

Scandinavian Folk Festival 2017



The sixteenth annual Scandinavian Folk Festival was held July 21-23 at the Gerry Rodeo Grounds. Attending were 2,127 people from a wide geographical area. At least 614 volunteers, folk dancers, and musicians were involved in the celebration. The spritz cooking contest was won from someone in her 90s from Pittsburgh, PA with second place being one from Ontario, Canada and third place went to a person from Gowanda, NY. With the wife carrying contest, the winner was from Rochester and second place was from Buffalo. One highlight was the midsummer celebration with all the folk dancers and the community enjoying traditional dancing around the midsummer pole. Both Friday



and Saturday nights there was an entertainment showcase with over 60 performers each night. The music from this event has been played over two weeks on the Swedish Hour. (The Swedish Hour is a weekly radio program created here in Jamestown and is heard on the FM dial at 107.9 on Sunday nights at 7 PM or on the internet at wrfalp.com.) One newly married couple from Cleveland completed their wedding ceremony at the Festival's midsummer pole. A dynamic series of lectures were held each day and enjoyed by many Festival visitors. Planning is well on the way for the 2018 Festival which will be held July 20, 21 and 22. Details will be coming. Save the dates.



Norm Owen

Friends of the late Norm Owen recently established a scholarship in his memory at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. Norm, who passed away in January, was very proud of his Swedish heritage and served as President of the American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation in Jamestown. He was employed in the meat department for Wegmans, and in previous years had worked for the former Pearson's Market for many years and as a salesman to the Morell Meat Company. He was famous for creating and making his "korvburgers" and sold them at the Scandinavian Folk Festival and many other events throughout the year and at Wegmans. The Norman Owen Scholarship Fund will provide financial support to graduating seniors from Jamestown, Falconer, Frewsburg, Maple Grove, and Southwestern schools who plan to study a vocation or trade. Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to the Community Foundation at 418 Spring Street, Jamestown, NY 14701; or can be made online at www.crcfonline.org <<http://www.crcfonline.org>.

Lucia

Rachael Harper has been selected as Lucia for 2017 by the American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation and the Thule Lodge Children's Club. The Lucia pageant will be held at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 825 Forest Ave., Jamestown, at 2 p.m. Dec. 10. Immediately following the pageant, coffee and Lucia Buns will be served with folk dancing provided by the Thule Lodge Children's Folk Dance Team. The Lucia is a Swedish Christmas tradition that is celebrated all over Sweden. The candles and warmth of the pageant bring light into the dark days of winter. Rachael Harper is the daughter of Matt & Julie Harper of Jamestown. She started Swedish Folk dancing when she was 3 years old and has participated in the Lucia program since she was old enough to join. Rachael is a Freshman at Falconer Central School where she is an Honor Roll student. She plays Junior Varsity Volleyball, Basketball and Softball. Her time outside school is spent either with a ball in her hands or on her 4-H projects which include Ceramics, Leathercraft and many other craft projects. Rachael loves animals and has been very successful showing sheep and pigs that are born and raised on her family's farm. Rachael has been shooting archery at His Way Archery for several years and is an excellent marksman. Rachael is a very busy girl but doesn't want to miss an opportunity to show her Swedish heritage. She is not sure what she will do after she graduates but is pretty sure it will involve animals in some way.



Fenton History Center



The Fenton History Center in Jamestown has a new executive director. Noah Goodling was hired in August, and he already has goals and plans for opening the doors to more visitors. Goodling was born in Warren, PA, then moved to Corning, NY, at the age of nine. He earned his degree in history from Allegheny College. For one year, he worked in the Jamestown area, gaining experience at the Chautauqua Archives and the Robert H. Jackson Center. From there, he pursued graduate school at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He worked for museums and several organizations, including the Indiana Historical Society, the National Council on Public History; and most recently, served as the college archivist for Thomas Nelson Community College in Virginia. Said Goodling, "I'm excited to be back in the community. There is a sense of progress and forward momentum." "I want to put my own personal spin on improvements. I'm looking at new exhibits. The Hall House, with the genealogy, is where we can make a personal connection for people. There is something here for every age group." The Fenton

History Center is located at 67 Washington Street, Jamestown, NY 14701. For more information, please call (716) 664-6256 or visit them online at www.fentonhistorycenter.org.

Thule Dance Team to Sweden

The Thule Lodge Adult Swedish Folk Dance Team will be traveling to Sweden next September/October. This is the first time that such a trip has been undertaken. While there, they will be visiting with at least two other folk dance teams in order to learn from each other. In addition, a series of performances are being scheduled. Sightseeing is also on the agenda with visits to Stockholm, Orebro, Dalarna area and perhaps Uppsala. The Team indicates that they are proud to be ambassadors for the Jamestown community as they help to spread the story of the Swedes in our area. Some of the Team members plan to lengthen their visit to make contacts with family and visit other parts of Sweden.

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Julmarknad-Swedish Christmas Market



Christmas (Jul in Swedish) is the most celebrated holiday in Sweden. Besides all the baking and cooking to get ready for the big day, there was also the interest in obtaining unique gifts for loved ones. The tradition of the Julmarknad (Christmas Market Day) became common place all over Sweden. People in the countryside would use their unique skills to create objects during the early winter. These objects might be from wood, copper, wool or even special baked goodies. On the designated market day, people would travel to the



community square and bring their handmade items. Often these items were traded as well as sold. It was also an opportunity for the neighbors to gather.

Even today, there are many Julmarknads around Sweden and most of them remain outside regardless of the weather. In this tradition, the Jamestown neighborhood will have its own Julmarknad but in an Americanized version it will be held inside. Our Julmarknad will be held Saturday December 2, 2017 with several sites and unique celebrations around town.

The place to begin the day will be Jamestown Community College at the Hamilton Collegiate Center. Beginning at 9 AM until 12 Noon, several vendors will offer a wide variety of handmade as well as manufactured items. There will be 20-30 tables of products all related to Scandinavian traditions. More items have been imported from Sweden than ever in the past. Items include local hand painted and hand crafted wooden treasures, many items passed along from the Swedes in the Jamestown community, handmade copper and wooden tankards and trays from Sweden, runners and table clothes by Swedish Ecklund weavers with organic cotton, Swedish hats, stuffed moose and dala horses, locally sewed tablecloths – runners – aprons - tote bags from Swedish imported fabrics, calendars, a wide variety of Christmas tree ornaments and much much more.

In addition, at Jamestown Community College there will be live music, a Lucia procession, folk dance demonstration, door prizes, coffee, lingonberry drink and raffles including a candle holder from the Swedish glass maker Orrefors. Workshops will be held including the Swedish language, making a Swedish decorated gift bag and more. All the above is free and open to the public. From 11:30 to 12:30 there will be the opportunity to sample a few Swedish foods for a small donation.

The day is not done yet. There are many additional sites to visit, door prizes to win and samples to be eaten. Ecklof Bakery, 6 AM to 5 PM, will raffle a basket of their baked items as well as offer samples. They have seasonal items such as vort limpa, spritz and pepparkakor cookies, cardamom braids and rolls. Enjoy a korb burger while picking up some "Tom and Jerry" mix or deli meats and cheeses. During the Christmas season Ecklof will also have many Swedish gift items such as cook books, calendars, linens, ornaments and much more.

Peterson Farm, 10 AM to 5 PM, has a Swedish Christmas gift shop in addition to their farm products. One can order Swedish meats such as Julskinka (Swedish Christmas ham), sylta, lutfisk, korb. Check out the books, ornaments, napkins, straw goats to name just a few. They will also have a door prize and offer a sampling of many Swedish Christmas foods.

Country Woods Country Store, 10 AM to 5 PM, has a well-stocked Swedish room including red candle holders, tomtar, straw goats, ornaments, garlands, candles, and many other decorative items. Stop in for free coffee and register for the door prize.

Fenton History Center, 10 AM to 4 PM, is all decorated for Christmas including the Swedish room with the Ljuskrona Christmas Tree. Admission is \$10 for adults but accompanying children 18 and younger will be admitted free on this day. Wegmans, open 24 hours, offers Scandinavian dinners to go, Norm's korb, salt herring, lingonberry sylt, limpa rye bread and other Swedish treats. Music will be provided by Svenska Spelman in the early afternoon as well as a folk dance demonstration by the Thule Swedish Children and Adult Folk Dance Teams.

As if all the above is not enough, the Tree of Life Lutheran Congregation will be offering a korb dinner at Immanuel Lutheran Church with settings at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30. Enjoy homemade korb, homemade rye bread, homemade pie and all the trimmings. Adults \$10.00, children \$5. Funds from the dinner will be used for youth, church outreach and special church projects. Reservations required by calling 488-1555 or 488-4235.

Jamestown is the place to celebrate the Swedish heritage of the area. People visit our area from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Buffalo area for this event. Jamestown – the area Julmarknad. For more information call 716-665-0883 or Scandinavianjamestown.org God Jul. (Merry Christmas)

Thule Lodge Vasa Park to be Sold

At a meeting of Thule Lodge, the reluctant vote was finally taken to sell Vasa Park. The Thule Lodge as an organization will continue to exist with its mission to preserve the Swedish heritage but at an alternate location. The expense of maintaining the Park with the current membership has proven to not be financially feasible and thus forced the decision. Activities will continue at the Park for the near future.