

"Since establishment in 1938, we have remained a not-for-profit corporation--organized exclusively for historical, educational, and charitable purposes. In harmony with this purpose is the preservation of Swedish-American history and culture of Rockford through such activities as the conservation of artifacts, museum displays and educational programs as we continue to host events to promote Swedish history and culture."

## SWEDISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### OFFICERS:

President: Michael Lunde  
1st Vice President: Lucretia Ristin  
Secretary: Jane Burden  
Treasurer: Steve Stromquist  
Past President: Bo Hammarberg

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Linnea Bengtsson  
Betsy Carlson  
Gail Daughtry  
Mitchell Johnson  
Cindy Karr  
Linda Larson  
Leah Nelson  
Barry Nyquist  
Randy Paul-Peterson

### HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS:

Barbara Lunde  
Richard Marsh



## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We are in the midst of celebrating our 75th Anniversary this year. Our journey began in 1938 when a dedicated group of Swedes gathered at a library to form the Swedish Historical Society. The memories of the past will always be treasured as we expand our vision in the years ahead.

Our mission to preserve Swedish heritage and the beautiful Erlander Museum is of utmost importance. We continue to reach out into the community with cultural exchanges, tourism and economic growth. Borgholm, on the island of Oland is our Sister City, and Lidköping and Rockford have a Industrial Trade Agreement that has nurtured business, student and nursing exchanges.

We have exciting news to share regarding progress on the Harold and Marion Carlson Cultural Center. In 2002 Swedish Historical had a vision of a new building. As time passed, it became cost prohibitive due to the endowment necessary and building costs. We still have the same vision of "Connecting Generations and Community" in all that we do.

A house on the northwest corner from our beautiful Erlander Home Museum went into foreclosure. With an open mind and much thought, this building was purchased at a most reasonable cost. We envision this facility meeting our needs very similar to what the new building would have done. It is a very sound brick structure that has been thoroughly inspected. The new property will be used to share a cup of coffee, children's activities and many other ideas that the board & members have discussed for its use.

Your membership in Swedish Historical Society facilitates staying connected to your Swedish heritage. Your support allows us to continue to educate, entertain and inspire.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our exciting upcoming events!

- Michael Lunde

## SAVE THE DATE:

**- April 25th, 2015 -**

Celebrating 75 & 40 years promoting Swedishness across generations!

The Swedish Council of America will hold their Annual Board Meeting and join the Swedish Historical Society in holding a combined Gala.

## CAMP SWEDEN 2014:

Camp Sweden has become a Swedish Historical Society tradition. This past summer in the third week of July, a group of young people once again gathered to laugh

and learn at the Erlander Home Museum. We gathered in the library to learn about the Swedish and Scandinavian traditions of Påsk, Midsommar and Jultide. The students made Midsommar poles, God Jul banners, and Påskris. They assembled treats like semlor, jordgubbstårta, and baked pepparkaka bread and tasted typical Swedish foods during snack time. The kids also learned some Swedish songs, and listened to Swedish stories and folklore.

On Tuesday we headed over to the Midway Village Museum to tour the new "Many Faces/One Community" Exhibit featuring storefronts and rooms replicating immigrant communities in

Rockford at a Swedish parlor and furniture company. The tour also included the story of Bert Hassell and the restored plane that he flew in an attempted flight from Rockford to Stockholm in 1928.

Each afternoon we went outside to the backyard and relaxed on the lawn for a Swedish lesson with Mr. & Mrs. Gredenius. Bertie Holmgren came one day with his guitar to sing and share memories of his time at home in Sweden when he was a young lad. Our SHS president Michael Lunde even stopped by to teach us how to play Kubb. On our final day we enjoyed a scavenger hunt and Fika with parents and friends. Camp Sweden is a

wonderful way for young people to come together to have fun learning about and celebrating Swedish heritage. For more information please call the Swedish Historical Society.



## KUBB WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



Eric Anderson, Eric Goplin, Cole Vryens, David Ellringer, Scott Graham and Aaron Ellringer pose at the Kubb World Championship, which took place Aug. 1-2 in Sweden. The majority of the team is from Eau Claire, with the exception of Goplin and Vryens, from Minneapolis. They finished second out of 181 teams. Eric Anderson is a member of the Swedish Historical Society and has helped us put on the Kubb Tournaments each year. Congratulations to the team!

## LIDKÖPING STUDENT & TEACHER EXCHANGE:

Swedish Nurse Students and Teachers from the City of Lidköping were in Rockford for close to three weeks as part of an international health care nurse program. The group has a program at SwedishAmerican Hospital and also spent time in the class room at Rock Valley College and Rockford University. Other plans include visits to

Crusader Clinic, the Resource and Intervention Center as well as a tourist visit to the Erlander Home. The program was funded by the SwedishAmerican Foundation and the City of Lidköping. The group was in Rockford March 27 to April 12.

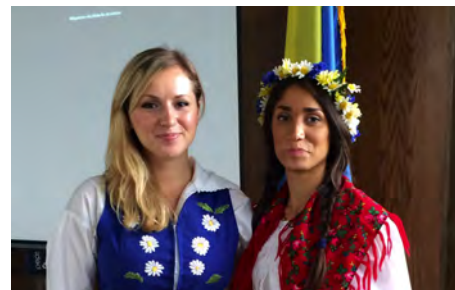


## PEACE POLES:

The Rockford Peace Coalition Commission has been working actively for several years to promote peace in Rockford. A key event has been the International Day of Peace in September at the Puri-Keeling Peace Plaza. Over 1,000 students gather to partake in activities including learning about Borgholm, Rockford's Swedish Sister City, in the Sister City Tent.

The Swedish Historical Society's Board has chosen to "plant" a peace pole in their gardens. This pole has the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four languages, including: English, Swedish, Norwegian and Danish.

## SWEDISH STUDENTS AT ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY:



Two stunning Swedish students are currently attending Rockford University for the fall semester. Gresa and Shammeron have known each other for two years and attend the University of Skövde (Sister School of Rockford University). They decided that they would enrich their university experience by studying a semester here in America. Both are majoring in social psychology and agree that this decision has been the best one they have made.

Gresa was born in Kosovo and moved to Sweden with family before she was two years old. This is her second trip to America, since spending only a week in New York.

Shammeron's family also moved to Sweden (from Iraq) around the same age as Gresa; both women



## CALENDAR:

- **Sept 21: Ethnic Heritage Festival** (insert)
- **Sept 24: Meet & Greet** with designer Laurie Jacobi at the home of Phil and Cherri Eaton
- **Sept 25: Fashion Show Luncheon** for Swedish designer Laurie Jacobi at Anderson Japanese Gardens (insert)
- **Oct 15: Movie Night** at Katie's Cup; Enjoy a Swedish subtitled film, popcorn and treats. 7th Street, 6:30pm. RSVP: 815-708-6773; \$5
- **Dec 3: Glogg & Pepparkakor** at the Emerson House, 406 N Main 5-7pm. Members: \$10, non-members: \$12
- **Dec 5: Lucia Celebration Concert**, "Festival of Light." 7:30pm, 1st Lutheran Church
- **Dec 6: Julmarknad:** Breakfast with Tomten, meatball luncheon, vendors, & much more! 9am-3pm, Trinity Lutheran Church

are examples of Sweden's changing demographics. Sham has never been to America but has found a place of community at the University and is anxious to meet many new friends.

These ladies have already made many friends in and outside of the international community. They are wonderful ambassadors of Swedish culture. They are thrilled to see so much "Swedishness" here in Rockford and are looking forward to celebrating Lucia with us. We hope that Rockford will embrace them, too, as they will be wonderful spokeswomen for us when they return to Sweden.

**Contact:** Gresa at gresa.shosholli@hotmail.com  
Shammeron at shammo\_88@hotmail.com

### **Study abroad at the University of Skövde?**

**Contact:** Maria Diemer of Rockford University  
815-394-5112 or mdiemer@rockford.edu.  
(Undergraduate and graduate programs available)

## TRIP TO BORGHOLM:

On August 13th, Damaris and Dave Sutton and daughters, Britt, Shannon, and Kirsten, traveled to Sweden visiting Damaris' relatives. While there, they visited Borgholm with cousins, Mats and Urban Gustafsson



and families, meeting Borgholm's Mayor Lisbeth Lennartsson.



They also saw the tree donated by Rockford to Borgholm's City Square in July 2011, and later visited Borgholm Castle and Solliden's Palace Garden.

"Thanks to Barb Lunde for helping us set up the connection as well as the pins and book of Oland given to us as keepsakes by the Mayor. Great memories were made that day for us Rockford residents." -Sutton Family

## JACOB'S WELL ("BRUNN"):

In the collection at the Erlander Home Museum is a key. This key opened the well located at the northeast corner of 7th Street & 6th Avenue and it was used by Swedish families in that neighborhood from 1860-1870 to obtain good drinking water for 25¢ per month. 'Jacob's well, was for many years the only water supply in the 7th Street district. The well was located on property owned by Gustav Floberg, who came to Rockford in 1866. He started the well that year with assistant Johannes Stensrom, who came to Rockford in 1862 and settled on the northwest corner of 7th Street and 6th Avenue. Others who helped were Stenstrom's neighbor to the north, Sven Flygare and Lewis P. Anderson who became one of the owners of the well.

The name of 'Jakob's Brunn' as a well was given when Gustave Floberg sold the property to the Jacobson family in 1871. Mrs. C.J. Lundberg, Evans and Julian Jacobson are grandchildren of the Jakobsons, after whom the well was named. Mrs. Henry W. Doebereiner, daughter of Lewis P. Anderson, who lives at 7th Street and 6th Avenue, still has one of

the original keys used for the well.

In 1948, East High School Swedish classes presented a skit based on the well. By this time, the key had been presented to the Swedish Historical Society by the Henry Doebereiners, who continued to own the land. In May of 1948, the Burpee Art Museum mounted an exhibit of Swedish Arts and Crafts which was part of a series of programs to celebrate the centennial of Swedes in America.

Now, in 2014, we celebrate over 375 years of Swedish influence in America and 75 years of the Swedish Historical Society. It is fitting that we recognize donors and sponsors of our organization for their vision to keep history alive for future generations. Presently, we can grow further by working globally with Sweden to improve our local economy.

## BERGSTROM:

Our founding industries were started by Swedish, German, Italian, and Irish immigrants. They have had a substantial impact on Rockford's economic success and the country's history. Some companies have remained for 50 years or more, but it is not the norm for many companies to continue into their sixtieth year, much less their sixty-fifth.

Bergstrom Manufacturing has been celebrating this milestone, their 'Sapphire' anniversary in 2014 with world-wide presentations and tributes. June 27th, here in Rockford, was the local celebration with an event at the BMO Harris Bank Center for over 1000 in attendance. The Rockford Symphony Orchestra, Kantorei Boys Choir, Mendelssohn Chorale, and Rockford Dance Company all performed onstage during a catered meal. Special video presentations were created to rally patriotism to our country (This is America), loyalty to our city's history (This is Rockford), and an informational reflection on Bergstrom Manufacturing (This is Bergstrom). It is Dave Rydell's (President of Bergstrom)

MAILING ADDRESS LABEL



## MEMBERSHIP & OPPORTUNITIES

wish to get these DVDs into all Rockford Schools.

If you are a teacher, or have reason to use this wonderful set of videos, Bergstrom would love to have you get your own copy. Contact them at 815.873.0174 or at 2390 Blackhawk Road, Rockford, IL 61109.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

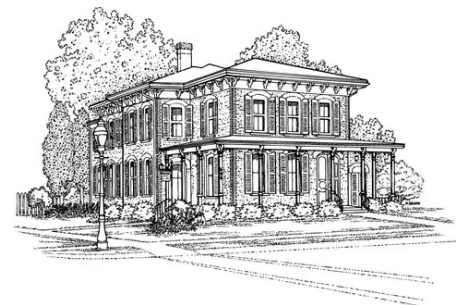
SHS is a non for profit organization that functions only because of the efforts of its volunteers. Through the generosity of the time and donations provided by volunteers, we are able to sustain the operations of the Erlander Home Museum as well as

stage events such as Midsommar, Lucia and Julmarknad. It is our hope that each of our members would consider including SHS in there giving. Through your generosity we can be assured that our proud Swedish heritage will never be forgotten.

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. There is no financial gain involved. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun.

SHS & the Erlander Museum operate with all volunteers, no paid staff. We never have enough volunteers and we are asking YOU to help us out. With new committees and events being planned we need YOUR help and talent. For more information call the office at (815)966-5559.



Visit us on Facebook by searching “**Swedish Historical Society**”.



Visit our website: **[www.swedishhistorical.org](http://www.swedishhistorical.org)**.  
Membership renewal, contributions, & event updates.

Monday - Friday tours are by appointment only with a 48 hour advance notice.  
Call the office at (815) 963-5559 for your reservation.  
We are closed on Sundays until March.