



AMERICAN SWEDISH
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
CENTENNIAL

Vol. 45 No. 3

Autumn
2026

Gala

A Century of Impact, A Night to Remember: The Centennial Gala

Marking a milestone anniversary is more than a celebration—it is a moment to reflect on impact, memory, and community. For the past century, the American Swedish Historical Museum has stood as a landmark in South Philadelphia, woven into the lives of generations.

Whether you know the area as “the Lakes,” remember climbing on the cannons as a child, attended Lucia festivities, or danced around the Maypole at Midsommar, the Museum holds a place in countless personal histories. Families have returned across generations—parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents—creating a shared legacy of connection and cultural discovery. Now, we have the opportunity to honor that enduring impact and celebrate the role the Museum has played in shaping our community.

On October 17, 2026, the American Swedish Historical Museum will mark a truly historic milestone—100 years of preserving and celebrating Swedish heritage, culture, and community. To honor this extraordinary occasion, we invite you to step into an unforgettable evening at the Centennial Gala, a once-in-a-century celebration that promises elegance, inspiration, and lasting memories.

Held within the Museum’s iconic setting, the evening will bring together distinguished guests, patrons, and partners for a program that reflects on the past while looking boldly toward the future.

A highlight of the evening will be a thoughtfully curated culinary experience. From passed hors d’oeuvres to an exquisite three-course dinner, each dish will be inspired by historic recipes spanning the Museum’s history. This menu will offer guests a rare opportunity to quite literally taste popular culture over time. The evening will also feature live music, dancing, and exclusive auction experiences, creating a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere from the first toast to the final dance.

In tribute to the Museum’s enduring international legacy, ambassadors representing the Nordic nations will join the celebration in Philadelphia, underscoring a shared history of global partnership and cultural exchange.

More than an evening of celebration, the Centennial Gala plays a vital role in supporting the Museum’s future. We are planning a special announcement regarding new gifts to the collection the evening of the Gala. Proceeds will directly benefit the Centennial improvement projects, funding critical initiatives in accessibility, preservation, safety, and visitor experience, ensuring the Museum continues to thrive for generations to come.

Whether you are drawn by the atmosphere, the mission, or the significance of the occasion, this is truly the event of the year. Guests are invited to don black-tie attire in keeping with the elegance and significance of this special evening.

Tickets are limited, and we encourage you to secure your place at this historic celebration. Join us as we commemorate 100 years of history, culture, and community—and savor the legacy that will carry us into the next century.

Note from the Director

It is both fun and a little sobering to see your youth interpreted in a museum exhibition. It makes you wonder, Am I really old enough to be considered history? At the same time, a curator's perspective can reveal connections you never noticed. The Nordic influences highlighted in the Taste to Tech exhibition brought back memories while helping me see my own heritage in a new light.

The 1980s are often remembered through pop culture, and Swedish music is certainly part of that soundtrack. ABBA is the Swedish group from that era that had the most staying power—I was dancing to ABBA at high school dances, and their songs are still the ones that get people out on the dance floor whether you are at a wedding or a gala!

When I was in college, the cool kids had SAABs—proudly Swedish and with very distinctive styling. They had a very different vibe than the “boxy but good” Volvo station wagon my husband and I purchased for its stellar safety rating when we had our first child. Unfortunately, by the time I was established enough to own a SAAB, they had ceased production (2011) — a reminder that even classic brands don't last forever.

Then there's IKEA, perhaps Sweden's most enduring influence in American homes from this era. For people like myself who lived in most of our lives in the center of the country, experiencing an IKEA was something on your bucket list for any vacation that went near one of their first U.S. stores. Now that I live near an IKEA, I have had a front row seat to watching how they lead sustainable trends like reusable shopping bags and solar and LED lighting, years before they became commonplace.

This exhibition reminded me how deeply Nordic innovation influenced my generation in ways I never fully appreciated at the time. I hope it sparks a few memories—and perhaps some new connections—for you as well.

Tracey Beck

Tracey Beck

From Taste to Tech: The Top in Pop and the Age of Celebrity

In our last newsletter installment, you learned a little about the period between 1950 and 1974—an era that saw the United States shift from a postwar vision of hopeful progress to a culture wrestling with disillusionment and moral ambiguity. This installment will focus on the period between 1975 and 1999.

After an oil crisis in the early 1970s caused inflation to rise, Americans sought affordability and practicality in everything from food to home design. Arriving in the US in the 1980s, IKEA answered that demand with affordable, easy-to-transport furniture that allowed homeowners to take an active role in furnishing their homes. Iconic pieces like the BILLY bookcase and 1985 Moment sofa chair combined minimalism and practical functionality, allowing homeowners to create modern, efficient living spaces at a low cost.

Starting in the mid-to-late 1970s, Nordic musicians and bands also became embedded in American culture. Leading the charge was ABBA, whose upbeat songs and stage presence made them one of the most popular bands of the decade. In the 1980s, the American cable channel MTV transformed the way youth consumed pop, turning music into a visual experience. Nordic bands like Roxette and Europe were quick to embrace MTV, using it to reach millions of Americans. Their rise to superstardom showed how music videos could create instant icons, aligning Nordic performers with the era's culture of celebrity worship, where musicians, actors, and athletes were elevated to almost mythic status.



From Left to right, Björn Ulvæus, Anni-Frid Frida Lyngstad, Agnetha Fältskog, and Benny Andersson.

That same celebrity culture also propelled Swedish-born actor Dolph Lundgren to international fame following his breakthrough role as the menacing Soviet boxer Ivan Drago in *Rocky IV* (1985). At the same time, Finnish American actress Jessica Lange reached superstardom with films like *Tootsie* (1982), *Sweet Dreams* (1985), and *Blue Sky* (1995), earning Academy Awards for the former and latter. Following her, Renée Zellweger, a Norwegian American, gained global recognition in the late 1990s, starring as Dorothy Boyd in *Jerry Maguire* (1996).



Björn Borg, Photo by Sjöberg Bildbyrå.

In sports, Swedish-born tennis player Björn Borg became a household name through his dominance in tennis, and Danish-born Morten Andersen became one of the NFL's most celebrated placekickers. A member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, “The Great Dane” played 25 seasons in the NFL and still holds the record for the most points scored by any player in NFL history with 2,544.

During this era, Nordic breakthroughs in technology ushered in a new era of connectivity and set the stage for the digital revolution of the 2000s. Based in Finland, telecommunications giant Nokia rose to prominence in the 1990s with sleek, futuristic phones like the 8110 “banana phone.” Meanwhile, Sweden's 1994 invention of Bluetooth helped launch a new era of wireless and “hands-free” technology in the 2000's.

These stories and more are illustrated in *From Taste to Tech: 100 Years of Nordic Innovation & Impact*, on view through February 7, 2027.

Amandus Johnson Volunteer Service Award Honorees: Ulla Heinicke and Erik Heinicke

This year, we are proud to recognize a remarkable mother-and-son duo, Ulla and Erik Heinicke, as recipients of the Amandus Johnson Volunteer Service Award. Their shared commitment to preserving Swedish heritage and fostering community engagement reflects both a deep personal connection to their roots and an enduring dedication to service.



Ulla Heinicke's journey began in Eskilstuna, Södermanland, Sweden. Fluent in French and English, she came to North America to work at the Swedish Embassy in Ottawa. After

meeting her husband, Julius, in Bucks County, they settled in Newtown, where she raised their two sons, Erik and Sven. After attending The College of New Jersey, Ulla worked for Bloomberg Business News

and ASHM. A dedicated member of the Midsommarklubben for over a decade, she has generously given her time to traditions including Midsommar and Easter celebrations, helping preserve Swedish heritage for future generations.

Her son, Erik Heinicke, shares her passion for history and cultural heritage. Raised in Bucks County, he attended high school in Sweden at SSSL in Sigtuna before graduating from American University. After a career in trade journalism, he earned a Master's in Language Arts from Rider University and worked as a reading specialist. He now serves at the Bucks County Historical Society, helping maintain the Mercer and Fonthill Castle museums. From the Pea Soup Committee to events like Smörgåsar and Lucia celebrations, Erik consistently volunteers with enthusiasm and dedication.



For Erik, volunteering is both a personal and cultural calling. "I've always had a love of history, and volunteering at the Swedish museum is an important part of remaining in touch

with my cultural heritage," he shares.

"Our annual pea soup dinner, my favorite event, is a homage to a Swedish tradition from the Middle Ages."

Together, Ulla and Erik exemplify the spirit of the Amandus Johnson Volunteer Service Award. Their dedication bridges generations, strengthens cultural ties, and enriches the community they serve. We are honored to celebrate their contributions and grateful for the lasting impact they continue to make.

Donor Spotlight: Mary Ann and Tom Hudson



Mary Ann and Tom Hudson joined the Museum 16 years ago after visiting the villages in Sweden where both their families' ancestors emigrated from to America—Mary Ann was the granddaughter of Gustaf Gustafson. Mary Ann and Tom belonged to the Genealogy Club, attended Lucia every year, and especially loved the Pea Soup Supper.

Mary Anne was a two-time cancer survivor with heart issues, and the stairs from the parking lot up to the Museum became more of an issue in recent years. When Mary Ann passed away recently, Tom decided to make a donation in her memory towards the Centennial improvement projects that will improve access for all visitors, including new accessible ramps and a small parking lot off Pattison Ave. at the Museum's ground level. If you would like to learn more about how you can help these projects become a reality, contact Tracey Beck, at tbeck@americanswedish.org or 215-389-1776 x111.

ASHM Centennial Jewelry

Celebrate our 100th Anniversary with these special edition cabochon glass pendant and earrings. Each hand mounted piece features our centennial medallion so you can show your support for the Museum and show your Swedish pride. Come visit us at the Museum or shop online for the many new and exciting Centennial items debuting over the year!



Upcoming Events and Registration Info

To Register For Events

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

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 deadlines. To register for events, visit americanswedish.org or call (215) 389-1776.



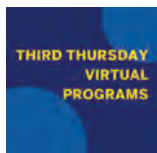
Monthly Programs:

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 fun and creative ways to children ages 2 to 5 years old.

August 20 – The Dala Horse
September 15 – ABCs and 123s Svenska Style
October 20 – I Can Build Too!
November 19 – Fall Fest!



Centennial Third Thursday Virtual Program Series

12:00–1:00 pm

Don't miss our Third Thursday Program Series every month of 2026! This series features lectures, virtual field trips,

and behind-the-scenes looks at our Centennial exhibitions and rarely seen collection items. Check the online events page for each month's topic.

Thursday, August 20th
Thursday, September 17th
Thursday, October 15th
Thursday, November 19th
Thursday, December 17th



Architecture & Building Free Family Day

Sunday, August 9th
12:00-4:00 pm

From the Empire State Building to Mount Rushmore to the Golden Gate Bridge, iconic

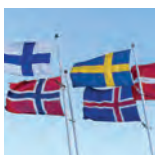
landmarks across the United States were built in part by Nordic immigrants. Bring the whole family to spend the afternoon completing building challenges and creating your own impressive structures with LEGOs (a Danish invention!) and other materials.



Crayfish Party Friday, August 21st 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 a glass of aquavit, all outside under our beautifully lit and decorated tent. \$60 for ASHM, \$70 for non-members. Register by August 12th.



Scandinavia Fest

Budd Lake, NJ
Sunday, September 6th

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.



ASHM Virtual Swedish Language Classes Beginning the week of September 14th

Be sure to register for our 10-week virtual Swedish language class program!

Whether you are new to the subject or fluent, there is a level for you. Check our website for more information and to register. \$200 for members and \$250 for nonmembers. Spaces are limited and fill quickly!



Annual Meeting Sunday, September 20th 3:00 pm

ASHM members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting to learn about the Museum's achievements in the last fiscal

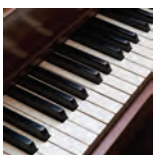
year and to celebrate this year's Amandus Johnson Volunteer Service Award honorees, a mother-son duo, Ulla and Erik Heinicke. Attendees are invited to stay for the fika and piano performance following the meeting.



Hemslöjd Craft Series: Dala Pig Painting Sunday, September 27th 12:00-4:00 pm

While the Dala horse may be the best-known representation of Swedish rural folk art, all sorts

of farm animals were hand-carved and painted in the kurbits style. This in-person workshop offers an immersive journey into the cultural legacy of this cherished Swedish tradition. Annika Gyllenhaal will demonstrate a variety of painting styles and techniques using examples from a local Dala horse and pig collection on display. You will receive a hand-carved, unpainted Dala pig 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. Don't miss this opportunity to add to your collection!



Fika & Performance Sunday, September 20th 4:30 pm

All are welcome to enjoy a fika of Swedish pastries and coffee provided by SWEA Philadelphia followed by a special piano

performance by internationally renowned artist Per Tengstrand. A native of Växjö, Sweden, Per currently resides in Princeton, NJ where he is the Artistic Director of the Princeton Chamber Music Series. Since his debut at the Lincoln Center in New York City in 1997, Per has performed at the Kennedy Center, Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie

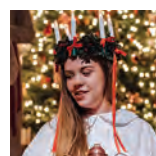
Hall, Musikverein in Vienna, Gewandhaus in Leipzig, and Suntory Hall in Tokyo. He is the recipient of the Royal Medal of Litterus and Artibus from the King of Sweden. We are happy and honored to welcome Per to ASHM as we continue our 100th anniversary celebrations! This is a free event. Please help us plan with your RSVP online.



American Swedish Historical Museum Centennial Gala Saturday, October 17th 6:00 pm

Step into an unforgettable evening at the American Swedish Historical Museum

Centennial Gala—a once-in-a-century celebration you won't want to miss! The event includes elegant dining, live entertainment and dancing, and exclusive experiences inside a cultural landmark. Join us as we honor a century of heritage and look ahead in style. Whether you're coming for the atmosphere, the cause, or the celebration—this is the event of the year. Tickets are limited—secure yours now and be part of something truly historic.



Lucia & Christmas Market Vendor Application

Due Monday, November 16th

Are you a crafter, maker, or person who loves to create things by hand? We want you! Don't miss the opportunity to

be a vendor at the Lucia & Christmas Market. The event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 5th & 6th from 10 am–4 p.m. with an optional additional sales opportunity on Friday evening, December 4th. This pop-up shop will give vendors the chance to sell their work to an engaged community audience in South Philadelphia. For additional information and to register, visit our online calendar of events page. Contact Lauren Burnham at lburnham@americanswedish.org or call 215-389-1776, x106 with questions.



Lucia Rehearsals Sunday November 15th and Sunday, November 21st 2:00-4:00 pm

Museum members are invited to have their children participate in our annual Lucia

performance on December 5th & 6th. 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.



Save the Date: Julbord – Friday, December 4th

**Lucia & Christmas Market –
Saturday & Sunday, December
5th-6th**

Images from Recent Events

Photographs by
ASHM Staff



▲ Guests enjoy delicious food and a beautiful summer evening at the New Nordic Dinner.



▲ Attendees watch the Sweden vs. Netherlands World Cup match in the Josef Frank Gallery.



▲ Volunteers craft flower crowns at Midsommar.



▲ Chef Ulrika Bengtsson poses with Chef Derek and Bonnie Guida from JAM at the New Nordic Dinner.



▲ Volunteers enjoy brunch at our Volunteer Appreciation Garden Party.



▲ Midsommar volunteers serve baked goods.



▲ Midsommar visitors dance around the Maypole.



▲ JAM staff serve drinks at the New Nordic Dinner.



▲ Assistant Director Lauren Burnham gives a tour of the Museum on Swedish National Day.

Board of Governors Candidates for the Class of 2029

To serve a first term:

Valarie Costanzo is a native Philadelphian who attended Immaculata University and became a Home Economics teacher at South Phila High School. After 10 years she started her catering business- “Puttin’ on the Ritz” which lead to creating an all-around event planning business. After several years she was recruited by Wood Dining Services where she served as a marketing manager for recreation and leisure including the Philadelphia Zoo, and the Mystic Seaport Museum among others. She eventually returned to the School District of Philadelphia as the Director of Culinary Arts with 15 programs in the Career and Tech Ed schools. She retired in 2016, and in retirement opened a Sweet Charlie’s Thai rolled ice cream shop with her husband in Haddonfield, NJ. She is now fully retired and enjoying a position on the board of Les Dames d’Escoffier Philadelphia chapter, and she serves as Culinary Chairman for the Haddonfield Lions Club.

Abby Shaw has worked in the field of archival storage materials for museums for 20 plus years. She is presently employed by Hollinger Metal Edge as an eastern representative for marketing, sales, and new product development. She worked as part of the administrative staff of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts for 8 years, including serving as its executive director for 4 years. Prior to the Conservation Center, she worked in museums including the St. Louis Art Museum, the Toledo Museum of Art, and the University of Michigan Museum of Art where she created the first docent program for the museum. Abby has served on the ASHM Museum Committee for several years and currently serves as chairman of the committee. She assisted with the planning for the ASHM exhibition, Go Swedish: Smörgåsbord and Beyond and other exhibitions during her tenure. Abby Shaw has an MA in the History of Art from the University of Michigan and is a member of FACTS (Fine Art Care and Treatment Standards).

Adam K. Thiel is a successful entrepreneur, investor, board member, and consultant with a global portfolio and more than 35 years of public service at the local, state, and federal levels; he also serves in the United States Army Reserve. Adam served the City of Philadelphia for more than 10 years as its managing director—the City’s chief operating officer, uniformed fire commissioner, and emergency management director. Before his time in Philly, he was a deputy secretary of public safety and homeland security for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Adam is an

Eisenhower USA fellow, a FEMA Vanguard fellow, an Aspen Institute health innovation fellow, and a Leadership Philadelphia alumnus. A lifelong learner, Thiel has attended the University of Pennsylvania, the London School of Economics and Political Science, Arizona State University, George Mason University, the University of Maryland Global Campus, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; he is an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University and George Mason University.

Diane Dalto Woosman, a long-time arts administrator, is currently a public art advisor in the City of Philadelphia. Previously, she served as the Director of the Office of Arts and Culture for the City. During her tenure the Avenue of the Arts development project became the centerpiece of the City’s redevelopment of its former commercial center. Her Office provided oversight for the formation of the Philadelphia Cultural Fund to sustain the vital arts infrastructure, the Marian Anderson Award, and the revitalization of the City’s Public Art, Art in City Hall and Art in the Airport programs. She chaired the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for eight years. Diane sits on the Boards of Arden Theatre, the Indiana University Eskenazi Museum of Art, Artspace (Minneapolis), the Delaware River Waterfront Corp. and Lycoming College. Diane is an Eisenhower Fellow and a Fellow of the Philadelphia College of Physicians.

To serve a second term:

Dorothy (Dee) Kaplan is a Philadelphia native. She served as Deputy Secretary for Business Assistance at the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development during the Rendell administration, where she was responsible for overseeing administration of the department’s comprehensive programs to assist businesses across the Commonwealth. Prior to her appointment at the DCED, Dee had over 25 years of experience in economic and workforce development. As the senior vice president for the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation, she planned and directed comprehensive services and funding for regional employers. During her tenure with the City of Philadelphia, Ms. Kaplan was Director of the Mayor’s Business Action Team. With this team, she developed a marketing strategy to bring businesses and investment into Philadelphia, and worked on structuring incentive packages for companies looking to expand or relocate in the city. Dee served as Vice President for Marketing at the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, following ten years in management at a division of

Dun & Bradstreet. Her initial career as a registered nurse has served well in her current work on medical research committees at Drexel University, Saint Joseph’s University, and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She is also a member of the board at the Philadelphia Health Care Exchange.

Marja Kaisla moved to the US from her native Finland in 1987, and has enjoyed an active concert career as a pianist on stage, radio, television, and major motion pictures while living a multifaceted life as a cultural and educational advocate and a governmental consultant on Nordic history, economic and cultural issues. She received the Finnish Government Centennial Award, the country’s highest civilian award in 2013, for promoting Finnish and Nordic culture in the United States. Marja has been President of the Finnish-American Society of the Delaware Valley since 2012. She was Vice President of New Sweden Alliance from 2012-2016. Subsequently, she was Co-President of Global Education Initiatives Program 2013-2017, a public-private partnership of multi-faceted scholarship and fellowship programs for students and teachers designed to increase educational and research collaboration in basic and higher education between Finland and the US. As a performing artist, she made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2005 as the pianist of Trio Excelsior, with whom she has toured extensively around the US. Besides solo concert touring, she has also toured extensively as a member of Piano4, a unique ensemble of four pianos. She received her musical education in Finland, Russia, Switzerland, and the US. Marja has performed for the Nordic countries’ royal families, President Biden, as well as many US Governors and Senators. She was Finlandia Foundation National’s Performer of the Year in 2013 and 2014. Subsequently, she also became a member of the Board of Trustees of Finlandia Foundation National (2014-2016). Recognized by the African American Museum in Philadelphia in 2016 as a recipient for Outstanding Achievement in Innovative Programming as a Legend of Jazz, R&B and Gospel, Marja is also a recording artist. She is the Artistic Director of Young Musicians Musicales, a musical organization presenting young instrumentalists of highest caliber from the US and abroad in concerts in historic landmark residencies in the Philadelphia area. Besides her concert activities, Marja is a translator, consecutive interpreter, and instructor for ASHM’s Finnish language classes.

Contributions

Susan A. Ryszka is a native of Buffalo, New York. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo with a degree in Finance and Accounting. She was Finance Director of the Organic Peroxides Division (OPD) of the company now known as Arkema, Inc., reporting to the President of the OPD and responsible for establishing profitability standards and goals and reporting results to Senior Management. During her career, she lived and worked in Paris for four years, immersing herself in French language, culture and international business. She later settled in Philadelphia, working at the North American corporate headquarters. Since retiring, Susan has managed the family real estate business. She also has volunteered her time to her daughter's school programs. She served as Treasurer of the Baldwin School Parent's Association and organized parent and student events for the Whitemarsh Boat Club and MIT crew teams. She served on the Board of Directors for the Red Heel Theater. She is also Majority Inspector of Elections for Division 12 of the 8th Ward in Philadelphia.

Joining the Board as Midsommarklubben's New President:

Maud Forsberg-Davis was born and raised in Laxå, then moved to Örebro, Sweden for college and work. She trained as a Licensed Practical Nurse and worked as an LPN for five years when her curiosity for the world took over. She left for what should have been a year, but it took one and a half years before she made it back to Sweden and that was to pack up what was left in her sub-letted apartment and go back to her husband stationed in Hawaii. After three years in Hawaii, they moved to Germany, England, and back to Germany before eventually settling in Dover, Delaware, where she still resides. Somewhere in the middle of the moves and having two children, she went back to school with the University of Maryland, European Campus and eventually received a BA in Psychology from Wesley College in Dover, Delaware. She worked as a behavior specialist in an elementary school and eventually earned a master's degree in School Counseling from Wilmington University, taking a position as a School Counselor in the Milford School District as well as being elected to the executive board for over 10 years with the Delaware School Counselor Association, DSCA. Maud retired from her school counseling role about 2 years ago and now enjoys traveling and time with friends while holding a part time position at Harvest Ridge Winery in Marydel, Delaware where she gets to talk, sample, and share her knowledge about wine with the winery's guests. Maud has been a member of the Museum for about two years and is an active member of the Midsommarklubben.

New Members

April 1 – June 30, 2026

Sustaining
Cynthia MacDonald

Household
Ann Barton Brown Woodward
Charlotta Hummel
Andrew J. Matzelle
Jenna Owens
Robert Protesto
Aleksandra Vojvodic

Individual
Trina Brady
Wendy Kaynor

Senior/Student
Valarie Costanzo
Monica Fortune
Karen Graziano
Kent Handestam
Jonathan Lipshie
Pamela Petersen
Bruce Ross
Robert Schmidt
Ronda Whelan

In Memoriam

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

Karin Bergesen
Ted Hallman
Harold Hokanson
Mary Anne Hudson
Gudmund Ragnvaldsson Iversen

Contributions

April 1 – June 30, 2026

Serafimer
Anonymous
Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation*
William & Tracey Beck*
Olof Bergqvist*
Midsommarklubben
A. Monica Kruse*
George & Elizabeth McFarland Foundation*
Philadelphia Cultural Fund
Sports Complex Special Services District*
Margaretha Talerman*
Eunice Winters*

Vasa
Karin Bergqvist
Margaret Copeland
Kristina Hofmann*
Julie Jurash
Karin Kornaga*
Helen Ljungdahl Round
Mary McCoy
Erik & Nicole Muther
Barbro Pollock*
SWEA Philadelphia

**Contributions to the Centennial Capital Campaign*

Gold

Anonymous
Erwin & Ulla-Britt Apell
Görel Bengtson
Ingrid Cagan
Jerome Cloud
John & Carin Foster
Ed Gunneson
Nils G. Herdelin Jr.
John Holmstrom
Kristina & John O'Doherty

Silver

Anonymous
Ann Barton Brown Woodward*
Paul & Janet Engstrom
Tyler Graybeal
Barbro Pollock
Kristina H. Smith

Bronze

Florence Beck*
Sandra Brown
Jill Ferguson
Margaret Friel
Rae Ellen Hinken
Kerstin Hoeldtke
Elisabeth & Bill Hohman
Stephen and Sharon Holt
Thomas Hudson
Dee Kaplan
Carl R. Karlsson
Laurie Larson
Robert Leis
Duane Malm
Susan Satkowski
David & Mary Segermark
Birgitta Sellin
Rudy & Jean Soderlund

Friend

Anonymous
Nancy Balz
Elisabeth Brown
Hilma Cooper
Nancy & Richard Cox
Monica Fortune
Anne Lund
Karen McKillip
Kjerstin Sama
Diana Santillo
Britt Winte

Contributions in Memory of Diane Yocum

Beverly Farrell
Andrea Mower
Diana Santillo

Contributions in Memory of Gudmund

Ragnvaldsson Iversen
Herb Berry
Henry & Ann Hofmann
Anne Lund
Jack Rehner

Contributions in Memory of

Karin Bergesen
Elisabeth Brown
Monica Fortune
Kjerstin Sama
Britt Winte



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Cultures and
Community**

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Not Just Horses: Celebrate Swedish Hemslöjd with a Dala Pig Workshop

Few symbols capture the heart of Swedish folk culture quite like the beloved Dala horse (or Dalahäst). With its bright colors, floral patterns, and proud stance, this hand-carved wooden figure has become an enduring emblem of Sweden's history, craftsmanship, and artistic spirit.

Originating in the forested region of Dalarna in central Sweden, Dala horses date back to the 17th century, when woodcarvers—often during long winter nights—crafted small horses as toys for children. Over time, these simple carvings evolved into decorative objects, painted in vibrant reds and adorned with intricate kurbits patterns, a traditional Swedish folk art style.

While Dala horses are the most popular carved animal, other barnyard figures have historically been part of the genre, including roosters and pigs. This fall, we will be painting the adorable farm favorite pig, offering a fresh and playful take on this beloved folk tradition.

Don't miss this special hands-on workshop at ASHM on Sunday, September 27th, led by the talented Gyllenhaal family. With a love of Swedish craftsmanship, the Gyllenhaals bring both expertise and passion to their teaching, offering participants a rare opportunity to engage directly with this centuries-old art form.

During the workshop, attendees will learn about the history and cultural significance of Dalarna folk art before trying their own hand at painting a hand-carved wooden pig using traditional techniques and motifs. Whether you're an experienced artist or simply curious about Scandinavian traditions, this workshop offers a welcoming space to explore creativity while connecting with Swedish heritage.



The Gyllenhaal's collaborative approach reflects the intergenerational nature of folk art—skills and stories passed down, adapted, and shared anew. Their guidance ensures that each participant not only leaves with a beautifully decorated piece but also with a deeper appreciation for the artistry and meaning behind it.

Join us at ASHM for this unique cultural experience and discover the joy of bringing a piece of Sweden to life—one brushstroke at a time.

Spaces are limited, so be sure to reserve your spot online and take part in this colorful celebration of Swedish tradition!

