



Photos by Erika Larsen

Tent interior: Visitors can step inside a recreated lavvu and see firsthand how the Sami home was set up. Image courtesy of the Sami Cultural Center of North America.

Hearth and Heritage at the ASHM

By Trevor Brandt

You can tie nearly everything that the American Swedish Historical Museum does to the word 'home.' Our founder sought to celebrate the Swedes who had made America their new home, we preserve and interpret the artifacts used within our ancestors' homes, and we remind Swedes and Scandinavians that, among friends and family at our cultural celebrations, they should consider the Museum as another home.

And we often explore the idea of 'home' within our exhibitions. This past fall and winter the ASHM's exhibitions—tied to themes of displacement, temporary shelter,

and migration—examined what it means to lose one's home and the difficulties of adapting to a new one. But the spring and summer exhibitions focus on keeping long-familiar practices and traditions at home and carrying them along to new ones.

The indigenous peoples of northern Scandinavia—the Sami—offer a cultural lens for exploring these themes. The ASHM's main spring and summer exhibition is called *The Sami Reindeer People of Alaska*, borrowed from the Sami Cultural Center of North America in Minnesota. With its deliberately intriguing title, this exhibition challenges notions of where people 'come

Note from the Director

I don't know about you, but I didn't enjoy history in school. All the information about power struggles, and memorizing dates had no color or depth for me. A course in college, though, changed everything for me. As I studied history alongside art, music, and philosophy, I gained an understanding of humanity over time and the structure of history grew into a familiar shape. While I initially conceived history as a timeline, it became more like a tree, with each era being a major limb. As I learned more through a movie, something I read or a museum I visited, the limbs took on branches and leaves, giving further definition, color and life to the whole tree.

Not all stories we learn fit easily onto the mental tree of history in our minds, some come as a great surprise. I have to say that the story told in our upcoming exhibition made me re-think my understanding of immigration to the U.S. in the late 1800s. I had no idea that the United States recruited Sami and their reindeer to settle in Alaska. To learn the whole story, visit the museum this Spring or Summer!

Stories of individual people were compelling to the museum's founder, Amandus Johnson. He actively collected objects belonging to Swedish-Americans whom he thought were significant so they would be preserved in this museum. I think of him every year when we choose someone to receive the museum's Outstanding Achievement Award. This year's recipient, Carina Bergfeldt, is a master storyteller. I hope you will take the opportunity to come and hear her speak at the Spring Ting dinner and auction. She is bound to help you re-shape and color your understanding of what is happening in the world today as she shares about her experiences as a reporter on the front lines as history is being made.



Tracey Beck

Hearth and Heritage continued from front cover

from' and how they identify themselves as they journey to new lands. *The Sami Reindeer People of Alaska* takes us alongside Sami families traveling 10,000 miles to Alaska during the 1890s. As part of a U.S.-sponsored effort to introduce domesticated reindeer to Alaska, these families journeyed by boat, train, and sled to settle themselves and their reindeer in a familiar environment but strange country.



Image courtesy of the Sami Cultural Center of North America

The exhibition's twenty historic photographs introduce us to these intrepid 'Alaskan Sami' families while historic artifacts and traditional dress more broadly illustrate the heritage of the Sami in their native land and those who made Alaska their new home. Visitors and their families can even explore a recreated Sami-American home as they walk into a fully-furnished and interactive *lavvu* tent.

Of course, it's a huge challenge to pack up your life (and reindeer) to establish them somewhere else. But preserving your heritage and traditional livelihood in a changing world brings its own set of obstacles. Acclaimed National Geographic photographer Erika Larsen provides striking snapshots of the day-to-day lives of modern reindeer-herding families in Norway and Sweden through her photography exhibition: *Sami—Walking with Reindeer*. For four years, Erika worked as a beaga (housekeeper) among the reindeer-herding family of Nils Peder and Ingrid Gaup. From her intimate vantage point, Erika immersed herself in the culture, language, and land of the northern Sami. Her work gives us an intimate peek into the beautiful, bloody realities of reindeer herding.

Erika also reminds us that Sami life extends far past the reindeer. Her striking color photographs illuminate Sami connections with their past, their environment, and with each other. These tender images show quieter moments of life in the far north: a child with his dog, a Sami tent (*lavvu*) alone before the Northern Lights, and a baby nestled in a wooden cradle. Although an outsider to their culture, Erika sees her Sami family as teachers. She notes, "Through the Sami I hope to better understand our role as stewards of the earth. It is inevitable when spending time in a more nature-based culture that one must recognize the cycles of life and death and therefore begin to evaluate man's role within this circle."

Explore hearth and heritage at the American Swedish Historical Museum through the story of the Sami journeying to North America 100 years ago and those living in Scandinavia today. We hope that you can join us for the opening of *The Sami Reindeer People of Alaska* and *Sami—Walking with Reindeer* on April 14, with a lecture and musical performance by staff of the Sami Cultural Center of North America. This exhibition will be on view through August 26th.

This exhibition is supported by grants from the ASHM Auxiliary, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, George C. and Esther Ann McFarland Foundation, Midsommarklubben, SWEA New Jersey, SWEA Philadelphia, and an anonymous foundation. Support provided by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund. Funding for the American Swedish Historical Museum is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



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Food Is a Window to the Soul



Much can be learned about a culture through their culinary traditions. ASHM is always excited to incorporate cultural food experiences into exhibits and programming, and this spring we will be working with Chef Henrik Ringbom to introduce members to Sami food ways!

Chef Henrik was born in Karlskrona, Sweden. As a child he spent hours outside exploring his surroundings, hunting and fishing. When he was eleven he moved with his family to the Finnish Archipelago where he began to explore his love for sea to table food. His mother impressed upon him a love for slow cooking. At 16 Henrik began his culinary education, and he has been cooking ever since. After he performed his compulsory service in the Finnish military as a cook, he left to work in Stockholm. He lived in Stockholm, working on cruise ships

crossing the Baltic and some of the best restaurants in the city until a twist of fate took him to the West Indies, where he was tasked with opening a restaurant. While in the Grenadines, he met his wife who was there serving in the Peace Corps.

Chef Henrik also participated in a six month internship in the Finnish Sami country, where he got to know the people and cuisine. It's this knowledge that he will bring to the American Swedish Historical Museum on April 14th for *The Sami People of Alaska* and *Sami-Walking with Reindeer* exhibit openings. Throughout the day, Chef Henrik will prepare samples of traditional Sami dishes to engage your senses and open your mind to the Sami tradition of naturally sourced local food. The event is from 12pm-4pm and is free with general admission.

Save the Date for Spring Ting, April 28, 2018

For those of you who have never joined us for the Spring Ting Dinner and Auction, we hope that you will consider attending this year! It is always a lovely evening, filled with delicious food, great company, our exciting auction, as well as a fascinating Outstanding Achievement Award recipient. This year, we are so pleased to be able to honor renowned Swedish journalist Carina Bergfeldt with the award.

Carina Bergfeldt is the U.S. correspondent for Sweden's national television, SVT, based in Washington D.C. Before that, she worked for a decade as a world reporter for Sweden's largest daily newspaper, *Aftonbladet*. Through her job as a reporter, Bergfeldt has travelled around the globe and written about some of the world's greatest humanitarian crises and atrocities. Her articles about the massacre on the Norwegian island Utøya won her the Swedish Grand Journalism Award as "Storyteller of the Year" in 2012, and in 2013 Bergfeldt won an award for "Best Writing Style".

In 2015, her work with the article series "The Crises We Forgot" about overlooked crises in Africa gave her a nomination for the Red Cross Journalism Award, and after covering the war in Syria through the eyes of children (which helped lead to the exhibit *Where the Children Sleep*), she was nominated for the European Press Prize in 2016. She started working for Swedish Television in 2016. After her first year on TV, she was nominated for a Kristallen award as "TV Personality of the Year", the first journalist ever to receive a nomination in the category. She is excited to join us at Spring Ting on April 28, and we hope that you are, too! Invitations will be mailed in March and online registration will also be available at americanswedish.org/events.



Photo: Jesper Zølck

Spring 2018 Upcoming Events and Registration Info

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 page of 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 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 March 20, 2018
ABC's & 123's Svenska Style

Tuesday April 17, 2018
Dairy Farming in Sweden

Tuesday May 15, 2018
Sami Exploration

Tuesday June 19, 2018
Midsommar Fun



Spring is in the air and it's time for the American Swedish Historical Museum to host another very special Toddler Time. Join us on April 17th as we explore some of

Sweden's favorite dairy treats. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our youngest audience to learn where dairy products like milk and cheese come from and experience some special Swedish dairy farm traditions.



Easter Family Fun Day and Egg Hunt **Sunday, March 25,** **2:00-4:00 pm**

Introduce your little ones to Swedish Easter traditions.

Children can make Swedish Easter crafts, dress up as Swedish Easter witches, enjoy face painting, and an egg hunt. Free for members and children 2 years and under, \$10 for non-members. Pay at the door.



The Sami People of Alaska and Sami-Walking with Reindeer **Exhibit Openings** **Saturday, April 14** **12:00-4:00 pm**

Be sure to attend the opening of these unique exhibits highlighting Sami culture. Representatives of the Sami Cultural Center will be doing lectures and *yoik*. This day of cultural learning will also include live reindeer, a chance to experience an indoor aurora borealis, samples of traditional Sami recipes prepared by Chef Henrik, and family activities. All activities are included with regular admission and pre-registration is not required.

Swedish Travel Language Class **Sundays April 15-May 13** **2:30 - 4:00 pm**

Are you planning a trip to Sweden? Interested in learning about culture or getting local travel tips? Join this five week Swedish language class to learn all the ins and outs of traveling in Sweden. The class will provide an overview of Sweden with general facts, geography, weather, and places worth visiting. If you are planning a trip we will help you focus on what to think about like accommodations, transit options, sightseeing, etc. The class will also cover the basics of shopping and eating in

To Register For Events

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

Sweden, like food choices, restaurants/cafes menus, tipping, reading signs, etc. Are you visiting Swedish family or friends? The class will even cover the basics etiquette of visiting with Swedes. The class is \$90 for members, \$122 for non-members (registration fee does not cover text books). To register call 215-389-1776 x106 or email lburnham@americanswedish.org. Space is limited.

Spring Ting Fundraiser Dinner and Auction **Saturday, April 28** **6:00 pm**

Join us at our special fundraiser, featuring a silent auction, three course dinner and Outstanding Achievement Award recipient, Swedish journalist Carina Bergfeldt. Tickets start at \$95, RSVP by April 16th. Call or check our website for more information.

Lecture, "History of Finnish Independence" **Saturday, May 26** **1:00 pm**

How was a small, backward country in a remote corner of the Russian empire able to gain independence without being crushed, and more importantly how was Finland able to remain independent in spite of many challenges? Besides analyzing the pathway to independence, Sharon Rahkonen of Indiana University PA will also discuss several factors which led to Finland's subsequent success as an independent nation. Included in General Admission. Members of ASHM and FASDV free.



National Day **Wednesday, June 6** **10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

What better place to celebrate Swedish National Day than the American Swedish Historical

Museum! Enjoy free admission including guided tours at 11am and 1pm highlighting the history of the museum, and a special Swedish summer dessert treat.



Midsommarfest **Saturday, June 23** **4:00 - 7:00 pm**

Celebrate summer at our annual Midsommarfest, complete with food, drinks,

home-made Swedish pastries, music and maypole dancing, as well as crafts and games for the kids. Members \$8, Non-members \$12, Children 4-12 \$5. Pay at the door.

A Mooving Educational Experience!

Images from Recent Events

Photographs by ASHM Staff



▶ At Toddler Time in December, children got to learn about Swedish holiday traditions



▲ Teamwork! It took 10 people and 6 hours, but we managed to assemble the Better Shelter on the lawn in front of the Museum in October



▲ ASHM's Advocacy Station at October's 'How Can I Help?' Fair during the opening of our exhibit Where the Children Sleep



▲ Dancing and singing at Toddler Time in January



▲ Participants at the New Sweden History Conference in November

▶ Alaina Neel as Lucia and her attendants at our Lucia & Christmas Market event on December 2



▶ Happy 100, Finland! On December 9, we celebrated Finland's milestone birthday with entertainment by brass septet Ameriikan Poijat from Minnesota



▲ Our first event of 2018 was the popular Pea Soup & Punch Supper



▲ Guests enjoying our traditional Julbord

▶ Getting into the holiday spirit as the Museum Council of Philadelphia hosted their annual holiday party at ASHM



Do you want to make a contribution? There are several easy ways to support us. Visit our web page americanswedish.org/support or call **215-389-1776** for more information.

Contributions

Contributions to the Collection

The ASHM has recently received a number of generous donations to its Collection during the winter of 2017 / 2018. The most significant of these was a series of turned wooden objects made by Oskar Karl Alphonse Andersson, a Swede who settled in Jamestown, NY in the 1920s. While the objects are beautiful in their own right—highlights include a miniature desk, chair, and table—they also speak to the lives of Swedes in New York. Jamestown was one of the most densely Swedish cities on the East Coast in the early 1900s, and our Collection did not previously have holdings related to this city. The turnings were passed on to the ASHM from Philadelphia's Center for Art in Wood. Other additions to the Collection include a decorated immigrant trunk dating to the 1850s from Cynthia and Stuart Christenson. Although the ASHM attempts not to acquire trunks—they require much space and often have conservation issues—this object is an exception because of its marvelously-decorated interior and fine condition. Finally, the ASHM accepted a framed photograph and letter from Swedish artist, Bengt Nordenberg, who was working in New York in the late 1800s. The photograph and letter were gifts of Per Ralamb, a rare-book dealer in New Jersey.

New Members

October 16, 2017-January 31, 2018

Life

Erik & Nicole Muther

Friend

Michael Ytterberg

Organizational

Borough of Folcroft Public Library
Gladwyne Free Library

Household

Nancy Alley
Clarissa Barcomb & Family
Bartholdson Family
Margeaux & Matthew Bernhard-Flowers
Allison & Damon Bernstock-Verton
Shawn Byrd
Julia Dent

Nicole & Jamie DiGiuseppe-Chance
Courtney & Ivan Fritz-Nakoneczny
Nancy Hedquist Moore
Gary Henderson
Oskar & Noelle Johansson
Elisabeth Lindroth
Marie Nicoline Murphy
Joshua & Garrett Park-Lierman
Katie & Kenneth Polsz
David & Aimee Schaar
Julie Shapiro & Family
Jennifer & Charles Silverman
Brandon & Kimberly Smith
David R Smith
Pete Wilcox
Shannon & JB Zabel-Scanlan

Individual

Phil Farber
Nancy Farsell
Alice Morrison Moncure
Roberto Peña
Christian Roden
Jennifer Zwilling

Seniors/Students

Robert Berg
Kim C. Danielson
Julie DeWeese
Philip A. Helgerson
Mark Lundgren
Virginia Peterson
Carole Zatz

Annual Giving and Contributions

October 16, 2017-January 31, 2018

Serafimer

Dr. & Mrs. V. Eugene McCoy
The Red Moose Charitable Trust

Vasa

Kristina & John Antoniadis
Ragnhild & Bo Bergqvist
Britta A. Mattson
Sandra Pfaff
Margaretha Talerman
James & Sophia Walker

Gold

Countess Clarissa Bonde
Ken & Kerstin Cook
Margaret Copeland
Gordon & Jane Downing
Kristina & Charles Kalb
Kristina & John O'Doherty
Eleanor Poe Barlow
Eunice Winters

Silver

Robert & Marilyn Asplundh
Elisabeth & Wayne Brown
Marna Feldt
John Holmstrom & John Polomano
Ruth Lindeborg & Leonard Busby
Kirstin Mattson
Ellen T. Rye
Virginia Swedberg
Lorraine & Richard Waldron
Fanny Warren

Bronze

Christer & Patricia Baeckstrom
Marianne Baeckstrom
Kenneth Barroway
Helene Y. Basile & Family
Görel Bengtzon & Roman Hrycushko
Alison Bennett
Lisa C. Caplan
Keith & Hilma Cooper
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Engstrom
Jan & Lillemor Essunger
Kay Ford
Jeffrey & Christina Gravidahl
Lennart A. Hahr
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Ulla M. Heinicke
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Thomas F. & Mary Ann Hudson
Kathi Keefe
Catherine & Fredrik Khayati
Karin Kornaga
Barbro & Ernst Larsson
Doris Lehman
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Roberta Petusky
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Ann E. Robinson
James R. Roebuck, Jr
Kjerstin & Dominic Sama
Kristina H. Smith
Rudy & Jean Soderlund
Inger & Andy Stone
Kim-Eric Williams & Ms. Ruth Nelson Rizzi

Friends

Karl Anderson
Len & Flo Beck
William Callahan & Vivianne Englund Callahan
Dale W. Cottrell
Nancy & Richard Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Evald R. Eskilson
Monica Fowler
Mary & Owen Gilman
Barbara E. Good
Elisabeth Hohman
Margaretha Joelsson
Mr. & Mrs. Sigurd S. Johnson
C.R. Karlsson

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.

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Knutson
Maj-Britt & Robert Lautman
Ulla-Britta & Jerry McCarthy
Lila McCleary
Karen A. McKillip
Jan Newstrom Thompson
Thomas Nilsson
Rose Marie G. Oster
Barbro & Wayne Pollock
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Susan Sjostrom
John Tepe
Kerstin & Bjorn Tyreus
Amy & Harry Verngren
Mrs. Kenneth Wattman
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Jennie Prant
Marlene H. K. Stocks
Virginia Swedberg

Application & Renewal Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

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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

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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.

Gifts in Memory of Fred Pfaff

Lila McCleary
Maud Palmer
Edie & Al Rohrman
Virginia Swedberg

Grants and Gifts

We are grateful for the following foundations, organizations and individuals for their special gifts and grants in support of the museum and its programs and special projects so far this fiscal year:

Anonymous
ASHM Auxiliary
Central Carolina Community Foundation
Estate of John V. Lyons
New Sweden Alliance
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
The Philadelphia Cultural Fund
SWEA New Jersey
SWEA Philadelphia



Swedish in Seattle

As the next installment in the ASHM's travel programs, we are excited to announce plans to head west to Seattle, WA in September! Seattle has long been the destination of many Scandinavian immigrants, especially those working in the fishing and logging industries, and the city's Nordic Heritage Museum is set to debut their new building and exhibitions this spring. In honor of their new facility, we are planning a fascinating, fun-filled, and delectable tour of the city and it's many offerings, such as Pike Place Market, the Seattle Underground, the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum, historic Paulsbow, and of course, the Nordic Heritage Museum, just to name a few stops.

We will fly out on Thursday, September 20 and return on Monday, September 24, staying four nights at Hotel Ändra, with full breakfast each morning.



The package will include roundtrip airfare from Philadelphia to Seattle, hotel stay (with breakfast and one dinner), charter bus transportation and all of the attractions we will visit. Members outside of the Philadelphia area are welcome to meet us there, too! Stay tuned for more details or email crossy@americanswedish.org. We hope that you can join us on this West Coast adventure!

