

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



You are invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly-renovated stuga at YMCA Camp Onyahsa, on Chautauqua Lake. The Scandinavian Studies Program awarded a grant to fund the renovation of the Camp's arts shed house to become a crafts stuga, a lakefront cottage to honor the crafts tradition of local Swedish-Americans through fun and educational camp crafts. The stuga faces Chautauqua Lake and has a large covered deck. Future plans call for its winterization, and it will become home to community activities sponsored by the Scandinavian Studies Program.

The ceremony is set for Wednesday, August 1, at 7:00 p.m.; and includes the unveiling of the dala horse plaque and a plaque for the Scandinavian Studies Program. The Thule Children's Dance team will also perform. Following the dedication ceremony; there will be a rotation of activities such as crafts, dancing around the midsummer pole, and kubb, the Viking lawn game. A good old fashioned campfire, scheduled to begin at 8:45, will end the fine evening. Camp Onyahsa is located at 5411 East Lake Road in Dewittville, NY, 14728. For more information, please call (716) 753-5244.



Thule Swedish Folk Dance Team Headed to Sweden

The Thule Lodge Swedish Folk Dance Team will be visiting Sweden from September 30 to October 10, 2018. The Dance Team has been an asset for the Jamestown community for more than 75 years. There are no teams in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo or Rochester. They offer to perform for the community such as the Scandinavian Folk Festival, Allen Park Band Concerts, and senior citizen centers.



While in Sweden the Team will be attending folk dance workshops with nine folk dance teams. Considering they are in Sweden for 9 full days they have quite an intense schedule. The teams they will be meeting with are from Örebro, Leksand, the Lake Siljan area, Mora, Våmhus, two in Stockholm and two in Avesta. The primary purpose of the trip is educational with visiting the culture on the side. One can learn the steps to folk dancing by reading a book or watching a video. One can NOT learn the "feel" of the dance, the sway of the body, the sense of connection to the music, the communication clues with your dance partner, the internalization of the rhythm, the muscle memory of what comes next or a realization of the meaning of the movement without dancing with an experienced dancer. The Thule Team has learned much of the basics and can offer a great performance but when compared to folk dancers in Sweden there are growth opportunities. The local dancers can grow more to deliver a smoothness of movement and dancing together as one collective entity. While learning, the Thule Team will also be teaching the Swedes how to dance the Jamestown Polka and provide demonstrations. Each participant is required to attend 80% of weekly practices to receive support from the Team as well as contribute at least 45% of the cost. Nineteen dancers, three musicians and ten family/ friends (who pay 100% of the cost) will be making the trip.

This is a trip of a life time. There is no known Thule Dance Team trip to Sweden in the past. A trip to Europe is a costly venture and the Thule Team is currently involved in community fund raising events. Support has been received from the Swedish Council of America, the Scandinavian Studies Program and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. The Team has sponsored bake sales and a meatball dinner. The Team will be serving Swedish pancakes at the Scandinavian Folk Festival on Sunday morning July 22 and have raffles at the Scandinavian Folk Festival. One does not need to pay a gate fee to obtain the pancakes.

Feel free to contact (716-665-0883) the Thule Lodge Swedish Folk Dance Team for a program. If one wishes to offer financial support this is the same number to call.

Fenton History Center

The Fenton History Center has many resources to search your genealogy. Ancestry includes U.S. information to help develop the family in this country and has the old Genline Swedish church records. In addition, ArkivDigital is available, which has Swedish church records and more. There are also various CDs produced in Sweden that are extracts from the Swedish church records. These include "census" records for 1890, 1900, 1970, and 1980; plus a listing of emigrants from about the 1840s to the late 1890s. Another CD is an index to passenger records of people leaving Sweden from 1867 to the mid-1950s. Local records are also available to help put the family together in this country, so there is a better chance to find the correct family in Sweden. Staff and volunteers can help people use and understand the available records. For more information, please call or visit the Fenton History Center at 67 Washington Street, Jamestown, NY 14701; 716-664-6256. Please visit their website at www.fentonhistorycenter.org or email them at information@fentonhistorycenter.org.

Address Services Requested

Scandinavian Folk Festival 2018



We received an invitation to return the Scandinavian Folk Festival to Jamestown Community College (JCC). We accepted that invitation so the 17th annual Festival will be held on the campus July 20, 21 and 22, 2018. For five years from 2005 to 2009 the Festival was on the JCC campus but because of construction beginning on the new science building in 2010 we had to move to an alternate location – the Gerry Rodeo Grounds. Benefits of the JCC campus include more internal space and a paved parking lot and walkway. In addition

there is ample opportunity for further enhancement of the Festival.

The Festival will continue to be a celebration of our Scandinavian heritage with a wide variety of events. It has become the place for family and friends to gather.

The traditional Midsummer Celebration will occur on Saturday July 21 beginning at 10 AM with decorating the midsummer pole. Bring flowers to place on the pole from your gardens or fields in honor of your ancestors. The procession will step off at 11 AM with the Festival musicians and folk dancers. When the pole is erected, the entire community is encouraged to dance around the pole. There will be instruction for each dance as you follow the leader. Midsummer was celebrated by your ancestors.

A Swedish Folk Dance Worship Service will be held on Sunday afternoon. Participants will include The Rev. Alan Anderson officiating, Svenska Spelmän and guests as musicians, the Thule Adult Folk Dance Team and a choir from the community. This is a Holy communion service that includes folk dance rhythms and dances such as the schottische, hambo, polka and waltz. The English version of worship service premiered at Chautauqua Institution. This will be the fifth time our local dance team has been part of this service in the past 20 years.

The Oskar Stenmark Trio is one of the musical highlights for 2018. This trio is a Swedish jazz band with Oskar playing the flugelhorn. The band is following the tour of Oskar's grandmother who was part of Rättvicks Spelmänslag when they performed in Jamestown in 1956.

Jeanne Eriksson Andersen and her band Smörgåsbandet will be returning to Jamestown with their lively Swedish music. They have been popular with audiences in the past and we are pleased to present them again. Additional music will be provided by our local groups Svenska Spelmän, the Viking Chorus and the Vasa Voices from Cleveland.

Some of the other special events include a petting zoo with Swedish pygmy goats and the Viking Village. Several vendors will be located inside as well as outside. The Festival sponsored Loppis (flea market), Gift Shop and Hemslojdsbutik (handmade items) are gathering their items to be sold. A genealogy research corner will offer the ability to look up ancestors. The Family tent will be busy all weekend with continuous activities.

A variety of Swedish foods such as Swedish meatballs, korv, kaldolmar, rotmos, rice pudding, pickled herring and more will be served from the JCC cafeteria. Swedish pancakes with lingonberries will be available Sunday morning. One can enjoy these foods without paying a gate fee to enter the balance of the Festival. The American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation will be offering the world-famous Norm's korvburgers. Danish and local beers, as well as wine, will be offered in the beer tent which will be separated from the entertainment tent this year.

Lectures continue to be a major feature of the Festival. Some of the topics include the Viking Drum and Bugle Corps, Jamestown is still Swedish, Why the Vikings Came to North America, Ingmar Bergman's 100th Birthday, and Finding Your Swedish Ancestors. Ulf Barslund Mårtensson, Editor and Publisher of the Swedish newspaper of America "Nordstjernen", will make a presentation entitled "Embracing Change in Sweden Today."

One hundred dollars will be given to the winner of the Scandinavian trivia contest. The winner of the wife carrying Contest will receive the females weight in beer. One can play the Viking lawn game Kubb all weekend but there is also a contest to award a prize to the best player. Who is the best cook making something from cardamom? Pick up your Scandinavian passport, visit the various "ports of call" at the Festival and win a prize.

This Festival has one of the best folk costume exhibits in the United States. Carl Larsson prints and Jamestown's own painter Andrew Johnson's original paintings will be located around the expanded exhibit hall.

Several workshops will be offered over the weekend including Swedish social dancing (schottische, waltz, etc.), Swedish weaving, Norwegian knitting, crafts and much more.

Our new location at Jamestown Community College offers many ways to celebrate Scandinavia. Details will be on our web site Scandinavianjamestown.org or by calling 716-665-0883. Behold Scandinavia.

