

## ASI offers new genealogy service

The American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis has announced that it is now prepared to assist Swedish-Americans in discovering their family roots in Sweden. Through the recent acquisition of several hundred microfiche cards from a Swedish genealogical service, the Institute can now help individual Americans of Swedish background discover the specific parish in Sweden from which their ancestors emigrated. This vital piece of information is crucial to the successful discovery of any Swedish-American's family tree in Sweden.

The microfiche cards contain listings of many thousands of names of Swedes who registered with the police in Gothenburg and Malmö before embarking on ocean voyages between 1869 and 1896. These records are organized alphabetically by year and in most cases contain the name of the home parish of the emigrant. A descendant who knows the name and year of emigration of his or her Swedish forefather should be able to discover the parish of origin using these records. This fact is important because all of Sweden's church records — essential to anyone trying to uncover his or her family's history — are organized by parish. Without knowing one's ancestor's parish, a genealogical search would have to investigate the records of nearly 2500 parishes, a practically impossible task.

In addition to the Gothenburg and Malmö police records, the Institute has also acquired extracts from the emigration summaries for five *läns*: Stockholm, Uppsala, Östergötland, Södermanland, and Norrbotten. These records, also on microfiche, cover a much wider time period, from 1851 to 1947.

Research can be done either by visiting the Institute in person and doing the searching on one's own, or by arrangement with ASI staff. For Institute members a do-it-yourself search is free while for non-members the cost is \$10.00 per half-day. Research requests can also be made by mail or by phone. For this service the ASI charges \$15.00 per hour (minimum charge of \$15.00) plus expenses such as photocopying.

Anyone interested in using the ASI resources should call (612) 871-4907.

## SWEA celebrates tenth anniversary

SWEA — the Swedish Women's Educational Association International — celebrated its tenth anniversary with a weekend full of events on April 6-9. The Swedish women's organization was founded by Agneta Nilsson in 1979 and has now grown to a global network, including chapters in Japan, France, and Canada, as well as in the United States.

The celebration weekend took place at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Manhattan Beach, California. Events

included an all-day forum entitled "Sweden Today", an exhibition of art works by SWEA members, a members-only dinner, and a gala dinner for all members and friends at the Filmland Center in Culver City. Guest of honor was Princess Christina of Sweden, who serves as the organization's patron. Entertainment that evening was provided by Swedish singer Lill Lindfors and her band. Part of the evening's program included the presentation of the "Swedish Woman of the Year Award" to Countess Ulla Wachtmeister, wife of Sweden's ambassador in Washington Wilhelm Wachtmeister.

Although each SWEA chapter sets its own agenda and activities, most meet on a monthly basis and offer programs of a cultural interest. Most chapters sponsor an annual Christmas fair and all members' dues include a portion for SWEA's scholarship fund.

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