



The ASHM Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for three year terms on the Board of Governors, beginning September 2014.

To serve a 1st term

Rikard (“Rik”) Edstrom is a Vice President in Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.’s Not-for-Profit Practice where he delivers lending and investment management solutions to private schools, cultural institutions, land trusts, professional societies and other 501(c)3 organizations. Mr. Edstrom joined BBH in 2003 as an Associate in the Middle Market Corporate Banking group. Prior to joining BBH, he was a Venture Analyst in the Technology & Life Sciences division of Comerica Bank focusing on early through late-stage technology companies. Mr. Edstrom has a Bachelor’s degree in Marketing from Schiller International University / American College of Switzerland and an M.B.A. in Finance from Drexel University. Mr. Edstrom is a past board member and Treasurer of the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce – Philadelphia. Born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden, Mr. Edstrom has attended colleges and universities in Europe (Germany and Switzerland) and the United States, and traveled extensively throughout the world. Mr. Edstrom has resided in Center City Philadelphia for the past 16 years, where he met his wife Lea. His personal interests include traveling, digital photography, sailing, scuba diving, and practicing and teaching freediving (certified PFI freediving instructor, founder and owner of Philadelphia/Miami based Revolution Freediving).

Sigrid E. Neilson, is an attorney at the New York headquarters of NBCUniversal Media, LLC, of one of the leading media and entertainment companies, where she negotiates software and digital technology licensing agreements, handles the legal aspects of mobile app and website development, and helps the company evaluate and manage risks associated with digital activities in a changing legal landscape. Prior to joining NBCUniversal, Ms. Neilson worked as an attorney at the international law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP, representing public and private companies in intellectual property and technology transactions. Ms. Neilson earned a B.S., with highest honors, in Science, Technology and Culture from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School, where she was selected to join the prestigious Order of the Coif honors society. A native of the Philadelphia area, Ms. Neilson has fond memories of attending ASHM’s Lucia Fest as a child. Her family’s appreciation of the museum stretches back to several aunts who were Lucia girls at ASHM, and to her great-grandfather, Hjalmer Lundquist, who became an active member after emigrating from Sweden in the early 20th century. Ms. Neilson is of both Swedish and Danish descent, and has enjoyed learning about Swedish culture and history, as well as a bit of the Swedish language, during several visits to Stockholm.

Fredrik Khayati, resides in Voorhees, NJ with his family. He is a May 2014 master’s candidate for Environmental Science from Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. Prior to going to graduate school, he worked on an assignment for Urban Engineers as an Accounting Associate and is a stay-at-home father to his son, Benjamin. Born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden, Fredrik came to Philadelphia in 2006 to work at the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) as a Marketing Associate. Concurrently with the position at SACC, he worked as an Import Administrator at

Barthco International. Prior to leaving Sweden for Philadelphia, he received a BS in International Business from Gävle Högskola where he also spent a year studying French in Montreal, Canada. Fredrik is a member of Sustainable Voorhees and is studying to become a Certified Beer Judge.

James S. Walker is a retired Senior Executive of PNC Bank. Jim was the General Manager of PNC's ATM Group, which had over 8500 ATM's when he retired in 2013. PNC was considered to be one of top ATM deplorer's in the US and has the contract with Wawa Food Markets for ATM service. Jim has been active at Philadelphia Cricket Club for the past 25 years. His leadership positions included 8 years as Treasurer and 2 years as President. Presently, Jim is a volunteer on the structures crew to keep the Wissahickon Park in good condition. He also does consulting work in the ATM industry. Mr. Walker is a native of Philadelphia and currently resides in Flourtown, PA with his wife Sophia. They have three children and six grandchildren. He is a graduate of Germantown Friends School and Bucknell University. Jim is an avid golfer and skier and has traveled to Europe on many occasions, both for business and pleasure. Jim is most interested in participating in the financial side of the Museum and his background in financial affairs both at PNC and with the Cricket Club will be helpful to the Board.

Sandra S. Pfaff has been affiliated with ASHM since childhood, is a Life Member, a recipient of the Amandus Johnson Award, and the Order of the Polar Star. Sandra has served ASHM as Board Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Chair and co-founder of the Junior Committee. She has chaired and has been on committees for Lucia, Walpurgis, Nobel Symposium, Raoul Wallenberg awards, Royal visits, ASHM 75th anniversary, (which she chaired), and most recently the opening of the *New Sweden Room* at the museum. She has helped organize events and fund raisers (Spring Ting, Golf Classic) and has been involved with development for many years for the museum and other organizations raising thousands of dollars. She, also, chaired the 365th Anniversary for the Swedish Colonial Society at which time she initiated a special Scandinavian concert by the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia in honor of the Royal Family. She has been an educator for 44 years and a student teacher advisor for Rowan and Holy Family Universities. She was a field consultant for the New Jersey Council of Economics and coordinated a stock market game for elementary students for the New Jersey Council on Economic Education. She had the honor of opening the New York Stock Exchange twice. Sandra was named NJ Teacher of the Year in 1988 with an accompanying New Jersey Senate citation. She received the Mayor of Philadelphia Award for service to the city during the American Way celebration and the Roll of Honor from the Fairmount Council for Historic Sites for her dedicated services to historic preservation and the arts in Philadelphia. She recently was awarded for 40 years of service to the Cape May Patriots of the DAR. Sandra is a Fellow of the SCS. She presently mentors young women, reviews grants from the Philadelphia five county regions for the Emergency of Aid of Pennsylvania and continues to raise money for non-profits. She is on the boards of the Swedish Council of America (Vice Chair), The Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania (Co-Chair), Swedish Colonial Society, New Sweden Farmstead, Rittenhouse Chapter/Philadelphia Orchestra, Orchestra 2001, Cosmopolitan Club. Sandra is, also, a member of several hereditary societies, the DAR, National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, The National Society of the Colonial Dames, the Descendants of the Colonial Colonial Clergy. She is a member of the Acorn Club, The Cosmopolitan Club, The Sedgeley, The Union League of Philadelphia and the Athenaeum.

To serve a 2nd term

Samuel Heed is the Senior Historian & Director of Education for the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation in Wilmington, Delaware. His work with the Vasa Museum in Stockholm and Deep Sea Production's "Expedition Ghost Ship" for National Geographic television has given the Kalmar Nyckel international standing. His curriculum units have been adopted by Delaware's Department of Education and are being taught in classrooms throughout the state. Major publications include a comprehensive KALMAR NYCKEL Guidebook and KALMAR NYCKEL Expedition Cards, which tell the story of the 1638 Expedition. Mr. Heed graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Trinity College and was on the Law Review at the Dickinson School of Law. He has served as law clerk for the Honorable Robert S. Gawthrop, III, practiced law with Gawthrop & Greenwood, and taught history for twenty years at The Haverford School, where he was the Russell C. Ball, Jr., '44, Chair in History.

Fanny Warren is a retired sales rep who worked 25 years for Amscan, a party goods company. She graduated from Tufts University with a BA in history and economics. Over her lifetime, she has lived in a variety of states and has volunteered and held positions in organizations including the Girl Scouts, Newcomers Club, Volunteer English, historical societies, sport booster clubs and associations. Her interest in the American Swedish Historical Museum began with the Genealogy Club. Her father emigrated from Denmark, but had Swedish parents and her maternal grandparents were from Skåne and Blekinge. She has been active in the Auxiliary and the Spring Ting committee and has been chair of Spring Ting since 2011.