



Painting of *The Selen* by Ole Johnsen Sebøy (1791-1843), 1828. *The Restauration*, the ship used by the Sloopers in their 1825 voyage to America, was never depicted in any artistic medium, meaning that this image of the sloop *Selen* is the closest possible approximation to a picture of *the Restauration*. Later depictions of *the Restauration* were based on *the Selen*.

2025: 200 Years of Norwegian Immigration

As we jump headfirst into 2025, many museums and other cultural organizations around the country are focused on putting their stamp on the semiquincentennial celebration in 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This anniversary promises exhibitions, events, and performances galore, especially in Philadelphia. Before we reach that special year, however, there are several exciting anniversaries to celebrate in 2025, and ASHM is the place to learn about them.

2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the first organized migration from Norway to North America—a particularly significant event in the landscape of Scandinavian-American culture. A group of immigrants known as the Sloopers made the long trek from Stavanger, Norway to New York in 1825 and began a wave of Norwegian migration to America that lasted for the next century. While some Norwegian immigrants already

lived in the United States prior to 1825, the Sloopers of Stavanger, a group of fifty-two Quaker Norwegian emigrants named for the single-masted sailboat, or sloop, they traveled in, were the first large group to come to settle in North America from Norway. The decision to leave their homeland was not taken lightly.

In the early 19th century, Norway faced economic struggles with successive crop failures and major land shortages due to overpopulation. Political unrest also stewed below the surface as a newfound sense of Norwegian nationalism led many to advocate for independence from Swedish rule. During this time, Norwegian Quakers (the Quaker faith first came to Norway after the Napoleonic Wars) clashed with the dominant Lutheran Church and faced heavy persecution. These factors motivated the Sloopers to leave Norway and board the ship *Restauration* for a new life in America.



Cleng Peerson, self-portrait.
Born in Norway, Cleng Peerson (1783 – 1865) was a Quaker who emigrated to the United States in 1824. The unofficial leader of the Sloopers of Stavanger, Peerson went to America ahead of the *Restauration* to prepare for the Sloopers' arrival.

Note from the Director

The Museum's mission statement encourages people to explore the concept of "cultural identity." This phrase is packed with meanings, and I am sure that it means different things to different people. In the 1920s, the Museum's founder, Amandus Johnson, defined cultural identity by emphasizing the notable achievements of individuals of Swedish descent, attributing their successes to character traits he believed were inherent to their Swedish background. Today, many Americans with diverse family heritages define their cultural identity in a more personal way, blending traditions from various cultures to create a personal and unique identity. In some other countries, there is more emphasis on communal traditions and practices that are shared and passed down through generations.

At ASHM, we believe that fostering curiosity about other cultures and providing opportunities to engage with them is essential. This Spring, our exhibitions will focus on a variety of experiences, such as the journey of the first group of Norwegians to immigrate to the U.S. and the stories of some of our Southeast Asian immigrant neighbors. We hope that by reflecting on people's journeys, identities, and homelands, we can inspire new perspectives on what culture means to each of us individually and to our community as a whole.



Tracey Beck



Map outlining the Restauration's supposed sailing route, illustration by Jens Flesjå.

Before heading out on the open Atlantic seas, the Restauration sailed along the coast as far South as Portugal, where Captain Lars Olson found a cask of wine floating in the sea. He and First Mate Peder Ericksen became so drunk that the ship drifted into the harbor without its flag raised, nearly drawing fire.

Even though the Sloopers embarked on their cross-Atlantic journey with optimism, the trip did not go smoothly.

The three-month journey on board the *Restauration* was a physical and emotional trial for its passengers. The ship departed from Stavanger on July 4, 1825 with 52 people on board, including a crew of 2 that were hired to sail the ship. The captain of the *Restauration* was Lars Olson and his first mate was Peder Ericksen. Due to the small size of the crew with a small ship, Olson was in charge of navigation and piloting while Ericksen saw to the rigging of the sails. As the *Restauration* set sail, the ship faced several obstacles that tested the resolve of its passengers from the very beginning, chief among them navigational challenges that extended the journey. Additionally, measuring only 54 feet in length, 16ft in width, and 38 tons in weight, the *Restauration* was a small ship for the 52 voyagers. The cramped quarters below decks where the Sloopers spent much of their time were anything but comfortable.

After the three-month-long voyage, the *Restauration* finally reached New York Harbor on October 9, 1825. For the Sloopers, this moment marked the beginning of a new chapter filled with the promise of religious freedom and opportunity. Unfortunately, upon docking, the *Restauration* and its cargo were seized, its captain arrested, and the Sloopers fined for having too many people on board. Thankfully, the intervention of the Quaker community in New York, most notably Cleng Peerson, the unofficial leader of the Sloopers of Stavanger who journeyed to the United States the year before, put pressure on President John Quincy Adams to

get involved and pardon the ship's captain.

Afterwards, the Sloopers journeyed to Orleans County, New York, where they founded the first Norwegian settlement in North America. Many later moved to Illinois' Fox River Settlement, now Norway, IL. Following news of the *Restauration*, Norwegian immigration to the U.S. surged, with more than 860,000 Norwegians arriving between 1825 and 1925, settling mainly in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and the Dakotas. In fact, during this time, Norway was second in immigration per capita to the United States, only behind Ireland.

Though 2026 is a big year for America, the 200th anniversary of this Norwegian migration marks a very significant occasion for Norwegian-Americans and Scandinavian-American history. To commemorate this event at ASHM, we have been working with a Norwegian advisory panel to curate an exhibition about the *Restauration* and its monumental voyage. Join us later this Spring for the ASHM balcony exhibition, *Across the Atlantic: Sloopers and the First Organized Emigration from Norway to America*, on view starting May 22, 2025.



The Crossings Bicentennial in North America commemorates the anniversary of the voyage of the Restauration. Visit their website to learn more about the voyage and 2025 exhibits and programs at organizations around North America. crossings.norwegianamerican.com

The American Swedish Historical Museum is Philly's Best Museum - Again!



ASHM was voted the Best Museum in Philadelphia for a second time in 2024! ASHM won Best Museum in Metro Philadelphia's Philly's Best contest for 2024, in addition

to being voted Best Museum in the Philadelphia Inquirer's Philly Favorites 2024 contest back in the Spring.

The Museum previously won Best Museum in Metro Philly's Best in 2021.

Thank you for being part of our community of support. We are humbled once again by the outpouring of love (and votes) we have received. We can't wait for another year of exciting events, programs, and exhibits with all of you!



Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community

Beginning in March ASHM's changing exhibition gallery will host a community-curated exhibition *Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community* from our Philadelphia neighbor SEAMAAC. This exhibition includes art pieces created as part of SEAMAAC resiliency art programs over the past five years.

Creating art within a community is a powerful act. It allows us to collectively envision a better future, build connections across diverse backgrounds, and cultivate empathy and understanding. SEAMAAC's resiliency art programming brings together people from around the world, offering them a space to learn new skills, create art, and connect on a personal level. Through this shared creative process, participants not only enjoy the act of making but also build meaningful relationships. Creativity becomes a bridge between cultures and experiences, ultimately fostering resilience and strengthening community bonds.

Founded in 1984 by Cambodian, Chinese, Laotian, Hmong, and Vietnamese refugees from Southeast Asia, SEAMAAC's founding vision was to unite Philadelphia's Southeast Asian communities into a dynamic refugee-led coalition. Over the last four decades, SEAMAAC expanded its services to other immigrants/refugees as well as to native-born Philadelphians of every race and ethnicity. Today, the organization works on



local, regional, and national levels, united by a shared commitment to "Build Better Communities" and a mission to support and serve all communities as they seek to advance the condition of their lives in the United States. Their commitment to serving people regardless of race or national origins has inspired our mission and vision in building a stronger society based on the principles of justice and equity for all.

Community is core to ASHM's mission, and expanding that community is vital to our future. In addition to interpreting the experiences of Scandinavians in America, we inspire all visitors to think about their cultural identity and the meaning it holds for their lives.

Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community will be on view in the changing exhibition gallery from March 26, 2025 through June 8, 2025.

Outdoor Saunas at the Museum through March 29th

Don't miss your chance to sauna at the Museum! The Ebba Sparre Sauna Collective is a temporary sauna operating at the Museum through late March 2025. Come experience sauna firsthand in connection with the exhibit *Sauna is Life: Sauna Culture in Finland* (closing March 9th). There are three saunas you can book by yourself or with a group (up to 4 people per sauna) for 30, 45, or 90 minutes.

ASHM visitors receive 10% off weekday bookings with coupon code: DREAMSTEAM10

Whether you come to sweat out the stress, connect with friends, or simply bask in a story for the ages, we hope you will leave refreshed and inspired! There are just a few more weeks to experience this unique opportunity, so book your session today!

The Museum receives 10% of all revenue from the outdoor saunas.



Spring 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 less than 10 days prior to the program date. Online registration is available through event listings at www.americanswedish.org.



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, March 18th – Aurora Borealis
Tuesday, April 15th – I Can Save the Earth!
Tuesday, May 20th – Art Exploration
Tuesday, June 17th – Summer in Sweden



extrABBAganza Dance Party! Saturday, March 8

7:00 - 10:00 pm

Break out your bell bottoms and platform shoes! There's no 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 a dancing and costume contest along with a live performance! Tickets include Swedish-inspired bites and a cash bar. \$35 members, \$40 non-members. 70's attire is encouraged but not necessary.



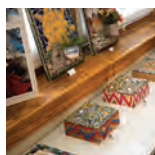
New Sweden Legacy Lecture Series

This lecture series explores the fascinating history of the New Sweden Colony and the legacy the settlement and its people had on Philadelphia and beyond.

Wednesday, March 19th,
12:00-1:00 pm EST via Zoom
"New Sweden's Colonists under Dutch Rule, 1655-1664" by Evan Haefeli
 This free virtual lecture is sponsored by the New Sweden Alliance.

Saturday, April 12th
9:00-11:30 am in-person at ASHM
 Brunch reception following the lecture.
"Peter Stuyvesant's War on Swedes and other Lutherans" by Paul Finkelman

This free in-person event is sponsored by University of Delaware, the Swedish Colonial Society, and the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society.



Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community March 26th – June 8th

ASHM is proud to partner with Philadelphia organization SEAMAAC for this community exhibition. *Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans* includes art pieces created as part of SEAMAAC resiliency art programs. These programs bring together people from around the world, offering them a space to learn new skills, create art, and connect on a personal level, ultimately fostering resilience and strengthening community bonds.

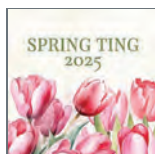


Easter Family Day Sunday, April 6th

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. \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors/Students, \$5 Children 2-12, Members and children under 2 are free. Pay at the door.



Spring Ting Saturday, May 3rd

6:00 pm

Join us at our special fundraiser, featuring a silent auction and buffet dinner.

During this year's event, we are pleased to honor Swedish jazz musician Oskar Stenmark with the Museum's Outstanding Achievement Award. Tickets start at \$125, RSVP by April 18th. Call or check our website for more information.



Free Community Day Sunday, May 11th

12:00-4:00 pm

Join us for a free community day in partnership with SEAMAAC. Learn about

this Philadelphia organization and take the opportunity to view the community exhibit *Through the Eyes of Philadelphia's New Americans: Art, Resilience, and Community*. Check our website for additional programming at the event.

To Register For Events

call **215-389-1776**, or visit online at

www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm



Balcony 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 served. Please RSVP online.



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

4pm-7 pm

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. Pre-register online or pay at the door.



Exhibition Opening: And Let the Victory Tell the Rest: 250 Years of Navy Ship Building in Philadelphia

Thursday, June 26th

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 p.m. with remarks at 5:45. Enjoy catered refreshments and drinks. Help us plan with your RSVP on the ASHM website.

Images from Recent Events

Photographs by ASHM Staff



▲ Assistant Director Lauren Burnham and Liquid Alchemy Co-Founder Terri Sorantino at the Rambo's Revival Cider Tasting

► An attendee at the Rambo's Revival Cider Tasting painting apple designs with watercolors



▲ Our youngest Lucia performers, the Tomtar



▲ Lucia Freya Lundren at the first Lucia performance of the weekend



▲ Julbord Dinner with a fantastic Swedish smörgåsbord catered by Jeffrey A. Miller Catering

▼ Members of the Pea Soup Committee serve soup



▼ Attendees at our Craft Night Out Dala Horse Painting Workshop



▲ A vendor at the outdoor Christmas Market showing their crafts



▲ Lucia performers dressed as pepparkakor



▲ The star boys sing at a Lucia performance.

Contributions

New Members

October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Organizational

Franklin Township Library
Springfield Township Library
Mount Laurel Library
Marple Public Library

Household

Tara Anastasi
John Chappelle
William Clemens
Vance Edwards
Lennart Elmlund
Leland & Hope Felt
Connor Freeman
Sara Grafstrom
Beth Grafstrom
Tom Hooper
Michael Jacobs
Mark Johnson
Andrea Jonsson
Sarah Kalman
Anne & Stephen Kohler
Monica L' Tainen
Joseph Matozzo
Meg Nakahara
Tammy Proffitt
Karen Sladek
Alyssa Thorsen
Britt & John Walton

Individual

John Cupak
Cynthia Durgan
Per Engblom
Lennart Jungbark
Sayeh Magaziner
Heidi Olson
Jason Petula
Jake Simmet
Eric Sjogren

Senior/Student

Siri Bardarson
Bob Beaty
Ingrid Gustafsson
Robert Arvid Hofstrom
Kirsten Olson
Paul Whittaker
Janet Zoani

Annual Giving and Contributions

October 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Serafimer

Anonymous*
Elisabeth Brown*
Erik & Nicole Muther*
Ulla Dagert-Muther & Paul Muther*
Carl D. Rapp*
Red Moose Charitable Trust

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.

Vasa

Jeana Aubinger
Olof Bergqvist
Gregory Brown
Margaret Copeland
Kay Ford
Kristina G. Hofmann
Ulla Martz, in memory of Anna-Mari Martz
Sandra Pfaff
Susan Sjostrom
Wendel Swan
SWEA New Jersey
James & Sofia Walker

Gold

Emily Christiansen
Gordon & Jane Downing
William Honig
Tom Hooper
Juliene Lindberg
Kristina & John O'Doherty
James & Cyndy Traverso

Silver

Anonymous
Ulla-Britt & Erwin Apell
Anna-Lena Bromberg
Ingrid Cagan
Claudia Curtis
Karl Swedberg

Bronze

Lars Ahlman
Florence Beck
Ingrid Beery
Donna Cashdollar
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Karin Kornaga
Ruth Lindeborg & Leonard Busby
Mark Lundgren
Norman Marcus
Mary Anne Carlson Morgan
Barbro Pollock
Kim-Eric Williams

Friend

Helene Basile
Carol S. Choclos
Brian Clancy
Ralph Holmberg
Roberta & Gudmund Iversen
Benjamin Jacobs
Richard Kiger
Mary Sampson
David & Mary Segermark
Inger Zeller

* Designated for the ASHM Centennial Campaign

Membership Reminders

We put our old point-of-sale software to rest a few years ago and have been using our new system, "The Assistant Manager", or TAM, since then. This new software has many tools available to streamline and improve our membership processes, namely automatic emails that go out to members and our new membership cards.

In the past, members received up to three paper letters reminding them to renew. With TAM, our first membership reminder, sent a month before your membership expires, is a paperless automatic email. The next two reminders, sent just before your membership expires and a month after it expires, are still sent as paper letters. Additionally, most of our donation acknowledgments are now paperless. If you are not receiving the initial membership reminder email or donation acknowledgment email, please make sure we have an up-to-date email in our system and check your spam inbox. If you do not receive the paper letters, let us know. We may have an outdated address on file.

Additionally, members who have been with the Museum longer than a few years may remember our old membership cards, which were printed on cardstock and had to be replaced every year. With TAM, we now have plastic cards that are automatically renewed when you renew your membership and do not need to be replaced every year. If you still have old cardstock membership cards, do not have a membership card, or simply need a replacement, please reach out to the membership team directly.

To reach the membership team with any questions about our new membership processes, please email membership@americanswedish.org or give us a call at 215.389.1776 and press 0 to reach the Front Desk.

Newly Catalogued: The Augustana Collection



Confirmation certificate for Miriam Jeanette Rast, signed by Pastor Rast, 7th of June, 1908. Augustana Collection.

In 2024, ASHM received the very large Augustana Collection from the Augustana Heritage Association which had been on display at the Lutheran Archives in Mt. Airy, Philadelphia. The Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church was a branch of the Lutheran Church that was founded by Scandinavian immigrants, primarily Swedes, that immigrated to the United States in the 19th century. The Church was founded in 1860 and merged with other Lutheran branches in 1962, marking the end of the Augustana Lutheran Synod as an independent entity. At the time of its merger, the Church had 620,000 members, the largest organization ever formed by Swedes in America. After the Church merged, a group known as the Augustana Heritage Association preserved heritage and ephemera from the Church. However, that group dissolved in 2016, and the items were transferred to the Lutheran Archives.

When the Lutheran Archives decided to focus solely on their archival collection rather than objects, the collection was transferred to ASHM. We received a generous grant from the Augustana Heritage Association to assist with the project.

It truly has been a journey of a project. The collection contained over 100 items, ranging from a tiny Saint Lucia figurine playset to an entire altar from a now-closed church in Massachusetts. ASHM's Curatorial and Museum Assistant Olivia Henley parsed through every object and gave each one a temporary accession number, description, etc. After that stage, the curatorial staff separated the items that they felt did not fit our collection, such as a few Christmas ornaments and mugs, as well as adding many of the books from the collection to the Museum Library. This shuffling of items required re-cataloguing and re-numbering, in addition to photographing. At long last, the items are now catalogued and officially part of the Museum's collection.

Many of the items have potential to be used in exhibits, primarily our Weaving a New Chapter gallery, as the history of the Augustana Church is an important part of the story of Swedish immigration. However, some of the items have already made an appearance- the Lucia playset and an Advent candleholder were featured in our Christmas pop-up display in December!



Augustana collection items included in ASHM's Christmas pop-up display. Lucia dolls handmade by Jali, Denmark, 1960s and advent candle holder, also known as a lada, no date.

All of the items — photos, baptism, confirmation, and ordination certificates, youth group hymnals and Little Catechisms, even entire pastors' vestments — are vestiges of a major part of Swedish-American immigration and heritage history. Scandinavian immigrants and subsequent generations found both faith and community through the Augustana Church. Today, the Museum carries that torch for our community, where Scandinavians (and others!) come together to learn about Scandinavian culture. We are excited to now include the Augustana Collection as part of our heritage as a Museum.

Digging Deeper: A New YouTube Series from ASHM



Welcome to Digging Deeper! Available on YouTube, this video series offers a guided exploration into the world of history, culture, and art. Releasing monthly, each episode highlights an important artifact, figure, or story relating to ASHM and unpacks its significance to our mission or collection. Hosted by our Curator, Brett Peters, Digging Deeper offers fresh perspectives on how individual pieces shape and enrich our shared past. Be sure to subscribe to the ASHM YouTube channel to check out our first video and see when new ones are released.

Spring Ting 2025



We are eagerly preparing for our Spring Ting auction that provides vital funding for the Museum's exhibitions and educational programs. **This year our online auction will be open for bidding from April 23rd to May 2nd, and our silent auction will be held at our Spring Ting dinner on May 3rd.**

The Spring Ting Dinner will honor Swedish jazz musician Oskar Stenmark with the Museum's Outstanding Achievement Award. Oskar Stenmark has performed for impressive audiences including Supreme Court justices and Nobel Prize laureates, and performed with world famous performers including David Byrne and Living Colour.

To put on this important fundraiser, we need you! Please consider helping out in one of these ways:

- **Donate items for the auction!** The key to any successful fundraising auction is having a great catalog of items to people to bid on. We are looking for special local experiences, vacation opportunities, handmade items, unique antiques, and more! Consider donating gift cards or certificates from local businesses or craft items you have made. We need to receive all items for the auction by April 1st.

- **Become a sponsor!** Gain visibility for your business by sponsoring the Spring Ting event! All sponsors will be featured in the event program and on signage at the event.
- **Bid on items in our online auction!** Our online auction makes it possible for ASHM supporters to participate no matter where you are. Encourage your friends and family to bid too. Bidding is easy to do with your cell phone or computer.
- **Join us in person at Spring Ting Dinner and Auction** on May 3rd for a memorable evening!

Contact the Museum by calling 215-389-1776 or emailing info@americanswedish.org for more information on donating items or becoming a sponsor.