

Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.



COMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 21, 7:00 pm -- Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Please see Jan's letter for details.

Dear members of Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin.

The last 18 months has been challenging for many and for our historical society. I am writing to you to reassure you that as an organization we still are in good "health" and look forward to starting normal operations soon. How soon is hard to predict. Back in May, we thought, we were all done with the Corona virus, or Covid 19 adjustment to our programs, and we were happy to celebrate Midsommar safely in June at Heidelberg Park. Now we have the new Delta variant to deal with, and we do get a lot of conflicting information on how to best deal with it, so for our annual meeting we have decided to go back to having a **ZOOM** meeting. It will be held at **7 PM on Thursday October 21**. At this time, we are still planning to celebrate Lucia safely at Whitnall Park Lutheran Church on Sunday December 12. Hopefully then the Delta variant has peaked, and we are all vaccinated or have natural immunity.

As you probably are aware the Redemption Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa was sold so we have been looking for a new place to hold our meetings. We recently visited **Martin Luther Lutheran Church** located just east of the Milwaukee Zoo, and they have welcomed us to have meetings there. Pastor Ari Mattson and his assistant Ronna Paradowski gracefully met with us and showed us the facilities, and it will fit our needs very well. So, starting with the first meeting in 2022 we will have our FIKA meetings there.

As mentioned above our next meeting is the 2021 annual meeting. For this meeting we will provide reports from the committees and the board. We also will elect 2 board members. Any member of our society may nominate a candidate, and if you do, please see information about the procedure for submitting a nomination later in this newsletter.

I like to thank those of you that participated in any of our meetings during the past year and all of you for your patience and staying in contact with our society. At the same time, as we are looking forward to a re-start of more active programming going forward, I like to ask for your input. What topics, activities, etc. would you like to have. Any idea is welcome and if you want to get involved in any of our committees, (Genealogy, Historical Records, Publicity (including website and social media), Membership, Hospitality, Fika meeting Programs and Historical projects) please let me know. (e-mail jehrengren@outlook.com or telephone, text 262- 352 8630)

I also like to thank everyone that have been involved in our programming and activities during the past year, our Board and Committee members, ZOOM program presenters and entertainers, Midsommar celebration volunteers and our Historical Project members. During our annual meeting we will review the past year's activities and programs.

Sincerely,
Jan Ehrengren,
President,
Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 7:00 PM

As noted in Jan's letter, the decision was made to have it again via Zoom. A link will be made available to you shortly before the meeting. It is scheduled for a Thursday with the hope that more members will be able to join in. If you have not used Zoom and have questions, please call Jan or John Elliott. It's simple and quite enjoyable!

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: An important part of our Annual Meeting is the election of Board Directors. This year, there are two three-year terms to be filled.

The nominating committee, consisting of Bev Wenzel, Barbara Froemming, and Joann Kreimendahl, presents the following slate of candidates to be voted on at the Annual Meeting:

Three-year term: Karin Konrad

Three-year term: Janet Taylor

Barbara Froemming's three-year term as director is up; however, as immediate past president, she has an automatic seat on the board. According to the bylaws, additional nominations may be made by two members who notify the secretary in writing before the start of the Annual Meeting. The nomination should include the nominee's consent to accept the office if elected. If you have questions, call Joann at 262-255-2127.

COMMITTEES—

Even though we have not been able to have in-person general meetings during the last year and a half, SAHSWI committees have been working and have made progress on a number of fronts. The Annual Meeting will include committee reports and they will also be available on our web. Following is a condensation of their activities:

MIDSOMMAR: Thanks to Karin Konrad for her outstanding job in planning. And thanks to all who came and participated in decorating the majstång, making flower crowns, singing, dancing, playing games. And thanks to the staff at Heidelberg Park for all their help and most of all, for providing a variety of food, including favorite Swedish dishes.

HISTORICAL PROJECTS: The **1948 Unonius New Upsala Centennial Historical Marker** had been located in an obscure location on private property across from the Chenequa Village Hall. Its new site is at the Village Hall where it represents a part of Village History. A major part of the committee's work has been working with the State of Wisconsin to establish an **Official State Historical Marker to commemorate Unonius and New Upsala**. After discussion, it was decided to make St. Anskar's Church in Hartland the new location. Several members of St. Anskar's have worked on the committee and have been helpful in getting written approval from the Church. The first state application will be submitted to the Wisconsin Historical Society soon.

SWEDISH GENEALOGY: Marge Jothen and Bev Wenzel have reported that the Swedish Genealogy Research Group Committee now has a membership of 26. The website has been expanded and contains information for members who are beginning their genealogical research. There is also a section for the public to get basic information along with an invitation to join SAHSWI.

MEETING LOCATION: After the sale of Redemption Church, members started checking various locations around Milwaukee in the hopes of finding one that met our needs as well as Redemption Church did. As Jan notes in his letter, Martin Luther Church has not only met our criteria but has been very welcoming as part of their mission of outreach. Plans are being made to have our meetings there, beginning in January, 2022.

ELAINE SUNDBERG JACKSON – 1932-2021

It is with sadness that we communicate the news of the death of our long-time member, Elaine Sundberg Jackson on September 10th. Elaine joined SAHSWI in 1989, always proud of her 100% Swedish ancestry and enjoying anything Swedish. For many years, she was secretary of our Society, a member of the Board of Directors and willingly volunteered her time and talents in numerous other areas with great dedication to SAHSWI and its goals. As her health declined and she became homebound, she continued her interest in hearing of our activities and her friends within.

Elaine is survived by her children David (Teresa), Steven, Matthew (Bonnie), Kristine (Kevin) Laufer, daughter-in-law Linda and her sister Mary Ann (Gregg) Klees. She was preceded in death by husband Stan and son John. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren brightened her life.

Elaine was proud to be the third generation of her family to be a member of SAHSWI. Her maternal grandmother, Selma Johnson, was among our earliest members and her father, Elmer Sundberg, was the second generation. After Elaine joined as the third generation, her daughter, Kristine Laufer, became our present and fourth generation member. The fifth generation of their family is Elaine's granddaughter, (John's daughter) Danielle Jackson, a key volunteer in our Midsommar Children's area this year.

To all her family, we extend our heartfelt sympathy. We'll miss her and are thankful for all her years of activity and service to our Swedish American Historical Society of WI.

* * * * *

BIRGIT MARRIANE (NILSSON) SEGERDAHL– 1924-2021

Birgit Segerdahl, who died last July, was a valued friend of SAHSWI. She was also the wife of one of our founders, Anders Segerdahl, and the mother of Johan Segerdahl, the Swedish Honorary Consul in Milwaukee. She is further survived by grandsons Andy, David (Rachel), Charlie and Craig Tomlinson and two great grandchildren, Everett and Greta.

Birgit was born on November 27th, 1924 in Vastervik, Sweden. Her family owned and operated a fleet of ships that traveled internationally. After completing her formal education in Sweden at the end of WW II she was able to travel to the United States and continued her studies at Downer College in Milwaukee.

She met Anders Segerdahl in Milwaukee; they became engaged and decided to make Milwaukee their home.

Birgit created a special home mixing her adopted American values with her deep Swedish roots and giving her children, grandchildren and close friends, a unique and thoughtful view of the world.

SAHSWI is grateful for her contributions to the Society. Her help has added to the ability to continue with programs that keep Swedish customs alive in Milwaukee.

* * * * *

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Ehrengren, President George Lofgren, Vice President Joann Kreimendahl, Secretary

Barbara Froemming, Treasurer

Directors: Martha Bergland John Elliott Karin Konrad

<http://www.sahswi.org>

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

swedishamericanhistoricalwisc@gmail.com