

Scandinavian



Courtesy of Sharon Turano and The Post Journal

Happenings in the Greater Jamestown Area

Summer 2011

SCANDINAVIAN FOLK FESTIVAL

Can you believe it? The Scandinavian Folk Festival will celebrate its 10th anniversary on **July 15-17, 2011** at the Gerry Rodeo Grounds. The Festival is a culture preserving event of the American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation. What an opportunity to spend a weekend relaxing with friends, enjoying outstanding music, learning a thing or two, dancing, people watching and, of course, eating. Our tents are huge, so we are prepared to celebrate in any kind of weather.

Headlining this year's Festival

Entertainment - From Sweden - The Rockridge Brothers, a bluegrass band from Stockholm and Peter Puma Hedlund, world champion nyckelharpa player. From Finland - A classical trio performing on the piano, cello and violin. From Canada - Toronto Swedish Folkdancers and Singers. From USA - Svenska Spelmän and Nordanvind gammeldans bands along with the Viking Choruses and the Thule Lodge Swedish Adult and Children's Folk Dance Teams.

Midsummer Celebration - A Norwegian fjord horse leads the pagent procession which begins at 11 AM on Saturday, followed by at least 36 folk dancers in folk costumes and the Festival musicians. Once the midsummer pole is erected, all are welcome to join traditional ring dancing around the pole just as our ancestors have done before us.

Large Bonfire - at 9:30 PM on Saturday enjoy the Rockridge Brothers playing bluegrass at the bonfire.

Swedish Foods - Swedish meatball dinner on Friday prepared by the Thule Lodge, Korv dinner on Saturday prepared by the Joint Neighborhood Project, Swedish pancakes on Sunday morning prepared by the Thule Folk Dance Team, Norm's Korvburgers served all the

time, a cup of coffee - Scandinavian "goodies" - lingonberry drink and ice cream served from the Kaffe Stuga.

Viking Village - The Viking ship returns to the Viking Village after sailing on Chautauqua Lake on Thursday July 14. The Viking reenactors will demonstrate Viking activities.

Lecture Tent - The new Lecture Tent has a full line up of presentations about our Scandinavian heritage. Topics include the Swedish colony in Delaware, the wife of painter Carl Larsson, singing Swedish songs in English, genealogy research, local history and the Swedish language.

Child and Family Center - Located in the Culture tent, this new center will offer a number of activities throughout the weekend including making a wooden tomtte, story telling, and Swedish coin scramble.

Culture Tent - The artisans will be busy demonstrating their crafts and providing workshop opportunities for guests to express their own Scandinavian creativity.

Market Tent - Visit the Festival gift shop for this year's Festival t-shirt and many other unique gifts. Don't miss the "Made in Jamestown" shop for unique locally made items.

Beer and Wine Tent - Located in the entertainment tent. Scandinavian and local beers will be available.



The Rockridge Brothers



Volunteers are admitted free and we need several to make the Festival run smoothly. Call Katie Peterson at 716-969-0492. It is a fun and rewarding experience. Children age 16 and younger are free. People in folk costumes are free. Parking is free. There are no additional charges while at the Festival unless you purchase food or gift items.

For more information and schedule details check the web site at www.scandinavianjamestown.org or call 716-484-0415.

SAIL ON THE VIKING SHIP

The Viking Ship will be sailing, weather permitting, on Chautauqua Lake on Thursday July 14, 2011. A drawing will be held on July 10th for the winner and a guest to be passengers on the Viking Ship as it sails from Long Point State Park with stops in Bemus Point and Chautauqua. Any person purchasing a Festival weekend pass has the opportunity to enter the drawing. Weekend passes cost \$12 and will be available at Peterson Farm, Ecklof Bakery and the Reg Lenna Civic Center Box Office at 716-484-7070.



FRIDAY, JULY 15
1 PM to 10 PM \$6 (\$4 after 7 PM)
*
SATURDAY, JULY 16
10 AM to 10 PM \$7 (\$4 after 7 PM)
*
SUNDAY JULY 17
10 AM to 4 PM \$3
*
Weekend Pass \$12

**BEHOLD SCANDINAVIA
at the SCANDINAVIAN
FOLK FESTIVAL**



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DON'T FORGET THE SWEDISH HOUR ON SUNDAYS AT 7 P.M. ON WRFA, 107.9FM

SWEDISH NATIVES MARK 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMMIGRATION

Courtesy of Sharon Turano and The Post Journal

Nels John Nelson and his sister, Allie Linnea Nelson Withers, may have recently marked 85 years since they emigrated from Sweden, but their heritage still remains part of their lives.

Both recall how family came to America before them, reporting back how jobs were available. Those already here had to vouch for their father, that he was a good man. Then, he was allowed to come too: sending for the family. Their dad found work in a tannery and later in a furniture factory. "Everybody wanted to go to America," said Nels, recalling how he boarded a ship May 17, 1926, in Sweden and got off May 29 at Ellis Island.

He was taken from his family by two men in long white coats who had a wheelchair. Someone on the boat noticed he had German measles. He was five years old, and she was three years old. After he recuperated, it was time to leave.

They traveled on the Erie Railroad to Jamestown and went for a picnic at Celoron's park. Foreign foods like tomatoes and hot dogs were served. John had to change his name: there were too many Johns. Friends became the only family they knew since everyone else was still in Sweden.

Despite the changes, they become comfortable in Jamestown, where other Swedish immigrants made their home also. Mrs. Withers recalls how her mother wanted the family to speak English but remember their Swedish heritage. She learned to dance while cleaning the house, learned about Swedish linens and table grace.

She eventually became a teacher and social worker in the Jamestown Public Schools, and he served in World War II, eventually becoming a salesman: a position he is still astonished he held. They both married and have families.

"There were so many Swedes here, we felt comfortable," she said, adding they would meet others and talk about their culture and "the old days."

"We both started living like Americans," she said.

If you ask, however, he pulls out pictures from Ellis Island, some of the Statue of Liberty, and the band that was around his hat when he traveled, and she has memorabilia ... just about everywhere in her home and uses it as displays when she voluntarily teaches about Swedish ways monthly at Jamestown Community College. Students often tell her they wish they asked more questions of their parents about Sweden.

She fills in the answers.

"Herring, coffee, singing and dancing," she said are the important things to remember.

One can add Christmas smorgasbord, church, Easter and different eggs, pickled foods and cookies, rye bread, cheese, the love of the outdoors and flowers, being prim and proper, but the four words along with always welcoming others about sums it up, she said.

"Take one day at a time," she said is a Swedish philosophy she would like others to learn.

Although she said she will stay in America and can't complain about the things here, an



advantage in Sweden, she said, is that no one is in a rush.

"Just wait," she said.

Nels adds a story to show what she means.

They visited Sweden and were late to catch a bus, he started running and was told there is no need since the bus driver would wait for him.

"We need to slow down, take time to enjoy the flowers," she said, with both agreeing Swedes are ambitious but love music, laughing, dancing, paying respects at cemeteries they keep beautiful and love being outdoors, usually bringing flowers in with them.

Although she said her family is here, and Jamestown is where she belongs, Mrs. Withers gets a special smile as she sings "the Birthday Song," in Swedish of course.

"We want to carry it on," she says about the heritage that remains in their lives and is celebrated at the Thule and Viking Lodges.

They plan to do so June 23 when tradition is carried on with dancing and singing around the May Pole, replicas of which can of course be found in Mrs. Withers' kitchen.

ASHF CALENDAR

June 25th - Midsummer at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 9:30 with the processional and raising of the Maypole followed by Folk Dance demonstrations by the Thule Children and Adult dance teams. The program will also include a greeting by a representative from the office of Cathy Young and will end with "Elva Kaffe" and cookies donated by members of ASHF. Martensson at Sheldon House

Oct 21st - Annual Harvest Dinner

Nov 8th - Holiday Dinner

Dec 11th - Lucia Fest at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

VIKING CALENDAR

July 24th Herring Breakfast from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Tickets must be reserved by calling 487-9305 or the Lake Park. Herring is \$7 and ham/eggs are \$6.

THULE CALENDAR

(all events at Thule Lodge on Pancake Hill Road)

July 8th - Friday Night Fish Fry plus one special 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Aug 6th - Friday Night Fish Fry plus one special 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Aug 14th - Sunday Pancake Breakfast 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sept 9th - Friday Night Fish Fry plus one special 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Sept 24th - Harvest Dinner 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Oct 15th - Friday Night Fish Fry plus one special 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Nov 6th - Sunday Pancake Breakfast 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

July 15-17 - 10th Annual Scandinavian Folk Festival at Gerry Rodeo Grounds. ASHF will again be serving Norm's Famous Korvburgers. Friday: 1 pm-10 pm for \$6; Saturday: 10 am-10pm for \$7 (\$4 on Friday and Saturday after 7 pm); Sunday: 10 am-4 pm for \$3

Weekend passes available for \$12 at Peterson Farm, Ecklof Bakery and the Reg Lenna Civic Center Box Office at 716-484-7070. Each weekend pass includes a chance to enter the drawing to sail Chautauqua Lake on the Viking Ship on July 14th. Drawing on July 10th.