



Happy 100!

Celebrating Finland's 100 Years of Independence

By Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence. Finland is situated in Northern Europe, bordered by Sweden in the west and Russia in the east, and is counted as one of the Nordic countries together with Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland. The Finnish-Russian border, at 833 miles long, is the longest border between a European Union country and the Russian Federation. Finland has been a member of the EU since 1995.

The geographic area nowadays known as Finland gradually became part of Sweden as the result of Catholic crusades in the 1300s and wars between Sweden and other regional powers. During Sweden's King Gustav II Adolph's reign in the early 1600s, the kingdom's administrative structure was reformed. Finland was also divided into counties, which made taxation and governing more effective.

Even after the Crown had declared it illegal, Finns used the slash-and-burn technique to clear forest land for farming. The Finns who were arrested were given the choice of serving time in prison – or of going to the New Sweden Colony. So, many of the Swedes that traveled to the Delaware Valley on the Kalmar Nyckel were actually Finns! During the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815), King Gustav IV Adolf of Sweden fought against Napoleon and his allies, but the campaign was not successful. In 1808, Russia invaded Finland, and in 1809 Sweden surrendered the eastern third of its territory to Russia. The autonomous Grand Principality of Finland was established as part of Imperial Russia. During the years of the Russian rule the degree of autonomy varied. Periods of censorship and political persecution occurred, particularly in the years following 1900. Finnish nationalism emerged, focused on Finnish cultural traditions, including music and the highly distinctive language and lyrics associated with it.



Images on pages 1-2 courtesy of Visit Finland

Note from the Director

The time and events of history seem so set in stone when you look back at them, especially when school textbooks present events as the results of abstract ideas and impersonal forces. But in actuality, as “history” was playing itself out in real time, the outcomes were much less sure. As I have learned more about Finnish Independence and its relationship to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, it has become clear to me that at multiple points in the story, things could have gone very differently. An article I read described how ideas were being debated in Russia at the time and how ordinary citizens were actively listening to multiple warring perspectives whose proponents used everything in their power to persuade these individuals to choose their side. It was a chaotic time that had major impact on the modern world.

Individual people are always a driving force in the course of social and political change. One thing I have always valued about museums is that they help to bring alive the story of individuals in history. Through tangible historic objects and artist’s work, museums invite people to see things in a new way.

ASHM’s current special exhibitions, *Where the Children Sleep* and *Portraits of Migration*, give you an opportunity to consider the situation of refugees and immigrants in the world today. I hope that seeing them will inspire you to be actively engaged in making history today, whether it relates to this topic or another which is important to you. I can’t help but wonder how textbooks will interpret our era when it comes time to celebrate Finland 200 in the year 2117!

Tracey Beck



Not long after the October Revolution in Russia in 1917, the Finnish Parliament voted to declare Finland an independent nation. That date, December 6th, is still celebrated as Finland’s Independence Day. Finland fought two wars against the Soviet Union during the Second World War—the Winter War and the Continuation War, and managed to maintain its independence despite suffering heavy casualties and land losses. Finland is the only European country bordering the Soviet Union that remained independent after the war.

Finland’s independence continues to be a deeply emotional issue for the Finnish people. The Independence Day has traditionally been a solemn celebration, and war veterans and the sacrifices of their generation are remembered and honored. When I was growing up in Finland, the highlight of the day was to light up two candles in each window at 6pm and then cozy up onto the couch to watch the Presidential Independence Day reception broadcasted from the Presidential Palace in Helsinki. The reception is still the most watched program each year on Finnish TV; in 2016, 88% of the TV audience tuned into the live broadcast and commentary.

The 100th anniversary is being celebrated throughout the year both in Finland and in expatriate communities throughout the world. In Finland, there have been countless cultural and educational events, both small and large. A new movie version of author Väinö Linna’s book *The Unknown Soldier*, a national treasure depicting the struggle of the Finnish soldier during the Continuation War, will premier in late October. Home goods companies such

as **Fiskars** and **Iittala-Arabia** have brought special edition products on the market. There’s even a special white and blue sock yarn! In the US, there have also been events throughout the year. The traveling sauna has toured the country since February. In September, the President of Finland, Sauli Niinistö, accompanied by his wife Mrs Jenni Haukio, visited the Finnish Embassy in DC and then traveled to Minnesota to attend *FinnFest*, the biggest annual Finnish-American celebration. One weekend in August, Finns both in Finland and abroad were encouraged to host dinner parties with their friends and neighbors as part of a centennial celebration event titled *Finnish Your Dinner*.

The official theme for the anniversary celebration is *Yhdessä*, or “Together”, in English. To me, this sums up the modern-day Finnish society perfectly. Finland, like any other country, has its own set of challenging societal problems, but all in all, Finnish society is built on a shared responsibility for the well-being of all its citizens. Regardless of who is in charge politically, the long-term goals of safety, good education, publicly funded health care and social support structure are viewed as benefiting everybody. Finland is a society built on both compassion and a sense of social justice, which the Finns are immensely proud of and which is also favorably recognized in various international comparisons year after year. This is a solid foundation for beginning the second century of the Finnish independence.

Hyvää itsenäisyyspäivää, Suomi! Grattis på självständighetsdagen, Finland!
Happy Independence Day, Finland!

Local Events to Celebrate Finland 100

Concert with Brent Buswell

November 11, 7:30 pm
Cokesbury Retirement Center
Hockessin, DE

As part of the Finland 100 celebrations, the Delaware Valley Finnish-Americans have worked with the Cokesbury Retirement Center to have accordion player **Brent Buswell** present a concert on Saturday, November 11 at the Cokesbury Retirement Center in Hockessin, DE.

Brent will play music in honor of Veteran's Day with patriotic songs, including the Armed Forces Medley, as well as Finnish songs in honor Finland's 100th Anniversary. He will be accompanied for some tunes by his wife, Crista. The free performance is scheduled to begin at 7:30 pm, but plan to arrive earlier as seating is limited.

Iltamat Gala Event

December 9, 7:00 pm
American Swedish Historical Museum

Join us for a special gala event "Iltamat" at ASHM on December 9, when we celebrate the centennial of Finland's Independence!

We have invited **Ameriikan Poijat**, a 7-member brass band par excellence from Minnesota to entertain us with familiar Finnish songs and concert pieces, with Antti Vänskä, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Finland as the guest of honor.

Along with ASHM, the New Sweden Alliance and the Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley are the enthusiastic sponsors of this event. Don't miss this milestone birthday of Finland!

Tickets for the concert and reception are \$20 in advance (available at newswedenalliance.org), \$25 at the door.



Celebrating Transparency



Images of ships sailing across the waves, finely-worked squirrels and stags, and pictures of pearl divers plunging into the deep—these sound like images painted onto a canvas or printed onto a card. Thanks to a recent 99-object donation, though, the ASHM can explore these scenes not on canvas or paper but with glass. This generous donation of finely-engraved Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, and Finnish art glass has gotten us excited about both

the stories that we can see in the glass and those that we can tell through these new additions to our collection.

The scale of the donation is one that the ASHM has not seen in several decades. The donor, Jennifer Silverman, has been an enthusiastic collector of engraved Scandinavian glass for several years. Over her years of collecting, Jennifer came to realize that many of her pieces were best suited for display in a museum, leading to contact with the ASHM. Further discussion with Jennifer led to ASHM Executive Director, Tracey Beck, and Curator, Trevor Brandt, driving to Connecticut to see the collection in person. Tracey and Trevor were astounded at the scale of Jennifer's collection—her glass spans from the end of the 1800s through the late 1900s and includes examples from major glass-designers working in nearly every Scandinavian country.

Jennifer's enthusiasm for her collection was made apparent as she discussed the history of individual pieces and the endless possibilities for interpreting the glass.

Through this glass, we can understand the history of companies such as Orrefors, Kosta, Boda, Åfors, and Karhula. We can also peek into the work of designers and copper-wheel engravers such as Vicke Lindstrand, Gnut Berqqvist, and Ewald Dahlskog (who also created the ASHM's Chicago Room wood-inlay mural). We can also better understand the memories that such glass evoked in Swedish-Americans who grew up admiring such fine glassware. And, of course, these 99 objects can exhibit the worldwide prestige of Scandinavian glass in the twentieth century, today made visible in fine-art museums around the world.

But, perhaps most importantly, we can celebrate these glass pieces as works of art in their own right. Everyday objects such as phone screens, televisions, windows, and windshields have partially blinded us to glass's potential for beauty. We're inundated with glass today. The 99-object donation from Jennifer Silverman, however, reminds us to step back to look at glass, not through it, and to appreciate the material in all of its stunning transparency.

Upcoming Events and Registration Info

To Register For Events

call 215-389-1776, or visit online at
www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm

There is always something going on at the American Swedish Historical Museum. See below for scheduled events. Please check with the Museum to confirm dates and other details. Refunds will not be granted for cancellations after the registration deadline. To register for events by phone call (215) 389-1776. Online registration is available through links in the Museum's email announcements or on the Events Calendar on our website, americanswedish.org/events.



MONTHLY PROGRAM:

Toddler Time

10:30 am - 11:30 am

The third Tuesday of each month ASHM offers specially designed programs to

introduce Swedish culture through art, science, and literature in uniquely fun and creative ways to children ages 18 months to 4 years old. The cost is \$5 per child or free for museum Household Members. There is no charge for accompanying caregivers. Register by phone or online.

Tuesday December 19, 2017

Tip Toe with Tomtarna

Tuesday January 16, 2018

Winter Wonderland

Tuesday February 20, 2018

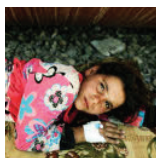
Aurora Borealis

Tuesday March 20, 2018

ABC's & 123's Svenska Style

Tuesday April 17, 2018

Everyone Can Recycle



Film Screening:

The Girl Who Saved My Life

Saturday, November 25,

1:00-2:30 pm

ASHM will be screening this film in conjunction with

our new exhibit *Where the Children Sleep*. In August 2014, documentary filmmaker Hogir Hirori leaves his pregnant wife in Sweden to go back to his homeland, Iraqi Kurdistan, to document the stories of the refugees of war. He is offered to come along on a helicopter transport to the Shingal Mountains, where hundreds of thousands of people are stuck. But, on his way to the helicopter, he finds an 11-year-old girl in pain, lying alone on the ground in scorching heat. He decides to stay and help her instead of going on the helicopter.

Later, he learns that the helicopter crashed so Hogir sets out on a quest to find the girl again, and on his way he meets many other victims of war: women sold as slaves to the IS, families torn apart, children kidnapped, men beheaded and lives destroyed. This film screening is free with museum admission.

Julbord

Friday, December 1,

6:00 pm

Nothing makes the holiday season cozier than coming together with family and friends for a very special Swedish Julbord. Join ASHM for cocktails and an authentic Christmas smörgåsbord dinner followed by a Lucia procession. The Christmas Market is open all evening. Members \$50, non-members \$60. Cash bar. Register by phone or online by November 27th.



Lucia & Christmas Market

Saturday, December 2

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Drop in for our family-friendly Lucia Fest, with Lucia processions at 1pm and

3:15pm. The Christmas Market includes your favorite holiday deli items, Christmas decorations, and gifts, and the SWEA bakery tables will be open all day. The Swedish Christmas Café will be selling holiday foods and sweets for your refreshment. Admission is \$12 for non-members, \$8 for members, children 4-12 \$5, and children under 4 are free. Reservations are not required, but tickets may be purchased in advance on our website.

Guided Tour

Wednesday, December 27

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Have holiday guests that you need to entertain? Looking for a reason to get out of the house after the holiday crush? Do you want to see the American Swedish Historical Museum in a new way? Join us on December 27th for a guided tour of the Museum! Don't miss this opportunity to get an in-depth look at the gallery spaces with Museum Director Tracey Beck. Spaces on the tour are limited and pre-registration is recommended. \$5 member, \$15 non-member.

Genealogy Meeting

Saturday, January 27

1:30 pm

Save the date for the winter Genealogy Club meeting. Gather with fellow ASHM members and explore the branches of your Swedish ancestry. Make a day of it and follow up the

genealogy program with research time in the library and be sure to sign up for our delicious pea soup dinner!



Pea Soup and Punch Supper:

Årtsoppa och Punsch

Saturday, January 27

6:00 pm

Warm up on a chilly winter's night with a bowl of Swedish

yellow pea soup and a cup of punsch. Dinner is served with sharp cheese, bread, and dessert. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Register by phone or online by January 24th.

Finnish Language Course

Sundays, February 4 – April 8

1:00 - 3:00 pm

New this year! ASHM will be offering a beginner Finnish Language class. This ten week session with instructor Marja Kaisla will be a great introduction to the basics of the language and culture. Classes are filled on a first-come basis and space is limited. Registration is \$180 for Museum members and \$245 for non-members, the price does not include textbooks. To register please call 215-389-1776x106 or email lburnham@americanswedish.org.



Semlor and a Movie

Saturday, February 10

11:00 am

Treat yourself to a rich *semla*, a cream and almond paste-filled Swedish pastry, along

with a cup of hot coffee and a Swedish film. Semlor are often eaten before the start of Lent, the Swedish version of "Fat Tuesday." Event tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door. Ticket price includes one *semla*, additional *semlor* are \$6 each. Walk-ins welcome, but pre-registration is appreciated.

Swedish Cooking Workshop

Saturday February 24

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Join fellow culinary enthusiasts for a totally hands-on cooking workshop at ASHM. Recipes include Beef a la Lindstrom, cardamom bread, and pickled beets. Space is extremely limited; \$50 per person (includes all food and drinks). Reservations are required; register by phone or online by February 19th.

(see article on page 8 of this newsletter)

SAVE THE DATE!

Easter Family Fun Day & Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 25

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Images from Recent Events

Photographs by ASHM Staff

► At Toddler Time in September, children got to make their very own collection books



▲ Children and their parents learning about Swedish crayfish party traditions at Toddler Time in August

► Beer enthusiasts at SmörgåsBeer in July



► One evening in September, we were taking pledges for WHYY on live TV



▲ ASHM's Executive Director Tracey Beck with Karin Kornaga, recipient of the 2017 Amandus Johnson Volunteer Service Award



▲ Robert Borgstrom giving an appraisal at Antique Appraisal Day



▲ Curator Trevor Brandt giving a Collections Highlight presentation at the Annual Meeting



▲ Our annual Crayfish Party in August was a fun affair for the whole family.

Contributions

Do you want to make a contribution?

There are several easy ways to support us. Visit our web page <http://www.americanswedish.org/support/donate> or call **215-389-1776** for more information.

Contributions to the Collection

The ASHM has received a number of generous donations to its collection through the summer and fall of 2017. Lisa Tordo of Yardley, Pennsylvania, added to the ASHM's textile collection by donating men and women's Swedish wedding clothes from the 1880s. Just as these wedding clothes help us to explore marriage traditions, we can also better explore Swedish funerary rites with a donation from Diana Wickersham of Kansas. Diana Wickersham donated a pair of Swedish *likhandklade*, or linen bands used to lower coffins into graves. The American Textile History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts donated two spinning wheels brought to America from Sweden in the early 1900s in addition to a Swedish flax scutching knife.

New Members

July 1 – October 15, 2017

Life

Kay Ford
Ulla Dagert-Muther and Paul Muther

Household

Joe & Julie Ament-Harrison
Amsterdam Family
Meera & Sam Bhardwaj-Bernhardt
Carolyn & Josh Biel-Martin
Shelby & Sean Bollner-Findley
Francesca Carendi & Alex Kuc
Kael & Erin Coleman-Vaccaro
Alyssa & Mike Crawford-Giuliano
Jameelah Edwards
Katie & Patrick Englander-Woolford
Britt Marie Epstein
Margaret Fulton
Alexander Funcke
Emily & Peter Gowen-Erickson
Lauren & Joe Jasinski-Yannuzzi
Dana & Tim Kerr-McMahon
Megan & Steven Marron-Holland
Joey Mattisson
Dave & Kallie Medway-MacMaster
Margaret Nersten
Natalie & David Nowak-Manlove
Scott & Carly O'Hara-Agre
Amber & Barzin Riblett-Nabet
Kyra & Mike Smerkanich-Ficht
Christine Souders

Alexandra & Matthew Souliotis-Amato
Natalie & Andrew Viriglio-Salimeo
Aubrey & Andrew Wagner-Blackman
Leanne & Bryan Wallace-Lick
Hailey & Carl Watts-Korpi
Sara & Eric Williams-Hanfman

Individual

Susan Carey
Emily Crossen
Alf Fjellborg
Hanna Kahler

Seniors/Students

Valerie Hasan
Edward Kennedy
Pamela Richards
Nancy Rygg
William Thompson

Annual Giving and Contributions

July 1 – October 15, 2017

Serafimer

Estate of John Lyon

Silver

Henry and Deborah Belusa
Alf Fjellborg

Bronze

Vicki & Barbro Cassman
Ed Keer & Kristine Jaeger
Kristina and John O'Doherty, in memory of
DuWayne Winters
The PEW Charitable Trusts

Friend

Birgit E. Back
Donna Ellen Norling O'Connell
Roberta Petusky
Mary Anne Powell
Linda T. Raffa
Selma Tepper
Amy & Harry Verngren

Gifts in Memory of Fred Pfaff

Kristina & John Antoniadis
Henry & Deborah Belusa
Charles & Alice Dagit
The Kohn Foundation
Kristina & John O'Doherty
Maud Palmer
Kirk & Shelly Seagers
Amy & Steven Sosnov
Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Springer
Virginia Swedberg

In Memoriam

The ASHM lost some very special members in the last few months. We send our deepest condolences to their friends and family.

Maria B. Dostmann
Ingrid Hammond
Nancy Sandberg
DuWayne Winters

Sculptor Robert Engman Donates to the Museum's Collection

This past May, the Museum honored local Swedish-American sculptor, Robert Engman at our annual Spring Ting event. It was a wonderful evening and all in attendance enjoyed hearing Mr. Engman recount stories from his decades long career in a charming Q&A session with his son. In Philadelphia, Engman is probably best known for the large-scale sculpture that was commissioned by the City of Philadelphia in 1975, entitled *Triune*, which resides outside of City Hall. The Museum is thrilled that the Engman family has donated one of the small scale bronze models for *Triune* to the collection.



Membership

Please print all information as you wish it to appear on the membership roster.

Return this form to:

American Swedish Historical Museum
 Attn: Membership
 1900 Pattison Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19145-5901

Among the benefits of membership are:

- free admission to the Museum and library
- use of the ASHM Swedish Film Library borrowing system
- guest passes
- subscription to the newsletter
- 10% discount in the Museum Store
- discounts on admission to most events, workshops and Swedish language classes

For more information, please call 215-389-1776.

 Please detach here and return.

Application & Renewal Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- \$35:** Senior/Student
 \$75: Organizational (Non-profit only)
 \$500: Patron
 \$50: Individual
 \$125: Friend
 \$1,000: Key Contributor
 \$65: Household
 \$250: Sustaining
 \$2,500: Life

Make check payable to ASHM or Charge my: VISA | MasterCard | Discover

Account # _____

Exp Date _____

The official registration and financial information of ASHM may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Your membership contribution to the American Swedish Historical Museum is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas!

News from the Museum Shop

The holiday season is almost upon us and the Museum Shop has been overtaken by *tomtar*, *julbockar* and an array of seasonal décor. We are so excited to show off the new items we have this year, especially beautiful, handmade wreaths from a new vendor, **SvenskaMaria**.



Maria Alderborg-Milne was born in the Swedish city of Gävle and enjoyed her early years growing up in the Swedish country side.

Maria moved to Scotland at the age of 20, where she studied interior and spatial design. Maria, her husband and twin boys moved to the US in 2008 which brought



her to Pennsylvania, where she started her business. SvenskaMaria focuses on blending Swedish design with a touch of Scottish and American flair. Many of the materials Maria uses have been sourced in Sweden. Maria's love for her home country and its traditions shows in her designs and style. The Museum Shop will feature not just Maria's gorgeous wreaths, but also some her felt *tomtar* and handbags with Swedish sourced fabrics.

In addition to the usual Christmas suspects, we also have some fun new products that make great gifts or stocking stuffers,



like make you own **aquavit**, featuring lovely bottles filled with spice mixtures to brew up

some aquavit with your favorite brand of vodka, along with a new line of chocolates and marzipan from **Bräutigams**.

We are also launching a **special holiday shopping incentive** this month. For every \$50 that you spend in the Shop between November 1 and December 31, 2017, you will receive a \$5 off coupon to use on your next purchase. The coupons may be used on future purchases through January 31, 2018.

This incentive is in addition to our **Swedish Bucks membership offer** for new members. When you become a new membership or purchase a gift membership, you will receive a coupon to use in the Museum Shop (\$5 for Senior/Student or Individual, \$10 for Household and up, offer not valid for membership renewals).

Winter Cooking Workshop

Hands-on Cooking
Workshop
Saturday, February 24
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Winter is the perfect time to come inside a cozy kitchen and prepare heartwarming traditional food. This February join fellow culinary enthusiasts for the second totally hands-on cooking workshop at ASHM.



Whether you are new to Swedish cuisine or would like to brush up on old skills with friends, this engaging workshop helps aspiring chefs work through the dishes step by step. This season recipes include Beef a la Lindstrom, cardamom bread, and pickled beets. Each class comes with laminated recipe cards to take home and to-go containers so you can take what you make! Space is extremely limited; \$50 per person (includes all food and drinks). Reservations are required; sign up online at www.americanswedish.org or by phone 215-389-1776 x106 by February 19th. *Smaklig måltid* (bon appetite)!