Bits & Pieces
SwedGen Tour 2014

The 2014 schedule

*Friday October 10, 2014
  – Arlington Heights, IL.
* Sunday, October 12, 2014 – Rock Island, IL, at the Swenson Center.
* Saturday, October 18, 2014 – St. Paul, MN, with the Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota.

Participants this year are
  Anneli Andersson
  Charlotte Böjesson
  Anna-Lena Hultman

For more information go to their web site, link on p.30.

Northfield, MN, 2nd best small town to live in

According to the web site Livability, Northfield, MN, came second in a list over small towns in the U.S. where the quality of life is high.

Northfield residents have enjoyed higher income growth than most of the nation as this small town’s population increased and new businesses settled in. Proximity to several hospitals, including the Mayo Clinic, great schools, an abundance of parks, farmers markets, high community involvement, and excellent cultural amenities show this.

First place on this list was given to Los Alamos, NM.

Link on p.30.

The Swedish American of the year

C. Fred Bergsten of Annandale, VA, has been selected as the Swedish American of the year by the two Swedish districts of the Vasa Orden av Amerika.

Dr. Bergsten was born in 1941, son of the Methodist pastor Carl A. Bergsten and his wife Halvane Kirk. Pastor Bergsten’s father was Per August Bergsten, born in 1867 in Knista, (Närk.), who came to the U.S. in 1887, and then farmed in Kansas.

C. Fred Bergsten is Senior Fellow and Director Emeritus of the Peterson Institute for International Economics. He was its founding director from its creation in 1981 through 2012. The Institute is the only major research institution in the United States devoted to international economic issues.

Dr. Bergsten is a member of the President’s Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations.

(Web site of the Vasa Orden av Amerika).

A royal engagement

On 28 June 2014 it was announced that H.R.H prince Carl Philip of Sweden and Miss Sophia Hellqvist had become engaged to be married. The wedding is scheduled for the summer of 2015.

The prince is the son of King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia. He was born in 1979, and works as a designer, and he is also a captain in the Swedish navy and has an exam in agriculture. His honorary title is Duke of Västmanland. Miss Hellqvist was born in 1984, and grew up in Alvdalen in Dalarna. She has studied at the Institute of English and Business in New York, and also at Stockholm University. With a friend she runs the charity Project Playground, that works for better conditions for needy children in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Swedish Emigrant Institute

The fate of the Swedish Emigrant Institute (SEI) in Växjö is still not decided.

The society Friends of the SEI is optimistic though, and is celebrating its 30th anniversary in August. They say in the newsletter Emigranten that the general interest for the emigrants is active and growing.