



Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.



2022



2023 Annual General meeting

Welcome & Announcements

- Holiday Folk Fair, November 17 – 19, 2023
- Lucia Celebration December 17, Fox Point Lutheran Church

Election of Directors

- Nominations

Annual Reports

- Secretary, Treasurer, President,
- Membership, Publicity, Programs, Hospitality, Midsommar, Genealogy, Historical Records, Historical Projects

Program

- Gotland – Rich in History, Tourist attraction
Presentation by SAHSWI Member Cookie Anderson

Fika

- Coffee and treats the Swedish way

2023



Holiday Folk Fair International

Need volunteers

Friday Nov 17

1. 8:45 am to 1 pm
2. 12:45 pm – 5 pm
3. 4:45 pm – 9 pm

Saturday November 18

1. 9:45 am to 1:30 pm
2. 1:15 pm to 5:15 pm
3. 5:00 pm to 9 pm

Sunday November 19

1. 9:45 am to 1:30 pm
2. 1:15 pm to 5:15 pm
3. 5:00 pm to 9 pm



Midsommar- June



Dalahorses



Daily Fika

SWEDEN



Sweden Water Ystad



Folk Dress



Stockholm - Capital of Sweden



Sankta Lucia - December Celebration

Election of Directors of the Board

- Expiring 3-year term
George Lovgren, and Joann Kreimendahl
- Nominating Committee Nominees for a 3-year term
 - John Engel and Tracy Redman
- Any other nominations from membership?

Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin, Inc.

2023 events



Lucia 2022



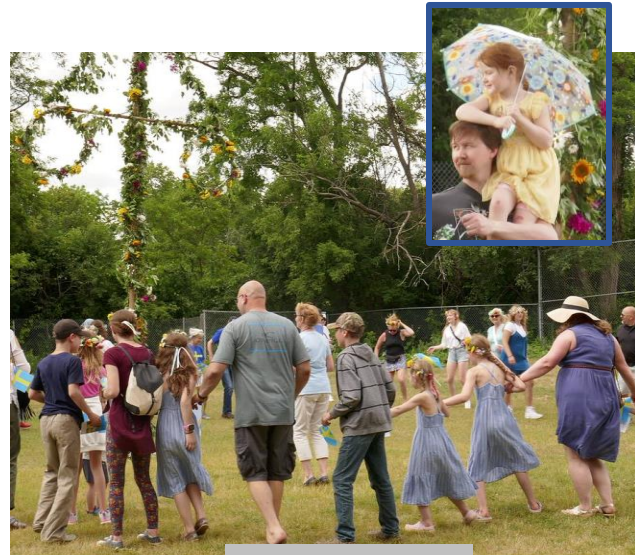
Swedish History on beer cans



Scandinavian Design



Swedish architecture for urban development



Midsommar



The Heritage Tour

Secretary Report

Submitted by Joann Kreimendahl, SAHSWI Secretary



SWEDISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN, INC.

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING October 22, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by President Jan Ehrengren with a Quorum present.

Announcements—

- The Milwaukee Consulate will close as the honorary consul, Johan Segerdahl, is retiring.

Annual Reports—All annual committee reports will be available on the website.

- Minutes—John Elliott moved and Bev Wenzel seconded to approve the 2021 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of directors--

The nominating committee, consisting of George Lofgren, Karin Konrad and Janet Taylor, presented the slate of nominations of board directors. Nominees are Martha Bergland, Jan Ehrengren, John Elliot and Irene Roberts. As there were no further nominations, Bev Wenzel moved to accept the slate and the motion was seconded.

Reviews

- Lucia
- Midsommar (Karin Konrad)
- Hospitality (Janet Taylor)

- 2022 Fika Meetings:
 - March – Thure Kumlien
 - May – Gustav Unonius
 - September – Swedish Foods (dedicated to Barbara Froemming)
- Membership (Bev Wenzel)
- Historical (Bev Wenzel) She commented that the move from Redemption Church necessitated decisions on what items should be kept and where others should be sent.
- Publicity
- Genealogy – John Engel is the leader and he has started regular meetings of the SGRG.
- Historical Projects—
 - Unonius
 - Friman
- Program (John Elliott)

Treasurer's Report—The report was presented by Irene Roberts and will be posted on the web.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:30.

Joann Kreimendahl,

Secretary

Treasury Report

Submitted by **Irene Roberts**, SAHSWI Treasurer



Treasury report is available to members only by contacting Secretary Joann Kreimendahl, jokre_76@yahoo.com.

Santa Lucia Day Celebration, Dec 2, 2022

- Record attendance, about **170 people** attended the 2022 Lucia celebration at the **Whitnall Park Lutheran Church** in Hales Corners
- The Program included Santa Lucia procession, Lucia song and Swedish Christmas Carols directed by **Sonia Hummel**
- **Josie German** was 2022 Lucia
- A poem was read for each candle in the Lucia crown.
- The story of Lucia was told by **Hans Shin**.
- Following the Lucia program, a Swedish Christmas **Smörgåsbord** (Julbord) was served including food and pastries all donated by SAHSWI members and other people attending the celebration.
- The children performed folkdances around the Christmas Tree (Julgran).
- **John Elliott** was Santa Claus handing out treats and bells to the children



Midsommar Celebration

June 25, 2023

From Annual Report - Midsommar Celebration Committee Janet Taylor and Karin Konrad

- This year's Midsommar Celebration was held on Sunday, June 25, at the Bavarian Bierhaus/ Heidelberg Park in Glendale.
- Thirty one SAHSWI members and friends set up the activity areas and welcomed approximately 150 visitors to the festivities. It was noticed that more children were present this year than previously.
- The weather was pleasant with only a short shower during the set-up. Small Swedish Flags were handed out to visitors.
- Traditional activities included decorating and raising the majstång and creating flower crowns.
- Childrens' activities included face painting and decorating with glitter tattoos, playing the corn hole game, tug-of-war and Kubb game. Children were awarded with small prizes.



- The **Bavarian Bierhaus** regular menu was supplemented with Swedish meatballs and mashed potatoes and a dessert.
- New for this year was a Genealogy Table where **John Engel** and an assistant could provide some basic genealogy research.
- A raffle basket with various Swedish items was new this year and proved very popular and many people stayed until it was raffled off.
- At the History Table visitors could learn about early settlers in Wisconsin and mark on a map where their own ancestors had settled in Wisconsin.
- **Liza Ekstrand** and **Karin Konrad** led the dancing and singing around the majstang. Fiddlers **Mary Stetson** and **Carol Gustafson** played Swedish Folk Music throughout the afternoon.
- Suggestions for next year include: Better sound system, better coordination between the instructions for the dancing and the music, safety protocol for the raising and take down of the majstang.
- Thank you to all the volunteers who created another successful Midsommar, and thanks in particular to those who headed up sections: **Susan and Del Worden, Brent Erickson, John Elliott, Elizabeth Elliott, Kris Laufer, John Engel, Renee Swanson-Boos, Martha Bergland, Jim Uhrinak, Liza Ekstrand, Mary Stetson and Carol Gustafson.**

Respectfully submitted, Karin Konrad and Janet Taylor

Hospitality

Submitted by Janet Taylor, Committee Chair

- Annual Report – Hospitality Committee 2023 During the Fika meetings held at Martin Luther Lutheran Church this year, members faithfully continued the Swedish tradition of Fika after the programs were concluded.
- In August, we also offered hospitality and refreshments at St. Anskar’s Episcopal Church in Hartland after the Heritage Tour of important sites in the lives of Swedish settlers in Wisconsin.
- Fika time at all of SAHSWI’s events is always a chance for members to relax, chat with friends, and make new friends while enjoying coffee and delicious treats. Visitors are consistently surprised by the variety of baked goods and other foods that appear on the Fika table.
- Thank you to all the people who generously helped fill the Fika smörgåsbord at each meeting and to everyone who has helped set up, serve, and clean up after our meetings. In particular, tack så mycket to Karin Konrad, Danielle Jackson, Irene Roberts, Kris Laufer, and Susan Worden.
- Respectfully submitted, Janet Taylor

FIKA RECIPES FROM MEMBERS



FIKA meetings – Programs committee report

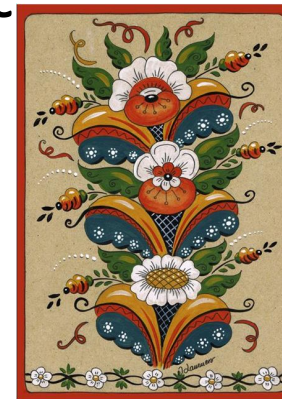
October 21, 2022 “Berggren Tiles”

John Elliott, SAHSWI Vice President discussed **Berggren tiles**, which are decorated in Swedish folk tradition style known as “**Dalmålningar**”.

- The Berggren tiles were made by **Berggren Trayner** company which was founded by Arthur and Audrey Berggren 1948.
- Berggren Tiles were popular during the 1960’s and is an example of **influence of Swedish design in America**.
- The folk painting from Dalarna, Sweden, is one of the most charming trademarks of Sweden.
- The floral **kurbits** and painted wall scenes have become known as the “Signature of Sweden.”
- John showed his collection of Berggren tiles
- Berggren sold his business to Bergquist Imports (Minnesota) in 1986

January 21, 2023 “Swedish History and Culture on a Beer can”

- **Del and Susan Worden’s** presentation of Swedish history and culture expressed on a unique media – beer cans.
- Del, a collector of beer cans from various countries, showed his collection of cans from Sweden manufactured in the 1970’s, and discussed the subjects the cans portrayed.
 - **The Birka Beer** series of 25 cans has historical information about the Vikings
 - **The Sami Drum** 5-can set show magical symbols only understood by a sorcerer called a “nåid” when he was establishing contact with the spiritual world.
 - **Brygghusöl** a 5-can series of beer “**you can afford to like**” picturing different common professions: The Miner, The Glass Blower, The Cook, The Market Woman
 - **Gränges Export Beer**, a set of cans picturing artworks from Swedish and foreign artists



FIKA meetings – Programs committee report

March , 2023: Scandinavian Design

Scandinavian Design based on the exhibition **Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890–1980** which was held at **Milwaukee Art Museum** from **March 24 to July 23, 2023**.

SAHSWI Vice President **John Elliott** introduced a discussion held via a podcast from the **Swedish House in Washington DC** where **Monica Obniski**, previous Demmer Curator of 20th and 21st Century Design at the Milwaukee Art Museum and **Dag Blanck**, Professor of North American Studies at Uppsala University in Sweden, presented and discussed **Scandinavian influence of design in the 20th century**.

May 13, 2023: Swedish Architecture

Former Milwaukee Mayor **John Norquist** presented a program about **Kjell Forshed**, Swedish architect who is focused on urban development creating housing for common people.

John compared trends in housing and urban development comparing Modernism to development championed by Kjell Forshed, focused on social interaction between people.

John and sister SAHSWI member Mary Stetson also spoke about their family history



Journal photo by George Cassidy
MAYOR JOHN O. NORQUIST and his father, the Rev. Ernest O. Norquist of Beaver Dam, watch during a ceremony Saturday to honor the US soldiers in the Persian Gulf. The mayor hung the first of 70 flags that will be displayed along Wisconsin Ave. The elder Norquist was a prisoner of war in Japan during World War II.



Left: Journal photo, text: Mayor John Norquist and his father, the Rev. Ernest O. Norquist of Beaver Dam, watch during a ceremony Saturday to honor the US soldiers in the Persian Gulf. The mayor hung the first of 70 flags that will be displayed along Wisconsin Ave. The elder Norquist was a prisoner of war in Japan during WorldWar II

Above: Mary (in the middle) playing the violin at **Midsommar** celebration at Old World Wisconsin



Membership

Submitted by **Bev Wenzel**, Membership Secretary

- 2023 - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT :
- The Membership Committee Secretary maintains contact information for our present SAHSWI membership of 123. This reflects nine new members who have joined our organization in 2023. Sadly, we have lost a few members through the year along with a few moving from the area and others no longer able to continue membership.
- To visit our membership is taking a tour of Wisconsin...from Bristol and Darien, to Sparta and LaCrosse, to Menomonie and Rhinelander and the many cities between. Outside of Wisconsin, we find members in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Arizona. Please contact us with any changes to your address, phone or email so we may keep these records current.
- At each Fika meeting or Society event, Membership Committee welcomes members and non-members. Non-members are invited to sign-in to receive a semi-annual listing of our events each year. This list has now grown to over 150 individuals who are contacted semi-annually with an email invitation to attend our coming meetings or events.
- If you have a name you would like added to this mailing list, please contact me at wenz113@outlook.com. We will also be happy to forward information about SAHSWI to any one you suggest. If you wish to contact a fellow member, a board or committee member, the Society email account is also available to you at swedishhistoricalwisc@gmail.com Your email will be relayed to the appropriate individual.
- REMEMBER: To receive the very latest news of the Society, sign in as a follower at our website www.sahswi.org.
- Respectfully submitted, Bev Wenzel, Membership Committee Secretary



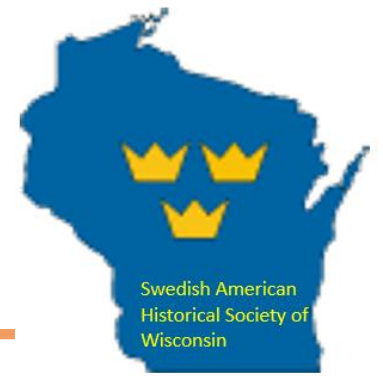
Historical Files

- Historical Files committee discontinued in 2023
- A review of society historical records conducted in 2022
- Since the beginnings of SAHSWI, **materials of historical value** have been preserved in our **society archives**.
- The archives include society records, documentation of activities and historical projects, and donations of interest from members.

Current process for Historical Records

- Appropriate hard copy documents and books are archived at Milwaukee County Historical Society
- Materials useful in planning by present board or committee members are being kept by Committee chairs
- Records of ongoing activities will be stored digitally in Society Cloud storage and website
- Any new donations received will be evaluated for historical value and directed accordingly.
- We welcome any donations of interest members may have to be considered for historical preservation or for use in our present society planning.

Swedish Genealogy



Swedish Genealogy Research Group (SGRG) Restarted Meetings in 2022

John Engel, SAHSWI member and genealogy expert is leading the group

46 SGRG members

Four meetings held at Martin Luther church: **Nov 19** 2022 meeting, **Feb 18**, 2023, **May 20**, 2023, **Aug 12**, 2023

Topics discussed

- Member introductions and research level
- Hitting a brick wall
- Deeper look into copyright laws of information available on genealogy websites
- Demonstration of using websites to research ancestry
- US Census records
- Using Arkiv Digital
- FaceBook groups
- Military records

Publicity



SAHSWI Website www.sahswi.org provides

- Information to the public about SAHSWI and Swedish American immigration to WI history
- Invitations to the public to all SAHSWI events
- Posts or blogs, “visitors” & “views” increasing, “followers” is now 238

SAHSWI Newsletter

- 5 Newsletters edited and distributed by Joann Kreimendahl

Other publicity

- Two mailings per year distributed to prospective member list (see also membership)
- Invitation to events sent to Swedish Consulate mailing list and Linde Lodge Vasa Order members
- Invitations sent to Nordic Council members organizations

SAHSWI Historical Projects

Unonius, New Upsala and the Scandinavian Parish State Historical Marker

- Project team: **Martha Bergland, Tracy Redman, John Yewer, Kirsten Benidt, Meg Haag, Sarah Hintz, Cletus Hasslinger and Jan Ehrengren**
- Most research and documentation was done in the fall of 2020 and in 2021, Formal application in June 2022, approval March 2023.

In 2023

- Final approval and ordering of the Historical Marker, delivery expected early 2024
- Fundraising, currently \$4200 raised, needed about \$15,000 (including landscaping around the marker)
- Evaluation of best location for the marker and design of landscaping.
- Continued documentation of researched material on SAHSWI website. Marker will have QR code with direct link to permanent website pages
- **Heritage tour**, visiting Nashotah House, the Holy Innocents Cemetery, Chenequa Village Hall (Site of the Gustaf Unonius, New Upsala monument), and at St. Anskar's Episcopal Church in Hartland.



Thank you!

