



(TOP PHOTO) The light cruiser USS Boise (CL 47) suffered heavy damage during the 1942-43 Guadalcanal campaign in the Pacific. Workers at the Philadelphia Navy Yard repaired the ship within a few weeks, allowing the ship to get back into the fight. Albert Murray, USS Boise at Philadelphia Navy Yard Drydock, oil on canvas, 1943, courtesy Naval History and Heritage Command/ Navy Art Collection, 1988-195-J.

US Navy Shipbuilding in Philadelphia

By Gordon Calhoun, Historian & Curator, National Museum of the United States Navy

2025 commemorates the 250th anniversary of the United States Navy, and Philadelphia is an especially fitting place to celebrate. The people of Philadelphia and the Greater Delaware Valley region have played very important roles in the development of the Navy over the past two and a half centuries, building some of the Navy's most iconic and historic vessels.

Much of the early shipbuilding in Philadelphia was done along the waterfront at the studio and shipyards owned by Pennsylvania Quaker Joshua Humphreys. Here ships including the *United States* and the *Constitution* were brought to life. A formal navy yard in Philadelphia was created at Southwark in 1800 before moving to a bigger plot of land at its current location on League Island in the 1870s. For the next ninety years, the yard served as one of the Navy's primary shipbuilding and repair facilities.

Over the course of two centuries, important Naval vessels were designed, built, and launched in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. In the 1840s, Swedish-American engineer John Ericsson proposed the steam sloop *USS Princeton*. Launched at the Philadelphia waterfront on September 6, 1843, *Princeton* was the most advanced warship in the world at the time.

On October 13, 1775, in Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress established the Navy with a resolution authorizing the acquisition of two small warships. During the Revolution, Pennsylvania State House delegates debated creating a navy that might challenge Great Britain's famed and feared Royal Navy. Denounced by one delegate as the "maddest idea," other delegates took up the challenge. Starting in 1794, the newly independent United States began planning and build a new maritime institution.



This is the ship's company of the battleship USS Michigan (BB 27), 1918. Built by New York Shipbuilding of Camden, New Jersey, Michigan was among the first "dreadnought" type battleships built for the US Navy. Oliver W. Waterman, USS Michigan, glass Negative Photograph, 1918, Naval History and Heritage Command, NH 106439.

Note from the Director

The year 1976 was memorable for people of my generation. My husband's family commemorated July 4, 1776 with all the kids parading through the neighborhood, wearing costumes, carrying the American flag out front, and playing music. While I don't remember anything specific my family did, I do remember that, at the time, American history was everywhere. People brought out Colonial Revival-style decorations, and we watched *Little House on the Prairie* and *The Waltons* every week, absorbing their version of American history. For many of us, the U.S. bicentennial celebrations stimulated a lifelong interest in history.

At the Museum this summer, our two temporary exhibitions were planned to coincide with major national commemorations: 200 years of Norwegian immigration to America and the 250th birthday of the US Navy and the US Marine Corps. Commemorations may seem like they are primarily for the community celebrating them, but they are also an opportunity for current generations to learn the history of something which we might otherwise take for granted.

But commemorating historical events is more than just looking back—it's about understanding where we come from and how those moments shaped the world we live in today. These events, whether marked by triumph or tragedy, connect us to shared experiences and remind us of the values we choose to carry forward. They give voice to those who came before us and help us learn from the past to build a better future. In remembering, we honor—and in honoring, we keep the stories alive, not just in books, but in our actions and choices every day.

Tracey Beck

Tracey Beck

US Navy Shipbuilding continued from front cover

Beginning in 1889, armored cruisers were manufactured by William Cramp & Sons in Philadelphia. At its height, the company employed over 10,000 workers directly, with several thousand working locally in allied industries such as glass making. The upstart New York Shipbuilding Company located across the river from Philadelphia in Camden, New Jersey won the right to build the battleship *USS Michigan* in 1904 and launched it on May 26, 1908. New York Ship, as the locals called the company, became a mainstay of shipbuilding and local employment for much of the 20th century. At its height, the company employed over 25,000 people and was the second largest privately-owned shipyard in the world.

During World War II, workers at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and other shipbuilding facilities received prefabricated parts of the *USS Francis Robinson* from off-site factories and assembled large amounts of these smaller "destroyer escort" ships designed to fight off Axis submarines. Between 1943 and 1945, American yards built 507 of them. At this time, the Philadelphia Navy Yard employed over 40,000 workers. The overriding priority of defeating the Axis during World War II opened opportunities to many American groups who had been historically marginalized. The Philadelphia Navy Yard trained several thousand women and Black men in skilled labor jobs such as welding, steam fitting, and riveting.

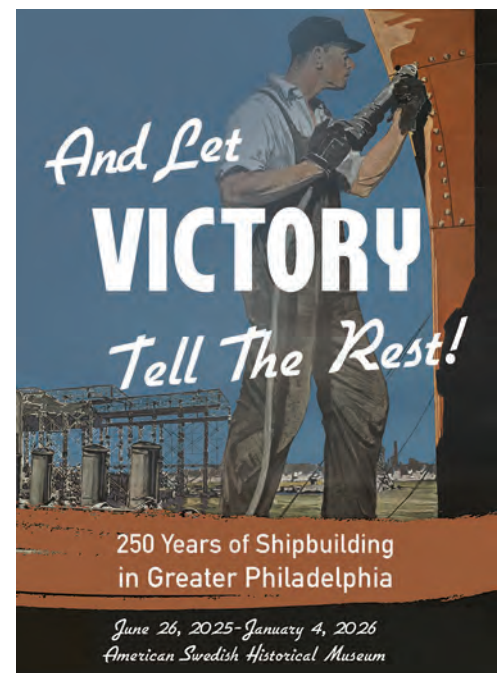
Though the Philadelphia Naval Yard ended most of its activities at the shipyard in the 1990s, the legacy left by the vessels produced there and at other local shipyards looms large in US naval history, especially at this 250th anniversary of the United States Navy.

In partnership with the American Swedish Historical Museum, the National Museum of the United States Navy (NMUSN) is proud to present, *And Let Victory Tell the Rest: US Navy Shipbuilding in Greater Philadelphia*, opening June 26th at ASHM. The exhibit will

include artifacts from *USS New Ironsides*, *USS Michigan*, a model of the John Ericsson-designed *USS Passiac*, and historic photographs and blueprints of Naval vessels built right in our own backyard, among other objects and documents.

The exhibit will also highlight several important Swedish Americans in addition to Ericsson who made significant impacts on the US Navy, including naval ordnance expert Rear Admiral John Dahlgren and 20th century naval artist Henry Reuterdaahl. At this intersection of Philadelphia and Swedish-American history, ASHM is thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with NMUSN for this exhibit.

In addition to *And Let Victory Tell the Rest*, the NMUSN is hosting an interactive experience in downtown Philadelphia and has partnered with Battleship New Jersey and the Library Company of Philadelphia on additional exhibits to mark the anniversary.

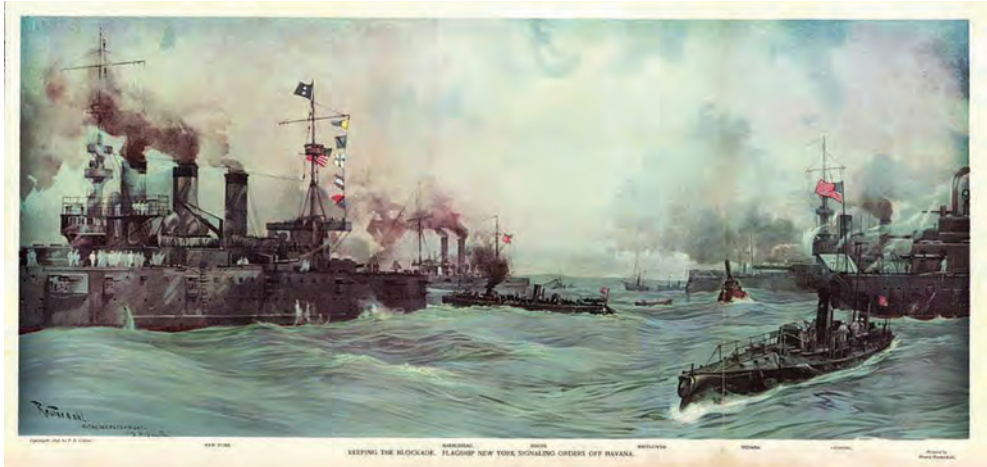


NMUSN, located in Washington, DC, is one of ten US Navy museums managed by the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC), the Navy's official history agency. In addition to museums, NHHC oversees the management of thousands of artifacts and official Navy documents, two historic ships, and has its own dedicated underwater archeology team. Learn more about NHHC and how you can help the Navy commemorate the Navy's 250th birthday at history.navy.mil or www.navy.mil/Navy-250.



And Let Victory Tell the Rest is part of a city-wide celebration of this historic anniversary in Philadelphia. <https://www.homecoming250.org/>

"The Navy Put 'Em Across": The Art of Henry Reuterdaahl



Henry Reuterdaahl, *Keeping the Blockade, Flagship New York Signaling Orders off Havana*, watercolor, Navy Art Collection, NH 7138-KN. *The Spanish-American War*.

Engineering innovation was not the only way in which Swedes contributed to the US Navy. Another important addition came from Henry Reuterdaahl, a self-taught artist born in Malmo, Sweden in 1870. By the turn of the century, Reuterdaahl had become one of the most prolific and foremost Navy artists.

In 1893, Reuterdaahl was commissioned to draw illustrations of the Chicago World's Fair. While in the United States, he fell in love with both the Navy and his wife, Pauline. After marrying in 1899, the couple moved to Weehawken, New Jersey. At the same time, Reuterdaahl won a job through Collier's Weekly magazine as an illustrator and correspondent with the Atlantic Squadron during the Spanish-American War. President Roosevelt then personally recruited him to accompany the Great White Fleet during their world tour from 1907-1909. On the tour, he produced many works for magazines, as well as masterpieces for Navy leadership.

However, for all his admiration for the Navy, in January 1908, Reuterdaahl wrote a scathing article for McClure's magazine criticizing battleship design and Navy bureaucracy. The article was so influential that an investigation of the Navy was ordered in February 1908, and in 1913, Congress authorized major departmental and bureaucratic changes.



Henry Reuterdaahl, *Atlantic Convoy*, oil on Canvas, Navy Art Collection 21-002-A. *World War I*.

During World War I, Reuterdaahl illustrated many Navy recruitment posters, most famously, "The Navy Put 'Em Across." More than that, he recruited colleagues to illustrate posters as well. Two of those colleagues were Howard Chandler Christy, artist of "Gee I Wish I Were a Man, I'd Join the Navy!" and James Montgomery Flagg, artist of the most popular and widely-used recruitment poster, "I Want You for U.S. Army."

Reuterdaahl passed away at St. Elizabeths Government Hospital for the Insane on December 21, 1925. There is no record of his cause of death or why he was at this hospital. Pauline passed away just a few months later on February 12, 1926. They are both buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

In conjunction with *And Let Victory Tell the Rest*, ASHM will feature a small exhibition devoted to Reuterdaahl and his works.



Henry Reuterdaahl, "The Navy Put 'Em Across," oil on Canvas, Navy Art Collection, 99-HR-6w. *World War I*.

Welcome Aja Beech, Our New Development Manager



We're excited to welcome Aja Beech as the new Development Manager at ASHM! Aja brings over a decade of experience in fundraising and capital campaigns to the Museum team. She holds a BA in History from Temple University and an MSL in Compliance and Ethics from Fordham Law School.

A proud third-generation Lithuanian American, Aja was born and raised in Philadelphia. Before joining ASHM, she

worked as a freelance writer with bylines in outlets including WHYY and The Philadelphia Inquirer. Over the years, she has transitioned into fundraising, where she has helped a variety of organizations grow and thrive.

In her free time, Aja is a published poet, avid library patron, and arts enthusiast. She is also the proud mother of two adult sons. Make sure to say hello and welcome Aja to the Museum on your next visit!

Summer 2025 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.

Monthly Programs:



Toddler Time 10:30-11:30 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 2 to 5 years old.

Tuesday, June 17 – Summer in Sweden

Tuesday, July 15 – Little Engineers

Tuesday, August 19

Tuesday, September 16



Exhibition Opening: *Across the Atlantic: Sloopers and the First Organized Emigration from Norway to America* Thursday, May 22nd

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first organized migration from Norway to North America with a balcony exhibition highlighting the Norwegian ship *Restauration*. Learn about the three-month voyage on the sloop and the experience of the Norwegian immigrants to America. The opening reception is free to the public with light refreshments including Norwegian recipes. Please RSVP online. The *Across the Atlantic* exhibit opening is made possible with the support of NorCham Philadelphia, IK Start, Restauration Lodge of Sons of Norway, and the Sons of Norway Foundation.



Swedish National Day Friday, June 6th 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

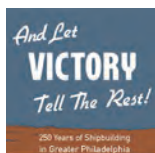
Celebrate Swedish National Day at the American Swedish Historical

Museum! Learn about Sweden through guided tours at 11am and 1pm highlighting the history of the museum, and enjoy a special Swedish summer cake throughout the day. Tours and refreshments included with regular admission.



Midsommarfest Saturday June 21st 4:00 - 7:00pm

Celebrate summer at our annual Midsommarfest, complete with food, drinks, homemade Swedish pastries, music and maypole dancing, as well as crafts and games for kids. \$8 members, \$10 non-members, \$5 children 5-12, children under 5 are free. Tickets are available online or at the door.



Exhibition Opening: *And Let the Victory Tell the Rest: 250 Years of Navy Ship Building in Philadelphia* Wednesday, June 25th

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Join ASHM, the National Museum of the United States Navy (NMUSN), and Navy officials for a grand opening reception. This guest curated exhibition explores the production of American Naval ships in the Delaware Valley. NMUSN Curator Gordon Calhoun and ASHM Curator Brett Peters will circulate in the exhibit to discuss this fascinating aspect of industrial naval history and its Swedish connections throughout the evening. The reception opens at 5:00 pm with remarks at 5:45. Enjoy catered refreshments and drinks. Help us plan with your RSVP on the ASHM website.



Hemslöjd Craft Series: Dala Horse Painting Saturday, July 12th 12:00 - 4:00 pm

This in-person workshop offers an immersive journey into the cultural legacy of this cherished Swedish symbol. Participants will explore a wide range of Dala horse styles, from those crafted by early 20th-century Swedish painters to more recent interpretations by artists in both Sweden and America. Annika Gyllenhaal will demonstrate a variety of painting styles and techniques using actual examples from a local Dala horse collection, which will be on display. You will receive a hand-carved, unpainted Dala horse to paint during the workshop, with the option to either follow traditional patterns or create your own unique designs. Spaces are extremely limited so register early! \$70 for members and \$80 for nonmembers.

To Register For Events

call 215-389-1776, or visit online at

www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm



SmörgåsBeer – Last Call! Saturday, July 26th 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Join us to *skål* or toast to Smörgåsbeer one last time! Grab tickets for a fun summer evening tasting new beers, ciders, and more! Play unique lawn games, eat Swedish-inspired food, and dance the night away with music provided by DJ Robert Drake. Amazing prizes will also be raffled throughout the evening to support the museum. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. A discounted designated driver price of \$15 is also available. Attendees must be 21+ to participate in the alcohol sampling and must present a valid ID.



Crayfish Party Friday, August 8th 6:00 pm

Get a taste of Swedish summer at our annual Crayfish Party! Enjoy a buffet of crayfish, Swedish meatballs, along with crisp bread, cheese, potatoes, cheese pie, and glass of aquavit all outside under our beautifully decorated tent. \$60 for ASHM, \$70 for non-members. Register by August 12th.



Free Family Day: Celebrate Norway!

Sunday, August 10th 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Join us for a Free Family Day at the American Swedish Historical Museum! Families can learn about Norwegian culture with craft activities throughout the Museum galleries. Try out Norwegian folk art styles and experience some of early Scandinavian Viking life.



Scandinavia Fest Budd Lake, NJ

August 31st

Scanfest is back for 2025! Join ASHM for a full day of cultural celebration at Vasa Park in Budd Lake, NJ. It's an all-day celebration of Scandinavia at its best, with food, crafts, performers, and more! For more information and to purchase advance tickets, visit www.scanfest.org.

Images from Recent Events

Photographs by ASHM Staff



▲ Kids hunting for eggs at a cloudy Easter Family Day



▲ Attendees at April's New Sweden Legacy Lecture



▲ We were thrilled to open the exhibition Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community curated by SEAMAAC with a morning gathering of artists who made the art displayed in the exhibit



▲ Artists admire their work at the opening of Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community.



▲ Guests at Semlor & a Movie enjoying their semlor before the movie



▲ ASHM Assistant Director Lauren Burnham and Development Manager Aja Beech pose with Philadelphia Eagles staff before their Earth Day service project planting trees along the Museum's fence line. Lauren and Aja presented the Eagles with a hand-carved and hand-painted Dala horse made by father-daughter artist team Ed and Annika Gyllenhaal celebrating the Eagles Super Bowl win.



▲ Families decorating branches with colorful feathers at Easter Family Day



▲ There sure was a lot of dancing at this year's ExtrABBAganza Dance Party!



▲ The winner of the ExtrABBAganza Costume Contest



▲ Performers dancing to ABBA hits at the ExtrABBAganza Dance Party

Contributions

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.

New Members

January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025

Friend

Anne Moore

Organizational

Robeson Library
Gloucester County Library System
Wissahickon Public Library – Ambler Branch

Household

Alan Barstow
Paula & Robert Lewitt

Individual

Carol Ann Coates
Sara Davis
Robert Fedick
Ian Hincken
Sandy Kling
Natalie Milbrodt
Diane Pressman
Nancy Tuttle

Senior/Student

Scott Koniecko

Annual Giving and Contributions

January 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025

Serafimer

Anonymous
Gregory Brown & Linton Stables*
Ulla Dagert Muther & Paul Muther*
McLean Contributionship*
Erik & Nicole Muther*

Vasa

Karin Bergqvist
Capozzi Scaramuzza Foundation
A.R. Cohen
B and E Fund
Dee Kaplan*
SWEA Philadelphia
Fanny Warren

Gold

Anonymous

Silver

Independence Blue Cross Corporate Match
Anna-Lena Bromberg*

Bronze

Anonymous
Sarah Chang, in honor of John Holmstrom
Robin Lapre, in memory of Donna & Roy Johnson
Janet Nelson
John Peterson
Gretchen & Luke Walker

Friend

Joy Becker
Ronald Bourque
Rosemary & Jeffery Moller
Caroline Brady
Karen McKillip
Martha Streed

* Designated for the ASHM Centennial Campaign

A Note of Thanks



Thank you to everyone who joined us at our 2025 Spring Ting Dinner and supported the Museum through our online, silent, and live auctions. With your help, ASHM raised over \$39,000 to support our exhibitions and programs. Thank you to our wonderful honoree, Oskar Stenmark for joining us and providing beautiful music to end the evening. We would also like to thank "Take Two" for their cocktail hour accompaniment, Robert Borgstrom for a fun and successful live auction, and our Spring Ting Committee for making it all happen!

Gold

Baltic Leisure
Jeffrey A. Miller Hospitality Group

Silver

Kreischer Miller

Bronze

Karin Bergqvist
Marja Kaisla
Oil Patch Corporation

Sponsors

Leonard Busby & Ruth Lindeborg
Margaret Copeland
Goshen Mechanical Contractors, Inc.
Sandra Pfaff
Lindsey Scannapieco
James & Sophia Walker

Patrons

Anna-Lena Bromberg
Jerome & Carol Cloud
John & Carin Foster
IT Edge, Inc.
Roberta Johnson & Dominic DiMarzio
Abby Shaw

Friends

Ingrid Cagan
Jeanne Cavuto
Roni Christensen
Martha Clark Goss
Kim-Eric Williams & Ruth Rizzi

Smörgåsbeer – Last Call!



After an incredible 14-year run, the time has come to retire this iconic ASHM event. Smörgåsbeer was the brainchild of former board member Christer Baeckstrom in 2011 as a way to grow an audience with diverse interests, and it certainly achieved that goal! The event has experienced a bell curve of success, with the highest number of attendees in 2019. While many people have returned over the past 14 years, attendance is waning as people seek new and non-alcohol-related experiences. Our brewery partners are also less able to donate samples and participate as business costs have risen.

As this summer marks the last Smörgåsbeer, we want to give it the farewell it deserves and *skål* together one last time! Mark your calendars now for Saturday, July 26. Gather your friends and participate in all your favorite Smörgåsbeer traditions, including trying new drinks, playing Scandinavian yard games, taking a quiz walk around the Museum, eating delicious food, winning great raffle prizes, and dancing the night away with Philadelphia's own DJ Robert Drake!

As the band Semisonic famously said, "... every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." We look forward to creating new and fabulous events in 2026 as the Museum celebrates its 100th anniversary!

Show Your Norwegian Pride!



200 years ago, 52 brave Norwegians set sail across the Atlantic in search of a new beginning. Aboard the ship Restauration, they embarked on a journey that would mark the start of one of the largest emigrations in American history. Today, Crossings honors their courage and legacy with a special jewelry collection — designed to capture their bravery, spirit of adventure, and the deep bond between Norway and America.

The official Crossings Jewelry Collection from Sylvsmidja is now available to pre-order at ASHM. Sylvsmidja is Norway's leading jewelry brand, crafting high-quality Norwegian Bunad Silver and contemporary jewelry since 1940. Place your order on our website by June 15th.





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215.389.1776
www.americanswedish.org

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**Connecting
Cultures and
Community**

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Summer Art with ASHM



This summer our education outreach programs are all about art! From June through August, ASHM education staff will travel around the Delaware Valley to deliver programming to kids and their families. We will also partner with CraftNOW and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation to bring programming to summer camps in Philadelphia.

This year our two education programs highlight elements of Swedish and Scandinavian art as we bring some of ASHM to local libraries and rec centers. Our storytime program "Do You Know the Dala Horse?" for younger children (ages 2-6) introduces kids to this iconic Swedish folk art symbol with activities and art projects.

For older kids (ages 6-12), our activity program "Art Exploration: Scandinavia" will acquaint kids with Scandinavian artists like Carl Larsson and Anders Zorn and art styles including Swedish and Norwegian paper crafting, printmaking, and painting. Kids will learn how different artworks are created and get to try out some for themselves, inspired by the Scandinavian masters.

Check with your local library to see if they have booked a program!

