

Friends of the Karl Oskar House

News about our mission of: Preserve, Share and Celebrate Swedish Immigration and Culture

29101 Glader Blvd., Lindstrom, MN. USA

February/March 2023

Expert on Vilhelm Moberg to speak at Chisago Lakes Library April 15



Mark your calendars! On Saturday, April 15, the Friends of the Karl Oskar House invite you to join them at the Chisago Lakes Area Library, 11754 302nd St., Chisago City, for their annual meeting where **Professor Roger McKnight will speak on “Vilhelm Moberg and Me. What the Swede taught me about Minnesota.”**

The event begins with Fika (coffee and treats) and music by the Nya Duvemala Folkmusiklag at 9:30 a.m. McKnight will speak at 10 a.m. followed by the annual meeting showcasing highlights of the 2022 Karl Oskar House season.

McKnight, professor emeritus in Scandinavian studies at Gustavus Adolphus College in St Peter, has written extensively about Swedish novelist Vilhelm Moberg and Swedish-American social history and literature. A native of Illinois, McKnight first learned of Moberg while he was living in Sweden as a Fulbright scholar during the 1970s. After studying at Lund College in Sweden, McKnight completed graduate studies at the University of Minnesota before beginning his teaching career at Gustavus.

Moberg visited the Chisago Lakes area in the late 1940s while researching fictional characters Karl Oskar and Kristina for his novels The Emigrants, Unto a New Land, The Settlers and The Last Letter Home. The Karl Oskar House on Glader Blvd in Lindstrom was identified by Moberg while he was here and has been maintained by volunteers for over 26 years.

East Central Regional Arts Council Grant awarded to Friends of the Karl Oskar House

We received notice on February 28th that a grant we wrote in January has been approved for the Friends of the Karl Oskar House. The grant will allow us to build and install a kiosk near the entrance of the Karl Oskar House to allow visitors to learn about the history when the house is not attended. An artist will be engaged to create a mural depicting Karl Oskar and Kristina on the shed wall and the funds will go towards our summer musical programming. Additionally new chairs will be purchased for the concerts and inside use. We are very grateful for the opportunity to enhance our visitor's experience.



Feel free to copy any of the above to share with your contacts or forward this email to those whom you think would be interested.



Visit from Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola.

Marilyn W & Gary are leading a tour group from Sweden that Ann Moonen has previously brought to the Minnesota. On April 17 about 50 members of a choir from Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola, Jönköping, Sweden, will visit the area including the Karl Oskar House.

Södra Vätterbygdens Folkhögskola (Svf) is a folk high school and is one of 150 schools for adult education known as "folkhögskola". This is a form of adult education, called "folkbildning", that is typical for Scandinavia.

Participation is elective and the education free from government influence. Like the majority of these schools, Svf is owned by an organisation, in this case the Uniting Church in Sweden. Svf was founded in 1919.

The Music Program. One or two years of training musical skills, both instrument and music theory. The choir has an important role in the education, and has made concert tours in Sweden as well as abroad, mainly to the USA.



SaxenTours Visiting March 23rd!

Our friends Crister and Maria from Saxen Tours in Sweden will visit the Karl Oskar House on Thursday, March 23rd for their annual "farm tour". We will serve FIKA 10am. All are invited to come and meet the Swedes!



SUMMER MUSIC

Marilyn Wahlstrom has been busy working with the musicians for the summer concerts. The season will kick off with Nordic Folk Music Jam on Sunday, June 4th from 1:30-3:30pm. Proposed concerts are June 11, June 25th, July 8 & 9th Karl Oskar Days, July 23rd, August 13, August 27, September 10th and end with another Nordic Music Jam on September 24th. The regular concerts are from 2-3pm and the music jams are 1:30-3:30pm on the Sunday p.m.'s. Check the Friends of the Karl Oskar House Facebook page, our website and the Chisago County Press for updates. Complete schedule will be shared as soon as available.



Sven Sjostedt is continuing to host the **Pratstund Zoom Swedish speaking** conversations on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm. Anyone wanting to chat in Swedish is welcome.

- Meeting ID: 815 2431 9160
- Password: NWW2021

Scenes from 2022



Fall closing 2022



Karl Oskar Days parade



Verkstad restoration Denise, Dean & Pam

Volunteer Opportunities:

Upcoming Events:

Volunteer hosts are needed for all summer Sundays. Please advise Carla of your choices. neilcar@frontier.com

A schedule will be available for your signup at the annual meeting on April 15th.

The spring opening cleaning date hasn't been set yet. All are invited!

Please plan to pay your annual dues at the April meeting to be eligible for a door prize drawing. (\$20 individual, \$30 family).

May use PayPal:

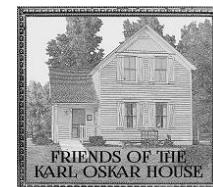
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For any donation.

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For more photos of all events, check our Facebook page. Friends of the Karl Oskar House

Please contact Carla Norelius with questions regarding this newsletter @ neilcar@frontier.com