

Scandinavian

Happenings in the Greater Jamestown Area

Summer 2019

Celebrate our Scandinavian Heritage

The Scandinavian heritage of Southwestern New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania will be celebrated at the Scandinavian Folk Festival. Jamestown Community College will continue to be where it all happens on Friday July 19 from 1 PM to 9:30 PM, Saturday July 20 from 10 AM to 9 PM and Sunday July 21 from 10 AM to 4 PM. The physical space of this year's Festival is much smaller as compared to last year but with no loss of points of interest.



Entertainment at this year's Festival includes a three-member band from New York City with the tasty name Swedish Meatballs. Simple Gifts, a string duet from central Pennsylvania, will perform with a wide variety of instruments. Unique this year is a performance by The Probables, a rhythm-driven, folkcana/roots rock band from Jamestown, NY on Friday night at 8 PM only. Another highlight is the folk dancing by the Toronto Swedish Folk Dance Team and our own Thule Lodge Adult and Children's



Swedish Folk Dance Teams. The Vasa Voices from Cleveland, Ohio will round out the program. Other local performers include Svenska Spelmän, the Viking mixed chorus, and comedian Peter Hofert.

Over 35 Swedish folk dancers and 10 musicians from Toronto and Jamestown will lead the procession of the midsummer pole on Saturday July 20 at 11 AM. The morning begins at 10 AM with decorating the pole (bring flowers from your garden or a meadow to honor your ancestors) and making midsummer head wreaths. Once the 18ft pole is erected, it is time for traditional ring dancing around the pole. No experience required. Just follow the leader with instruction provided. This tradition celebrates the long sunny days of summer as compared to the long dark days of winter. It is an opportunity to literally follow in the footsteps of Scandinavian ancestors.

The Festival is an educational event with 16 lectures being offered. The curator of the Swedish American Museum in Philadelphia will tell the story of the Swedish Colony that lasted from 1638 to 1655. Local topics include religion of the early Swedes, a portrayal of a young Swedish girl arriving in Jamestown in the 1880s, a report on why the Swedes came to this region in the first place, ways this community is still Swedish and the story of an ancestor who arrived 150 years ago. One can learn about the Swedish language, genealogy, folk costumes, rare antique Swedish dolls, the Viking Drum and Bugle Corp, Astrid Lindgren, and the Vikings in North America. The Thule Folk Dance Team will share the stories of their recent educational trip to Sweden. The winner of the Swedish reality television show "Allt för Sverige" will tell his story.



One of the most comprehensive exhibits of Scandinavian folk costumes will be on display as well as a major collection of antique Swedish dolls. Crafters will demonstrate and offer workshops on Swedish weaving, chip carving, spinning and Norwegian knitting.

Scandinavian food will be catered by 3C's from their food truck offering Swedish meatballs, rice pudding, rotomos, brown beans, yellow pea soup as well as some non-Swedish favorites. The American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation will be serving Norm's world famous korvburgers. The Kaffe Stuga will have its coffee, goodies and strawberry sundaes. Danish beer will be available along with wine. All of this food and drink will be served in the Festival Food Court.

As if all the above is not enough, one can enter the Finnish wife carrying contest, the Scandinavian trivia competition, and even the cooking contest. Several vendors, both inside and outside, including one from Norway, will offer their products, The Festival has its own Market Tent with a gift shop, loppis (flea market) and unique handmade items from chainmail to pillowcases and everything in between.

This Festival is made possible with financial donations from many individuals and local organizations/businesses. We recognize the support of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Tri-County Arts Council.

With all the above, this Festival is the place to celebrate the Scandinavian heritage. It is a place for fellowship as family and friends gather. Behold Scandinavia!

For more information and times for events, check the web site Scandinavianjamestown.org or call 716-665-0883.

Volunteer for the Festival

The Scandinavian Folk Festival could not operate without many volunteers. This is an opportunity to provide support to the Festival, hang out with some great people, and on top of that, get in free. (Three hours of volunteer support provides a free admission for one day. Five hours provides free admission for all weekend.) Before the event begins, we need volunteers to help put up advertising signs and distribute flyers. Other pre-festival volunteers are needed to set up the site with chairs, tables, banners, and flags. During the festivities, we need volunteers to help with the admission gate, the info center, and Festival sales booths such as the Gift Shop, Loppis, and Hemslöjdsbutik. We also need volunteers for the Kaffe Stuga and Norm's Korvburgers. One can pick wildflowers to put on the tables in the Scandinavian Food Court or on the midsummer pole or even for making midsummer head wreaths. Help is needed for keeping the Festival neat and clean. We also need people on Sunday evening for tear down after the Festival.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact: Mary-AnnEva Ingrao, Volunteer Coordinator
Phone: [716-489-1570](tel:716-489-1570) • email: shimmer@flmtgif.org

Address Services Requested

Viking National Convention



The 84th national convention of the Independent Order of Vikings (IOV) was recently hosted by our own local Ingjald Lodge #65. At this convention, Mindy Worden from Jamestown was elected the new Grand Chief of the IOV. Many of the events were held at the Viking Lake Park in Maple Springs with convention business at Chautauqua Suites in Mayville. The Grand Chief's Reception and Grand Banquet was held June 15 at the Lake Park with performances by our Viking Mixed Chorus and the Thule Lodge Adult Swedish Folk Dance Team with dinner music provided by Svenska Spelmän.



Scholarships Available for Scandinavian Students



In support of JCC's increased efforts to globalize the college through the enrollment of international students, the Scandinavian Studies Program has renewed its commitment of scholarship support for students from Scandinavian nations.

The Scandinavian Studies Program Scholarship awards \$500 per year for up to two years with second-year funding dependent on the student earning a grade point average of 3.0 (B) or better during his/her first year of study at JCC. Students receiving this scholarship may be expected to provide assistance with campus-based Scandinavian heritage activities.

To date, the scholarship has been extended to a student from Sweden who will enroll at JCC for the 2019-20 academic year. For more information on this scholarship opportunity and JCC's international enrollment initiative, contact Nelson Garifi at 716.338.1045.

Communication

We want to stay in touch as Scandinavian events occur in our area. Be sure to check out the new website, www.scandinavianjamestown.org or like us on Facebook at Scandinavian Folk Festival and Scandinavian Jamestown. We also are developing an e-mail list to send out messages announcing upcoming events. One can sign-up for the e-mails on the website. We want to hear from you if you have any suggestions or comments. Feel free to call 716-665-0883.

Stuga at YMCA Camp Onyahsa

YMCA Camp Onyahsa will be hosting two young adults from Sweden for the summer, Erik Andersson (age 20) and his sister Moa (age 16). An architect is designing the next phase of the *stuga's* development, which will continued to be used to make small handcrafts. Since it is unheated and not plumbed, its use is limited to the summer season. The next phase calls for an addition to the back side (north) to create a hip roof similar to the lake-facing front. This addition will house an accessible restroom. The building will be insulated and efficiently heated, allowing full-year use. Paneling, hand-made most likely by Swedish immigrants and second-generation Swedes in the late 1920s, will be refurbished to serve as the building's interior wainscoting. It was removed from the downtown YMCA during a renovation. The intent of the *stuga* is to honor the handcraft tradition of the Scandinavians who settled in/near Jamestown, especially as they launched and built the City's furniture-making heritage. We also hope to acquire copies of photos of hand furniture making in Jamestown and to enlarge/frame them for wall décor. For more information, please call Jon O'Brian, camp director, at 716-664-2802, ext. 223.

Scandinavian Concert Under the Blue Sky

The Jamestown Municipal Band under the direction of Rick Lundquist will be performing in the bandshell at Allen Park on Wednesday July 10, 2019. In addition, this Scandinavian evening will include the Thule Swedish Children's and Adult Folk Dance Teams and Norm's korbuburgers served by the Allen Park Women's Club.

The band will play a selection of traditional and modern Scandinavian music by such composers as Hugo Alfvén, Jean Sibelius, Paul Palsson, Benny Anderson, Iliari Hylkila, Jerker Johannsen, and Erik Leidzen including selections from ABBA. There will be special numbers including a folk song from Iceland and the Thule Adult Folk Dance Team performing with the band.

The Thule Children's Folk Dance Team will perform at 6:45 PM followed at 7 PM by the band concert. The Thule Adult Folk Dance Team will also perform during the band's intermission.

Besides the korbuburgers served on a rye bun, with lingonberries as an optional condiment, there will be varm korv (hot dogs), fudge and other snacks.

What a great way to enjoy a warm summer evening. This concert is sponsored by the Scandinavian Studies Program and is free and open to the public. There are benches available, but to be assured seating, one might bring a lawn chair. For more information call 716-665-0883

