



MAY, 2019

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 11—The Story of the Bishop Hill
Settlement

Sunday, June 23—Midsommar at Heidelberg Park

**THE STORY OF THE BISHOP HILL SETTLEMENT
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019 – 1:30 P.M.**

Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 N. Mayfair Rd. (Hwy. 100, just north of Capitol Dr.), Wauwatosa

Erik Jansson, leader of the Janssonist religious sect in Sweden left Sweden in 1846, guiding his dedicated followers to America where he established the Swedish colony of Bishop Hill in Illinois. For several decades, letters home to Sweden extolling the fertile agricultural land in the Midwest stimulated migration for more than 1000 of his followers.

Bishop Hill colony population increased and flourished as it grew, but the colorful and dramatic story of the colony ended in 1861. With the site presently preserved as Bishop Hill Historic District, the story of the colony of Bishop Hill is intriguing history of Swedish American immigrants.

Join us as SAHSWI member John Elliott explores the 15-year history of the colony and member/author Martha Berglund adds the story of her ancestor Anders Berglund who arrived at Bishop Hill in 1847.

Come and stay for fika after the presentation!



WE'RE LOOKING FOR HELP....

AT OUR MEETINGS:

Pat and Fred Sommer as leaders of the Hospitality Committee graciously commit to preparing our meeting site to welcome members to each of our four meetings during the year. Here's how you can help them...

Arrive at 12:30 and assist with these tasks:

- Help set up FIKA serving table with cloths and utensils for member food donations
- Help them set up chairs and arrange tables
- Prepare coffee and assist them with any special food preparation.

At the reception table:

- Welcome members and distribute member name tags
- Sign in arriving guests and distribute handouts about our Society

AFTER THE MEETING: Stay for a few minutes to help put away chairs, tables, supplies and put the kitchen back in order for the next meeting.. Call Bev at 262-781-6113 or Barbara at 414-352-7890 to offer your help.

~~~~For more opportunities to help, please see page 2.

[SCANDINAVIAN MIDSOMMAR CELEBRATION--](#)

After the success of our Midsommar celebration last year, we were invited to hold our celebration as Heidelberg Park again this year. It will be on Sunday, June 23, 1-4 pm, at Heidelberg Park at Bavarian Bierhaus, 700 W. Lexington Blvd., Glendale. We have been working with management to update the setup and the menu and, as you will see below, increasing the number of activities to make the afternoon a great experience for all.

[MIDSOMMAR... BIGGER AND BETTER IN 2019 AND NEEDING YOUR HELP AS WE EXPAND...](#)

This year, a new area of activities for children is planned. There will be face-painting, games and other activities for young family members. Sonia Hummel and Elizabeth Elliott will be leading the area and volunteers are needed to assist them in making this an enjoyable experience for children. Please call Bev at 262-781-6113 or Barbara at 414-352-7890 if you are can offer your assistance in the Children's Activity Area.

Volunteers are needed to assist in other areas as well. If you volunteered last year and enjoyed working together to make our first Midsommar in Glendale successful, we invite you to join us again. If you have not yet been contacted to aid in 2019 Midsommar efforts, or if you are a new volunteer, please contact Bev at 262-781-6113 or Barbara at 414-352-7890 now and let us know the area in which you would like to assist.

[WEBLOG](#)—Jan Ehrengren has graciously agreed to take over management of the weblog. Please check it out and you will see that it is better than ever. Thanks, Jan!



[THE AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE](#) continues to sponsor fascinating exhibits and workshops. If you are going to visit Minneapolis, you might want to plan around the many things that ASI offers; just go to their website www.asimn.org and be amazed at the offerings, several of which are shown here.

[THE VIKINGS ARE COMING!!](#)

Those words once struck terror in those who heard them. Now if you are curious about Viking life, the American Swedish Institute has a new exhibition opening on May 17 that will give you some insight about the Vikings.

Based on cutting-edge research by Neil Price, Charlotte Hedenstierna-Jonson and John Ljungkvist, the exhibition at ASI is the Midwest premiere of a collection that has never been outside of Scandinavia until this year, with many finds that are around 1400 years old. With Viking helmets, swords and weapons for attack and defense, as well as jewelry, glass vessels, bowls and other objects with magical importance, the artifacts tell stories both about the society and the people buried with them.



The installation is divided into thematic sections on Viking warfare, maritime trade, a ship burial, Norse gods, the Baltic Sea and geo-political relationships to other cultures, shedding new light on how early Viking society was organized, the role of women and the development of maritime innovation that enabled the Vikings to reach faraway lands in the East and the West.

[RESPONSE: CLIMATE + CLAY--](#)March 23 to May 05, 2019



In conjunction with NCECA (the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts) and their Claytopia conference, ASI is featuring the work of three Minnesota clay artists - Lisa S. Truax, Kip O'Krongly and Ursula Hargens - whose work touches on how plants, animals and environmental systems have been impacted by climate change.

Claytopia, NCECA's 53rd annual conference, took place in Minneapolis from March 27-30, 2019.

Since the 1960s, the Twin Cities region has played a pivotal role in shaping a renaissance in studio pottery and craft as cultural forces. Adaptation of Mingei-inspired ideals within the American heartland drove a vision of artfulness in daily life.

Claytopia will engage regional, national and international artists, thinkers, curators, educators, and students to produce an array of exhibitions and experiences that build on, respond to, celebrate, and push against ceramic art's diverse legacies. Together, we will expand critical discourse on teaching, learning, aesthetics, social impacts, design thinking, and artistic production.

[SYTTENDE MAI—](#)

Fosselyngen Lodge is sponsoring a bus trip to Stoughton for Syttende Mai and has provided us with the details:

Cultural Charter Event to Stoughton, WI – Saturday, May 18, 2019 Bus Charter from Milwaukee State Fair Park 'n Ride to Stoughton (LOCATION OF THE PARK N RIDE LOT AT STATE FAIR PARK - Kearney & S76 Park Ride Lot #4851) Departure 8:30 am AND Return approx. 8 pm Price - \$25 Fosselyngen members; Guests \$35; Members other Lodges \$30 (incl. name of Lodge) Note - Price includes \$5 button to access all events. Brochures/maps/buttons packet provided on the bus. RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL MAY 6, 2019 AND are limited to the first 50 who register. Call Daryl Wunrow if you have questions at (414) 460-5285. Our agenda includes an afternoon presentation by the Stoughton HS Dancers and a concert by the Edvard Grieg Chorus. We expect to have reserved seating at the Dancer performance. There is an afternoon parade. Otherwise you are on your own for the day and food. Feel free to bring along a bag chair if you wish. Check the official website for detailed festival event information. - The 2019 program is not yet available, but the 2018 information will give a good idea of what is going on from hour to hour. There is also a map of the event sites.

<https://www.stoughtonfestivals.com/>

Call Daryl Wunrow at 414-460-5285 to check on availability.

[SPRING IN STOCKHOLM—VALBORG](#)

April 30th is the day for the annual celebration of Valborg. In Stockholm, according to the website www.your living city.com, Swedes have a choice of a dozen or so bonfires where they can sing folk songs, dance, drink and watch fireworks. It's a celebration for people of all ages and the best part is – it's free. In most places, the varm korv (hot dog) vendors will be close by to satisfy any mid-party cravings. These bonfires are the biggest controlled fires many people have ever seen close up, but not to worry, firefighters are at the scene to start and stop the blaze.

Historically Valborg is derived from the Viking fertility celebrations that took place around April 30th, where the arrival of spring was celebrated with bonfires at night. The actual purpose of the fires was to scare off witches and evil spirits. A practical use for the bonfires was also to scare off predators such as foxes before the livestock were let out to graze on May 1st. In the Middle Ages, the pagan Spring ritual became associated with Saint Walpurga.



The daughter of Saint Richard the Pilgrim, Saint Walpurga was born in Devon, England in 710 A.D. Saint Walpurga studied medicine and became a Christian missionary to Germany, where she founded a monastery. Christian artwork often depicts her holding bandages in her hand. As a result of Saint Walpurga's evangelism in Germany, the people there converted to Christianity from heathenism. The monastery became an education center and soon became famous as a center of culture. Saint Walpurga was also known to repel the effects of witchcraft.

In the University cities of Uppsala, Lind, Linköping, Gothenburg, Umeå, student celebrations continue with traditions that include singing by male choirs. In addition to the choirs, speeches, breakfasts and bonfires, in Uppsala, the students raft on the Fyris in homemade, humorously decorated rafts; in Gothenburg, the carnival parade can be seen by as many as 250,000 people.

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**When online, unexpected things often pop up. *Walpurgisnacht Ballet*** was created by George Balanchine of the New York City Ballet for a 1975 production of Gounod's 1859 *Faust* at the Théâtre National de l'Opéra that included additional ballet music from 1869. The New York City Ballet premiere was its first presentation as an independent work and took place on Thursday, 15 May 1980 at the New York State Theater, Lincoln Center.

*Walpurgisnacht* is found at the beginning of the last act of *Faust*. Mephistopheles shows Faust the folk celebration before May Day, when the souls of the dead are released briefly to wander as they will. The ballet does not directly depict the Walpurgis Night but builds on a sense of joyful revelry.

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Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.
Barbara Froemming, President George Lofgren, Vice-President
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Martha Bergland and Todd Michalek, Directors.

Call 414-352-7890 or 262-781-6113 if you need further information or email us at:
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