



## SWEDISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



### May 2022 NEWSLETTER

SATURDAY, MAY 14—FIKA AT ST.  
ANSKAR'S

SUNDAY, JUNE 19--MIDSOMMAR

With the coming of Spring and Summer, there are two SAHSWI meetings you won't want to miss. The first is our May Fika meeting which will be in a different location. When the Martin Luther Lutheran Church on Bluemound (where we had our March meeting) finishes remodeling the kitchen, that will be our usual meeting place. But this month we will relocate to St. Anskar's Episcopal Church in Hartland with a program that has its basis in that area. Our history with St. Anskar's and the Pine Lake Settlement goes back many years. Following will be more information, including directions to the church.

**FIKA MEETING, MAY 14 AT 1:30 PM—ST. ANSKAR'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, N48W31340 Hill Rd, St Hwy 83 in Hartland.**

This fascinating pioneer and church history has been the research topic of a SAHSWI Historical Project team that was initiated to recognize it with an official **Wisconsin State Historical marker**. The team will present the project and the story at the "fika" meeting. After the presentation participants will enjoy fika, coffee or tea with treats. The meeting is open to the public.

The first Swedish colony in Wisconsin, the second in the United States, was established at the east shore of Pine Lake in Chenequa, Wisconsin. The young founder **Gustaf Unonius** came here in 1841, and together with his wife and a few friends, claimed land and built a log cabin. Many more Swedes followed and the **New Upsala** settlement was formed. As the settlement grew with more immigration from Scandinavia, **the Scandinavian Parish at Pine Lake** was founded. Partly based on



*1841 Pine Lake from Gustaf Unonius memoirs.*

letters from Unonius and other pioneer settlers and the Unonius memoirs published in 1862, waves of immigration from Scandinavia followed, especially in the 1860's and 1880's. In 1864 the Pine Lake Scandinavian Church became known as the **Holy Innocents Church**, which a hundred plus years later merged with **Grace Episcopal Church** and together they built a new church which eventually was named **St. Anskar's Episcopal Church**.

## May 14 Program--

**Gustaf Unonius, New Upsala and the Scandinavian Parish.** The Historical Project Committee will present their work on recognizing the **first Swedish settlement in Wisconsin**, its founder and church, with a State Historical Marker. It was established in 1842 east of Pine Lake, Chenequa.

**Note:** This meeting is moved to **St. Anskars Church, at N48W31340 Hill Rd, St Hwy 83 in Hartland** which is the future location for the historical marker



Take I-45 or Capitol to Hwy 16. Exit from Hwy 16 to State Road 83 North, follow 83 for ¼ mile, enter driveway on the right from 83.

## *FUTURE PROGRAMS*

**June 4, 1 – 3 PM Swedish Genealogy Research Group meeting at Martin Luther Church** (for members only)

**June 26, 1 – 4 PM Midsommar celebration at Heidelberg park** (open to the public).

**September 10, 1:30 PM Exploring our Swedish Food Heritage.** SAHSWI members presenting their favorite Swedish food or dessert dish. Participants can enjoy a sample and learn about the history of each dish.

**October 22, 1:30 PM SAHSWI annual meeting.** Program to be confirmed.

**December 11, 5 PM – 7 PM, Lucia Celebration at Whitnall Park Lutheran Church in Hales Corners.** Open to the public, no charge.

**PLEASE NOTE--Scandinavian Fest at Ronald Reagan Elementary School in New Berlin on October 1 has been cancelled for 2022. Because of the uncertainty of Covies, it was difficult to schedule entertainment and vendors. With this in mind, the Nordic Council made the decision to cancel.**

**SAHSWI and Linde Lodge** lost a valued, long-time member when Les Touve died on March 5. Les was 93 and had lived in assisted living for a few years and no longer able to participate, but memories of all the projects he and his wife, Jan, worked on are strong. We are working on some of those projects now and we can remember Les and the other members who gave our Society a strong foundation. Think of Les when we give four birthday cheers at our meetings--*Ett fyrfaldigt Leve Leve Dig!* Les will be buried at Port Wing Cemetery next to Jan on August 4.

**MIDSOMMAR—SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1:00-4:00 PM AT HEIDELBERG PARK**

Celebrate Midsommar, is to celebrate the longest day of the year the Swedish way! This means decoration of the Majstång (mid summer pole) with greens and flowers, joining in the procession of raising the decorated pole along the beat of traditional violin music and then dancing and singing the special Swedish songs like “sma grodorna” (The Little Frogs) or “vi aro musikanter” (We are all Musicians). The event also includes games, like the Swedish game of Kubb, making of flower crowns, folk dances and more.



The Board is working with the staff at Heidelberg Park on the details for Midsommar. Much of it will be the same as last year as far as the location in the park as well as the traditional activities. Again, there will be a variety of Swedish food for sale, as well as beer, Pepsi products, and water The menu will include meatballs, a pork , mashed potatoes, cucumbers, lingonberries and more--menu—the final menu is being discussed with the chef.

It is important that you **DO NOT bring in food or beverages**. The terms of our contract with the management specify that and we don't want to endanger our ability to continue to hold Midsommar at a place that allows us to have the program we want at a convenient location.

Last of all, we still have a need for some additional volunteers. If you would like to be involved with the Midsommar program, please call Bev Wenzel at 262-781-6113 to see what you would be interested in helping with. We can promise that it will be fun!

**Matching donations**—If you are an active or retired employee of a company that matches donation. It's been suggested that you inquire about your donations to SAHSWI. One of our members works for a company that does this in addition to paying him \$10/hour for his volunteer work. If you have questions, please contact a board member.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Call 262-695-8630 or 262-781-6113 if you need further information or email us at:  
[swedishamericanhistoricalwisc@gmail.com](mailto:swedishamericanhistoricalwisc@gmail.com)

## *WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE IN MINNEAPOLIS?*

**Paper Dialogues--The Dragon and Our Stories:** February 19, 2022 – July 10, 2022



Throughout both Nordic and Chinese history, the dragon looms large, and the American Swedish Institute is hosting an exhibition that explores the similarities between Nordic and Chinese culture and tradition through an art form that traces its roots back more than 1500 years. Danish papercut artist Karin Bit Vejle and Chinese artist and Professor Xiaoguang Qiao began their cross-cultural collaboration in 2010. Over more than a decade, the partnership between Bit and Professor Qiao grew to become a world-traveling exhibition that explores the intersections of art, culture and tradition through papercuts that are impressively intricate

and at times massive in scale.

“The collaboration has been a learning process. We haven’t been able to talk directly to one another, but we have decoded each other and created a different kind of dialogue. I feel that I have seen his heart – that we look into each other’s soul. It has been fantastic to get to know another papercutting artist, a different culture and a different country like this.” – Bit

Bit and Professor Qiao approach their shared vision through varied styles of presentation. For example, Bit employs lighting and shadow to bring a three-dimensional presence to two-dimensional work mounted between panes of glass, while Professor Qiao’s 30-foot papercut dragon winds its way through space, commanding attention, and reverence.

For *Paper Dialogues*, Bit and Professor Qiao are joined by Layla May Arthur and Emma Reid, artists from Jersey in the British Channel Islands. Their work will be on display throughout Nelson Cultural Center and Turnblad Mansion on the campus of the American Swedish Institute. The exhibition is accompanied by educational workshops and events that encourage papercut artists of all skills and experience to join the conversation, and those unfamiliar with the art form to discover something new. The American Swedish Institute is the second stop on the exhibition’s US tour.

## **Stories, Stonework & Stewardship---A Campaign to Restore the Historic Turnblad Mansion and Carriage House**

Over nearly a century, through passionate stewardship and creativity, the [Turnblad Mansion](#) has become one of America’s premier historic houses and the heartbeat of a wide community. But our beloved Mansion is showing its age, and the deteriorating impact of time and weather have left their marks.

**The ASI has launched a \$22 million campaign** to rehabilitate the interiors and exteriors of the Mansion and Carriage House, and to reimagine the Mansion’s interior spaces for programs, gatherings and world-class exhibitions.

The project will restore and revive the Turnblad Mansion so that this historic home is preserved for future generations and can best serve our 21st-century visitors by sharing and prompting stories of how, through migration, people bring ideas that transform themselves and their communities. The project will also rehabilitate the Carriage House into an accessible, functional, and tasteful space for staff and volunteers that encourages creativity and collaboration.

For more information on the American Swedish Institute, refer to their website—[www.asimn.org](http://www.asimn.org).