

July 2024

SPECIAL EDITION

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE KARL OSKAR HOUSE

Preserve, Share and Celebrate Swedish Immigration and Culture

Lindström, MN

KARL SKAR DAYS

"America's Little Sweden"

Välkommen to Karl Oskar Days at the Karl Oskar House!

July 13th tours are available from 10am-4pm with music by the renowned Karl Oskar House Band from 2-3pm.

July 14th tours are available from from 1-4pm with music by Värsk Spelmän from 2-3pm.

Join us for R&R under the Astrakhan apple tree.

A celebration of Swedish Immigration and Culture

Karl Oskar Days is a celebration of Swedish immigration and culture by way of the fictional characters in The Emigrants, written by Vilhelm Moberg.

Moberg based his fictional characters on real life Swedish settlers in the Chisago Lakes area. During a tour of the Karl Oskar House, the tour guides describe how Moberg, while riding his bike around the area, discovered the building that currently sits in Ki-Chi-Saga Park (the Karl Oskar House) and decided that the home would become the inspiration for Karl Oskar and Kristina's home in the book series.

According to the Friends of the Karl Oskar House website, several families who reside in or have heritage from the Chisago Lakes area were inspirations for the characters in Moberg's book series. As a result, Karl Oskar Days is a celebration of the Swedish culture and heritage of the region through the characters that help us, in modern times,

understand what it was like to leave Sweden for the great opportunities in Minnesota.

The Friends of the Karl Oskar House encourage you to attend the Karl Oskar Days celebrations from July 10 to 13, and be sure to visit the Karl Oskar House for a tour, and meet Karl Oskar (Sven Sjöstedt) and Kristina (Marilyn Wahlstrom).



Sven Sjöstedt (as Karl Oskar) and Marilyn Wahlstrom (as Kristina) in Lindström, MN.

Meet Karl Oskar and Kristina during Karl Oskar Days in Lindström
Parade starts Saturday at 6pm sharp!

There are plenty of opportunities to meet Karl Oskar and Kristina! Take a selfie and post to your favorite social media site using hashtags

#KarlOskarDays2024
#KarlOskarHouse

Saturday, July 13

10am, Memorial Park

Listen to the **Unexpected Company Chorale**,
a Chisago Lakes community choir

10:15-11:45am, Chisago County Historical Society, 12795 Lake Blvd

Karl Oskar and Kristina meet and greet

1:15-3:00pm, Karl Oskar House, Ki-Chi-Saga Park, 29061 Glader Blvd

Kristina is playing in the "house band" Nya Duvemåla Folkmusiklag

Karl Oskar is meeting and greeting visitors at the House

6:00pm, KOD Parade Starts

Sven Sjöstedt and Marilyn Wahlstrom (as Karl Oskar and Kristina) ride in a convertible driven by Pam Deimel, with a banner carried in front by Carla Norelius and Corliss Vadner

Scan the QR code to visit the Karl Oskar Days webpage for the parade route and more activities



<https://www.cityoflindstrom.us/karl-oskar-days>

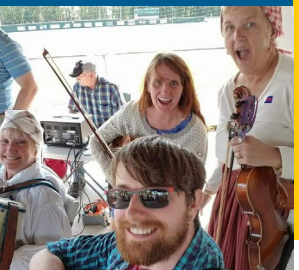
Come to the Karl Oskar House in Ki Chi Saga Park, 29101 Glader Blvd, Lindström, MN, on July 13 & 14 for fun and lively musical afternoons. Enjoy Fika, good Swedish conversation with Karl Oskar, and great company.

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.

Värsk Spelmän
July 14, 2-3pm



The Spargo family, Antonio on fiddle, Annika on fiddle, Thomas on guitar, and Carolyn on accordion and sometimes fiddle, started performing Swedish folk music together in 1999 while living just out of Luck, WI, after coming home from living in Northern Sweden. They played for the Amery Swedish club, coffee shops for Italian sodas and tips, various nursing homes, and different events in the USA and in Sweden.

The name Värsk is the gårdnamn (farm name) of Carolyn’s father, Ragnar Johansson, where he grew up in Western Dalarna. Spelmän are folk musicians, thus Värsk Spelmän became our name.

Värsk Spelmän continues to perform, today. Because availability of the family members are not always possible, we have Frances Olson and Julie Anderson in the group July 14.

Välkommen till Lindström

Sister City to Tingsryd, Sweden

Sister Cities and the Chisago Lakes Area

The sister cities for each of the area Chisago Lakes area cities play an important role in recognizing the Swedish heritage of the area

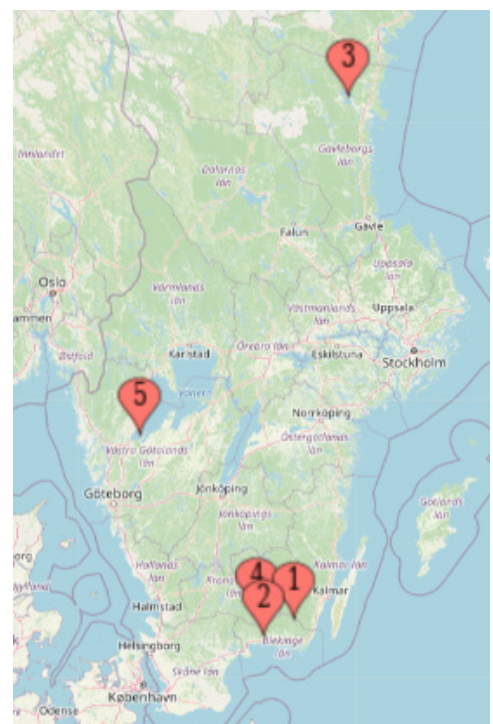
A sister city is a long-term relationship between two cities in two countries, formally established to recognize commonalities between the two cities, and oftentimes to encourage community engagement among the populations of each city. According to Sister Cities International, “a relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement to become sister cities.”¹

Several cities within the Chisago Lakes area each have a sister city in Sweden. The sister city to Lindström is Tingsryd, Sweden. According to the City of Lindström’s website, Tingsryd was chosen as a sister city because its size and demographics are similar to the population of Lindström, and it is very similar to Småland, a region in the southern part of Sweden where immigrants came from to settle the area of Lindström.² Both the cities of Lindström and Tingsryd encourage tourism between the two cities as a way to experience the culture and history the two cities share.

Within Chisago County, several cities are considered to be part of the 1846 settling by Swedish im-

migrants. According to the Chisago City Heritage Association, these cities include Chisago City, Lindström, Center City, Shafer, and Scandia, each having a sister city (listed and shown on the map by number).³

- Chisago City, sister city to Algotstoda (1)
- Lindström, sister city to Tingsryd (2)
- Center City, sister city to Hassela (3)
- Shafer, sister city to Nöbböle (4)
- Scandia, sister city to Mellerud (5)



¹ “What is a sister City”, Sister Cities International. <https://sistercities.org/about-us/what-is-a-sister-city-3/>
² “Tingsryd, Sweden: Lindström’s Sister City” City of Lindstrom. <https://www.cityoflindstrom.us/resident-information/pages/tingsryd-sweden-lindstr%C3%B6ms-sister-city>
³ Barott & Young. “U.S. Hwy. 8 Swedish Sister-City Signs and How They Came to Be”. Chisago City Heritage Association. <http://www.chisagocityheritage.org/sister-city-signs-heritage.pdf>

Landmarks of Swedish Immigration

The Chisago Lakes area was once home to the Ojibwe and later to the Swedish immigrants after the 1837 Fort Snelling treaty

For individuals who are interested in experiencing the trail of immigration right here in Chisago County, you can follow the Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail, established in 2020 to celebrate Swedish immigrant history, which runs from Taylors Falls to Wyoming⁴.

Swedish immigration in the 1850s into this region was possible due to a series of treaties made between the Dakota and Ojibwe people and the US government from 1837 and 1854. The 1837 treaty required the Ojibwe to cede to the US government more than 12 million acres which included their land between the St. Croix River and the Crow Wing River to the west.⁵ Through these treaties, the four sovereign Ojibwe nations in the St Croix watershed retained the rights to hunt, fish, and gather on all of these lands, as they do today. Although reservations were established in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin⁶, counter to prevailing myths the Ojibwe people were gone by the time the Swedish communities were established, they were present and still live in the region today.⁷

While touring the immigration trail, it can be difficult to find traces of the Ojibwe culture given the impact of Swedish immigration on the region. When on the tour, in Lindström, make a special visit to the "Karl Oskar House" (Nya Duvemåla) in Ki-Chi-Saga park to see the home that inspired the characters' homestead in Vilhelm Moberg's series "The Emigrants". The park's name, ki-chi-saga, honors the native land of the Ojibwe of this region and means "fair and lovely

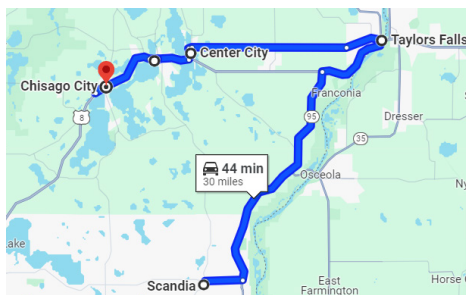
waters".⁸ Another park to visit is Ojiketa Regional Park on Green Lake in Chisago City, named in the Ojibwe language meaning "sweetness of life".

Discover other special places to visit by following the route shown on "The Emigrants' Itinerary", written by Alyssa Auten⁸, starting with the Gammelgården Museum in Scandia, then heading to visit the Angel Hill and Folsom House Historic Site in Taylors Falls. From there head to the Chisago County Historical Society, Glädje Gallery, and Gustaf's on Main Eatery in Lindström.

While in Chisago City, be sure to head to Moberg Park and see the statue of Vilhelm Moberg with his bike; a tribute to Moberg's time bicycling around the area for inspiration of his work of fiction.

Learn more about this route by visiting the Chisago Lakes Explore website (www.chisagolakes.org/the-emigrants-itinerary/).

Learn more about the history of the Ojibwe peoples in Minnesota by visiting the Native Hope blog site (<https://blog.nativehope.org/history-and-culture-of-the-ojibwe-chippewa-tribe/>), downloading a copy of the North Woods and Waters of the St Croix National Heritage Area's feasibility study (<https://northwoodsandwaters.org/feasibility-study/>), or searching the Minnesota Historical Society's site (<https://www.mnhs.org/>).



A map of recommended Swedish Emigrants Tour sites detailed by the Chisago Lakes Explore website⁸.

Kubb! Sundays
July 21 & Aug 4
1-2pm



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, now is a great time to enjoy Kubb.

Twin Cities
Hardingfelelag
July 28, 2-3pm



Twin Cities Hardingfelelag (Hardanger Fiddle Group) is dedicated to the performance of traditional hardanger fiddle music. The group provides dance music at Scandinavian events around the Twin Cities and in outstate MN. The hardanger fiddle is the national folk instrument of Norway. It is ornately decorated with pen and ink designs called rosing and inlaid mother-of-pearl. The hardanger fiddle is like a violin, with an additional four or five sympathetic strings that run underneath the fingerboard. These add a unique droning sound when the top primary strings are bowed. The members of the group wear bunad, Norwegian folk costume, with each bunad coming from a particular area of Norway.

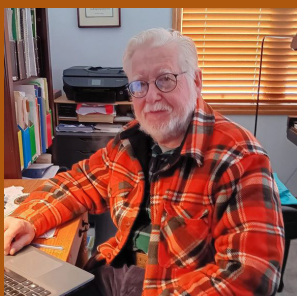
⁴ "Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail". Chisago County USA. <https://www.chisagocountymn.gov/481/Swedish-Immigrant-Regional-Trail>

⁵ "Minnesota Treaties". The US-Dakota War of 1862. <https://www.usdakotawar.org/history/treaties/minnesota-treaties>

⁶ "Minnesota Treaty Interactive". The US-Dakota War of 1862. <https://www.usdakotawar.org/history/treaties/minnesota-treaty-interactive>

⁷ "Feasibility Study". North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area. pg 10. <https://northwoodsandwaters.org/feasibility-study/>

⁸ "THE EMIGRANTS' ITINERARY", Alyssa Auten. April 18, 2022. Chisago Lakes Explore. <https://chisagolakes.org/the-emigrants-itinerary/>



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.

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

You are invited! Celebration and Remembering Helen Fosdick



Please join us on July 27th for memories and FIKA at the Karl Oskar House in Ki Chi Saga Park, 29101 Glader Blvd, Lindström, MN

Helen Fosdick was a long time resident of "Fridhem", the historic house on South Lindstrom Lake. In the early 1970's Helen was hired by Superintendent Don Bungum to teach Spanish and American History at Chisago Lakes High School. Swedish was added as a course at Chisago Lakes and Helen went on to nurture many students until her retirement. Helen taught the Swedish language to adults at night, was an active member of the local Swedish Club, and coached the young Swedish dancers.

In 1996, Helen served as a hostess when the King and Queen of Sweden visited the Karl Oskar

House for it's dedication. In 1999 Helen moved to California to be near her daughter.

Helen was active on social media and maintained many of the relationships that began here. She celebrated her 100th birthday last year (really celebrated) and passed away earlier this year.

Helen's daughter Tori would love to visit with people who knew her mom and share their remembrances.

All are invited to attend a **Celebration and Remembering Helen** gathering at the Karl Oskar House on Saturday, July 27th at 1:30pm.

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



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