

# NORDIC AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 1999

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**EMIGRANT  
MUSEUM IN  
NORWAY TO  
DISLPAY  
AMERICAN  
PSALMODIKON!**

Be sure to read  
Page #6 of this issue  
of the newsletter for  
the story of this  
unique opportunity  
to share the story of  
Nordic-American  
Psalmodikonforbun-  
det. It's another  
indication that our  
organization is be-  
ing recognized for  
the important part it  
plays in preserving  
this part of our her-  
itage.

It would be just  
great if every mem-  
ber would be a part  
of this project -  
again read page 6 to  
see how you can  
participate to make  
it a reality. Mange

Takk!

Larry Gjenvick

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## Notes from MUSIC-ON-A-STRING

**THE DATE IS SET! MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!  
SEPTEMBER 17, 18 & 19, 1999**

The folks at the Good Shepherd Lutheran  
Church in Decorah  
*PSALMODIKON  
ANNUAL  
MEETING*  
*A TIME FOR  
GATHERING  
TOGETHER!*  
Iowa, have so gra-  
ciously offered  
their facilities for  
the Third Annual  
Meeting of the  
Psalmodikonfor-  
bundet. I am very  
thankful for all the  
help and support in  
planning this event

from Donald and Barbara Berg of Decorah,  
who are serving as our host & hostess for the  
meeting.

It would be good if everyone could arrive in  
town on Friday Evening to get settled in  
your place of lodging and for a social get-  
together. That way we will be all ready to  
start about 8:30 a. m. on Saturday to allow  
plenty of time for all the activities that have  
been planned for the day. The Good Shep-  
herd Lutheran Church has invited the  
Psalmodikon players to participate in their  
5:30 p. m. service on Saturday evening and  
again on Sunday during the 9:30 a. m. ser-  
vice.

The Psalmodikon and I have had a very busy  
summer. We have been invited to so many  
special ethnic events and have met hundreds  
of wonderful people. In June we partici-  
pated in two church services conducted in

the Norwegian language at the Hjemkomst Center in  
Moorhead, Minnesota. This Museum houses the  
Hjemkomst ship that was built by a farmer in the  
nearby community and then sailed to Norway upon  
completion. A Stave church, modeled after the  
church in Vik, Norway, has been built next to the  
Museum by another local resident, Guy Paulson.  
The Psalmodikon music sounds wonderful in this  
huge wooden church although the Stave churches  
were in use long before the "birth" of the  
Psalmodikon. Mr. Paulson was quite fascinated with  
the Psalmodikon and now those strong hands that  
built the majestic Stave church is now building a  
Psalmodikon! We welcome Guy and Bev Paulson  
into the membership of the Nordi-American  
Psalmodikonforbundet!

The three days during the Nordic Fest in Decorah are  
usually the highlight of the year but a very tiring one  
as well. I demonstrated in the Bethania Church, on  
the Vesterheim grounds, from 9:00 to 5:00 on Friday  
and Saturday, and then taking a break to perform on  
the stage at the Viking Theater each afternoon. I  
always consider it an honor to be invited to perform  
there as many of the folks performing provide some  
pretty good toe-tapping fiddle music. On Sunday  
morning the musicians always bring their Nordic fest  
get-together to a close with a Sunday Morning  
Gospel sing at the Bethania Church. The  
Psalmodikon always provides the Prelude music and  
this year I had the privilege of being accompanied by  
Burton Gran of Plymouth, MN on the old pump or-  
gan in the church. It touched my heart when I knew  
we had so inspired the audience that they broke into  
song as we played "What a Friend We Have In Je-  
sus". The Psalmodikon and I also accompanied Walt  
Ofstedahl, of Holmen, WI, as he favored the audi-  
ence with several songs sung in Norwegian.

## PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

The Psalmodikon and I were also invited to do a presentation at one of the forums being held at the Bygdelaag Centennial on July 29, 30, & 31, at Luther College In Decorah. Again, the temperature and humidity were both in the 90's and we were all very thankful for air conditioning!

I could go on telling about my wonderful experiences. So many folks are learning about the Psalmodikon and what an important part it played in the lives of our ancestors. Paul Knivslund has been busy constructing Psalmodikons for the folks we meet along the way plus our Psalmodikonforbundet is growing in membership each time we do a presentation.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Decorah on September 17, 18 & 19!!!!!!Let me know if you are coming or not so we know how many to plan for.

In the meantime....."keep practicing".

Beatrice Hole



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### THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A MEETING OF THE NORDIC-AMERICAN PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET TO PUT US BACK IN TUNE AGAIN!

Saturday (September 19th) should be a real fund day for all those attending the 3rd Annual Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet. In addition to a Psalmodikon workshop, practise sessions, the usual business and good fellowship, there will be a special tour of the Verterheim Norwegian Museum. Here we will be allowed to open up the cabinets where the collection of the old Psalmodikons are displayed and be able to study them! Afterwards we will have lunch at the famous Dayton House Cafe, next door to the museum, which serves food in the Nordic tradition. Following the 5:00 p. m. worship service, we will have dinner at one of the finer restaurants in Decorah.

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It is always a good idea to encourage other folks from within the communities to attend all or at least a part of our Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet meeting. It would be helpful if those of you who are reading this Newsletter would submit an article to your hometown newspaper, relating to the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet in Decorah, IA on the weekend of September 17, 18 & 19. Please encourage your spouse, family members and friends to attend. You don't have to be a musician to help us carry on the Psalmodikon tradition. Spread the good word!!!

It would be wise to make your motel reservations soon for the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet as there are only a limited number of motel rooms left for Friday, September 17th.

Several residents in Decorah have so graciously offered private sleeping rooms in their homes for members of the Psalmodikonforbundet to stay in. These homes are located near the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church where we will be meeting.

Included in the Newsletter is a listing of motels in Decorah and nearby towns. If you have any problem securing a motel room or would rather stay in a private home, please contact:

Lee Paris at 612-474-0173

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### HOTELS/MOTELS

#### DECORAH:

Villager Lodge (319) 382-4241 or (800) 632-5980  
Super 8 Motel (319) 382-9771 or (800) 800-8000  
Heartland Inn (319) 382-2269 or (800) 334-3277  
Carlson Country Inn (800) 456-4000

#### CRESCO (20 miles west on Highway #9)

Cresco Motel (319) 547-2240

#### LANSING (37 miles east on Highway #9 & # 76)

Scenic Valley (319)538-4245

#### NEW HAMPTON (38 Miles SW on Hwy #52 & #24)

Mohawk Motel (515) 394-3081  
Southgate Motel (800) 728-4145  
New Hampton Motel (515) 394-2126  
Super 8 Motel (800) 800-8000

#### POSTVILLE (20 miles southeast on Hwy #52)

Pines Motel (319) 864-7531

#### WAUKON (20 miles east on Highway #9)

Stony Creek Inn (800) 659-2220  
Uptown Motel (319) 568-3486

#### HARMONY, MN (26 miles NW on Highway #52)

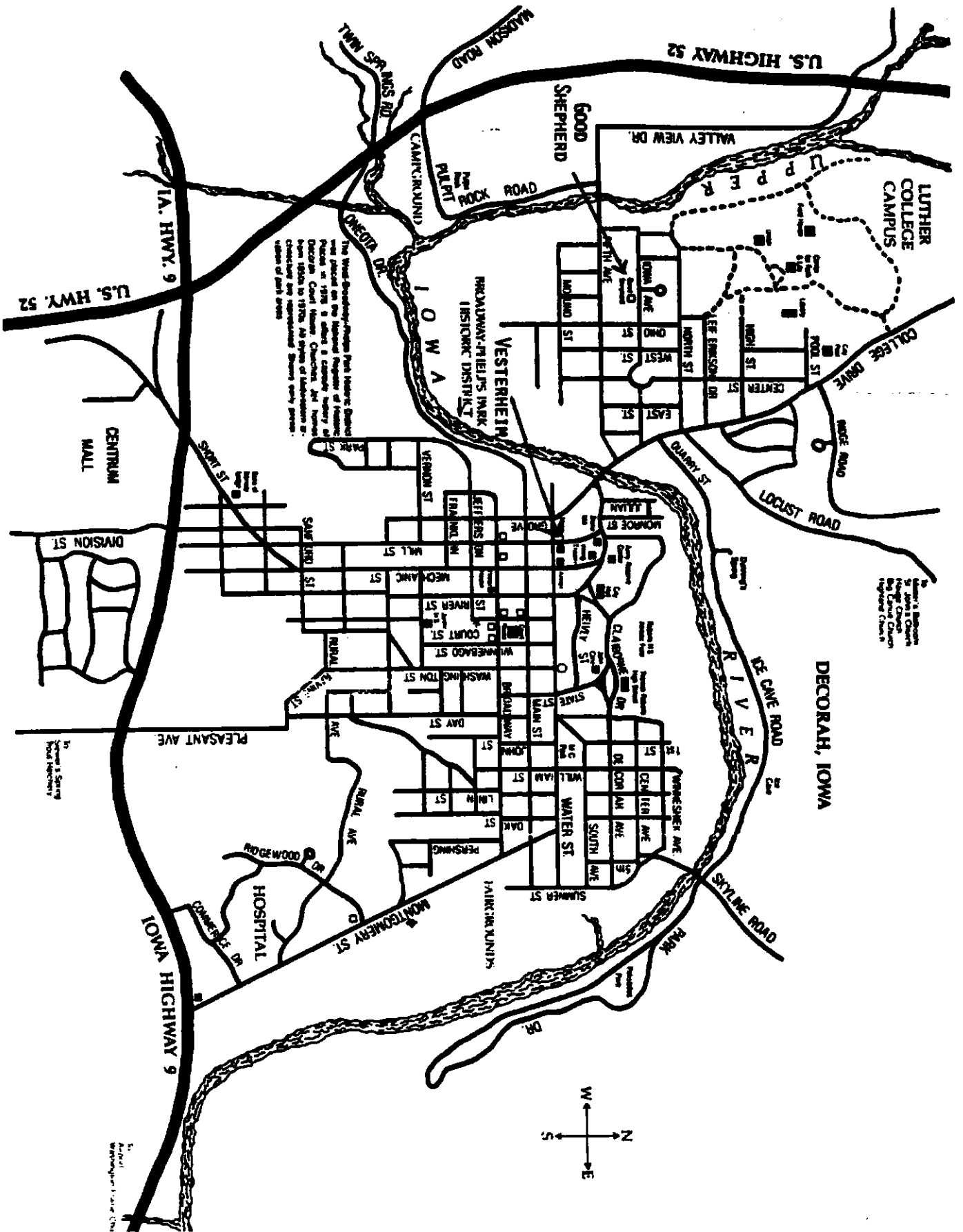
Country Lodge Motel (507) 886-2515

#### MABEL, MN (20 miles NE, Hwy 52 to Prosper, E on 44)

Mabel House (507) 493-5768

#### PROSPER, MN (15 miles north on Highway #52)

State Line Motel (507) 743-2275



## HYMNS TO PRACTISE FOR CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES

### BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

1 1 1 2 7 1 3 3 3 4 2 3  
**BEAU-TI-FUL SAV-IOR! KING OF CRE-A-TION!**

5 16 5 4 3 4 3 2  
**SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN!**

5 6 5 5 3 4 4 5 4 4 2 3  
**TRU-LY I'D LOVE THEE, TRU-LY I'D SER-VE THEE,**

3 3 3 5 4 3 2 1  
**LIGHT OF MY SOUL, MY JOY, MY CROWN!**

### JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

*Written for Psalmodikon Harmony*

1 2 3 3 5 4 3 2 3 4 3  
 1 1 1 1 3 2 1 7 1 2 1  
**JUST AS I AM, WITH OUT ONE PLEA,**

5 5 2 3 4 6 6 5 3  
 3 2 1 2 4 4 3 1  
**BUT THAT THY BLOOD WAS SHED FOR ME**

1 2 3 3 5 4 3 6 6 1 7  
 1 1 2 1 3 2 1 4 4 4 4  
**AND THAT THOU BID'ST ME COME TO THEE,**

6 5 5 5 4 3 2 5 3  
 4 3 3 3 2 1 7 7 1  
**O LAMB OF GOD, I COME, I COME.**

*Written in Sifferskrift for Psalmodikon av Beatrice Hole - 1993*

### AMAZING GRACE

1 | 4 6 4 | 6 5 | 4 2 | 1 1

4 6 4 | 6 5 | 1 6 | 1 6 1 6 | 4 1

2 4 4 2 | 1 1 | 4 6 4 | 6 5 | 4 ||

### CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

In this case, Number 1 is the same as  
 "B flat" and the second line is harmony.

1 2 3 3 5 3 3 2  
 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 7

**CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER**

2 3 4 6 5 4 4 3  
 7 1 7 7 1 2 2 1

**SAFELY IN HIS BOSOM GATHER**

1 1 6 6 1 6 6 5  
 1 1 1 4 4 4 4 3

**NESTLING BIRD NOR STAR IN HEAVEN**

3 5 5 4 7 2 2 1  
 1 1 2 2 7 7 7 1

**SUCH A REFUGE ER WAS GIVEN.**

### AFTENSOLEN SMILER

(Sunset)

3 3 2 2 1 5 6 7 1 3 2

3 3 4 3 2 5 1 4 3 2 1||

*Sifferskrift for Psalmodikon av Beatrice Hole - 1998*



Janne Martensson and Beatrice Hole

The above photo was taken when Janne Martensson, of Svenstavik, SWEDEN, was on tour in the United States with a group of crafts people from Sweden during the month of June.

Beatrice met Janne, a fellow Psalmodikon player, in August of 1995 when she attended the Nordiska Psalmodikonförbundet in Osterval, SWEDEN.

Janne and some of his group were guests at the home of Beatrice one evening and had an enjoyable time of playing Psalmodikon music and catching up on the latest happenings with the Psalmodikon.

When Beatrice attended the meeting of Psalmodikon players in Osterval, the group coming from Lillehammer, NORWAY had practised a song for their American guest. Namely, Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender". Since that time, everyone has realized what an easy melodic tune it is to play on the Psalmodikon. In the words of Martensson, that melody is now known as the "International Song" of the Psalmodikon!

In the column on the right is a copy of "Love Me Tender" for your playing enjoyment.

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### WE LEARN BY DOING

Not many years ago I began to play the cello. Most people would say that what I am doing is "learning to play" the cello. But these words carry into our minds the strange idea that there exists two very different processes: (1) learning to play the cello; and (2) playing the cello. They imply that I will do the first until I have completed it, at which point I will stop the first process and begin the second. In short, I will go on "learning to play" until I have "learned to play" and then I will begin to play. Of course, this is nonsense. There are not two processes, but one. We learn to do something by doing it. There is no other way.

John Holt

Psalmodikon players - take heart, do it and learn!!!

### LOVE ME TENDER

The "International Song" of Psalmodikon

$\frac{2}{L}$   $\frac{5}{O}$   $\frac{4+}{M}$   $\frac{5}{E}$   $\frac{6}{T}$   $\frac{3}{E}$   $\frac{6}{N}$   
LOVE ME TEN-DER LOVE ME SWEET,

$\frac{5}{N}$   $\frac{4+}{E}$   $\frac{3}{V}$   $\frac{4+}{L}$   $\frac{5}{E}$   
NEV-ER LET ME GO.

$\frac{2}{Y}$   $\frac{5}{O}$   $\frac{4+}{U}$   $\frac{5}{H}$   $\frac{6}{A}$   $\frac{3}{V}$   $\frac{6}{E}$   
YOU HAVE MADE MY LIFE COM-LETE,

$\frac{5}{A}$   $\frac{4+}{N}$   $\frac{3}{D}$   $\frac{4+}{I}$   $\frac{5}{S}$   
AND I LOVE YOU SO.

$\frac{7}{L}$   $\frac{7}{O}$   $\frac{7}{M}$   $\frac{7}{E}$   $\frac{7}{T}$   $\frac{7}{E}$   $\frac{7}{N}$   $\frac{7}{D}$   
LOVE ME TEN-DER LOVE ME TRUE,

$\frac{7}{A}$   $\frac{6}{L}$   $\frac{5}{L}$   $\frac{6}{M}$   $\frac{7}{Y}$   
ALL MY DREAMS FUL-FILL

$\frac{7}{F}$   $\frac{7}{O}$   $\frac{1}{R}$   $\frac{7}{M}$   $\frac{6}{Y}$   $\frac{3}{D}$   $\frac{6}{A}$   
FOR MY DAR-LING I LOVE YOU,

$\frac{5}{A}$   $\frac{4+}{N}$   $\frac{3}{D}$   $\frac{4+}{I}$   $\frac{5}{W}$   
AND I AL-WAYS WILL.

*Sifferskrift for Psalmodikon av Beatrice Hole - 1996*

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### COVERING ALL THE BASES

A little boy was overheard talking to himself as he strode through his backyard, baseball cap in place and toting ball and bat. "I'm the greatest baseball player in the world," he said proudly. Then he tossed the ball in the air, swung and missed. Undaunted, he picked up the ball, threw it into the air and said to himself, "I'm the greatest player ever!" He swung at the ball again, and again he missed. He pause a moment to examine bat and ball carefully. Then once again he threw the ball into the air and said, "I'm the greatest baseball player who ever lived." He swung the bat had and again missed the ball. "Wow!" he exclaimed. "What a pitcher!"

Source Unknown

## NORWEGIAN EMIGRANT MUSEUM OTTESTAD, NORWAY

Last Spring when Beatrice Hole was doing a Psalmodikon program for the NORDMANNNS-FORBUNDET, Minneapolis Chapter, there was a fellow in the audience from The Norwegian Emigrant Museum in Ottestad, Norway. (Near Hammer). The mission of Knut Djupedal to the United States was to gather items for this museum. This is Norway's only museum devoted solely to collecting, preserving and disseminating knowledge of the Norwegian migration to overseas destinations.

The upshot of Knut's conversation with Beatrice was that he was so impressed by our efforts to carry on the Psalmodikon tradition that he asked that we provide the Museum with the written history of the Psalmodikon as well as a Psalmodikon instrument.

Paul Knivslund has constructed a Psalmodikon for that purpose and Beatrice is now rosemaling on it before sending it on to Norway for display in the museum.

An idea by some of the members of the Psalmodikonforbundet is that it would be nice if we could "donate" this Psalmodikon to the Museum thereby receiving recognition as an active Psalmodikon organization here in the United States.

The Psalmodikon that is being sent to the Norwegian Emigrant Museum will be on display during the meeting of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet in Decorah. We will discuss at that time more of the details of how we can donate the Psalmodikon to the Museum.

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### HOW YOU CAN HELP!

We hope that many members of the Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet would be interested in making a contribution to help cover the cost of the Psalmodikon construction as well as the shipping charges that will occur in making this donation to the Museum in Norway. If you wish to be a part of this project, it would be very much appreciated. Please

send your check to the treasurer of the Psalmodikonforbundet. Donations will be acknowledged in a future newsletter. Make checks payable to:

Larry Gjenvick  
4205 South Ravinia Drive, #108  
Greenfield, WI 53221-5720

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### TWO FLAGS

Roseanna Gutterud Johnsrud

And I feel I am closer to heaven because,  
there's a flag with the stars, and a flag with the cross.  
Two flags will I vow to forever be true,  
Two flags with their colors of red, white, and blue,  
They glow with a glory of heavenly gloss,  
In one shine the stars, in the other the cross.

The first is the flag of America's land,  
The second the flag of my forefather's strand,  
And fairer than Juno, and brighter than Mars,  
Shines the flag with the cross, the flag with the stars!

My flag waves aloft o'er America's hills,  
And steeples the mountains, and touches the hills,  
And, by midnight sun lighted, o'er fir trees and moss,  
Waves the flag of my fathers, the flag with the cross!

I do believe Providence felt it her due,  
To give them each colors of red, white, and blue,  
I think heaven itself gently let down her bars,  
And gave one flag the cross, and the other the stars.

Sometimes it seems, as they furl and unfold,  
the stars turn to silver, the cross turns to gold,  
And I feel I am closer to heaven because,  
There's a flag with the stars, and a flag with the cross.

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We regularly receive from Helena Odvall in Sweden the newsletter of the Nordiska psalmodikonforbundet. Included was a copy of the program for their meeting held on 20-22 of August in Kungälv and we thought it might be of interest for you to see what their meeting is like. On the following page is a copy of their program. Enjoy - we know you can all read Swedish!!!



## Program i Kungälv 20-22/8

### 20 augusti

kl. 19.00 Samling på Nordiska folkhögskolan

### 21 augusti

kl. 8.00 Frukost  
kl. 9.00 Samling och spelövning  
kl. 13.00 Lunch  
kl. 15.00 Uppspelning på Bohus fästning  
kl. 18.00 Uppspelning på folkhögskolan, Snorresalen  
kl. 19.30 Kvällsvickning

### 22 augusti

kl. 8.00 Frukost  
Årsmöte  
kl. 11.00 ? Gudstjänst i Kungälvs kyrka  
kl. 13.00 Lunch

Kostnad för stämman är ca 300 kr per person.

Logi tillkommer med 400 kr/dygn.

### Utflykt:

Kommer i år att bli till Lödöse museum där det också är meningen att vi ska demonstrera psalmodikon för besökarna. Utflykten kommer att äga rum på söndag em.

För mer information, ring Helena Ödvall tel. 0325 – 440 23



*NORDIC-AMERICAN  
PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET*

Return Larry & Deann Gjenvick  
Address: 4205 South Ravinia Drive, #108  
Greenfield, WI 53221-5720

Mailing  
Address:

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PSALMODIKONFORBUNDET

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## *Notes from the Editors:*

We try to keep our membership records accurate and up to date, however if you do note any error please advise the Editor for correction.

The Nordic-American Psalmodikonforbundet Newsletter is published in March(April), August and November. The editor and staff are always looking for news worthy items or photos and welcome articles from members that you want to share with other readers.

Your \$5.00 membership fee helps to cover the cost of printing and postage for the Newsletter and also helps to defray the costs incurred at the Annual Meeting. The Newsletter is mailed to over 78 households as well as several Museums and other historical societies.

**SEE YOU IN DECORAH**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 18 & 19!!**