

UPCOMING EVENTS

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Vagn Nielsen, Executive Chef,
[Proof of the Pudding](#)
Sat. Feb. 18, 4-6 PM
St. Luke Lutheran Church
See Page 1

Swedish Crime Fiction

Lecture by Prof. [Sara Kärrholm](#),
Lund and Malmö Universities
Sat. March 17, 3:30 PM
Decatur Library
Mon. March 19, 11:30 AM
Georgia Perimeter College
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Aurora in April:

Finnish Music in Atlanta

April 17 and 19
Georgia State University
See Page 3

Viking Games at Norway Day

SAFG sponsors [Kubb](#) and other ancient games at the Sons of Norway's annual national day celebration.
Sat. May 19, time TBA
St. Luke Lutheran Church

Symposium: What Can Georgia Learn from the Finnish Education System?

Featuring Pasi Sahlberg, author of *Finnish Lessons: What Can the World Learn from Educational Change in Finland?*
With Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce, September, TBA ♦

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GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

Vagn Nielsen, Executive Chef at The Carter Center

Join SAFG members and friends on Saturday, February 18, 4-6 PM at St. Luke Lutheran Church for a lively talk by Vagn Nielsen, the famous Danish chef behind Proof of the Pudding, the official food-service provider for The Carter Center.

So what really goes on behind-the-scenes in the kitchen at The Carter Center? Come hear Vagn tell it himself and also learn what dignitaries from around the world he has been serving dinner to. What a challenge to come up with dishes for different nationalities, as well as President Carter and the former First Lady.

Vagn came to Atlanta many years ago to work at the Midnight Sun restaurant in Peachtree Center in downtown Atlanta, where he was promoted to Executive Chef. Little did he know that one day he would be the chef for the President of the United States and the First Lady. It started with preparing dinner at the Governor's Mansion in Atlanta when Jimmy Carter was Governor of Georgia.

Eventually he became the Executive Chef of a small catering and take-out deli shop, Proof of the Pudding, which also has catered many SAFG events.

SAFG Vice President for Denmark, Gitte Tobin, has arranged this free event, and coffee, tea, water, and delectable munchies will be served. St. Luke Lutheran Church is located at 3264 Northside Parkway, Atlanta 30327. For directions, visit www.stlukeatlanta.org/



L-R: Vagn Nielsen, NBC News Anchor Brian Williams, and President Jimmy Carter.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO AND MORE: PROF. SARA KÄRRHOLM SPEAKS ON SWEDISH CRIME FICTION MARCH 17 & 19

Thanks to Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy, the peaceful nation of Sweden has become known as the world capital of mystery fiction. SAFG members and Atlantans in general will have two opportunities in March to hear a world expert on Swedish crime fiction, Sara Kärrholm, Ph.D., from Lund and Malmö Universities, who is teaching a course on the topic at Harvard University this spring.

Kärrholm will first give a SAFG-sponsored lecture at the main branch of the Decatur Public Library on Sat., March 17, from 3:30-5:30 PM (Seating is limited so please reserve in advance; see box on page 5). She also will be speaking at Georgia Perimeter College's Dunwoody Campus on Mon. March 19 at 11:30 AM in the C Building Auditorium.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Daffodils in bloom in mid-January! Camellias and Japanese magnolias in early February! And now they are all dead and brown after



last week's night frosts. In Scandinavia, lots of snow and temperatures down to the -40s (F).

How did you like *The White Reindeer*? Quite a success as far as attendance—around 150!

This time we tell you about two SAFG programs in February and March, plus a few more Scandinavian-related events that we urge you to attend—The Atlanta Ballet's *Man in Black*, the opening of Legoland, and *Aurora in April: Finnish Music* presented by Georgia State University in mid-April. For May, we are still planning the Viking Games, but the Education Symposium has been postponed until fall, due to speaker Pasi Sahlberg's busy schedule. You were notified by email in advance of the February programs and I hope you enjoyed them.

Finding locations for our programs is always a challenge. Thank you Agneta Mimms, our Vice President for Sweden, for coordinating Sara Kärrholm's schedule. You will have two

opportunities to hear Sara—first at Decatur Library (main branch) on Sat. afternoon March 17 (with reception following) and then at Perimeter College in Dunwoody on Monday March 19. For details, see pages 4-5. She will be lecturing on different topics, so consider attending both. (Note: she will speak at Oglethorpe as well but only to students.) You also might want to read up on some of the Swedish crime fiction recently published in English (see "Reading List on page 5).

In January we sent out a reminder letter and membership form to all 2011 members. Thank you to the many of you who have already sent in your dues and generous donations! If you haven't yet, please do so as soon as you are able so we can update our address list and ensure you don't miss any of our planned events. If your email address changes, be sure to let us know immediately, so you don't miss any emails.

We are still considering reviving some of our old interest groups, depending on how you have marked the "areas of interest" on the membership form. Any suggestions you have are welcomed. We will need people to lead the groups, too. We are also now lacking both a **Treasurer** and a **Secretary**. I cannot carry those responsibilities as well, so *please consider applying for one of those jobs*. SAFG needs you!

Let me know how you liked this *Insights* and do send Jason Goodman articles for the next issue. ♦

—Margareta Martin
President
margaretamartin@att.net

VASA DRÄNGAR INVITED TO PERFORM AT THE AUSS CONVENTION

Vasa Drängar, the Swedish Men's Choir of Atlanta, has been invited to perform at the AUSS (*American Union of Swedish Singers*) Convention in New Haven, Connecticut, June 26-30. We are asked to sing at the opening program, as the very first performers at this convention. This is a great honor, and we are excited about the opportunity.

The AUSS is a 120-year-old organization and has members from about 30 choruses from across the United States. Their repertoire includes songs from all the Scandinavian countries. Every fourth year AUSS organizes a national convention. For more about AUSS, see www.auss.org.

We are hoping for support from Atlanta's Scandinavian community and beyond to assure that we are able to represent Atlanta on this occasion. Any contribution, smaller or larger, will help! Our participation in New Haven will put Atlanta on the map of Scandinavian choirs in the United States. We are the only one in the south. All the others are in the north—the closest one is located in Chicago!

Vasa Drängar got AUSS' attention from our website (www.vasadrangar.org) and from CDs produced by Vasa Drängar's "Qvartetten."

We will be very proud to represent Georgia at this convention.

—Göran Rygert,
Founder and Conductor
Vasa Drängar

ATLANTA BALLET PRESENTS CHOREOGRAPHY BY JORMA ELO

From March 23-25, the Atlanta Ballet will present a triple offering with a Scandinavian connection. James Kudelka's *Man in Black* delivers imaginative choreography based on music by country music legend Johnny Cash. "First Flash" is by **Finnish choreographer Jorma Elo** and imbues modern elements of speed and athleticism and demonstrates why Elo was singled out as a "talent to follow" in the *New York Times' Year in Review*. The music is by **Jean Sibelius**. The final piece will be Christopher Wheeldon's thrilling masterpiece "Rush," featuring stunning dances with searing beauty and movement. Two evening performances and two matinees are scheduled at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. (Source: www.atlantaballet.com/11-12-season/man-in-black.shtml)



AURORA IN APRIL: Finnish Music in Atlanta



The Center for Collaborative and International Arts (CENCIA) at Georgia State University is sponsoring two concerts of contemporary music from Finland featuring Major Raine Ampuja, Chief Conductor of Kaarti Soittokunta (The Guard Band); Timo Paavali Kotilainen, Chief Conductor of the Finnish Navy Band of Turku; Johann Tilli, Finnish opera singer, bass; and Harri Wessman, Finnish composer.

CENCIA brings together creative writers, visual arts, composers, musicians, filmmakers, and scholars engaged in arts-related research at Georgia State University. The concerts are free, open to the public, and scheduled for:

April 17, 2012, 7:30 PM at Kopleff Recital Hall (Main Campus)

April 19, 2012, 7:30 PM at Rialto Center for the Arts (80 Forsyth Street NW, Atlanta 30303)

For more information, call 404-413.5114. Map of GSU campus: www.GSU.edu/map/html. Closer to the dates, see also: www.safg.us. ♦

VIKING GAMES

The Norwegians are celebrating their national day, Syttende Mai, on Saturday May 19 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church on Northside Parkway. The all-day celebration will include Viking Games, such as Kubb, organized by Erik Kind, SAFG Vice President for Norway (and President of the Sons of Norway's local chapter) and Magnus Edlund.

For more information check www.safg.us and www.vennekretsen.com closer to the date. ♦

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

We are in the middle of a membership/fundraising drive and encourage you to participate by sending in your annual dues (the form is on page 13). In addition, do mention to family, friends, and acquaintances that they might wish to become members as well. The best endorsement is your enthusiasm for the purposes, programs, and involvement with the Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia, and a look at some of the events coming up will demonstrate the degree of activity and commitment we have to the future of our community.

The musical Finnish-American folk duo, Kaivama performed on February 12. On February 18, Vagn Nielsen, the well-known local Danish chef, will give a talk on his involvement in Atlanta's culinary scene. In March, we have invited Sara Kärholm from the University of Lund to talk about Swedish crime fiction, and in mid-April, there will be Finnish chamber music at the Rialto, courtesy of GSU. In late March, we recommend "Man in Black" at the Cobb Energy Center (see page 2), and on March 17, there will be the opening of Legoland at Phipps Plaza—an Atlanta version of the famous Legoland in Denmark (see page 7). In September, a symposium on the Finnish Education System and why it works is planned, with Pasi Sahlberg (who is the "go to man" on this topic) as speaker. This idea was conceived by the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce, and SAFG



will cosponsor. On May 17, we will join the Sons of Norway to celebrate their national holiday and add the Viking game, KUBB, coordinated by Erik Kind and Magnus Edlund.

More events are planned for the rest of 2012, and next year promises to be exciting as we plan to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of SAFG in a major way. For more information and to keep up with what is happening with SAFG go to www.safg.us or like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/safg.us

Having programs is not the only thing we strive to do; yet it is through such programs and other endeavors that we share the heritage and express the values of our culture. We believe that this is a worthy cause, and to enhance our offerings this year we have introduced a new concept for those who are able to support SAFG at the advanced levels. For those who give \$1,000 or more, for each \$1,000, you will receive a ticket to each event we sponsor in that donor year. This would be at least three paid events including a grand banquet, a lecture and a concert (or other presentation). At these VIP levels, we would also include your name or corporate logo in our publications, including *Insights*, and on our website. There could also be special bonus items based on the level of support. This is helpful in terms of budgeting and knowing that you would be supporting every event we do through the entire year. I wrote about this in the last *Insights* with more detail. And you can always contact Margareta Martin, President, or myself. ♦

—Dennis Carlson,
Chairman of the Board
dennis.carlson@emory.edu

INSIGHTS Spring 2012

Published quarterly by the Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia

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DO YOU LOVE DETECTIVE STORIES?

Continued from Page 1

Remember the Martin Beck Mystery Series by Maj Sjöwall & Per Wahlöö? The first one, *Roseanna*, published in 1965, was recently reissued with an introduction by Henning Mankell who says “the book still holds up today.” Before Sjöwall and Wahlöö, there was Stieg Trenter and Maria Lang in the 1950s when we called them “detective stories.”

And then came Henning Mankell in 1991 with *Faceless Killers* (English translation 1998), and his novels have been translated into 40 languages and sold more than 30 million copies worldwide. His lead detective was Kurt Wallander whom you have seen in a British TV series starring actor Kenneth Branagh (but filmed in south Sweden). *Los Angeles Times* called Mankell “Sweden’s greatest living mystery writer.”

Of course, starting in 2005, Stieg Larsson and his Millennium Trilogy with Lisbeth Salander, *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, hit bookstores worldwide. We have seen the three movies made in Sweden and the one so far made in the U.S., and we wish Stieg hadn’t dropped dead and deprived us of more. Thanks to that runaway success, other Swedish crime writers recently have seen their works translated into English, such as Lars Kepler, Roslund & Hellström, and Leif GW Persson. And no doubt more will be translated.

You can learn all about the Swedish crime fiction phenomenon from Sara Kärrholm, Ph.D. when SAFG brings her to Atlanta in mid-March. Be sure to reserve a seat in advance (see page 5). There will be a question and answer period afterwards, too, as well as an opportunity to chat with the speaker over refreshments. ♦

ABOUT SARA KÄRRHOLM

Sara Kärrholm teaches at the School of Arts and Communication at Malmö University in Sweden and is also a lecturer in literary studies in the Department of Language and Literature at Lund University. “My teaching is principally about comparative literature and children’s literature, but in Malmö, my research concerns issues about gender, genre, and literary norms and values in popular genres and in children’s literature,” according to Sara. She recently published a chapter on “Swedish Queens of Crime: The Art of Self Promotion and the Notion of Feminine Agency” in *Scandinavian Crime Fiction* (Paula Arvas and Andrew Nestingen, eds.) and a textbook on crime fiction, *Kriminalliteratur* (with Kerstin Bergman).



Sara Kärrholm, Fulbright Visiting Assistant Professor of Scandinavian Studies, Harvard University.

Kärrholm also contributed an article about Stieg Larsson and masculinity to the anthology *Men Who Hate Women and the Women Who Kick Their Asses!* (Donna King and Carrie Smith, eds.)

Another article, “Loving you is like loving the dead. Eroticizing the dead body,” concerns Stephenie Meyer’s *Twilight* series and was published in the anthology *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Twilight* (Mariah Larsson and Ann Steiner eds.) Her dissertation (2005) about Swedish crime fiction from the 1940s and ‘50s, *Konsten att lägga pussel* (“How to do a puzzle”), discusses how the genre was developed in a cultural climate influenced by the Cold War and the notion of the Swedish People’s Home. Her most recent research has focused on how medialization, literary fame, and gender have influenced the Swedish crime genre in the last two decades. This spring Sara Kärrholm is lecturing as a Fulbright Visiting Assistant Professor at Harvard University. ♦



SARA KÄRRHOLM IN ATLANTA

SAFG-Sponsored Lecture on Swedish Crime Fiction

When: Saturday, March 17, 3:30- 5:30 PM

Where: Decatur Public Library (main branch)

215 Sycamore Street, Decatur 30030

Meeting Room on Lower level.

Entrance from lower parking area or take elevator from ground floor. Plenty of free parking. Half a block from Decatur MARTA station (which is at the corner of Church St. and Sycamore St.).

Admission: To reserve a seat and attend reception, please send a check for \$8.00 made out to Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia to P.O. Box 1166, Decatur GA 30031-1166.

Price includes reception with Swedish-style goodies after lecture.

More Info: www.safg.us

Lecture on Stieg Larson's Millennium Trilogy featuring the mercurial character Lisbeth Salander

When: Monday March 19, 2012, 11:30 AM

Where: C Building Auditorium, Georgia Perimeter College Dunwoody Campus

Admission: The public is invited and there is no charge.

More Info and Directions: This event is part of their Sarah Larson Lecture Series, and she will be the keynote speaker for the Spring event. For directions go to: www.gpc.edu ♦



(PARTIAL) READING LIST OF SWEDISH CRIME NOVELS AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH

Stieg Larsson

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo (2008)

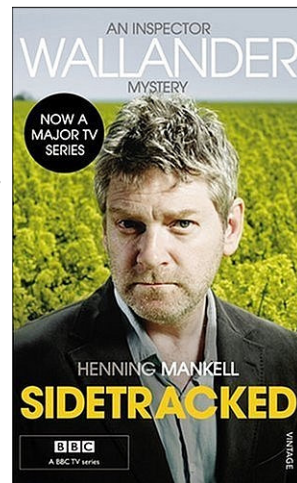
The Girl Who Played With Fire (2009)

The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest (2009)

See also: Kurdo Baksi:

Stieg Larsson: The Man Behind the Girl With the Dragon Tattoo; and *Our Days in Stockholm: A Memoir of a Friendship*.

Also: *The Tattooed Girl: The Enigma of Stieg Larsson and the Secrets Behind the Most Compelling Thrillers of our Time*; by Burstein, Keijzer, Holmberg (2011)



Henning Mankell

The Man From Beijing (2010)

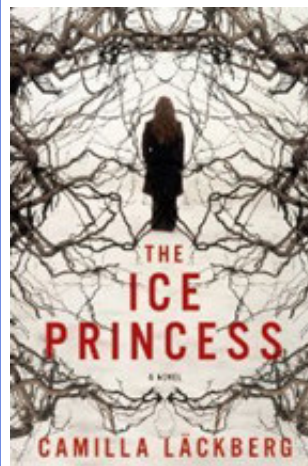
The Troubled Man: A Kurt Wallander novel (2011)

Etc.—or any other of a long list of Wallander and other novels by Mankell.

See also: Stafford Hildred: *The Secret Life of Wallander: An unofficial guide to the Swedish detective taking the literary world by storm*.

Roslund & Hellström

Three Seconds (2010)



Lars Kepler (husband/wife team)

The Hypnotist (2011)

Leif GW Persson

Between Summer's Longing and Winter's End (2010)

Camilla Läckberg

The Ice Princess (2009 paperback)

Maj Sjöwall & Per Wahlöö

RoseAnna (1967); With a new introduction by Henning Mankell, (2006, paperback), and includes listing of their books in English.

LOST NO MORE: SAFG REVIVES FINNISH FILM *THE WHITE REINDEER*

About 150 people attended a rare screening of lost award-winning Finnish art/horror film, *The White Reindeer* (*Valkoinen Peura*) at the Plaza Theatre on Sat. Jan. 14, co-sponsored by SAFG and the Mythic Imagination Institute, a local arts/culture nonprofit that seeks to activate imagination and intelligence through storytelling and mythology.

The first significant post-World War II Finnish film, *The White Reindeer* (1952) won a Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Film and the Fairy Tale Award at the Cannes Film Festival from a jury led by French director Jean Cocteau. However, despite its critical acclaim and beautiful cinematography, this black-and-white film directed by Erik Blomberg only had a limited U.S. release in the late 1950s. Since then, it has been largely forgotten, perhaps due to its unusual and enigmatic subject matter blending an art film sensibility; the shamanism/folklore of the indigenous, nomadic Lapland (Sami) people of northern Finland; and the unlikely themes of shape-shifting and vampirism.

“One of SAFG’s key missions is to give Atlantans more opportunities to

experience a diverse range of Scandinavian arts and culture,” said SAFG President Margareta Martin. “So we are really happy that so many people showed up to see a movie that had been mostly unknown and enjoyed the screening.”

In the spirit of the film’s cult appeal, Professor Morte, of Atlanta’s Silver Screen Spookshow, introduced the movie. Almost the entire audience stayed afterwards for a spirited discussion led by John Decker, assistant professor of art history at Georgia State University, and Honora Foah, president and creative director of the Mythic Imagination Institute.

“Tales both of people transforming into deer and of vampirism span many cultures from Europe to Native Americans,” Foah said. “Films are the folklore of our times.”

In *The White Reindeer*, a lonely and heartbroken Lappish woman, Pirita (Mirjami Kuosmanen), turns to a local shaman for help in reigniting the love of her husband, Aslak, who seems to be more interested in herding reindeer than romancing his wife. But thanks to being born under the curse of the Midnight



Sun, the love potion he gives her instead transforms her into a vengeful “White Reindeer,” a tantalizing prize for hunters who soon find themselves the prey as she reveals herself as a beautiful vampire. ♦

—Anya Martin

ATLANTA FINLAND SOCIETY & SAFG HOST KAIVAMA

SAFG members were notified by email about the concert of the talented Finnish-American folk duo “Kaivama” on Sunday, February 12 at 5 PM in the home of Jukka and Anne Kohtala in Lawrenceville. We were uncertain



whether *Insights* would reach you in time to RSVP and attend.

Finnish-American musicians Sara Pajunen and Jonathan Rundman grew up in Northwoods cultures of

long winters, lakeside saunas, rugged terrain and solitude. The landscapes of their childhoods echo in the music of their new self-titled debut album. Alternately ancient and modern Finnish influences reveal themselves in Kaivama’s sound. Danceable rhythms, joyous melodies, icy whispers, sleek construction, primal drones, and poppy hooks all interplay as Pajunen and Rundman explore the music of their ancestors.

This was a delightful evening and also provided those SAFG members who came an opportunity to meet members of the Atlanta Finland Society. The concert is cosponsored by the Atlanta Finland Society, The Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia, Arcticbrew, and Scandia Bread. Visit www.kaivama.com for more information. ♦

MORMOR’S CORNER

As I was making coffee recently, I added an extra scoop of grounds to the pot, and I remembered that Mormor used to do that. It didn’t matter how large the pot was, she would invariably add that bit for good measure.

I hadn’t thought about it for years, but I realized that I have maintained that practice for decades. She would say, “Lägg till en extra skopa.” I suppose our expression of putting in “one scoop for the pot” is the comparable.

Maybe that is a practical way of saying, “just to be sure.” I ponder how many of our behaviors harken back to some learned pattern or innate instincts. Or what do our children or grandchildren pick up from us and we don’t even realize it? ♦

—Dennis Carlson.

LEGOLAND OPENS IN ATLANTA

The original LEGOLAND opened in 1968 in Billund, Denmark, which is on Jutland, 150 miles west of Copenhagen. LEGOS are based on a creation by carpenter Ole Kirk Christiansen who in 1949 began making interlocking bricks. (Hope he got a patent!)

The Billund LEGOLAND is open from March to October. Entire countries are built there in small scale with LEGOs. But the park also offers rides, such as pirate-themed boat rides and a mining-themed roller coaster, as well as a toy museum with interactive mechanical toys. Many park sections have clever ways to get visitors wet, so visitors should bring a towel and/or change of clothes, especially in cool weather. Another clever idea is that you can rent a Kid-Spotter, a device that with a WiFi tracking network and instant messaging features allows you to send a SMS message which displays the kid(s) location on the parent's unit. Over the years LEGOLANDS were built in Windsor, England; San Diego CA; Seattle WA; Güntzburg, Germany, etc.; and now in Atlanta GA!

LEGOLAND Discovery Center Atlanta is scheduled to open in Phipps Plaza on March 17. The third of its kind in the U.S. and described as "stepping into the biggest box of LEGO bricks in the world," the \$15 million, 30,000 sq. ft. interactive attraction will feature a MINILAND exhibit that recreates landmark buildings in Atlanta made out of LEGOs, hands-on play areas, a 4D cinema, master classes by LEGO Master Model Builder Joshua Bohn, LEGO rides, and party rooms for birthdays and other celebrations. This highly interactive and educational 2-3 hour indoor experience is ideal for families with children. Note that adults are only admitted if visiting with a child. Starting in May, though, they will host an adult night on the second Thursday of every month.

Merlin Entertainments is the operator of the Atlanta's LEGOLAND. Europe's top and the world's second largest visitor attraction operator, Merlin operates over 74 attractions, six hotels/two holiday villages in 17



countries around the world, including SEA LIFE, Madame Tussauds, LEGOLAND, the EDF Energy London Eye, Dungeons, Gardaland, Alton Towers Resort, Warwick Castle, Sydney Aquarium, Sydney Wildlife World, and more.

The General Manager of LEGOLAND Atlanta is Penda Meftah, who has over a decade of service industry experience, including four years at Merlin Entertainments. A native of Dakar, Senegal in West Africa, Penda graduated from high school with honors and got further education at Texas Christian University (BA in marketing and management). She began her career in Paris and joined the Merlin team at

SEA LIFE Paris. She speaks Wolof, English and French. Penda and her husband now live in Buckhead.

On January 8, Joshua Bohn, who lives in Lawrenceville and is currently pursuing a BA in business administration at Georgia Gwinnett College, beat out over 100 other hopefuls to become Master Model Builder at LEGOLAND Discovery Center Atlanta. He was charged with creating three themed models out of LEGO bricks. These were: a koi fish during feeding; The Fox Theater; and an inspired homage to art showcasing the classic drama faces Comedy and Tragedy, a tribute to the tale of Romeo and Juliet, and the artist's tools of the trade showing a masterpiece in progress. He will be helping young guests foster their imagination and provide a fun, interactive LEGO experience.

Right now tickets are for sale for \$12.50—a \$6.50 per person saving if you visit the attraction's website: www.atlanta.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/atlanta. There is a mandatory arrival time, but once there, one may stay for as long as one likes. LEGOLAND Atlanta is also on Facebook and Twitter. For information on the original LEGOLAND, visit www.legoland.dk/. ♦

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Contact: **Jason Goodman**
InsightsSAFG@gmail.com

FISKER AUTOMOTIVE BUILDS ECO CARS IN FINLAND

Company co-founder Henrik Fisker received a \$529 million loan from the U.S. Department of Energy to build energy-efficient cars. “But there was no contract manufacturer in the U.S. that could actually produce our vehicle,” Fisker said. “They don’t exist here.” So Fisker decided to have its luxury vehicle, the “Karma,” built by Valmet Automotive in Uusikaupunki, Finland. After some initial problems with the battery, the Karma is now available in the U.S. and sells at \$96,000 to \$116,000. One of the first went to movie star Leonardo DiCaprio. The producers of *Two and a Half Men* chose the Karma for Walden Schmidt. Several years behind its original launch date, the first U.S. delivery to customers was last November.

The Karma can be charged with 110, 220 or 240 volt plugs and takes only six hours to provide 32 miles of pure-electric range. Then gas kicks in. It features speakers, both inside and out, that simulate a sound “like something between a Formula One car and a jet plane.” This function is for pedestrian safety. The interior is made of natural and recyclable materials; e.g. “Certified Rescued Wood” trim is sourced from Walnut Burl and Red Elm trees reclaimed from forest fires in California. (Fisker is based in Anaheim CA.)

The Energy Department, according to an ABC News report, stressed that U.S. loan proceeds are going exclusively to U.S. suppliers, not the Finnish manufacturer. And as a condition for receiving federal help, Fisker has agreed to build its less-expensive family sedan in Delaware, Vice President Joseph Biden’s home state. Another \$359 million loan supports production of the Fisker “Nina” starting in 2013.

Want to test drive the Karma? Try Classic Cadillac at 7700 Roswell Rd. ♦ (Sources: ABCNews.com, Wikipedia, etc..)



2012 Karma Eclipse. Credit: Fisker Automotive

HELSINKI: DESIGN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD 2012

Every two years the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (Icsid) selects The World Design Capital in order to promote and support the cultural, social and financial uses of design. In 2010, Seoul earned the title, and this year it is Helsinki, the capital of Finland.

Many awards recognize individual accomplishments in design; the WDC designation focuses on the broader essence of design’s impact on urban spaces, economies and citizens. “Design also has a social or public dimension,” according to WDC.

“For example, public transport, municipal and private health care, political systems or schooling would not work without proper design. ‘Embedded design’ ... means expanding the realm of design from products to various systems and public services, such as healthcare, and taking users’ needs into account from the very initial phase of design.... In Helsinki, design is the enabler of building an open city, the booster of its social, economic and cultural development. This concept of Embedded Design ties design to innovation from its very beginning. Design oversees the realization of the inhabitants’ needs and, in the final stages, ensures that the solution is desirable. This is how inventions, technologies, and systems are developed into innovations suitable for everyday use.”

“Helsinki Design is also part of world design – it is created together with the international design community and the people of the world,” WDC said. “Helsinki Design includes well-known global brands, such as Nokia, Kone and Marimekko; popular events like the annual Helsinki Design Week; first class education and research institutions, such as University of Art and Design Helsinki; and strong traditions, for example architects and designers Eliel Saarinen and Alvar Aalto.” In addition to Helsinki, the WDC includes adjacent municipalities Espoo, Vantaa, Lahti and Kauniainen. For more information on WDC Helsinki 2012, go to: www.wdc2012helsinki.fi. (Note: Quotes are from the press release: [City of Helsinki appointed World Design Capital 2012.](#)) ♦



The dynamic interior of new Helsinki Music Centre. Photo by Robert Luke.

 Like SAFG’s Facebook Page!

<https://www.facebook.com/SAFG.us>

Facebook SAFG members will be the first to receive announcements about upcoming concerts and events (with special pricing available exclusively to current SAFG members). If you know someone who would be interested, please invite them to like our page!

WELLNESS FOR LIFE

By Dr. Sten Ekberg

"I have had a lump on my wrist and now there is a pain in my hand and up my forearm. This has become more intense to the point of being debilitating. What might this be and what can I do about it? My general practitioner looked at it and had his partners look at it and they didn't seem to know what it is or what to do about it."

Anonymous

As with any medical issue, we always want to examine it in person before we say anything definite, but the vast majority of lumps on the wrist are what's called a ganglion cyst. They are very common and occur most commonly on the wrist or ankle. It is a swelling of the tendon sheath containing a clear liquid. Most ganglion cysts are not very painful in and of themselves, but they can put pressure on and irritate adjacent tissues to cause direct or referred pain.



We also want to remember that everything in the body happens for a reason. If there is a problem, it always means that something is not working right, and we are always better off trying to determine where a problem came from than trying to treat only the symptom itself. Whenever we find a ganglion cyst, we typically will find one or more dysfunctional muscles in the forearm. Usually this means that we can find one or more very tender nodules in the belly of the muscles of the forearm.

By rubbing on the nodules gently until they soften slightly, we have helped activate the brain to relax the muscle. Most of the time this will help the body drain the fluid the way it is supposed to with normal function.

Sincerely, Dr. Sten Ekberg

(We invite you to submit your wellness questions for Dr. Ekberg to answer to: InsightsSAFG@gmail.com)

FINLAND ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

Finland held presidential elections in January/February 2012. These are direct elections by the people and had to be held twice since the first round produced no clear winner. In the second round between the two top vote-getters, Sauli Niinistö of the Conservative Party (Kokoomus) won, getting 62.6% of the votes. He will be the 12th president since Finland became a republic in 1918. His campaign budget was a record 1.2 million Euros. The President's term is six years.

Finland has been hit by severe snowstorms and temperatures down to -42.7C (below -40F). Returning home from Niinistö's victory party, Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen slipped and hit his forehead on a flower pot; he needed seven stitches. He had not been drinking, he said, only raised a glass to the new President who will take office in March.

(Note: Both Niinistö and Katainen are males; former President Tarja Halonen is female—which might not be obvious to non-Finnish speakers.)◆

NORDIC SINGERS RETURN

On June 15, you will have an opportunity to hear the Nordic Singers (formerly the Royal Danish Opera Singers) of the Copenhagen Opera again. This time they have been invited by the Scandinavian Festival, Inc. to celebrate the lives of Sam and Barbro Linden with this concert, since no actual Festival could be organized this year. The event will be a dinner at the Waverley Hotel and cost is \$75. Please check www.safg.us for more information later this spring.◆

SANTA LUCIA LIGHTS UP ATLANTA FOR 37TH YEAR

The Nordic Lodge tradition of celebrating Santa Lucia in Atlanta began in 1974 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church at the intersection of Briarcliff Road and North Druid Hills Road and has rotated to Peachtree Road Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer, Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, Winters Chapel United Methodist Church, and on Dec 9, 2011 to Trinity Presbyterian Church.



The first Lucia was Arvid and Dorothy Tegner's daughter, Mona. Thinking of all the Lucias, attendants, musicians, and all those who helped in various ways and means, a rather large group of people have participated in Lucia celebrations through the years. Add to that the audience, and the number of those exposed to Lucia in Atlanta is impressive.

This year Olivia Almström was the Lucia, and for the second year Mia Peters directed the children's and women's choirs and Göran Rygert led the Vasa Drängar, the Swedish Men's Choir of Atlanta, and the joint choir. Gabe Granitz was the organist and Karla Olterman, past chair of the Nordic Lodge, organized the event with input and help from many volunteers.

It has been interesting to see how this event has grown and taken its place in the standard Christmas fare in Atlanta. This year also saw the return, as a guest, of former director Maria Kransmo, who was in town for the exclusive performance as soloist at the Lucia Celebration of the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce-Georgia. Other Lucia celebrations in Atlanta have been held by IKEA and the Swedish Women's Education Association (SWEA).◆

—Dennis Carlson

DRIVIN' AND DREAMING WITH SWEDISH SINGER/SONGWRITER SOFIA TALVIK

Singer/songwriter [Sofia Talvik](#) may hail from Sweden but she's no stranger to America, with five full-length albums and nine EPs and having blown away audiences at Austin's South By Southwest live music festival. She also holds the distinction of being the first Swedish artist to play Lollapalooza. In fact, she's likely more popular here than in her native Scandinavia. Her current two-year American tour rolled into Atlanta's Drunken Unicorn on Sat. Jan. 21 and she may be back again in Atlanta in April.

Sofia has been compared to Joni Mitchell, Aimee Mann, and The Cranberries, and an otherworldly edge, surprising twists and powerful, haunting vocals make her stand out as more than just another pretty folk-pop-acoustic performer. In other words, in Scandinavian music terms that Americans can understand, she's no ABBA retread and not quite the enigmatic eccentric of Bjork, but carving her own unique and welcome niche in the music world.

Sofia's roots also embody the 21st century equivalent of troubadour on the Internet, being a self-taught musician who started building a following by giving away her songs online and then driving cross-country from gig to gig in an old RV. We decided to ask Sofia to tell us a little bit more about her music and her tour.

Insights: *How did you get started in music and decide you wanted to be a professional singer/songwriter?*

Sofia Talvik: I had played the piano since I was about eight years old, mostly playing classical music. When I turned 18, I wished for a guitar for my birthday but had no idea how to play so I started writing songs to learn. I never had any dreams or ideas that I would become a pop star or anything like that. I just did my songs that I played for my friends now and then. After a while I recorded a demo and sent it to a radio show for unsigned music who picked up my song, "[Ghosts](#)." All of a sudden people started to email wanting to hear more, so I put up a Website where I uploaded my songs and started playing

live. Then it just kind of went from there.

Who do you consider your influences?

It's hard to pin down influences I think. All the things you listen to and experience become your influence. I did listen to a lot of '60s music when I was a teenager and I love Janis Joplin, but I don't think anyone will hear her as an influence in my music. I actually started listening to Nick Drake—who by the way is one of the big '60s artists—after being compared to him and I love his music, but he was way better at playing the guitar than I'll ever be (*laughs*).

You've said you've had a stronger response to your music in America than in Sweden. What's the music scene like in Sweden and how do you fit into it? And how does it compare with what you've experienced here?

I think mainly because Sweden is so much smaller than the US, there are not enough people to keep the diversity going. If say five percent of the Swedish population listens to my music, compared to if five percent of the American population does, that's a huge difference. That's the difference that will make you able to live off your music or not. I also think Sweden is more of a trend-sensitive country, so when something is in trend all the radio stations will play it, and if it goes out of trend, no one will care all of a sudden. Here in the US, everything goes on at once. You have radio stations that just play folk or just play pop here. There's always an audience here for your music, you just have to find it, and that's what I'm doing with this tour.

Is there any story about how you became the first Swedish female artist



Sofia Talvik. Photo courtesy of Sofia Talvik.

to score a spot at Lollapalooza?

I was part of an online music competition called [Famecast](#) and got to the finals in my genre. So they actually flew me over to Austin, TX where I got to perform for a jury and an audience. I didn't win, but the booker for Lolla saw me there and I got the gig. Playing the Lollapalooza was one of the coolest things I've done. That festival is huge! *You've got a VW bus on one of your posters and you're traveling around the US in an RV. How long have you been on the road?*

My tour is called Drivin' & Dreaming, because it's all about touring and living the dream. We actually don't tour in a VW bus even though that would have been really cool. However, it would probably also have been a lot colder than a newer RV. My husband and I started out the tour in Florida in December where [we] bought this

Continued on Page 11 →

Sophia Talvik, Continued from Page 10

old Gulfstream Conquest from '94 which we fixed up. It looked pretty good until we started tearing off the wallpaper and discovered it had water leaks all over. But we just tore everything out and now it's really nice inside - our little home on the road.

What's your favorite on-the-road Americana experience so far?

So far the tour has been amazing. We've met so many wonderful people who invited us into their homes, for dinner and brunch, helping out with stuff etc. We've also gotten to see a lot. We were around Florida in December which was nice and warm and then we headed up to GA, SC and NC. Savannah, GA was wonderful and we stayed there for a few days. In Charleston, I woke up in the middle of the night because someone tried to steal the bikes we had mounted on the back of the RV. That was scary. But mostly it's been positive experiences. One of the best things is that I get to do this with my husband. He actually quit his day job back in Sweden to come with me on tour.

What's next for Sofia Talvik?

My new album, *The Owls Are Not What They Seem*, [was] released January 31 and is up for orders on my [Website](#) now. My tour will go on for two years so that will also keep me busy. In February, I'm doing an official showcase at the [Folk Alliance International Conference](#) in Memphis, so I'm really looking forward to that, too. In the near future, though I think we'll have to find a campground so we can charge our house battery in the RV a little. ♦

—Anya Martin

Note: This article is adapted from a piece that originally appeared on [ATLRetro.com](#)



JON RIIS AT MODA

The last issue of *Insights* invited you to the Museum of Design Atlanta (MODA) in November 2011 to hear Jon Riis talk about his fabulous tapestries, inspired by Asian motifs from China and Tibet but also by old Norwegian textiles. Jon creates them with luxurious materials—gold thread, freshwater pearls, crystal, turquoise, and coral beads. Many of the tapestries are in the shape of Tibetan-style coats. Each conveys a message and hidden meanings. Jon's work can be found at major U.S. museums. Hearing his presentation was a special treat. Pictured Left-Right: Gitte Tobin, Jon Riis, Tuula Becker, Anna Hamalainen, Rosa Hamalainen, Margareta Martin. ♦



FINLAND'S HOUSE OF NOBILITY

If you have visited Helsinki and taken a sightseeing tour, you may have dropped in to see the great hall of Finland's House of Nobility where the coats of arms of the noble families cover the walls of the Empire-style palace.

"How can a republic have nobility?" you ask. Finland was part of the Swedish monarchy for hundreds of years, and the Finnish noble families were registered at the Swedish House of Nobility in Stockholm. When Sweden lost Finland to Czarist Russia in 1809, Alexander I, Emperor of Russia and Grand Duke of Finland, established a Finnish House of Nobility. Those noble families of Swedish descent who chose to remain in Finland were registered there.

The King of Sweden in the Middle Ages needed a professional army. Taxpaying landowners were persuaded to equip a soldier with horse and arms. In return, they were granted exemption from land taxes. This exception was made hereditary in the 16th century. Titles (Count, Baron) were given in reward for services rendered. After 1809, the Russian Emperor continued to award peerages to scientists, senators, and industrialists. The last person "knighted" became a Baron in 1912, and 357 families are currently registered at the House of Nobility, the largest class being untitled nobility. They no longer get a tax exemption, though.

When Finland became an independent Republic, no more peerages were granted, but the activities of the House of Nobility as a public corporation are fixed in the Act on the House of Nobility of 1918. The beautiful palace adjacent to the neo-classical Senate Square houses the archives of the Nobility dating back to the Middle Ages. They are continuously updated, and periodically "The Calendar of Nobility" (*Adelskalendern*) is published. Listed are the male members and their families, but the children of daughters who no longer carry "the Name" are excluded. Of the families registered, three have surnames in the Finnish language. The peerage are mostly Swedish-speaking Finns but include increasing numbers of Finnish speakers, so the forms asking for updated information are now in both Swedish and Finnish.

The House of Nobility is a popular event site, and the west part of the building is rented out to the Finnish Literature Society. Revenues from rentals provide the funds needed to maintain the building and archives. And now and then a Grand Ball of the Nobility is held. ♦

—Margareta Martin

These Scandinavian organizations in Georgia welcome your interest and invite you to contact them for more information:

ATLANTA FINLAND SOCIETY, Inc. is a chapter of the Finlandia Foundation National, a member of Suomi-Seura and a social and cultural organization for persons interested in Finland and Finnish culture in the Atlanta area. Katriina Naukkarinen, President, Email: katriina.naukkarinen@comcast.net Phone: 404-353-2898 www.atlantafinlandsociety.org

DANISH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (DACC): Michael Haagen Jensen, President and Chairman, Email: info@daccusa.org Phone and FAX: 1-877-234-7679 www.daccusa.org

DANISH TRADE OFFICE: Carsten Rosendahl, Trade Commissioner, Email: tradecouncilat@gmail.com Phone: 404-588-1588 www.dtcatlanta.um.dk

FINNISH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (FACC): Eric Estroff, President, Email: eric.estroff@nokia.com Phone: 404-219-5088 www.facc-southeast.org

FINNISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF ATLANTA has merged with the ATLANTA FINLAND SOCIETY, Inc. Finnish school is held every other Saturday. The purpose of the school is to maintain our native language and culture and also meet and socialize with other Finnish people. There are classes for children as well as adults. Sanna Lattunen Email: lattuset@gmail.com Phone: 404-452-6683 www.atlantafinlandsociety.org

ICELANDIC-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA: Elin Griffin, President, Email: iclnd@hotmail.com Phone: 770-421-9129

NORDIC LODGE #708 OF THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA is a Swedish-American cultural and fraternal organization for persons of Scandinavian birth or descent and their families. Carolyn Bagheri, Chairperson, Email: info@gwinnettcitizen.com Phone: 404-281-8529(c), 770-972-4832 (h) www.vasaorderatlanta.com

SCANDINAVIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION OF GEORGIA (SAFG) promotes cultural, educational and amateur athletic exchanges between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden and the State of Georgia. Membership is open to anyone who is interested. Margareta Martin, President, Email: margaretamartin@att.net, Phone: 404-373-9919 or Dennis Carlson, Chairman, Email: dennis.carlson@emory.edu Phone: 404-377-4825 www.safg.us

SCANDINAVIAN FESTIVAL ATLANTA: Vibeke Petersen, President, Email: Vibeke_Petersen@att.net Phone: 404-695-4478 www.atlantascandinavianfestival.org

SONS OF NORWAY, VENNEKRETSEN ATLANTA LODGE 3-678 started February, 2008. Meetings first Sunday of each even numbered month, 3 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 3264 Northside Parkway NW, Atlanta, GA 30327. Erik Kind, President, Email: eriktheviking3678@comcast.net or erikkind@vennekretsen.com Phone: 404-934-6942 www.vennekretsen.com

SWEDISH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – GEORGIA (SACC): Benedikt Ibing, Vice Chairman, Email: benedikt.ibing@sacc-georgia.org Phone: 770-670-2480 www.sacc-georgia.org

SWEDISH SCHOOL OF ATLANTA has the objective to teach the Swedish language, culture and traditions to children aged 3-18 with some prior knowledge of Swedish and at least one Swedish parent. Susanna Hammontree, President, Email: susannahammontree@yahoo.com Phone: 770-795-7640 www.swedishschoolatlanta.org

SWEDISH WOMEN'S EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (SWEA) is an international organization for Swedish and Swedish-speaking women to promote Swedish culture and foster friendship and personal growth. Anna Lundblad, President, Email: awetterbro@charter.net Phone: 404-723-0636 www.swea.org/atlanta

VASA DRÄNGAR is the Swedish Men's Choir in Atlanta, founded in 1996. Göran Rygert, Founder-Conductor, Email: rygert@bellsouth.net Phone: 770-977-8537. Sten Ekberg, President, Email: doc@sten.us Phone: 678-638-0898 www.vasadrangar.org

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INSIGHTS is published by the Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia, Inc., which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the exchange of educational, cultural and amateur athletic endeavors between the countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the state of Georgia.