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News from the Swenson Center

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News from the Swenson Center



From left to right: Bruce Larson (outgoing SCA Board Chair), John Norton (nominated by Augustana College, Augustana Historical Society, American Scandinavian Association at Augustana), Judy Ahlquist Mayer and Helene Leaf (Swenson Center), Herb Hult (Swedish Heritage Society of Swedesburg, IA), Lilly Setterdahl (Emigrant Institute), Ted Johnson (SCA Awards & Recognition Committee Chair), and Willow Hagans (incoming SCA Board Chair.) Photo: courtesy of Swedish Council of America.

Two Swenson volunteers among the recipients of the SCA “Awards of Merit”

At the meeting in the “Quad Cities” on Friday, 9 April 2010, by the board of the Swedish Council of America (SCA) and a number of affiliated organizations in Iowa and Illinois there were festivities and a banquet.

Five SCA “Awards of Merit” were given to some well-known and diligent promoters of Swedish America.

Here are some of the accomplishments of the awardees:

“Herb Hult has spent countless volunteer hours making the Swedish American Museum in Swedesburg a reality over the past 20 years. Herb presently serves on the Swedish Heritage Society’s Board of Directors and is also a grant director.”

“Herb’s greatest contribution and achievement has been an on-going project. Four books which he has compiled show the location of all past and present landowners, homes, churches, and schools in Swedesburg and Wayne township in Henry County, Iowa.”

Judy Ahlquist Mayer and Helene Leaf: “They both started coming in regularly to the Swenson Center when the Center acquired a subscription to *Genline* in 2005. With their regular assistance, we have been able to provide on-site researchers with professional individual service.

“The expertise and tenacity they have developed by reading and interpreting old Swedish parish records is impressive and highly valued by our patrons. We often receive comments from a researcher such as “I could never have found this information without Judy/Helene.”

John Norton: “John is being nominated by the Augustana Historical Society because the past four years he has served as editor of our newsletter which should be published twice annually. He gets so interested in the translating that he does that he will publish three times annually! He gives tirelessly of his time to support the Swedish heritage in the Quad City Area.”

“John’s volunteer activities include service on the board of Scandinavian Seminar, the Augustana Heritage Association, and newsletter editor of the Augustana Historical Society newsletter. He is a former vice-president and board member of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association.”

Lilly Setterdahl “is the author or coauthor of eleven books of nonfiction, and numerous research articles dealing with the history and experiences of Swedish immigrants. Her major book titles are: *Swedes in Moline, Illinois* (2003), *Minnesota Swedes*, two volumes (1996 and 1999), *Rockford Swedes* (coauthored 1993), and *A Century of Song* (1992).”

[Ed:s note]: Lilly’s new book *Chicago Swedes: They spoke from the heart*, presents 340 oral histories and 300 photographs produced by her late husband Lennart Setterdahl, 1967-1992. It will be reviewed soon in SAG.