

# Scandinavian

Happenings in the Greater Jamestown Area

Winter 2014

## SWEDISH HOUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The 10th Anniversary of the current edition of the Swedish Hour on the radio was celebrated with the November 2, 2014 program. The program is broadcast over WRFA-LP which is 107.9 FM or on the web at [www.wrfalp.com](http://www.wrfalp.com) on Sundays at 7 PM or at 3 AM. Gerd Brigotta has been the regular announcer on the program, creating a new program every week. It takes her about four hours of preparation for this volunteer contribution to the community. Gerd encourages her audience to join in by dancing or at least moving around the floor to the gammeldans music of Scandinavia. Popular are the fiddle, accordion, and nyckelharpa music groups performing the waltz, hambo, schottis, and polka. Gerd also includes vocals, a classical and a religious segment to the program.

Over the years, Scandinavian music has been gathered and downloaded into the computers at the radio station. Now there are over 300 CDs of music available, making this Jamestown radio station having one of the largest collections in the United States.

There have been previous editions of the Swedish Hour in Jamestown. One can remember the program by Gerald Heglund and perhaps Inge Kilburger. Many of us remember listening to the music during Sunday dinners with the music and news of Sweden. The Swedish Hour had been off the air for several years before the current edition began.



*Dennis Drew, Station Manager, along with announcer Gerd Brigotta and Don Sandy*

Because of the computer web, people can listen to the Swedish Hour all over the world. There are regular listeners in Sweden. The radio stations in Sweden are playing American contemporary music. The traditional music of Sweden is rarely broadcast in Sweden so the solution is to tune into this radio program from the Swedish community of Jamestown. The program is sponsored by the Scandinavian Studies Program.

The beautiful music of the Christmas season will begin on November 30. Gerd prepares special programs and talks about the Swedish Advent, Lucia and Christmas traditions. It is the music of our ancestors as well as of modern Sweden. Enjoy.

## SCANDINAVIAN FOLK FESTIVAL

Planning is well underway for the fourteenth annual Scandinavian Folk Festival to be held again the third weekend in July being the 17, 18 and 19, 2015 at the Gerry Rodeo Grounds. Invited headliners have not confirmed yet so the details will be forthcoming. Save the dates.

This past year's successful Festival celebrated the sounds of ABBA with plenty of Swedish foods, vendors, other musical entertainment, the Viking Ship, and outstanding lectures. Saturday was one of those summer days when it drizzled all day long. This did not deter many people since they arrived to hear ABBA, carried their umbrellas and found plenty of shelter in the building and large tents. The whole weekend was in the spirit of the Nordic culture where there is the following saying: "There is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing."



## LUCIA PAGEANT

The Lucia Pageant is one of the most popular and unique Christmas season celebrations in the Swedish Culture. The pageant is about the Saint Lucia who the Swedes have "adopted" from the Italians. It is said that Saint Lucia appeared during a famine in Sweden during the middle ages carrying food to the farmers across Lake Vänern. The pageant occurs during the darkest time of the year so it is also a celebration of the light glowing from Lucia's candles.

This year's Lucia celebration, sponsored by the American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and the Scandinavian Studies program will be held Sunday December 14, 2014 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 825 Forest Avenue, Jamestown, NY at 2 PM. Following the Lucia pageant, coffee and juice will be served along with the lussekatter (sweet, saffron-flavored buns.) These buns are shaped like curled up cats with raisin eyes. Traditional folk dances will be performed by the Thule Lodge Children's Swedish Folk Dance Team.

This year's Lucia Bride, for the second year is a row, is Emily Nelson. She is the daughter of Thomas and Debbie Nelson. Emily is a senior at Jamestown High School where she is active in the A'Cappella Choir, the Red Raider Marching Band and plays the saxophone in the concert Band. In addition, she is on the tennis team. Emily is a member of the National Honor Society and plans to become a physical therapist. At Bethel Lutheran Church she is a member of the bell choir and at the Prendergast Library she is on the Teen Advisory Council. Emily has been in the Lucia pageant for the past nine years and states "It is a real honor to be the Lucia Bride."

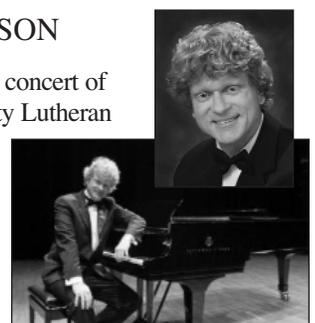


## SCANDINAVIAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT - MAGNUS MARTENSSON

The renowned pianist Magnus Martensson from New York City and Malmo, Sweden will present a concert of Scandinavian Christmas music. The location and date is Saturday November 29th at 4 PM at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. This is a return performance for maestro Martensson having performed at previous engagements in Jamestown and at the Scandinavian Folk Festival.

In addition to being an accomplished pianist, he likes to include a bit of Victor Borge style comedy as part of the concert. At other times, maestro Martensson is a conductor for symphonic performances.

This concert is sponsored by the American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and the Scandinavian Studies Program. There is no admission charge and refreshments will be served. Donations will be accepted.



## Address Services Requested

### CULTURE DAY/JULMARKNAD

The 17th year of Culture Day began on October 4. From October to May, Culture Day is on the first Saturday of the month in the Hamilton Collegiate Center at Jamestown Community College. Coffee and Lingonberry drink are served beginning at 9:30 AM with a first round of workshops at 10 AM. There is a pause for ficka (coffee break) at 10:45 and then a second round of workshops at 11. Culture Day is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Scandinavian Studies Program.

There are typically over 20 workshops each session. New this year, both at 11 AM, are an Adult Folk Dance Workshop and a book discussion, group about Per Anders Fogelström's series telling the stories of growing up in Stockholm, Sweden from 1860 to 1968. Other workshops include Swedish Weaving, Knitting, Cooking, Scandinavian craft, Genealogy, Chip Carving, Children's Folk Dancing, lectures/videos, Learn a Tune - so bring your instrument, a children's Fiddle Workshop and Viking games.



Special events are celebrated during the year. At the December 6 session there will be a Julmarknad (Scandinavian Christmas Market Day) with at least 18 vendors and 34 tables. This is the largest market ever. At noon there will be the Julbord (Christmas sample dinner) for a \$5 donation. Don't forget the raffles, music, Lucia, ring dances and much more. There are eight other sites all around Jamestown - the place to be on December 6. (See the attached brochure.)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Magnus Martensson Swedish Christmas Piano Concert**  
Saturday, Nov. 29 • 4 p.m. • Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- Thule Lodge Installation of 2015 Officers & Doppa I Gryta**  
Dec. 20 • 2 p.m.
- Julmarknad/Culture Day** - Saturday, Dec. 6 at JCC and other locations around town (See brochure)
- Vikings Election of Officers for 2015 Downtown Lodge**  
Dec. 4 • 4 p.m.
- VIKING: Lodge Meeting** - Downtown Lodge • Dec. 4 • 8 p.m.
- VIKING: Breakfast with Santa** - Lake Park • Dec. 7 • 9 a.m.
- VIKING: Doppa I Gryta** - Lake Park • Dec. 18 • 7:30 p.m.
- Lucia** - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church • Dec. 14 • 2 p.m.
- Culture Day** - JCC • Jan. 3 • 9:45 a.m. to noon  
JCC • Feb. 7 • 9:45 a.m. to noon  
JCC • March 7 • 9:45 a.m. to noon

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Beginning November 30 and every Sunday in December at 7:00 p.m. on WRFA-LP, 107.9 FM or at [www.wrfalp.com](http://www.wrfalp.com) at 3:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. Gerd will be playing all of your favorite Swedish Christmas Music. We have folks from Sweden who listen regularly to the broadcast from Jamestown.

### NEW WEBSITE - JAMESTOWN'S SWEDES

John Everett Jones of Raleigh, NC is developing a database documenting the early Swedish immigrants in Chautauqua County, NY and Warren County, PA. Mr. Jones is originally from Chautauqua County. His great-great grandparents arrived in Jamestown with his great-grandfather in 1866 joining four siblings who had emigrated in 1852 and 1853 from Målilla, Kalmar län, Sweden.

The objective of the web site ([www.jamestownswedes.org](http://www.jamestownswedes.org)) is to provide a fully documented list of all Swedish immigrants to Chautauqua and Warren counties from 1844-1855. Full documentation includes: Swedish church records of birth, Swedish records of emigration, identification on a ship manifest, census, legal and church records of their residence in the area, death and burial records.

Currently, Mr. Jones is cross-referencing the various lists and reviewing them with published biographies or family histories and family trees. He plans to take this database online once it approaches a more complete state. In the mean time, he will be "publishing" on the site various lists and reports as documentation of the project. Lists that have been posted include the 1856 Lutheran congregations (Sugar Grove, Wrightsville and Jamestown), Lists of Immigrants for 1844 to 1852 who settled in our area, the 1850 US Census and the 1855 NY State Census, and several Individual Reports documenting these Swedes.

In addition, he is writing a blog about his findings. Topics to date include a three part series about Jamestown as a destination and most recently an article about Chautauqua and Warren County Swedes in the US Civil War.

Although he is using genealogy as a tool for reconstructing that small community, family history has not been his first priority. Nevertheless, he hopes that the information in this database will be useful to anyone doing family history research that might include one of these early Swedish immigrants. He would also be interested in hearing from others who have researched their families during this time period. Contact information is available on the web site.

Mr. Jones is hoping that learning more about the families will tell more about their experiences as immigrants. He hopes that by documenting the deaths of parents and children, the remarriages, the re-migrations, the family alliances and their connections to non-Swedes that we will learn more about their immigrant experiences.

### FIND SCANDINAVIAN JAMESTOWN ON FACEBOOK!

For a dynamic update about Swedish Jamestown check out the new Facebook page that opened on October 19, 2014. Once on Facebook enter Scandinavian Jamestown. It has been open for less than a month and already has over 300 people from this area, around the USA and Sweden who "like" the page. There are regular entries about the Swedishness of Jamestown. It is a great place to keep up to date. The site is being maintained by Kirk Johnson, a member of the Scandinavian Folk Festival Advisory Board, from Warren, PA. He is doing a great job and we appreciate his initiative. When you check it out and if you think it is of value be sure to check the "like" button.

Postings so far include pictures from the last Culture Day, information on joining the Swedish Folk Dance Team, pictures about the expansion of the Scandinavian Corner at Peterson Farm, a button you click to immediately listen to the 10th anniversary Swedish Hour program, information about Jeff Kroon's Swedish Course at JCC, articles about the history of the area and much, much more. There is something new on a regular basis so be sure to check it out and to share your own news about being a Swede in the Jamestown area.