

SWEDISH AMERICAN MUSEUM

Swedish American Museum
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 SwedishAmericanMuseum.org

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To preserve, teach and celebrate Swedish heritage.

Fall 2023



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Mission Statement

Through its arts and educational programs and its permanent collection, the Swedish American Museum interprets the immigrant experience for children and adults and promotes an appreciation of contemporary Swedish-American culture.

Flaggan

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Special Exhibits

The Spirit of Place: Earth is Home Lithography by Kurt Seaberg Exhibit Closes on Sunday, Oct. 22

Kurt Seaberg is a Sami-American artist currently residing in Minnesota. He was born in Chicago, IL, and studied intaglio and lithography at the University of Minnesota. Nature has always been a theme and source of inspiration in his work and the particular spiritual qualities he finds there. He believes one of the tasks of an artist is to remind us where our strength and power lies – in beauty, community, and sense of place. Seaberg uses his art to connect with his Sami heritage and his father, who was an artist as well. This exhibit showcases Seaberg's lithographs which connect you to natural, beautiful landscapes.



Some of My Own By Jenny Mörtell Exhibit Opening, Friday, Oct. 27, 6 p.m. Exhibit Closes, Sunday, March 3, 2024

Some of my own is a series of pencil drawings about being a Swede raising kids in America and being an American raising kids in Sweden. It is also about finding happiness in small everyday moments of beauty when things don't go as planned.

Jenny Mörtell is a Swedish illustrator. After several years studying art and earning a MA in Graphic Design and Illustration at Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design she relocated to New York working with clients such as New York Times Magazine, 3.1 Phillip Lim, Roberto Cavalli, Harry's, Wealhsimple, Wallpaper, Whyred, Refinery 29, Outdoor Voices, Aritzia, Urban Outfitters, ELLE, Vogue, Lula, Grey Magazine, The Last Magazine, NYLON, Target, Fossil, The Swedish Post, The California Sunday Magazine, Twin Shadow, Aziz Ansari, Martin Rev. She is currently based in Stockholm, Sweden

Tattoo: Identity Through Ink Exhibit Closes on Sunday, Nov. 26

The exhibit *Tattoo: Identity Through Ink* tells the story of tattoos and the people who have them. For more than 5,000 years, tattoos have helped document the history of humanity one painful mark at a time. Today, tattoos have never been more popular, but they are so much more than decoration. They are a powerful visual language of the skin, and, like texts, they permanently record memories, life stories, and personal achievements.

Tattoo: Identity Through Ink explores the personal and collective acts of human transformation through the tattoo traditions of indigenous peoples and other tattoo communities, past and present. Throughout history, people have applied tattoos to skin in their attempts to beautify, heal, empower, or carry the body into the afterlife. This exhibit shares the ways individual and group identities are formed, reinforced, and celebrated through tattoos.

The exhibit is curated by renowned anthropologist Dr. Lars Krutak. Krutak is a Research Associate at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He has authored four books on the subject of indigenous body modification and produced and hosted the Discovery Channel series *Tattoo Hunter*. In this exhibition, Krutak shares his ongoing journey to understand how ancient and more contemporary tattoos “make” the people who wear them.

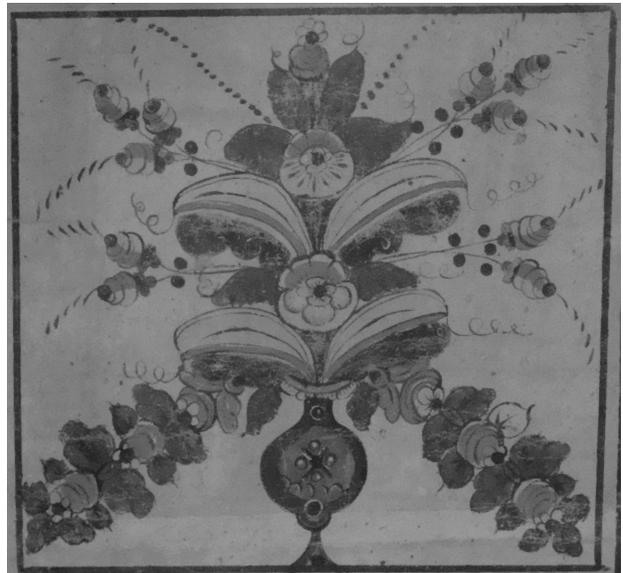
For those interested in Scandinavian connections, the exhibit celebrates artists like Norwegian Johan Frederik Knudsen and Norwegian-American Amund Dietzel, explores the question of whether or not Vikings had tattoos, and highlights the rise of the modern Neo-Nordic style of tattooing while putting the Scandinavian history and traditions of body ornamentation in context with many cultures.

This traveling exhibit is organized by Vesterheim, the national Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School and made possible by the generous support of Jon and Mary Hart.



Bonader Exhibit Opens, Friday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m. Exhibit Closes, Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024

One of the most remarkable examples of Scandinavian folk art is the painted picture indigenous to the Swedish peasant home. The commonly used name for these peasant paintings is bonader, and their provenance was to decorate the walls and ceilings of the homes at Christmas time and on feast days, thus adding a note of color and gaiety to the otherwise dark interiors. Between festivities, these canvas or paper panels were taken down and carefully kept, to become a part of the family inheritance. The collection of bonader at the Museum represents extraordinary works on linen and paper, with vegetable and mineral pigments that achieve arrays of color. They were sized for specific wall spaces and hung unframed. Several of the artists were identified, and more than 100 may have practiced the craft. Donated to the Museum in 2000 by the Art Institute of Chicago, the 29 bonader represent the eighth largest known collection. They originated in 1931 among acquisitions from world traveler Florence Dibell Bartlett of Chicago. Inspired by what she viewed as a decline in creation of folk art, Bartlett acquired pieces she found in 37 countries. She was the founder in 1953 of the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.





Aspire! Gala 2023

Gala, Saturday, Nov. 4, 6 p.m.

The Museum's annual fundraising event is a night of fun and celebration of Swedish and Swedish-American heritage and culture. Gala guests are treated to a night of entertainment, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and food from Andersonville restaurants. Special silent auction items are only for attendees - not available online. We are honoring Tamara Biggs, a Museum Exhibit Specialist, for her leadership in helping to create "We Are America" - the new immigration exhibit.

The Gala Committee is excited to be able to host the event at our beloved Museum. Using all floors of the Museum, attendees will have the option of two ticket levels. Whether an exclusive seated dinner or a mix and mingle tasting menu, this year's Gala offers more opportunities for our community to participate!

Ways to support

There are many ways to be involved with this year's Gala. Before Gala night, you can become a sponsor, place an ad in the program book or donate to the silent auction. Sponsors will be mentioned in the program book, on the website, on the silent auction site as well as at the Gala. The program book is a great place to advertise your business or to leave a congratulatory message to the Museum and Tamara Biggs. If you or your business have items, gift cards or experiences that you are willing to donate it will help the Museum and its work. Donating is easy and can be done on our website at www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/annual-gala

Silent Auction, Sunday, Oct. 29 - Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 p.m.

There will be an online silent auction again this year. This way you will be able to bid on items in the auction from home or at the Gala. The auction will close during the Gala so participants can pick up their winnings at the end of the night. If you are a winner that did not attend the Gala you will have the option to pick up your winnings at the Museum or have it shipped to your home at cost.

Honoree

This year we are honoring Tamara Biggs who has been making exhibitions for over 40 years, beginning in 1981 as a preparator at Chicago's Field Museum. After five years as a project manager at Denver Museum of Nature and Science, she became director of exhibitions at Chicago History Museum, where she led an award-winning team for 22 years. Together they created nearly 100 exhibitions, four of them winners of the American Alliance of Museum's Excellence in Exhibition award, one a winner of the Allan Bérubé Prize from the Committee on LGBT History, and one a winner of the Costume Society of America's Richard Martin Exhibition Award, as well as five MUSE awards for exhibit media. She was a founder of the Chicago Cultural Alliance, a consortium of ethnic museums and cultural centers, and has served on the boards of National Association for Museum Exhibitions and the National Indo-American Museum.

Tamara has worked with the Museum since 2012 to envision, plan and implement an updated core exhibit on the second floor, beginning with an analysis of Dream of America and a successful grant to upgrade collections storage. Funds raised during our 40th Anniversary campaign in 2016 and 2017 and a 2019 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services bring the project total to \$500,000. The start date of the grant period was September 2021 and are now in the final stages of the update. We are very excited about the grand opening of We Are America in late 2023 or early 2024.

Tamara has been with us throughout the process, and her guidance and knowledge have been instrumental every step of the way.

For more information please visit: www.SwedishAmericanMuseum.org/annual-gala



Programs & Events

RECURRING EVENTS

SCANDINAVIAN JAM - FREE

Sunday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Oct. 15 in person

Nov. 12 online & Nov. 19 in person

Dec. 10 online & performance at Julmarknad (date tbd)

Scandinavian Jam, where we practice what we teach.

Join Mary Allsopp and Paul Tyler. Once a month we meet online and once in person at the Museum.

Enjoy an afternoon of traditional roots music. We teach by ear, review and share tunes. We are happy to take suggestions and love meeting new people. It's a friendly group and we have folks joining in from across the country.

HEJSAN! STORY AND CRAFT - FREE

Thursday, 2 p.m.

Oct. 26

Nov. 30

Dec. 28

Join us in the Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration for a story and craft on the last Thursday of each month. All ages are welcome to attend with a caregiver for this free (with admission) program.

BOOK CLUB ONLINE - FREE

Saturday, 1 p.m.

Oct. 28, "In Every Mirror She's Black"

by Lola Akinmade Åkerström

Nov. 18, "By the Fire" by Emilie Demant Hatt

Dec. 16, Explore Nordic Cookbooks and Make a new recipe,

During book club meeting we will share what cookbook we tried and how the recipe turned out.

The Museum book club reads a wide range of books from the Nordic countries. This is a free event and the books can be bought in the Museum Store.

OCTOBER

Closed on Mondays

DINNER AND MOVIE

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m.

The Museum dinner and movie night series are returning. We will watch a number of movies in Swedish with English subtitles. You can choose to come for dinner or just enjoy the movie. In October we will show "The girl who saved my life"

Cost for dinner and movie is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Movie only is \$10 for all.

OPEN LATE

Thursday, Oct. 19, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The Museum and Museum Store is open until 8 p.m. on the first and third Thursday September through November.

COTTAGES IN THE WOODS

Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Museum Store will take part in "Cottages in the Woods," a unique event held in the historic Good Templar Park of Geneva, IL. Our Swedish stugas (cottages) will be open with each offering a variety of delightful wares. Visitors will find handmade items as well as vintage and collectible items, including traditional Scandinavian arts of rosemaling, and dalmaling and delicious baked goods. This family friendly occasion is a charming event for all ages.

SMALL FISH RADIO THEATER

Sunday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.

Small Fish Radio Theatre and Thespinarium produces portable theater for the ear. The theatre is returning to the Swedish American Museum for their Annual Horror Show. Join us at the Museum for first row seats for this awesome event. Reservations can be made by emailing rsvp@smallfishradio.com. Cost of admission is \$10 cash at the door.

EXHIBIT OPENING - FREE

Friday, Oct. 27, 6 p.m.

Some of My Own By Jenny Mörtzell

Some of My Own is a series of pencil drawings about being a Swede raising kids in America and being an American raising kids in Sweden. It is also about finding happiness in small everyday moments of beauty when things don't go as planned.

GENEALOGY SESSION ONLINE

Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m. - noon

Joy K. Lintelman is a professor of history emeriti at Concordia College Moorhead. Among her many publications on Swedish immigration, Minnesota history, and local history is Minnesota Book Award Winner I Go to America (2009), about Mina Anderson and the experiences of Swedish immigrant women. She has also taught and researched food history and spent one of her sabbaticals researching the relationship of Swedish-Americans and coffee. Her presentation will describe her discoveries and the special meanings of coffee for Swedish-Americans, such as coffee and prosperity, coffee and hospitality, and egg coffee.

POP-UP CAFÉ

Sunday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Stop by the Museum for a fika in our pop-up café. Try a Swedish Cinnamon Roll, Sandwich or other baked goods in the Museum's pop-up café in the main gallery while enjoying the temporary exhibit on display.

KNIT GROUP

Sunday, Oct. 29, 1 p.m.

Come together to knit, crochet, cross stitch or any other similar craft. We learn from each other and sometimes a special guest will teach us Swedish knitting patterns.

CHICAGO MIXED CHORUS CONCERT

Sunday, Oct. 29, 4 p.m.

Join us for a long awaited concert by the Chicago Swedish Mixed Chorus. The program is sung in Swedish and English. Refreshments to follow. Cost is \$10 at the door.

NOVEMBER

Closed on Mondays and Thursday, Nov. 23.

OPEN LATE

Thursday, Nov. 2 & 16, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The Museum and Museum Store is open until 8 p.m. on the first and third Thursday September through November.

ASPIRE! GALA

Saturday, Nov. 4, 6 p.m.

Information on page 3.

POP-UP CAFÉ

Sunday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Stop by the Museum for a fika in our pop-up café. Try a Swedish Cinnamon Roll, Sandwich or other baked goods in the Museum's pop-up café in the main gallery while enjoying our temporary exhibit on display.

KNIT GROUP

Sunday, Nov. 12, 1 p.m.

Come together to knit, crochet, cross stitch or any other similar craft. We learn from each other and sometimes a special guest will teach us Swedish knitting patterns.

COOKING CLASS ONLINE

Monday, Nov. 13, 4 p.m.

Join us for another cooking class series. In November we will learn how to make fish dishes and rulltsårta (Swiss roll). You will receive the recipe in advance. You can then either cook alongside or watch and try later. It is an interactive Zoom so you will be able to ask questions. The online class is \$10 for members and \$15 for everyone else.

GOT GLÖGG?

Friday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.

Glögg, mulled wine, is a vital part of the Christmas season for Swedes. Join us for a fun competition to see who really has the best glögg in Chicago! Those wanting to compete should go on our website to reserve their space and receive the rules for competing. Tasters can purchase tickets on the Museum website or at the Museum. Admission is \$25 and includes sandwiches and samples from all our competing glögg masters.

DINNER AND MOVIE

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 6 p.m.

The Museum dinner and movie night series are returning. We will watch a number of movies in Swedish with English subtitles. You can choose to come for dinner or just enjoy the movie. In November we will show "Passage to Sweden".

Cost for dinner and movie is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Movie only is \$10 for all.

GENEALOGY SESSION ONLINE

Saturday, Nov. 25, 10 a.m. - noon

Researching Forest Finn Ancestry – Robert Johnson

This presentation begins with an overview of Forest Finns in Sweden and Norway, describing their migration, life, and acculturation into Swedish society. We will discuss ways to identify Forest Finn ancestry, including locational, documentary, and DNA. And finally, we will look at records specific to Forest Finn research.

Robert Johnson is a recovering attorney and professional genealogist. He holds a Certified Genealogist® credential and specializes in Swedish, Finnish, and Norwegian genealogical research. Bob has been doing Swedish research for over 40 years. He studied in Växjö, Sweden, and is active in several genealogical societies. Bob has recently been involved with two publications, *Genealogy At A Glance: Swedish Genealogy Research* and *Husförhörslängder, Swedish Household Examination Records: Framing the Solutions to Your Swedish Ancestry Puzzles*.

HOLIDAY CRAFTS AND CANDLE MAKING

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 6 p.m.

Come and make your own hand-dipped candle, it's a fun part of making Christmas crafts at the Museum. While the candles are drying we make other Swedish decorations. Hopefully we will have time for a special treat as well. Come prepared with a pair of scissors. Coffee and sandwiches are served. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

DECEMBER

Closed on Sunday, Dec. 24, Monday, Dec. 25, Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Sunday, Dec. 31.

JULMARKNAD PREVIEW SALE

Friday, Dec. 1, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Kerstin Andersson Museum Store invites you to enjoy a day of Christmas shopping! Specially priced Christmas items will be available and members receive a 20 percent discount all day. Some of the Julmarknad vendors will be available on Friday 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

JULMARKNAD

Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Julmarknad is the Museum's annual Christmas Bazaar, where traditional Scandinavian and modern handicrafts will be available for purchase. Visit the Children's Museum for crafts, games and a special visit from Santa. It is entertainment for the whole family and includes kaffestuga, Lucia processions and folk dancers.

COOKIE BAKING CLASS

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m.

Get ready for the Holiday season by learning how to bake some Swedish Holiday treats. There is a maximum of 6 people in this class. This is a hands on class and cost is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

BREAKFAST WITH TOMTEN

Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m.

One of our most popular family event of the year! Join us on either Saturday or Sunday for a Swedish pancake breakfast with traditional crafts, a special visit from Tomten, and dancing around the Christmas tree. Cost: \$15 members (adults and children 2 and over); \$20 non-members (adults and children 2 and over); \$5 children aged 12-24 months; Infants are free. Prepaid and confirmed tickets are required.

COOKING CLASS ONLINE

Monday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.

Join us for another cooking class series. In December we will learn how to make holiday food. You will receive the recipe in advance. You can then either cook alongside or watch and try later. It is an interactive Zoom so you will be able to ask questions. The online class is \$10 for members and \$15 for everyone else.

ST. LUCIA

Wednesday, Dec. 13

4:45 p.m. procession up Clark Street starting at the Museum

5 p.m. at the Christmas tree on Catalpa

7 p.m. at Ebenezer Lutheran Church

Celebrate St. Lucia Day with Lucia candidates representing Swedish-American organizations throughout the Chicago area. Listen to the choir sing and watch as one of the girls is crowned the Lucia. Andersonville's St. Lucia celebrations include a procession starting at 4:45 p.m. at the Museum and performs a program under the Andersonville Christmas tree on Catalpa at 5 p.m. At 7 p.m., the celebration continues at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., with holiday songs, readings and a final St. Lucia procession.

JULGUDSTJÄNST

Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m.

Join us for a Swedish Christmas church service at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave., led (in Swedish) by a priest from the Swedish Church in Toronto.

JULMIDDAG

Sunday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.

A festive and traditional Swedish Christmas smörgåsbord will be served at the Museum. The children are invited to participate in a St. Lucia procession before a special visit from Tomten and we sing Christmas songs together. Cost is \$70 for members; \$80 for non-members; \$20 for children 12 and under; infants 12 months and under are free. RSVP by Dec. 14 on the Museum website or at the Museum. Prepaid and confirmed tickets are required

DINNER AND MOVIE

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m.

The Museum dinner and movie night series are returning. We will watch a number of movies in Swedish with English subtitles. You can choose to come for dinner or just enjoy the movie. Cost for dinner and movie is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Movie only is \$10 for all.

WINTER CRAFTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Wednesday, Dec. 27 – Friday, Dec. 29

There will be different winter crafts available in the classroom on the third floor all through the week. The Brunk Children's Museum of Immigration will have extended hours during this time, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Please note that the Museum is closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

