

## MARCH, 2019



### COMING EVENTS

March 9, 2019 – Nordic Witchcraft

May 11, 2019 – The Story of the Bishop Hill Settlement

June 23, 2019 – Midsommar at Heidelberg

### **SWEDISH WITCHES-FOLKLORE & TRIALS MARCH 9, 2019 – 1:30 P.M.**

Redemption Lutheran Church

4057 N. Mayfair Rd. (Hwy. 100, just north of Capitol Dr.)

Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

On Maundy Thursday it's time for all Swedish witches (*häxor*) to grab their broomsticks, if they haven't been hidden, and fly on over to Blåkulla to celebrate the witches' sabbath. On Holy Saturday it will be time to fly back home and attend Easter Sunday service with everyone else in the village, but be careful not to say your prayers backwards, it will be a sure way to get caught.

Getting too old to fly at night on that rickety old broom, please consider a more modern form of transportation and join as we welcome Amber Rose, Ph.D. Candidate in Scandinavian Studies-Folklore, in the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic Studies, and Assistant Acquisitions Editor with The University of Wisconsin Press. Amber will tell us the story of Swedish witches in the early modern period (1450-1700) and end with a note on the tradition of contemporary Swedish Easter Witches. Who knows, we may even have an Easter Witch or two in attendance at the meeting?

### WE NEED LITTLE WITCHES!



We hinted that there might be little witches at the meeting. This could happen only if we have some help. Do you have children or grandchildren who would enjoy dressing up? They would be welcome and we think it would be fun for them. Little witches beg for treats, but instead of playing tricks like children do on Halloween, they write little happy notes in exchange for their treats. Costuming could be a brightly-flowered scarf or skirt and red cheeks and we will help with that. If you know you are bringing a little witch, please call Barbara at 414-352-7890.

### SPECIAL NOTICE!

We have a special event as part of our program. It's not often that we celebrate someone's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, so this is indeed a rare event! You may bring birthday cards for Marge Jothen to the meeting or you may send them to her address at 4535 N. 92<sup>nd</sup> St.--#R-209, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS—

Beth Brower, Don Carlson, Karen Engel, Sarah Engel, Nancy Fletcher, Ginger Suzik—välkommen!

### BOARD RESIGNATION

The board has reluctantly accepted Doug Foss' resignation. Doug submitted his resignation because he needs to focus on his ongoing treatment for cancer. He has been a valued member of the Board, especially in dealing with financial matters, and his presence will be missed. We wish him a successful recovery!

## AND DON'T FORGET VÅFFELDAGEN ON MARCH 25...

**Waffle Day** began in Sweden as Våffeldagen, actually due to confusion between the Swedish “*vårfrudagen*” meaning “Our Lady’s Day” which falls on the same date. The day historically marks the beginning of spring and is celebrated by the eating of many waffles.

## HOWARD HANSON—VIRTUOSO/COMPOSER

Howard Hanson, while not born in Sweden, was known for composing symphonies and other music based on Swedish themes. Hanson was of Swedish descent and was born in 1896 in Wahoo, Nebraska, a community settled by Swedish pioneers. He was a child prodigy on the piano and was still a teen when he attended the school now called Julliard School of Music.

After leaving Julliard, he enrolled in the School of Music at Northwestern University and graduated at the age of 19. He soon received an appointment as professor of theory and composition at College of the Pacific in San Jose, California. After three years, he was awarded a fellowship in the American Academy of Rome where he composed the Nordic Symphony.

In 1924, Hanson returned to the United States and was appointed director of the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. He was to remain there for 40 years, while building Eastman into a world-class institution. The third of his seven symphonies was commissioned by CBS to commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Swedish settlement in Wilmington, Delaware. (They were brought to the United States on the Kalmar Nyckel, which has been the subject of previous articles and programs.) It was well-received by the public even though the critics were rather hard on it—the symphony’s romantic richness was out of favor with some in 1939.

Howard Hanson has fulfilled the request of his old piano teacher, Albin Peterson, who told him, “What Grieg has done for Norway, you must do for Sweden.”

## MILWAUKEE ETHNIC NEWS—

Thanks to our PR Chair, Bev Wenzel, the notice of our meeting appears online in the *Milwaukee Ethnic News*, which is published bimonthly by Urban Anthropology Inc. and is managed by volunteer anthropologists. Its purpose is to offer ethnic organizations and individuals opportunities to share news and information about their cultures. The editor is Dr. Jill Florence Lackey, founder of Urban Anthropology Inc. The website is [JFLanthropologist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:JFLanthropologist@sbcglobal.net) and contains information on subscribing to the newsletter as well as how to submit articles.

## AT THE AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

--Imagine a place where fish are islands, landscapes become waterfalls, and the moon is hung from a ladder. Find these impossible worlds in the work of Erik Johansson, a Swedish photographer/visual artist now based in Prague, who creates dream-like realities through clever and complex montages of nature using his own photographs knit together digitally. The ASI exhibition includes 27 of his works, including seven new pieces that will be exhibited here for the

first time. Johansson has taken many photographs near the town of Götene in southern Sweden, where he grew up, and his work challenges the viewer’s perception of reality. For Johansson, creating an image is not moments. The exhibition was organized by the [Swedish Museum of Natural](#)



History in recognition of Johansson’s 2015 award as Nature Photographer of the Year by [Naturvårdsverket](#) (Swedish Environmental Protection Agency)

## SOLAR EGG BY BIGERT & BERGSTRÖM FOR RIKSBYGGEN – AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE

Opening to the public in ASI’s outdoor courtyard on March 6 is a five-meter-tall (that’s over 16 feet!) reflective, golden egg sculpture. Not only is the *Solar Egg* the centerpiece of our new experiential exhibition, [Reflect: Bigert & Bergström](#), but it’s also a functional sauna. Mats Bigert and Lars Bergström are two of Sweden’s most notable climate-inspired artists. They’ll be at ASI for [Eggstravaganza](#) on March 6 to celebrate the arrival of the *Solar Egg* and the first time it has been exhibited in the US. Mats and Lars will also help to fire up the first sauna.





## BOARD BIOGRAPHIES—

This is a new feature in the newsletter and who better to start with than Marge Jothen at the time of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! Here is her story:

“When the Swedish-American Historical Society of Wisconsin asked me to write about my Swedish history for the March 2019 Newsletter, I decided a letter to relatives would serve several purposes: share my Swedish history with members, apologize to relatives for not sending a Christmas letter, ask for help with carrying on extended Warne/ Noyed genealogy, offer help to Julie Lindholm with Carlson genealogy, AND determine if I am the only person in either extended family to reach the age of 100, as I expect to do on March 13, 2019.

“Between 1869 and 1892, my 4 grandparents, 4 great-grandparents, and 12 great-uncles and -aunts emigrated from Sweden, primarily from Småland, some from Östergötland and Dalsland, to settle mostly in Chisago County, Minnesota. My two books on their immigration are in libraries, in churches, counties, American Swedish Institute, etc.: *The Carlson Family: Sons of Carl Gustaf Petersson: Ancestors, Descendants and Emigration from Gärdserum, Småland, Sweden to Fish Lake, Chisago County, Minnesota, 1991* and *Warne Swedish Ironsmiths: Descendants of Carl Werme (1711-1772) in Sweden and America, 2000.*

“I was born in Minneapolis, MN on March 13, 1919 to Arthur Warne and Hannah Carlson Warne, when my father was serving in France, as a private in the 3rd Infantry in WWI. I met him in July at the age of 4 months, after baptism at Fish Lake Lutheran church in Stark in May, with a Swedish baptismal certificate. In 1921, we were the only ones of our family members to permanently move from Minnesota, when my father and an uncle came to Milwaukee, leaving their jobs in the Minneapolis Post-office, to sell LB Hair Tonic. When my father decided to stay in Milwaukee, he sent for us.



“After many moves, in 1928, we bought a new house in Whitefish Bay where the schools had special teachers for music, art and gym! My father liked his machinist job at A.O. Smith, but was laid off at the beginning of the Depression, never to return. He met many Swedes at his job and at Augustana Lutheran Church, who were our friends for many years.

“My education includes BS in Public Health Nursing (University of Minnesota) and MA in Educational Administration (UW-Milwaukee). I was an army nurse in WWII, serving in the South Pacific. I worked in public health nursing (Visiting Nurse Association) in Madison and then in Milwaukee where I served for 25 years and was promoted to director. I was a nurse consultant/supervisor for the Handicapped Children Program.

### Memberships/Affiliations—

- Swedish-American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc. (SAHSWI) 28 years: 1983-present:
  - Board member 1987-2008
  - Vice- President 1990-1995
  - President: 1995-2004
  - Historian 1989-present
  - Julotta committee: For 15-20 years had major responsibility for annual Julotta services with clerical assistance.
  - Swedish Genealogy and Research Group: Founder and coordinator of genealogy group since 2002.
  - Midsommar: Arranges for music at annual celebration.
- Linde Lodge 492, VASA Order: 28 years 1983-present. Meeting pianist, attended conventions for 25 years; auditor for three.
- Nordic Council of Milwaukee: Represents SAHSWI and Swedish genealogy for annual Scandinavian Festival.
- Swedish Council of America—in 2011, SCA presented me with the Swedish Award of Merit at a ceremony in Chicago. The award is given for preserving and promoting Swedish heritage at the local level.
- American Swedish Institute (Minneapolis, MN)—In 2010, I began a donation of Warne ironsmith items to ASI, in memory of my grandfather, Carl Johan Warne, who practiced his smith trade in Sweden and Minneapolis.
- Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota
- Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center
- Played piano and organ at church for many years.
- Played a pump organ while an army nurse in the South Pacific
- Bel Canto Chorus
- Scandinavian Chorus (1983-2005)

"I'm proud of my Swedish heritage and have enjoyed learning more about it, traveling to Sweden 4 times and finding the areas of my heritage: Småland, Östergötland and Dalsland."



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Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.  
Barbara Froemming, President    George Lofgren, Vice-President  
Denise Herzog, Treasurer    Joann Kreimendahl, Secretary  
Martha Bergland, Doug Foss, Todd Michalek, Directors.

Call 414-352-7890 or 262-781-6113 if you need further information or email us at:  
[swedishamericanhistoricalwisc@gmail.com](mailto:swedishamericanhistoricalwisc@gmail.com)







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Both our website and the Nordic Council website have been updated. Check them out and give us your comments:

SAHSWI.ORG or nordiccouncil.com

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