

Scandinavian

Happenings in the Greater Jamestown Area

March 2015

YMCA CAMP ONYAHSA



Curt Westrom, John O' Brian, Durand Peterson

At the December meeting of the Scandinavian Studies Program, Durand Peterson and Curt Westrom, chair and treasurer of the board, presented a \$38,000 check to Jon O'Brian, director of the YMCA Onyahsa Camp, to renovate an existing building at the camp. The renovated building will be the "Scandinavian Studies Program Stuga" (stuga is Swedish for cottage). It will honor the local tradition of Scandinavian handcrafts, while serving as the center for the YMCA resident youth camp's craft activities. The building, which faces Chautauqua Lake, will incorporate Swedish architectural elements, re-use an extant building in an environmentally responsible manner, and will tie into the Camp's motif. Said

O'Brian, "Thank you so very much for this very generous gift to our *Fantastic Future* funding initiative. It was a gift similar to this that started the camp back in 1897." Camp Onyahsa serves about 160 meals at each serving over the summer, when 1,600 children enjoy the camp during the 9-week season. Camp Onyahsa has enjoyed the collaboration over the years with the Scandinavian Studies Program. Mr. Peterson and Mr. Westrom both expressed their excitement in being able to provide this long-term assistance to the youth at Camp Onyahsa. The Scandinavian Studies Program was started in 1986 and brought together the local Swedish organization; such as Norden Club, Thule Lodge #127 VASA Order of America, Vikings Lodge IOV #65, American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation, Salvation Army, and several Lutheran churches. It sponsors several events each year, as well as the culture day program held at JCC the first Saturday of the month. For more information on the Scandinavian studies Program, you may call Don Sandy at 716-665-0883.

Thule Lodge #127 Officers for 2015

The Thule Lodge, located at 4123 Pancake Hill Road, has installed the officers for the lodge for the year 2015. The Thule Lodge was organized 107 years ago to help the Swedish immigrants to become settled in the United States. Many Swedish immigrants settled in the Jamestown area finding employment in various industries such as the many furniture factories. Today the Thule lodge continues with its purpose to preserve the Swedish heritage with events and activities. Thule Lodge will begin its 108 year of activities in March of 2015, after taking a midwinter break.

Back row, from left, are Edwin Sandberg, past chairman and past New York District master; Diane Shaw, lodge chaplain; Bernice Veights, assistant mistress of ceremony; Ralph Veights, Wayne Nelson and Tim Miller, who are trustees/auditors; and Donna Johnson, mistress of ceremony. Front row are: Sonja Pascatore, cultural leader; Lynne Meyers, recording secretary; Tom Eckberg, lodge chairman; Susan W. Sipos, lodge vice chairman; Loretta Smith, who will serve as the financial secretary/treasurer. John Sipos will serve as the lodge historian. *Photograph by John Sipos, Lodge Historian*



SCANDINAVIAN FOLK FESTIVAL

Plans are well underway for the 14th Annual Scandinavian Folk Festival, which will again be held at the Gerry Rodeo Grounds, in Gerry, New York, on July 17, 18, and 19.

We are pleased to announce that the ABBA Girlz will be returning. Also, Jeanne Erickson Widman Anderson with Smorgasbandet has found her way back and will be performing as well. Smorgasbandet has been very popular with festival goers. Peter Puma Hedlund, world champion nyckelharpa player from Sweden, will also be back. We'll have our usual local groups as well: Svenska Spelman, Viking Chorus, and the Thule Lodge dancers. The Viking Ship will be on display as well.

The lecture on meat markets was very well received last year, and this year a presentation on the local Swedish bakeries is planned. Confirmed lectures also include, Swedish Language by Jeff Kroon, Finding your Genealogic Roots by Karen Livsey, and Folk Costumes by Julie Boozer and Sonja Pascatore.

In conjunction with the lecture on the Swedish bakeries, the cooking contest will be for limpa rye bread. Visit the website at www.scandinavianjamestown.org to learn more about a the festival and volunteer opportunities.

THE CHAUTAUQUA ROOM

You may not be aware, but there is a special room in the back corner of the JCC Hultquist Library called the Chautauqua Room. It contains some memorabilia of past events and many, many books; and it is there for



you to enjoy or to use as a meeting room. The Scandinavian Studies Program started in 1986, and they needed a place to gather for meetings and to store the memorabilia it had acquired. So in early 1992, working closely with Paul Benke, who was President of JCC at the time, this room was designated for that purpose and named the "Chautauqua Room." The Norden Club and ASHF both donated very nice wooden cabinets, and these are used to display items of interest, such as Norwegian rosemaling and other items given by various Swedish dignitaries visiting Jamestown. There is also an exquisite replica of the WASA ship that sank on its first sailing in the Stockholm harbor. This replica was handmade by a local artisan.

Many of the books have been donated by local Swedish families. Among them are *Plays by August Strindberg*, *A History of the Swedish People* by Vilhelm Moberg, *Scandinavian Living Design*, *Norwegian Folklore*, *From Sweden to America* by Harald Runblom and Hans Norman, and several copies of *Saga From the Hills* by M. Lorimer Moe – just to name a few.

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NELS JOHN LINNE NELSON



The Scandinavian Community said good-bye to Nels John Linne Nelson. He was 93 when he passed away on January 1, 2015. Formerly of Schuyler Street and Delevan Avenue in Jamestown, he came to the United States through Ellis Island in 1926, he was born July 21, 1921, in Goeteryd, Sweden; a son of the late Hokan George and Anna Kristina Johansson Nelson.

He was a graduate of Frewsburg High School and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy serving from Sept. 27, 1942, to March 13, 1946. During his tour of duty, he received the World War II Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal with two stars, and the Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal with 11 stars. He served on the USS Mobile, patrolling the Pacific Ocean. Before his retirement in 1984, he was employed as a salesman for the SM Flickinger Company where he worked for 44 years. He was a member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; the Thule Lodge No. 127 VASA Order of America, where he served as Lodge Chairman in 1981; and was a member of the Men's Degree Team. He was also a life member of the Ingjald Lodge No. 65 Independent Order of the Vikings and a member of the American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation. John was also a volunteer driver for the American Cancer Society and was a topic of discussion in the book, "Our Scandinavian Heritage," a collection of memories by the Norden Clubs of Jamestown, N.Y. Surviving are his wife of 66 years, Alberta Lois Anderson Nelson, whom he married June 5, 1948; a son, J. Steven (Lynn M. Johnson) Nelson of Jamestown; a daughter, Debra Kay (Jud) White of Westfield, NY; four grandchildren: Eliza L. Nelson of Miami, FL, Ashley M. (Christopher) Sheldon of Cincinnati, OH; Ryan L. Johnson of Cleveland, OH; Krista N. Johnson of Seattle, WA; a sister, Allie Stina L. Withers of Jamestown; a nephew, Dr. David J. Withers of Scranton, PA, as well as several other nieces and nephews and many cousins in Sweden. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by a brother in law Sydney Withers who died Aug. 6, 2007.

DECEMBER'S JULMARKNAD



PIPPI LONGSTOCKING

The year, 2015, marks the 70th anniversary of the "Pippi Longstocking" book series by beloved Swedish author, Astrid Lindgren. It's the story of an unconventional nine year old girl, who is assertive, mischievous, spunky and the "strongest girl in the world". To commemorate this anniversary, the 2015 Scandinavian Folk Festival will hold a "Pippi" contest for girls ages 8 to 12. Contestants should portray Pippi as close as possible in appearance to Lindgren's books and the original 1969 film starring Inger Nilsson. Costumes must be original (no commercial costumes). Contestants should also represent the animated Pippi personality, with a mischievous, spunky attitude, and sparkle. Details can be found in the Lindgren books and film.



Starting March 20, application forms will be available online at www.scandinavianjamestown.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ScandinavianJamestown, and on April 4 at the Culture Day held at the Jamestown Community College's Hamilton Collegiate Center's cafeteria area from 10 a.m. to noon. All applications must be completed in full and postmarked by April 20 and mailed to: Sonja Fransson Pascatore, 3059 Garfield Road, Jamestown, NY 14701. Auditions will be live "in costume" at the JCC Culture Days on Saturday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m. Winners will be notified by phone by May 20. There will be one winner and several runner-ups, depending on the number of entries. The winner will receive a prize of \$50 and free adult weekend admission as the official "Pippi Longstocking" at the 2015 Scandinavian Folk Festival held at the Gerry Rodeo Grounds on July 17, 18 and 19. Winner must have their own transportation to the Festival and must be available for various two-hour shifts during the three days to move around the Festival; including photos with Festival attendees, signing autographs, sharing Pippi stories, and handing out small gifts or candy provided by the Festival. The parent/guardian of the winner and runner-ups must agree to accompany the participant at the Festival at all times and sign a liability waiver form. Runner ups will also receive one free pass to the Festival and will also be asked to participate in various two-hour shifts at the Festival acting as "Pippi". All contestants will receive a free one-day adult pass (children are free) for Saturday, July 18, to participate in the 11:00 a.m. Midsummer opening parade, and all must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For further information on the contest, please contact Julie Boozer at 814-757-8701 or Sonja Fransson Pascatore at 716-488-9276.