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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

**Be a part the clan
With the Vikings of New Birka
at the American Swedish Historical Museum
Sunday, June 16, 2013 2:30-4pm**



Bring the past alive at the American Swedish Historical Museum! The Vikings of New Birka is a brand new group dedicated to recreating the activities of the people at Birka, a major center of trade from the 8th through the 10th centuries in what is today Sweden. Participants can learn new skills and teach their craft to others. Ultimately, the Vikings of New Birka will demonstrate their knowledge in a display of “living history” for museum visitors.

A general interest meeting will be held at the ASHM on Sunday, June 16 from 2:30 to 4pm. At this time, the focus of the Vikings of New Birka is on combat and textiles. A future schedule of Sunday afternoons will be set up to accommodate the specific interests expressed at this meeting.

Viking historical combat based on the Hurstwic system will be taught by an alumna of the original program from Worcester, MA. Find out more information about Hurstwic living history at <http://www.hurstwic.org/> No prior experience in western martial arts is needed. In addition, anyone with an interest in early medieval textile production is welcome, at any skill level. Potential activities include, but are not limited to, wool combing, drop spinning, tablet weaving, and clothing manufacture.

The Vikings of New Birka is open to adults 18 years and older. There is no charge to attend the general interest session, so please stop by if you have any interest in or knowledge Viking culture. For more information, please email us at info@americanswedish.org or call (215) 389-1776.

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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