

## Indivisible: Stories of Strength

By SEAMAAC Staff

Last Spring, SEAMAAC and ASHM partnered on an exhibition entitled *Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community*. This exhibition, curated by SEAMAAC staff from art created in their art resiliency workshop classes, was the first in a series of community exhibitions at ASHM highlighting stories of Philadelphia immigrant groups. For the upcoming year, thanks to multi-year funding from the William Penn Foundation, we are excited to announce the second installment of this exhibition series with SEAMAAC titled *Indivisible: Stories of Strength*. This exhibition will feature a video series, collaborative art pieces, and new artwork in collage, ceramics, and photography created by artists from SEAMAAC's art resiliency workshops led by artists Shira Walinsky, Marguerita Hagan, Eugenio Salas, and Donna Backues. This installment is intended to build and expand on the first exhibition, continuing to share stories of community, resilience, and tradition, uplifting the history of immigrants as a fundamental thread in the fabric of America.

SEAMAAC's video series for this exhibition will incorporate clips of interviews with new immigrants and descendants of immigrants who chose Philadelphia as their home. As attendees move through the exhibition and explore the artwork, they can listen and watch the interviews to deepen the artwork's impact and significance. The interviewees, who may or may not be one of the artists themselves, are fellow Philadelphians who will share their stories of their identity, culture, and lived experiences in Philadelphia, whether they are recent

immigrants or 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation descendants of immigrants. The full-length interviews will also be available online.

This project is the culmination of nearly 10 years of collaboration between SEAMAAC and ASHM. Community connection and cultural storytelling are at the heart of ASHM, whose mission is rooted in celebrating the immigrant experience and fostering cross-cultural understanding. SEAMAAC's journey is a story of America shared by a long tradition and history of many immigrants and refugees who first sought refuge in the United States and eventually became the cornerstones of our nation. Together, this work will deepen this relationship between ASHM and SEAMAAC, broaden the reach of the ASHM's programming, and facilitate broader cultural and community engagement at ASHM. This project will provide opportunities for our community to experience the space of the Museum and for all visitors to take part in dynamic conversations about their own journeys to America and to South Philadelphia.



Marta Cruz, Mexican, collaged paper, 2025.



Artists attend the opening of *Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community* in March 2025.

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# Note from the Director

This is a season when many of us reflect on gratitude. As we celebrate 250 years of Naval and Marine history, I've found myself experiencing a deeper appreciation for all those who have built and protected our nation over the centuries. Learning the stories of individuals—both those featured in our exhibition and the veterans who visit us—transforms a general sense of gratitude into something far more personal. Their experiences and sacrifices remind us that history is not abstract; it is lived by real people whose courage, ingenuity, and service shape our collective story.

I often think about the many people who have shaped ASHM over the past 99 years. It's easy to assume that a museum, with its grand building and remarkable collection, will always stand as it is. Yet we know that institutions endure only through the dedication of those who sustain them. ASHM continues to thrive because of people who give their time, energy, expertise, and resources—those who ensure strong leadership and governance, who support our financial health, and who create meaningful experiences for our visitors.

I am profoundly grateful to the thousands of individuals who have cared about ASHM and invested in its present and its future. Your commitment ensures that our Museum not only endures but continues to inspire generations to come. As you think about what you are thankful for this holiday season, please know that all of us at the Museum are thankful for you!

*Tracey Beck*

Tracey Beck

## Indivisible continued from front cover



SEAMAAC clients practice cell phone photography at a summer workshop taught by instructor Eugenio Salas.

For SEAMAAC, this work will continue to expand our services and mission to support and serve all communities as they seek to advance the condition of their lives in the United States. Founded in 1984 by Cambodian, Chinese, Laotian, Hmong, and Vietnamese refugees from Southeast Asia, the founding vision of SEAMAAC was to unite Philadelphia's Southeast Asian communities into a dynamic refugee-led coalition. This allowed small ethnic communities to share resources and create a unified voice and effective advocacy for the city's Southeast Asian community. Over the last four decades, SEAMAAC has expanded its services to other immigrants/refugees as well as to native-born Philadelphians of every race and ethnicity. Today, we work on local, regional, and national levels, united by a shared commitment to "Build Better Communities." Our commitment to serving people regardless of race or national origin has inspired our mission and vision in building a stronger society based on the principles of justice and equity for all.

The cultural exhibition series adds a new dimension to this work, allowing underrepresented groups to have space at ASHM to tell their own stories. It

also responds to a longstanding desire within immigrant communities from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and South America, to see their stories reflected in public cultural spaces. The intention of the exhibitions is to include content and narratives from historically marginalized communities, including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities, the disability community, as well as descendants of European immigrants who have felt neglected and excluded from the national discourse on art, culture, inclusion, and diversity. Just as ASHM was founded in 1926 to share the contributions of Swedish immigrants, this project reaffirms the immigrant experience, ranging from recent immigrants to 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation descendants of immigrants, as a core American story, one that continues to evolve. By building lasting relationships with communities and co-creating meaningful exhibitions, ASHM and SEAMAAC will create a replicable model of inclusive museum practice, one that strengthens civic trust, cultural pride, and community cohesion. The William Penn Foundation's support will ensure that the voices of all Philadelphians, including new immigrants, are not only welcomed but celebrated in Philadelphia's cultural institutions.



A collage workshop creating art for Indivisible: Stories of Strength.



An artist at work in a mosaic glass workshop.

*Indivisible: Stories of Strength*, an exhibition exploring identity and culture among native and immigrant Philadelphians, will be on view January 23, 2026 through March 8, 2026. This exhibit is curated by SEAMAAC. Lead support for the project is provided by the William Penn Foundation.



## Exciting Grants For 2026 Exhibitions

The American Swedish Historical Museum is excited to announce new grant support from the William Penn Foundation and the Philadelphia Funders Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial. These generous awards will enable the Museum to deliver engaging exhibitions throughout the significant year of 2026 and beyond.

In a time characterized by deep civil discord and racial division, the William Penn Foundation, as the lead funder, has awarded a grant for \$307,169 to the Museum in partnership with SEAMAAC, Inc. This grant will support a two-year cultural exhibition series that focuses on the voices, experiences, and journeys of communities who have immigrated to America and are deeply rooted in Philadelphia. Associated programming for these exhibitions will

include engaging opening receptions, free Community Days to help build cultural understanding through conversation and experiences, community art creation workshops, and collaborations with the Southeast Asian Market in FDR Park.

Additionally, the Philadelphia Funders Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial is supporting several exhibitions at ASHM in 2026 with a grant of \$50,000. The exhibitions include *A Century in the Making*, which highlights the 100-year history of ASHM against the backdrop of the national Sesquicentennial held in Philadelphia in 1926 and the featured 2026 exhibition *From Taste to Technology: 100 Years of Nordic Innovation and Impact*.

This funding will ensure that the Museum can continue to present dynamic, accessible, and thought-provoking exhibitions that inspire learning and foster cultural exchange for visitors of all backgrounds. We are deeply grateful to our funders for their ongoing commitment to the arts and cultural vitality of Philadelphia.

**William Penn Foundation**



## Building the Next 100 Years, Together



**AMERICAN SWEDISH  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**  
CENTENNIAL

As the American Swedish Historical Museum prepares to mark its Centennial Anniversary in 2026, we reflect on a century of sharing Scandinavian history, culture, and art with the Philadelphia community and beyond. This milestone offers not only a chance to celebrate our past but also an opportunity to invest in the Museum's future. A chance to look forward, building a vibrant future for generations to come.

We have an exciting year planned to celebrate our community, achievements, and the many ways the Museum inspires connection and discovery. Throughout the year, we will also present several remarkable exhibitions.

*From Taste to Tech: 100 Years of Nordic Innovation and Impact* (May 2026 – March 2027) is an invitation to step into a world where Swedish meatballs meet pop music, where streamlined design and functional minimalism redefined modern living, and where Nordic ingenuity brought about life-saving innovations like Google Maps and the three-point seatbelt. Exploring the ways in which Nordic craftspeople, artists, chefs, and thinkers brought their values and visions to American soil, *From Taste to Tech* will feature a remarkable collection of artifacts, including World War II uniforms, original art by Gustaf Tenggren, and mid-century modern furniture.

*A Century in the Making: 100 Years of ASHM* (April 2026 – January 2027) invites visitors of all ages to explore a dynamic blend of past and present through rarely seen artifacts, captivating photographs, and personal stories. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the American Swedish Historical Museum, *A Century in the Making* will highlight the figures, exhibits, and cultural moments that made ASHM the pillar of heritage and community it is today.

There are also initiatives on the horizon that will strengthen accessibility, deepen cultural exchange, and expand our educational reach. There has never been a more meaningful time to be involved at the Museum. Your support means that the American Swedish Historical Museum continues to grow as a welcoming home for all who value Nordic heritage.

Your involvement at this pivotal moment ensures the Museum's continued growth and impact. To explore ways to participate in the Centennial, we invite you to connect with us directly and be part of the next 100 years.

# Upcoming Events and Registration Info

## To Register For Events

call 215-389-1776, or visit online at  
[www.americanswedish.org/events](http://www.americanswedish.org/events)

There is always something happening 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, visit [www.americanswedish.org](http://www.americanswedish.org) or call (215)389-1776.



### 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, November 18th – Have You Any Wool?  
 Tuesday, December 16th – Christmas Tomte  
 Tuesday, January 20th – Arctic Waters  
 Tuesday, February 17th – Exploring Colors



### Lucia Rehearsals

**Saturday, November 15th,  
 10:00 am–12:00 pm and  
 Sunday, November 23rd,  
 2:00–4:00 pm**

Museum members are invited to have their children ages

2 and older participate in our annual Lucia performances on December 6th & 7th. They are sure to have fun dressing up as *tomtar*, *pepparkakor*, folk dancers, star boys, and Lucia and her attendants while singing traditional Swedish Christmas songs. Attendance at both rehearsals is required. Please visit our website for more information and to register.



### Member Shopping Week!

**Tuesday, November 17th–  
 Sunday, November 23rd**

Second annual Member Shopping Week! To show our appreciation for all your support throughout the year,

members can enjoy 20% savings in-store and online from Tuesday, November 17th, through Sunday, November 23rd. Visit [shop.americanswedish.org](http://shop.americanswedish.org) to check out a wide variety of Scandinavian merchandise!



### Julbord

**Friday, December 5th  
 5:00–9:00 pm**

Start your Christmas celebrations by indulging in a traditional Swedish smörgåsbord, prepared by

Jeffrey A. Miller Hospitality Group. Join us for a delicious spread of all your favorites including Christmas ham, herrings, meatballs, salads, and bread. A selection of ASHM Christmas Market vendors will be open from 5–7 pm, so you can shop while you enjoy a drink and some hors d'oeuvres before dinner. Book a table and invite family and friends to join you! Doors open at 5 pm for shopping. Dinner will be served at 7 pm. \$100 members, \$110 non-members, \$50 children ages 4-12, or \$750 for a table of eight. The registration deadline is December 1st.



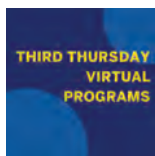
### Lucia & Christmas Market Saturday & Sunday, December 6th & 7th

**10:00 am–4:00 pm**

Don't miss this unique and magical holiday experience!

The outdoor Christmas Market

features your favorite holiday delicacies, Christmas decorations and gifts, and SWEA bakery treats. The Auxiliary Swedish Christmas Café will be selling holiday foods and sweets for your refreshment. Lucia processions will be held twice daily, and live holiday music will play throughout the day by folk duo Last Chance. \$8 members, \$10 non-members, \$5 children 5-12.



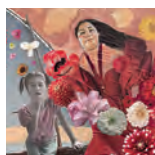
### Third Thursday Virtual Program Series

**Thursday, January 15th**

**12:00–1:00 pm**

ASHM is making a dedicated effort to keep everyone involved through opportunities

to celebrate and learn more about the Museum and Scandinavian history by hosting a special year-long Third Thursday Virtual Program Series in 2026! This series will feature lectures, virtual field trips, and behind-the-scenes looks at our centennial exhibitions and rarely seen collection items. Stay tuned for the full schedule of topics, but mark your calendars now for the Third Thursday of every month from 12:00-1:00 ET.



### Indivisible: Stories of Strength

**Exhibition Opening**

**Thursday, January 22nd**

**5:00–7:30 pm**

Join us for an exceptional opportunity to experience

this powerful exhibition alongside the artists and content creators. This exhibit will feature a video series, collaborative art pieces, and new artwork in collage, ceramics, and photography created by artists and staff from SEAMAAC's art resiliency workshops. Refreshments provided, help us plan with your RSVP.



### Genealogy Meeting

**Saturday, January 31st**

**1:30 pm**

Gather with fellow ASHM members and explore the branches of your Swedish ancestry. Genealogy Club is a

benefit of ASHM membership. Not a member, no problem! Just add a membership on the event registration.



### Pea Soup Dinner

**Saturday, January 31st**

**5:00 pm**

Warm up on a chilly winter's night with a bowl of Swedish yellow pea soup. Dinner is served with sharp cheese,

crisp bread, and dessert. \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Pre-registration is required by January 26th.



### Semlor and a Movie Saturday, February 7th 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." Tickets are \$16 in advance and \$20 at the door. Ticket price includes one *semla*. Additional *semlor* are \$6 each. Walk-ins welcome or pre-register by phone or online by February 4th.



### Free Community Day with SEAMAAC

**Sunday, March 8th**

Join ASHM and SEAMAAC for a community celebration on the closing day of the *Indivisible* exhibition.

This family-friendly event will provide the opportunity to learn more about art and culture through interactive activities. The event will host food and beverage vendors and art and nature activities. Help us plan with your RSVP.

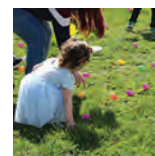


### extrABBAganza! Dance Party Saturday, March 21st

**7:00–10:00 pm**

Break out bell bottoms and platform shoes! What better place to celebrate the iconic music of ABBA than

the American Swedish Historical Museum. DJ Robert Drake will spin the throwbacks as everyone lets out their inner Dancing Queen. Highlights of the evening will include dancing and costume contests along with live performances! Tickets include Swedish-inspired bites, cash bar. \$35 members, \$40 non-members. 70's attire is encouraged but not necessary.



### Easter Family Day Sunday, March 29th

**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 take part in an egg hunt. Members and kids under 2 free, \$15 adults, \$10 seniors/students, \$5 kids 2-12. Pay at the door.



# Images from Recent Events

Photographs by ASHM Staff



▲ ASHM staff pick apples for the 2025 batch of Rambo's Revival – New Sweden Apple & Lingonberry Hard Cider



▲ 2025 Amandus Johnson Award Winner Fanny Warren with her daughter Margot Patterson at the Annual Meeting.



▲ Some dancing to end the night at Smorgasbeer: Last Call!



▲ Sandra Pfaff is honored as Governor Emerita for Life at the 2025 Annual Meeting.



▲ Crayfish Dinner attendees enjoying the food, the beautiful evening, and each other's company.



▲ A song and a toast at the Crayfish Dinner.



▲ Attendees at the final Smorgasbeer event.



▲ Families decorate Viking shields at the Celebrate Norway Free Family Day.



▲ Families hunt for boats around the Museum at September Toddler Time: Float Your Boat.



▲ Participants getting on board for the Trolley Tour of the Navy Yard led by CAPT Francis Spencer, USN (Ret.).



# 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.

### New Members

July 1 – September 30, 2025

#### Friend

Paul Schmidt  
Mark Vevle

#### Organizational

William Jeanes Library

#### Household

John Bryan  
William Lawson  
Julia Margulies  
Vanessa Rice

#### Individual

Kirsten Braley  
Kristen Carlson  
Anna Green  
Lee Kernen  
Shannon Kvist  
Heather Faltin  
Nancy Pontes  
Jill Sanchez

#### Senior/Student

Nancy Alley  
Suzanne Badalamenti

Linda Logdberg  
Jim Lyons  
Susie Schmitt  
Jeanette Turnbull

### In Memoriam

*The ASHM community lost a very special member in the last few months. We send our condolences to his friends and family.*

William Clemons

### Contributions

July 1 – September 30, 2025

#### Serafimer

Anonymous  
Auxiliary Club  
Paul Muther & Ulla Dagert-Muther  
William Penn Foundation  
Philadelphia Funders Collaborative for the  
Semiquincentennial  
Philadelphia Gear  
Erik and Nicole Muther

#### Vasa

Swedish Council of America Fund at the  
Minneapolis Foundation  
James & Sofia Walker

#### Gold

Nils G. Herdelin Jr.

#### Silver

Anna-Lena Bromberg  
Ulf Åkerblom

#### Bronze

Carl R. Karlsson  
Florence Beck

#### Friend

Lars Ahlman  
Robert Berry,  
*in memory of Graham Nielson*  
Elisabeth Brown,  
*in memory of Kristina Antoniadis*  
Carol S. Choclos  
Barbara E. Good  
Beachy Family  
Lima Christian Nursery School,  
*in memory of Louise Bauer*  
Donna E. O'Connell  
Linda Raffa

## Donor Spotlight: Elisabeth Brown



"The American Swedish Historical Museum feels like my home away from home," shares Elisabeth Brown, one of our treasured board members and longtime supporter and volunteer. What she says rings true for many Museum members.

The American Swedish Historical Museum is more than a place to explore Scandinavian history, art, and culture—it is a space where memories are made, connections are deepened, and community thrives. Where

newlyweds share a first kiss, where families share special holidays, where grandparents bring their grandchildren and experience part of their shared history together.

Elisabeth felt very drawn to the Museum as she was "able to help out with the different celebrations and experience the traditions" that she grew up with. Her commitment to the Museum began with her involvement in the Midsommarklubben and Auxiliary, volunteering in the kitchen and at event admission tables. She currently serves as the President of the Midsommarklubben and on the Board of Governors. "I feel very attached to this beautiful Museum," Elisabeth says, "and would like it to be able to continue for many generations to come."

As we approach our Centennial Anniversary in 2026, this sentiment resonates more than ever. A century of stories, exhibitions, and shared experiences has shaped the Museum into a home for all who walk through our doors. This milestone is not only a moment to honor the past but also an opportunity to invest in the Museum's

future. There are many exciting things to celebrate about our first 100 years and what the next 100 hold. Our upcoming building improvements will enhance the Museum's visibility to the community, improve accessibility, and deepen cultural exchange, ensuring that the Museum remains a welcoming space for the next 100 years.

There are many meaningful ways to contribute. We are able to accept gifts of stock, planned gifts, and grants from donor-advised funds. ASHM is ready to support innovative approaches to donations tailored to your philanthropic goals. By supporting the Museum today, you help preserve this home away from home and strengthen its legacy in the Philadelphia community and beyond.

Reach out to Executive Director, Tracey Beck at [tbeck@americanswedish.org](mailto:tbeck@americanswedish.org) or at 215-389-1776 ext 111 to discuss the legacy you would like to leave at American Swedish Historical Museum.



#### 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 print all information as you wish it to appear on the membership mailings.

Return this form to:

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

✂ Please detach here and return.

## Gift Membership Form

### Gift Recipient

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

o **\$45:** Senior/Student

o **\$55:** Individual

o **\$75:** Household

o **\$100:** Organizational

o **\$125:** Friend

o **\$250:** Sustaining

o **\$500:** Patron

o **\$1,000:** Key Contributor

o **\$2,500:** Life

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

### Account #

Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

### Message:

*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.*

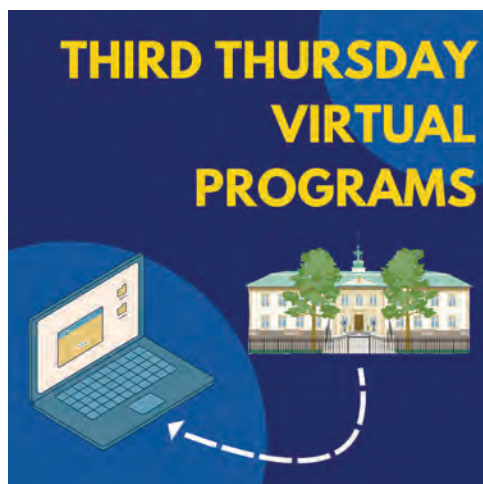
*Your membership contribution to the American Swedish Historical Museum is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

## Long Distance Celebrations!

We thank all supporters of the American Swedish Historical Museum, including those who live far from the physical building and can't always attend events in person. With next year marking the Museum's 100th anniversary, we will host numerous exhibit openings, holiday celebrations, and one-time special events.

ASHM is making a dedicated effort to keep everyone involved through opportunities to celebrate and learn more about the Museum and Scandinavian history by hosting a special year-long Third Thursday Virtual Program Series in 2026! This series will feature lectures, virtual field trips, and behind-the-scenes looks at our centennial exhibitions and rarely seen collection items. Whether you are new to the ASHM community or are a long-standing supporter, everyone will discover something new about the Museum, Philadelphia, and

Nordic culture and history. Stay tuned for the full schedule of topics, but mark your calendars now for the Third Thursday of every month from 12:00-1:00 ET, and get ready to celebrate 100 years of ASHM!



## Book Your Sauna Session!



Ready for some relaxation? The Ebba Sparre Sauna from Scout returns to the ASHM Terrace again this

year on Sunday, December 14th! Open 10am-6pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday every week through March 29th, there is a sauna session to fit your schedule! Looking for a holiday gift or something fun to do while family is in town? Saunas will be open for the full week between Christmas and New Year's Day (December 26th through January 4th) including week days. Plus check out exclusive merchandise from Ebba Sparre Sauna Collective that will be available at the Museum Shop in-store only.

Sweat sessions are available for groups of up to four per barrel sauna. Book your time slot at [ebbasparresauna.com](http://ebbasparresauna.com).

Connecting  
Cultures and  
Community

## From the ASHM Shop



Second annual Member Shopping Week! To show our appreciation for your support, members will enjoy 20% savings in-store and online from Tuesday, November 18 through Sunday, November 23. Visiting the Museum and want to pick up your web order in person? Simply enter promotional code PICKUP at checkout, you will be notified when your order is ready!

For a truly unique gift, you won't want to miss this custom designed Dala Horse Candle Holder Set, made just for us by Arkæologi and exclusively available at the Museum. Each holder is handmade, each

candle is hand-poured, and the Norsemen scent will envelop you in sea air, clove, lavender, and mint.

Holiday classics are back in stock now plus new items that will become your new favorites! Get your Abba® Kalles Caviar Spread and Matjes Herring, Scandic Christmas Cheese, and Nordqvist Christmas Tea Boxes. Discover Black Currant and Lingonberry Cranberry Artisan Herring this year! Don't forget Fazer's Gingerbread Winter Edition Bar and "Suklaapiparkakku" Gingerbread Cookies.

New from Sweden! Gåva Ornament Tins are filled with Gummies or Chocolates available in Single or Trio gift boxes. Påskägg are beautifully decorated, reusable eggs, traditionally left out for Easter with treats inside. Here they have been repurposed as Christmas Baubles by two childhood friends who grew up together in Sweden. You'll want to check out this trending brand which is now being featured by Bloomingdale's in the US and at Selfridges in the UK.

