

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE KARL OSKAR HOUSE

Preserve, Share and Celebrate Swedish Immigration and Culture



Stake your claim now in a new walkway

See page 4 for details

Interview with Marilyn Wahlstrom, Musician

by Daniel Rehm Page 3

Welcome!



Gary Noren, President
Friends of Karl Oskar House

When Marty and I traveled in New Zealand several years ago, we were given a gift of a glass koru, a spiral shape based on the appearance of a new unfurling fern frond - a symbol of new beginnings! We use that image often during times of exciting new changes in our lives and this is one of those times.

This spring has seen many new beginnings for the Friends of the Karl Oskar House! A week of cleaning and preparation for a new season, the announcement of the 2024 summer music series by Marilyn Wahlstrom, a successful annual meeting and our letter from the IRS. An IRS letter is not usually something

to be pleased about, however we received notice from the IRS that our 501(c)(3) status had been approved and we were now able to stand alone as a nonprofit. This means that we no longer need to complicate financial reporting by working through the Chisago County Historical Society (CCHS).

This by no means diminishes the important role CCHS has been for us during our transition years and we look forward to a strong working relationship with them in the future. We continue to value our position on the board of directors, now being filled by Chuck Gramling. Many thanks to Marty Harding for taking on the huge task of filling out all of the paperwork to make this happen.

The Friends' Board wishes to welcome Peggy Kamish-Eral and Bonnie Brink Anderson to the board. We are taking on new projects and looking for community input.

Please contact us at FriendsofKarlOskarHouse@gmail.com or any board member directly.

Friends of the Karl Oskar House invite you to visit

Cleaning Day was held on May 13, 2024

On May 13, 2024, the Friends of the Karl Oskar House Board members and a group of volunteers readied the residence for the opening season.

During cleaning day, the house is cleaned, displays are prepared, and new Board members are oriented to their new roles.

Bonnie Anderson was oriented to a new role of Correspondent by Pam Deimel, and Gary Noren, Board President, took the opportunity to plan for Midsommar Days with the Chisago Lakes Ambassadors, Lee Donlin and Cheryl Kempenich.



Gary Noren, Board President, with
Chisago Lakes Ambassadors Lee
Donlin and Cheryl Kempenich

Karl Oskar Days
July 10-13, 2024

Celebrate Lindström's Swedish heritage and our modern-day community at Karl Oskar Days, our annual city festival!

There's a wide variety of events for children and adults.

Find details at
www.cityoflindstrom.us/karl-oskar-days



Members of the Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag musical group performing during a Swedish festival

Celebrating Swedish culture through music at the Karl Oskar House

The Karl Oskar House offers monthly music events to celebrate the local Swedish culture and heritage as a way to preserve, share, and celebrate Swedish immigration and culture

Kubb!
Sundays, June 30, July 21, and Aug 4, 1-2pm

Karl Oskar House Ki Chi Saga Park
29101 Glader Blvd, Lindström, MN

Craig and Boni Stockel lead a Swedish lawn game called Kubb. Join us and learn how to play this super fun lawn game.



Also known as "Vikings chess", Kubb originated over 1,000 years ago. Played during the summer months, it is a great way to enjoy the evenings of the summer solstice.

Now is the best time to join Boni and Craig as you celebrate midsummer day June 21.

At Nya Duvemåla, the Karl Oskar House, celebrating Swedish music has long been a tradition. The Friends of the Karl Oskar House offer regular music offerings throughout the open season to celebrate the Swedish music heritage of the region.

This month we had the pleasure of speaking with Marilyn Wahlstrom and learned that the traditions of Swedish music are shared among modern musicians, who develop their own arrangements and perform together to offer the rest of us the opportunity to celebrate Swedish culture and enjoy the music.

Marilyn formed the musical group Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag in 2021 with a group of musicians who love to play Swedish folk music. The group consists of violin, nyckelharpa, mandolin, guitar,

accordion and bass violin. They have performed at the American Swedish Institute and other Nordic Festivals and private events throughout MN & WI.

Known as the "Karl Oskar House Band", Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag is performing on July 13, 2024 from 2-3pm during Karl Oskar Days to share beautiful Swedish folk music and keep the traditions alive.

Donate to the Friends of the Karl Oskar House and preserve history

Monetary gifts can be made:

Via Paypal (FriendsofKarlOskarHouse@gmail.com)

Check or cash sent to:

Friends of the Karl Oskar House, P.O. Box 12,
Lindstrom, MN 55045

Artifacts related to the Immigration period of the late 1800s are also appreciated.

Friends of the Karl Oskar House
Board of Directors

Gary Noren, President
Chuck Gramling, Vice President
Carla Norelius, Past President
Marilyn Wahlstrom, Secretary
Pam Deimel, Treasurer

Becky Dudley
Pete Lindberg
Peter Osterberg
Sven Sjöstedt
Corliss Vadner
Bonnie Anderson
Peggy Kamish-Eral

Karl Oskar House Nya Duvemåla

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An interview with Marilyn Wahlstrom

By Daniel Rehm

Celebrated musician Marilyn Wahlstrom grew up playing music and leads the group Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag today

"Music is a universal language" Marilyn said quietly from the welcoming front porch of Gustaf's on Main Eatery. Once the historic 1879 home of Gustaf Andersen, it has been converted to a charming eatery featuring fresh food and Scandinavian specialties in the heart of bustling Lindström, Minnesota. There was pie involved, along with a touch of ice cream and some fresh brewed coffee. A decidedly Fika moment on a perfect spring day.

Music was to be the topic, Swedish folk music to be exact, and its melodic impact on the preservation of Swedish culture. Vilhelm Moberg himself would have been

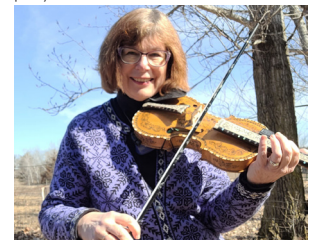
lucky to find any one person outside of Småland, Sweden more well-versed and qualified than Marilyn Wahlstrom. Swedish heritage is not only in her music, but also in her blood.

As the great granddaughter of Carl Linn, the man who built the now-famous Karl Oskar House in the 1860's, Marilyn is uniquely qualified to speak on the culture but it is her lifetime experience as a musician that gives her the unique ability to share Swedish culture with the people of Minnesota.

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Music with Susan Karpowicz (Lindvall)
June 23, 2-3pm

You are welcome to relax or get up and dance to Scandinavian fiddle tunes played by Susan Karpowicz (Lindvall). She will joyfully introduce some Norwegian Folk tunes that came from her great-great grandfather, the famous Vikka-Petter (1822-1884) that were played on the west coast of Norway. She will also add in some of her best loved Swedish tunes to honor her Swedish heritage from her father. There may be a hardangar fiddle, a Swedish Latfol fiddle or a flatfele being played!

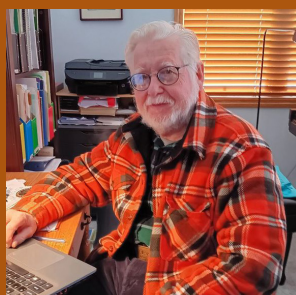


Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag
July 13, 2-3pm

Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag was formed in 2021 by a group of musicians who love to play music, especially Swedish folk music. Known as the "Karl Oskar House Band," the group has performed at the American Swedish Institute and other Nordic Festivals and private events throughout MN & WI.

Come to the Karl Oskar House for a fun and lively musical afternoon... listen, sing along, or even dance if you wish.

Enjoy Fika, good Swedish conversation with Karl Oskar, and great company on Sunday afternoon.



Talk in the Swedish countryside

Every second Monday of the month, the Friends of the Karl Oskar House invite you to speak SWEDISH by participating in "Talk in the Swedish countryside".

Hosted on Zoom, the second Monday of the month, from 7pm to 8pm (Minnesota Time), the only agenda item is a nice chat between friends.

You don't have to speak fluent

Swedish and you do not have to be Swedish at all - we just want you to speak SWEDISH.

Follow us on Facebook for the Zoom meeting details.

Continued from page 3...[Marilyn Wahlstrom]

Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag does not directly translate into the "The House Band" as in "The Karl Oskar House Band", but you won't offend Marilyn if that is how you need to know them. A more accurate translation would be New Duvemåla Folk Music Team. Duvemåla was the home of Kristina Johansdotter of Småland, Sweden, a fictional character from the famous Emigrants series written by Vilhelm Moberg.

Marilyn is instantly recognizable as long as you know what to look for. A woman of modest stature slinging a bow across the strings of what looks like a giant violin, the bass viol. In the absence of drums, Marilyn's mastery of the bass viol is both the rock and the foundation on which the other very talented musicians of the Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag team build their symphonic melodies. But the bass viol is not all she plays.

When asked which is her favorite instrument to play, she did not hesitate for even the slightest moment. "The pipe organ," she said enthusiastically. Marilyn's fifty plus years of service in various Lutheran churches in Minnesota no doubt held some influence over her answer. If there was ever any question in her mind it was decidedly answered when she was fortunate enough to tickle the ivory keys of the Domkyrka Cathedral, the largest and arguably most well-known cathedral in all of Scandinavia.

Now a resident of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, Marilyn grew up in Clear Lake, Wisconsin where she played the church organ since high school. Showing an affinity, she attended the Rymer School of Music in Roseville for two years before taking on a four year degree at Augsburg College in Minneapolis majoring in music.

As a freshman at Augsburg, Marilyn began her lifetime of service as an organist at the First Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Established in 1854, services were held in Swedish until well into the 1890's. Marilyn also established the famous hand bell choir that still delights the congregation to this day.

Years later Marilyn would come full circle by applying her many musical talents at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church established in 1854, only one week after First Lutheran in St. Paul. Coincidentally, Marilyn's great grandfather Carl Linn, the inspiration for Karl Oskar, was a charter member of Chisago Lake Lutheran Church. Chisago Lake Lutheran Church is also known as the church in the wedding scene in the 1993 Hollywood production Grumpy Old Men.

There is hardly an instrument Marilyn cannot play. Most recently she is in the process of mastering the very Swedish nyckelharpa, or "keyed fiddle". Similar to a violin but larger, it employs keyed tangents along the neck in order to change the pitch.

As far as future goals are concerned, Marilyn is on the hunt to learn and perform folk music from the original "sisters" to the many cities of rural Minnesota such as Tingsyrd, Sweden is to Lindström, Minnesota. Although the music must be arranged by the members of the team, and much of it is still not written down, Marilyn herself feels that technology in the computer age helps to spread and preserve the music as opposed to the fear of letting it get lost between the many bits, ones, and zeros.

As a board member of Friends of The Karl Oskar House, "Kristina Johansdotter" in the annual Karl Oskar Days Parade, and a frequent performer at the Karl Oskar House in Ki Chi Saga Park, Marilyn is easy to find, and even easier to get to know. Just look for the woman with the giant violin under the Astrakhan apple tree enjoying the smiling, happy faces of her audience.



"The world would be a pretty dull place without music." –Marilyn Wahlstrom 2024



Celebrate Midsummer Day on June 21

Minnesotans are known for celebrating our longer summer days by spending time near the water, gardening, hiking, or being outdoors. A cherished Swedish tradition is to celebrate the longest day with song, dance, and flowers. This year Midsummer lands on June 21st.

Stake your claim now for a commemorative brick in a new walkway at the Karl Oskar House in Lindstrom. **Remember a loved one or state your support with a \$100 donation for a personalized, engraved brick that will live on in the community as a statement of your support.** Reserve your personalized brick now by emailing FriendsofKarlOskarHouse@gmail.com

