

Scandinavian

Happenings in the Greater Jamestown Area

July 2015

SCANDINAVIAN FOLK FESTIVAL 2015

The fourteenth annual Scandinavian Folk Festival will be held July 17, 18, and 19, 2015 at the Gerry Rodeo Grounds. It promises to be an outstanding year with major entertainment, lectures, exhibits, workshops, food, vendors and special events. The purpose is to celebrate our personal as well as this region's Scandinavian heritage and pass it along from one generation to another.

Highlighting the entertainment is the return of the ABBA tribute band, now known as Dancing Dream. There were Festival visitors dancing in the isles last year which is sure to happen again. Smorgasbandet, led by Jenne Erickson Anderson, will present traditional Scandinavian music for dancing and listening. World champion nyckelharpa player, Peter Puma Hedlund from Sweden, will perform as well as offer lectures. Agnetha and Jan Sallstrom from Sweden will help us understand Swedish songs in English. Svenska Spelman, the Viking Chorus and Thule's Folk Dance Teams round out the entertainment.

Exhibits include folk costumes, the Tre Kronor Castle, the local Viking Lodge Ingjald #65, and early Swedish bakeries. Details about the lecture series are in a separate article.



Special events include the midsummer celebration at 11 AM on Saturday, July 18. The procession of the midsummer pole by the folk dancers and Festival musicians will be followed by community ring dancing around the pole. Bring a flower from your garden to add to the pole in honor of your ancestors. There will be a rye bread baking contest with all entries being submitted between 2 and 5 PM on Saturday with prizes of \$50 and \$25 presented at 7 PM. Entries, including the recipe, will be judged based on appearance, taste and authenticity of the recipe to Swedish traditions. Jeff Kroon, besides leading a Kubb contest, will also have a corner where only Swedish will be spoken for those who would like to listen to Swedish and those who would like to speak it. Karen Livsey will offer the opportunity to do some Swedish genealogical research. (Bring the information you have.)



The Culture Tent will offer a series of workshops such as card weaving, Swedish weaving, chip carving, Swedish painting and the opportunity to make a number of items. Peter "Pekka" Olson, a Finnish style woodcarver from Upper Michigan, will conduct a unique workshop that will introduce a basic wood-shaving technique to create a Finnish Shaving Tree (Lastukuusi.) This two hour workshop is limited to 6 students who need to be age 15 and older. If interested, reserve your spot by calling 716-665-0883. David Earl Miller will create two framed prints of a Swedish scene with soft pastels. Both will be raffled.

The Child and Family Tent will be open throughout the Festival with a variety of activities available. Several workshops will be scheduled.

This year again, one can enjoy a platter of Scandinavian food or purchase items individually. Don't forget Norm's world famous Korv burgers. Thule's Folk Dance team will prepare Swedish pancakes on Sunday morning. Take a break with a cup of Swedish coffee and an ice cream sundae at the Kaffe Stuga. Other vendors will provide additional food items.

The Festival will have its Gift Shop, Loppis (flea market) and Hemslojdsbutik (Handicraft Store) open all weekend. A number of other vendors from around the East coast will also be present. There are many opportunities for gift and Christmas shopping.

This is just a summary of the highlights for this year's Festival. For more details check out the website at scandinavianjamestown.org or call 716-665-0883. The Festival provides a wide variety of activities to be Nordic for the weekend and celebrate the Scandinavian culture.



SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES PROGRAM STUGA

As was reported in the last newsletter, the Scandinavian Studies Program presented Jon O'Brian, director of the YMCA Camp Onyahsa, with \$38,000 to renovate an existing building at the camp that will be the Scandinavian Studies Program Stuga (Swedish for cottage). The stuga is nearly complete for Phase I. This phase included the physical relocation of the Camp's old crafts shop to a new, lakefront location, and setting it on a new concrete foundation. It is now over two feet higher than it was originally, which allows for a short basement for tornado shelter, storage, and to run future utilities such as heat ducts. It has a large deck and a beautiful view of the lake. The stuga will honor the tradition of Scandinavian handicrafts and of cooperative living, and will also be used by the Scandinavian Studies Program for events.

Soon, volunteers will side the stuga to match the other rustic buildings. This volunteer project will reduce costs and will be undertaken during the first weeks of July. Anyone with carpentry experience is welcome to help. Please contact Jon O'Brian for more information at 716-664-2802 or 716-753-5244.

Future phases might include winterizing the stuga for year-round use and building a porch roof on the structure. The Camp is very appreciative for the support it has received from the Scandinavian Studies Program and looks forward to the developing collaboration.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Winners of the Scandinavian Folk Festival 2015 "Pippi Longstocking Contest" were presented at the May 2nd Scandinavian Culture Day at JCC. These two talented young women will portray Pippi Longstocking at the three-day Scandinavian Folk Festival on July 17, 18 and 19, 2015, at the Gerry Rodeo Grounds. On the left is Alexis Hughan, first runner up, and on the right is Baylin Dunlap, first prize winner. Both are from Jamestown. Baylin is a student at Lincoln Middle School, and Alexis is home-schooled. Come to the festival to hear them tell Pippi Longstocking stories and participate in Pippi activities. Pippi Longstocking is the beloved literary creation of Astrid Lindgren from Vimmerby, Sweden. A universal children's favorite, it has been translated into 64 languages around the world. The Festival will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its publication during its lecture series in a talk by Dr. Wesley Boozer about the significance of Astrid Lindgren's work.



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2015 STANDINAVIAN FOLK FESTIVAL LECTURE SERIES

The purpose of the Scandinavian Festival is to preserve and celebrate the rich heritage of the many Norse immigrants who settled in this region in the last half of the 19th C. and the first half of the 20th C. The purpose of the lecture series is to preserve this Nordic heritage by presenting a variety of historical and timely topics so that there is something of interest to everyone.

The Friday, July 17th Lecture Schedule

6-6:50 PM: The Nyckelharpa Peter Puma Hedlund, one of Sweden's most talented and respected musicians will present a brief history of the nyckelharpa, the traditional stringed instrument of the 15th century, which had such a significant influence on early Swedish music. Throughout the weekend, Peter will be performing his musical magic on the nyckelharpa in the Entertainment tent.

7:00-7:50: Why Is This Region Swedish? Stories of the First Swedes. Southwestern New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania, centered around Jamestown, experienced a major influx of Swedish immigrants from the 1850s to the 1920s. Why did this occur? How did it all get started? This presentation by Don Sandy and John Everett Jones will share updated research and tell stories of the people who unknowingly led the way.

The Saturday, July 18th Lecture Schedule

12:00-12:45: Scandinavian Folk Costumes (Folkdrakt) Sweden's unique and authentic folk costumes speak to the richness of their culture through their vivid color combinations, their intricate embroidery, their uniquely artistic patterns and their flowing lines. Centuries ago, each Parish and Province had their own unique costume, displaying distinctive local characteristics. Sonja Fransson Pascatore and Dr. Julie Lindblom Boozer will share their knowledge of "folkdrakt" with authentic costumes imported from Sweden and Norway.

1:00-1:50: Genealogy: Finding Your Roots Learn how to find your ancestors from Karen Livesy, the archivist at the Fenton History Center in Jamestown, who will explain the resources available locally, as well as those available on the Internet. How to get started finding your family roots and where to find help in your search will be emphasized.

2:00-2:50: The Nyckelharpa (See description above.)

3:00-3:50: Tre Kronor Castle Researcher/architect Michael Lindner, creator of the Tre Kronor (*Three Crowns*) castle model on exhibit in the Display Area, will present a virtual castle tour that will take us back through time as this castle evolves from a single 12th century tower-keep, into a Renaissance palace of the Swedish Empire.

4:00-4:50: Astrid Lindgren: Pippi Longstocking's 70th Anniversary In celebration of the 70th anniversary of Pippi Longstocking, Dr. Wesley Boozer, will explore the wonder of the beloved protagonist of these internationally popular books of the same name, written by Astrid Lindgren, the world's 18th most translated author.

5:00-5:50: Early Swedish Bakeries of Jamestown Three representatives will review the history of Swedish bakeries in Jamestown. Richard Ecklof Jr. owner of Ecklof Bakery on Foote Avenue, Sean Jones from Valhalla Bakery and Restaurant, and Skip Axelson who used to work for Hedberg's Bakery will be on the panel. There will also be an early Swedish bakery exhibit of photos and artifacts in the display area.

6:00-6:50: The Näverlur, The Historic Swedish Horn Rick Lundquist will introduce the sounds of the Festival's Näverlur, a sleek five foot long traditional Swedish wooden horn. There will be an opportunity for members of the audience to participate in playing this unique horn.

7:00-7:50: Simply Swedish – An Introduction Jeffrey Kroon will present an introductory level sampling of Swedish greetings, common phrases and everyday vocabulary in an informal and interactive session that will have participants feeling and sounding Swedish! Absolutely no prior Swedish language study or knowledge is required.

The Sunday, July 19th Lecture Schedule

12:00-12:50: Why Is This Region Swedish? Stories of the First Swedes.(See description above.)

1:00-1:50: Tre Kronor Castle (See description above.)

2:00-2:50: Astrid Lindgren: Pippi Longstocking's 70th Anniversary (See description above.)

3:00-3:50: Simply Swedish – An Introduction (See description above.)

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES PROGRAM SPONSORS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

For many years, the Scandinavian Studies Program sponsored a student exchange program with Sweden. After a few years of no applicants, the committee agreed to change it to an internship program locally, as there are two Sweden-based manufacturers in Jamestown: TitanX and SKF Aeroengine. Both companies were very willing to participate. Since that time, one intern has been placed at TitanX. Students who are interested in pursuing an internship, should call Felix Muzza at Jamestown Community College at 716-338-1381.