

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Established to
Record and Interpret
the Swedish Presence
in America

25 September 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the Swedish-American Historical Society:

Warm greetings during these early days of autumn amidst the ongoing reality of COVID-19, which has changed each of our lives, routines, and relationships in recent months and no doubt for some time to come. This is also true of our Society in that we had hoped at our virtual board meeting last April that we might be able to gather in person in Chicago on November 7. That is not to be, however, so this letter is to inform you of our current plans for a Fall Meeting, as well as to bring you current on some Society matters.

The 2020 Fall Meeting of the Society

The Fall Meeting will be via Zoom on Sunday afternoon, October 25, from 3:00-4:15 p.m. CDT, and is titled ***Turbulent 2020 and the Swedish-American Museum Experience: A Conversation with the Directors***. The Society stands in solidarity and support with all heritage and cultural organizations and institutions, especially mindful of our Swedish-American museums encountering challenges and opportunities related not just to the pandemic, but also broader realities faced by museums—past, present, and future—as well as within the local communities where they reside and serve. We are extremely pleased that the directors of our four largest Swedish-American museums will be with us for the fall program: Tracey Beck at the American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia; Karin Abercrombie at the Swedish American Museum in Chicago; Bruce Karstadt at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis; and Eric Nelson at the National Nordic Museum in Seattle. The program will include a brief report on the Society, creative presentations by each of the directors about their museums, a moderated conversation with the four leaders, and a time for questions from program attendees that will arise during the meeting. The occasion will be both educational and inspirational.

Please refer to the program flyer included in this mailing regarding registration. This meeting is open to the public, so share information as well with interested family and friends. If you have questions, contact Maria Ward at the Society's office. We look forward to your attendance and participation on October 25!

Society News

Unlike our museums, which have tackled ongoing challenges and decisions regarding closure, phased reopening, budget and revenue streams, exhibitions and programming, staff, buildings (including cafes and gift shops), and creative outreach opportunities, the Society has been able to pursue its mission of publications, preservation, and programs relatively unencumbered. Our office manager and archivist (located in Chicago at North Park University) have mostly been working from home, as our editor and production editor routinely do as a matter of course. The committees, executive committee, and board of directors have been meeting virtually.

3225 WEST FOSTER AVENUE, BOX 48
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625-4895
PHONE: (773) 583-5722
www.swedishamericanhist.org
E-mail: info@swedishamericanhist.org

A Not-for-Profit Corporation founded in 1948 as the Swedish Pioneer Historical Society

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Established to
Record and Interpret
the Swedish Presence
in America

Regarding publications, editor Kevin Proescholdt will be handing the reins of the *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* over to Mark Safstrom beginning with the January 2021 issue. We are immensely grateful for Kevin's skilled leadership over the past five years and look forward to his ongoing involvement with the publications committee as he continues to serve on the board of directors. While continuing the focus since 1950 on the Swedish immigrant experience in North America, the journal will be expanding its scope to include the burgeoning scholarship relating to dimensions of the historical relationships between the United States and Sweden. We look forward to Mark's tenure as the eighth editor of the *Quarterly*.

The 2020 dividend book of the Society, *Sacred Migrations: Borderlands of Community and Faith, Essays in Honor of Philip J. Anderson*, will appear in October. Published by the Swedish-American Historical Society and edited by board members Hauna Ondrey and Mark Safstrom, it is a festschrift that includes several essays by Society colleagues. The 2021—2022 dividend book is scheduled to be published next spring by the University of Minnesota Press. Edited by Dag Blanck and Adam Hjorthén, *Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations* is a volume of wide-ranging essays by scholars in the United States, Scandinavia, and Europe that breaks exciting new ground in the long tradition of Swedish-American scholarship.

If you are not eligible to receive the dividend books, please consider raising your membership level to Sustaining or above to receive added benefits. Membership information is always available on the Society's website, and our fall renewal communications for 2021 memberships will begin soon.

While onsite research access to the our Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago has been severely curtailed because of the pandemic, archivist Andy Meyer—Director of Archives and Special Collections at North Park University's Brandel Library—has been faithfully administering the archival collections and inquiries throughout. Do not hesitate to contact him regarding your research requests, as well as the unfolding status of physical access to the archives, which is governed by North Park's COVID-19 policies. Andy may be reached at ameyer@northpark.edu or 773-244-6224.

It is not possible, of course, to project public programs into the future beyond this Fall Meeting, and it is quite likely that the Spring Meeting will be virtual, as well. Look for further communication from the Society, as we live together into the days and months ahead. We continue to be grateful for your ongoing interest, participation, and financial support as we share the mission "to record and interpret the Swedish presence in North America." Gift memberships and financial contributions to the Swedish-American Historical Society are welcomed with appreciation.

With best wishes for safety and well-being,

Philip J. Anderson
President

Ronald J. Johnson
Chair, Board of Directors