

Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1:30 PM--THE FIRST "FIKA" MEETING
IN 2 YEARS AND IT WILL BE IN OUR NEW LOCATION:
MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH
9215 W BLUEMOUND ROAD IN MILWAUKEE.**

Don't miss this meeting. SAHSWI Board member and award-winning author **Martha Bergland** will present excerpts from her book **The Birdman of Koshkonong** published by **Wisconsin Historical Society Press**. The book describes the life of Naturalist **Thure Kumlien** and the **Swedish** settlement at **Lake Koshkonong**.

Martha Bergland will present a program entitled **'The Birdman of Koshkonong: the Life of Naturalist Thure Kumlien,'** The program is based on Martha's recent book about Kumlien, which was published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press.

Thure Kumlien was one of Wisconsin's earliest Swedish settlers and an accomplished ornithologist, botanist, and naturalist in the mid-1800s. He settled on the shore of Lake Koshkonong in 1843 and soon began sending bird specimens to museums and collectors in Europe and the eastern United States, including the Smithsonian. Later, he prepared natural history exhibits for the University of Wisconsin and became the first curator of the new Milwaukee Public Museum

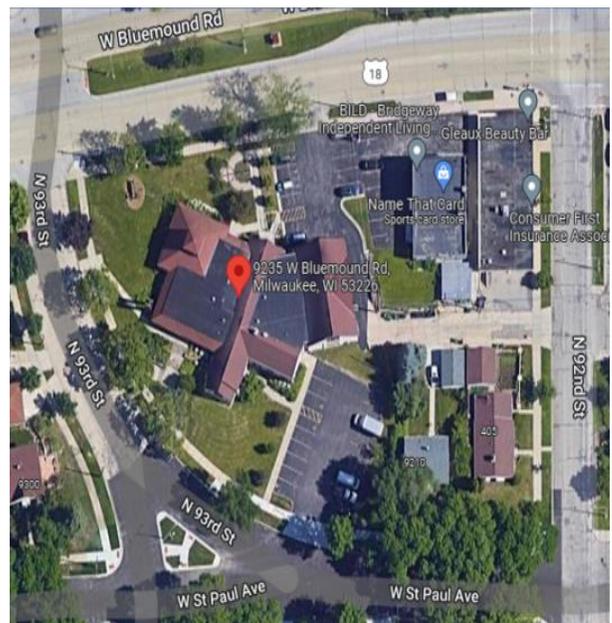


After the presentation enjoy "Fika," a cup of coffee with pastries and other treats together with members and others interested in this unique story, Swedish heritage and culture. After two years of social distancing, the time is right to come together to celebrate the history of Swedish immigration to Wisconsin.

Martin Luther Lutheran Church, located just east of the Milwaukee ZOO, offers newly renovated facilities (some renovation is still on-going), and plenty of parking around the church. Park either in small lot in front of the church or lower-level parking lot with entry from West St Paul Avenue, or use street parking on North 93rd Street. Use main church entry from West Bluemound Road or side entry from North 93rd Street. The Fellowship Hall is the regular meeting room; however, depending on the status of the renovation, part of meeting may be held in the sanctuary

The meeting is open to the public and at no charge.

For more information on the program or the location, please see the website: sahswi.org.



MARCH SPECIAL DAYS

This year with Easter not appearing until April, there aren't big holidays to celebrate in March. This doesn't mean, however, that food is forgotten.

Traditionally, semlor are eaten on Tuesdays in Lent although they are so popular, it seems they can be bought any day. Apparently, this disregard for custom can be blamed on a certain fictional character named **Ture Sventon**, private investigator. Ture, created by Åke Holmberg, is addicted to semlor, buys them by the dozen and carries them on his dangerous missions. Whether semlor provided him with protection on his missions will require more research or some help from readers who may remember the books or movies from their youth.

Våffeldagen on March 25 has become International Waffle Day. Waffles came to Sweden near the early 1600s and quickly spread to nearby lands. They were often eaten with jams and fruits, establishing themselves as a beloved treat to be eaten at all times of the day. The event in celebration of them was called Våffeldagen which sounded remarkably close to the religious Vårfrudagen (Annunciation Day or Lady Day) and the traditions merged.

Lady Day was considered the first day of spring and also the time when migratory birds started to return. One bird in particular, the crane, became part of the tradition. Some families observed 'Crane Eve' when children would hang their stockings which would be filled with fruit and small presents.

WEAVING EXHIBIT

Currently at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, there is an exhibit on textile art, presented by Sofia Hagström Moller. Hagström Moller had a two-week residency at the University, but this story really starts with her grandmother, Astrid Linnea Sofia Äng.

Äng was born in Småland in 1898. Many of her neighbors and some of her family moved to America for economic and religious reasons. According to the catalog **for Scandinavian Design and the United States** (an exhibition by **Monica Obniski** and Bobbye Tigerman) by the 1920s there were as many as 2.3 million immigrants from Scandinavia. They brought hand-crafted items and also the tools and skills needed to create them.

Astrid Linnea Sofia Äng, in Sweden, produced all kinds of textiles for daily use on the loom that her husband (Gustaf Algot Leonard Äng) built. She usually used shades of gray and white, but an example in the exhibit was woven in pale pink in a pattern called Daldräll.

Hagström Moller has carried the art to a new level through the use of UW's digital TC2 loom. This loom is computerized and can raise or lower each individual thread, thus creating amazingly complex patterns.

The exhibit is scheduled to run through April 3 at the Center for Design and Material Culture on the UW campus.

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