



Skål to the Holidays

Skål!

Scandinavian Spirits



Traditional Aquavit

The holidays are once again upon us and it is time to delve into the comforting traditions of winter. All over Scandinavia, December and January are filled with celebrations of good food, good drink, and good company. Just as certain cookies are part of Swedish Christmas traditions, so are traditional holiday drinks such as Christmas beers, aquavit, and *glögg*. We can rest assured that there will be plenty of opportunities to offer a hearty “Skål!” to our friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family.

Some claim that the word *skål* has a root in the skulls of the vanquished, from which Viking warriors would drink to celebrate their victory. But this is a grisly tale, and most likely just a story. Most agree that *skål*, which is the word for bowl in Danish, Swedish and Norwegian, harkens back to a time when wooden bowls, sometimes elaborately decorated, would be filled with beer and passed from person to person at community gatherings like weddings or festival days. From that tradition of passing the bowl, the term *skål* is now also a toast – “Cheers!”

The history of imbibing on special (and not so special) occasions predates the proliferation of Christianity in Scandinavia. The Norse god Odin was credited with teaching humans how to brew beer, and drinking beer could take the form of worship and offering to the deities. The Norse sagas mention drinking beer, especially in celebration of battle victories, and sometimes in the form of drinking challenges. When harvests were small, however, beer brewing was restricted in order to reserve enough grain for food preparation.

Around the 1500s, the strong stuff made its way into society when *brännvin* (*brændevin* in Danish / *brennevin* in Norwegian), a term for vodka or distilled liquor, became known through Scandinavia. It was primarily distributed as medicine, but we can see that a wider use had become common by 1551 when King Christian III of Denmark-Norway attempted to ban serving *brännvin* on holidays to prevent people from attending church while drunk. By the 1600s, *brännvin* was widely available through home-based

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Note from the Director

How important is your cultural heritage to you? This is a question we have been thinking about a lot lately.

Our survey for members and visitors that began in October asks various questions about your cultural background. I hope that you have filled it out and that it inspired you to think about the ways your heritage impacts your life. When I was talking to one of my friends who filled out our survey, I realized that I really didn't know much about her cultural background. I interpreted the question about whether my heritage affected my buying habits to be asking if I preferred to buy Swedish things. She took it much deeper and shared about how her Anabaptist heritage from Switzerland imbues her with a sense of thriftiness when shopping and generosity when giving. I learned so much about her as a person and about the culture she comes from because the Museum provided a starting point for this conversation.

We recently hosted a cooking workshop where people got hands-on experience making *limpa* bread and potato sausage. I was amazed that one third of the people who attended drove over 100 miles to be a part of the class. Why? I think it was because there are foods which connect them to their Swedish heritage that they had never learned to make for themselves. Learning to cook together gives a sense of community and connection that you probably don't get when you attempt a recipe on your own.

These anecdotes are wonderful illustrations of the Museum's new marketing tagline, "Connecting Cultures and Community." Whether Swedish or Swiss, Norwegian or Nigerian, we hope the Museum helps you connect more fully with your own culture and others.

Tracey Beck
Tracey Beck

Skål to the Holidays continued from front cover

distilling, though the results often tasted awful, which led to adding herbs and other plants to improve the flavor. These selective infusions became what we now know as aquavit, which is regularly served with herring at any decent *smörgåsbord*.

King Gustav I Vasa of Sweden was fond of a German drink called *Glühwein*, which was a sweet mixture of wine, sugar, honey, cinnamon, ginger, cardamom and cloves. It was later named *glödgad vin* in 1609, which meant "glowing-hot wine." The word *glögg* is a shortened form that first appeared in print in 1870. Swedes consume *glögg* from the beginning of Advent through the New Year, as the beverage is almost exclusively reserved for the Christmas season. Swedish *glögg* is a souped-up version of the German drink consisting mainly of red wine, brandy, and port infused with spices, and then raisins and blanched almonds are added to the cup.

Glögg is preferably served in a special little mug with a handle. While it's not so typical to "Skål!" while holding an adorable cup of *glögg*, it can and does happen and everyone enjoys the ritual:

Raise your glass.

Say "Skål!" with gusto.

Look your companions in the eye.

Take a drink.

Look your companions in the eye again.

Set down your glass.

Discover more about these and other fun, boozy histories when ASHM opens the exhibition *Skål! Scandinavian Spirits*. This exciting travelling exhibition focuses on the heritage of beer and aquavit through stories, traditions, and recipes. Over 50 historic and contemporary artifacts related to Scandinavian drinking traditions will be on display from the Museum of Danish America, American Swedish Institute, Swedish American Museum, the Nordic Heritage Museum, and the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. It may be the first collaborative project to involve such a broad spectrum of Scandinavian-American museums; it is as if we all gathered around the table—*Skål!*

Skål! Scandinavian Spirits opens on Saturday, January 28, 2017 and will be on view through September 17, 2017.

Presented by Aalborg and Linie Aquavits

This exhibition was organized by the Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa.

It is presented at ASHM through the generosity of the Swedish Council of America, the ASHM Auxiliary, Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation, George C. and Esther Ann McFarland Foundation, Midsommarklubben, and an anonymous foundation. Support provided in part by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund. Funding for the American Swedish Historical Museum is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Become an Aquavit Ambassador

We are looking for a few members of our community who love aquavit and are willing to assist us with tours of *Skål!* and associated programs. If you like working with people, public speaking and are willing to learn, consider joining this group of interpreters. Training will be provided. Please contact Lauren at lburnham@americanswedish.org if you are interested.

Farewell to Our Senior Curator

It is with mixed emotions that we announce that the Museum's Senior Curator, Carrie Hogan, has accepted a position with the New Jersey Historic Trust as their Senior Historic Preservation Specialist and will be leaving ASHM at the end of November.

When Carrie joined our staff in 2006, the subject of Swedish culture and history was relatively new to her, having studied history and political science at Webster University before completing her master's degree in museum studies and history, with a focus on African American history at University of Missouri St. Louis. Yet she wasted no time and dove head first into the subject of New Sweden, along with multiple aspects of Swedish history, culture, arts and design. Her expertise on New Sweden, specifically on the subject of Queen Christina, has been highlighted at conferences and speaking engagements, along with two recent documentaries



"Philadelphia: The Great Experiment- A Lost World (1600-1680)" and "The Forgotten Journey".

Carrie has made enormous contributions as a staff member in her 10 years here. Carrie curated two of our major long-term exhibitions, Sven Gunnarson and Jonas Nilsson New Sweden Gallery, as well as the delightful and engaging Pippi Longstocking gallery. Both of these have been hugely significant to the Museum,

with the first bringing our collection and the story of New Sweden into one concise exhibition, and the latter providing the Museum with a space for young children and families to explore and play.

She has curated or co-curated 23 exhibitions and installed many more that have been seen by approximately 104,000 visitors. She is known for her amazing ability to mentor interns, build relationships with donors, and give engaging tours. She has been a vigilant steward of the Museum's collections and building, and she has supervised multiple conservation and building improvement projects. In addition she has been an enthusiastic colleague and co-worker on any and every project which needed an extra hand. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Now We're Cookin'!

On Sunday October 9th, a group of aspiring chefs gathered at the American Swedish Historical Museum to explore Swedish cuisine. Auxiliary President Dawn Gould led the group while they made *limpa* bread and *potatiskorv* (potato sausage). In this totally hands-on workshop, participants did everything from knead dough to case sausages. The recipes used were combined from traditional Swedish and Scandinavian sources. If you are feeling adventurous or nostalgic and want to recreate a family tradition, be sure to try the recipes we used at home!



Limpa Bread

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ½ cup brown sugar | ½ Tbsp dry yeast |
| ¾ Tbsp caraway seeds | 3 cups flour |
| 1 tsp fennel seed | 2 cups rye flour |
| 1 tsp grated orange peel | 1 tsp salt |
| 1 Tbsp butter | 1 cup raisins (optional) |
| 1 Tbsp molassas | |
| 2 cups hot water | |

- Mix first six ingredients then add hot water.
- Wait for water to cool to around 100° then add yeast and proof.
- Add 1 cup white flour and 2 cups rye flour to make a soft dough. Let rise 1 hour.
- Knead well, adding 2 cups white flour as needed, add salt, shape into 2 loaves, and let rise for 1 hour.
- Bake 350° for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Potatiskorv (Potato Sausage)

- Small Serving Size
- ½ lb. ground beef
 - ½ lb. ground pork
 - 1 lb. potatoes
 - 1 finely chopped onion
 - ½ tsp salt
 - ½ tsp ground allspice
 - ¼ tsp white pepper
 - Pinch of ginger
 - ½ tsp sugar
 - Sausage casing

- Scrub and trim potatoes as needed (do not peel). Bake until half done. (Potatoes may be used raw, but darken quickly.) Grind potatoes.
- Mix all ingredients (except casing) and add potatoes.
- Stuff loosely in casings. Prick casings. Tie sausage in desired lengths.
- Place sausage in pan and cover with water. Heat over burner until water has evaporated and sausage crisps, or bake in oven at 300°.

Upcoming Events and Registration Info

To Register For Events

call 215-389-1776, or visit online at
www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm

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 deadline. To register for events by phone call (215) 389-1776. Online registration is available through links in the Museum's email announcements or on the Events Calendar page of our website, americanswedish.org/calendar.htm.



MONTHLY PROGRAM: Toddler Time

10:30 am - 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 18 months to 4 years old. The cost is \$5 per child or free for Museum Household Members. There is no charge for accompanying caregivers. Register by phone or online.

Tuesday November 15
What's Cooking?

Tuesday December 20
Warm Holiday Traditions

Tuesday January 17
Colors in the Museum

Tuesday February 21
Animals of the North



Julbord

Friday, December 2
6:00 pm

Nothing makes the holiday season cozier than coming together with family and

friends for a very special Swedish *Julbord*. Join ASHM for cocktails and an authentic Christmas *smörgåsbord* dinner followed by a Lucia procession. The Christmas Market is open all evening. Members \$50, non-members \$60. Cash bar. Register by phone or online by November 28th.



Lucia & Christmas Market Saturday, December 3 11:30 am - 4:30 pm

Drop in for our family-friendly Lucia Fest, with Lucia processions at 1pm and 3pm.

The Christmas Market includes your favorite holiday deli items, Christmas decorations, and gifts, and the SWEA bakery tables will be open all day. The Swedish Christmas Café will be selling holiday foods and sweets for your refreshment. Admission is \$10 for non-members, \$7 for members, children 4-12 \$4, and children under 4 are free. Reservations are not required, but tickets may be purchased in advance on our website.

Guided Tour Wednesday, December 28 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Have holiday guests that you need to entertain? Looking for a way to get out of the house after the holiday crush? Do you want to see the American Swedish Historical Museum in a new way? Join us on December 28th for a guided tour of the Museum! Don't miss this opportunity to get an in-depth look at the gallery spaces with Executive Director, Tracey Beck. Spaces on the tour are limited and pre-registration is recommended. \$5 members, \$15 non-members. Registration deadline is December 23rd.

Genealogy Meeting Saturday, January 28 1:30 pm

Save the date for the winter Genealogy Club meeting. Gather with fellow ASHM members and explore the branches of your Swedish ancestry. Not a member, not a problem, there is still plenty of time to get your ASHM membership. Make a day of it and follow up the genealogy program with research time in the library and be sure to sign for our delicious pea soup dinner!



Pea Soup and Punch Supper: *Ärtsoppa och Punsch* Saturday, January 28 6:00 pm

Warm up on a chilly winter's night with a bowl of Swedish yellow pea soup and a cup of *punsch*. Dinner is served with sharp cheese, bread, and dessert. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Register by phone or online by January 23rd.



Semlor and a Movie Saturday, February 11 11:00 am

Treat yourself to a rich *semla*, a cream and almond paste filled Swedish pastry, along with a cup of hot coffee and a Swedish film. *Semlor* are often eaten before the start of lent, the Swedish version of "Fat Tuesday." Event tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door. Ticket price includes one *semla*, additional *semlor* are \$6 each. Register by phone or online by February 8th.



Skål! Scandinavian Sprits Tasting Event Saturday, February 25 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Join us for an aquavit tasting at the Museum to celebrate our newest exhibition *Skål! Scandinavian Sprits*. Exhibit sponsor Arcus will be on hand to provide samples of aquavit while the Curator of the exhibit, Tova Brandt from Museum of Danish America in Iowa, will lead an exhibition tour. Aquavit samples, refreshments, and the tour are included with general admission, free for Museum members. We hope to see you there, *Skål!*



Waffle Day Saturday, March 25 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Every March at the end of the month in honor of the Annunciation Day (*Maria Bebådelsedag*), Swedes eat waffles. Intrigued by this tradition? Stop by the Museum for Waffle Day to get the whole story, along with some tasty Swedish waffles served with whipped cream and strawberry jam, and of course coffee. \$12 for non-members, \$8 for members includes waffles and a beverage. Register by phone or online, or pay at the door.



Easter Family Fun Day & Egg Hunt Sunday, April 9 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Introduce your little ones to Swedish Easter traditions. Easter Family Fun day includes Swedish Easter crafts, face painting, Easter witch dress up, and an Easter egg hunt! This event is free for members and children 2 years and under and \$10 for non-members.

Images from Recent Events

Photographs by ASHM Staff

▶ In October we had our very first, hands-on cooking workshop where we learned how to make Swedish potato sausage and limpa bread.



▶ People attending the Crayfish Dinner got to try local Aquavit from Rowhouse Spirits.



▶ Board Chair Bo Bergqvist and Executive Director Tracey Beck with the 2016 Amandus Johnson Volunteer Service Award Recipient, Dawn Gould.



▼ We were happy to see many members joining us for the 2016 Annual Meeting.



◀ After the Annual Meeting we celebrated the Museum's 90th Anniversary with cake and Scandinavian folk music.

▼ One of the new events this fall was the popular Antique Appraisal Day.



▲ Children created their own Olympic flags at Toddler Time in August.



▲ At Toddler Time in July, we went on a boat hunt around the Museum.

◀ At Toddler Time in October we got to meet a box turtle, screech owl and mallard duck in person, as the Academy of Natural Sciences came to teach us about animal classification.



▲ SmörgåsBeer'd attendees enjoyed a beautiful summer evening at the Museum.

Contributions

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.

As a nonprofit organization, the American Swedish Historical Museum relies on the generosity of its friends and supporters to meet the costs providing programs and services, year-round, to thousands of local, national, and international visitors. Thank you for your contributions!

New Members

July 16 - October 15, 2016

Organizational

West Deptford Free Public Library

Household

Annie Bancroft & Margaret Haviland
Robert & Carole Berley
Robert Borgstrom
Christine & Alex Bosco-Ivanick
Laura & Omar Clinton-Dudyk
Marie Conger
Angela & Karl Daubert-Shouler
Jill Greenfield & Zach Savage
Carrie Hammond
Karen & Kenneth Hoelzie
Matt & Be Kallio
Amy & Kevin Kempe-Volz
Jun & Bernard Li-Liu
Alison & Daniel Mygas-Keefe
Naa Okine-Norren
Cristina Perachio & Casey Laduke
Barbara Ruczynski
Heather Sakosky & Sandor Aguilar
Robert & Andrea Schneider
Cara Schraf & William Trevethick
Natalie Torres & Luis Feliz
Deidre & Justin Walsh-DiPhillipo

Individual

Thomas Nilsson
Jay Reinfeld
Franz Fogt
Lee Arnold
Matt Jennis
Cesar Barges

Seniors/Students

Jennifer Jan Winte

Annual Giving and Contributions

July 16 - October 15, 2016

Gold

Merck Partnership for Giving
Roberta Petusky
Earl & Sylvia Seppala

Silver

Pia & Richard Halloran

Bronze

Charo Alvarez-Birger
C.R. Karlsson
Ruth Lindeborg, Julia & Leonard Busby,
in memory of Robert Savage
Jere & Birgitta Paddack
Karen Reeds, *in memory of Robert Savage*
Kirk & Shelly Seagers

Friend

Len & Flo Beck
Adrienne & Bjorn Bolinder
Robert & Ingrid Cagan,
in memory of Jay Heinicke
William Callahan & Vivianne Englund Callahan
Marianne Eybye
Kay Ford
Kathleen Hutchison
Midsommarklubben,
in memory of Jay Heinicke
Jonathan Poole & Erin Cederlind
Birgitta & Bill Wilson,
in memory of Robert Savage

In Memoriam

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

Mette Parker

Dennis Johnson

Dennis was an active member of the museum for decades, serving several terms on the Board of Governors. His expertise as an architect was greatly valued on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. He was a constant source of ideas for the Museum some of which resulted in the Viking Dinner (2000), the Genealogy Club, and the Men's Pea Soup Committee. He and his wife LaVonne received the Amandus Johnson Service Award in 2003.

Find the Perfect Gift



As we approach the final months of 2016, we want to remind everyone that there is still time to enter our Membership Recruit-

ment Contest* for a chance to win a ticket to every ASHM event in 2017! An easy way to enter is by giving gift memberships to friends and family. Gift memberships to the ASHM make for wonderful gifts that can be enjoyed throughout the year and don't take up any valuable shelf or closet space in one's house. They may be purchased onsite, over the phone or on our website. Simply tell us what message you want included for the recipient. For Christmas gifts, please order no later than December 16 to ensure holiday delivery.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

**Please note, contestants must recruit a minimum of 5 new members to qualify for the grand prize.*

If you do like getting people good, old fashioned "stuff," you can still support the Museum by doing your holiday shopping on AmazonSmile. The ASHM will receive 1% of your total purchase when you select the American Swedish Historical Museum as your charity of choice and make sure shopping originates from <http://smile.amazon.com/>. Happy holidays!

Membership

Please print all information as you wish it to appear on the membership roster.

Return this form to:

American Swedish Historical Museum
 Attn: Membership
 1900 Pattison Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19145-5901

Among the benefits of membership are:

- free admission to the Museum and library
- use of the ASHM Swedish Film Library borrowing system
- guest passes
- subscription to the newsletter
- discounted subscription rate to *Sweden & America* magazine
- 10% discount in the Museum Store
- discounts on admission to most events, workshops and Swedish language classes

For more information, please call 215-389-1776.

 Please detach here and return.



For the past four years, the American Swedish Historical Museum has offered onsite Toddler Time programs to children ages 18 months to four years old and their caregivers. The program engages children through interactive stories, music, games, art activities, and museum exploration. Children build language and social skills while becoming comfortable in a museum setting. Toddler Time is an hour long program held the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30am and brings together local member families and people who are discovering the Museum sometimes for the first time.

Application & Renewal Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- \$35:** Senior/Student
 \$75: Organizational (Non-profit only)
 \$500: Patron
 \$50: Individual
 \$125: Friend
 \$1,000: Key Contributor
 \$65: Household
 \$250: Sustaining
 \$2,500: Life

Make check payable to ASHM or Charge my: VISA | MasterCard | Discover

Account # _____

Exp Date _____

The official registration and financial information of ASHM may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Your membership contribution to the American Swedish Historical Museum is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



While the program has been successful with flexible caregivers who can bring children during the day, ASHM recognizes that many working families have children in daycare or preschool and are unable to attend these early learning cultural experiences. In an effort to provide these quality programs to all children, ASHM has adapted themes from its Toddler Time program to create comprehensive outreach and field trip opportunities for pre-kindergarten children attending daycares. Through this program, ASHM will also provide an introduction to Swedish culture in an effort to inspire children to explore new ways of life outside their own experience. ASHM hopes to find grant funding to be able to offer these programs free of charge to facilities who serve low income families.

Somethings Fun, Somethings New: Museum Shop Holiday Update

Every fall, the Museum Gift Shop seems to be bursting with new and holiday themed inventory, as we prepare for the winter shopping season. Over the past year, our gift shop buyer has been seeking out new items, as well things requested by shoppers. So we are happy to share with you some of the fun and new things to treat yourself or your loved ones to from the Museum!

Sweets & Treats

Food and sweets are always a hit, and we have replenished our supply of many items, as well as added some new things to tempt you. We are stocked again with Anton Berg marzipan, Marabou and Fazer chocolate, both milk and dark, and more. And, we now have *glögg* and fruit flavored hard candies



with Viking ship and Swedish flag motifs! We also added new tea flavors to the mix, including blueberry and lingonberry, which you can pair with a tea infuser mug.

Apparel and Home Décor

Stay warm and cozy this winter in elegant, Scandinavian socks. Show your heritage with socks that say Sweden or Norway, or sport a pair made in Iceland. We have multiple patterns, including some made of wool and angora, in regular and knee high length. You can also get toasty with your favorite warm beverage in one of our many mugs, including the charming new Houses of Sweden pattern, which is also available on trays, textiles and napkins.



A Swedish Christmas

We would be amiss if we did not mention the wonderful assortment of Christmas décor that has recently taken over the shop. We have new ornaments, along with old favorites, including adorable felt angels and hearts by En Gry & Sif in Sweden, along with tiny mitten ornaments and *tomtar* handmade in Minnesota. The shop also had a wide variety of new lights, candles and Advent stars and more to light up your home during the holiday season.



Be sure to stop in and check things out the next time you are here!