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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

**Head Coach of US Women's Olympic Soccer Team, Pia Sundhage,  
to receive the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award  
at the American Swedish Historical Museum  
Saturday, April 21st, 2012**



**Pia Sundhage, Head Coach of the US Women's National and Olympic Soccer Team, will be presented with the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award at the American Swedish Historical Museum.** The award recognizes a Swede or Swedish-American who has excelled in their field and brought honor and attention to Swedish-America. The award presentation is a highlight of the museum's annual Spring Ting fundraiser, which supports the museum's exhibitions and educational programs. The Spring Ting silent auction and dinner reception will take place at the museum on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 6 pm.

Born in Ulricehamn, Sweden, Pia is a legendary soccer player in her home country, where she debuted with the women's national team at the age of 15 against England and ended her international career at the 1996 Olympics with a win against Denmark. She was captain of the Swedish national team for many years. In 1985, she was honored with her own Swedish postage stamp.

Pia started her coaching career while still playing, serving as player coach for the Hammarby club from 1992-1994, and also coached Sweden's Youth National Teams from 1990-2001. She served as a scout for Sweden and also worked for the International Federation of Football Association (FIFA) on its Technical Study Group staff. She started her US career serving as the top assistant for the Philadelphia Charge during the 2001 and 2002 seasons before taking over as head coach of the Boston Breakers in 2003. Before becoming the head coach of the U.S. Women's National Team, she served as assistant coach for the Chinese Women's National Team during the Women's World Cup in 2007. In November 2007, she was named the sixth head coach of the U.S. team.

Just nine months after taking over as coach, Pia led the U.S. team to a gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and in the summer of 2011 she took the team to the final of the Women's World Cup in Germany, only to lose to Japan on a penalty kick. She will lead the team at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. **Pia will be available for phone interview from April 16<sup>th</sup> to April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Visit our website [americanswedish.org](http://americanswedish.org) or call (215) 389-1776 for more information.**

The American Swedish Historical Museum is located in scenic FDR Park at 1900 Pattison Avenue in South Philadelphia near the Sports Complex. Plenty of free parking is available. For those taking public transportation, the Broad Street Subway's AT&T/Pattison Avenue stop is within walking distance or SEPTA's Route 17 (Naval Base) can bring you right to the Museum.

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