Nelson, Paula Nelson, Anita Olson Gustafson, Gilbert McCollum, Carol Noren, Anders H. Pers, Kevin Proescholdt, Ruth Ratekin, Sylvia N. Rose.



Jul and Yule: Swedish and Swedish-American Serials

By Anne Jenner, archivist

In the public space outside the Archives and Special Collections reading room in the North Park University Library are four museum quality exhibit cases where items from one collection or another are put on display and changed seasonally. The exhibition this winter displayed items from both the Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago and the Covenant Archives and Historical Library. *Jul and Yule: Swedish and Swedish-American Christmas Serials* featured seventeen beautifully designed covers of Christmas magazines from Sweden and Swedish-America printed from 1909 through 1983.

The Christmas serial became an important holiday tradition in Sweden in the early 20th century and is still popular today. These annuals--magazines, books, recordings and even games--are published and sold by commercial, religious and other nonprofit organizations annually at Christmas time. In Christmas serials readers found articles, essays, bible stories, fiction, photographs and frame-able paintings. Selling Christmas magazines became a way for youngsters between the ages of 9 and 15 to earn spending money for the holidays. Children received a third of the cover price and could earn bonus prizes.

The first Christmas serials to make a significant impact on the market were published by larger book or magazine publishers, such as Bonnier and Åhlén & Åkerlund. *Julstämning*, started in 1906 and still in print today, was an immediate success, selling nearly 100,000 copies. Readers were drawn to the publication's beautiful illustrations created by well-known artists of the day like John Bauer and Anders Zorn.

Immigrants in America embraced the tradition and Swedish-American publishers began to come out with Christmas annuals in the Swedish tradition. Uneasy about the messages contained in commercial publications from Sweden, the Augustana Synod through its publishing arm, the Augustana Book Concern, issued at least two

About the covers

Julbrasan (1950, at left above) was published by *Svenska Amerikanaren Tribunen* under the direction of editor E. Einar Andersson, second president of the Society.

Julfrid: Jultidning för Alla (1928) was published in Jönköping from 1897 to 1974. This cover is by Jenny Nyström (1854-1946), known for creating the popular Swedish *Jultomte*.

Vinterny (1965) was published by the Covenant Church of Sweden from 1904 to 1981. This cover depicts a fox scurrying over the ice, as sung in *Räven raskar över isen*, a ring dance still danced around the Christmas tree.

consecutive years of the annual *God Jul*, 1916-17. Like the commercial publications, the editors chose authors and artists known in both Swedish and Swedish-American circles to reflect on and celebrate Christmas.

Barnens Julafton was published by the Covenant Church of Sweden from 1924 to 1974. This small illustrated pamphlet contains stories and activities for children. The 1949 issue includes a feature story about Covenant missionary Marcus Ch'eng and his work in the Christian community in China.

The exhibit was on display through February, but remains accessible online in the archives blog *Open Stacks* at <http://archives.northpark.edu>.

Spring Semester Intern

Hannah Chapman, a graduate student at the Dominican University Graduate School of Library & Information Science, is working one day a week with the archival records of the Society. Hannah is assisting archives volunteer Karna Anderson to complete the processing of 20 years of Society administrative records (1983-2003). This is no small feat considering the active publishing, public programming and conference schedule the Society maintained during those decades. Hannah is from Moorhead, Minn., and is the daughter of Society board member Joy Lintelman.

A trip through Society history, 10 years a a time

Society general membership programs began 59 years ago, on **Jan. 16, 1953**, when the first annual meeting under a new constitution is held at the Swedish Club with Eric Sjöquist, former private secretary to the king, as speaker. A



major event sponsored by the Society's Chicago committee follows **June 6**, Swedish Flag Day, as Carl Sandburg is featured at a Swedish Pioneer Day rally at Lane Technical High School attended by 2,000 persons. This is the largest Swedish-American gathering in Chicago since the Pioneer centennial five years earlier, in 1948. (*Sandburg pictured at rally in a Jan 7, 2007, Chicago Tribune Magazine feature*)

50 Years Ago

Jan. 27, 1962. The Society's first scholarly conference, an invitational lunch and afternoon symposium, is held at Northwestern University in Evanston, followed by a dinner at North Park College. The lunch speaker is Karl-Gustaf Hildebrand of Uppsala University. (See April 1962 *Quarterly* for text of Hildebrand's talk and a report on the symposium by Zenos Hawkinson).

40 Years Ago

Apr. 8, 1972. Nils Wessel, president of the Sloan Foundation, is the annual meeting dinner speaker at North Park College on "How Shall We Hang--Together or Separately?" (See July 1972 *Quarterly* for text) The meeting is a precursor to the Swedish Council of America, formed in 1973 with the Society as one of four charter members and Wessel as first president.

30 Years Ago

Apr. 3, 1982. The official film from the 1948 Swedish Pioneer Centennial celebration (out of which the Society grew) is shown and Zenos Hawkinson speaks on "Keeping the Heritage: Our Swedish-American Colleges" at the afternoon session of the annual meeting. Anne-Charlotte Harvey speaks on and performs Swedish immigrant ballads at the evening dinner.

20 Years Ago

Apr. 11, 1992. The annual dinner at North Park College features Philip Anderson, Dag Blanck and Mel Holli in a

preview of the Society's latest book, *Swedish-American Life in Chicago: Cultural and Urban Aspects of an Immigrant People, 1850-1930*.

Apr. 24-25. A co-sponsored conference at Augustana College in Rock Island on "Scandinavian Immigrants and Education in North America" leads to the Society's next book. (See July *Quarterly* for report)

Coming in the Quarterly

Rune stone: Fact and fiction

The current January issue of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* includes one article, "The Kensington Rune Stone: Fact and Fiction," by Henrik Williams; book notes, and nine book reviews. Among the books reviewed is H. Arnold Barton's *Essays on Scandinavian History*. In planning is a special double issue of the *Quarterly* with presentations from the Nov. 5-6, 2010, symposium at North Park University, "The Augustana Synod and the Covenant Church: Contact, Conflict and Confluence, 1860-2010."

Emerging Scholars Prize

At its Nov. 5 meeting, the Society board approved establishment of an "emerging scholars prize" open to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students interested in writing an article for the *Quarterly*. All who submit an entry will receive a one-year society membership, with the best article winning a \$250 prize.

Olsson research grant

The board also approved the awarding of a \$2,500 grant from the Nils William and Dagmar Olsson Research Fund to Alan Petersen, curator of fine arts at the Museum of Northern Arizona, for his work on the Swedish-American painter Gunnar Widforss (1879-1934). Widforss was a friend of Stephen Mather, first director of the National Parks Service, who promoted his paintings. Petersen, who already has curated one exhibit of Widforss' work, has presentations scheduled in 2012-13 at Yosemite, Sequoia, Zion, Yellowstone and Bryce Canyon national parks.

Information on the web

Want to order a book? Read past issues of the newsletter? Look up something in any issue of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* from 1950 to 2007? Review recent Society programs? Check out as many as 40 other sites? You can do it all at our website, swedishamericanhist.org. And for interesting items from the archives go to *Open Stacks* at archives.northpark.edu.

A correction

The last newsletter included an item that there were no Society members in only six states, including Missouri. There is a member in Missouri and a loyal one, life member Robert Lindwall of Kansas City. Our apologies to Missouri and Mr. Lindwall for the omission.

Newsletter editor: Eric Lund
