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## The sun always shines in Karlstad

Elisabeth Thorsell

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# The sun always shines in Karlstad!



On 1 April 2009 many Swedish and American migration researchers gathered in Karlstad to take part in the inauguration of the new premises for the former Kinship Center.

The ceremony was performed in style, as the actual inauguration was done by H.M. King Carl Gustaf himself, and Queen Silvia was also present. In his speech the King also mentioned the new name of the institution, *Sweden America Center*, and wished them luck. There was fiddle music and songs from *Kristina från Duvemåla* during the ceremony. Some speeches were also held by Eva Eriksson, governor of Värmlands län, by Bruce Karstadt from the American Swedish Institute (ASI) of Minneapolis, and by Erik Gustavson, director of the newly renamed center. Bruce Karstadt described the *Värmland Gift*, which was given from the parishes in Värmland in 1952 to the ASI, to keep the connections between the Old and New country. This collection of various items is now on loan at the center until the end of the summer.

In the afternoon of this sunny day there was a reception and many representatives of various institutions gave gifts to the center to enrich their collections. Among those generous persons was Dag Blanck, director of the Swenson Center and publisher of SAG. It was also possible to study the Värmland gift, the new research room, and the library.

The day ended with a nice banquet at the *Stadshotellet* with more speeches and music.

So after a pleasant day, and a stay in a good hotel in Karlstad, your editor and her husband went to visit their own place in the Filipstad area, where we found a mousetrap with only half a mouse in it. It looked like his hungry friends had eaten the rest!



*Dag Blanck presents a book to Erik Gustavson, director of the new center.*



*The Sweden America Center is based on the bottom floor of the Residence in Karlstad. Address: Residenstorget 1, Karlstad. Postal address: Box 331, S-651 08 Karlstad, Sweden.*

*Phone (office): +46 546715100, +46 546715110*

*Research queries: Please write to [info@swedenamerica.se](mailto:info@swedenamerica.se)*

*Web site: <http://www.swedenamerica.se/>*