

SWEDISH-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Established to
Record and Interpret
the Swedish Presence
in America

October 2021

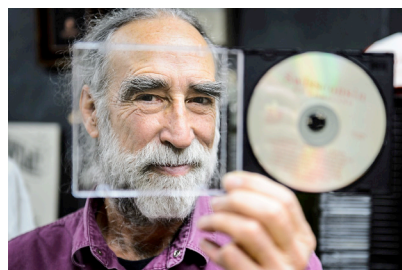
Dear Members and Friends of the Swedish-American Historical Society:

Warm autumn greetings from Chicago! Once again, because of the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, we have determined that it is not possible to follow through on our plans for an in-person fall meeting in Chicago. Instead, we have arranged an engaging online program on an important area of Swedish-American and Chicago cultural history. We hope that we might be able to travel and gather together again once the time for our spring meeting comes around!



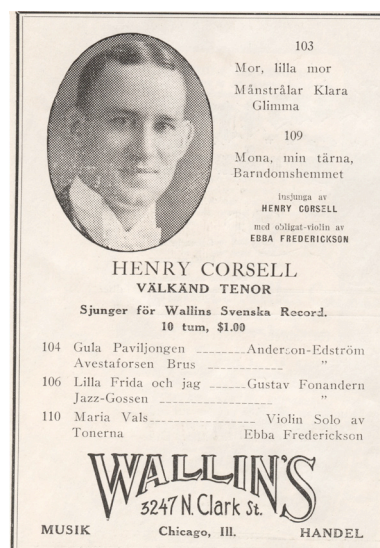
On **Sunday, November 7, from 12:00–1:30 p.m. Central**, we are excited to host Dr. James Leary, along with Swedish-American Historical Society board member, Dr. Marcus Cederström, as they present and discuss *Swede Home Chicago: Wallin's Svenska Records, 1923-1927*, a multimedia presentation highlighting the music from Gustaf Waldemar Wallin's Chicago-based record label.

Chicago, the most populous Swedish city after Stockholm in the early 1900s, was also home to the first record label founded by a Nordic immigrant to the United States. Gustaf Waldemar Wallin, a former crofter from Sweden's rocky western coast, owned a Chicago music shop issuing 28 double-sided discs. Newly restored and reissued by Archeophone Records with a richly illustrated 76-page booklet, *Swede Home Chicago: Wallin's Svenska Records, 1923-1927* features raucous vaudevillians, operatic tenors, accordion dance bands, classical duos, novelty bell ringers, vocal quartets, and massed choirs. Folklorist/lead researcher Jim Leary's presentation combines insights into the label's founder and performers with an appreciation of archival collections preserving critical fragments of the immigrant experience, while Cederström will briefly discuss the research and translation that went into producing this work in order to make this wealth of historically important songs accessible today. *Swede Home Chicago: Wallin's Svenska Records, 1923-1927* is a reminder of the importance of preserving and, in this case, restoring and reissuing the numerous songs from an era in which Swedish rang out all around Chicago's Lake View neighborhood.



Jim Leary is emeritus professor of Folklore and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he co-founded the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures. A two-time Grammy nominee for Best Album Notes, his research on the folk narrative, song, and music of indigenous, immigrant, and working-class peoples has resulted in numerous media productions and such publications as *So Ole Says to Lena: Folk Humor of the Upper Midwest* and *Folksongs of Another America: Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest, 1937-1946*.

Please refer to the included program flyer regarding registration. This meeting is open to the public, so share information as well with interested family and friends. Please contact Maria Ward at the Society's office with any questions. We look forward to your attendance and participation on November 7!



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

The Society's designated **2021-2022 dividend book** was recently released 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. It includes essays by members of our Society, and the editors are leaders in the field of Swedish-American relations and migration history, as well as central to the various publication programs of SAHS. The dividend will be sent to qualifying members in early 2022.

If you are not eligible to receive dividend books, please consider raising your membership level to Sustaining or above to receive added benefits. Details are on the Society's website.

Regarding membership, we remain profoundly grateful for all the members who have shared in the work of the Society in the past and for those who continue to enjoy the fruits of our labors and offer support and collaboration today. **We are now requesting renewals for the 2022 subscription year, and we encourage all who would like to stay connected and continue receiving the Swedish-American Historical Quarterly to renew before December 31, 2021.** The Society continues to pursue new ways of making connections and strengthening networks of students, colleagues, members and friends, and we encourage you to spread the word!

While onsite research access to our **Swedish-American Archives of Greater Chicago** continues to be 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.

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

