



GOTT NYTT ÅR! Best wishes for a safe and Happy New Year along with hopes that we will be able to meet in person before long. In the meantime, we hope to see you via Zoom!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2:00 PM –
FACTS ABOUT SWEDISH TRAITS**

You are welcome to join SAHSWI next ZOOM meeting on Saturday January 16 at 2 PM CST where Board member John Elliott will present facts about Swedish traits.

Development Solutions Network World Happiness Report, 2020, Sweden ranks number 7. A high GDP per capita, an emphasis on social equality that is built into the education system starting in kindergarten, 16 months of paid family leave that can be split between a couple after a new child is welcomed into a family, and free day care also make Sweden the best country for women. Basically, an emphasis on work-life balance leads to a happier populace. Turns out feeling productive *and* rested leads to major smiles.

Do the traits that Swedes possess make them happy? One of the key characteristics **Program description:** The population of Sweden is one of the happiest in the world. In the **U.N. Sustainable** of Swedish culture is that Swedes are egalitarian in nature, humble and find boasting absolutely unacceptable. They are very athletic and hardy, very punctual, and they have everything exactly set.

John Elliott will discuss more interesting and some unexpected facts about the traits that Swedes possess.

If you don't have an email from Jan with information on joining Zoom for the meeting, it's because we don't have you on email. But it's not too late – if you can join us, call Jan at 262-695-8630 and he will send it to you.

LUCIA PROGRAM – Thank you to John and Jan for creating an excellent program. It was great to see the number of members and guests who joined in with Zoom. It was a beautiful start to the Christmas season.

TJUGONDAG KNUT KASTAS GRANEN UT (On Knut's 20th day, the Christmas tree is thrown out)

Our January programs in the past have included a tribute to Knut and plundering (Julgransplundring) the tree. While we won't be meeting in person this January, we can be reminded why we like to celebrate this day. It started with Knut Levard, a Danish duke who was assassinated and was later declared a saint. In 1680, Knut's Day was moved to January 13 and became known as tjugondag Knut.



Party activities involve singing and dancing around the Christmas tree, "looting" the tree of ornamental candy and apples, smashing the gingerbread house into pieces ... and eating it, opening Christmas crackers that have been used as decorations in the tree, or a treasure hunt. The songs and dances are essentially the same as those performed at Christmas and Midsummer.

UPDATE ON THE COL. HEG STATUE--Wisconsin has received \$60,000 in federal grants to pay for the restoration of two statues outside the state Capitol that were torn down and damaged by protesters this summer. The money will go toward restoring and reinstalling the statues of Col. Hans Christian Heg and "Forward." Heg was a Norwegian immigrant who became an outspoken abolitionist, serving in the 15th Wisconsin Regiment during the Civil War. He was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863. His statue, funded by donations from the Norwegian Society of America, had stood outside the state Capitol since 1926.

[WE'RE MOVING AHEAD...](#)

We're saying good bye to 2020 and looking forward to 2021 with a hope of good health again. How soon will be able to resume our normal activities? Will we be able to have Midsommar? While we are still in the unknown of the future, SAHSWI wants to be prepared to return to action. The enclosed form (and return envelope) will keep our **MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION** current.

New technology, updated methods, and new plans have been developing during this Covid shut-down and are included in the **INTEREST LIST** for your consideration in offering assistance.

REMEMBER, *no dues to be paid for 2021*...just review the list of plans with which SAHSWI will need assistance as we gear up in 2021. (Anything you signed up for in 2020 will be included for 2021.)

While some of our members no longer able feel able to assist with the physical work, you still have great ideas to suggest. Please share those suggestions and ideas on the back of the member update to help as we all work together for the future of SAHSWI.

Have a question? Call me: Bev Wenzel, Membership Secretary, 262-781-6113; email: wenz113@outlook.com. Or contact any Board or Committee member by Email to: swedishamericanhistoricalwisc@gmail.com

[THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU CAN'T GO ANYWHERE--](#)

- How about a silent movie in Swedish? The Phantom Carriage (Körkarlen) 1921. Written dialog in Swedish with English subtitles. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzOk7hkDUew>
- A virtual tour of the American Swedish Institute – Meet the Turnblads. The ASI has a number of activities that may require registration and may charge a fee. Checking out their website (ASIMN.org) will keep you entertained for a while. See below for some background on the Institute.
- Another talk at the ASI is about Anders Zorn, the artist. Or you could Google the Zorn Museum in Mora, Sweden, and find more about this influential Swedish artist. There is information on his house and farm which are also open for visitors in Sweden.
- Viking storytelling--Any storyteller was welcome for their ability to entertain. They were especially welcome during the long Scandinavian winters when people were forced indoors. During the Viking Age, all stories were oral; none of it was written down. But now we have books – if you have younger family members and access to a library or bookstore, Jan Brett and Sandy Brehl are two authors of Scandinavian tales that are highly entertaining to both the reader and the listener. Here is a site that has old Swedish folktales that you can read online—(world of tales.com) Or go through your bookshelf for an old favorite.

THE HISTORIC TURNBLAD MANSION, former home to Swan Turnblad, his wife Christina and their daughter Lillian, was once one of 40 mansions on the stretch of Park Avenue in Minneapolis known as the Golden Mile. Swan and Christina both immigrated to Minnesota from Sweden in the late 1800s. With a farming background and a printer by trade, Swan emerged from modest means to become owner of the largest Swedish language newspaper in the U.S., the [Svenska Amerikanska Posten](#).

The Turnblads commissioned architects Christopher Boehme and Victor Cordella to design this ornate home. Completion of the mansion took approximately five years from 1904 to 1908. The Turnblad family's worldly travels inspired much of the design for the 33 room Mansion. From the French Chateausque style exterior to the finely crafted interior, including 11 decorative tile stoves imported from Sweden. The Turnblad family only lived in the home until 1929, when they donated it to the American Institute for Swedish Art, Literature and Science - now known as the American Swedish Institute.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Ehrengren, President George Lofgren, Vice President Barbara Froemming, Treasurer

Joann Kreimendahl, Secretary

Directors: Martha Bergland John Elliott Karin Konrad

<http://www.sahswi.org>

