



## Hearth and Heritage at the ASHM

By Trevor Brandt

You can tie nearly everything that the American Swedish Historical Museum does to the word 'home.' Our founder sought to celebrate the Swedes who had made America their new home, we preserve and interpret the artifacts used within our ancestors' homes, and we remind Swedes and Scandinavians that, among friends and family at our cultural celebrations, they should consider the Museum as another home.

And we often explore the idea of 'home' within our exhibitions. This past fall and winter the ASHM's exhibitions—tied to themes of displacement, temporary shelter,

and migration—examined what it means to lose one's home and the difficulties of adapting to a new one. But the spring and summer exhibitions focus on keeping long-familiar practices and traditions at home and carrying them along to new ones.

The indigenous peoples of northern Scandinavia—the Sami—offer a cultural lens for exploring these themes. The ASHM's main spring and summer exhibition is called *The Sami Reindeer People of Alaska*, borrowed from the Sami Cultural Center of North America in Minnesota. With its deliberately intriguing title, this exhibition challenges notions of where people 'come

Photos by Erika Larsen

Tent interior: Visitors can step inside a recreated lavvu and see firsthand how the Sami home was set up. Image courtesy of the Sami Cultural Center of North America.

## Note from the Director

I don't know about you, but I didn't enjoy history in school. All the information about power struggles, and memorizing dates had no color or depth for me. A course in college, though, changed everything for me. As I studied history alongside art, music, and philosophy, I gained an understanding of humanity over time and the structure of history grew into a familiar shape. While I initially conceived history as a timeline, it became more like a tree, with each era being a major limb. As I learned more through a movie, something I read or a museum I visited, the limbs took on branches and leaves, giving further definition, color and life to the whole tree.

Not all stories we learn fit easily onto the mental tree of history in our minds, some come as a great surprise. I have to say that the story told in our upcoming exhibition made me re-think my understanding of immigration to the U.S. in the late 1800s. I had no idea that the United States recruited Sami and their reindeer to settle in Alaska. To learn the whole story, visit the museum this Spring or Summer!

Stories of individual people were compelling to the museum's founder, Amandus Johnson. He actively collected objects belonging to Swedish-Americans whom he thought were significant so they would be preserved in this museum. I think of him every year when we choose someone to receive the museum's Outstanding Achievement Award. This year's recipient, Carina Bergfeldt, is a master storyteller. I hope you will take the opportunity to come and hear her speak at the Spring Ting dinner and auction. She is bound to help you re-shape and color your understanding of what is happening in the world today as she shares about her experiences as a reporter on the front lines as history is being made.



Tracey Beck

### Hearth and Heritage continued from front cover

from' and how they identify themselves as they journey to new lands. *The Sami Reindeer People of Alaska* takes us alongside Sami families traveling 10,000 miles to Alaska during the 1890s. As part of a U.S.-sponsored effort to introduce domesticated reindeer to Alaska, these families journeyed by boat, train, and sled to settle themselves and their reindeer in a familiar environment but strange country.



Image courtesy of the Sami Cultural Center of North America

The exhibition's twenty historic photographs introduce us to these intrepid 'Alaskan Sami' families while historic artifacts and traditional dress more broadly illustrate the heritage of the Sami in their native land and those who made Alaska their new home. Visitors and their families can even explore a recreated Sami-American home as they walk into a fully-furnished and interactive *lavvu* tent.

Of course, it's a huge challenge to pack up your life (and reindeer) to establish them somewhere else. But preserving your heritage and traditional livelihood in a changing world brings its own set of obstacles. Acclaimed National Geographic photographer Erika Larsen provides striking snapshots of the day-to-day lives of modern reindeer-herding families in Norway and Sweden through her photography exhibition: *Sami—Walking with Reindeer*. For four years, Erika worked as a beaga (housekeeper) among the reindeer-herding family of Nils Peder and Ingrid Gaup. From her intimate vantage point, Erika immersed herself in the culture, language, and land of the northern Sami. Her work gives us an intimate peek into the beautiful, bloody realities of reindeer herding.

Erika also reminds us that Sami life extends far past the reindeer. Her striking color photographs illuminate Sami connections with their past, their environment, and with each other. These tender images show quieter moments of life in the far north: a child with his dog, a Sami tent (*lavvu*) alone before the Northern Lights, and a baby nestled in a wooden cradle. Although an outsider to their culture, Erika sees her Sami family as teachers. She notes, "Through the Sami I hope to better understand our role as stewards of the earth. It is inevitable when spending time in a more nature-based culture that one must recognize the cycles of life and death and therefore begin to evaluate man's role within this circle."

Explore hearth and heritage at the American Swedish Historical Museum through the story of the Sami journeying to North America 100 years ago and those living in Scandinavia today. We hope that you can join us for the opening of *The Sami Reindeer People of Alaska* and *Sami—Walking with Reindeer* on April 14, with a lecture and musical performance by staff of the Sami Cultural Center of North America. This exhibition will be on view through August 26th.

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## Food Is a Window to the Soul



Much can be learned about a culture through their culinary traditions. ASHM is always excited to incorporate cultural food experiences into exhibits and programming, and this spring we will be working with Chef Henrik Ringbom to introduce members to Sami food ways!

Chef Henrik was born in Karlskrona, Sweden. As a child he spent hours outside exploring his surroundings, hunting and fishing. When he was eleven he moved with his family to the Finnish Archipelago where he began to explore his love for sea to table food. His mother impressed upon him a love for slow cooking. At 16 Henrik began his culinary education, and he has been cooking ever since. After he performed his compulsory service in the Finnish military as a cook, he left to work in Stockholm. He lived in Stockholm, working on cruise ships

crossing the Baltic and some of the best restaurants in the city until a twist of fate took him to the West Indies, where he was tasked with opening a restaurant. While in the Grenadines, he met his wife who was there serving in the Peace Corps.

Chef Henrik also participated in a six month internship in the Finnish Sami country, where he got to know the people and cuisine. It's this knowledge that he will bring to the American Swedish Historical Museum on April 14th for *The Sami People of Alaska* and *Sami-Walking with Reindeer* exhibit openings. Throughout the day, Chef Henrik will prepare samples of traditional Sami dishes to engage your senses and open your mind to the Sami tradition of naturally sourced local food. The event is from 12pm-4pm and is free with general admission.

## Save the Date for Spring Ting, April 28, 2018

For those of you who have never joined us for the Spring Ting Dinner and Auction, we hope that you will consider attending this year! It is always a lovely evening, filled with delicious food, great company, our exciting auction, as well as a fascinating Outstanding Achievement Award recipient. This year, we are so pleased to be able to honor renowned Swedish journalist Carina Bergfeldt with the award.

Carina Bergfeldt is the U.S. correspondent for Sweden's national television, SVT, based in Washington D.C. Before that, she worked for a decade as a world reporter for Sweden's largest daily newspaper, *Aftonbladet*. Through her job as a reporter, Bergfeldt has travelled around the globe and written about some of the world's greatest humanitarian crises and atrocities. Her articles about the massacre on the Norwegian island Utøya won her the Swedish Grand Journalism Award as "Storyteller of the Year" in 2012, and in 2013 Bergfeldt won an award for "Best Writing Style".

In 2015, her work with the article series "The Crises We Forgot" about overlooked crises in Africa gave her a nomination for the Red Cross Journalism Award, and after covering the war in Syria through the eyes of children (which helped lead to the exhibit *Where the Children Sleep*), she was nominated for the European Press Prize in 2016. She started working for Swedish Television in 2016. After her first year on TV, she was nominated for a Kristallen award as "TV Personality of the Year", the first journalist ever to receive a nomination in the category. She is excited to join us at Spring Ting on April 28, and we hope that you are, too! Invitations will be mailed in March and online registration will also be available at [americanswedish.org/events](http://americanswedish.org/events).



Photo: Jesper Zølck

# Spring 2018 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 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/events](http://americanswedish.org/events).



## 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 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 March 20, 2018**  
**ABC's & 123's Svenska Style**

**Tuesday April 17, 2018**  
**Dairy Farming in Sweden**

**Tuesday May 15, 2018**  
**Sami Exploration**

**Tuesday June 19, 2018**  
**Midsommar Fun**



## Easter Family Fun Day and Egg Hunt

**Sunday, March 25,**  
**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 an egg hunt. Free for members and children 2 years and under, \$10 for non-members. Pay at the door.



## The Sami People of Alaska and Sami-Walking with Reindeer

**Exhibit Openings**  
**Saturday, April 14**  
**12:00-4:00 pm**

Be sure to attend the opening of these unique exhibits highlighting Sami culture. Representatives of the Sami Cultural Center will be doing lectures and *yoik*. This day of cultural learning will also include live reindeer, a chance to experience an indoor aurora borealis, samples of traditional Sami recipes prepared by Chef Henrik, and family activities. All activities are included with regular admission and pre-registration is not required.

## Swedish Travel Language Class

**Sundays April 15-May 13**  
**2:30 - 4:00 pm**

Are you planning a trip to Sweden? Interested in learning about culture or getting local travel tips? Join this five week Swedish language class to learn all the ins and outs of traveling in Sweden. The class will provide an overview of Sweden with general facts, geography, weather, and places worth visiting. If you are planning a trip we will help you focus on what to think about like accommodations, transit options, sightseeing, etc. The class will also cover the basics of shopping and eating in

## To Register For Events

call **215-389-1776**, or visit online at  
[www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm](http://www.americanswedish.org/calendar.htm)

Sweden, like food choices, restaurants/cafes menus, tipping, reading signs, etc. Are you visiting Swedish family or friends? The class will even cover the basics etiquette of visiting with Swedes. The class is \$90 for members, \$122 for non-members (registration fee does not cover text books). To register call 215-389-1776 x106 or email [lburnham@americanswedish.org](mailto:lburnham@americanswedish.org). Space is limited.

## Spring Ting Fundraiser Dinner and Auction

**Saturday, April 28**  
**6:00 pm**

Join us at our special fundraiser, featuring a silent auction, three course dinner and Outstanding Achievement Award recipient, Swedish journalist Carina Bergfeldt. Tickets start at \$95, RSVP by April 16th. Call or check our website for more information.

## Lecture, "History of Finnish Independence"

**Saturday, May 26**  
**1:00 pm**

How was a small, backward country in a remote corner of the Russian empire able to gain independence without being crushed, and more importantly how was Finland able to remain independent in spite of many challenges? Besides analyzing the pathway to independence, Sharon Rahkonen of Indiana University PA will also discuss several factors which led to Finland's subsequent success as an independent nation. Included in General Admission. Members of ASHM and FASDV free.



## National Day

**Wednesday, June 6**  
**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

What better place to celebrate Swedish National Day than the American Swedish Historical Museum! Enjoy free admission including guided tours at 11am and 1pm highlighting the history of the museum, and a special Swedish summer dessert treat.



## Midsommarfest

**Saturday, June 23**  
**4:00 - 7:00 pm**

Celebrate summer at our annual Midsommarfest, complete with food, drinks, home-made Swedish pastries, music and maypole dancing, as well as crafts and games for the kids. Members \$8, Non-members \$12, Children 4-12 \$5. Pay at the door.

## A Mooving Educational Experience!



Spring is in the air and it's time for the American Swedish Historical Museum to host another very special Toddler Time. Join us on April 17th as we explore some of

Sweden's favorite dairy treats. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our youngest audience to learn where dairy products like milk and cheese come from and experience some special Swedish dairy farm traditions.

Farmers from What-Knott Farm will join us and bring the guest of honor, a dairy calf! In addition to the live animal presentation, toddlers will enjoy a themed story, get a chance to "milk" a cow, and enjoy a Scandinavian dairy inspired snack. Toddler Time is a specially designed program for 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. Pre-registration available at [americanswedish.org/events](http://americanswedish.org/events).

# Images from Recent Events

Photographs by ASHM Staff

► At Toddler Time in December, children got to learn about Swedish holiday traditions



▲ Dancing and singing at Toddler Time in January



► Alaina Neel as Lucia and her attendants at our Lucia & Christmas Market event on December 2



▲ Our first event of 2018 was the popular Pea Soup & Punch Supper



▲ Guests enjoying our traditional Julbord



▲ Teamwork! It took 10 people and 6 hours, but we managed to assemble the Better Shelter on the lawn in front of the Museum in October



▲ ASHM's Advocacy Station at October's 'How Can I Help?' Fair during the opening of our exhibit Where the Children Sleep



▲ Participants at the New Sweden History Conference in November

► Happy 100, Finland! On December 9, we celebrated Finland's milestone birthday with entertainment by brass septet Ameriikan Poijat from Minnesota



► Getting into the holiday spirit as the Museum Council of Philadelphia hosted their annual holiday party at ASHM



**Do you want to make a contribution?** There are several easy ways to support us. Visit our web page [americanswedish.org/support](http://americanswedish.org/support) or call **215-389-1776** for more information.

## Contributions

### Contributions to the Collection

The ASHM has recently received a number of generous donations to its Collection during the winter of 2017 / 2018. The most significant of these was a series of turned wooden objects made by Oskar Karl Alphonse Andersson, a Swede who settled in Jamestown, NY in the 1920s. While the objects are beautiful in their own right—highlights include a miniature desk, chair, and table—they also speak to the lives of Swedes in New York. Jamestown was one of the most densely Swedish cities on the East Coast in the early 1900s, and our Collection did not previously have holdings related to this city. The turnings were passed on to the ASHM from Philadelphia's Center for Art in Wood. Other additions to the Collection include a decorated immigrant trunk dating to the 1850s from Cynthia and Stuart Christenson. Although the ASHM attempts not to acquire trunks—they require much space and often have conservation issues—this object is an exception because of its marvelously-decorated interior and fine condition. Finally, the ASHM accepted a framed photograph and letter from Swedish artist, Bengt Nordenberg, who was working in New York in the late 1800s. The photograph and letter were gifts of Per Ralamb, a rare-book dealer in New Jersey.

### New Members

*October 16, 2017-January 31, 2018*

#### Life

Erik & Nicole Muther

#### Friend

Michael Ytterberg

#### Organizational

Borough of Folcroft Public Library  
Gladwyne Free Library

#### Household

Nancy Alley  
Clarissa Barcomb & Family  
Bartholdson Family  
Margeaux & Matthew Bernhard-Flowers  
Allison & Damon Bernstock-Verton  
Shawn Byrd  
Julia Dent

Nicole & Jamie DiGiuseppe-Chance  
Courtney & Ivan Fritz-Nakoneczny  
Nancy Hedquist Moore  
Gary Henderson  
Oskar & Noelle Johansson  
Elisabeth Lindroth  
Marie Nicoline Murphy  
Joshua & Garrett Park-Lierman  
Katie & Kenneth Polsz  
David & Aimee Schaar  
Julie Shapiro & Family  
Jennifer & Charles Silverman  
Brandon & Kimberly Smith  
David R Smith  
Pete Wilcox  
Shannon & JB Zabel-Scanlan

#### Individual

Phil Farber  
Nancy Farsell  
Alice Morrison Moncure  
Roberto Peña  
Christian Roden  
Jennifer Zwilling

#### Seniors/Students

Robert Berg  
Kim C. Danielson  
Julie DeWeese  
Philip A. Helgerson  
Mark Lundgren  
Virginia Peterson  
Carole Zatz

### Annual Giving and Contributions

*October 16, 2017-January 31, 2018*

#### Serafimer

Dr. & Mrs. V. Eugene McCoy  
The Red Moose Charitable Trust

#### Vasa

Kristina & John Antoniades  
Ragnhild & Bo Bergqvist  
Britta A. Mattson  
Sandra Pfaff  
Margaretha Talerman  
James & Sophia Walker

#### Gold

Countess Clarissa Bonde  
Ken & Kerstin Cook  
Margaret Copeland  
Gordon & Jane Downing  
Kristina & Charles Kalb  
Kristina & John O'Doherty  
Eleanor Poe Barlow  
Eunice Winters

#### Silver

Robert & Marilyn Asplundh  
Elisabeth & Wayne Brown  
Marna Feldt  
John Holmstrom & John Polomano  
Ruth Lindeborg & Leonard Busby  
Kirstin Mattson  
Ellen T. Rye  
Virginia Swedberg  
Lorraine & Richard Waldron  
Fanny Warren

#### Bronze

Christer & Patricia Baeckstrom  
Marianne Baeckstrom  
Kenneth Barroway  
Helene Y. Basile & Family  
Görel Bengtzon & Roman Hrycushko  
Alison Bennett  
Lisa C. Caplan  
Keith & Hilma Cooper  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Engstrom  
Jan & Lillemor Essunger  
Kay Ford  
Jeffrey & Christina Gravidahl  
Lennart A. Hahr  
Rosemary & Bruce Hanes  
Ulla M. Heinicke  
Sylvia Holteen  
Thomas F. & Mary Ann Hudson  
Kathi Keefe  
Catherine & Fredrik Khayati  
Karin Kornaga  
Barbro & Ernst Larsson  
Doris Lehman  
Mary Anne Carlson Morgan  
Roberta Petusky  
Carl D. & Sandra D. Rapp  
Ann E. Robinson  
James R. Roebuck, Jr  
Kjerstin & Dominic Sama  
Kristina H. Smith  
Rudy & Jean Soderlund  
Inger & Andy Stone  
Kim-Eric Williams & Ms. Ruth Nelson Rizzi

#### Friends

Karl Anderson  
Len & Flo Beck  
William Callahan & Vivianne Englund Callahan  
Dale W. Cottrell  
Nancy & Richard Cox  
Mr. & Mrs. Evald R. Eskilson  
Monica Fowler  
Mary & Owen Gilman  
Barbara E. Good  
Elisabeth Hohman  
Margaretha Joelsson  
Mr. & Mrs. Sigurd S. Johnson  
C.R. Karlsson

# 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
- 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.

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Knutson  
Maj-Britt & Robert Lautman  
Ulla-Britta & Jerry McCarthy  
Lila McCleary  
Karen A. McKillip  
Jan Newstrom Thompson  
Thomas Nilsson  
Rose Marie G. Oster  
Barbro & Wayne Pollock  
John & Kerstin Radel  
Edith & Albert Rohrman  
David O. Segermark  
Susan Sjostrom  
John Tepe  
Kerstin & Bjorn Tyreus  
Amy & Harry Verngren  
Mrs. Kenneth Wattman  
Carina Åhren & Robert Weir

## Gifts in Memory of Maria Dostmann

Kenneth Barroway  
Ken & Kerstin Cook  
Ulla M. Heinicke  
Margot Hilson  
Gary Lesneski  
Michael Neft & Mark Smith  
Jennie Prant  
Marlene H. K. Stocks  
Virginia Swedberg

## 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.*

## Gifts in Memory of Fred Pfaff

Lila McCleary  
Maud Palmer  
Edie & Al Rohrman  
Virginia Swedberg

## Grants and Gifts

*We are grateful for the following foundations, organizations and individuals for their special gifts and grants in support of the museum and its programs and special projects so far this fiscal year:*

Anonymous  
ASHM Auxiliary  
Central Carolina Community Foundation  
Estate of John V. Lyons  
New Sweden Alliance  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
The Philadelphia Cultural Fund  
SWEA New Jersey  
SWEA Philadelphia



## Swedish in Seattle

As the next installment in the ASHM's travel programs, we are excited to announce plans to head west to Seattle, WA in September! Seattle has long been the destination of many Scandinavian immigrants, especially those working in the fishing and logging industries, and the city's Nordic Heritage Museum is set to debut their new building and exhibitions this spring. In honor of their new facility, we are planning a fascinating, fun-filled, and delectable tour of the city and it's many offerings, such as Pike Place Market, the Seattle Underground, the Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum, historic Paulsbow, and of course, the Nordic Heritage Museum, just to name a few stops.

We will fly out on Thursday, September 20 and return on Monday, September 24, staying four nights at Hotel Ändra, with full breakfast each morning.



The package will include roundtrip airfare from Philadelphia to Seattle, hotel stay (with breakfast and one dinner), charter bus transportation and all of the attractions we will visit. Members outside of the Philadelphia area are welcome to meet us there, too! Stay tuned for more details or email [crossy@americanswedish.org](mailto:crossy@americanswedish.org). We hope that you can join us on this West Coast adventure!

