



COMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 8 – Lucia Pageant
Saturday, January 11– Swedish Opera Singer,
Christina Nilsson
Saturday, March 14 – Heritage Swedish Cookbooks
Saturday, May 9 - Scandinavian Design and the US

SANTA LUCIA CELEBRATION – WELCOME THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Sunday, December 8, 2019, 5 – 7 pm, Whitnall Park Lutheran Church, 5847 Lilac Lane, Hales Corners -105th and Forest Home Avenue, (just east of Hwy. 100) in Hales Corners, WI

Join us for the Santa Lucia Celebration, directed by Sonia Hummel. In this Swedish tradition, Lucia brings light and music to the darkest days of winter. Crowned with candles and dressed in white, she is accompanied by her procession of attendants (*tärnor*) each carrying a candle, starboys (*stjarngossar*), gingerbread boys (*pepparkaksgubbar*) and elves (*tomtenissar*).

Then join the traditional dancing around the Christmas tree. Visit with Santa while enjoying coffee and treats including traditional Swedish Christmas dishes. If you can bring a dish to share, it would be greatly appreciated.



CHRISTINA NILSSON, SWEDISH OPERA SINGER – Saturday, January 11, 2020, 1:30 PM, Redemption Lutheran Church – 4057 N. Mayfair Road.

A Rags to Riches Story – The life of Christina by SAHSWI member Carol Gustafson, her in Sjöabol/Snugge outside Växjö and died night of the New York Met in 1883. She was Carol has visited her homestead, now a and mausoleum in Växjö. It's a fascinating became a world renown opera singer.



Nilsson, the famous Swedish opera singer, will be told great, great niece. Christina was born August 20, 1843 November 20, 1921. Christina sang at the opening very popular in the USA, Russia, the UK and France. museum in Sweden as well as her mansion Villa Vik story of a poor girl from southern Sweden who

OUR HERITAGE AS FOUND IN OLD SWEDISH COOKBOOKS – Saturday, March 11, 2020 – 1:30 pm, Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N. Mayfair Road

Join Barbara Froemming and Sonia Hummel as they explore our Swedish food heritage and family recipes.

SCANDINAVIAN DESIGN AND THE UNITED STATES - Saturday, May 9, 2020

Based on the exhibition planned at the Milwaukee Art Museum, May 15-September 7, 2020, **Monica Obniski**, Curator of 20th- and 21st-Century Design, will present ideas shared between United States and Swedish Designers, and their ambitious campaigns to market Scandinavian Design to American consumers.

WEBSITE – A note from our new webmaster, Jan Ehrengren--

We are always looking for more content, interesting stories related to Swedish immigration, Swedish-American customs and ancestry, and any information of the Swedish impact of life in Wisconsin. If you have an idea what additional information you want included in the www.sahswi.org

website, or any related story you want to submit, please send an email to Jan Ehrengren, jehrengren@outlook.com with your ideas."

MORE ABOUT LUCIA

*The night treads heavily
around yards and dwellings
In places unreached by sun,
the shadows brood*

*Into our dark house she comes,
bearing lighted candles,
Saint Lucia, Saint Lucia.*

Storu has it that Lucia was born in Sicily to a wealthy family in the year 284, a time when Christians were persecuted by the Roman Empire. She was a young girl engaged to a wealthy man, but instead of marrying she gave her dowry to the poor. Every night she took food to the Christians in the catacombs; in order to keep her hands free, she wore candles in her hair. An old folk tale from Värmland in western Sweden maintains that once during a severe famine, Lucia suddenly appeared on board a large ship in Lake Vänern. The radiant saint sailed around the huge lake and distributed generous amounts of ham, pork, spareribs, beer and spiced wine to the starving people.

Lucia celebrations also started in Värmland and the neighboring provinces. A Värmland-born informant, Pelle Ödman, writes that during his childhood around 1840, lussedagen was an extremely important feast day. One of Ödman's sisters would dress like Lucia and awaken everybody with coffee and bread in bed. Later, a wonderful candlelight breakfast was served with ham, sausages, spareribs, steaming potatoes, beer and wine. The atmosphere was gay and festive—the glorious little Lucia was the center of the party.

CHRISTMAS IN SWEDEN - Today, customs across the country are much the same, although each family may have its own way of celebrating. Ingmar Bergman's Oscar-winning film *Fanny and Alexander*, although set in the late 1800s, nevertheless reflects Swedish Christmas celebrations today: a bright and lively occasion, full of excess, good food and happiness, but also a time during which family secrets tend to surface. As a rule, Swedes expect a great deal from their Christmases. There should be snow on the ground but blue skies and sunshine, everyone is expected to be in good health, the ham must be succulent and tasty, and presents must be numerous. Moreover, the children are expected to be happy and well behaved and the home is expected to be warm and bright.

A few days before Christmas Eve, Swedes Christmas tree. This is a serious matter – the and it must be densely and evenly branched, town, you buy the tree in the street or square. their Christmas trees themselves. Many their legal right of access to the countryside woods wherever they like, with an axe, a Värmland on the Norwegian border – with a



venture forth to look for the perfect tree is the very symbol of Christmas, and straight. If you live in a city or Those who live in the country fell Swedes believe – mistakenly – that allows them to fetch a tree from the bucksaw or – as in western shotgun. Not to be recommended.

Trees are decorated according to family tradition. Some are bedecked with flags, others with tinsel and many with colored baubles. Electric lights are usually preferred to candles on the tree because of the risk of fire. Homes are also decorated with wall hangings depicting brownies and winter scenes, with tablecloths in Christmas patterns, and with candlesticks, little Father Christmas figures and angels.

Christmas presents are under the lighted tree, candles shine brightly and the smorgasbord (or *smörgåsbord*, as it's written in Swedish) has been prepared with all the classic dishes: Christmas ham, pork sausage, an egg and anchovy mixture (*gubbröra*), herring salad, pickled herring, home-made liver pâté, wort-flavored rye bread (*vörtbröd*), potatoes and a special fish dish, *lutfisk*. At three o'clock, the whole of Sweden turns on the TV to watch a cavalcade of Disney film scenes that have been shown ever since the 1960s without anyone tiring of them. Only then can the celebrations begin in earnest.

(Thanks to Sweden.se and to Helena Wahlman)

CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS NEARER HOME –

American Swedish Institute (www.asimn.org)

- *Sound the näverlur! Julmarknad opens the first weekend in December!*
- *Time Tested. Tradition Approved. Holidays at the American Swedish Institute Through January 12, 2020*

Step back in time over 90 years and explore the stories and decorations of holiday traditions from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland and our Celtic Junction community guests. With an ambiance drawing on holiday décor, music, sound and lighting as well as furniture, art, design, toys and food commonly associated with each era and country, each room offers informative and immersive experiences.

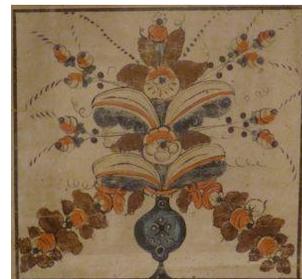
- *Julglädje (Christmas Joy) - Family Performances - December 27, 28*

Songs, stories and smiles are the hallmarks of these annual concerts, where all ages can join in the fun. Listen and dance to Swedish and Swedish-American holiday songs and become part of an interactive musical story.

Swedish American Museum – Chicago (www.Swedishamericanmuseum.org)

- *Julmarknad (check website for hours)*
- *Bonader - December 13 through January 12*

One of the most remarkable examples of Scandinavian art is the painted picture indigenous to the Swedish peasant home. The commonly used name for these peasant paintings is bonader, and their provenance was to decorate the walls and ceilings of the homes at Christmas time and on feast days, thus adding a note of color and gaiety to the otherwise dark interiors.



- *St. Lucia and the Lucia Procession*

Friday, Dec. 13, 2018
4:45 p.m. Andersonville Procession
5:15 p.m. Swedish American Museum
7 p.m. Ebenezer Church

Stockholm, Wisconsin (www.Stockholmwisconsin.com) **God Jul – A Swedish Christmas**

THREE weekends filled with Festivities and Extraordinary Shopping in Stockholm! Check the website for the many events. Depending on the weekend, you may see the Jultomte on a horse-drawn wagon or the town lighted with torches and luminarias for the solstice. You can shop at Ingebretsen's, eat at Stockholm Pie & General Store, or visit the Outdoor European Market at nearby Pepin.

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